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Blue wildebeest

- **JUSTICE**

# LOMBARD BROTHERS INDICTED

Allegation of illegal wildlife capture worth N\$817 000

**The two Lombaard brothers, who own the game company Golden Game, are on trial over several lawsuits related to the illegal capture and transport of game. Today they want to apply for bail.**

**Ellanie Smit**

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By Ellanie Smit, Windhoek

The two Lombaard brothers, who founded the wildlife breeding, trapping and export company Golden Game in Mariental, will appear in the Gobabis Magistrate's Court today (Tuesday) to make a formal application for bail. They are accused of illegally catching and transporting game worth N\$817,000.

According to the police report, Johan and Kobus Lombaard face charges of illegally transporting game or game meat under the Nature Conservation Ordinance, as well as selling and buying game without a permit. They are also being prosecuted under the Prevention of Organized Crime Act for concealing the nature and description of the crime, illegitimate origin of property, aiding and abetting in obtaining the proceeds of unlawful acts and acquiring, possessing or using the proceeds of unlawful acts actions accused.

A further charge under the Nature Conservation Ordinance was laid for illegally transporting game without a permit and using a motor vehicle and an aircraft to hunt and capture game without a permit.

The suspects apparently transported the game from the farm and loaded it into a vehicle, which they drove to Mariental, where members of the police special task force, Operation Revival, checked the vehicle while conducting an undercover operation.

Four suspects were arrested and charged and appeared before the Magistrate Court in Aranos on September 1, where they were all released on bail. However, three of the suspects were arrested again the following day and given a court order to appear in Leonardville on September 5th. They are 57-year-old Jan Antonie Lombaard (Johan), 54-year-old Johannes Jacobus Lombaard and 49-year-old Rudie Kotze. They were refused a formal bail application here today. Five mobile phones, two wildlife tags, a truck and a pick-up bakkie were seized.

About ten months ago, the Namibian Sun also reported that the Ministry of Environment was investigating prominent wildlife trafficker Johan Lombaard after he allegedly transported two white rhinos without the required documentation. The Namibian Sun learned that the investigation became necessary after Lombaard was involved in a car accident between Rehoboth and Kalkrand on Tuesday afternoon while transporting a rhino cow and her calf from

Mariental to Uitkyk Farm in Karibib District. Environment Ministry Controller in Hardap Region Joseph Tashiya said the case is still being heard in court and has been postponed to January 16 next year.

The accident occurred about 30 miles from Rehoboth. It is believed that two Land Cruisers with trailers were transporting the rhino and calf. One of the drivers lost control of his vehicle and it overturned, but none of the rhinos were injured.

Back in 2017, it was reported that Lombaard did not have a permit to transport elephants captured from a farm in the Grootfontein area and that his farm had not been approved by the Ministry of Environment to keep elephants.

The Namibian Sun reached out to Johan Lombaard for comment but he did not answer the phone.

Golden Game is the owner of the Robinson R-44 light helicopter that recently crashed during a test flight over Swakopmund, claiming the lives of two Namibians. The investigation has not yet been completed.