

XXXI DAY OF THE "HIDDEN DEBTS" SCANDAL TRIAL

## António Carlos do Rosário again says that emails provided to the Public Prosecutor's Office were forged

- On the seventh day of the hearing of Antonio Carlos do Rosario, the Public Prosecutor's Office began the hearing by questioning what relationship the defendant has with Mabassa Hotel, a company that manages a hotel development in Tete City. In response, António Carlos do Rosário said that he has no direct relationship with Mabassa Hotel and added that it is a company owned by Txopela Investments.



When confronted with the improvements purchase and sale promissory contract (the fence and the outbuilding) located on Chingodzi land at the Tete City, where Mabassa Hotel is located, in the amount of 750,000 meticaís, he confirmed having transferred its ownership in November 2013, but could not remember whether or not he had received the money from the transaction.

Moreover, the Public Prosecutor's Office then asked, if the defendant transferred ownership of the improvements in November 2013, why in 2014 he continued to discuss with the architect Mahomed Fiki of the construction company Walid Construções Lda, matters related to the construction of the hotel. This information was taken from emails provided to the Prosecutor's by Walid Construções, but the indicted reiterated that he never received such correspondence. "Those documents were hammered (forged) I have no other expression to describe it."

About the rogatory letter issued by the Algerian authorities are two emails sent by António Carlos do Rosário to a lady named Kaisse Salé on February 24, 2015, addressing the receipt of the keys to the Mabassa Hotel. Again, the emails were delivered by Mr. Fiki of Walid Construções. "It is not true. At the date of the facts I was not dealing with hotel matters. In addition, from what the letter says, it means that Mr. Fiki is no longer in Mozambique. I mean, the person leaves the country and starts sending things. Let him come here and explain. This is a hammering (forgedness). These emails are false.

The Public Prosecutor questioned him if the businessman Fiki had any reason to falsify emails to harm him, to which António Carlos do Rosário answered in the following terms: "He always thought the hotel was mine and demanded missing money from me. However, I already told him that I did not own the hotel, I was an intermediary. Now I am starting to believe that because I did not act as he wanted me to, he had reasons to allege what he is alleging today.

The case files show that António Carlos do Rosário is the owner of a multi-functional building project in Belo Horizonte area (hotel, stores and conference center), Municipality of Boane. The defendant signed a contract with the contractor Walid Construções for the construction of that building in the amount of 1,550,000 dollars. For the payment of the first phase of the project, he used



1,175,000 dollars of the total of more than three million dollars transferred by the Privinvest group. "I am not the holder of the Boane property and the proof of that is in the files. I initially held the DUAT, but then I transferred it to Txopela Investments. It was this company that hired Walid Construções to construct the building."

To the question of how much he sold the Belo Horizonte improvements parcel, he said that he could not remember the price. "I have not received the money yet because they have not generated revenue. These developments are stopped; they have not been completed yet." Regarding those on the land located in Tete, he also said that he has not yet received the agreed amount: 750,000 meticaís. Asked why Txopela only bought his improvements, the defendant explained: "They were looking for spaces to invest and I had plots that coincided with their interests.

The Public Prosecutor's said that the company Txopela Investments received more than two million euros transferred by the Privinvest group in the interest of António Carlos do Rosário. Part of the amount was used to buy property in a condominium located in Zimpeto, near Joaquim Chissano University, registered

in the name of Indico Property, António Carlos do Rosário's company. However, the Prosecutor was not in time to ask questions related to this matter because the judge interrupted the session for a 45-minute break. After the break, at 4:00 p.m., he began to record in the minutes the answers of defendant Antonio Carlos do Rosário, an exercise that ended a little after 6:00 p.m.

And because the Thursday's session went until 1:40 a.m. Friday morning, António Carlos do Rosário had requested before the hearing began that yesterday's session not extend beyond eight hours. "Today I am in no condition to stay here until dawn. I did not get enough rest yesterday. My doctor recommended that I should rest a little early today. My position is different from all the procedural actors: staying here to be interrogated for 16 hours is not easy." Judge Efigénio Baptista agreed with the defendant and promised to close the hearing at 7pm. That is what happened: work was interrupted well before 7:00 p.m., and the hearing will resume on Monday, the 31st day of the "hidden debts" scandal trial and the 8th day of the hearing of the then National Director of Economic Intelligence of SISE.



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