

Poaching versus Human Lives

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PLEASE allow me space in your esteemed newspaper to air my views regarding the latest review of the law that was passed by lawmakers to deal with poachers and would-be poachers.

What surprised me more than the actual law was the incredible speed with which this law was passed.

The new law states that a convicted poacher would be liable for a fine of N\$25 million, increased from the current maximum of N\$200 000 or sentenced to a period of 25 years in prison, increased from the current 20 years.

From what I read and gathered, the law was revised and passed because the Namibian government was losing too much revenue through the escalating poaching scourge.

For example, the money involved played a big role in this law.

Meanwhile, some of us have been calling on all kinds of platforms for stiffer sentences for convicted murderers, given that the senseless killing of Namibians by other Namibians has now become the norm for this small population of ours.

Yet none of the lawmakers seem to worry about this serious and prevalent crime, why? Because the government is seemingly not losing any revenue from Namibians killing each other left, right and centre. In most cases, murder is committed over the most trivial and petty issues.

Namibia has lost a large number of educated and productive citizens in this manner. I therefore commend Okahandja constituency councillor Steve Biko Boois who seems to be the only MP in the National Council with common sense.

This writer is in no way suggesting that poachers should not be severely punished but any person with common sense can see clearly that there are misplaced priorities between the two crimes highlighted in this letter.

I am completely astonished by how lawmakers in this country seem not to worry about how Namibians murder each other every other day, particularly women who are in most cases, the victims.

Eliezser Vante-Kavela

Via email