



Rhino horn trial to begin in June

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The trial of three Chinese men, who were arrested with 14 rhino horns at Hosea Kutako International Airport last year, will start in June. The case has been postponed to June 25 and 26 for plea and trial in the Windhoek Regional Court in Katutura. Li Xiaoliang, Li Zhibing and Pu Xuexin were caught with 14 rhino horns valued at N\$2.3 million, as well as a leopard skin valued at N\$50 000, in their luggage on March 23 last year. The three Chinese nationals have maintained that they did not know what was in their suitcases. In December last year their case was transferred to the Windhoek Regional Court in Katutura and they were supposed to appear in court yesterday. However, due to administrative issues they made an earlier appearance on January 16 before Magistrate Dinnah Usiku and the case was postponed until June. All three were remanded in custody. They



(<https://d3rp5jatom3eyn.cloudfront.net/asse>

have spent nearly a year in jail since their arrest. All three were charged with unlawful export of rhino horns under the Controlled Wildlife Products Act. Alternatively they are charged with unlawful dealing in rhino horns or the unlawful possession of rhino horns. The second count they are charged with is the unlawful export of the leopard skin. Alternatively they can be charged with the unlawful possession of a leopard skin. On the third count they are charged with contravening the Prevention of Organised Crime Act. The three had left China on March 9 and arrived in Zambia the following day. They then entered Namibia through the Wenela border post on March 12 on tourist visas and were supposed to board a plane to Hong Kong via Johannesburg. When their bags were scanned at the airport the Namibian aviation police detected that two of the suitcases contained prohibited items. The three Chinese men had visited Namibia several times in the past. WINDHOEK
ELLANIE SMIT