



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

POL 716



Namibian Police Force

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MEDIA RELEASE

**TO: ALL NEWS MEDIA EDITORS
NAMIBIA**

**DATE: 03-05-2024
TIME: 15:00**

SHOOTING INCIDENT IN ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK

On Wednesday, 01 May 2024 between 12h00 and 13h00 at Scorpionbelt - Western Zone inside Etosha National Park, members of the Poaching Unit attached to the Anti-Poaching Operation in Etosha during their patrols alongside the park's fence observed shoeprints that have entered the park through the fence.

The members then followed the prints in pursuit of the suspected poachers in a range of 60km until at a water point where Rhinoceros mostly feed on small shrubs.

At that area, when the poachers noticed that they were being pursued, they opened fire towards the members of the anti-poaching unit resulting in the exchange of fire. Consequently, the poachers were fatally shot.

When the scene was visited it was established that the poachers were armed with two hunting rifles. A case of Murder as per CR03/05/2024 is under investigation at Omuthiya Police Station.

The identities of the suspected poachers are yet to be established at this stage as no identification documents were found on their bodies. The bodies are kept at Omuthiya Police Mortuary.

Owing to the above, the Namibian Police Force is requesting anyone with information about these poachers or anyone missing a loved one to visit the Omuthiya Police Mortuary for possible identification of the bodies.

The Police Regional Commander of Oshikoto and Gold Commander of Yesa Ongava Anti-Poaching Operation in Etosha National Park can be contacted on 081 129 3022 in this regard.

Kind regards,

J. S. SHIKONGO

: LT. GEN.

INSPECTOR GENERAL: NAMIBIAN POLICE FORCE

