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Hawks probe alleged theft of 98 rhino horns in North West

Story by Shyleen Choruma • 1w •

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[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.