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Prophet remains in custody



The accused clergyman Jackson Babi. Photo: Marc Springer

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Windhoek (ms) - Self-proclaimed prophet Jackson Babi, who is accused of illegally possessing two rhinoceros horns, will remain in custody until his trial at Gobabis magistrate's court was adjourned until September 15 yesterday.

It is uncertain whether he will make a bail application by then - a rush application for which he wanted to obtain his immediate release was withdrawn at short notice yesterday at the higher court. To justify this application, Babi stated in an affidavit that he did not know where the two horns came from, which representatives of the nature protection unit and police found in his apartment in Kleine Kuppe on May 28.

He also claims that the police officers did not have a search warrant and "detained" him in the front yard while searching the apartment. Some time later they returned with two "objects" that looked like rhinoceros horns. In his statement, Babi does not directly claim that the officers had deposited the horns in his apartment himself, but still claims not to know how they got there.

Since the apartment had been searched without a court order, this process had to be declared retrospectively null and void. In addition, his arrest is illegal because he was without an arrest warrant. From this, Babi concludes that continued detention is illegal and that he should be released immediately.

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