

## TRIO IN COURT FOR POACHING

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By SAPA



INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS

The trial of three men suspected of rhino poaching has been postponed. Photo: Moloko Moloto

The trial of three men suspected of rhino poaching was postponed in the Hoopstad Magistrate's Court on Friday, an official said.

"They were not given bail and they will appear again on March 16," environmental affairs spokesman Kgotso Tau said.

The trio were arrested on suspicion of rhino poaching at the Sandveld Nature Reserve, near Hoopstad on Thursday.

"All three suspects are charged (with) possession of controlled medicine," Tau said.

He said two of the men entered the reserve on Tuesday and slept over at the campsite. The third joined them on Wednesday morning, when all three went for a game drive.

The men were arrested on Wednesday while trying to leave the reserve at 6.15pm.

During a routine check at the gate, a gun and scheduled medicine were found in their possession.

"They could not produce the permit to possess the medicine."

He said police investigations would continue.

In August, two rhinos were killed at Sandveld Nature Reserve.

"It is hoped that this action will send a strong message to all those who are involved in rhino poaching and other environmental crimes," said Tau. – Sapa