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Dumissani Domingo Thomo remains unlawfully and unjustly detained at the Namaacha Penitentiary

- Detained since March 21, 2024, Dumissani Domingo Thomo remains imprisoned for allegedly endeavoring to provide a dignified funeral for Mozambican citizens deceased in eSwatini and facilitating their repatriation.



It has been over two weeks since Dumissani was incarcerated in the cells of the Namaacha penitentiary, and the judicial institutions have yet to find legal mechanisms to ensure fair justice for this citizen. Dumissani rallied Mozambican communities residing in eSwatini to assist in repatriating and properly burying Mozambican citizens who had been abandoned for over six months without appropriate funerals.

Allegedly, there were procedural lapses in the repatriation of three bodies from eSwatini. Observing inertia on the part of Mozambican authorities regarding creating conditions for repatriating the remains of Mozambicans in that kingdom and the fact that abandoned bodies were being disposed of in mass graves in eSwatini, Dumissani mobilized communities and took it upon himself to coordinate with the Mozambican High Commissioner in eSwatini and relevant authorities to obtain the necessary authorizations.

However, despite securing all required permissions and coordinating with authorities in eSwatini and the Mozambican High Commissioner, Dumissani was detained after overseeing the burial, which was conducted under municipal supervision.

A review of INACE statutes indicates that processes involving multiple institutions are typically analyzed and coordinated by INACE's Technical Council. The process of repatriating bodies to Mozambique falls under the responsibility of this council, suggesting negligence on the part of the Mozambican High Commissioner in eSwatini.

Upon Dumissani's request, the High Commissioner should have delegated the burial procedures to the National Institute for Mozambican Communities Abroad (INACE). However, the High Commissioner chose to request burial space directly from the Namaacha Municipality, thus making their office accountable for subsequent events and misinforming Dumissani.



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To date, Mozambican justice has disregarded these facts and continues to detain Dumissani without considering alternative measures. It's important to note that no evidence of criminal activity exists in this case; rather, there were administrative oversights, violations of which typically result in fines.

Furthermore, in a dubious and possibly corrupt process led by Mr. Matlombe, the Financial Area Councilor of the Namaacha Municipality, Dumissani was repeatedly misinformed. This allowed him to proceed with the burial, only to be later detained in a manner that appears overtly unjust.



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