

Three suspects nabbed in Bloemfontein for trafficking endangered pangolins

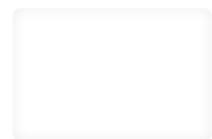
 Robin-Lee Francke | Published 2 days ago       1min

The pangolin that was meant to be sold.

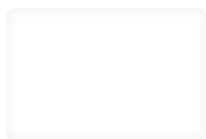
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"At about 7am, Bloemfontein Public Order Policing (POP) members of platoon 12 were on duty under the command of Sergeant Magano, busy with crime prevention duties around the vicinity of Mangaung.

"The team then received intelligence-driven information from a member of security Intelligence together with Desteria's Deputy Director Leepile MacDonald Garekwe, about information on illegal trading of endangered species (pangolin)," Mpakane said.

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The pangolin is one of the most trafficked mammals in the world.

Image: SAPS

Police followed up on the information and found the suspects as they were driving from the Northern Cape to a well-known shop in Bloemfontein on the N8 national road to do a transaction with a buyer.

The buyer is a foreign national.

According to police, the buyer allegedly had R750,000 for the deal.

"The suspects arrived at the said location in a White Toyota Quantum Minibus, which was also confiscated as part of the evidence used in the commission of the crime. The members tactically accosted the suspects and recovered the endangered species known as the pangolin unharmed," Mpakane said.

Pangolins' meat is used as a delicacy, and their scales, which are falsely believed to have medicinal properties for purposes of lactation, arthritis, and cancer, among other things. Pangolins are believed to be the world's most trafficked mammal.

"The three suspects are facing a charge of carrying out a restricted activity without a permit in terms of Section 57(1) of South Africa's National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) 10 of 2004, and possession of pangolin without a permit," Mpakane said.

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