

No bail for Babi and Kies

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The self-proclaimed prophet, Pastor Jackson Babi, 30, remains in custody and is due to appear in the Gobabis Magistrate's Court next Monday on a charge of rhino poaching.

Babi this morning with his co-accused, Mr. Frizans Dumeni, appeared, but their bail application took a turn when state prosecutor Rowan van Wyk said that Babi should appear in the Gobabis Magistrate's Court on Monday on a charge of illegal hunting of specially protected wildlife (a rhino) .

The two were charged with rhino poaching, horn smuggling and the illegal possession of rhino horns, a firearm and ammunition after being part of eight suspects arrested last week in Windhoek and Otjiwarongo. This comes after two black rhino carcasses with their horns removed last week were discovered on a farm in the Gobabis district.

Two rhino horns, a hunting rifle and ammunition, were apparently found in Babi's house on house 454 in Rheintfontein Street in the Kleine Kuppe neighborhood of Windhoek.

Magistrate Linus Samunzela postponed the two accused's case until July 24 for further police investigation and ordered both to remain in custody.

RENOSTER CARCASSES

Just before the two accused's appearance this morning, a Gobabis Republican farmer announced that a rhino cow wounded on his farm two months ago had died of her wounds yesterday.

Her six-year-old bull calf's carcass was discovered on the farm last Saturday. The calf's horns were removed.

The head of the Blue Rhino task team, comm. Barry de Klerk, is currently on the farm to investigate.

"It is believed to be the work of the same syndicate of eight suspects arrested last week in Windhoek and Otjiwarongo, because the caliber rifle is exactly the same as used in this previous poaching in the Gobabis district as well," said the farmer.

Photo Francoise Steynberg