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## Preacher gets date for bail hearing

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by Werner Menges

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Jackson Babi

**A WINDHOEK-BASED preacher who was last week arrested after two rhino horns were allegedly found at his house is due to apply for bail in the Windhoek Magistrate's Court tomorrow.**

Following his arrest on Wednesday last week, Jackson Babi made his second court appearance yesterday on charges of possessing or dealing in two rhino horns, hunting a rhinoceros, which is specially protected game, and possessing a hunting rifle and ammunition without a licence.

Babi (30) appeared before magistrate Linus Samunzala with co-accused Frizans Naululu Dumeni (25), who is facing the same charges.

The case was postponed to tomorrow for bail application proceedings.

Babi is a self-styled "anointed prophet of the Gospel" and founder of the evangelical religious group House of Joy Ministries in Windhoek.

The state is alleging that he and Dumeni possessed or dealt in two rhino horns at Babi's residence in Kleine Kuppe, Windhoek, on Tuesday and Wednesday last week, and that the horns are linked to the poaching of two rhinos found dead and with their horns removed in the Gobabis area on Tuesday last week.

Romeo Muyunda, spokesperson for the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism said last week the investigation of the poaching

incident led detectives to Otjiwarongo, where a covert operation was carried out and two rhino horns were found in possession of four suspects who had offered the horns for sale to an undercover police officer.

The four men - including a member of the police's Very Important Persons Protection Directorate - were arrested, Muyunda said.

He also reported that follow-up investigations led the police to a house in Kleine Kuppe, where another two rhino horns, a hunting rifle and ammunition were found and confiscated.

The alleged discovery of the horns, firearm and bullets also led to the arrest of Babi, Dumeni and two other suspects.

The other two suspects, Alberto Mbware and Joseph Matheus, appeared in the Gobabis Magistrate's Court on charges of hunting specially protected game and money laundering yesterday.

Their case was postponed to 15 September for further investigation, and they are kept in custody in the meantime.

The four men arrested at Otjiwarongo appeared in court behind closed doors, and their names are kept under wraps at this stage in a bid to not hinder a continuing investigation that could lead to the arrest of more people, Muyunda said yesterday.

Babi is represented by defence lawyer Kadhila Amoomo, while Dumeni is represented by Kalundu Kamwi.



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