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## Hawks probe alleged theft of 98 rhino horns in North West

Story by Shyleen Choruma • 1w • 2 min read

Summarise

[L Hawks probe alleged theft of 98 rhino horns in North West](#)

The Hawks have launched a major investigation after a Hartbeesfontein game farm reported that 98 rhino horns were allegedly stolen earlier this week.

The complainant told officers that robbers struck in the early hours of Monday 8 December and took 98 rhino horns, R 50 000 in cash and two mobile phones.



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Lieutenant Colonel Tinyiko Mathebula [confirmed the case](#) and said teams were already on the ground.

## Voi Lodge Draws Attention, but Hawks Won't Confirm Details

According to Daily Maverick, observers are questioning whether the investigation centres on Voi Lodge, a Vietnamese-owned game farm in the area.

Mathebula refused to comment on this.

"I cannot confirm that. Our investigation is at a sensitive stage," he said. "We will give an update when arrests have been made."

## Heist Follows Horn and Big Cat Parts Seizure in Johannesburg

The reported theft comes just a week after another major breakthrough.

[South African authorities](#) arrested two Nigerian nationals in Kempton Park and seized 17 rhino horns along with 26.2 kg of lion and tiger bones, skulls and claws.

The discovery followed an intelligence-driven operation that traced a suspicious consignment sent to Singapore and later returned to South Africa.

When officers searched four boxes at a storage facility. They found 55.4 kg of rhino horn and a large quantity of big cat parts.



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Authorities are still assessing the value of the items.

Tunji Olanrewaju Koyi (35) and Koyode Adukunle Ongundele (43) appeared in the Kempton Park Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 3 December.

They are facing charges under section 57(1) of the [National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act](#).

The law prohibits restricted activities involving listed threatened or protected species.

They are scheduled to return to court on 11 December.