

UPDATED: 16 January 2016

FINALIZED RHINO MATTERS FOR APRIL 2015 TO MARCH 2016:

Summary for April 2015 to current:

Current conviction rate: 88,8%

Number of cases finalized (convicted and sentenced/acquitted/withdrawn/struck off roll): 27

Number of accused involved in finalized cases: 53

Number of accused convicted: 48

Number of accused acquitted: 3

Number of accused against which case withdrawn: 3

Number of accused of which the case was struck off roll:

Number of accused for which W/A issued: 1

Number of accused for which trial to start de novo:

Number of accused who died before conviction and/or sentence:

Number of accused convicted and sentenced to a fine: 21

Number of accused convicted and sentenced to direct imprisonment without the option of a fine: 24

Number of accused convicted and sentenced to a wholly suspended sentence: 3

Number of accused convicted of **murder**:

Number of accused convicted for **racketeering**:

Number of accused convicted for **possession** of rhino horns: 6

Number of accused convicted for **dealing** in rhino horns: 2

Number of accused convicted for **illegal hunting** of rhinos: 8

Number of accused convicted of **conspiracy**: 6

Number of accused convicted for **illegal possession of fire-arm or ammunition/supplying fire-arms**: 25

Number of accused convicted for **trespassing**: 25

Number of accused convicted on **other charges**: 3

Foreign nationals sentenced: 15	Fine:	Imprisonment:
Vietnamese		
Chinese		
Malawian		
Mozambican	1	14
Thai		
Zimbabwean		
Congolese		

1. **KZN:**

1.1 **S v Enoch Ngubane (RSA citizen)**

Station: Mkuze CAS 45/11/2008

I/O: W/O Manyanti

Date of arrest:

Bail: On bail

Case nr:

Charge: c/s 57(1) of NEMBA

Prosecutor: Yuri Gangai

Defence:

AFU:

Next court date: **8-10 April 2015: Finalized.**

**Accused found guilty of c/s57(1) of NEMBA
(Possession)**

**Sentenced to a fine of R10000-00 or 2 years
imprisonment, wholly suspended.**

1.2 S v Sakhile Shabangu

Station: Matubatuba CAS 337/06/2013

I/O: D/Cst Mngomezulu

Date of arrest:

Bail:

Case nr:

Charge: C/o Sec 57 of NEMBA, Possession fire-arm and ammunition

Prosecutor: Yuri Gangai

Defence:

AFU:

Next Court Date: **24 April 2015 finalized: Accused acquitted in terms of section 174 of CPA after court found the pointing out/confession evidence inadmissible. The remaining evidence was admitted in terms of section 220 of the CPA by the accused. Apart from the pointing out there was no evidence connecting the accused to the cases. The court referred to the conduct of Ezemvelo rangers as “fools rushing in where angels fear to tread”. In his view the assault of the accused by the rangers had rendered the remaining evidence as the fruits of a poisoned tree.**

1.3 S v Madoda Gumede, Jabulani Ndabandaba and Sigodi Ndabandaba

(RSA citizens)

Station: Hluhluwe CAS 92/12/2012

I/O: W/O JP Roux (079 525 8048)

Date of arrest:

Bail: In custody

Case nr:

Charge: c/s 57(1) of NEMBA, c/s Riotous Assembly Act, Possession of unlawful firearm

Prosecutor: Waldo Smit
 Defence: Mr Mngwenya
 AFU: None
 Next court date: **7 July 2015** at Ingwavuma court:

All have been convicted on count 1 of the offence of contravening the provisions of Section 57 (1) of NEMBA. Accused 1 was further convicted on counts 3 and 4 which are offences relating to unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition. Sentence:

Count 1: All 3 acc each fined R 60 000-00 or in default of payment to undergo 7 years imprisonment. The payment of the R 60 000-00 is deferred and payable in instalments of R 2000-00 per month commencing on or before the 30th September 2015. Both counts 3 and 4 are taken as one for purposes of sentence in respect of accused 1 and accused 1 is further sentenced to undergo 6 years imprisonment wholly suspended for five years on condition that he is not again convicted of c/s 3 and/or 90 of the Firearms Control Act, 60 of 2000, committed during the period of suspension.

