



Newsletter #11

GAME RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF AFRICA

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Rhino attack survivor: an active campaigner against poaching

by Nekulilo Uunona

On 26 January 2016, workhand Tulikokule Hilja Niipele (37) was gored by a black rhino during a routine foot patrol in Waterberg Plateau Park. She was injured on her back, left thigh and left leg. The black rhino had a small baby that ran towards Niipele while on patrol and the mother was just trying to protect it.

Although Niipele was hospitalised for three months and spent a further three months on sick leave, she has still suffers back pains.

When asked about her attitude towards rhinos after the incident, she laughed and said: "I love wildlife and I am here to protect them".

She is an active campaigner on social media against poaching and the attack did not lessen her love of animals.

Niipele has now been moved to Etosha National Park where she is working for Revenue as an administrator. She complains that she does not sleep well and she will be seeing a psychologist regarding the attack.



Workhand Tulikokule Hilja Niipele (37) was gored by a black rhino during a routine foot patrol in Waterberg Plateau Park

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[MET Employee Attacked By Rhino](#)

Radiowave.com.na | [28 January 2016](#)

A 36-year-old woman is recovering at the Okakarara State Hospital after she was attacked by a female Rhino at the Waterberg Plateau National Game Park on Tuesday morning. Tuli works for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism at the park. Speaking to the Namibia Press Agency, Tuli explains that she and two other colleagues were tracking the same rhino and its calf to identify them for administrative purposes when the attack happened. She says the Rhino simple charged them. All three trackers headed for trees, but Tuli only managed to climb a smaller tree, which was unfortunately no match for the Rhino. She was gored and sustained serious injuries to most of her body. She is however in a stable condition and expected to make a full recovery.