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• **MINISTRIES**

CHRISTMAS TIME - POACHING TIME

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Windhoek (omu) - The numbers speak for themselves: So far this year, the Ministry for the Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) has recorded 63 poached rhinos, 41 of them black and 22 white. Another 15 of the poached animals were poached on leasehold farms and 22 on private farms. The other 26 are in the Etosha National Park.

As the ministry further explains, poaching increases especially during the festive days. Therefore, with the combined efforts of "Wildlife Protection" and the state security forces, special attention is paid to the protection of elephants, rhinos, pangolins and other endangered species this holiday season.

The Ministry emphasized that not only the protection of endangered animal species plays a role here, one should not forget that Namibia's flora and fauna play an important economic role. Tourism in particular depends on it. Nevertheless, the protection of endangered species is in the foreground.

The authority also announced that the number had already increased compared to previous years. There were 44 rhinos in 2021, 42 the year before and 53 in 2019. In 2017 there were 55. The only exception was 2018, when 83 poachings were reported. The Ministry points out that the help of the population is required. So it is essential to report suspicious activities or people immediately. As a nation, we must take action against this theft on the land.