

Three arrested for poaching at Masokotwani

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KATIMA MULILO – Three people were arrested for poaching at Masokotwani in the Zambezi region on Tuesday morning.

The three men, two Namibians and one Zambian, were found in possession of three reed bucks and three duikers around 03h00.

The trio – aged 38, 54 and 60 – has been charged with hunting protected game without a permit, possession and killing of protected game, as well as transportation of game meat without a permit.

Their arrest by two senior game rangers was confirmed by chief warden in the environment and tourism ministry, Morgan Saisai.

“The suspects did not resist and informed the officials that they were carrying game meat,” he said.

They were expected to appear in the Katima Mulilo Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Efforts by Namibia's anti-poaching unit is proving to be successful in reducing cases of poaching. While small-time poachers may target game for meat, the more sophisticated crime syndicates target rhinos and elephants for their horns and tusks which have a lucrative market, especially in East Asia.

Environment minister Pohamba Shifeta has been quoted in the media saying the aim of the ministry this year is to reduce cases of poaching by more than 50%.

“Even though rhino and elephant poaching seems to be decreasing, there is a need to work harder to ensure that the poaching figures are brought to zero. Let us rededicate ourselves to ensuring that fewer rhinos and elephants are poached this year,” he told New Era in February this year.

Namibia has one of the largest black rhino populations in the world; but as in neighbouring South Africa, it is under threat from the lucrative market for rhino horn.

– Nampa