

# Republikein

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- SUSPECTED POACHERS APPEAR AGAIN ON FRIDAY



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- ## SUSPECTED POACHERS APPEAR AGAIN ON FRIDAY

Irene-Mari van der Walt

- 16 HOURS AGO - - 2023-11-22 00:25:00

After two suspected habitual criminals, Hermanus Kharugab and Ashley Eiseb, were arrested on Friday in the Okahandja area for, among other things, illegal hunting, it initially seemed as if the men would not be able to appear in court on Seeis.

This as a prosecutor apparently did not have transport from Windhoek to the court.

A member of the Nossob Crime Prevention Forum said a farmer who was present in court arranged for the prosecutor's transport.

The lawyer, Milton Engelbrecht, explained that an accused must appear in court within 48 hours of his/her arrest - weekends excluded. If this does not happen, the complaint against the accused must be withdrawn.

Kharugab and Eiseb consequently appeared in court and were charged with, among other things, illegal hunting.

The member of the crime prevention forum says that many poachers in their area prefer to hunt game rather than slaughter farmers' cattle, as the sentence is less.

"He is a big problem for us," says this source of Eiseb, whose case was postponed until Friday.

"Most of the people we find, we know by now - it's always the same people," says the source after yet another suspected poacher was caught on Monday.

"It's a little guy that has been bothering us for a long time. He has been locked up on Seeis before because we caught him with a stolen 5,000 liter tank and there were chamois in the back of the vehicle as well," says the source. According to the person, their group was informed about six poachers who were active between Friday and Sunday.

"We know quite a few of them and we make a point to remember them because they get off every time because they plead guilty and then get fined. Because they plead guilty, everyone is too happy that the case has been resolved and therefore it is not checked whether there is a previous complaint against them."

The person says the presence of farmers affected by poaching does ensure that the other side is also taken into account.

"This time we organized a march with farmers in the area and I think it makes a difference to have the farmers there as well, because now they are also listened to."

The Ministry of Justice had not yet responded to inquiries by press time.

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