

THE "HIDDEN DEBTS" SCANDAL TRIAL

Wife of former General Director of SISE today explains her involvement in the management of the bribe paid to her husband by the Privinvest group

- Ângela Leão, 44, is Gregório Leão's wife, at the time of the events General Director of the State Security and Intelligence Service (SISE). She is the only woman who remains in custody as part of Case No. 18/2019-C. The investigation made by the Public Prosecutor's Office shows that Ângela Leão was the person in charge of managing the more than 387 million meticaís paid by the Privinvest group and Txopela Investments to her husband as a bribe for his role in designing ProIndicus, EMATUM and MAM projects, as well as making them possible by requesting the issuance of State guarantees to obtain financing credits.



Ângela Leão



To conceal their connection with the millionaire bribe, the Leãos used the defendant Fabião Mabunda company, M Moçambique Construções Lda, as a mean for receiving the money. All defendants heard thus far have denied any connection between the defendant Ângela Leão and the Prinvest group. Even Fabião Mabunda, who acted as the Leãos's "front man" and exchanged emails with Ângela Leão about money transfer from the Prinvest group to M Moçambique Construções, chose to contradict himself, so as not to "hand over" his former employer.

Cipriano Mutota, a SISE officer and one of the first defendants to be heard by the court, said it was through a conversation he had with Ângela Leão that he learnt that Teófilo Nhangumele had received money from the Prinvest group. "She asked me like this: 'So, have you seen the machines?' I asked: 'What machines?' And she replied: 'The machines that are moving on in the city. Talk to your friend'". Cipriano Mutota's "friend" is Teófilo Nhangumele and the expression "machines" was used to refer to the top-of-the-range cars that the now defendants Nhangumele, Bru-

no Langa and Ndambi Guebuza had just bought with the money received from the Prinvest group.

Despite the defendants' protectionist narrative regarding Angela Leão's involvement, there are facts listed by the Prosecution that need clarification. First, most of the transfers from the Prinvest group to M Moçambique Construções, Lda were made after the payments made by the Credit Suisse bank under the contracts with ProIndicus, EMATUM and MAM. For example, the first transfer to M Moçambique Construções occurred two weeks after the Prinvest group received USD 32 million from Credit Suisse under the contract amendment between ProIndicus and Prinvest on 14 August 2013. The second transfer occurred on 5 September 2013, on the same date that Credit Suisse transferred USD 500 million to the Prinvest group under the contract with EMATUM. The third payment to M Moçambique Construções, dated 30 April 2014, occurred a week after the Russian bank VTB transferred USD 435 million under the contract with MAM.

Second, after receiving the money transferred by the Prinvest group, the de-

fendant Fabião Mabunda invested the equivalent to USD 1,500,000.00 to pay for three residential properties bought by the defendant Ângela Leão. The amounts were transferred from M Moçambique Construções Lda to the defendant Sidónio Siteo's account, who passed on the money to the properties seller's. These properties are: a three-storey villa, located at 0 4552 Street, Costa do Sol Neighbourhood, Maputo City, bought for USD 900,000.00; and two-storey twin houses, located at A Street, at Ponta D'Ouro beach, Matutuine District, Maputo Province, bought at a price of USD 300,000 each. Ângela Leão rented the three properties: the villa at Costa do Sol for a monthly rent of 160 thousand meticaís and the houses at Ponta D'Ouro for 10 thousand Rands each. The amounts were deposited in her accounts.

Third, Fabião Mabunda transferred 29,600,000.00 meticaís from M Moçambique Construções Lda to Sidónio Siteo's account and Sidónio, in turn, passed the money on in small instalments (through checks and in cash) to the defendant Ângela Leão. In the Leãos interest, Fabião Mabunda transferred 11,18,522,00 meticaís to Arktek, Lda, a civil construction

consultancy company, focused on the preparation of architectural and engineering projects and supervision of works. The amount aimed to pay for services hired by Ângela Leão, namely: project elaboration of four (4) equal residences in Costa do Sol area; nightclub in Belo Horizonte area; residential house in Marracuene; São Roque Kamaga commercial space project, residential house in Quelimane City; project revision of a residential property at Jonasse area; and supervision of the projects implementation works.

Fourth, the defendant Fabião Mabunda used more than 36 million meticaís to purchase goods and make improvements to the residence of the Leãos, at Jonasse area, Matola-Rio Administrative Post, Boane District, Maputo Province. To do so, Ângela Leão hired services from ICOMO, Lda

company, described as supply of several carpentries, at the price of 1,170,000.00 meticaís; from Mozago Lda company, described as finishing works, at the price of 20,365,000 meticaís; she bought building material (tiles and sanitary ware) from Mercury Comercial Lda company, at the price of USD 50 thousand and 2,859,125.00 meticaís; services from Trifásica, Lda company for the supply and installation of a power transformation post, air conditioning equipment, at the amount of 8,181,001.00 meticaís. For the expansion of the plot where her residence at Jonasse is built, the Leãos bought an outbuilding under construction from the defendant Crimildo Jossias Manjate, at the price of 3,750,000,00 meticaís.

Fifth, Fabião Mabunda transferred 12,865,000.00 meticaís to Mbanda Henning, Ângela Leão's sister, and

3,000,000 meticaís to Torre Catering's account, a company owned by Angela's sister, Olga Dinis Buque. Yet, from the money that M Moçambique Construções received from the Privinvest group, the defendant Mabunda deducted in his favour 17.5 million meticaís relating to the construction of two houses located at Costa do Sol area, for Gregório and Ângela Leão.

In order not to contradict Fabião Mabunda's indefensible narrative, Ângela Leão will have to confirm to the court that she entrusted to the defendant, as her contractor, with the management of more than 100 million meticaís in cash. This amount would be used to pay for her houses building expenses at Jonasse and Costa do Sol Neighbourhood and make payments ordered by her to companies and individuals.



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