

NEW CHARGES: House of Joy Ministries founder, Prophet Babi, in action with a follower during one of his sermons in Windhoek. Photo: Contributed

The state prosecutor in the matter informed the court that Babi will not be able to go ahead with his formal bail application and that he has to remain in custody in order for him to appear in the Gobabis Magistrate's Court on Monday.

Detectives investigating the latest poaching incident, involving Babi and his co-accused, found that the rifle and ammunition that were found and confiscated at the prophet's house during the arrest, were used to shoot another rhino on a different farm near Gobabis.

All the accused persons face charges of poaching, the possession of wildlife contraband, trading in wildlife contraband, possession of an unlicensed firearm and ammunition.





Poaching charges piling up against prophet

Niël Terblanché

DILIGENT detective work by the Protected Resources Division (PRD) of the Namibian Police, led to more poaching charges being registered against Prophet Jackson Babi.

The prophet is currently in police custody on poaching charges that stem from an arrest last week at his home in the Kleine Kuppe neighbourhood of Windhoek.

Babi, along with Frizans Naululu Dumeni, Alberto Mbwale and Joseph Matheus, were all taken into custody when they were found in possession of two rhinoceros horns last Tuesday evening.

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Earlier on the same day, during an undercover operation in Otjiwarongo, a serving member of the Namibian Police, Onesmus Haufiku, a former Namibian Defence Force soldier Elias Nshivela, and two others, Enos Uutoni and Vaaruka Musutua, were arrested when they attempted to sell two rhino horns to operatives of the PRD.

The two sets of rhino horns originated on a farm near Gobabis where a farm worker discovered the poached carcasses of two of the protected animals on Tuesday morning last week.

Prophet Babi, the founder of the House of Joy Ministries, and his co-accused, were informed about the new poaching charges as they were about to formally apply for bail.