

## Pastor in Gobabis court on rhino poaching Stay in detention

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Pastor Jackson Babi, 30, of the House of Joy Ministries appeared in another Gobabis Magistrate's Court on Monday on another charge of rhino poaching.

This comes after the self-proclaimed prophet is linked to a syndicate of at least eight accused who is believed to be responsible for the poaching of four rhinos on two different farms in the Gobabis district.

Magistrate Eden Iyambo postponed the case until September 15 for further police investigation and ordered Babi to remain in custody.

Mr. Marchell Hoeb charged and mr. Kadhila Amoomo defends Babi.

Meanwhile, Amoomo filed an urgent court application in the Windhoek High Court last week to remove Babi's case from the role on the basis of an illegal and invalid warrant to search his property, but he dropped that application on Monday.

Judge Harald Geier ordered Babi to bear the court costs of the respondents - the Prosecutor General, the Inspector General of the Namibian Police and the Gobabis Magistrate - and deleted the case.

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

Babi's co-accused is the 25-year-old Mr. Frizans Dumeni who appeared with him in the Windhoek Magistrate's Court last Wednesday

Both are facing charges of rhino poaching, horn smuggling and the illegal possession of rhino horns, a firearm and ammunition.

Their case was postponed until July 24 for further investigation.

They were arrested along with six other suspects in Windhoek and Otjiwarongo at the end of May.

The other accused are Messrs. Alberto Mbwale and Joseph Matheus who appeared last Monday on charges of rhino poaching and money laundering on Gobabis.

They remain in custody until their next appearance on September 15.

The four arrested in Otjiwarongo when they allegedly wanted to sell two rhino horns to a secret police officer are Messrs. Enos Utoni, Onesmus Haufiku, Vaaruka Musutua and Elias Nashivela.

Nashivela is a former member of the Namibian military and Haufiku a police officer attached to the unit for the protection of many important persons (GDP) in Windhoek. They also remain in custody.

According to a farmer on whose farm two white rhino carcasses were found last week, the same caliber rifle was used in a previous poaching where two rhinos were shot on another farm in the Gobabis district.

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