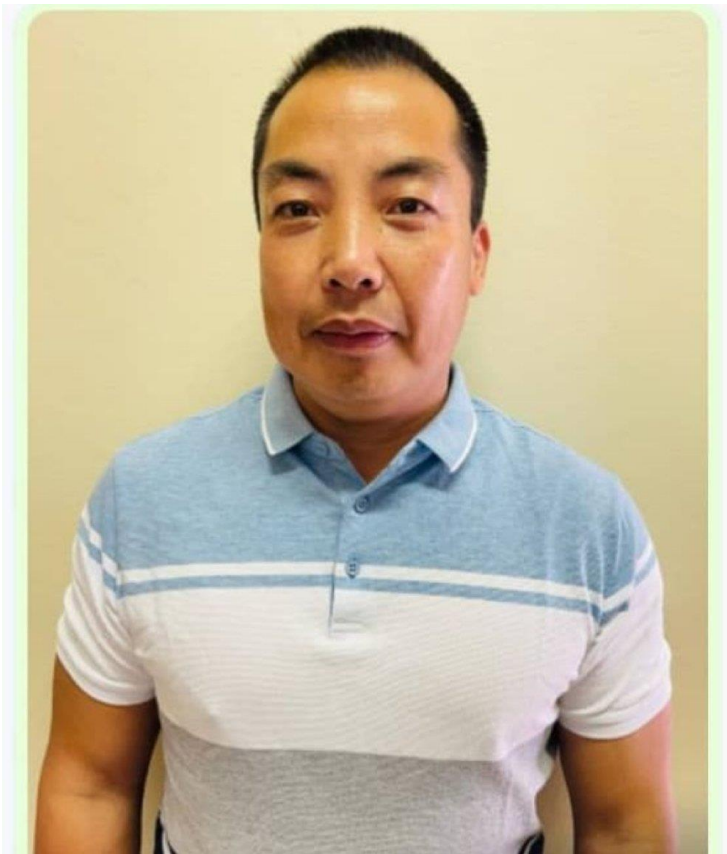


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The escaped rhino horn smuggler, Wang Hui (48). Photo Provided

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# RHINO HORN SMUGGLER ON THE RUN

**Ronelle Rademeyer**

- 18 HOURS AGO - - 2022-10-18 00:00:00

The Chinese rhino horn smuggler Wang Hui (48) escaped from custody at around 11:00 yesterday and was still on the run at press time yesterday.

Wang escaped when he went to Brakwater with a warden from the Windhoek Central Prison to pick up materials from a supplier.

It was late yesterday afternoon by comm. Michael Mulisa, spokesman for correctional services, confirmed to Republican.

"They went to the supplier to get materials needed for a project of the Ministry of Health and Social Services that the prisoners are working on," he says.

Once there, Wang said he had to visit the toilet, after which he escaped.

Wang, the mastermind of a Chinese smuggling syndicate, along with Li Xiaoling, Li Zhibing and Pu Xuexin, is serving a 14-year prison sentence, with five years suspended.

The four were caught at the Hosea Kutako International Airport in 2014 with 14 rhino horns and one leopard skin in their luggage.

They were found guilty in the regional court in Windhoek in 2016 of the illegal possession of game products and the illegal export of game products, but acquitted on the main charge of money laundering.

Yesterday afternoon, information circulated on emergency service groups that he was presumably on his way to Swakopmund in a Mercedes Benz SLK without number plates.

Later information was received that he was on his way to the coast in a bakkie.

However, this could not be confirmed by Mulisa.

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