

## Businessmen arrested for extortion

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**POLICE arrested two Chinese businessmen for alleged extortion, attempted murder and robbery at Walvis Bay after they held another Chinese businessman at gunpoint on Saturday.**

Chief inspector Kauna Shikwambi confirmed on Monday that one of the suspects, Liu Lianxing (30), appeared in the Walvis Bay Magistrate's Court on Monday, while the other one was to appear yesterday.

Shikwambi said the two businessmen allegedly threatened and forced another Chinese businessman at gunpoint to ratify a contract, which states that the victim owes them N\$8 million.

"Three shots were fired, although there were no injuries reported. The victim signed the contract, and thereafter the suspects robbed him of his cellphone, damaged it and hid it in the dunes," she explained.

She said the victim alerted the police when the suspects released him, leading to Lianxing's arrest, while the other suspect ran away.

"He, however, surrendered himself today (on Monday)."

Shikwambi said Lianxing is illegal in the country. A highly-placed police source told The Namibian that this could be the work of the Chinese triads, who are also responsible for rhino poaching, protection rackets and smuggling.

"There is a lot of reported and unreported fighting amongst the Chinese community, for reasons only known to them. But from listening here and there, there is a group that solicits money from Chinese businessmen," the police source said.

According to the source, most of those involved have been in the country for a long time.

"I don't know what to call them, but they are dangerous. An example was when there was shooting on the outskirts of Windhoek some years back, and it was amongst the Chinese community," the source noted.

The source further said that there have been cases of reported and unreported kidnappings of prominent Chinese businessmen in Namibia.

*The Namibian* visited China town in the Northern Industrial area of Windhoek, but most businessmen said they know nothing about any Chinese-organised criminal activities.

But one told The Namibian that he was asked to pay a protection fee when he first came to Namibia. The businessman said he had no choice but to pay because of the high crime rate in Namibia.

Police inspector general Sebastian Ndeitunga said he was not aware of any Chinese triads in the country, urging anyone with information not to hesitate to approach his office.

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