

# Immature fish exporters turn to monkey meat

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**MASAKA.** Following a government crackdown on catching immature fish, fish traders have resorted to exporting monkey meat to the Democratic Republic of Congo where it is on high demand.

Ten boxes of smoked monkey meat were impounded last Friday together with 20 tonnes of immature fish by Fisheries Protection Unit personnel.

Masaka Armoured Brigade spokesperson, Lt Geoffrey Sande, confirmed the development yesterday, saying monkey meat and immature fish were impounded from different places along the Uganda-Democratic Republic of Congo border in Nebbi District.

"Our detectives trailed the truck which was transporting those items from Masaka until they intercepted it in Nebbi District before it crossed into DR Congo," he said.

He added: "Our investi-

gations have shown that Panyamur fish market in Nebbi District is used as the main stopover of both the monkey meat and immature fish before the loot is smuggled into Democratic Republic of Congo," he said.

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LT GEOFFREY SANDE

Capt Isaac Ewaga, who is in charge of fighting illegal fishing in Greater Masaka sub-region, said the ongoing crackdown on illegal fishing has reduced the vice by at least 50 per cent.

Mr Sulaiman Sempebwa, a police detective who participated in confiscating the monkey meat, expressed concern that such meat may lead to an outbreak of the deadly ebola disease which is believed to be caused by eating monkey meat.

**FUTURE?**

