

Police Impound Over 10 Tonnes of Timber

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Police yesterday impounded more than 10 tonnes of timber in Nyandarua District. This comes barely a few days after the suspension of over 800 forest staff. Police in Njambini also arrested a suspect whom they accused of illegal logging. Confirming the incident, acting Nyandarua police boss, Mr Wilberforce Lugusa, said two-truck loads of timber were seized at Njambini town and the saw-miller arrested following a tip-off from members of the public.

Lugusa said the timber is suspected to have been harvested in the Aberdares forest and was being transported to Nairobi.

Another consignment was impounded by police officers on patrol in Ol-Jororok Division. Lugusa said the second consignment of timber was suspected to have been harvested from Ol-borossat forest. Nobody was arrested during the second incident as the suspects took off when they spotted a police vehicle, said Lugusa.

Last week Lands and Settlement Minister Amos Kimunya decried the wanton destruction of forests in Kipipiri and Kinangop.

Kimunya said a clique of saw millers were colluding with corrupt foresters in felling trees indiscriminately.

Meanwhile, anxiety has gripped the forest offices in Nyandarua and Laikipia districts following the suspension of forest officers. Environment and Natural Resources Minister

Newton Kulundu last week sacked the officers because of corruption. At Ol-Kalou town, Nyandarua District Forest Officer, Mr Erastus Kibuka, handed over his duties to District Officer 1 Mr Mac Donald Oguya.

In Nyahururu, Mr William Chepto, handed over to the District Officer Mr David Mwirigi.