

# Fire guts thatched structure at airport in North West

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News 24



A structure at the Pilanesberg International Airport caught fire on Tuesday.  
Supplied

A fire at Pilanesberg International Airport in the North West gutted a thatched structure on Tuesday afternoon.

The provincial community safety department said officials at the airport, near Sun City, reported smoke around midday, but could not initially detect its source.

Further investigation, however, showed smoke coming from the top of the building, close to the Air Traffic Control Tower.

"Some airport personnel rushed to the tower and tried to extinguish the fire. However, the flames engulfed the area and, in seconds, the thatched roof of the airport caved in. Personnel tried in vain to put it out, but the structure was completely gutted," said the department.

Fire departments from Sun City and Rustenburg eventually extinguished the blaze.

Community safety MEC Sello Lehari and the acting head of department, Mpho Maleme, were at the scene, and instituted an investigation.

Lehari said the probe would "leave no stone unturned".

# Fire at Pilanesberg Airport under investigation

29 August 2023, 9:32 PM |

Tebogo Phakedi | [@SABCNews](#)



*Image: Pilanesberg National Park website*

*Pilanesberg Airport in the North west*

Authorities are investigating the cause of the fire at the Pilanesberg International Airport in Rustenburg in the North West.

A fire broke out around midday, destroying the main aircraft controller building. Firefighters are currently on the scene, trying to contain the fire. No injuries have been reported.

The airport is adjacent to the Pilanesberg National Park and has been serving tourism establishments such as Sun City. Community Safety and Transport Management Acting Head of Department, Mpho Maleme elaborates.

“We basically don’t know what caused the fire currently because we still need to investigate what happened. Already we had moved the majority of the equipment that we have to the temporary structure, because we were in the process of renovating the airport. Only the roof has burnt and the office of the manager and the boardroom. The ladies who were inside managed to go out in time so there are no injuries or fatalities.”

# PILANESBERG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GUTTED BY FIRE

Officials said preliminary investigations revealed that the smoke was coming from the top of the building close to the tower and despite the staff's efforts to extinguish the blaze the roof collapsed.



Pilanesburg International Airport. Picture:

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[Maki Molapo](#) | 29 August 2023 19:21 - EWN

JOHANNESBURG - The Pilanesberg International Airport near Sun City has been gutted by a fire.

Officials said the blaze seems to have started at the air traffic control tower.

Around midday on Tuesday, airport security reported that there was smoke but could not detect what was burning.

Officials said preliminary investigations revealed that the smoke was coming from the top of the building close to the tower and despite the staff's efforts to extinguish the blaze the roof collapsed.

"Currently we don't know what caused the fire, but we are going to investigate and then we will basically come back to you with the cause as soon as we are done with our investigations," said acting head Mpho Maleme.

# LOOK: Fire gutted Pilanesberg Airport in North West

IOL News

## BeyondWords

**The Pilanesberg International Airport near Sun City outside Rustenburg burnt down on Tuesday.**

The North West Department of Community Safety and Transport Management said the fire seemed to have started near the air traffic control tower.

Security officers at the airport reportedly saw smoke at around 12pm but could not detect what was burning.

Upon investigating the incident further, they realised the smoke was coming from the top of the building close to the air traffic control tower.

Acting head of department Mpho Maleme said there were no injuries reported as they had moved the majority of staff members and furniture to porter camps.

She said they were in the process of renovating the airport.



Picture: Supplied

She said only two women, who work as air traffic controllers, were inside the burned building, but they were not injured.

Already, we have moved staff members from the burnt building. There were no injuries. No casualties that were encountered as staff members have been moved. There were only two

ladies who worked as air traffic controllers, but nobody was injured," she said.

The cause of the fire is not yet known.





Picture: Supplied

Some of the airport personnel rushed to the tower and tried to extinguish the fire, but the flames engulfed the area, and in seconds, the thatched roof of the airport caved in.

The Sun City Fire Services and the Rustenburg Fire Services were called to extinguish the fire.

Community Safety and Transport Management MEC Sello Lehari, accompanied by Maleme rushed to the airport and ordered an immediate investigation.

Tuesday 29 August 2023 - 19:59pm

JOHANNESBURG - An investigation is underway into the cause of a fire at Pilanesberg International Airport near Sun City in the North West.

According to a preliminary investigation, the fire started near the Air Traffic Control Tower around noon.

Some of the airport personnel tried to extinguish the fire but by the time Fire Services arrived, the airport's thatched roof had already caved in.

No casualties have been reported at this stage.

There are fears that this will have a serious negative effect on tourism as many visitors use the airport to visit Sun City and other nearby tourist destinations.

The airport was downgraded to category 2 after failing to meet some Acsa requirements.

It is now only used by private charters, not for scheduled flights.

eNCA

# Workers tried to stop fire that gutted Pilanesburg International Airport

BY TIMESLIVE - 30 AUGUST 2023



Firefighters try in vain to extinguish a fire that gutted the Pilanesburg International Airport on Tuesday.

Image: Supplied

The Pilanesburg International Airport near Sun City in North West was gutted by fire on Tuesday afternoon, said the North West department of community safety and transport management.

The department said security officers at the airport reported smoke coming from the top of a building close to the air traffic control tower. Some of the airport personnel tried to extinguish the fire. However, the flames engulfed the area and in seconds the thatched roof of the airport caved in. People tried in vain to put it out but the structure was gutted, read a statement from community safety.

The Sun City fire services and the Rustenburg fire services arrived and tried to douse the flames. Community safety and transport management MEC Sello Lehari, accompanied by the acting head of department Mpho Maleme, went to the terminal and ordered an immediate investigation.

“We will leave no stone unturned to ensure we find the cause of the fire”, Lehari said.



**SOUTH AFRICA**

# Workers tried to stop fire that gutted Pilanesburg International Airport

29 August 2023 - 20:24 BY TIMESLIVE

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*Image: Supplied*

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**TimesLIVE**