

DAY EIGHT OF THE "HIDDEN DEBT" SCANDAL TRIAL

## Just like his friend Ndambi Guebuza, Bruno Langa denies everything, does not remember many things and makes serious accusations against magistrates

- On the first day of his hearing, Bruno Langa was not different from Armando Ndambi Guebuza, his friend since primary school and business partners. The fourth defendant (out of a total of 19) to be heard in the "hidden debts" scandal trial, Bruno Langa also assumed a denialist posture and revealed to be a man of a "short" memory. In addition to not remembering many facts related to the trips he made to Germany and Abu Dhabi in the context of the project to protect the exclusive economic zone, the defendant refused to answer many questions, especially from the Public Prosecutor.



Bruno Langa was confronted with many documents during yesterday's session



- In fact, it was another difficult session for Public Prosecutor Ana Sheila Marrengula, who had many of her questions being answered with simple sentences such as “I do not know”; “I will not comment on that matter”; “I will not answer that question”; “I will not answer, Honourable”. When he was asked by the Public Prosecutor to read travel reports and minutes of his hearing at the Attorney General’s Office and those taken from the first questioning in court for the legalization of the arrest, the defendant flatly refused. He accused Attorney Alberto Paulo of threatening him with arrest during the first hearing at the PGR (Attorney General’s Office).

But before the “clashes” with the Public Prosecutor, the defendant answered the judge Efigénio Baptista’s questions. At the beginning, he seemed willing to collaborate. He confirmed that he travelled to Germany in December 2011, but said he went with the defendant Teófilo Nhangumele. When they arrived in Germany, they met Ndambi Guebuza and stayed in the same hotel with him. He also said that each of them was going to handling personal matters, and that in the German city of Kiel he saw the defendant António Carlos do Rosário. On Monday, the son of the former President of the Republic had said that he travelled with his friend Bruno Langa to Germany and could not remember the hotel where he stayed.

The defendant Bruno Langa said that he travelled to meet Jean Boustani as part of the partnership that the two were developing, and denied that the trip was made for the purpose of the project to protect the exclusive economic zone. When asked how he met Boustani, the defendant replied that it was through Teófilo Nhangumele. “Boustani was known to Nhangumele and in one of the conversations, he heard about me and became interested in working with me.” When asked what kind of qualifications he has or what specialty work he was performing that would have sparked Boustani’s interest in working with him, Bruno could not tell. Despite insisting that he travelled on private business, the defendant admitted that he had heard that the expenses of the trip had been paid by the State Intelligence and Security Service (SISE). He could not give a clear answer to Judge Efigénio Baptista’s question about how the secret services had paid for his trip to Germany to attend to private matters.

Regarding the first trip to Abu Dhabi in January 2012, Bruno Langa said he travelled again with Teófilo Nhangumele. He recalled meeting Ndambi Guebuza in Dubai and together they went to Abu Dhabi, but each of them with their own particular interests. In this trip, the defendant does not remember the hotel where he stayed, allegedly because “much time has elapsed ever since”. He was confronted with photos taken on the private plane where he appears alongside Teófilo Nhangumele and Ndambi Guebu-



Bruno Evans Tandane Langa

za; photos taken during a meal; photos in which they all appear dressed as sheiks.

The judge started questioning the defendant about the photos found on his electronic devices seized by the authorities. Judge: “Who was on the plane?” Defendant: Me, Armando and Teófilo.” Judge: “Where did you take the plane? Defendant: “I don’t remember, honourable.” Judge: “Whose plane is it?” Defendant: “It is a rented plane.” Judge: “Who rented it?” Defendant: “I don’t know, Honourable.” Judge: “And the white gentleman who appears in another photo, who is he?” Defendant: “That’s Jean Boustani.” Judge: “In this photo with Jean Boustani they are eating. Where is it here?” Defendant: “I don’t remember anymore, Honourable.”

Despite stating that he worked for Privinvest as a consultant in the area of real estate and hospitality in Mozambique, Bruno could not say in which of the group’s companies, much less the amount to be received. “At the time I didn’t know how much they were going to pay me. We had not agreed any price,” he said in response to a question

made by the Public Prosecutor. In the end, he said he had received USD 8.5 million, the same amount that appears in the indictment and in the seized bank documentation. “The proof is in the payment they made, because I did my work. Nobody gives you money without you working”, he reacted when he was asked if he had carried out any work in the areas of real estate and hospitality for the Privinvest group.

The Public Prosecutor recovered one of Langa’s answers, according to which he, Nhangumele and Ndambi had different objectives on their trips, both to Germany and Abu Dhabi. And the question was, “How do you account for the fact that you signed a joint contract with the defendant Teófilo Nhangumele and the amount to be received is similar?” Bruno was unclear in his answer. “When you were negotiating the amount to be paid by Privinvest, were you alone?” and the defendant replied: “I negotiated with Jean Boustani”... After confronting him with the report referring to a single objective in the trip to Germany, namely the protection of the exclusive economic zone, the Public



Prosecutor asked the defendant himself to read the document. "I will not read it, honourable. I'm not going to read something that I don't know where it comes from. I have no knowledge of that report."

