

Police sting operation leads to abalone seizure and arrest

Large abalone consignment was kept under surveillance as it travelled from Cape Town to Johannesburg.





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Police have seized abalone worth an estimated R3-million at a home in the Johannesburg suburb of Mayfair and arrested a 46-year-old man.



They tracked the illegal consignment from the time it was loaded onto an Intercity Express bus travelling from Cape Town to Pretoria via Kimberly and Johannesburg.

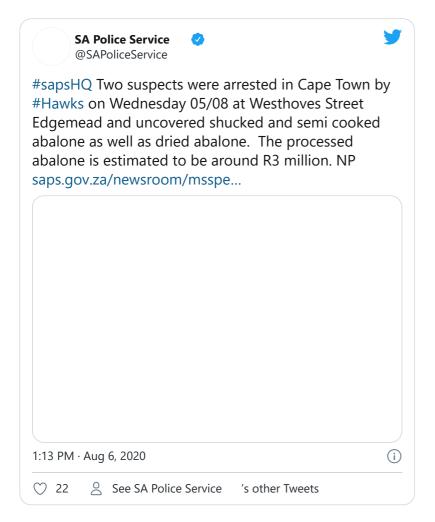
"The investigation team kept surveillance of the bus until a fuel station near Gold Reef City in Johannesburg, where [the] boxes were offloaded from the bus and loaded into a Toyota Fortuna which had been waiting for the consignment," Mulamu said.

HOME RAIDED ONCE ABALONE DELIVERED

"The team kept close surveillance of the Fortuna until the Mayfair area, where the boxes were offloaded at residential premises. Members then entered the premises and seized the boxes," Mulamu added.

The arrested suspect has been charged for possession and dealing in abalone.

Earlier this month, the Hawks seized another R3-million abalone consignment in the Edgemead area of Cape Town. Two people were arrested and charged with operating an illegal abalone processing facility.



LOCKDOWN SLOWED ABALONE POACHING

In an article published in late May, international coastal environment publication Hakai Magazine reported "the discovery of the coronavirus and the country's subsequent clampdown on imported wildlife products [has] achieved what the South

