242 NABBED FOR VARIOUS OFFENCES

were apprehended for various offences during a two-day suspect raiding operation carried out by the

police in different parts of the North West province. The raids were carried out

from Wednesday 8 January to 9 January as part of the Safer Festive Season operations. Police spokesperson brigadier

Sabata Mokgwabone said the suspects were arrested at all seven policing clusters for murder, assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, robbery, sexual

Potchefstroom - A total of 242 suspects assault rape and other crimes related to sexual assault.

> house robbery appeared before the Mmabatho Magistrates' Court on Friday 10 January. Moshotetsi was remanded in custody

Meanwhile, a man being accused of

until Thursday 16 January following his court appearance, Mokgwabone said.

"The suspect, who was on the police's wanted list, was tracked down and arrested on Tuesday 7 January in Seweding village outside Mahikeng," he added.

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LION PRIDE BUTCHERED



Rustenburg/Swartruggens - Predators Rock Bush Lodge owners Gert and Jeanette Blom were devastated to find eight of their lions killed and mutilated on Friday 3 January.

The paws and jaws of the lions were hacked off. The paws, nails and teeth are in high demand in the traditional medicine trade as traditional healers use it to make *muti*. The *muti* apparently protects a person from illness, cure them or make them strong or virile. It is even used to scare enemies away or prevent them from being attacked

"We raised most of these lions ourselves, each one had a name and a special place in our hearts," said

Gert Blom. The couple dedicate their lives to taking care of predators lions who cannot be returned to the wild. After the increase in lion killings and mutilations, they decided to block public access to

the lions to protect them. Four suspects were arrested by the Hawks' Serious Organised Crime Investigation assisted by members of Crime Intelligence in a sting operation on 6 January while allegedly trying to sell lion paws

Information was received regarding the suspects who were looking for a buyer for four lion paws that were in their possession. Investigations were conducted, resulting in a sting operation where the suspects tried to sell the paws to an undercover agent.

All suspects were taken into custody and appeared before the Rustenburg Magistrate's Court on 8 January where they are facing charges of contravening the National Environment Management-Biodiversity (NEMBA) Act.

Unfortunately, tests confirmed that the paws did not belong to any of the lions of Predators Rock Bush Lodge.

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