

DAY IXX OF THE "HIDDEN DEBT" SCANDAL TRIAL

## Africâmbios couriers say they received cheques from M Moçambique Construções from the exchange house's cashiers and managers

- Yesterday the court heard two couriers from Africâmbio exchange house, indicted of the crime of money laundering for cashing M Moçambique Construções cheques, issued by the defendant Fabião Mabunda, as part of the money he received from the Prinvest group. Simione Mahumane and Naimo Quimbine cashed cheques under the orders of their bosses and were jailed for two years in a case that left out many people who received money directly from the Prinvest group and politicians who made relevant decisions on the project to protect the exclusive economic zone - which gave rise to the "hidden debts" financial scandal



Simione Mahumane

Simione Jaime Mahumane, 49, has worked as a courier for Africâmbios exchange house since 2001. He is indicted of committing the crime of money laundering, for having received, on 3 August 2015, a cheque in the amount of 872,500.00 meticaís, issued by Fabião Mabunda, as part of the amount received by his company M Moçambique Construções from the Prinvest group.

Answering to questions from the Public Prosecutor, the defendant said he did not know M Mozambique Construções company nor its owner, Fabião Mabunda, but said he used to see the defendant at the exchange house office when he would go to exchange currency. "Sometimes he would go to exchange currency at the cash desk, but other times he would go to the management. I don't know what he was going to deal with the managers." He said he knew the defendants Khessaujee Pulchand and Naimo Quimbine as colleagues at Africâmbios, but he never developed friendly relations with them. He confirmed the statements of his colleague Khessaujee Pulchand that cashiers at that exchange house only exchanged currency up to five thousand dollars.

Faced with the cheque amounting to 872,500 meticaís from M Moçambique Construções, Simione Mahumane confirmed having received it from one of the managers of the exchange house. "I am in the company to work and I had no way of refusing it. He gave me the cheque to go and withdraw it, but I don't know for what purpose. I withdrew the money and passed it on to the management. But I have no way of proving it." He said he had no knowledge of the source of the money he withdrew, and that the management of the exchange house would often send him to withdraw money at the bank. He cannot say why the cheque was not deposited in Africâmbios' bank account.

At his hearing at the Attorney General's Office on 9 November 2018, Simione Mahumane said the exchange house had not been using its bank accounts since 2012, the year its owner left the country. Yesterday he confirmed the fact, saying they rarely used Africâmbios' accounts. When asked by the judge whether he knew where his employers were and if they had another exchange house outside the country, namely in Dubai, the defendant replied in the negative. At the court, Simione Mahumane eventually said he ever heard that his employers were in Dubai. He said it was his company Africâmbios that hired a lawyer to defend him.

After Simione Mahumane, the court heard another Africâmbios worker, namely the defendant Naimo Quimbine, 42. He is indicted of the crime of money laundering



Naimo Quimbine

for having withdrawn, between 6 September 2013 and 29 June 2015, 12 cheques totalling 5,682,907.38 meticaís, issued by M Moçambique Construções, as part of the money received from the Prinvest group. To the question by the Public Prosecutor, the defendant said that he does not know M Moçambique Construções. As for the defendant Fabião Mabunda, Naimo Quimbine said: "Honourable representative of the Public Prosecution, I withdraw all the statements I made at the Attorney General's Office. I do not remember anything I said at the Attorney General's Office, I was nervous and crying. The truth is that I do not know Mr Fabião Mabunda, I only saw him at my work, at Africâmbios".

Confronted with the cheques from M Moçambique Construções, he confirmed the cash withdrawal and said that it was Khessaujee Pulchand who handed him the cheques. "I was working. I was following orders from my superiors. As a courier I did cheque cashing, drove the company car and did other company services." Asked in what capacity Khessaujee Pulchand gave him orders to cash cheques, the defendant explained that "cashiers had autonomy to give orders to couriers". He confirmed that he also received orders from the Africâmbios managers to cash cheques, but he does not recall receiving M Moçambique Construções cheques from them. In other words, all the M Mozambique cheques he received from Khessaujee Pulchand, and it was to him that he handed over the money cashed.

