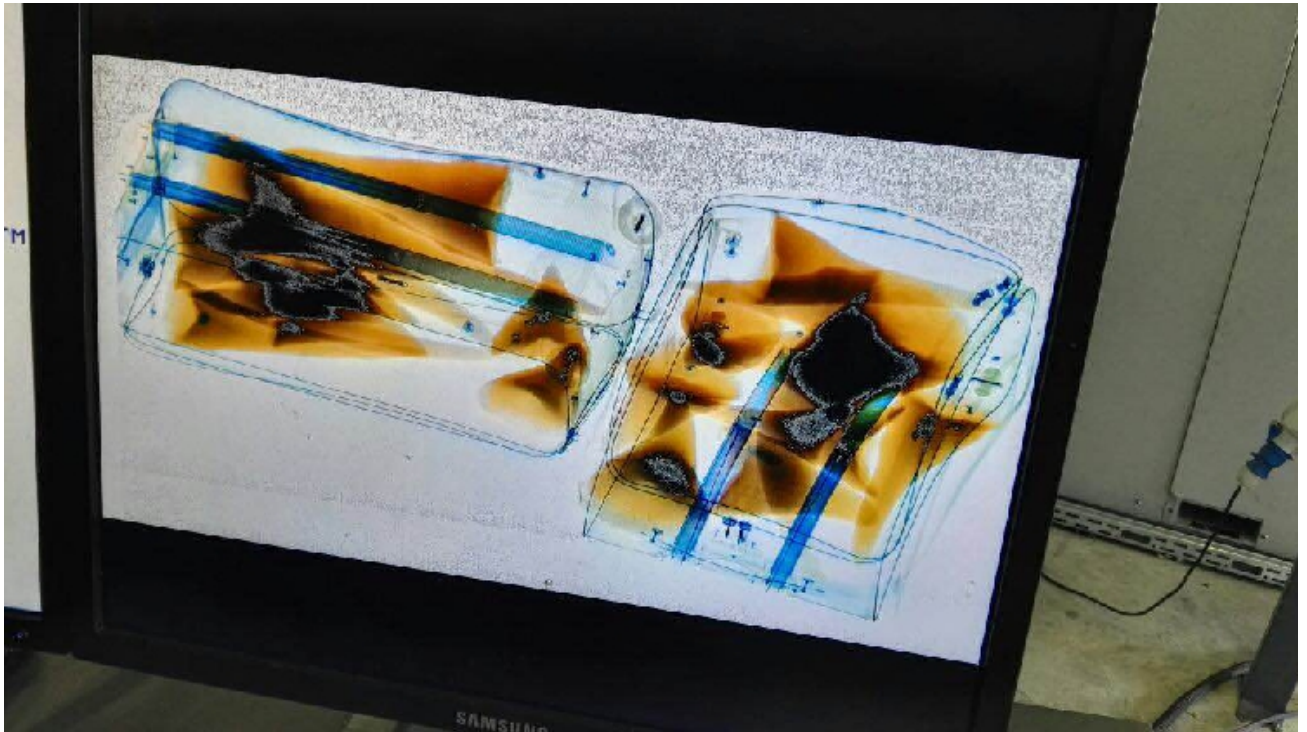


Ndeitunga breathes fire over rhino horns

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by Tuyeimo Haidula



POLICE inspector general Sebastian Ndeitunga yesterday said he will take stiff measures on officers who were on duty at Hosea Kutako International Airport when the Chinese national smuggled 18 rhino horns out of Namibia.

Ye Zhiwei (28) was arrested on Wednesday last week at the OR Tambo International Airport, South Africa, when scanners detected the rhino horns in his luggage. He was catching a connecting flight to Hong Kong.

On the same day, Ye went through Hosea Kutako where, according to the Namibia Airports Company chief executive officer Tamer El-Kallawi, the scanners detected the horns but he was not arrested.

Ndeitunga also told *The Namibian* yesterday that Ye's contraband was detected by the scanners but officers on duty chose to ignore the rhino horns in his luggage.

"Otherwise, there was gross negligence on the part of those police officers who were on duty at the particular time. I will take very, very stiff measures, but I will first wait for the team's report," he stated.

Figures released by the environment ministry last week show that seven rhino carcasses, poached for their horns, were discovered this month in the Etosha National Park. This brought the number of rhino killed to 47 this year. Environment ministry spokesperson Romeo Muyunda said 69 elephants have also been poached this year, mainly in the Zambezi and Kavango regions. Muyunda told *The Namibian* yesterday that the ministry is still to determine whether the 18 horns found with the Chinese national are from Namibian rhinos.

"We need to link them to some of these carcasses which were discovered. If they are Namibian, then obviously they have been poached," he said.

The NAC also said that they were also investigating how Ye was allowed to proceed even after the horns had been detected by the scanners. The airports company spokesperson, Dan Kamati, last week said preliminary investigations confirmed that the scanners at Hosea Kutako detected the rhino horns.

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- Patriotism has died, now we are focusing on capitalism, as a result we can able to sell out anything under the sun. As long as we have loopholes in the system we can run away with a murder. The people who are working with scanners they know for sure about the loopholes in the system and are taking advantage of that. One wonder how many illegal things had passed through in the same manner. Corruption is within us and it is difficult to remove it. Those who are honest will no be seen for that responsibilities as our system does not screen for that and will be seen as a favoritism. we have a long way to go as we are not taking our resources and critical positions serious. - matti ukongo | 2016-11-30 [20190]
- HAHHAHA- Ndeitunga is just a puppet after Mocks Shivute got off unscathed Namibians know that GRN has no real intention to fight poaching.

Politicians are so hungry that they would jump into any scam for the extra buck. After all, when an Egyptian runs the airline with Air Egypt not featuring anywhere, it's clear our governance is based on self interest first and if ever, real issues. - Wen Aibiman | 2016-11-29 [20189]

- Whatever they call you by your name.....NDEITUNGA you won't do anything about this just be honest with yourself... stop trying to shine in the light while in the dark you don't
- "Everything under the sun is useless" - henry kashihakumwa | 2016-11-29 [20188]
- I always say that this issue of poaching involves high profile officers. People today they don't look at tomorrow but concentrate on what is at disposal. They just think of money and forget about the beauty of our country with abundant wildlife. In other words, even Ministers, PS, Inspectors in uniform, Directors in wildlife ministry are involved. We need to unveil this cloud which is depleting our natural resources or we will be laughing stock of the world. How could the detected contraband leave the country? These guys were paid to put all under the carpet. If nothing happens, all officers at the exit point at Hosea Kutako including Immigration officers should be given red cards and leave work for other in need and committed. Inspector General do your work or resign coz you are failing the nation. - Roberts Ntesa Ntesa | 2016-11-29 [20187]
- When did Ye Zhiwei come to Namibia? On who's invitation? What was the reason for his visit? Where did he stay when he was here? Are there other relatives of him residing in Namibia? How much did he spend in paying bribe syndicate to have the horns of N\$6.6million pass unhindered? Who processed his booking? That is not a simple case, definitive many heads were involved!!!!!!! - lyela Simeon | 2016-11-29 [20191]