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Poaching is a threat to the economy - Govt

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by [Donald Matthys](#) - Mon, 10 August 2015 17:09



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The Government has warned against poaching, as this may jeopardize the Namibian economy and also lead to the extinction of wild animals.

The Minister of Information and Communication Technology Tjekero Twe for the economy as it depletes the country's wildlife and if there is no wild hunting.

“This is the hunting season, and if we do not have wildlife, lodges and gar income as there would be no animals which could be hunted.

It is not good if there is no hunting, but also on this aspect, we should ens and ensure not to finish our products,” Tweya stressed.

He added that poaching has lately been under control, as the Ministry of I

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collaborating with the Namibian Police Force to curtail the illegal hunting of wildlife, particularly rhinos and elephants.

“We are happy to report that as from May this year, no incidents of poaching were recorded, and this was due to the co-operation of Namibians, the police and the army against this economic sabotage,” he continued.

Tweya said government will keep an eye on those poaching kingpins who are lurking in various parts of the country.

“We need to trace that web of poachers because if we don’t, our economy is at risk. We support the initiative taken by the MET minister,” he noted.

Tweya added that there are culprits who would want to tamper with the investigation process underway to contain poaching, and this should not be allowed.

“Poachers are still out there, and the nation needs be on alert. This is not to deprive the nation of eating their resources, but the buyers of rhino horns are still out there and are busy with business like this,” he charged.

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism congratulated those community members, traditional leaders and regional councillors in affected areas engaged in the fight against illegal hunting.

According to an update report presented by Tweya, anybody who is found in the vicinity of the Etosha National Park or any park or wildlife area could be randomly searched, and if found with any rifles, such rifles could be confiscated and sent for ballistic testing.

The MET’s Pohamba Shifeta earlier this year pointed out to The Villager that Namibia does not have a rhino horn market, and that there are transnational networks of rhino poachers who might involve Namibians having links with international poachers, to whom they are distributing the rhino horns.

The MET also conducted campaigns in which they were informing communities surrounding the Etosha area of poaching, and the white rhino scarcity in Namibia.

The rhino, which are mostly found around waterholes, are valuable because of their horns made of ivory and are killed mostly for the horns, while the meat is usually left to decompose.

The Ministry was furthermore involved in dehorning rhinos in a bid to stop the poachers from killing the rhino because the rhino would be of less or no value dead.

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