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Police warn of livestock theft ahead of festive season

DIKELEDI RAMABOPA

POLICE have warned of an increase in livestock theft especially in KwaZulu Natal ahead of the festive season.

“This is a major concern for us and we will intensify our operations in curbing such crimes by doing more patrols and stop and search duties,” police spokesperson Lt-Col Thulani Zwane said.

A number of stolen livestock were recovered and arrests made during previous operations conducted by stock theft units in KZN.

Police warned of stock theft in areas including Ladysmith, Ezakheni, Elaangslaagte and Harry Gwala Cluster.

On Friday, the Butterworth stock theft unit recovered 55 of 77 stolen sheep on Friday after they were found abandoned in a vacant yard. Police have also appealed to the community to get involved in preventing such cases by looking after their livestock.

“We urge the community to cooperate with us by making sure that their livestock are branded,” police said.

“In terms of the Animal Identification Act 6 of 2002, it is the duty of livestock owners to brand their animals.”

Police said they will act on those who fail to comply with this act.

Crime awareness campaigns are also conducted by the members at various communities including Izinduna and other crime fighting organisations.

Zwane said stock theft units were willing to assist those livestock owners who might need help as to how they can obtain the equipment to brand their livestock.

provinces@thenewage.co.za

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