

STATEMENT

I, the undersigned, [REDACTED], ID No. [REDACTED], state under oath as follows:

1

I am giving this statement of my own free will, with no promise of fear or favour, so that the State may be better advised of certain activities I am aware of, in relation to the exporting of Rhino Horn from South Africa.

2

At the outset I should point out that I have been previously convicted and received a hefty fine as well as a suspended sentence, when I was unwittingly involved in Rhino Horn activities a few years ago. I wish to point out what happened at that time, so that there is no misunderstanding about my involvement.

3

In or about 2007 or 2008, I met a person, whom I only know as 'KK', who is a Thai national and, at the time I met him, was the Station Manager at Johannesburg Airport, for Thai Airways. I met him whilst playing golf at Kempton Park Golf Course. He has since left South Africa and I believe he now works as Station Manager in London.

4

KK had a house in Kempton Park where he had some Thai nationals staying, I imagine so that he could get rental from the property, which main lease was paid by Thai Airways. KK asked me if I would help these Thai nationals with some administrative tasks, as they were not very fluent in English. I was introduced to these people, whom I knew as 'Peter', 'Jackie' and 'Tony'. These were not their real names, which would have been Thai names, but many South Africans have difficulty pronouncing Thai names, so it has become common practice for Thai nationals living in SA, to adopt English names. I have subsequently discovered, for example, that 'Peter' is actually Chunchom Punpitak. Who was born on 1966-10-05 and uses a Thai passport No. S813579. I have also discovered that 'Peter' has just signed a lease to rent a house at 80 Aitken Road, Eastleigh Ridge, in Edenvale, next to the corner with Main Road.

5

KK told me that these guys were buying Lion Bones, known as 'sets' that they were exporting to Laos. I understood that the bones would be used for making some sort of 'muti' or 'aphrodisiac' or something of the kind, for use in their culture. I was subsequently introduced to a guy who is known as 'Chai'. I believe his real name is Chumlong Lemtongthai and he was born on 1968-09-22 and uses a Thai passport No. X869280. He is known by me and the rest of them, as the 'leader' of the business activities that resulted in the exporting of these lion 'sets'. He certainly was the man that handled all the cash transactions and seemed to me to be a powerful



individual. It is my understanding that he makes regular visits to South Africa, but spends most of his time living in Bangkok.

6

I was also introduced to a guy called 'William'. I think his last name is Page. He is a white Afrikaans male and lives in Midrand. It is my understanding that William is possibly involved in human trafficking, as he supplies females to work in strip clubs, such as Teazers (Rivonia & Pretoria) and Flamingo Strip Club in Pretoria. His usefulness in the activities will become clear, when one understands that a lot of the 'girls' he imports to work as strippers, or prostitutes are Thai nationals. The only information I have on William is that he uses two telephone numbers, namely 083 285 3031 and 074 546 7558 and I know he lives at 42 Rosies Road, Glen Austin in Midrand. I can point out the house, which is one of three on the property, if requested to do so. William's wife (Mau) is wanted in Thailand for Human Trafficking.

7

I assisted with certain aspects of seeking lion sets and would be paid an amount of about USD100 per set that I found that they purchased. This would be paid to me in cash, in Rand. I am aware of certain transactions that would have taken place, wherein lion sets would be bought from various people. Some that I distinctly remember, would be a certain Dr Engelbrecht, who would have supplied over 30 sets and Juan (other names not known, from Pretoria – but telephone number 072 575 3510) who would have supplied about 14 or 15 sets.

8

Chai would pay for these sets in cash and would only pay once the sets have left South Africa, with all the relevant documentation. He would pay in cash and that would include me getting paid as well. He would go to the casino near the airport, known as Emperors Palace and draw the cash from a machine there. Sometimes he would draw hundred of thousands of Rand from the machine, as I will explain later.