1.4 **S v John Zwane, Sibusiso Mthembu, Zakhele Masinga, Zakhele J Khumalo, Siphu Hlophe (All RSA citizens)**

Station: Hluhluwe CAS 78/07/2014
 I/O: W/O JP Roux (079 525 8048)
 Date of arrest: 19 July 2014 in Phinda
 Bail: In custody
 Case nr:
 Charge: Conspiracy to hunt rhino
 Prosecutor: Waldo Smit
 Defence: Mr V Nsele
 AFU: None

Next court date: **4 August 2015 acc pleaded guilty.**

2 September 2015 sentenced in Matubatuba Regional Court. Accused 1 effective R96 000-00 fine or 9 years imprisonment and the remaining accused were sentenced to R80 000-00 or 4 years imprisonment. Whilst the court granted the accused a deferment of fines, they were unable to make the requested down payments and were referred to prison.

Summary: The men entered the reserve by cutting through the wire fence. Accused 1 was in possession of a loaded rifle as well as ammunition while accused 4 was in possession of a long handed axe which would probably have been used to forcefully remove the rhino horns. They were arrested when they were approximately 250m into the reserve. The accused pleaded guilty to the charges.

1.5 S v M Hlatswayo, Mbongiseni Masondo and Mhlonganani Ndlovu (All RSA citizens)

Station: Hluhluwe CAS 9/11/2014

I/O W/O JP Roux (079 525 8048)

Date of arrest: 3 November 2014

Bail: On bail

Case nr: L06/2015 (Hluhluwe court)

Charge: 1. Unlawful hunt of rhino
2. Trespass where game is likely to be found
3. Possession f/arm
4. Possession ammo
5. Unlawfully providing a fire-arm

Prosecutor: Waldo Smit

Defence: Legal Aid

AFU:

Next court date: **14 August 2015: All 3 accused pleaded guilty.**

4 September 2015 the accused were sentenced as follows:

Accused 1:

Count 1: R80 000-00 or 4 years imprisonment

Count 5: R6000-00 or 18 months imprisonment

Accused 2:

Count 1: R40 000-00 or 2 years imprisonment

Accused 3:

Count 1: R40 000-00 or 2 years imprisonment

Counts 3 and 4 taken together:

R6000-00 or 18 months imprisonment suspended for 5 years

1.6 S v Sizwe Nkosi and Zwelakhe Mavimbela (both RSA citizens)

Station: Pongola CAS 573/1/2015
 I/O W/O JP Roux (079 525 8048)
 Date of arrest: 30 January 2015
 Bail: In custody: 6 February 2015 bail refused
 Case nr: A66/2015 (Pongola court)
 Charge: 1. Unlawful possession of a fire-arm
 2. Unlawful possession of ammunition
 3. Trespass on land where game is likely to be found whilst in possession of a weapon(s)
 Prosecutor: Resident prosecutor (Pongola)
 Defence: Legal Aid
 AFU:
 Next court date: **30 September 2015 finalised.**

Sentence acc 1 and 2:

Counts 1 and 2 taken together: R8000-00 or 4 years imprisonment

Count 3: R2000-00 or 2 years imprisonment suspended for 5 years.

1.7 S v T Mdluli, Mbuso Amos Ngubane, Njeni Masinga and Msawaenkosi Zikhali (All RSA citizens)

Station: Hluhluwe CAS 17/06/2014

I/O: W/O JP Roux (079 525 8048)

Date of arrest: 3 June 2014

Bail: In custody

Case nr:

Charge: Illegal hunting, Trespassing, Possession of Fire-arm and ammunition

Prosecutor: Waldo Smit

Defence:

AFU:

Next court date: **4 August 2015: Accused no 2 (A Ngubane) convicted on conspiracy to commit a restricted activity. Case separated from other accused.**

