

Police offer N\$60 000 for arrest of poachers

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THE Namibian Police is offering a reward of N\$60 000 for any reliable information which could lead to the arrest of people suspected to be involved in poaching.

Suspected poachers are mainly targeting Namibia's rhino and elephant population for horns and tusks respectively, which fetch lucrative sums, particularly in Asian countries.

The reward was announced by deputy inspector general for operations James Tjivikua in a media statement on Tuesday.

"The public is urged to come forward with information in respect of people suspected to be involved in poaching activities without any fear," he stated. He also issued a stern warning to all would-be poachers, saying once arrested, the Namibian security and law-enforcement units will deal with them in accordance with the country's laws in respect of illegal poaching and other related activities.

On Monday, four men arrested with rhino horns by the police at the weekend in the Kunene and Khomas regions were refused bail during their first court appearance in the Windhoek Magistrate's Court in Katutura.

The four are Kaiko Murumbua (22), Pinehas Tangeni Amunyela (32), Ningeni Vaino Kalola (35) and the 27-year-old Kleopas Ashipala.

They made their first appearance before magistrate Claudia Claasen.

The group was refused bail after public prosecutor Fillemon Nyau strongly objected due to the serious nature of the charges they face and the police investigations into the matter, which are still at an early stage.

The four men, who all appeared in person with no legal representation, are each facing charges of the illegal possession of controlled game (animal) products and illegal dealing in controlled game (animal) products.

The number of rhino horns was not specified in court. Murumbua and Amunyela were arrested last Friday in the Greenwell Matongo residential area in Windhoek, while Ningeni and Ashipala were arrested at Opuwo in the Kunene region on Saturday.

Their case was postponed until 1 June to allow them to apply to the justice ministry's Directorate of Legal Aid for State-funded lawyers to defend them during future court proceedings and when the trial begins.

- Nampa

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- lets just kill the poarchas just like in botswana.the army should protect our animals instead of just being sleeping and playing cards.it hurts alot for the number of our precious resourses exticts and no one is arested,if

arested it cost our government alot of millions in court covers. after all the govt lose a rhino and again millions to prosecute this poachers and hire the best lawyers.(one poarching for rhino or elephant, one death for a poarcher.Eisho meisho) - Tuhafeni Twakulilwa Shikonekeni | 2016-03-17 [18715]