

Stolen vehicles stopped at border

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KOMATIPOORT - Nine vehicles, two heavy motor vehicles as well as two motorcycles which were stolen in parts of South Africa, were confiscated at the Lebombo Border Post over the weekend before they could be taken into Mozambique.

Thanks to the vigilance of the province's organised crime unit as well as border police officials, clothes which were destined for Mozambique, but stolen by transporters, were also confiscated.

Liquor and cigarettes which were being smuggled from Mozambique to South Africa, were also confiscated.

The recoveries were made throughout the whole weekend.

According to Capt Leonard Hlathi, spokesman for the provincial police's organised crime unit, the vehicles were reported stolen in various parts of the country, including North West and Gauteng.

"These cars are then usually taken to other neighbouring countries via Mozambique," he explains.

One of the vehicles was not reported

stolen however and is still the property of a bank which is financing the purchase thereof. "We are investigating the possibility that the owner wanted to report the vehicle as stolen once in Mozambique, in order to claim from his insurance company," Hlathi says.

Parts of two motorcycles which were to be reassembled for use in Mozambique were also found hidden in mattresses.

On Sunday, a driver of a truck with Mozambican whisky and cigarettes worth more than R2 million attempted to cross the border to South Africa, but border police officials confiscated the load after a thorough search of the truck.

"The whisky is made from dangerous chemicals and bottled in 100ml containers and apparently consumers who drink of it, can't walk for the rest of the day," Hlathi warns.

A load of Levi jeans which was to be distributed to less privileged parts of Mozambique, was also confiscated after the transporters hid it with the objective to sell it in South Africa. Although Hlathi praised the wonderful work done by police and border post officials, he reminded all vehicle owners to carry the



Capt Leonard Hlathi and supt Mike Mhlanga in front of a truck that was recovered at Lebombo Border Post. Photo: Mara Horn

relevant documentation in order to be allowed to cross the border.

"If the vehicle is still the property of a bank, the holder of the car must obtain

permission from the bank until it is paid off," he advises. "Also inform your insurance company if you plan to cross the border," he concludes.