

Alleged poachers remain in custody

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Ester Kamati - Three suspects arrested near Otavi last week in connection with a planned poaching remain in custody after appearing in the town magistrate's court.

The three men made their first court appearance last week after being caught on a gravel road near Ohorongo Cement in possession of a silencer, live ammunition, a shotgun, heavy caliber ammunition, a knife and a panga.

The suspicion is that they were on their way to poach rhinos on a nearby farm.

All the equipment was confiscated along with the vehicle in which it was found. The three men were charged with possession of an unlicensed firearm, ammunition without a valid license, as well as conspiracy to hunt special protected game.

The suspects are 51-year-old Simeon Namene, Gotlieb Wilhelm (32) and Shimbilinga Mateus (41). The case has been adjourned until November 4 with the suspects remaining in custody while the investigation continues.

The men were told to seek legal aid. Namene has chosen to apply for legal aid, while Mateus will enlist the help of a private lawyer. Wilhelm indicated he was going to defend himself.

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