3 September 2015 sentenced: R35 000-00 or 3 years imprisonment suspended for 5 years. (accused 2 made a statement and will testify against his co-accused)

1.8 S v Dumisani Gwala, Dimizulu Mageba and Thembelihle Mathenjwa (All RSA citizens)

Station: Hluhluwe CAS 96/12/2014

I/O: W/O JP Roux (079 525 8048)

Date of arrest: 18 December 2014

Bail: In custody- 31/12/2014 bail refused

Case nr: 417/2014 (Emanguzi court)
 Charge: Buying and Possession of rhino horn
 Prosecutor: Waldo Smit
 Defence: Legal Aid
 AFU:
 Next court date: **5 June 2015: Acc 1 joined in case of S v Mageba already on the roll. (Hluhluwe CAS 134/12/2014) and withdrawn against accused no 3 (T Mathenjwa)**

2. EASTERN CAPE: (GRAHAMSTOWN)

2.1 The State v Elliot Khaphakathi (RSA)

Station: Kubusi Drift CAS 4/07/2014
 Date of arrest: 1/09/2014
 IO: D/WO McGregor (DPCi East London)
 Bail: Was on Bail
 Case nr: RC 2/2015
 Charge: Count 1: Theft of 2 rhino horn
 Count 2: C/o Sec 57(1) NEMBA:
 Committing a restricted activity involving an endangered species without a permit
 Prosecutor: Adv Dale Grant Robinson (DPP GHT)
 Defence: Mr Ntushelo (LAB Stutterheim)
 AFU: Nil
 Next date: **Finalized on 22 April 2015:**
Guilty on both counts.
Sentence: Count 1: 4 years imprisonment suspended for 4 years
Count 2: 4 years imprisonment
Effective sentence: 4 years imprisonment

Summary: The accused, a farm labourer, stole 2 rhino horns from an unlocked cooler-room on the farm. He handed them to a relative who sold them in Cape Town for R 55 000.

2.2 The State vs Anathi Merile (RSA)

Station:	Kubusi Drift CAS 4/07/2014
Date of arrest:	2/09/2014
IO:	D/WO McGregor (DPCi East London)
Bail:	Was on Bail
Case nr:	SRC 18/2015
Charge:	Theft of 2 rhino horn
Prosecutor:	Adv Dale Grant Robinson (DPP GHT)
Defence:	Mr Ian Andrews (Elliot Attorneys)
AFU:	Nil
Next date:	Finalized on 30 July 2015
	Convicted as charged. Sentenced to 3 years imprisonment of which 18 months was suspended for 5 year.

Summary: The accused, a farm labourer on a game-farm was approached by Elliot Khaphakathi to steal rhino horns for him. The rhino horns were kept in an unlocked cooler room on the farm. It is alleged that the rhino horns emanated from rhino's that had died of natural causes. The accused agreed to steal the horns. Before the accused could steal the horns, Khaphakathi stole the horns. The accused observed him in possession of the horns on the farm and agreed to keep his silence in return for payment. Khaphakathi paid the accused R 500-00. Khaphakathi handed the horns to a relative who sold them in Cape Town for R 55 000-00

Khaphakathi was convicted and sentenced on 22/04/2015-see above.

3. NORTH WEST (DPP PRETORIA):

3.1 S v Ashraf Gullamhoosen Cassim

Station: Brits CAS 291/3/2009

IO: Lt Col Brits/Mario Scholtz

Date of arrest: March 2009

Bail: Accused summoned on J 175

Case nr:

Charge: Illegal dealing in rhino horn

Prosecutor: Ansie Venter

Defence: Z Pansegrouw

AFU: Assets seized but stolen out of safe at OC Middelburg in 2010

Next date: **28 May 2015: Convicted on 2 counts of illegal dealing with rhino horns in terms of Section 105 plea agreement. Sentence: R 1 million or 6 years imprisonment.**

Note: Accused is the owner of a Curio and Taxidermy business, "Just Africa" near Hartbeespoortdam

4. NORTH WEST (DPP MMABATHO):

4.1 S v Ampore Ephraim Motsepo (1), Tshotlego Simon Phiri (3), Keabetswe Phiri (4) and Andile Mjamba (5).

Accused 2 passed away before the matter was heard.