9

I should mention at this point that when Chai would visit he would stay at the same house that 'Peter' and KK lived at. I also recall he once told me that he used to deal with these lion sets through a guy called Sebastian Rothman, but he and Sebastian, who also goes as 'Basjan', fell out over some squabble where Chai felt that Basjan had short changed him, and owed him a lot of money. As a result, Chai is now suing Rothman for quite a lot of money, I believe about R1.2million.

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10

I should now mention a lady by the name of 'Sue'. Who is also a Thai national and works for Thai Airways at Johannesburg Airport. She obtained residency by marrying a certain John Bird, but I believe they are since divorced. She also works for Chai. Sue called me sometime in late 2008 or early 2009, and asked me to take Peter, Jackie, Tony and a girl called 'Noi', all Thai nationals, to meet someone in Delmas, in Mpumalanga. I agreed to do this. I did not know the purpose of the meeting.

11

The guy we met, who was a white male Afrikaans guy, and he pulled out 2 or 3 Rhino horns and Peter or Jackie weighed them and they then paid this guy a large sum of cash. As we left, we were arrested, so it was now clear to me this was a 'sting' operation. We were all convicted and got heavy fines. Chai paid all the fines for us. I then decided not to have anything more to do with these guys.

I will now come back to more recent events:

12

In or about June or July of 2010, I was again approached by Chai and he asked me to help him out with the lion bones again. I was short of cash, so decided to do what I could to help, but made it clear that I did not want to be involved in anything that might be illegal.

13

Then I started dealing with Juan again, as well as another guy I only know as Isak, also a white male, with telephone number 083 297 4238. They are both professional hunters. I also met with a guy called Marnus Steyl, who was introduced to me by Isak, telephone number 083 457 8431. I should mention here that Marnus is currently the lead guy that deals with Chai and, in fact, he returned only yesterday from Thailand, having been to meet with Chai. He arrived back on a Thai Airways flight on 2011-05-11. I believe that Marnus also has three farms in the Free State and one in North West, as well as a big business in Dubai. I believe he has been to Thailand several times.

14

Things were moving along quietly and with no trouble with the lion sets. I have been asked to explain a little more about the lion sets and pricing. As far as I can see, the price currently paid for a lion set is R10,000 if it weighs about 9 or 10 kgs. If it also has the head and feet, it will fetch a further R5,000. In fact it was the lion sets that first got Marnus involved with Chai. Myself, Peter and Isak went to Marnus Steyl's farm in Winberg and saw that he had 12 lion sets

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there. Peter is very good at identifying and laying out the sets and we did this and Marnus was paid R60,000 for the 12 sets. They were not very good sets, as some of them were a bit small.

15

By late 2010, the lion sets took a back-seat and things now started moving with Rhino horn again. But the way it was explained to me, this time it was all legal and above board. I'm no expert on these matters, but I did see that they have all the various permits and everything, so I guess it was all in order. If I thought it was not above board I would not have got involved again, as I do not want to get into any trouble at all. I have been asked to explain in detail how these transactions worked and this is what I will now do. First however, I should elaborate on what I have said earlier about Marnus Stel. Although I describe Marnus as the current lead guy that deals with Chai, I should perhaps also explain that Chai's 'man on the ground' in South Africa, is actually Peter (Chunchom Punpitak) and in this regard I should refer to what I can best describe as an 'order' that was clearly inadvertently e-mailed to me by Chai in April. In fact, it was the receipt of this 'order', for 50 Rhinos, that made me realise that Chai is just hell-bent on killing as many Rhino's as possible, for no other reason than harvesting the Rhino Horn. This is what made me realise that I had better help stop this activity and why I have sought out Mr Paul O'Sullivan, in order to assist him in bringing the illegal activities to an end, as I had heard that he was also carrying out investigations into illegal rhino horn smuggling.

