



Confusion over poaching incident

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There was confusion yesterday about a reported rhino poaching in the Kunene Region, which could not be confirmed by the authorities. News of the incident spread like wildfire on social media – first it was reported that four rhinos were killed, then six, and then apparently none. Some said that the carcasses were found at Palmwag Lodge yesterday morning. Neither the police nor the Ministry of Environment of Tourism was able to confirm that. The spokesperson of the Ministry of Tourism, Romeo Muyunda, said they had been flooded with phone calls from the media since yesterday morning. By yesterday afternoon Muyunda told Namibian Sun that he had gathered all the necessary information on the incident and would shortly issue an official statement. However, nearly an hour later, he had changed his tune, saying he had been unable to get any confirmation of the poaching. Police spokesman Edwin Kanguatjivi said six rhino carcasses were found in the Kunene Region. He said three had died of natural causes while the other three rhinos' horns had been removed. Kanguatjivi said he was waiting on a report from the regions to confirm where and when it happened and he could not be reached later. WINDHOEK ELLANIE SMIT