

Two ivory smugglers remanded in custody

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THE 25-year-old Tjingeje Muhuka and Mbinda Kenahama also aged 25, who stands accused of attempting to sell an elephant tusk to undercover detectives at the start of the weekend, were remanded in custody until 19 October after they made their first appearance in the Walvis Bay Magistrate's Court on Monday.

The two accused persons were arrested on charges of possession and trade in protected wildlife products after they attempted to sell a single elephant tusk and a dried pangolin skin to undercover detectives in Walvis Bay on Friday evening.



Pictured: Tjingeje Muhuka and Mbinda Kenahama at the holding cells of the Walvis Bay Magistrate's Court. – Photo: Niël Terblanché

Both the suspects were born on Opuwo but Muhuka currently lives in Omakange while Kenahama resides in Okahandja.

During court proceedings Magistrate Rhivermo Williams informed the two accused persons that they face charges of contravening Section 4 (1) (a) & (b) of the Controlled Wildlife Products and Trade Act, Act 9/2008 as amended by Act 6/2017 (667).

Muhuka and Kenhama were also formally informed about their rights with regards to legal representation. Muhuka indicated that he will obtain the services of Private lawyer while Kenhama informed the court that he will apply for legal aid from the state.

The state prosecutor informed the court that the investigation into the matter is still at a very early stage and that a third suspect might still be added to the matter.

Before remanding the two accused persons in custody Magistrate Williams postponed the matter to 19 October 2019 and informed them that it is their right to bring a formal bail application to court before the date of their next appearance.