16

The first transaction I remember was back in about September or October 2010. Chai was in South Africa at the time, to make this transaction go well with Peter. They bought two Rhino's from Juan. I do not know where Juan got them from. They had to pay cash. As I recall, one cost about R575,000 and the other about R450,000. Chai had seen the animals first. Chai is very good at assessing the weight of a Rhino horn on the animal, before it is killed and de-horned. He can estimate extremely accurately and this gives him the ability forecast exactly what the horn will be worth. He was in any event happy with the price of these two Rhinos and agreed it. He subsequently told me that he felt he had paid too much money for these two Rhinos. This led to him telling me that in future it would be done a different way. I remember his actual words *'We shoot, we cut, we weigh, then pay'*.

17

The Rhino's were taken to Dr Englebrecht's farm near Stella in the North West. Then Juan came one day and said they had the 'hunting permits' to shoot the Rhino's. However, he also said the Rhino's must be paid for, before they could be shot.

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17

I took Chai and Peter to Emperors Palace and waited whilst Chai kept drawing cash from the machine. He drew R2,000 each time and did this multiple times, so that we were all bulging with cash by the time we left there. He chooses to do this at Emperors because of the good security there and he can draw the cash, without any bother and then leave without fear of being robbed, which would be possible if he did it from a shopping mall ATM. It seems his card has no restrictions on it and he can draw as much as he wants, but in multiple lots, to overcome the machine withdrawal limit.

18

After drawing all this cash, which would have been around a million Rand or so, I do not recall the exact amount, I took them through to Pretoria, where we met with Juan and I watched as the money was counted out to him. It took some time, but the slips from the machine were used between each bundle, which helped speed it up a bit. Whilst we were paying Juan, Chai was busy taking pictures with his camera. I know that Chai carries a Sony lap-top computer around with him. If this computer was obtained, I believe the investigators would have everything.

19

A few days later, they went to Englebrecht's farm and shot the Rhinos. Then the horns were sent to a Taxidermist by the name of Savuti Taxidermy and he specialises in mounting the horns onto a shield, thereby turning it into a hunting 'trophy', instead of just a Rhino Horn. This was an important part of the process, as Savuti would then be able to get an CITES Permit for the 'trophy' and it would be shipped to Lao and the whole thing would be legal. As will become clear later, the 'trophy' is just a cover for getting the horn out of South Africa and into Asia. Once in Asia, it obviously would enter the black-market as rhino horn for 'medicinal' purposes. The person allegedly 'hunting' the Rhino, would never see the horn animal, or its horn, again after the 'hunt'. I do know that the horn eventually goes to a guy by the name of Xaysavang in Vietnam. I once saw Chai talking to this guy on Skype, but had no clue as to what they were saying. From this I would draw the conclusion that Xaysavang is the 'big boss' of the whole operation. I again say this because I have heard that he has other people working for him in Southern Africa. Chai told me that Rothman went to see Xaysavang in Vietnam and Rothman gets money paid in advance to a lady at China City, her company's name is 'Peaches' and she then pays the money to Rothman.

20

I have described above, what was, to my knowledge the first 'legal' transaction. I will now describe what would become the *modus operandi* for the remaining transactions. I will explain it as a step-by-step process, setting out who was involved and what the involvement of each



person is in the supply-chain. These remaining transactions were not like the transaction I have described above. They were very different, in that the cash only changed hands after the animal was killed, de-horned and the weight of the horn stabilised from moisture loss, which is only about three or four days after de-horning.

21

First, it should be made clear that the 'manager' for want of a better word, of the supply chain is clearly Chai, or Chumlong Lemtongthai, to give his correct (Thailand) name. Chai is the person that is managing the processes and arranging for the various payments. He co-ordinates all the crucial aspects of the supply-chain. As previously mentioned his 'man on the ground' in South Africa is Peter (Chunchom Punpitak) and this is how the management 'team' fits together.

22

The next most important step and person, would be Marnus Steyl. He is the trader that locates the animals. I'm sure if he actually buys them, thereby taking the risk that the animals will yield the right return for him. He told me that he pays cash for them and that he pays for them at auction and he also mentioned that he was tired of financing their business for them.

