



Principal busted for poaching

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A timely tip-off and a swift police deployment in the dead of the night produced yet another success story in the Namibian Police's ongoing anti-poaching campaign in the northern regions bordering the Etosha National Park when four suspected illegal hunters were caught red-handed on Wednesday morning. The suspects – including the principal of local primary school – were arrested in the Ompundja Constituency of the Oshana Region after they were allegedly found in possession of the carcasses of four duikers, one steenbok, four springhares, one rabbit and two red-crested korhaans. The police impounded a red Toyota bakkie (N 8515 SH) and other tools used in the commission of the crime, including two axes, two pangas, two knives, a telescope, a spotlight, a shotgun and a .22 calibre rifle. Spent and live cartridges were also recovered from the scene of the crime close to



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

the northern border of the Etosha National Park. According to the police, the school principal and his alleged accomplices drove 120 km south under the pretext of collecting firewood for the school's feeding scheme, but their real mission was illegal hunting. They did indeed bring a sizeable load of firewood, using it to conceal the carcasses of the ten wild animals and two birds. Deputy Commissioner William Peter, who is the deputy commander of the second phase of anti-poaching operation that kicked off on September 1 and lasts until November 30, said the police were alerted to a number of gunshots in the vicinity of Etosha on Tuesday evening. Officers were immediately deployed and ordered to find the suspects at all costs. Peter said the police officers did a great job tracking the suspects the whole night from the scene of the crime up to the Mulunga Junior Primary School in the Ompundja Constituency where the suspects were arrested. "More arrests can be expected soon as the investigation continues," Peter said. He said the four suspects brought the number of people arrested in connection with illegal hunting in the past five weeks to 20. "The mission of the anti-poaching operation is not limited to curbing the poaching of rhinos and elephants, but also to root out all forms of illegal hunting," he said. He added that the anti-poaching operation of the police in collaboration with the Environment and Tourism Ministry has been a great success because no new case of elephant or rhino poaching has been reported since the end of August, but there have been many incidents of illegal hunting. "Some people hunt for the pot, while others want to make money out of it. But people need to be alerted about the disadvantages of illegal hunting, how it negatively affects the country's economy and decimate protected species," Peter said.

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