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Informanté

Small stock and illegal hunting concerns Uerikua

Maria David

JAMES Uerikua, the Governor of Otjozondjupa Region, expressed concern over the high number of stock theft cases and illegal hunting of game in the region.

Uerikua made these remarks during his recent State of the Region Address (SORA).

He highlighted that as the region with the highest number of livestock, both in total and per capita, there are numerous challenges facing the livestock sector, with stock theft being a major concern in both commercial and communal areas.

In the financial year 2022/23, a total loss amounting to N\$2 979 060 was recorded, involving 289 cattle, 13 slaughtered carcasses, and dry meat.



The picture is for illustration purposes only

In addition, 369 goats and sheep valued at N\$605 000 were stolen, and the suspects were apprehended.

"The police also arrested and charged 47 suspects for hunting various game species," he said.

In one incident at Otjiwarongo, Uerikua mentioned that three Namibian men were arrested, charged, and released on bail for hunting a specially protected game species, the plain Zebra, valued at N\$5 000.

He added, "A Namibian man was arrested for being in possession of Python skin valued at N\$15 000, while two others were arrested for being in possession of Leopard skin, a specially protected game, valued at N\$30 000."

Furthermore, two Namibian men and a Chinese national were arrested for harvesting, removal, transportation, and possession of protected plants without a permit.

Similarly, two Namibians and an Angolan national were arrested for being in possession of protected plants.

"Moreover, two Angolan nationals were arrested for Contravention of Section 50 (A) Ordinance 4/1975 by being in Possession of pangolin skin valued at N\$50 000," he added.

In another case, a Namibian was arrested for being in possession of pangolin skin valued at the same amount.

"I would like to caution and warn those engaged in stock theft and illegal hunting of game that the long arm of the law will one day catch up with you, and no mercy shall be shown," he said.

Uerikua called on the police to work closely with local farmers and anti-stock theft units, supporting them wherever possible, as they have proven to be of great assistance and effective in the fight against livestock theft.

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