23

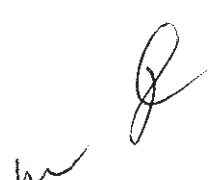
Once Steyl acquires the Rhino he would have them transported to Steyl's farm in North West Province. Which is where the 'hunt' would take place.

24

Once the rhinos were established on Steyl's farm, Marnus would call Chai and tell him how many animals were in place for a 'hunt', for the purpose of this statement and example, we will use a model where Marnus Steyl had supplied three Rhinos. Chai would then call 'Peter' and tell him that he needed three 'hunters' and Peter would then know that he needed to find three Thai nationals to hunt the rhinos. For this cooperation each 'lady' would be paid R5,000-00.

25

Peter would then call William Page's wife (who is Thai) (this is the Afrikaans man that arranges for the importation of women to work as prostitutes or strippers. William's wife would then 'collect' three passports from three 'ladies' and make copies of these passports and give me the copies, via Peter. He would either bring them to me. In this sample, we have mentioned three 'women'. I should point out that there would be times when the 'hunter' would be a man, that may be a friend of Chai, or even Chai himself, or even 'Peter'. I merely mention this, so it is clear that the 'hunter' is not always a striptease dancer or a prostitute brought in by William's wife.

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26

Once I receive the three copies of passports, I would then scan the passports and e-mail them to Marnus Steyl. I would have e-mailed to him at steylgame@mweb.co.za and he would then start the process to obtain the hunting permits, to kill and de-horn the Rhinos. With the passports, I would also scan the page with the visa or TRP (Temporary Resident Permit) to Marnus, as he would need both to get the hunting permit.

27

Maybe a week or so later, I would then get a call from Marnus Steyl and he would tell me something like *'You can tell Peter he can come and hunt, as the permits are through'*. At that time I was sharing a house with Peter.

28

I would then speak to Peter and advise him of such arrangement.

29

Peter would then go and see William's wife and fetch the passports for the three 'hunters' and then go and fetch the three ladies themselves and drive out to Steyl's farm. He would leave in the early hours of the morning so as to get there some time around 08h00 or 09h00. The ladies would first be taken to the police station, where they would be fingerprinted, as it is a requirement that they can confirm that the hunter is who they say they are. I should mention at this stage when the permits are acquired, they also get letters from the ladies saying who their next of kin are and where they live in Thailand, as this information will be needed by CITES, and by Chai, as he would want to make arrangements to receive the Horns.

30

Once the fingerprinting is done, the ladies are taken out to Steyl's farm, where they are made comfortable and then introduced to the Professional Hunter. This person is invariably a guy called Harry Klaasens. I do not have any further details about him and am not 100% certain about the spelling of his name. As I have it, Harry would show them the rifle and even take the girls to a quiet spot where they could let off one or two shots, so that they can later say that they have at least fired the weapon. The 'hunters' would reside at Klaasens farm, during the day or two they would be there for the hunt.

31

Whilst this is going on, a game tracker would be out on the farm, to locate the Rhinos and radio the position in. The rhinos would then be 'hunted' and killed. Before the hunt start, they would call a guy by the name of David (084 552 6647) and he works for North West Nature Conservation. He would be on 'standby' to come to the farm and be present for the hunt and afterwards to measure the horn, scan the chip and put the details in the Professional Hunting

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Register. I believe David would also get a kick-back for being so cooperative in his working arrangements. I say this because on one occasion when I was there I saw him getting about R400 or R500 in cash from Peter. Although I've only seen this once, it looked as if it was a normal arrangement. All 'hunts' took place on week days.

32

One of Marnus' guys, would then de-horn the Rhino. From what I can understand, after the Rhino is de-horned, the meat would then be harvested from it. The meat would then be taken to a butcher in Vryberg, where it would be mixed in with other meat and be sold off as boerwors, or burgers. As far as I know the rest of the carcass would be left on the farm.

