

## **MEC Virginia Tlhapi Addresses Challenges Faced by Golden Leopard Resort (GLR)**

MEC for DEDECT Virginia Tlhapi led a crucial meeting on 3 April 2024 with DEDECT Senior Managers and the Management of Bakgatla Gate Resort under the Golden Leopard Resort (GLR) at Bakgatla Gate in the Moses Kotane Local Municipality.

The primary objective was to address the challenges confronting the Golden Leopard Resort, with a particular focus on preventing potential discord among employees, unions, and management regarding salary issues. Through these efforts, the MEC aims to ensure a smooth operational process while developing a sustainable program for GLR.

Amongst the issues discussed was the recent devastating fire within GLR at the Pilanesberg National Park, which caused significant damage. The challenges stemming from the fire include the impact on infrastructure and the urgent need for resort refurbishment.

These difficulties have led to budget constraints, resulting in decreased visitor numbers and challenges in meeting staff salaries. Despite this setback, the meeting discussed concerted efforts to address the situation. MEC Tlhapi, alongside resort management and DEDECT Senior Managers, are actively strategizing to formulate a comprehensive recovery plan.

The Chief Financial Office, along with GLR and the North West Parks & Tourism Board, have all committed to collaborating on implementing this plan in phases. The MEC emphasized that the next meeting with GLR will involve affected unions.

Acknowledging the critical role of the tourism sector in the North West province's economy, the department reiterates its steadfast commitment to supporting the resort's recovery efforts.