



Republic of Namibia



Department of Police

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, IMMIGRATION, SAFETY AND SECURITY

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MEDIA RELEASE

**TO: ALL NEWS MEDIA EDITORS
 NAMIBIA**

**DATE: 2020-05-06
 TIME: 11:50**

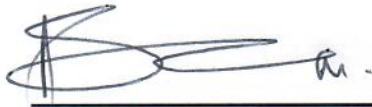
LATE REPORT: INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SUSPECT JOHANN WICKUS MAREE

1. The Criminal Investigation Directorate (CID) of the Namibian Police Force have since late 2019 conducted an investigation with the collaboration of the Netherlands Police, The South Australian Police and Interpol in regard to the accused in this matter Mr Johann Wickus Maree, a Namibian male, and 48 years of age. The investigation centred on the alleged use of pornographic videos of minor boys for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation and the creation of child pornography.
2. The accused was allegedly employed as a Private Investigator and a "Sports Photographer" who also managed a website called "Boy Idols" which purportedly recruited and took photographs of young male boys modelling in clothing and in swimwear; which made provision for the purchase of such photographs on registration to the site. The videos were allegedly posted to a TOR Dark Web pornographic forum and could be connected to a username of the accused. The videos contain various children performing sexual acts in a bathroom where a covert camera was suspectedly set up. Videos were also obtained from a covert camera placed in a toilet at a sporting event in Windhoek recording minor boys visiting the toilet at a Municipal Swimming Pool.
3. On Thursday 30 April 2020, following the issuance of a search warrant, the residence of the suspect was searched, where various items such as computers, hard drives and other evidence were seized which will be submitted for Forensic examination.

4. The accused was subsequently arrested on the same day on a Warrant of Arrest and appeared in the Windhoek Magistrates Court on Tuesday 05 May 2020. He was arrested for charges ranging from Crimen Injuria, Indecent Assault, Contravention of Offences under the Child Care Protection Act, Contravention of the Combatting of Rape Act and Contravention of the Prevention of the Organized Crime Act. The case was remanded to the 28th of August 2020 for further investigation and the accused remains in custody.

5. **The Namibian Police Force is requesting parents who suspect any alleged improprieties or sexual abuse of children who had contact with the accused person to contact the National Head of CID Commissioner Becker (+264) (0) 61 209 3252 or +264 811299215 or Detective Chief Inspector Olivier at the Gender Based Violence and Protection Sub-Division of the Namibian Police Force at (+264) 814210903. The identities and details of all victims will be handled with strict confidentiality and in line with the provisions of the applicable legislation.**

Best regards.

: DEP. COMM.

**P. K. SHIKWAMBI
HEAD: PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION**

