

Courier worker suspected in rhino horn smuggling

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POLICE are investigating an employee of a multinational courier company for attempting to smuggle rhino horns through Eros airport, police spokesperson, commissioner Edwin Kanguatjivi said yesterday.

He said although no arrests have yet been made, investigations were at an advanced stage, and a suspect has been identified.

“We are not comfortable to mention the name of the courier company as that may embarrass the company because of one unscrupulous element within the company,” Kanguatjivi told The Namibian.

He added that the origin of the rhino horns has yet to be established, and that DNA analysis still has to be conducted to determine whether the horns emanated from Namibia, or were just being smuggled through the country.

“Sometimes the horns may come from outside the country and just be going through to its final destination,” Kanguatjivi noted.

It was recently reported that 16 rhino horn pieces were discovered at the Eros airport on 12 May. The parcel was destined for Malaysia via Johannesburg.

The Namibian reported in March that a man suspected of travelling from Namibia was arrested at the Hong Kong International Airport in connection with 12 rhino horns found in a parcel, declared as containing coffee.

The horns, weighing 6,6 kilogrammes, had an estimated value of N\$1,3 million.