

# POLICE RESCUED R400 000 RARE PANGOLIN

**Rustenburg** – A highly endangered male African Pangolin was rescued by police from being sold to the black market for a mere R20 000.

Two alleged poachers stole the rare animal from the Rampampa mountains just outside Mabasakraal and were apprehended at the Rustenburg taxi rank on Wednesday 1 August.

Police spokesperson captain Elsabé Augoustides said the suspects held the petrified animal inside a plastic bag and were about to leave it in a taxi when members of the Phokeng stock theft unit pounced on them, following a tip-off from members of the community. Captain Augoustides said the taxi was stopped and searched and that during the search, the animal with an estimated valued of R400 000 was found. She said the Pangolin is regarded as one of the world's most sought after endangered species. It was handed over for safekeeping



A highly endangered Pangolin rescued from poachers.

to an animal expert, who transported it to the Hospital for Vulnerable Animals in Johannesburg. It is alleged that Pangolins, whose whole bodies are covered in scales, are caught due to unfounded beliefs of the 'medicinal value' of their scales.

The two accused, Surprise Moyani Nkomezulu (25) and Tlhobogang Daniel Mantsho (34), appeared before the Rustenburg Magistrates' Court on Friday, 3 August. They were released on R2 500 bail each and will appear in the same court again on Friday, 31 August.



The petrified Pangolin was rescued from poachers and handed to an animal expert to transport it to the Hospital for Vulnerable Animals in Johannesburg.

# IMPALA Rustenburg to cut 13 000 jobs



Impala Platinum

**Rustenburg** – It is reported that Impala Rustenburg will cut 13 000 jobs over the next two years, and that all 40 000 jobs at the mine are at risk.

The Board of Directors of Implats has approved the next phase of the implementation of Impala Rustenburg's strategic transformation, as reported on 2 August. This follows the recent completion of a strategic review aimed at restoring the Impala Rustenburg operation to long-term sustainability and profitability.

Over the past few years, Impala Rustenburg has initiated various measures to return the operation to profitability. While there have been many improvements, these optimisation measures alone have not been sufficient to secure the economic viability of the operation in the prevailing low platinum price environment.

Impala Rustenburg's strategic review considered a range of measures to optimise and reposition the business. Taking account of the current operating environment and macroeconomic realities, the review found that a fundamental business restructuring was the only viable option to secure a long-term future for the operation.

In a phased approach, operations will therefore cease at Impala Rustenburg's end-of-life and uneconomic shafts, with future mining activity focused on profitable, lower-cost, high-value, and longer-life assets.

The strategic transformation will be implemented over a two-year period and key components of the change programme include Impala Rustenburg's mining 'footprint' reducing from 11 to six operating shafts as operations conclude at end-of-life and uneconomical shafts.

"The only option for conventional producers today is to fundamentally restructure loss-making operations to address cash-burn and create lower-cost, profitable businesses that are able to sustain operations and employment in a lower metal price environment," said Implats chief executive officer Nico Muller.

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