

**MEDIA RELEASE - 10 April 2004**

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**KRUGER NATIONAL PARK'S LOWER SABIE SHOP BURNED DOWN**

The Kruger National Park's Lower Sabie Shop building was destroyed by fire this morning. The fire was spotted by one of the guests in the camp Mr Ockert Faul at about 03:00 who alerted the security personnel at the gate.

According to Mr Faul, he smelt some burning stuff from his tent and when he went out to investigate, he saw some smoke coming out the backside of the shop building. The cause of the fire is not known at this stage. However forensic investigation shall be conducted as soon as possible today to determine the cause of the fire.

The shop, the restaurant and the administration offices are all housed in the same building, but the two other structures were saved. The restaurant will however not be able to operate fully today until the area has been completely cleared up, but should be able to provide the basic services in a small scale. The camp is running normally and there is no interruption of services in terms of accommodation.

The damage to the building, excluding the goods which was in the shop is estimated at about half a million and more. The fire had already been put down by 08:00 this morning and no one was injured in this whole process.

This specific shop was built recently and opened in November 2002 together with the administration offices and the restaurant. The old shop and restaurant were also destroyed by lightning fire in March 1998.

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