



Republic of Namibia

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Press Release (For Immediate Release)

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Editors and Journalists

Ministerial Update on wildlife crimes.

The Ministry is pleased that our law enforcement operations continues to record more successes against wildlife crime in the country. From the beginning of June 2021 law enforcement agencies have made significant arrests of wildlife crime perpetrators involving products of high valued species across the country.

A suspect was arrested on 2 June after being found in possession of two elephant tusks without a permit. The suspect is a 53 years old Johannes Nyangana, a Namibian male who is charged with violating the Controlled Wildlife Product and Trade Act, 2008 (Act No.9 of 2008). The suspect appeared in Mukwe periodical court on 07 June 2021 and remains in custody.

In Another incident, a police operation on 4 July 2021, conducted at Amarika Village in the Omusati region led to the arrest of three (3) suspects found in possession of a 303 hunting type of rifle, 20 rounds of live ammunition and a panga. The suspects are 24 years old Johannes Valombola Kefas; 29 years old Gustav Tukuleni and 28 years old Ruben David Nuuyoma, all Namibians, charged with illegal possession of firearm in accordance with the Arms and ammunition Act 7 of 1996. Furthermore, the suspects are charged with conspiracy to hunt a specially protected species (rhino) in accordance with the Riotous Assemblies Act 17 of 1956. Among them, two of the suspects were already arrested in 2020 on similar crimes and were out on bail. Johannes Valombola Kefas was previously arrested for possession of a pair of rhino horns while Ruben David Nuuyoma was charged with conspiracy to hunt a specially protected species (rhino). All three suspects appeared in Okahao magistrate's court and are remain in custody.

On 6 June, 2 suspects were arrested for being in possession of two elephant tusks and one live pangolin without a permit at Kangumbe Communal Farm in Kavango East region. The suspects appeared in the Rundu Magistrate's Court on 07 June 2021.

A suspect was arrested in Windhoek on 06 June 2021 for being in possession with a giraffe skin which he presented and offered for sale without a permit. The Suspect is 49 years old Mateus Katuna Iileka, a Namibian male. The Suspects appeared in the Windhoek Magistrate's court on 08 June 2021.

Two suspects were arrested in Otjiwarongo after they were found with a pangolin skin which they offered for sale without a permit. The suspects are Elias Elias, 30 years old and Nekaku Petrus 31 years old, all Namibian males. The suspects appeared in the Otjiwarongo Magistrate's court today.

This year's statistics indicate that four rhinos and one elephant are poached to date. The four rhinos are white rhinos, poached on private farms while the elephant was poached in a conservancy in Otjozondjupa region. These figures show a serious decline in poaching of rhinos and elephant. This is mainly due to the collaborative effort of stakeholders against wildlife crime.

Four suspects including one police officer and an NDF soldier were arrested on 06 June 2021 after they were found in possession of two rhino horns concealed in 10 kgs bokomo and bakpro packages with intent to sell them without a permit. The suspects are 34 years old, Nuunyango Mateus Anooshike, a Police Officer; Kamati Paulus Ndiinekela, 43 year old Namibian male, Iiyambo Lisias, a 47 year old NDF Soldier and Mavulu Paulus, a 41 year old Namibian male. The suspects appeared today in Ohangwena Magistrate Court.

The Ministry condemns the involvement of law enforcement officers in wildlife crimes. However, we wish to acknowledge the continued support and involvement of the Namibian Police and the NDF in fighting wildlife crime in general and in particular for apprehending the suspects and prevention of illegal killing of our wild animals especially rhinos, elephants and pangolins. We understand that in most systems there will be unethical individuals. Namibia can be proud that the tiny minority of corrupt officials are pursued, investigated and apprehended with vigor and determination. The law must now take its course.

Issued By:

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