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# STOCK THEFT IN ZAMBEZI AND ALONG SIDE NAMIBIA /ZAMBIA BETWEEN KATIMA MULILO AND SINGALAMWE/KAMENGA

## 1. OVERVIEW

Stock theft has been and still continue to be a matter of serious concern in ~~Zambezi Region~~ <sup>NAMIBIA</sup> with a major economic damage to livestock farmers, both of cattle and goats. Farmers who resides alongside and adjacent areas of the Namibia-Zambia border came up with the idea of forming an Anti-Stock <sup>theft</sup> Association due to the weekly, if not daily increase in number of cross border stock theft to Assist the Namibia Police

in curbing <sup>Stock theft</sup>. Since the formation of the Association, there have been a significant increase in recoveries of stock theft, both in Zambia and locally in Zambezi Region alongside the borderline from Katima Mulilo to Singalamwe/Kamenga.

## **2. SOME POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION FACTORS TO BOTH LOCAL AND CROSS BORDER STOCK THEFT IN ZAMBEZI**

### **2.1 POVERTY**

Poverty is among the leading cause of stock theft. Some of the Namibians are recruited and collaborating with Zambians to steal cattle from Namibia across the border to Zambia at a

payment of N\$300.00 per cattle upon arrival, despite all the risks involved of been caught/arrested with a possibility of a prison sentence.

## **2.2 SOME PEOPLE MAKE A LIVING BY SELLING MEAT BOTH ON BLACK MARKETS AND SMALL ABBOITORS**

Those who operate the business of selling meat through small abettors and black markets buys stolen cattle from thieves at a very cheap amount, for example, cattle which could be sold at N\$9000.00, can be <sup>Sold</sup> transacted at <sub>A</sub> N\$1800.00 to N\$2500.00.

### **2.3. HIGH DEMAND OF MEAT/BEEF IN ZAMBIA AND BLACK MARKET PRICE**

The current price of meat at the black market in Zambia, Sesheke and Katima Mulilo in particular is K45.00 *per kg.*

### **2.4. EASY TO CROSS BORDER TO ZAMBIA FROM NAMIBIA VIS-VERSA**

The border between Namibia is very easy to cross due to distance, and the fact that it is not even clearly visible and dense, this makes it easier for thieves to cross with cattle unnoticed and makes it more difficult in case the trackers are following, in case cattle has been stolen

## **2.5. SECURITY PATROLS AND POLICE VISIBILITY**

The absence of security border patrols and Namibia Police visibility alongside Namibia – Zambia border is also one of the major contribution factor of cross border stock theft

## **2.6. UNCONTROLLED/UNAUTHORISED BLACK MARKETS IN ZAMBEZI.**

The black markets of meat in Zambezi operates without been monitored and controlled both in townships of Chotto, Cowboy, Macaravan East and West, etc and all rural areas of Zambezi Region. Anyone at any time can slaughter and sell meat everywhere under a tree.

## **2.7. RELIANCE ON ZAMBIAN NATIONALS AS CATTLE HERDERS IN ZAMBEZI REGION**

Our fellow Namibians are unwilling to indulge themselves with cattle herding by earning a salary and considering it as a work or a job. We therefore rely on Zambians as our workers, whereby some of them come back and steal from their former employer.

## **3. SUGGESTION ON SOLUTIONS**

**3.1.** The issue of security patrol and Namibian Police visibility alongside the Namibian/~~Zambian~~ border by setting up police posts more especially in well-known hotspot areas.

**3.2** The clearing of the border between Katima Mulilo and Singalamwe/Kamenga borderline for visibility purposes and easy cattle tracking. As well as the clearing of the inside cutlines/fire breakers

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**3.4** The two governments of Namibia and Zambia to address the issue of stock theft between and alongside the above mentioned borderline through neighbouring community members, police forces, Governors and all other stakeholders involved.

**3.5** To discourage the Zambian nationals in charging Namibian nationals whenever cattle are recovered in Zambia, as they will demand two cattle from the recovered

or any amount from N\$5000.00 or more.

**3.6.** Our government to come up with a law that should regulate the formations of anti-stock theft forums in communities or among livestock farmers. *Maybe amendment on Stock Theft Act*

**3.7** Find ways of providing a cheaper method of providing drones and cattle tracking devices to stock theft prone areas for organised farmers.

**3.8** To have both regional and national stock theft forums in Namibia

**3.9** Two governments of Namibia and Zambia to discuss the issue of beef market for Zambezi Region livestock farmers to sell in Zambia.



#### 4. CONCLUSION.

Liselo-Kamenga Anti-stock theft Association has been since January 2023 up to September 2023 been involved in the recovery and loss of Three hundred and twenty-seven (327) stolen both locally and across the border to neighbouring Zambia.

**Recovered:** 214 x N\$8500.00 = NS 1819 000.00.

**Not Recovered:** 113 x N\$8500.00 = N\$960 500.00

In other cases, cattle thieves from Zambia, come armed with firearms which makes ~~for~~<sup>it</sup> dangerous and too risk to track. Armed cattle thieves manage even to steal cattle from Botswana and cross through Zambezi Region to

Zambia unnoticed. However, in general, stock theft can be managed and controlled through stakeholder engagements and availability of resources.

As the issue is referred to relevant Parliamentary Standing Committee, I would encourage them to consult stock Anti-stock theft Association in Zambozi ~~to a~~ Region for more information.

I rest my case.