Station:

IO: W/O Solane

Date of arrest:

Bail:

Case nr: R/C 110/15 at Lichtenburg court

Charge: Possession 1 rhino horn (Accused 1, 3, 4)
Possession 2 rhino horn (Accused 5)

Prosecutor:

Defence:

AFU:

Next date: **Finalized on 25 August 2015: Accused 1,3,4,5 convicted as charges in terms of 105A. The accused were each sentenced to R5000.00 or 6 months imprisonment and in addition thereto 5 year's imprisonment wholly suspended for 5 years on conditions.**

Note: The horns in question were two broken pieces of horn, that according to the photographs in the docket were the top ends of the horn. They also seemed to be old horns. The third horn was also photographed and appeared to be very old. The defence indicated that the horns were picked up in the old game reserve that used to be in Lichtenburg. Rhinos were kept in that reserve as it was the breeding facility for the Pretoria Zoo. The reserve is not operational anymore. The evidence in the docket could not counter the version of the accused persons. Therefore it was decided to accept the offer in terms of Section 105A.

5. WESTERN CAPE: (DPP CAPE TOWN)

5.1 S v Jodie Allen

Station: Woodstock 741/8/2014 and Milnerton CAS 684/08/14

IO: WO Smith and D/Cpt Durrbaum

Date of arrest: 25 August 2014

Bail:

Case nr:

Charge: Possession of one rhino horn

Prosecutor: Adv Anne Heeramun

Defence:

AFU:

Next court date: **15 May 2015 Khayelitsha priority court.**

S105A agreement.

Possession rhino horn: R100 000 or 5 years imprisonment of which R70 000 or 3 years imprisonment is suspended for 5 years on condition that he is not convicted of any offence in terms of S47A (1)(b) of Ordinance 19 of 1974 or any other Provincial or National Legislation. In addition, 5 years direct imprisonment which is wholly suspended for a period of 5 years. The horn was declared forfeited to Cape Nature. Cape Nature was pleased with the outcome.

Summary: On 25 August 2014, police received information that the accused was wanting to sell a rhino horn. His vehicle was searched and the horn was found, he had no permit. The Accused claimed that he got the horn from his Deceased father estate and that it was in the family for a long time. They have no documentation/ permits for it. Cape Nature confirms that the horn is old. The horn weighed 1.251kg. There are further charges since dagga plants was found at his house. In addition the accused had firearms at his house without a license.

6. MPUMALANGA: (DPP NORTH GAUTENG)

6.1 S v Carlos Mlonso Khosa (Mozambican)

Station: Skukuza CAS 36/2/2015

IO: W/O Vermaak

Date of arrest:

Bail:

Case nr:

Charge: Trespass in KNP, Possession of dangerous weapon

Prosecutor:

Defence:

AFU:

Next date: **8 April 2015: Convicted trespassing. Sentenced to 18 months imprisonment of which 12 months suspended for 5 years.**

6.2 S v Patrick Jeffrey Mgwenya, Sibusiso Mpangane, Thulani George Mchunu, Charles Zitha (all RSA)

Station: Skukuza CAS 7/12/2010

IO:

Date of arrest:

Bail:

Case nr:

Charge: Trespass, Possession of fire-arm and ammunition

Prosecutor:

Defence:

AFU:

Next date: **22 April 2015: Convicted as charged. Each accused sentenced to 5 years imprisonment for trespassing and 10 years imprisonment for the possession of fire-arm and ammunition. Effective sentence: 15 years imprisonment each.**

6.3 S v Mucindi Abondi, Silver Tibane, Gitto Zitha (all Mozambican)

Station: Skukuza CAS 7/10/2014

IO:

Date of arrest:

Bail:

Case nr:

Charge: Count 1: Trespass,
 Count 2: Illegal hunting,
 Count 3 and 4: Possession of fire-arm and ammunition,
 Count 5: Possession of dangerous weapon.

