

Five Sentenced to Five Years for Bushmeat in Mumbwa



Published
1 hour ago
on
January 19, 2022
By

[Mwebantu Reporter](#)



The Subordinate Court in Mumbwa has sentenced five men to five years imprisonment with hard labour after they pled guilty to illegal possession of 88kg of bushmeat poached from Blue Lagoon national park in Kafue District.

On 10 January 2022, officers from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife apprehended five suspects namely, Wanton Mweete, 37, Kelvin Ndongo, 37, Phineas Chilala, 42, Jackson Munkuli, 41 and Festus Lwano, 36, who were found with 88kg of fresh Kafue lechwe meat and two shotguns inside the Blue Lagoon national park.

The five suspects, all from Chief Mwanachingwala's area, were charged with one count of unlawful possession of protected animal (Kafue Lechwe), contrary section 130 (1) of the Zambia Wildlife Act No. 14 of 2015

When the matter came up, they all pled guilty to the charge and were sentenced to five years imprisonment with hard labour.

The Kafue lechwe is endemic to Zambia, meaning it cannot be found anywhere else in the world. As such, Kafue lechwe attract many tourists to visit the national parks they occur in. However, targeted poaching of this species for bushmeat has reduced its population at an alarming rate. At one point Zambia had a population of more than 250,000 Kafue lechwe. Sadly, the population now stands at below 25 000.

Post Views: 1,209