

Five deer poached this weekend Sixteen suspected poachers arrested

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Tanja Bause - Namibia police have arrested three men on a gravel road for about 70km and seized four deer carcasses, a pickup truck, two hunting rifles, knives and an ax.

A farmer who farms along the D707 in southern Namibia saw the lights of a vehicle Friday night. He suspected mischief and hid along the road and waited.

The vehicle drove past him again after about three quarters of an hour and he followed them.

The farmer chased them for about 70 kilometers, but he lost them in the dust clouds. He worked on the farm Helmeringhausen of Mr. Bjorn Basler goes to help.

"Right in front of my farm, there is currently a police roadblock and I approached the police for help. They, together with other farmers in the area, took up the search for the vehicle, "he said.

The vehicle, carcasses worth N \$ 16,000, guns and knives were found abandoned on the Regina relocation farm and seized.

"The suspects fled on foot and three men were arrested by police on the Regina farm."

TSUMEB

Mr. Dries Swartz of Rosa Farm, located 32 km outside Tsumeb and next to the relocation farm Excelsior, is despondent about poaching.

"In February, six goats and one calf disappeared from my farm. Then two cattle were slaughtered on two different occasions. 27 goats were also driven away from the farm, but we were too quick for the poachers and got them back. All the farms in the area are undergoing poaching. Even 12 goats were stolen from a fellow farmer at Excelsior, "he said.

He said some of the men were known poachers and had already been arrested but were released on bail each time.

"It takes its toll on doing farm work all day and then sitting in the bush at night and looking after my animals. To wait and submit poachers so they don't steal my animals. I can not anymore."

According to him, last Thursday another illegal shooting and hunting on the La Rochelle hunting farm was also made.

"The farm near me is very bad, shooting or trapping animals is constantly being shot. La Rochelle borders three relocation farms."

WEEKEND RADIATION

According to the Namibian Police Crime Report, six men, aged 18, 19, 19, 21, 22 and 26, respectively, were arrested on Monday at the Kameeldoring relocation farm in the Karasburg area. They allegedly stole five sheep from another farm. The sheep, worth N \$ 10,000, were recovered by police.

Five more men, 29, 30, 32, 33 and 34, respectively, were arrested on Garib farm in the Dordabis area on Friday after they allegedly hunted a deer with dogs and assegai. The value of the deer is N \$ 4,000 and the police seized the skin.

Two men, aged 32 and 34, were arrested on Sunday in the Okapika settlement in the Omusati region after being in possession of two cattle. They could not prove that it was their cattle and police suspect the cattle were stolen. They were brought into the country without the legal permits. Both suspects were taken to Outapi State Hospital for Covid-19 tests. - tanja@republikein.com.na