

Nyusi opens PGR building in Inhambane - acquired from Manuel Chang's family

- The President of the Republic inaugurated this week the new building of the Provincial Attorney's Office of Inhambane, valued at approximately 250 million meticaís. Located in the center of Inhambane, the two-story building was purchased by the Mozambican authorities from the family of Manuel Chang, through the company CONSÓRCIO INVESTIMENTOS IMOBILIÁRIOS, LDA, managed by Ingilo Dalsuco, the son-in-law of the former Minister of Finance.





The company CONSÓRCIO INVESTIMENTOS IMOBILIÁRIOS, LDA is described as an instrument of money laundering arising from the financial scandal of “hidden debts”. It is known that Manuel Chang, in his capacity as Minister of Finance, received bribes valued at almost US\$10 million paid by the Privinvest group to make possible the illegal loan scheme of more than US\$2 billion granted to the companies ProIndicus, EMATUM and MOM

In December 2018, Chang was detained in South Africa on the orders of the US justice, which demands his extradition to the United States to answer for crimes related to illegal debts. Mozambican justice, through the Attorney General’s Office (PGR), also joined the fight for Chang’s extradition to Maputo, which is why the former Minister of Finance remains in detention and is awaiting a decision from the South African authorities.

The PGR has already spent millions of dollars in the long legal battle for Manuel Chang’s extradition to Mozambique. Despite stating that the purpose of the PGR is to defend the interests of the State, the fact is that the Pu-

blic Ministry only opened an autonomous case against the former Minister of Finance after the South African authorities stated that there was no guarantee that Chang would be held accountable. In case he was extradited to Mozambique, as he was not the subject of any criminal proceedings.

The recent acquisitions of buildings belonging to Manuel Chang’s family reveal the “promiscuous” relations between the justice institutions and the former Minister of Finance. In April 2022, the court vaults announced the purchase of the building for the Judicial Court of Inhambane Province for 270 million meticais. The millionaire deal was awarded to CONSÓRCIO INVESTIMENTOS IMOBILIÁRIOS, LDA, by direct agreement. The building is still under construction and is expected to be completed by 2023.

Another institution linked to justice that operates in a building sold by Manuel Chang’s family is the Inhambane Provincial Anti-Corruption Office. Yes, the Office that was supposed to investigate crimes of corruption and money laundering works in the building sold by a company linked to the family of the for-

mer Minister of Finance, which is in the hands of the Mozambican justice.

The Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism and the National Institute of Communications of Mozambique (INCM) - Telecommunications Regulatory Authority also operate in buildings sold by the company CONSÓRCIO INVESTIMENTOS IMOBILIÁRIOS, LDA. In fact, the scheme followed by this company consists of buying ruins scattered around the city of Inhambane and, in their place, building buildings and selling them to public institutions, including justice institutions. The businesses are led by Ingilo Dalsuco, a native of Inhambane and front man of the Chang family.

The non-transparent deals involving the State and the Chang family will never be investigated as they involve justice institutions, namely the Inhambane Provincial Anti-Corruption Office, the Inhambane Provincial Prosecutor’s Office, and the Inhambane Provincial Judicial Court. It is these institutions that should investigate the multimillion-dollar business of purchasing the Changa family’s buildings by the public sector.

The PGR's struggle for Manuel Chang's extradition to Mozambique

Last July, the PGR saw its request for permission to appeal to the High Court of Appeal of South Africa against the extradition of the former Minister of Finance to the United States of America (USA) being refused by the Supreme Court of Gauteng. This court substantiated its decision by stating that an authorization to appeal to the High Court of Appeal could only be granted if the judge or judges believed the appeal would have a reasonable prospect of success; or if there was another compelling reason why the appeal should be accepted, including conflicting judgments on the matter at hand.

The Gauteng Supreme Court explained that it reviewed the allegations of all parties and, in the end, concluded that the PGR did not provide any compelling reasons for it to be

allowed to appeal Chang's extradition to the US to the High Court of Appeal. "Furthermore, the appeal does not have a reasonable prospect of success in higher court."

In December 2021, the PGR had requested authorization to appeal directly to the Constitutional Court of South Africa. But the request was rejected with costs, as the Constitutional Court considered that it was not in the interests of justice to hear the case at that stage.

The PGR's request to appeal directly to the Constitutional Court came after the Gauteng Supreme Court decided, on 10 November 2021, to extradite Manuel Chang to the US to be tried for crimes of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, conspiracy to commit real estate fraud and money laundering. This decision

was taken following the appeal filed by the Budget Monitoring Forum (FMO) against the extradition of Manuel Chang to Mozambique, a decision that had been taken by the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Ronald Lamola, on 23 August of 2021.

The decision by the Gauteng Supreme Court to refuse authorization to the PGR to appeal to the High Court of Appeal expands the possibilities for Manuel Chang to be sent to the US, but the PGR can still appeal with the Supreme Court and, finally, with the Constitutional Court. The question that arises is: Will the PGR continue to spend the money of Mozambicans with resources whose sole objective is to protect the Frelimo political elite that has enriched itself with the money of the "hidden debts"?



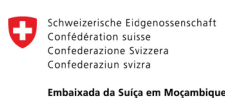
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