



## Four 'rhino poachers' appear in camera

The remaining four suspects will make their appearance today in courts on Gobabis and in Windhoek.

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Francoise Steynberg - Four of the eight suspects arrested this week in connection with rhino poaching and hornet smuggling appeared in camera in the Otjiwarongo regional court on Thursday.

They remain in custody.

According to the spokesperson of the Ministry of the Environment, Forestry and Tourism, Mr. Romeo Muyunda, may not disclose their names, "because the investigation is at a very early and sensitive stage.

Further arrests may follow from further information".

The four suspects (50, 44, 37 and 30 years) briefly appeared before Magistrate Karel Muyegu and Ms. Elana Doeses charged.

Muyunda says all eight suspects will eventually be brought together and heard in a court in the capital.

The charges facing the suspects are the illegal hunting of a specially protected species (rhino), the illegal possession of and trade in specially protected wildlife products (rhino horns) and the violation of the law on firearms.

According to Muyunda, 13 rhinos have been stripped so far this year.

According to the head of the Blue Rhino Task Team, comm. Barry de Klerk, two black rhino carcasses were found by farm workers on Tuesday at a farm in the Gobabis district in the Omaheka region. The horns were removed.

"Four suspects were arrested on Tuesday in Otjiwarongo with two rhino horns in their possession when they tried to sell it to a secret police officer," De Klerk said.

One of the suspects is a police officer in the unit for the protection of very important persons (GDP) in Windhoek.

"Further follow-up on Wednesday led us to the home of a well-known pastor in Kleine Kuppe in Windhoek, where two rhino horns, a hunting rifle and ammunition were seized. At home, the pastor and three other suspects were arrested," De Klerk said.

One of the suspects is a former member of the Namibian Army (NDF).

### 'PROPHET' SHOWS TODAY

Two suspects appear today on Gobabis and the charismatic pastor - a self-proclaimed prophet - and another suspect in the Windhoek Magistrate's Court.

Meanwhile, it was written on the pastor's church's Facebook page that the photo with a list of names of people contributing money for his bail is up-to-date.

"The Prophet is doing well and he is in a good state of mind."

A woman who allegedly acted as a media liaison to the pastor, one Daphne, said she did not work for the pastor, but she was a member of the church. Asked if he was still in custody, she said "no comment" and pushed the phone to death.

For inquiries, a cellphone number was provided on the church's Facebook page.

One Ananias who answered this phone told Republican "there are restrictions on the questions I will answer".

He added "everything on Facebook is fake news. Only the prophet can give the answers, "and also pushed the phone to death.

The church's Facebook page was flooded with comments, prayers and Bible verses for "Papa Prophet".

One of the more than 300 entries on the page states "the devil is a liar".

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