

THE "HIDDEN DEBTS" SCANDAL TRIAL

Today, it is time of the then private secretary of the President of the Republic Armando Guebuza, Inês Moiane Dove

- The "hidden debt" scandal trial enters its third week today, with the hearings of two defendants identified as friends, namely the defendant Maria Inês Moiane Dove, 51 years old, then private secretary of the President of the Republic Armando Guebuza, and the defendant Sérgio Namburete, 60 years old. They are the first defendants at liberty pending the trial to be heard by the court that is judging the biggest financial scandal in Mozambique's history.



Sérgio Namburete



Maria Inês Moiane Dove

- For facilitating Jean Boustani's access to the then President of the Republic, Maria Moiane Dove received € 877,500 from the Privinvest group. To receive the amount, the defendant spoke to her friend Sérgio Namburete, who set up a company, SEN Consultoria e Investimentos, in whose name she signed a contract with Logistic Internacional, of the Privinvest group, for the provision of consultancy services for civil construction projects. It was to SEN's account that the Privinvest group transferred the € 877,500, with the defendant Sérgio Namburete passing on € 750,000 euros to Maria Moiane Dove. For the service he provided to his friend, Sérgio Namburete was left with € 127,500..
- The Prosecutor says that the civil construction project indicated in the contract between SEN Consultoria e Investimentos and Logistic Internacional never existed, that is, the company SEN never provided any consulting services to the Privinvest group. In addition, SEN Consultoria e Investimentos has never provided services to any other entities and has never received in its account in euros any other amount than that coming from the Privinvest group.

Under the Internal Regulations of the President of the Republic's Office (approved by the Presidential Order, no. 09/INT/2005, of 11 May), the private secretary was responsible for preparing the programme of daily activities of the President of the Republic in coordination with the Casa Civil and the Casa Militar; preparing the minutes or summaries of meetings. She was also responsible for transmitting to the Ministers in the Presidency, the Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic, the Advisers and other leaders and officials, the individual decisions that the President of the Republic wished to be transmitted at each moment. It also included preparing the matters to be dealt with, contained in briefs or in orders, by means of pre-memorials or by verbal information; receiving requests for audiences and proposing those that are a priority. Accompanying the President of the Republic on his travels domestically and abroad; coordinating and running the Secretariat of the President of the Republic; and carrying out other work that the President of the Republic may determine.

As part of her assignment, the defendant Maria Moiane Dove prepared at least six (6) meetings between the President of the Republic and senior leaders of the Privinvest group and, for that purpose, she contacted with Jean Boustani by telephone and email. In addition, she had contacts with Jean Boustani in the United Arab Emirates and France in the context of Presidential visits to those countries. To facilitate Jean Boustani's access to the meetings he wished to arrange and establish with the President of the Republic, the defendant Maria Moiane Dove accepted cash offer from the Privinvest group, amounting to € 877,500. To conceal the real motivation for the payment, Maria Moiane Dove asked her friend Sérgio Namburete to receive the amount in question and then pass it on to her.

Thus, on 18 November 2014, Sérgio Namburete established a sole proprietorship company named SEN Consultoria e Investimento, El at Balcão de Atendimento Único (One-stop Office) in Maputo City. On the same day, he opened a bank account at BCI in euros, held by the company. In consultation with Maria Moiane Dove, seven (7) days after the company was established, Sérgio Namburete and Logistic Internacional, Abu Dhabi, of the Privinvest group, entered into an alleged contract dated 25 November 2014, under which SEN Consultoria e Investimentos was to provide consultancy services in the context of a civil construction project for a period of one year.

The Privinvest group transferred a € 877,500 in two equal instalments of € 438,750, from the companies Logistics International, SAL, on 2 December 2014, and Privinvest Shipbuilding, on 18 December 2014, to the account opened by SEN Consultoria e Investimentos. The Public Prosecutor says that the civil construction project indicated in the contract never existed, that is, the company SEN never provided any consulting services to the Privinvest group. Moreover, SEN never provided services to any entities and never received in its account in euros any other amount than that coming from the Privinvest group.

Indictment states that Sérgio Namburete transferred € 750,000 to Maria Moiane Dove's account, domiciled at Standard Bank, in two instalments of USD 375,000 each, on 17 and 23 December 2014. With the amount received, Maria Moiane Dove made a fixed-term deposit with the same bank on 21 January 2015. Upon maturity of the term deposit, on 19 May 2016, the defendant transferred € 250 thousand euros, converted into meticaís, in the amount of 15.125.000,00 meticaís, to her meticaís account domiciled at the same bank. She kept € 500 thousand on a fixed-term deposit.

With the 15.125.000,00 meticaís, the defen-

dant bought a three-room house, located at José Mateus Street nº 138, 5th floor left, at Bairro Polana Cimento "A" in Maputo City, at the price of 14 million meticaís, paid in two instalments, one of six (6) million and the other of eight (8) million, on 19 and 30 May 2016. Maria Moiane Dove made fixed-term deposits of € 500 thousand by transferring the respective amounts to her meticaís account, at Standard Bank. She then bought a property located at Mukumbura Street, corner with Armando Tivane Avenue, 1st floor, at Bairro Polana Cimento, Maputo City, at the price of 12 million meticaís.

To hide her connection to the properties she bought, instead of signing the relevant notarial deeds, the defendant Maria Moiane Dove was always represented by her brother, the co-defendant Elias Moiane, for whom the powers of attorney were granted by the sellers of the properties.

These powers of attorney empowered Elias Moiane to fully manage and administer the properties, represent them in any public, private and other institutions, perform any registration acts; mortgage, sell to himself or to third parties for the price and conditions he wishes. Run business with himself or with third parties, sign the respective deed of sale; perform works, provide verbal or written statements to whom may interest and, for these purposes, promote, practice, request and sign anything that becomes necessary for the full performance of the powers conferred to him.

Subsequently, the defendant Elias Moiane produced a document purporting to sell the property (acquired for 14 million meticaís) to the daughters of the defendant Maria Moiane Dove, identified as Carmem da Glória Dove and Gisela Filomena Roberta Dove, at a price of 6.650.000,00 meticaís. The Public Prosecutor understands that the defendant Elias Moiane did not sell the property to the defendant Maria Moiane Dove daughters,

but that he transferred it on. By declaring the amount of 6.650.000,00 of meticaís, he aimed to pay lower SISA (Tax paid on real estate property transactions) tax than actually it is due, taking into account that the real amount of the sale was 14 million meticaís.

For the service he provided to his friend Maria Moiane Dove in receiving the amount paid by Prinvest group, the defendant Sér-

gio Namburete benefited from €127,500 He transferred € 50,000 out of this amount, on 18 March 2015, to Marcia Namburete account, exclusively opened for this purpose at BCI. Still from the amount coming from the Prinvest group, Sérgio Namburete bought improvements to a plot of land located at Bairro Laulane in Maputo City, at the price of 2.400.000,00 meticaís. The rest of the

amount was withdrawn through checks, in instalments of four (4) thousand euros. From the €50 thousand received, Marcia Namburete returned €10 thousand to Sérgio Namburete's account, and spent the remainder withdrawing it in small instalments ranging from one to five (5) thousand euros and by cheques issued in her favour and of Sérgio Namburete.



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