

Nine arrested for wildlife crimes

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NINE men were arrested over the past for the poaching of protected wildlife species.

This is according to environment ministry spokesperson, Romeo Muyunda, who stated that the suspects form part of the three newly registered wildlife criminal cases.

It is alleged that Gideon Gao-Naseb, Timotheus Kasera and Champion Haraseb killed a rhino at the Omateva farm in the Omitara constituency. They now face charges of hunting of specially protected species and the removal of protected products. The trio was arrested on 20 August and have been remanded in custody.



*Pictured: Ministry of
Environment and Tourism,
Romeo Muyunda. Photo: File*

In Omaruru, Benjamin Kambombo, Vaapi Mukandi and Elifas Ndipulalye were also apprehended for the illegal possession of a live pangolin. They now face a charge of contravening sections of the controlled wildlife products and trade Act. The police confiscated the pangolin, although its value could not be determined.

Three other people, Ndungu Kahuno, Johannes Sendu and Victorinu Mbasovin were arrested in the Osire vicinity for attempting to poach a rhino at the Osontjiva farm.

According to Nampol Spokesperson, Sergeant Immanuel Iduwa, the suspects face a charge of conspiracy to poach specially protected game and contravening the Arm and Ammunitions Act.

The environment ministry in 2017 established a dedicated Wildlife Protection Service, the Anti-Poaching unit, Headed by retired Nampol Commissioner Ndahangwapo Kashihakumwa, in a bid to curb the prevalent incidents of poaching.