

Frelimo's luxurious fleet displayed in times of crisis

- With the argument of strengthening its mobility capacity, Frelimo distributed 17 luxury vehicles to members of the Central Committee Secretariat and to the first provincial and Maputo City secretaries. It is a fleet of Nissan Patrol 4x4s, with capacity for eight people, each valued at more than 100,000 dollars.





The vehicles were allocated to the six members of the Secretariat of the Central Committee, namely Roque Silva (Secretary-General), Ana Comoana (Secretary of the Verification Committee of the Central Committee), Ludmila Maguni (party spokesperson), Isalde das Neves, João Muchine and Sónia Macuvele.

Another 11 vehicles went to the first provincial secretaries, namely Artur Nanlichá-Muchopa (Niassa), José Kalime (Cabo Delgado), Luciano de Castro (Nampula), Paulino Lenço (Zambézia), Gonçalves Gemusse (Tete), Tomás Chitlango (Manica), Luís Nhanzozo (Sofala), Daniel Matavele (Gaza), Avelino Muchine (Maputo Province) and Razaque Manhique (Maputo City). The first provincial secretary of Inhambane will be elected next weekend.

The distribution of vehicles takes place at a time when most of the Mozambican population faces difficulties in providing for their basic needs, such as food, housing, health, and transport. In fact, the spiral of prices for basic necessities, illustrated by double-digit inflation (around 12%, a record only verified in 2017 when Mozambique was facing the public debt crisis), nullified the purchasing power of millions of families.

Part of the luxury vehicles allocated to Frelimo's executive directors will circulate not only

on roads that the mayors elected by the ruling party, are unable to put in place, but also in cities where thousands of people are transported in inhumane conditions. The urban transport crisis, especially in the cities of Maputo and Matola, is the most eloquent testimony to Frelimo's governmental incompetence.

The distribution of luxury vehicles to members with executive positions in Frelimo, especially the publicity of this act, documents the neglect of those who proposed to create conditions for the more than 30 million Mozambicans to find opportunities to solve their problems. The act reveals how the Frelimo governing elite has exempted itself from its own responsibilities and "naturalized" the suffering of millions of Mozambicans.

The Frelimo fleet is presented at a time when thousands of officials and state agents are frustrated with the great scam that is being the Single Salary Table. Presented as the solution to end salary injustices in the Civil Service, the TSU was returned to the Assembly of the Republic shortly after being promulgated by the President of the Republic, with the aim of solving the problems it presented.

Even so, the new version of the TSU continues to prove to be an instrument that promotes injustice in the Civil Service, by privileging a minority of officials with leadership

positions, including deputies of the Assembly of the Republic. The medical class postponed a 21-day strike to allow time for negotiations with the government; nurses and teachers also threaten strikes; the judges have already expressed their dissatisfaction with the new salaries; members of the Defense and Security Forces are also not satisfied with TSU.

The economic and financial crisis that affects millions of Mozambicans and the general dissatisfaction in the Civil Service should lead the Frelimo leadership to be more thoughtful and less exhibitionist. Showing luxury cars amid the misery that affects most Mozambicans, including the approximately one million displaced people in Cabo Delgado, constitutes a blatant lack of patriotic sense.

In an attempt to justify the origin of the funds used to purchase the luxury vehicles, the Frelimo President said that "the means result from the efforts of Frelimo members and sympathizers". A statement that would only have a modicum of credibility if Frelimo were not the party that "privatized" the state in its favor, since 1975. In another statement that reveals Frelimo's ostentation, Filipe Nyusi said that the "challenge" (distribution of vehicles) should be continued to include the first Frelimo district secretaries and the leaders of the party's social organizations.



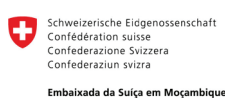
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