

# Republikein

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Blue and black wildebeest worth more than N\$800 000 were recently reportedly caught illegally at a farm near Leonardville. Photo Tanja Bause

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# BROTHERS ARRESTED OVER 'ILLEGAL GAME HUNTING'

Worth N\$817 000

**Both Johan and Kobus Lombaard are apparently facing charges of the illegal transport of game or game meat in terms of the nature conservation ordinance and for the sale and purchase of game without a permit.**

**Yandy Du Plessis**

- 22 HOURS AGO - - 2023-09-12 00:10:00

Ellanie Smit

The two Lombaard brothers, who founded the Golden Game game farming, trapping and exporting business in Mariental, will appear in the magistrate's court at Gobabis today for a formal application for bail on charges of the illegal capture and transport of game to value of N\$817 000.

According to the police report, both Johan and Kobus Lombaard are facing charges of the illegal transport of game or game meat in terms of the nature conservation ordinance and for the sale and purchase of game without a permit.

They also face charges for concealing the nature and description of a crime, the illegal origin of property, for assisting another to benefit from the proceeds of illegal activities and for obtaining, possession or use of the proceeds of illegal activities. All this in terms of the law on the prevention of organized crime.

Another charge under the nature conservation ordinance is for the illegal transportation of wildlife without a permit and also for the use of a vehicle and aircraft while hunting and trapping wildlife without a permit.

Allegedly, on August 30 at around 19:00 at the farm Reitz in the Leonardville area, they illegally caught 28 blue wildebeest and nine black wildebeest with vehicles with the aim of selling the game.

The suspects then apparently loaded the game onto vehicles which drove to Mariental. However, members of the police's special field force, Operation Revival, searched the vehicle as part of an undercover operation.

Four suspects were arrested and formally charged and appeared in the Aranos Magistrate's Court on September 1, where all were granted bail.

The following day, however, three of the suspects - the 57-year-old Jan Antonie (Johan) Lombaard, the 54-year-old Johannes Jacobus (Kobus) Lombaard and the 49-year-old Rudie Kotze - were arrested again and received a court order to appear on 5 To appear again in Leonardville in September. Here they were denied bail yesterday.

Five mobile phones, two game trailers, one truck and one bakkie were seized.

About ten months ago, it was also reported that the Ministry of the Environment, Forestry and Tourism was investigating a prominent game trader, Johan, after he allegedly transported two white rhinos without the necessary paperwork.

This investigation was apparently necessitated after Lombaard was involved in a car accident between Rehoboth and Kalkrand while he was transporting a rhinoceros cow and her calf from Mariental to the farm Uitkyk in the Karibib district.

This case is apparently still on the court roll and has been postponed until January 16 next year. The accident happened about 50 kilometers before Rehoboth.

It is understood that two Land Cruisers with trailers were transporting the rhino cow and the calf. One of the drivers lost control of the vehicle and it rolled, but none of the rhinos were injured.

It was also previously reported in 2017 that he did not have the necessary permit to transport elephants caught at a farm in the Grootfontein area and that his farm was not approved by the Ministry of the Environment for keeping elephants.

Our sister newspaper Namibian Sun tried to contact Johan for comment, but he did not return the calls.

Golden Game are the owners of the Robinson R-44 light helicopter which recently crashed on Swakopmund during a test flight and claimed the lives of two Namibians, Jacques Jacobs and Dirk von Weidts. This investigation is still ongoing.

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