Prosecutor:

Defence:

AFU:

Next date: **14 May 2015: Charges withdrawn against acc 3 (Zitha)**

Acc 1 and 2 convicted as charged. Sentence:

Count 1: 5 years imprisonment

Count 2: 10 years imprisonment

Count 3, 4, 5: 15 years imprisonment

Effective sentence: 30 years imprisonment

6.4 **S v Derrick Shadrack Nkuna (Mozambican)**

Station: Skukuza CAS 49/9/2014

IO:

Date of arrest:

Bail:

Case nr:

Charge: Count 1: Trespass,
 Count 2: Possession of fire-arm,
 Count 3: Possession of ammunition

Prosecutor:

Defence:

AFU:

Next date: **26 May 2015: Convicted as charged. Sentence:**

Count 1: 1 year imprisonment

Count 2: 4 years imprisonment

Count 3: 3 years imprisonment

Effective sentence 4 years imprisonment

6.5 S v Lazarus Maluleke (Mozambican)

Station: Skukuza CAS 14/3/2015

IO:

Date of arrest: 6 March 2015

Bail:

Case nr:

Charge: Count 1: Trespass,
Count 2: Possession of fire-arm,
Count 3: Possession of ammunition

Prosecutor:

Defence:

AFU:

Next date: **1 June 2015: Convicted of trespassing. Sentenced to R 8000-00 or 5 months imprisonment of which R 5000-00 or 5 months is suspended for 5 years. Declared unfit to possess a fire-arm.**

6.6 S v Elliot Manzini

Station: Skukuza CAS 79/5/2015

IO:

Date of arrest: 1 June 2015

Bail:

Case nr:

Charge: Count 1: Trespass,
 Count 2: Possession of fire-arm,
 Count 3: Possession of ammunition
 Count 4: Possession of fire-arm with intent to commit a
 crime

Prosecutor:

Defence:

AFU:

Next date: **24 June 2015: Convicted as charged. Sentence:**
 Count 1: 6 months imprisonment
 Count 2: 3 years imprisonment
 Count 3: 3 years imprisonment
 Count 4: 4 years imprisonment
 Count 2 and 3 to run concurrently.
 Effective sentence: 7 years, 6 months imprisonment

6.7 S v Lawrence Julio Mndlovu, Americo Salomao Mundlovu, Isaac Alfredo Mndlovu (all Mozambican)

Station: Skukuza CAS 13/6/2015

IO:

Date of arrest: 11 June 2015

Bail:

Case nr:

Charge: Trespass, Possession of fire-arm and ammunition,
 Possess a fire-arm with the intent to commit a crime

Prosecutor:

Defence:

AFU:

Next date: **On 15 July 2015: Sentenced to**

Count 1: Trespass- 6 months imprisonment

Count 2: Possession fire-arm-4 years imprisonment

Count 3: Possession ammunition- 3 years imprisonment

Count 1 to run concurrent with count 2.

Effective sentence: Each accused 7 years imprisonment

6.8 **S v Augusto Mokomo (Mozambican)**

Station: Skukuza CAS 66/12/2014

IO:

Date of arrest:

Bail:

Case nr:

Charge: Trespass, Possession of fire-arm and ammunition,
Possession of fire-arm with intent to commit a crime

Prosecutor:

Defence:

AFU:

Next date: **17 July 2015: Convicted as charged. Sentence:**

Count 1: Trespass- 2 years imprisonment

Count 2: Possession fire-arm- 3 years imprisonment

Count 3: Possession ammunition- 1 year imprisonment

Count 4: Possession fire-arm to commit a crime: 5 years imprisonment

6.9 **S v Antonio Sithole, William Manoliza Nyathi, Bovita Nugere (all Mozambican)**

Station: Skukuza CAS 19/6/2015

IO: W/O Vermaak

Date of arrest: 15 June 2015

Bail:

Case nr: Skukuza court

Charge: Count 1: Possession of fire-arm,
Count 2: Possession ammunition,
Count 3: Possession of fire-arm to commit a crime,
Count 4: Trespassing in KNP.

