

## Seven arrested for wildlife crime in one week

News - National | 2022-11-23

by Eino Vatileni



Eino Vatileni

**SEVEN** people were arrested in a one week period for committing wildlife/poaching related crimes in the country.

This is according to the weekly wildlife crime statistics report, released by the environment ministry last week.

Six people were arrested for rhino poaching, and one suspect for being in possession of a pangolin skin, states the report.

In addition, three suspects have been granted bail, while nine are in custody awaiting trials, according to the report.

Suspects arrested in connection with rhino poaching are Mekondjo Tsililinus and Festus Amunyela (23).

They are charged for illegally hunting specially protected game and for attempt, conspiracy and inducing another person to commit an offence.

Other suspects charged for rhino poaching are Jonas Gerhard (25), Petrus Kalenga (36), Tangeni Jesaya (22) and Libonelo Sobozi (43).

The four are charged with the prohibition of hunting in game parks and nature reserves, illegal hunting on state land, attempt, conspiracy and inducing another person to commit an offence.

Ndango Hamutenya (29), an Angolan national, was arrested for being in possession of a pangolin. He is charged with illegal possession and dealing controlled wildlife products.

Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism spokesperson Romeo Muyunda said many Namibians generally do not understand the importance of conserving wildlife species.

He said many people have the wrong perception that wildlife belongs to the ministry.

"They don't understand that these resources generate income for the country, through trophy hunting and tourism. Tourism is very important to the country, as it creates employment for our brothers and sisters," Muyunda said.

When people poach rhinos and other species, they are robbing someone of their livelihood, he said.

"These resources do not benefit the ministry, but all of us."

JOIN US

Muyunda said Namibians must join the ministry in fighting poaching.

He also urged the public to be conscious of the importance of conserving nature.

“Report wildlife-related crimes to the ministry and the Namibian Police. People who poach are living with us, but we are protecting them. If we don't report them, our species will go extinct and this will affect our country,” he said.

#### READY FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

Muyunda said the ministry is hard at work to ensure environmental protection over the festive season.

He said the ministry will create awareness of the importance of conserving nature.

“We know we will see people flocking to the coast and other game lodges and parks, but we must be responsible. Let's avoid littering at parks,” Muyunda said.

Ministry staff and officials will do park patrols, area surveying with helicopters and be present at road-blocks, he said.

“We will also be at the coastal area to ensure that no littering happens there. Our staff will be there to issue fines to those being negligent,” he added.

**Advertise Here**  
728 x 90 px