

Busted: Illegal Logging in Kenya

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Police and Kenya Wildlife Service personnel yesterday impounded 30 tonnes of timber, two tractors and a power saw at Kuresoi in Nakuru.

District commissioner Arthur Mugira said the Government ban had not been lifted and that forests remained closed to sawmillers, charcoal burners and cultivators.

He criticised chiefs in the area for failing to stop the felling of trees, saying the activity was endangering the Mau Forest.

Mr Mugira said timber merchants cut trees with power saws and transported logs at night. Journalists who toured the forest found more than 70 pine trees that had been felled in readiness for transportation.

Kericho warden Wilfred Osewe said many merchants were using expired permits.

Eighteen people have been arrested for illegal logging and unauthorised cultivation and charcoal burning in the Mau Forest.

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