



## REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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### MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM

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#### Press Release (For Immediate Release)

13 April 2023

Editors and Journalists

#### **MINISTRY PLEASED WITH RECENT ARRESTS RELATED TO RHINO POACHING**

The Ministry is pleased to have noted that at least 8 suspects were arrested over the long weekend for crime related to rhino poaching in two separate incidences.

On 06 April 2023, two people who were suspected to have illegally entered the Etosha National Park to hunt rhinos were arrested during a mobile roadblock on the Tsumeb/Otavi road. Two fresh rhino horns were found in their possession and confiscated by the law enforcement agencies led by the blue rhino task team.

The suspects which are a Namibian male Sakaria Johannes and Tomas Domingos an Angolan male, appeared in court on tuesday, 11 April 2023 and they were denied bail. Case was postponed to 7 July 2023.

Follow up investigation in this case led to a discovery of a fresh carcass in the Etosha National Park. The investigators also recovered a 375-calibre rifle, a silencer and 29 live ammunitions. Two more old carcasses were discovered in the Etosha National Park believed to have been poached. There is currently no indication linking the 2 old carcasses to the two suspects.

In another incident on 07 April 2023, two suspects were arrested after they were found in possession of 1 pair of rhino horns in yet another operation by security forces on the Outjo/Otavi Road. Further investigation led to the arrest of three (4) anti-poaching

security personnel on a private farm in the Outjo District who are suspected to have supplied the horns. The suspects are David Nakare; Makanga Johaness; Matema Thiyemo; Shampampi Ndjunga Kamanya Joseph Kandjimi and a female suspect Magdalena Mavandje Mukuve, all suspects are Namibians.

Investigations in both cases continue. The work of the law enforcement agencies involved in these arrests is commendable and worth of praise. We encourage them to continue in the same spirit to ensure that those plundering our resources for their selfish gains are brought to face justice. We reiterate our call to members of the public to reject and condemn poaching in our societies by reporting suspected incidences to the Police or the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism.

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