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Seized meat.



On the farm of Mr. Markus Jacobs in the Karibib area raided three different syndicates and poached between nine and twelve gemsbok, one zebra and three store oxen. PHOTOS PROVIDED

Farmers are suffering from poachers, with the value of slaughtered cattle and livestock standing at more than N\$200,000 for one week in one area.

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HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF CATTLE, WILD POACHED

Farmers gather at court

Farmers are forced to hire security companies to look after their livestock and game, which in itself produces good results, but at a price.

Elvira Hattingh

- 17 HOURS AGO - - 2022-07-26 00:00:00

Farmers gathered at the Magistrate's Court on Karibib yesterday to try to prevent bail being granted to suspected livestock and game poachers.

This follows after cattle worth N\$135,000, chamois of N\$60,000 and zebras of N\$9,000 were stolen in the area of Otjiwarongo, Karibib and Omaruru in the week between the full moon and

21 Jullie.

In addition, farmers had to pay about N\$22,000 for fuel, guards and anti-poaching units.

In one of the latest cases, five suspects were killed by Mr. Rickus Spangenberg from Karibib K9 Academy's team and farm workers arrested.

Spangenberg says that during the week with the "going down of the full moon" he had to stand up.

"On the farm of Mr. Markus Jacobs in the Karibib area, three different syndicates raided and poached between nine and twelve chamois, one zebra and three storage oxen over a period of four days," Spangenberg told Republikein on Sunday.

"This was done with the help of traps and axle bags. Taxi drivers help to transport the meat to Omaruru and Karibib respectively."

He says the five suspects were caught after they found clues and went to present them in the evening. The crooks were finally caught with the help of trained dogs from the anti-poaching unit and meat was also confiscated.

Spangenberg, who works from Gobabis and Aranos to the Khomas Hochland, or wherever their services are needed, makes use of around eight tracking dogs as well as 22 anti-poaching or patrol dogs, which he trains himself.

He says the same night they also presented suspected poachers in the Otjiwarongo area. This meant they moved between Otjiwarongo and Karibib in one night to catch the suspects.

"According to one of the harvesters, they are contracted to do the work.

"At the scene at Otjiwarongo, eight pairs of shoes were found with which they do the work, thus confusing the farmers.

"These include security shoes, safety shoes, leather shoes and sneakers. Several expensive butcher knives were also found at the scene," he explained.

FULL MOON

He says that his anti-robbery unit was involved in "a few incidents before the 21st of the month, along with the setting of the moon."

"These are a few incidents, but farmers are currently again suffering heavily from theft, while few cases get the necessary exposure," he said.

This also led to farmers coming together again at the magistrate's office on Karibib last Tuesday and yesterday to oppose the bail of suspected cattle and game thieves.

He says that before the 20th there are also at Omaruru three oxen from Mr. Louis Kruger was slaughtered, while another was led away with a rope and loaded onto a vehicle by the highway.

Last Wednesday evening, two oxen were also slaughtered on the farm Die Poort van Japie Jacobs, just outside Otjiwarongo.

"The house was apparently watched by two suspects, while four others chased the oxen into the corral and slaughtered them.

"Only the best meat was taken, the buttocks and the back strings. The rest are left to rot," said Spangenberg.

He says guards are left along roads at night to collect information or to present to poachers.

SECURITY

Farmers are increasingly forced to hire security firms to guard their livestock and game. pas, with many full of praise for the work of anti-poaching units like that of Spangenberg.

One anonymous farmer told that he has been farming on his farm for more than 20 years.

"In the first 15 years, security was not necessary and there was also much less people in the area. Much stricter action was also taken against those caught.

"However, since there is now security on the farm, the theft has decreased. I can only testify that since having security here, my problems have reduced by more than half.

"So I only have praise for the people I have here and for a neighbor a thousand, who is always ready to help," he said.

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