

STATEMENT

I, the undersigned Paul O'Sullivan, ID No. [REDACTED] state under oath in English as follows:

1

Many years ago I was involved in the tourism industry in South Africa. Apart from being a director of the Tourism Business Council of South Africa (TBCSA), I was also the founding chairman of Johannesburg's Big 5 Tourism Destinations 'Joburg's Big 5'. One of the members of Joburg's Big 5, was The Rhino & Lion Game and Nature Reserve out at Kromdraai, on the West Rand, about ten kilometres North-West of Muldersdrift.

2

As a result of my association with Tourism, I became quite friendly with Ed Hearn, the owner of The Rhino & Lion Nature Reserve. Accordingly, when I saw the reserve hitting the headlines, for the wrong reasons, I made contact with Ed and asked if there was anything I could do to help. Essentially, the reserve had been in the headlines, as a result of Rhino poaching, which had seriously depleted the stock on his farm.

3

We had one or two phone calls and these culminated in a meeting where Ed asked me to see what I could find out about poachers. I put out a few feelers, but was also quite busy at the time with other projects, involving trans-national organised crime. In addition, I was involved in a project for Mpumalanga Tourism & Parks Agency 'MTPA' which involved auditing of various game permits and also of investigations into poaching, so there was some synergy already.

4

In or about August of 2010, I was in discussion with one of my 'sources' on another project. I happened to ask the same source that if he should come across any information relating to smuggling of rhino horns, or of poaching, that he should contact me. He called me a few days later and we met.

At this meeting, he handed me a sheaf of documents, totalling 16 pages. I attach a copy of this sheaf, as **Annexure 'A'**. For information purposes only, I attach a copy of Forensic Enquiries I carried out in respect of all the persons named in these papers. This 58 pages is marked as **Annexure 'B'**.

5

I subsequently did not investigate further, as I had my hands rather full with other matters, of a trans-national criminal syndicate nature. However, in late April 2010, I turned my attention back to the Rhino horn movements or poaching. I had also noticed, that there seemed to be a parallel trade, or activity, that dealt with Lion bones. I can only assume that lion bones are



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deemed to have a similar, albeit lesser, perceived value to certain cultures. I therefore decide to focus on the same persons that were involved in lion bone activities.

6

In April 2011, I again approached the same source and asked him if he could get me any further data about the foreign links to the lion bone activities. I, in particular wanted to know if he could introduce me to anyone involved in the activities, from a South African point of view, that may be prepared to give further information.

7

On or about the 10th May 2011, my source called me. He was quite excited and said he had been able to convince a guy that had been working with the syndicate to come and see me and have a chat. We met at my office (on the 11th May 2011) with the person my source introduced as [REDACTED], with ID No. [REDACTED] and with telephone number [REDACTED].

8

I spent about 2 hours or so, interviewing the said [REDACTED] and he agreed that eh would supply me with a sworn statement, setting out essentially all that he knew. I put it to him that, at some time or another, he may be required to give evidence in court. He agreed that he would give evidence if required to do so.

9

As there was some work to do, in turning my interview notes into a sworn statement, I told [REDACTED] that I would call him in due course, within the next few days, at which time he would visit my office for the purpose of signing the sworn statement. In the meantime, I asked him to forward me the e-mail he had received from one of the 'suspects' in Thailand, purporting to be an order for 50 Rhino's.

10

He forward the e-mail to me on the 12th May 2011, and I copied and pasted it into the statement I was drafting for him. I then called him on the 13th May 2010 and he attended at my office. At this time we went through the statement, paragraph by paragraph until he was 100% happy with what he was signing. I then printed it and took him to Bramley Police Station, to swear, which he did. A copy of this sworn statement, together with the so-called 'order' for 50 Rhino's is attached as **Annexure 'C'**.

11

When I met with [REDACTED] on the 11th May, he informed me that he had spoken to the shipping agent, a certain [REDACTED], who [REDACTED] said would be prepared to assist as well,



provided his name is kept out of everything, as he is scared that the guys might do something if it gets out that he talked. [REDACTED] also said the shipping agent had four Rhino horns awaiting shipment, that were at the airport and due to go out on the Friday.