And as the defendant Naimo Quimbine said he was withdrawing all the statements he made at the General Attorney Office, the judge read out the minutes of his hearing on 9 November 2019, in which he

said no sister of him had died and nor was he aware of the death of a close relative that would make it impossible for him to attend that hearing. These statements had been made by Africâmbios' lawyer when she requested the Attorney General Office to postpone Naimo Quimbine's hearing on the grounds that he had lost a sister. But the defendant denied this fact in front of the Attorney General's Office and yesterday said the same again: "the company did not want me to go to the Attorney General Office to make a statement, so they invented that I had lost a sister to postpone the session. I never saw the application that the lawyer submitted to the Attorney General's Office asking for the postponement of my hearing." He continued, "I went to the Attorney General's Office without a lawyer because I had nothing to hide."

Although he claimed that he was nervous and crying when he was heard at the Attorney General's Office and that he could not remember what he said, the defendant confirmed most of his statements yesterday. But he did not confirm the passage where he said that Fabião Mabunda went to the exchange house to talk with Khessaujee Pulchand and that he had seen them talking outside the company. He also denied saying that he knew of Fabião Mabunda's profession. The judge asked the defendant why he told the Prosecutor's that he was withdrawing all the statements made at the Attorney General's Office allegedly because he was nervous and crying, only to confirm most of them later. The judge was surprised that the indicted did not confirm the part of his statements where he establishes a friendly relationship between Khessaujee Pulchand and Fabião Mabunda.

# The Court will hear Crimildo Manjate and Zulficar Ali Esmail Ahmad today

This Friday, the 20th day of the “hidden debts” financial scandal trial, the court will hear two more defendants, namely Crimildo Manjate and Zulficar Ali Esmail Ahmad. At the time of the facts, Crimildo Manjate sold an outbuilding located on a 45/90 meters plot of land to the Leãos, who intended to expand the area where their residence is located at Jonasse area, Boane district, Maputo province. The defendant is alleged to have given instructions for the amount of 3.750.000 meticais to be transferred from M Moçambique Construções to the account of his brother, Naldo Adérito Jossias Manjate, domiciled at Millennium Bim. The Public Prosecutor says that, by doing so,

the defendant Crimildo Manjate intended to “disguise his connection with the business, as he knew of the illicit source of the money”. That is, for the Public Prosecutor, the defendant knew that the money used to pay for his outbuilding came from the bribe paid by the Privinvest group to the Leãos.

Regarding the defendant Zulficar Ali Esmail Ahmad, the Prosecutor indicts him of having received, on 29 May 2013, USD 100,000 from the Privinvest, without ever having provided services to that Abu Dhabi-based business group. The money was transferred directly from the Privinvest group’s account to the defendant’s ac-

count domiciled at BCI. The Prosecution says that as a way to disguise the use of the USD100,000, Zulficar Ahmad withdrew the money in a fractional manner, in the maximum amount of five (5) thousand dollars, “issuing several cheques in his favour and in favour of his wife Nadia Hanif Mahomed Bhikha, and his friends and partners in EPS - ZON company (Zulficar Osman and Nordin’s service provider company), Osman Mahomed and Nordin Issufo Amade Aboobacar.” “Also as a way of concealing the real purpose of the use of the amounts, in all withdrawals made the defendant communicated to the bank that the amounts were intended for travel and tourism”.



## EDITORIAL INFORMATION

**Property:** CDD – Centro para Democracia e Desenvolvimento  
**Director:** Prof. Adriano Nuvunga  
**Editor:** Emídio Beula  
**Author:** Emídio Beula  
**Team:** Emídio Beula, Julião Matsinhe, Dimas Sinoa, Magda Mendonça, Américo Maluana and Betuel Chau  
**Layout:** CDD

**Address:**  
 Rua de Dar-Es-Salaam Nº 279, Bairro da Sommerschild, Cidade de Maputo.  
 Telefone: +258 21 085 797

**Twitter:** CDD\_moz  
**E-mail:** info@cddmoz.org  
**Website:** http://www.cddmoz.org

### PROGRAMMATIC PARTNER



### FINANCING PARTNERS

