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## #AZNEWSNAM: EIGHT ARRESTS FOR RHINO POACHING OVER EASTER

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At least eight suspects were arrested over the Easter weekend in two separate incidents linked to rhino poaching.

According to Environment Ministry spokesman Romeo Muyunda, two suspects were arrested at a mobile roadblock on the road between Tsumeb and Otavi on April 6 for illegally entering Etosha National Park to hunt rhinos.

Two fresh rhino horns were found in her possession and confiscated by law enforcement led by the Blue Rhino Task Team.

The suspects - a Namibian man, Sakaria Johannes, and an Angolan man, Tomas Domingos - appeared in court on April 11 and were both released on bail. The case was adjourned to July 7.

Investigations into this case led to the discovery of a fresh carcass in Etosha, according to Muyunda.

He said investigators also found a .375 caliber rifle, a silencer and 29 live ammunition.

Two other ancient carcasses believed to have been poached have been discovered in Etosha.

"There is currently no evidence linking the two old cadavers to the two suspects," Muyunda said.

In another incident on April 7, two suspects were arrested after being found in possession of two rhino horns during another security operation on Outjo/Otavi Road.

Further investigation led to the arrest of anti-poaching security forces at a private farm in Outjo District, suspected of supplying the horns.

The suspects are David Nakare, Makanga Johanness, Matema Thiyemo, Shampampi Ndjunga Kamanya Joseph Kandjimi and a female suspect, Magdalena Mavandje Mukuve. They are all Namibians.

Investigations in both cases are ongoing.

The ministry is currently assessing the rhino poaching incidents this year and will provide an updated report next week.