Prosecutor:

Defence:

AFU:

Next court date: **26 August 2015 all 3 accused pleaded guilty.**

Sentence:

Count 1: 4 years imprisonment

Count 2: 3 years imprisonment

Count 3: 4 years imprisonment

Count 4: 1 year imprisonment

Count 1 and 2 run concurrently.

Effective 9 years imprisonment and declared unfit to possess a fire-arm.

Summary: On 15 June 2015 game rangers saw tracks of 3 suspects in KNP and followed the tracks. The 3 accused were arrested. They had a rifle, ammunition, knife, axe and 3 cell phones.

6.10 **S v Johana Makhubela, Anthony Masiya, Mirela Sithole (all Mozambican)**

Station: Skukuza CAS 58/3/2015

IO: W/O Vermaak

Date of arrest: 15 March 2015

Bail:

Case nr: Skukuza court

Charge: Count 1: Possession of fire-arm,
 Count 2: Possession ammunition,
 Count 3: Trespassing in KNP,
 Count 4: Possession of fire-arm to commit a crime,
 Count 5: Illegal immigrants

Prosecutor:

Defence:

AFU:

Next court date: **26 August 2015 all 3 accused pleaded guilty.**

Sentence:

Count 1: 4 years imprisonment

Count 2: 4 years imprisonment

Count 3: 1 year imprisonment

Count 4: 5 years imprisonment

Count 5: warned

Count 1 and 2 run concurrently.

Effective 10 years imprisonment and declared unfit to possess a fire-arm.

Summary: On 15 March 2015 rangers heard gunshots in region of Saaltjie picnic spot. On investigation the spoor of 3 persons were found and tracked with a tracker dog. The 3 accused were arrested. They had a rifle, ammunition and back packs.

6.11 **S v Selby Ndlovu, Phinias Sithole and France Nkuna**

Station: Skukuza CAS 59/10/2014

IO: W/O Vermaak

Date of arrest: 27/10/2014

Bail: Acc 1: on bail
Acc 2 and 3: unknown

Case nr:

Charge: Possession of fire-arm and ammunition and trespassing in KNP

Prosecutor:

Defence:

AFU:

Next date: **7 January 2015: W/A for acc 1 who was on bail.
31 August 2015 at White River court: Accused 2 and 3 convicted as charged. Sentence: Each accused 5 years imprisonment for the fire-arm, 5 years imprisonment for the ammunition and 1 year imprisonment for trespassing. Effective sentence 11 years imprisonment.**

Note: Rangers in Lower Sabie section noticed 3 men armed with a rifle and axe. They confronted the suspects and arrested them. Exhibits were also recovered.

6.12 **S v James Masilana (RSA citizen)**

Station: Skukuza CAS 39/7/2015

IO: Serg Mdluli (072 272 4213)

Date of arrest: 14 July 2015

Bail:

Case nr:

Charge: Trespass, Possession of dangerous weapon

Prosecutor:

Defence:

AFU:

Next date: **21 October 2015: Convicted of trespassing.**

Sentence: R 1 000 or 4 months imprisonment 18 months suspended for 5 years.

Summary: The suspect was part of three poachers who entered the Kruger National Park illegally. During patrols the rangers came upon them and gunfire was exchanged. The suspect was wounded and in his possession a sports bag with knives and an axe was recovered.

7. FREE STATE: (DPP FREE STATE)

7.1 S v Michael Vuzi Sibozza, Mutumwa Ronald Shiwanapo, Macdonald Mfuno, **Elant Regodi Talane, Kagiso Prince Dube**

Station: Kroonstad CAS 18/11/2013

IO: Capt Putter

Date of arrest: 2 November 2013

Bail: Formal opposed application set down for 6/12/2013. **The court granted bail of R5000 to accused 1, 2, 4 and 5**

The State has lodged an application for leave to appeal the granting of bail.