The Public Prosecutor's Office resumed its trips to Abu Dhabi to question the defendant why the contract he signed only deals with the exclusive economic zone protection project and nothing is said about consultancy in the real estate and hospitality area. "The contract does not mention real estate, but then we started doing work in this sector. The Prinvest group was interested in investing in many areas in Mozambique. We did a lot of consulting services. We had been in Pemba and Inhambane, but some business did not happen." explained Bruno Langa.

When asked if he had ever met Iskandar Safa, the owner of the Prinvest group, Langa gave a positive answer. "Did you ever take part in a meeting in Abu Dhabi attended by Mrs. Batsetsane?", questioned the Public Prosecutor's Office representative, and the defendant replied with an "I can't say". When invited to read the report on the trip to Abu Dhabi, the defendant refused it. "I will not read that report. I can't read documents I don't know."

And it was the magistrate of the Public Prosecutor's Office who read the extensi-

ve report on the trip, called "Mozambique Mission". The document describes in detail all the aspects during the visit to the Prinvest shipyards, talks about the personality of Iskandar Safa and his conversations about business and leisure, meetings and even meals that the visitors had with him. The report is accompanied by photographs and ends with recommendations on next steps, among them, the need for Iskandar Safa to travel to Mozambique to sign a memorandum of understanding with the former President of the Republic, Armando Guebuza, on the project to protect the exclusive economic zone.

According to the report, Iskandar Safa paid particular attention to Ndambi Guebuza during the meeting with the group; he expressed interest in tantalum exploration in Mozambique; he also said that was interested in investing in agriculture. During the visit, Nhangumele expressed interest in seeing the South Africa's Batsetsane removed from the negotiations on the project as she had already fulfilled her mission. Nhangumele justified saying that it was not a personal matter, but a question of Mozambique's sovereignty and strategy. The request was accepted, both by Iskandar Safa and Batsetsane.

After finishing the reading, Ana Sheila Marrengula said: "I read the report to coun-

ter the situation that some defendants are denying, denying and denying documented facts. And again she put many questions to the defendant, but the answers were almost evasive. For instance, as to the emails extracted from his electronic devices, he said he was not in a position to acknowledge them once they were in printed format. "I would need my Ipad to confirm the emails". The prosecutor asked whether the defendant could access his email if he was given a computer, but the answer was no. "I can only access my email through my Ipad".

Bruno Langa did not want to address issues related to how he applied the USD 8.5 million he received from the Prinvest group. The prosecutor was particularly interested in why he did not transfer significant amounts from his account domiciled in Abu Dhabi to his ones in Mozambique, but instead transferred the amounts to other countries such as Portugal, Turkey and South Africa to purchase real estate, mostly located in Mozambique. Another question from the Prosecutor was why the defendant did not register the properties bought with the money received from Prinvest in his name, leaving them to remain in the seller's name. "I will not comment on that matter"; "I will not answer that question"; "I will not answer", it was how he reacted to all questions related to his investments.

## Bruno accuses Prosecutor Alberto Paulo of threatening him with jail and that judge Délio Portugal argued with all the defendants

One of the "hottest" moments in the session room was when the Public Prosecutor indicted Bruno Langa of being contradictory in his statements. When he was heard at the Attorney General's Office, he told of his involvement in the project and confirmed the facts of which he is indicted, but already at the trial he decided to deny everything. Once again, the Public Prosecutor asked the defendant to read his own declarations during the hearing at the Attorney General's Office, but Bruno Langa again refused. And the justification could not be more serious: "I said this at the Attorney General's Office because Prosecutor Alberto Paulo threatened to arrest me. I was forced to say this".

And the Public Prosecutor reacted immediately: "You are revealing an extremely serious fact against a career magistrate of the Public Prosecutor's Office. Do you accept this? The defendant replied that he did. Ana Sheila Marrengula insisted: "Your lawyer witnessed the threats and yet allowed you to sign statements made under threats. And he also signed it. He did not lodge any



Alberto Paulo was promoted to Deputy Attorney General of the Republic after having led the "hidden debts" case. On the same occasion, Filipe Nyusi reappointed Beatriz Buchili as Attorney General

protest.” The defendant said: “Yes, Honourable!”

At the time, Paulo Nhancale was Bruno Langa’s lawyer. When he was made a defendant, his lawyer filed an objection on behalf of his constituent and the grounds coincided with Bruno’s statement made at the Attorney’s General Office. And he joined documents related to the trips delivered by the defendant himself. “Her Honourable,

that power of attorney I do not know,” he replied when confronted with the facts.

And as if that were not enough, the statements that Bruno Langa made during the first hearings coincide with the one made in the General Attorney’s Office. But the defendant denies that he made any statements during the hearings conducted by criminal investigator, the judge Délio Portugal: “Everyone (debt held defendants)

who entered that room argued with Délio Portugal. There was no cordial conversation. I argued with Délio Portugal. I don’t know what happened to that signature. I don’t know what you did with that signature. Anyone can sign. I didn’t stay more than five minutes. I didn’t say that to Délio Portugal,” Bruno Langa. The judge had to intervene by calling on the defendant to stay calm and to treat people with respect.



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