

# Govt intensifies anti-poaching fight



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**KATIMA MULILO** – A renewed crackdown on poaching in the Zambezi region is yielding results.

Wildlife crime in the area is now under control, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) has confirmed.

The assurance follows the recent arrest of a suspect at the Katima Mulilo checkpoint, who was found in possession of lion bones and fat.

MET's chief control warden for the region Morgan Saisai said the successful operation reflects the strength of ongoing anti-poaching measures, strategic partnerships and active community involvement.

The case was registered at the Katima Mulilo police station.

Saisai highlighted several strategies that have bolstered anti-poaching efforts in the region.

“Our success is driven by strong partnerships, including synergy between law-enforcement and conservation partners. We have mapped poaching hotspots, and maintain a strong presence on the ground with well-coordinated patrols,” he stated.

A key element of this strategy is the establishment of a Regional Informer Fund.

This initiative provides financial incentives to community members who support efforts to combat wildlife crime.

The fund is supported by conservancies, outfitters and tour operators, ensuring a sustainable source of funding for local informants. Community engagement has additionally been intensified through ongoing dialogues to foster a sense of ownership and responsibility among residents. Saisai noted that transboundary collaboration with partners in the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA-TFCA) has been enhanced, creating a broader network of conservation support across neighbouring countries.

“The morale among operators is high. They demonstrate great passion for their profession,” he added.

He acknowledged the dedication of those involved in protecting the region’s wildlife.

Saisai believes the latest developments indicate that with continued vigilance, strategic partnerships and community involvement, the Zambezi region is making significant strides in protecting its iconic wildlife from poaching threats. – [anakale@nepc.com.na](mailto:anakale@nepc.com.na)