12

Accordingly, on the 12th May 2011, I called this [REDACTED] and asked him if we could meet and have a chat and if he could supply me with any waybills and/or CITES permits. We duly met at McDonalds at Balfour Park at 15h00 on the 12th May 2011, and he handed to me copies of Waybills and of CITES permits. I record here that there were 16 copies of waybills, accounting for the shipping of a total of 20 sets of Rhino horns. This is evident in that 14 of the waybills list the number of 'pieces' as 1 (one) and one of the waybills list the number as 2 (two) and one of them lists the number as 4(four), making a total of 20. I attach all the copies I received from [REDACTED], as **Annexure 'D'**

13

During my discussions with [REDACTED], he made it clear that, at this stage, he does not wish to make a statement, but I am confident that I will be able to extract a sworn statement out of him in due course. He also supplied me with copies of the CITES permits that he still had copies of on his files. I record the sake of completeness that he handed me a total of 18 pages of CITES permits where the items had been shipped. He also handed me a further four pages of CITES permits, for Rhino horns that were at the airport to be shipped. He also handed me a copy of the same four pages, where the country that the horns (awaiting shipping) were to be shipped to had been changed from Laos to Thailand and stamped at Mmbatho. He also indicated that, although the four latter duplicates had been stamped at Mbatho and dated as 2011-04-10, in actual fact these had only be stamped two days earlier, ie 2011-05-10. Finally, he handed me two pages which represented copies of letters sent by North West Province CITES Management Authority, addressed to '*TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN*'. He said that these letters had arisen as a result of queries from customs in Thailand. I attach hereto, the copies referred to above, as **Annexure 'E'**.

14

I asked [REDACTED] if he had any other documents at all and he said he did have. I asked him if he would be prepared to let me have copies of these and he agreed to do so. It was agreed that he would prepare the documents and we would meet again on Monday 16th May 2011, for the purpose of handing same over.

15

On 2011-05-13 I again met with my source and he handed to me certain documents, namely,

1. An 'offer to purchase' for a rhino, signed by R Saayman and Lemthongthai, on Juan Pace stationary. From the date herein, it has to be concluded that this is likely the transaction referred to at Paragraph 16 of [REDACTED]'s statement.

2. A tax invoice, No. 2223, dated 16 Nov 10, from Steyl Game cc, made out to Xaysavang Trading Export Import co Ltd, in the amount of R246,000-00, with weights marked on at R60,000 per Kg of Rhino Horn. It appears to be signed by Steyl. This is a clear indication that it is the horn being sold, not a so called 'trophy'. It should also be noted that a copy of the same document appears in the papers handed to me later by Wouter du Toit. The only difference between the two copies, apart from the fact that one is in colour, is that the one given to me by Wouter du Toit, has some writing on it (I assume it is the handwriting of Lemthongthai ('Chai') wherein it explains how the amount is being paid.
3. A cash slip, from an ATM, in the amount of R2,000-00 from FNB at Emperors Palace, dated 1011-05-09. This may be evidence of cash withdrawals at that ATM.
4. A business card from a certain Basjan Rothman and/or Johan du Toit. This 'Basjan' would be the person who's real name is 'Sebastian'. These latter two items have been photo-copied by me, as a single page, but I retain the originals in my possession.

The above four pages of documents are attached hereto as **Annexure 'F'**.

16

As agreed with [REDACTED] he again called me on the morning of 2011-05-16 to advise me that he had the further documents ready, that I had requested. I again met with him at the Mc Donalds at Balfour Park, and we had a discussion. I moved him a step closer towards becoming a State Witness. He handed me the following documents:

1. Copies of various invoices and proof of payment documents, annexed hereto as **Annexure 'G'** and totalling 25 pages.
2. Fourteen pages of hunting permits and the like, annexed hereto as **Annexure 'H'**.
3. A three page e-mail exchange between CITES Thailand and South Africa's DEAT, annexed hereto as **Annexure 'J'**.
4. Twenty one pages of photographs of Rhino horns, mounted on wooden plates, so that look like 'trophy' attached as **Annexure 'K'**.
5. Nine pages of copies of passports and passport entries, plus one page of a letter, said to be a letter in Thai, wherein the 'hunter' is to complete personal data from 'home', attached as **Annexure 'L'**.
6. Four pages being 'pre-clearance documents from Thailand, to accompany the Rhino Horns being shipped. Wouter du Toit explained that this is a new phenomenon, as 'they' are tired of the rhino horns being held up at customs when they arrive in Bangkok. This is attached hereto as **Annexure 'M'**.

17

I now wish to, finally, come to the last document that I wish to be considered in this matter, is the document received by mail from [REDACTED] This is annexed to the body of this statement, for no other reason than expediency. The annexes, referred to above, ie 'A' through 'M',



constitute some 220 pages and in order to prepare same for a meeting today, I have had them at the printers for copying and binding. The e-mail Olivier refers to, was sent to him and Wouter du Toit, at the same time that Lemthongthai sent the mail to Steyl. The mail was as follows:

From: pow poter [mailto:poter.2022@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 23, 2011 9:11 AM
To: 32u
Cc: [redacted]@co.za
Subject: hi marnus you signature and send email back for me.

[redacted] you working for me you signature, and wouter signature too.

The document attached to this mail, is annexed hereto. I draw specific attention to item 1. In the single page 'order'. It is clear that he want to shoot 15 rhino's a month, with a total order of 50 rhinos, and quotes a price per horn of R65,000 per KG. It is my submission that this is damning evidence of syndicated harvesting of rhino horn.

