

Man in court over oryx meat

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A 33-YEAR-OLD man made his first appearance in the Karibib Magistrate's Court yesterday after he was found in possession of oryx meat believed to have been poached.

A police report issued on Tuesday night said Siegfried Hambira "could not give a satisfactory account of the possession" of the N\$2 000 worth of meat discovered in a house at Karibib's Usab informal settlement on Tuesday morning.

He faces charges of alleged illegal hunting of game without a permit and being in possession of such meat without a proper explanation.

Karibib district in Erongo is a hotbed for poaching and stock theft in Namibia. This covers Karibib, Otjimbingwe, Wilhelmstal and Usakos.

Two months ago, the Karibib District Watch arrested four suspects for poaching an oryx in the Wilhelmstal area, while last week, five men were arrested for stealing two head of cattle worth N\$15 000 near Karibib.

According to police statistics, the loss of cattle and game to theft and poaching runs into the millions of dollars a year, with only some recovery – alive or dead. Most of the cases are still pending since the beginning of last year.

Police Inspector General Sebastian Ndeitunga said drought conditions, combined with poverty, tempt individuals and syndicates to steal livestock and poach wildlife.

Meanwhile, a woman was burned to death in a shack at Omaruru on Tuesday night. A police report issued yesterday said the woman may have returned to her shack from a "drinking spree", leaving her co-occupant at the shebeen, and fell asleep while a candle was burning. She was burned beyond recognition when the shack was razed to the ground by the fire. The body was taken to Omaruru State Hospital's morgue for a post-mortem. The next of kin has still not been traced and informed.