33

The next step would be for the Rhino Horn to be sent to the taxidermist, where it would be left to dry out for a few days. Once it was dried out, it would be weighed and the weight is then sent by e-mail to Chai, by Marnus Steyl. Chai would then pay the money direct to his bank account and he would confirm payment and the taxidermist would then mount the horn on a shield as well as apply for and obtain a CITES permit. Marnus would send the horns to a different taxidermist, a certain Kruger Human' (telephone number 083 447 8132). He owns a business called Marakalalo Trophies.

I will now talk about payment for the Rhino Horns

34

The rate currently being paid by Chai is R65,000 per kg of weight. I believe in the past it was R60,000 per kg in weight. Then there is the R5,000 that would be paid to each girl that became a 'hunter'. I would also get paid R5,000 for each Rhino that was killed, for its horn, for doing the administrative go-between activities. In fact, at this time I am still owed quite a bit of money, but do not think I will pursue this, as I am now not keen to have this blood-money, since discovering the 'order' for 50 rhinos. This rate per kilogram would not have applied to the first two rhinos at all, or any other rhinos where they were paid before being killed. In such cases, no kilogram rate would apply.

35

I also want to mention that Chai bought a hummer motor car, for cash. This was a car dealer in Pretoria, near the Irene turn off of the R21. I went with them in or about November last year. First we went to Emperors and drew the cash. I was also present when Chai bought a 54" TV from Hi-Fi Corporation and a hi-fi, lounge suite and beds and so on. He paid cash for it all. When Marnus came back from Thailand the other day, he also brought a new computer from Chai, for Peter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'm' followed by a large, sweeping flourish that ends in a small loop.

I have the following contact information on file:

Cecil at SARS Airport 0827818847

Cindy NW Conservation 0826627787 szwane@nwqg.gov.za Also given a cell phone by Chai

Cliff Savuti Taxidermy 0823746155 cliff@savutitaxidermy.co.za

David NW Cocervation 0845526647

Dr Deon Engelbreght leeubosch@internext.co.za

Isak 0832974238

Johan SARS Airport 0731652478

Juan Pace 0725753510 shangwariafrica@yahoo.com

Kallie Booyse 0733050161 KALLIEBOOYSE@gauteng.gov.za

Kruger Human jkhuman@mweb.co.za

Marnus Steyl 0834578431 steylgame@mweb.co.za

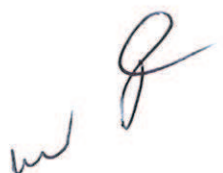
Me Meintjies Cites Pretoria 0123103545 0826554711

Steve NW Conservation 0827741209

Tembi NW Conservation 0183895355

Mirriam 078 631 6923 NW Conservation

This is the e-mail I got from him, which he sent to Marnus Steyl and I have referred to it as an 'order' for 50 Rhinos.

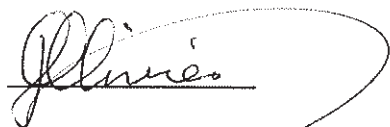
A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'w' followed by a large, looped 'P'.

From: pow poter [mailto:poter.2022@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 23, 2011 9:11 AM
To: จาน
Cc: wouter@globalits.co.za
Subject: hi marnus you signature and send email back for me.

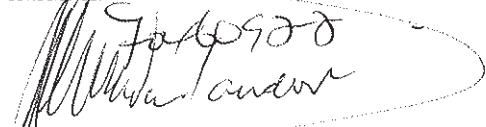
Attached to the above e-mail is the document annexed hereto.

I will supply further information as and when it becomes available.

I know and understand the contents of this statement. I have no objection to taking the prescribed oath, which I consider binding on my conscience.



This done and sworn to before me at Johannesburg, this 13th Day of May 2011, the deponent having acknowledged that he knows and understand the contents, that he has no objection to taking the prescribed oath and that he consider the prescribed oath to be binding on his conscience.



Commissioner of Oaths, ex officio

Bramley Police Station, Louis Botha Avenue, BRAMLEY

Station Date Stamp

