

# Republikein

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Mr. Hold Xuecheng Photo Archive



The Minister of Justice, Ms. Yvonne Dausab. Photo Archive

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## DAUSAB SAYS ABOUT LOST DOSSIER

Case still continues

**Christine Kruger**

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Kristien Kruger

The Minister of Justice, Ms. Yvonne Dausab, nipped in the bud suspicions about the disappearance of a dossier in a case in which a Chinese citizen is accused of wildlife crime.

Mr. Hou Xuecheng (46) and his co-accused, Mr. Hamutenja Stanislaus Hamutenya (42), who stood trial on charges of trafficking in and possessing protected wildlife products, has been free since 15 September.

After the state once again asked the regional court in Windhoek for an adjournment and the defense opposed this application, magistrate Leopold Hangalo rejected the state's application for an adjournment and struck the case off the record.

The state asked for an adjournment for various reasons, including to locate the dossier which was not with the relevant court or public prosecutor.

## DOSSIER NOT GONE

Dausab denied in her statement that the dossier was gone and offered an explanation for the events.

"A special court to deal with the backlog of cases in the regional court has been established. As a result, all pending criminal cases from Regional Court A, B, C, from the Katutura Court, were transferred to the Windhoek Magistrate's Court. Documents and charge sheets had to be transferred between these two courts," reads the statement

. The relevant case apparently appeared in this special regional court in the Windhoek Magistrate's Court on 15 September.

"Unfortunately, the dossier was not handed over to the public prosecutor, who is now handling the case in the special regional court.

According to Dausab, an investigation was launched to establish why the dossier was not at the court.

The prosecutor who initially handled the case confirmed that the file is still with the Katutura Regional Court.

"To rectify the issue, summonses have been issued to ensure that the accused are brought to trial on the criminal charge.

"The case against Xuecheng and Hamutenya is now scheduled to be heard on November 7."

## WILDLIFE CRIME Xuecheng

was allegedly caught in 2014 with a cheetah and leopard skin in his possession and was charged with the illegal trade in four elephant tusks.

He was arrested again months later after a hyena skin, a leopard head and seven zebra skins were apparently found in his possession at the China Town shopping complex in Windhoek.

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