



Credits: O Pais

Questions to the Attorney General of the Republic concerning the control of legality and human rights in Mozambique

The Attorney General of the Republic, Dr. Beatriz Buchili, has been fulfilling, from yesterday till today, the provision of the Annual Report at the Assembly of the Republic, in compliance with the dictate of the Constitution of the Republic¹ whose political objective is to allow the guardian of legality to communicate and be scrutinized by the people, through their representatives, the MPs.

As a contribution to the exercise of participatory governance, which is a characteristic of a Democratic Rule of Law State, the Center for Democracy and Development (CDD) submits the

following questions to the Honorable Attorney General, hoping that you can answer them today on your last day of the Report to the people.

The topics raised by CDD focus on aspects concerning the control of legality and human rights in Mozambique that the Attorney General must address in her report, according to the Law.

Our first question is related to the barbaric murder of social activist Anastácio Matavel, perpetrated by officers of an elite unit of Police of the Republic of Mozambique who used State weapons, whose trial is currently taking place in the city of Xai-Xai,

¹ See Article 237 (3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique.

Gaza Province. Why does the Public Prosecutor, which Dr. Beatriz Buchili heads, refuse for the State to pay solidary compensation to the victim's heirs, since the crime was committed by an elite unit of the Police of the Republic of Mozambique and with State weapons?

In your report, the Honorable Attorney General refrained from pronouncing the name of Anastácio Matavele. You referred to him as "a leader of a non-governmental organization". What is the fear of immortalizing Matavele, who was murdered by the state criminal squad which the Honorable Attorney General represents in court? We would like to hear Dr. Buchili pronounce Anastácio Matavele's name in the same way that you repeatedly referred to the name of Mr. Manuel Chang.

Corruption is one of the greatest forms of human rights violations, as state officials unduly seize state resources for their own benefit, neglecting needs such as poor women, starving children, diseases, and other needs that could be tackled and diminished if state resources were properly applied. The Honorable Attorney General, you said, in your report, that the lack of an asset recovery law prevents the fight against corruption. Does the Prosecutor's Office not hold corrupt white-collar men responsible because there is no an asset recovery law?

Yet, in the fight against corruption, the Honorable Attorney General stated that Mozambique is the only jurisdiction capable of prosecuting Manuel Chang, and therefore he should be extradited to Mozambique. Manuel Chang was a free citizen in Mozambique when he went for leisure and was arrested in the neighboring country. Why did the Public Prosecutor's Office that Dr. Buchili heads not initiate legal proceedings and arrest Manuel Chang while he was here?

Regarding the control of Legality, Dr. Buchili did not comment concerning the Government's clear disobedience to the ruling of the Constitutional Court which declared null and void EMATUM's debt and guarantees. Did the Attorney General not assist the

Government to renegotiate and pay for EMATUM's debt?

Also, concerning the hidden debts, which is a major violation of human rights, did Dr. Buchili not read that the Frelimo party illegally received 10 million dollars from Privinvest, an entity against which the Public Prosecutor that the Honorable Attorney General heads, started a court case in Britain? What treatment has the Frelimo party received in connection to the hidden debt process?

There are daily documented reports of human rights violations of local populations, led by police officers and members of the Armed Forces of Mozambique in Cabo Delgado. As guardian of legality, what is the Attorney General's Office doing to investigate and hold accountable those who are responsible for the atrocities against civilians in this province?

During the 2019 electoral process, there were serious cases of electoral illicit acts, which represent a violation of the fundamental rights of citizens to freely choose their representatives. The highlight is the falsification of voter registration in the province of

Gaza. What treatment is this case deserving from the institution that Dr. Buchili heads?

Likewise, during the electoral process, citizens who were mobilized to a football stadium, in the city of Nampula, to attend Frelimo candidate's rally died.

Current reports show that there was negligence from the event organizers who did not create conditions for the safe attendance of thousands of people in that place. In which stage is the investigation initiated right after the event?

We end these questions by recalling that it is Dr. Beatriz Buchili's constitutional obligation to ensure compliance with the law in Mozambique. And the law is being grossly violated by death squads, corruption and impunity, and other forms of human rights violations. The institution that Dr. Buchili heads is of no importance if it does not solve the problems of Mozambicans. And of all Mozambicans.

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