18

Accordingly, as a wild-life lover and a concerned citizen of South Africa, I request a special (but urgent) Police investigation into the activities of these people. In particular, I would volunteer the following summarised information, which is evident from my enquiries:

1. The four rhino horns at Johannesburg airport are likely to be able to be further detained, on the pretext that the change of names of the country of destination, was not done correctly. I don't think there is any regulation as such, to cover this, but I imagine that if someone was to intervene and say that there needs to be a proper CITES stamp affixed to the name change, not just a rubber stamp, it would have the effect of delaying same. This would then buy useful time, as I have received intelligence that the man from Thailand, namely Chumlong Lemthongthai, otherwise known as 'Chai' will be arriving in South Africa next week.
2. The lap-tops of Peter, Steyl and others, are likely to provide very useful data as part of the investigation.
3. The GPS of the Hummer being used by 'Peter' registration No. BB35CG-GP, will yield useful data of farms visited.
4. Intelligence indicates that Lemthongthai is number two in the syndicate and that the No.1 is a Vietnamese resident by the name of Vixay Keoavang, or Vixay Xaysavang, with (assumed to Thai passport) passport No S0044894



5. The Vietnamese person has a close relationship with Sebastian Rothman, who deals directly with him. It is alleged that large amounts of cash change hands, and that Rothman has been to visit him several times.
6. It has been alleged that Lemthongthai, has just made a massive EFT transfer to Marnus Steyl, as a down-payment on the 50 Rhinos that he is expecting to harvest, between now and August 2011. This down-payment is said to amount to about R4.5 million.
7. It is clear that the CITES rules and regulations are being by-passed and/or flaunted and that the end-effect is the illegal trafficking in Rhino horn.
8. It appears that at least 20 horns have been harvested to date:
9. Four more at the airport awaiting shipping.
10. Four more are at the taxidermist (Kruger) awaiting CITES permits.
11. Fifty more are 'on order', and this harvesting is about to start very soon.
12. Girls in South Africa (for prostitution or striptease clubs) are amongst those that are becoming paid pseudo 'hunters'.
13. The regulations for hunting such animals are clearly being ignored.
14. Some of the same persons engaged in buying lion bones are engaged in illegal trafficking of rhino horns. In other words, there is a harmonisation between the two activities, which manifest itself in the illegal trafficking of rhino horn.
15. The people from Thailand / Vietnam, realise that the current wave of harvesting of horns is not sustainable in South Africa and are starting to look at setting up operations in neighbouring countries. Countries mentioned include, Tanzania, Namibia, Zambia.


Accordingly, urgent action by the State is requested, in order that not one more Rhino should be 'harvested' for its horn.

Copies of this sworn statement, together with the annexes amounting to 222 pages, is being given to the following parties, which is merely mentioned for security purposes:

1. The Hawks – two copies
2. EWT - two copies
3. SARS - one copy
4. I am separately going to be bringing this matter to the attention of CITES both locally, in Thailand and in Switzerland, as I believe it is of crucial importance that the regulations are again reviewed for adequacy.

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.





Paul O'Sullivan

This done and sworn to before me at Johannesburg, this 17th 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.

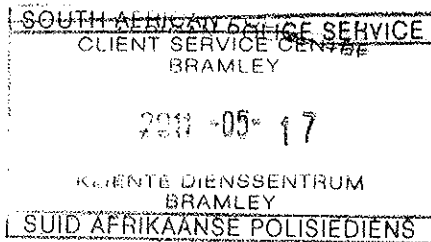
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C.S.T
~~ASIA~~ 71493867

Commissioner of Oaths, ex officio

Bramley Police Station, Louis Botha Avenue, BRAMLEY

637 Louis Botha Ave.

Station Date Stamp





TO. STEYL GAME PO. BOX 39 WINBURG 9420 23-04-2011
MARNUS STEYL ID 7404075123080

NEW ORDER PRODUCTS MONTH 15-05-2011, TO 20-08-2011
IMPORT THAILAND I HAVE CITES PERMIT IMPORT THAILAND

1, WHITE RHINO 50 SET, 1 MONTH CAN SHOOT 15 RHINO
YOU DO CITES PERMIT EXPORT OF SOUTH-AFRICA
1,KG X 65,000R CITES PERMIT IMPORT THAI,

2, LION BONES 300 SET, 1 SET 10,000R FOR 10 KG UP.ONLY,
CITES PERMIT IMPORT LAOS PDR,

3,TAXIDERMY YOU DO PERMIT VERY SLOWLY
TO WORK AS QUICKLY AND FOLLOW-UP,

4, MR. PETER WORK INSTEAD OF ME and keep track of everything.

ASK YOU TO COOPERATE WITH.

Best regards

MR.CHUMLONG LEMTONGTHAI

DIRECTOR

MR.CHUMLONG LEMTONGTHAI

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23/04/2011.