

Cop suspected of illegal hunting not arrested

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by [Ellen Albertz](#)

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Photo for illustration purposes. Photo: File

THE community of Karasburg and surrounding farms are disgruntled over an incident involving a police officer who was allegedly caught hunting illegally about a week ago in the Warmbad area.

The involved officer has not been arrested yet.

Steven Paulus, a farmer from Gabis, outside Karasburg, says farmers in the area held a meeting on Saturday about the matter.

They are demanding that the officer, who is allegedly known for illegal hunting, is brought to book.

"We in the Karasberg area have lost a lot of livestock to this police officer.

"We cannot tolerate this any longer . . . and the internal investigations unit of the police negotiates with farm owners for this officer to rather pay for the animal to avoid being arrested," Paulus says.

The officer allegedly hunted an animal illegally on farm Nauteses in the Warmbad area with two other suspects last week, allegedly using a police vehicle to transport the animal in.

The two civilians were arrested for illegal hunting, but not the officer.

Police commissioner for the //Kharas region David Indongo last week confirmed the incident, saying Johannes Louw and Aloycious Louw have been arrested and have been released on bail of N\$500 each after appearing in the Karasburg Magistrate's Court.

"However, the case of the police officer is still under investigation, and I can assure you no police vehicle was used. I sent the members of the internal unit to go and investigate, and the docket was sent to the Office of the Prosecutor General to make a decision on the arrest of the police officer," Indongo said.

Farmers in the area last week said they would pay the station commander of the Karasburg Police Station a visit, demanding the officer's arrest.

"If they do not arrest the police officer, we will host a protest march at Karasburg," they said. It is alleged that the officer was told to compensate the involved farmer for the animal which was reportedly illegally hunted.

A community member, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of victimisation, last week said the police's corrupt activities are being swept under the carpet.

"The fact is that a GRN vehicle was used by a trusted GRN official to hunt while on duty, using two civilians," he said.

Indongo, however, said: "Yes, I sent the officers myself to go and investigate, but to go and negotiate was not my instruction to them. If they did that, then they did it on their own.

". . . Let us wait and see what the decision of the prosecutor general will be."