



More rhino poaching discovered in Namibia

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While the number of cases of rhino poaching in Namibia seem to be escalating, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism chooses to stay mum on the situation. Another two cases of rhino poaching were discovered on a farm just outside Windhoek on Tuesday. Yesterday, in another poaching case, three Chinese men made another court appearance in Windhoek for allegedly trying to smuggle 14 rhino horns out of Namibia. The ministry has remained tight-lipped and referred all questions to the police. The carcasses of two white rhino with their horns sawn off were discovered on Tuesday at Ongos farm just west of Windhoek. The farm is owned by veterinarian Ulf Tubessing. Nampol spokesperson Deputy Commissioner Edwin Kanguatjivi told Namibian Sun that no arrests were made and that the police were working hard to catch the culprits. According to him, the



(<https://d3rp5jat0m3eyn.cloudfront.net/asse>

two white rhino were last seen on the evening of April 24 when they came to drink water at the farm. When they did not turn up the following day, the owner started to search for them. Kanguatjivi said the carcasses were found Tuesday in the field. "Upon closer inspection they saw that both horns were sawed off and that the carcasses were already in the early stages of decomposition." Police officers were then sent to the site to collect clues. Meanwhile, three Chinese nationals appeared at the Hosea Kutako Periodical Court yesterday. They were caught with 14 rhino horns, as well as a leopard skin in their luggage at Hosea Kutako International Airport. The Chinese nationals had been on their way to Hong Kong via Johannesburg. They 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 March 12 on tourist visas. Li Xiaoliang, Li Zhibing and Pu Xuexin appeared on charges of being in possession of and exporting controlled wildlife products. Their appearance was delayed for several hours because they had mistakenly been taken to the Windhoek Magistrate's Court. The prosecutor Anthony Wilson opposed bail due to the seriousness of the offences, adding that the value of the items involved is close to N\$2.3 million. He also said that the three men are a flight risk, because they are foreign nationals and the possibility of them absconding is therefore very high. According to him, it will not be in the interests of justice for the three accused to receive bail. Olivier Lino appeared on behalf of the three accused. The case has been postponed until April 24 and the suspects were remanded in custody. The case was transferred back to the Windhoek Magistrate's Court in Katutura for the purposes of a formal bail application. The Ministry of Environment and Tourism's Director of Park and Wildlife Management Colgar Sikopo also attended the court proceedings, but refused to comment on either of the poaching incidents. He said that questions should be referred to the police officers who are investigating the cases.