

First rhino poached this year Accused remain in custody

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Six suspected rhino poachers have been arrested and remain in custody after a white rhino bull was poached in the Okavango district.

According to the head of the Blue Rhino task force, Comm. Barry de Klerk, the carcass of the bull with its horns removed was found around 07:30 on Friday 8 January on a private game reserve.

He confirmed it was the first rhino to be poached in Namibia this year.

"Detectives from the task force and the unit for protected species of the Namibian police launched an intelligence-driven investigation last Saturday and during a secret operation two suspects, Messrs. "Jeff Makayi Nadango (36) and Stefanus Muyenga Musore (49) were arrested in the Lafrenz industrial area with two fresh rhino horns," De Klerk told Republikein.

"Further investigation by the team led them to the Otjetu settlement on Okahandja, where four more Namibians were arrested on the same day. An unlicensed hunting rifle with ammunition, as well as other poaching equipment, as well as the vehicle used during the crime were confiscated. "

The four suspects are Messrs. Zekka Petrus Ihemba (45), Mayembe Alfeus Kamwengo (38), Matyayi Thomas Sivambo (36) and 50-year-old Kativa Frans Musenge.

According to De Klerk, all the suspects are presumably part of a poaching syndicate that poached the bull on the game reserve. One of the suspects is believed to be an employee there.

According to De Klerk, the suspects have already appeared in court. Nadango and Musore appeared in Okahandja Magistrate's Court and remain in custody until their next court appearance on June 24.

The other four accused appeared in the Windhoek Magistrate's Court in Katutura. They also remain in custody until their next appearance on March 25.

Last year, 30 rhinos were poached in Namibia, compared to 50 in 2019 and 2018's 70.? -
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