Case nr: A2346/13

Charge: C/s 57(1) NEMBA 10/2004 – Hunting

Prosecutor: Adv Antoinette Ferreira

Defence: Peet Du Plessis

AFU: AFU Bloemfontein- Adv B Somaru

Next date: 1 September 2015 for Accused 1 – 3

A warrant has been issued for Accused 2 (Shiwanapo)

19 August 2015: Acc 4(Talane) and acc 5 (Dube) pleaded guilty under case nr SH 106/2015.

Accused 4: pleaded guilty in terms of a 105A plea agreement. Convicted of following charges:

1. C/s 57(1) NEMBA 10 of 2004 – Entering a rhino camp where 13 rhinos were kept.

2. C/s 90 of the Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000 – possession of 20 x .243 rounds of ammunition.

Sentence:

1. 5 years imprisonment of which 2 years are suspended for 5 years.

2. 6 months imprisonment suspended for 5 years.

Accused 5: pleaded guilty on a count of obstruction of justice and was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment suspended for 5 years.

Summary:

This case was part of a 252A operation authorized by the DPP: Free State. Information was received by police that 4 accused were intending to carry out a rhino poaching on Beukeskuil Farm at Kroonstad, Free State. On that farm there were 13 rhinos in the rhino camp and police waited for the accused in the camp on 2 November 2013. As the 4 accused entered the rhino camp the police confronted them and prevented any poaching of rhino. Only accused 1 was arrested on the scene and accused 2 - 4 accused managed to flee the scene but was arrested 5 days later at the homes in Gauteng. Accused 4 (Talane) then phoned his son, Dube (Accused 5), and requested him to open a false case of hijacking of the Mercedes Benz. The accused then made a false statement at the Rietgat police station stating that he saw how his father had been hijacked by armed robbers. A Directive for Centralisation was obtained for the NDPP to prosecute the Accused in the Free State.

8. **LIMPOPO: (Makhado-Louis Trichardt):**

8.1 **S v Talani Prince Maluleke (RSA)**

Station: Makhado CAS 496/05/2014

IO: W/O Mudau

Date of arrest: 21 May 2014

Bail: On Bail.

Case nr: RC 44/14

Charge: Count 1: Hunting of rhino on Eckland

Count 2: Trespassing

Count 3: Possession of fire arm

Count 4: Possession of ammunition

Prosecutor: Hilke Janse van Rensburg

Defence: Not represented

AFU: No assets

Next date: **27 October 2015:**

Finalized: Convicted as charged. Sentence:

Count 1: 6 years imprisonment

Count 2: 6 months imprisonment

Count 3: 5 years imprisonment

Count 4: 1 year imprisonment

Sentence on count 2 and 4 run concurrent with count 1.

Effective sentence: 11 years imprisonment

Summary: On 21/05/2014 workers on the Farm Eckland in the Limpopo province spotted human tracks in the farm. They saw that these tracks were following the "spore" of a rhino. The local trackers, together with the K9 unit of SAPS were deployed. Helicopters and dogs were also utilised. Police arrested two people walking on the main

road next to the farm. They were stopped and searched. Trackers were called. They confirmed that those were the spore they were following. The 2 suspects then also pointed out a 303 rifle as well as an axe. Police were able to lift plaster of paris casts of the footprints found on the farm. They were a match.

The one suspects passed away.

9. **GAUTENG SOUTH: (DPP JHB)**

9.1 **S v Xuan Luc Nguyen and Van Minh Nguyen (Vietnamese citizens)**

Station: OR Tambo International Airport CAS 203/10/2014

IO: W/O Steyn

Date of arrest: 3 November 2014

Bail: In custody – bail refused

Case number: 2RC 111/2014

Prosecutor: Ms N Lambden

Charge: Contravention of section 57(1) NEMBA – possession of rhino horns

Defence: Ms Karien Nel

AFU:

Next date: **10 November 2015: Acquited**

Summary: The accused were found in possession of 18 rhino horns whilst in transit from Mozambique to Vietnam

