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Informanté

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Staff Reporter

THE discovery of three Rhino carcasses has led to the arrest of eight suspects, of which three were identified as anti-poaching security personnel on a private farm in the Outjo District.

According to Romeo Muyunda, Public Relations Officer, within the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism, on 7 April 2023, two suspects were arrested after they were found in possession of one pair of rhino horns in yet another operation by security forces on the Outjo-Otavi Road.

Muyunda explained that further investigation led to the arrest of three anti-poaching security personnel on a private farm in the Outjo District who are suspected to have supplied the horns. The suspects are David Nakare; Makanga Johanness; Matema Thiyemo; Shampampi Ndjunga and Kamanya Joseph Kandjimi, all Namibians.

In another incident, on 6 April 2023, two people who were suspected to have illegally entered the Etosha National Park to hunt rhinos were arrested during a mobile roadblock on the Tsumeb-Otavi road. Two fresh rhino horns were found in their possession and confiscated by the law enforcement agencies led by the blue rhino task team.

The suspects which are a Namibian male Sakaria Johannes and Tomas Domingos an Angolan male, appeared in court on Tuesday, 11 April 2023 and they were denied bail. Case was postponed to 7 July 2023.

Muyunda said that follow up investigations in this case led to a discovery of a fresh carcass in the Etosha National Park. The investigators also recovered a 375-calibre rifle, a silencer and 29 live ammunitions. Two more old carcasses were discovered in the Etosha National Park believed to have been poached. There is currently no indication linking the 2 old carcasses to the two suspects.

“Investigations in both cases continue. The work of the law enforcement agencies involved in these arrests is commendable and worth of praise. We encourage them to continue in the same spirit to ensure that those plundering our resources for their selfish gains are brought to face justice. We reiterate our call to members of the public to reject and condemn poaching in our societies by reporting suspected incidences to the Police or the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism,” Muyunda said.

Caption: file photo for illustrative purposes only.