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## Rhino horn weighing 160kg seized at OR Tambo

*One of Sars detector dogs, identified a suspicious shipment destined to Malaysia, uncovering 32 pieces of rhino horn.*



By [Citizen reporter](#)

2 minute read

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Picture: iStock

Customs officers of the South African Revenue Service (SARS) seized 32 pieces of rhino horn, weighing 160kg, at a cargo transit shed at the OR Tambo International Airport on Saturday, 17 July.

In a statement, [Sars](#) customs officers were conducting a “manifest profiling with the Detector Dog Unit at the airport when one of the dogs identified a suspicious shipment destined to Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur),” the statement read.

Authorities declared the shipment “live plants” and consisted of eight pieces. However, after more inspection, six boxes were found containing traditional material concealing, 32 pieces of rhino horn protected with bubble wrap, weighing 160kg.

The South African Police Services’ Directorate for Priority Crime Investigations (Hawks) were alerted about the detection. A criminal case was registered with the SAPS for further investigation.

The last big bust at OR Tambo was in February of this year. The Hawks confiscated a shipment of rhino horns worth more than R53 million at OR Tambo International Airport also destined to Malaysia.

The rhino horn after the detector dog unit selected a suspicious shipment declared as “HP Cartridges Developers”, according to the statement from Sars.

“The three-piece shipment was taken to the X-ray scanner for non-intrusive inspection, where the image analysis reflected objects resembling the shape of rhino horns.

“The shipment was taken for physical inspection and upon inspection of the boxes, 18 pieces of rhino horn were found concealed in traditional clothing. The goods weighed 63kg.”

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The 18-piece haul, destined for Malaysia, was found concealed in traditional clothing.



Other rhino busts occurred in December 2020: seventeen (17) pieces of Rhino Horn weighing 72.4kg concealed in a geyser bound for Malaysia. September 2020: six (6) pieces, weighing 4.9kg declared as “Coffee Beans”, bound for Malaysia.

July 2020: forty-one (41) pieces, weighing 137kg declared as “Fine Arts”, bound for Malaysia via Doha.

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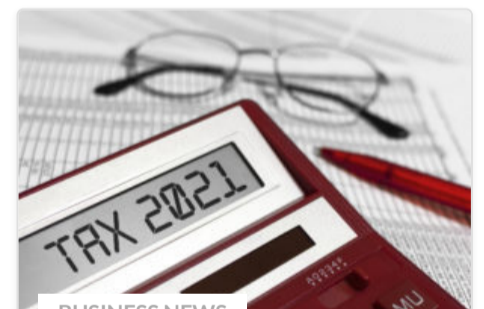
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