

“HIDDEN DEBTS” SCANDAL

Alexandre Chivale has been removed from the trial and is under investigation by the Attorney General’s Office for money laundering

- On 23 August, Alexandre Chivale entered the tent where the trial of the “hidden debts” financial scandal is taking place as the lawyer with the most clients. Three in all: António Carlos do Rosário (former Director of SISE Economic Intelligence), Maria Inês Moiane (former Personal Secretary of Armando Guebuza) and Elias Moiane. However, on the 33rd day of the trial, Chivale was removed from Case No. 18/2019-C by the court and he left the tent of the Maximum Security Prison Facility (BO) as a declarant.



Chivale's removal was requested by the Public Prosecution on the grounds that he was a collaborator with the secret services (SISE), a condition that placed him in a situation of conflict of interest. In other words, having a link with the State, he could not defend cases against that very same State. The Mozambique Bar Association (OAM) challenged Judge Efigénio Bapstista decision, considering it illegal and abusive because, in its view, it is the OAM task to check impediments of its members.

While he was trying to recover from his removal from the trial and familiarise himself with his condition as a declarant in Case No. 18/2019-C, the Attorney General's Office "dropped another bomb" against Alexandre Chivale. According to what the newspaper Notícias writes in its edition of Tuesday, 26 October, the Public Prosecution has opened an autonomous case against the Chivale for

alleged indications of money laundering and obstruction of justice.

The Public Prosecution believes that Txopela Investments and Ndandula Empreendimentos, companies managed by Alexandre Chivale, were used to receive and launder capital and assets bought with the Privinvest group's money, in the interest of António Carlos do Rosário. In addition to being an administrator, Chivale is a majority shareholder (with 75%) of Ndandula Empreendimentos, a company that manages real estate assets seized under Case No. 18/2019-C for having been purchased by Txopela Investments with money transferred by the Privinvest group.

In fact, in his capacity as director of Txopela, Chivale occupied a flat seized at the Deco Assos Condominium, located on Marginal Avenue, Maputo City. Last week, the judge gave the lawyer five days to leave the property and hand over the respective keys to the court.

Efigénio Baptista exonerated Txopela Investments as the depositary of the other seized flats and appointed the National Directorate of State Property (of the Ministry of Economy and Finance) as the depositary.

According to Notícias, the Public Prosecution argues that Chivale's constant trips to Lebanon to meet Jean Boustani and other Privinvest group partners are obstructing the ongoing investigations into the "hidden debts" scandal. On the first day of the trial, it was the lawyer himself who announced that he had just returned from a trip to Lebanon. In his words, the purpose of his trips to Lebanon is to meet the owners of Txopela, who supposedly live in that Asian country. However, for the Public Prosecution, the allegation that the shareholders of Txopela are from Lebanon is an attempt to dispel the existing link between the company and the defendant António Carlos do Rosário.



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, Américo Maluana e Betuel Chau
Layout: CDD

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

CDD_moz
E-mail: info@cddmoz.org
Website: http://www.cddmoz.org

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