



Chinese arrested for rhino horns

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Three Chinese men were found in possession of suitcases filled with rhino horns at Hosea Kutako International Airport yesterday morning, about to leave the country. A total of 14 rhino horns as well as a leopard skin were found in their suitcases. The three Chinese men, charged with possession of specially protected resources, wrapped the rhino horns in plastic and foil and loosely tucked them between clothes in the suitcases. The three were about to board a flight to Hong Kong when their bags were scanned and the horns were found. According to the spokesperson of the Namibian police, Deputy Commissioner Edwin Kanguatjivi, the three men were arrested at about 07:40. According to their passports they had left China on March 9 and arrived in Zambia the following day. They then entered Namibia through the Wenela border post between Namibia and Zambia on tourist visas on March 12. Detective Chief Inspector Barry De Klerk said rhino horn is valued at N\$41 000 per kg but added that the rhino horns have not been weighed yet and the value has therefore not been determined. He said the three Chinese men had visited Namibia several times in the past. According to their passports they visited Namibia last year and at the beginning of this year. De Klerk said they suspect that the three had committed the same crime in the past and got away with it. According to Kanguatjivi they have not been able to determine whether the rhino horns are from Namibia or Zambia. He said the language barrier was posing a problem and they were still waiting for a translator to get more details. The three Chinese nationals are aged 53, 49 and 30 and will appear in the Windhoek Magistrate's Court today.



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