



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

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OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

PRESS RELEASE

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RE: POACHING UPDATE, AUGUST 2017

The Ministry wished to inform the public on the recent incidents related to poaching in the country.

On the 25th of August a rhino carcass was discovered poached in the Klip river area in the Kunene Region. Following this incident staff members of the Ministry observed suspicious movements which were followed up together with the Namibian Police. As a result two suspects were arrested immediately.

There after an operation involving aerial patrols and strategic road blocks were initiated in the area and led to the arrest of four more suspects who we believe carried out the hunt of the poached rhino. The four suspects were found in position with a pair of fresh rhino horns.

Among the four suspects arrested one is a school teacher and all the six suspects are Namibians.

In a separate Incident, another black rhino carcass was discovered suspected to have been poached in the Okozongoro farm in the Erongo region. Okozongoro is one of our rhino custodianship area. No arrest have been conducted in this case. The incidents bring the total of poached rhinos to 26 compared to 60 in 2016 and 18 elephants compared to 101 in 2016

Investigations in both cases continue and the Ministry reiterates our appeal to the public to continue assisting us and the police by reporting any suspected rhino or elephant poaching incidents. The Ministry further wishes to warn those involved and those with intent to conduct such illegal activities that our anti-poaching teams comprising of staff members of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, The Namibian and the Namibian Defence Force are deployed in all concentration areas.

We wish to remind the public that The Nature Conservation Amendment Act No. 3 of 2017 will apply in any illegal activities related to hunting of rhinos and elephants. The provisions in this act stipulates that suspects found guilty qualify for a fine of 25 million or 25 years imprisonment or both fine and imprisonment.

In cases where suspects are second offenders, they get a fine of 50 million or 50 years imprisonment or both such a fine and imprisonment.

Sent Via Email

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