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Ten appear for dealing in protected plants

2021/01/12

**Media Statement**  
**South African Police Service**  
**Office of the Provincial Commissioner Northern Cape**

KIMBERLEY -Ten suspects appeared before the Upington Magistrates Court in connection with dealing in protected plants valued at R400 000-00.

The suspects were arrested by members of the Springbok Stock Theft and Endangered Species Unit on Sunday for contravening the Nature Conservation Act.

The Commander of Namakwa Stock Theft and Endangered Species Unit, Captain Karel du Toit commended members of Upington Public Order Police, Kimberley Crime Intelligence and Upington Technical Support Unit for their assistance during the operation.

The suspects, whose ages range between 24 and 37 years, were found in possession of protected plants in Upington.

The following plants were confiscated from the suspects:

-4230 conophytum calculus plants

-3040 conophytum pageae plants

- 480 conophytum globosum plants

-755 Conophytum roodeae plants

-280 conophytum uniforme plants

The plants are estimated at R400 000, 00.

Two vehicles that is Chevrolet bakkie and Toyota Corolla were confiscated by police as they were used in the commission of crime.

The suspects were remanded in custody and case postponed to 14 January 2021 for bail application.

Meanwhile the Springbok Stock Theft and Endangered Species Unit arrested three suspects at Niewoudtville on Sunday in connection with dealing in protected plants.

They were found with 328 plants of Conophytum minutum, 1245 Conophytum pearsonii and 438 Conophytum calculus plants valued at R100 000-00.

Two vehicles used by the suspects were confiscated as they were used in the commission of crime.

The three suspects, aged 27, 28 and 30 ,were granted bail of R2500 each by the Calvinia Magistrates court and case postponed to 26 February 2021 for further police investigation. The three suspects are from Vredendal in the Western Cape Province.

**Ends**

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