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The Hawks busted two suspects on the N7 highway in the direction of Malmesbury with abalone worth more than R9.9 million. Photo: Hawks

Two foreigners arrested after Hawks bust them with abalone worth R9.9m

By Staff Reporter  2h ago



Cape Town – A Zimbabwean national and a Chinese national were arrested on Monday after they were busted by the Hawks' with 70 boxes dried abalone worth R9.9 million.

The duo were arrested on Monday after members of the Hawks' Serious Organised Crime Investigation, Crime Intelligence and officials from the Department of Environmental Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) acted on information concerning the transportation of illegal abalone.

“During the operation the members identified a white Hino truck as well as a white Audi driving on the N7 highway direction in Malmesbury.



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“The members stopped both vehicles on the N7 at a service station in Philadelphia, the Hino truck which was driven by a Zimbabwean national whilst the Audi was driven by a Chinese national,” Hawks spokesperson Zinzi Hani said.

“Both vehicles were then inspected and dried abalone was found in a hidden compartment underneath the Hino truck.

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“The vehicles were then taken to Philadelphia SAPS for further investigation. This revealed a total of 70 boxes containing 23 896 dried abalone with an estimated street value of R9.9 million.”

The two suspects, aged 28 and 35, are due to appear in the Atlantis Magistrates’ Court on Wednesday where they will face a charge of possession and transporting of illegal abalone in terms of the Marine Living Resources Act 18 of 1998.



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