



## Rhino-horn trio remain behind bars

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Bail was denied to three accused rhino poachers who appeared before the Otavi Magistrate's Court yesterday on charges of rhino poaching and illegal possession of three rhino horns.

Tjihange Japyangula, Tjingee Kaukamburua and Tjambira Paulus are each charged with one count of hunting of specially protected game and one count of possession of controlled game products.

The case was postponed to August 13.

State prosecutor Johanna Hamunyela yesterday confirmed that the State asked that bail be denied due to the seriousness of the offence and because the investigation was at a critical stage.

The three men were part of a group of five men, whose vehicle was pulled over on Friday night during a police operation close to Otavi.

Two men are still on the run after they managed to evade arrest and flee into the bush.

The horns were discovered in a blue bag, which one of the suspects tried to throw out of the speeding vehicle. The horns were reportedly relatively fresh.

By yesterday, there was no information on where or when the rhinos were killed.

Police also found blankets, a tent, water containers, tinned food, seven rounds of ammunition for a .303 hunting rifle and a loaded nine-millimetre pistol during the search of the white Toyota double-cab bakkie the suspects were driving.



(<https://d3rp5jat0m3eyn.cloudfront.net/assets/horn-trio-remain-behind-bars2016-07-190.jpg>)

POACHED: Two large and one small rhino horn were confiscated by the police near Otavi on Friday night. PHOTO: NAMPA

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