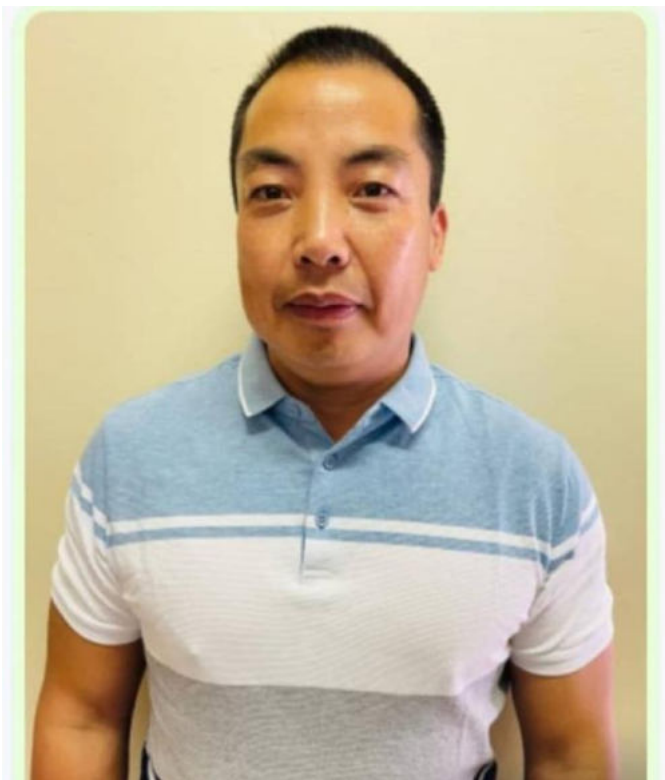




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# GUARDS GET FINED

Corrections officer found guilty after smuggler escapes

**Two correctional officers who were suspended on suspicion of being involved in the escape of Chinese rhino smuggler Wang Hui have been found guilty. They were fined.**

**Ellanie Smit**

• 21 HOURS AGO - 2023-10-11 00:10:00

By Ellanie Smit

(Edited by S. Noechel)

Windhoek

Namibian Prison Service (NCS) Deputy Commissioner Mariana Martin told a journalist from Namibia Media Holdings (NMH) that three prison guards have been suspended following an investigation following Wang Hui's successful escape.

“All three suspended correctional officers have been charged, two of whom have previously been found guilty of misconduct under the Corrections Act,” Martin said. The two officers were found guilty of dereliction of duty. According to Martin, the investigation against the third officer has not yet been completed and he remains temporarily suspended.

Martin said the guilty correctional officers were each fined as part of disciplinary action. "Since only fines were imposed in both closed cases, the correctional officers subsequently resumed their duties." She further revealed that there has been no trace of him since Wang escaped from prison on October 17 last year. The escape

Wang

escaped , when he went to Brakwater with a guard from Windhoek Central Prison to collect material from a supplier. The material was intended for a prison workshop as part of a Ministry of Health and Human Services project. Wang took the opportunity to escape by he wanted to use the toilet and thus escaped the guards.

It was reported on social media that he was allegedly traveling to the coast in a passenger car. It was later claimed that he was spotted in a bakkie. However, both incidents could not be confirmed.

Smugglers caught

In 2016, Wang was found guilty along with Li Zhibing, Pu Xuexin and Li Xiaoling after being caught as the group allegedly tried to smuggle 14 nose horns and a leopard skin from Namibia. They were arrested on March 23, 2014 at Hosea Kutako International Airport (HKIA) with nose horns worth N\$2.3 million and a leopard skin worth about N\$50,000 in their luggage.

Wang, considered the head of the operation, was arrested at the country club resort in Windhoek in May of the same year. They were all sentenced to 14 years in prison.