

48 arrested over rhino poaching since June

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Page no: 1



THE police anti-poaching unit has since June this year arrested 48 people for alleged rhino poaching.

About 22 of those arrested appeared in the Okahao Magistrate's Court in Omusati Region last month, while an unspecified number of suspects were released, pending further police investigations.

Deputy inspector general for operations major general James Tjivikua revealed this in a media statement on Friday.

Tjivikua said the majority of suspects were arrested in farming areas surrounding the Etosha National Park and villages in the Omusati Region, which share borders with the park.

"All 48 suspected poachers were initially denied bail when they appeared in the Okahao magistrate's court in July 2015 and all were remanded in police custody. However, some of the suspects brought formal bail applications before court and were eventually granted bail," said Tjivikua.

According to Tjivikua, so far, the police have confiscated 66 rifles that were used by the suspects for poaching. The confiscated rifles were sent for ballistic examination and the ballistic results linked some of the firearms to the crimes.

"In the Etosha National Park, I have visited the officials of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, as well as members of the Namibian Police Force's Anti-Poaching Unit deployed at the park.

They are all vigilant.

My next step is to visit the Palmwag Conservancy areas as per programme," explained the senior police officer. In addition, Tjivikua also took the opportunity to call upon the general Namibian public to continue providing information pertaining to rhino poaching activities to the police, as such information will be treated with a high degree of confidentiality.

Tjivikua has also revealed the police is now offering a reward of N\$60 000 to any person or persons for information that would lead to the arrest of persons involved in rhino poaching activities across the country.

- Nampa.

Comments 1 - 1 of 1

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- Name and shame them then, what are you waiting. What confidentiality you guys are condoning corruption systematically.

Did you not see what happened in Kenya or wherever when the traffic officers were caught red-handed dining on the traffic culprits?

Name and shame the skunks! - Peter Hangula | 2015-08-17 [16783]