

# Kitengela – 3 Policemen amongst four found with 29 kg Ivory

**SEEJ-AFRICA Notes:** (media stories below)

The arrest this past Saturday, June 15th, 2024, of three policemen and a civilian businessman, is at least the fifth time this year that there has been [police involvement in the trafficking](#) of ivory within Kenya.

[Citizen Digital](#) was the first to break the news and listed the suspects in this latest incident as: Richard Kipleting, a police constable, Philip Lupanga, a police constable attached to Judiciary Milimani as a driver, Ben Kiplang'at Koskei attached to a senior politician from Eldoret, and Charles Nzuki, a civilian.

On arrest in the Kitengela area, 5 tusk pieces were found in the Subaru vehicle in which the four suspects had been travelling. The lead agency was the KWS Headquarters investigative unit.

Since the initial arrest, there have been reports that one of the arrested officers was assigned as security for Eldoret area MP Oscar Sudi. Sudi is a Member of Parliament for Kapseret and known to be a close advisor to President Ruto.

It has also been reported that a second officer is assigned to the Presidential Escort Unit (PEU). This is the unit that provides security to President Ruto and his family, other past President's and other international VIP's as assigned.

This is not the first time that police officers linked to high level ministers have been caught with ivory. In February 2016, [four AP officers were arrested](#) while transporting 5 kg of ivory in a Toyota Prado. P.C. Peter Kuria Kimungi was security for politician Martha Karua. Corporal Francis Karanja was the driver for Interior Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiang'i. Corporal's Stephen Ngawai and Martin Mwiti were driver and guard for a Principal Secretary who was never identified. Surprisingly, they were all convicted although the initial sentence of Sh20 million fine or life imprisonment was reduced on appeal to Sh1 million or 5 years in jail.

The suspects were arraigned on June 19th at Kahawa court and the case proceedings can be followed at [E071/24\\_KAH](#).

**SEEJ-AFRICA:** Last five trafficking incidents involving police officers (allegedly):

1. [Hillary Cheruiyot Kipkurui](#) and one other arrested with 10 pieces weighing 89 kg on May 12th, 2024.
2. [Benedict Charles Mwenda](#) and one other arrested in Nairobi area with **six pieces of ivory weighing 64.5 kg** on January 12th, 2024.
3. [Police officer](#) (not charged at this time) based at the Shimoni police station and registered owner of seized vehicle and in relationship with one of the two accused women, Tima Omar Suyu and Bahatisha Juma Said, found with **5 pieces of ivory weighing 112 kg** on January 6th, 2024.
4. [Harrison Gitonga Kanake](#) arrested with one other arrested in Meru area with **23 pieces weighing 79.6 kg** on August 12th, 2023.
5. [Francis Muyambi M'imaana](#) arrested in the Meru area with **two tusks weighing 22 kg** on January 28th, 2023.

*Previous ivory trafficking incidents with the police as suspects/accused.*

## Three police officers arrested in Kitengela, elephant tusks, guns recovered

By Jemimah Kiarie

**June 15th, 2024:**

Three police officers and a civilian were on Saturday arrested in Kitengela after they were reportedly found in possession of five elephant tusks, two pistols and 30 bullets.

OCPD Kingela Patrick Manyasi confirmed the incident.

The four were arrested by officers attached to Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) at a roadblock in Kitengela. KWS officers had trailed the suspects all the way from Eldoret before their dramatic arrest in Kitengela. The arrest followed a tip off.

The suspects were driving in an old Subaru vehicle, registration number KAZ 604, when they were arrested. The suspects are said to have drawn their pistols during their arrest, in what witnesses likened to a movie.

The suspects have been identified as Richard Kipleting, a police constable, Philip Lupanga, a police constable attached to Judiciary Milimani as a driver, Ben Kiplang'at Koskei attached to a senior politician from Eldoret, and Charles Nzuki, a civilian.

The five tusks are said to weigh 29 kilograms, all worth Ksh. 2.9 million. The suspects were taken to Kitengela Police Station before being transferred to KWS holding in Lang'ata.

## 3 police officers arrested with Sh2.9m elephant tusks

**The suspects are said to have drawn their pistols during their arrest but were subdued.**

by CYRUS OMBATI Chief Crime Reporter

News

16 June 2024 – 13:18

Three police officers and a civilian were on Saturday arrested in Kitengela, Kajiado after they were reportedly found in possession of five elephant tusks, two pistols and 30 bullets. The five tusks are said to weigh 29 kilograms, all worth Sh2.9 million.

Kitengela police boss Patrick Manyasi confirmed the incident. Manyasi said the suspects were on the Kenya Wildlife Services officers' radar who aided their arrest. The suspects were trailed from Eldoret to Nairobi, and later to Kitengela where the arrest took place. The four were arrested by officers attached to Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) at a roadblock in Kitengela, officials said.

The suspects are said to have drawn their pistols during their arrest but were subdued. One of them is a police constable attached to Judiciary Milimani as a driver, and another is attached to a senior politician from Eldoret. The suspects were taken to Kitengela Police Station before being transferred to KWS holding in Lang'ata, Nairobi, police said.

Police said the suspect will be charged with the offence of being in Possession of Wildlife Trophies of Endangered Species Contrary to Section 92(4) of the Wildlife Conservation Management Act 2013. Officials said the seizure shows up to two elephants had been killed and there is a likelihood the incidents happened in the nearby parks.

Last week, three suspected poachers were arrested and eight pieces of elephant tusks valued at Sh2 million were recovered from their car in Kibwezi, Makueni County. The three were in a car along the Nairobi-Mombasa highway in the Thenge area when police officers intercepted it. The tusks weighed about 20 kilos, police and Kenya Wildlife Service officials said of the June 4 incident. The tusks were detained at the KWS Chyuklu Hills National Park office.....

<https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2024-06-16-3-police-officers-arrested-with-sh29m-elephant-tusks/>

