



Three men arrested for rhino horns

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Police are clamping down on poachers, with two police busts leading to the arrest of an alleged poaching gang found in possession of rhino horns and another man attempting to smuggle ten elephant tusks.

Police at the Divundu police checkpoint arrested two men driving a white BMW in the early hours of Thursday morning after they were found in possession of three rhino horns.

They were identified as Liebelo Erick Manja (31) and Aldrian Masule Musisanyani (41), and both were charged with possession of controlled wildlife products.

Reportedly a third man was later arrested in connection with the same crime and all three remain in custody.

The police have not yet confirmed the origin of the horns and the investigation continues.

Video footage posted on social media posted over the weekend showed the arrest of an unidentified man in his early thirties, who was attempting to smuggle ten elephant tusks in a metal locker in the back of a vehicle.

The footage shows police opening the locker and lifting out the tusks one by one.

The arrest took place near Katima Mulilo in the Zambezi Region. The police were reportedly acting on a tip-off from a member of the public.

It was further reported that the man was driving a vehicle bearing the name of a security company, and that he resisted arrest. He only stopped the vehicle following a police chase, after an officer had fired a warning shot into the air.

In July poaching statistics provided by the environment ministry indicated that by April this year a total of 14 rhinos and 23 elephants had been poached.

In other crime news, two Chinese nationals were sentenced to two years' imprisonment on charges of attempted bribery by Magistrate Vanessa Stanley in the Windhoek Magistrate's Court on Friday.

Siyong Xu (55) and Huaifen Yang (54) will serve their prison terms at the Windhoek Central Correctional Facility.

The two were arrested on 5 September 2018 at the Old Power Station in the capital. They confessed that they had offered a bribe of N\$4 000 to an inspector of the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism Division of the Namibian police.

The bribe was an attempt to stop the investigation of a case in which Huaifen is suspected of money laundering involving an amount of N\$1 million.

Two boys, Divine Boois (7) and Misson Bertes (6) who had been reported missing from 7de Laan location in Otjomuise on Wednesday, were found safe and sound playing in a riverbed on Thursday and were reunited with their parents on Saturday.

The police had kept the boys in safe custody until their parents could be traced.

A fire that broke out on the tenth floor of the Namibia University of Science and Technology at midday on Sunday was quickly contained. No injuries were reported.