



António Carlos do Rosário

DAY XXXVI OF THE "HIDDEN DEBTS" SCANDAL TRIAL

“Debts were used as a pretext for cutting support for the State Budget, but there were other political interests,” António Carlos do Rosário

On the 10th and last day of his hearing, António Carlos do Rosário argued yesterday that there is no cause and effect relationship between the “hidden debts” and the cut of direct support to the State Budget, since 2016. Responding to questions from his lawyer (Isálcio Mahanjane) on the last day of his hearing, the former SISE National Director of Economic Intelligence said that the “hidden debts” were used as a pretext for what was intended to be done since the year 2009,

after the proclamation and validation of the results of the general elections. “Certain actors wanted Mozambique to have another political configuration, and after the 2009 elections we began to see signs of blackmail and threats. Such signs were aimed at changing the constitutional framework to accommodate interests contrary to those of the Mozambican people and that reflected the geography of the regional vote, losing sight of the national result”.

The defendant explained that the State ma-

naged to resist these agendas, but the pressure continued. “After 2013, we started to see international pressure for the State to stop the Mozambique Exclusive Economic Zone Protection Project and hand it over to a private operator operating from a central coastal province. We resisted to it because we knew that we were close to the 2014 elections. Accepting that proposal was a recipe for the failure of the project and the unleashing of large-scale subversive actions”.

For the former SISE National Director of Economic Intelligence, the loans with State guarantees granted to the companies ProIndicus, EMATUM and MAM were not hidden. "The debts were not contracted in suspicious markets, they were not contracted at the back door. The debts were used as a pretext to put pressure on the Government. It is not possible for a debt to be hidden when at the moment the instrument of its creation is traded on the market, the news agencies, such

as Bloomberg and Reuters, are announcing it in real time. And that is what effectively happened." Do Rosário said it was strange that European banks do not give information of the moment when they lost track of the debt money, with them having all the conditions to do the tracking.

On the cutting of direct support to the State Budget, António Carlos do Rosário said that one could not talk about aid. "Budget support is not aid because it was not something di-

sinterested, the so-called donors imposed conditions. Aid is something disinterested. In addition, we will not develop as long as we continue to depend on aid. Those who help us think more of their interests than ours. Debts were a pretext to cut off our legs and make us eternal beggars. We decided that instead of continuing to receive six to 10 million euros in aid from the State Budget, we should control our marine resources ourselves and earn revenues of up to 190 million dollars per year".

The Public Prosecutor questions Bruno Langa and Ângela Leão again



Bruno Langa



Ângela Leão

After the hearing of António Carlos do Rosário, the Public Prosecutor asked the court to question two more defendants, namely Bruno Langa and Ângela Leão. The Public Prosecutor said that during the search and seizure, two pistols and a shotgun were seized from Bruno Langa residence.

In relation to the pistol, the Public Prosecutor questioned when and where it was acquired, to which the defendant replied that he bought it from Afro Caça, a shop located in Maputo City, and asked the Ministry of Interior for a license. Asked why he had not renewed his licence to carry and use the gun since 14 March 2018, Bruno Langa justified that he did not use the pistol. "It was not something important to me. It was kept in the safe. When they asked

me to open the safe, they found the gun".

Regarding the shotgun-type weapon, the defendant first denied that it was a shotgun. "It is an air rifle; a shotgun is 12-gauge. An Air rifle is used to hunt birds and does not require a licence. The defendant said he bought the gun in South Africa to hunt turtledoves. "When I arrived at the border I was informed that that type of weapon does not need a licence and everyone who has an air rifle does not have a licence," Bruno Langa said.

To the defendant Ângela Leão, the Public Prosecutor questioned the circumstances and reasons for the drafting of two subcontracts between M Moçambique Construções and the companies of the Privinvest group, in the light of which Fabião Mabunda's com-

pany received over 270 million meticais, used in the interests of Gregório and Ângela Leão. In response, Ângela Leão said she has nothing to do with matters related to Fabião Mabunda and the Privinvest group. "After listening to António Carlos do Rosário, it was clear that the people involved in the debt are not here to be questioned." Asked whose initiative it was to draw up the two subcontracts used to justify, in Mozambican banks, the receipt of amounts used in the interest of Gregório and Ângela Leão, she replied as follows: "That the money was used in the interest of the Gregório and Ângela Leão is the conclusion of the Public Prosecutor. I don't know whose initiative it was to draw up these subcontracts".

Joia Haquirene, SISE officer, was the first declarant to be heard by the court

At 1.45pm, the hearing of declarants began and the first (from a long list of nearly 70) to be heard was Joia Haquirene, 59, a SISE officer since 1978. He confirmed that he was the SISE representative in GIPS, appointed by the former General Director of the secret services, Gregório Leão. He did not contribute anything towards the 30% share subscription, nor did he have any earnings at GIPS, because he was at the company representing SISE. The social services of the Mozambican secret services held 70% of the company's capital, while SISE had 30%. GIPS was set up in December 2011, with the aim of developing economic activities to generate funds for the company.

Jóia Haquirene explained that in 2013 he ceased to be a partner in GIPS representing SISE on superior orders. "My colleagues told me that I should make the assignment of my share to GIPS because there were some partners or investors interested in partnering with the company, but they would not like to do so while existing a singular shareholder. I signed a document renouncing my shareholding in favour of GIPS." Initially, Joia Haquirene acted as GIPS executive director, but he said he did not follow

the day-to-day running of the company. "After the appointment of an executive director of the company, I became a non-executive director until my shareholding was waived".

The only relevant administrative act he remembers performing as GIPS executive director is signing company cheques, including some intended to pay for ProIndicus and EMATUM expenses. "The first time I was brought cheques to sign, I did not make copies. However, the second time I made copies of the cheques because I saw high amounts that made me scared: they were cheques for 10 and 20 million meticaís in favour of ProIndicus. The third and last time I was asked to sign cheques, I also made copies. And before signing I always consulted the General Director and he always gave me a positive answer". Jóia Haquirene said he signed cheques at the time when his colleague Raufo Ismal Irá, also GIPS executive director, was out of the country for health reasons.

The declarant said he had never heard of the Mozambique Exclusive Economic Zone Monitoring and Protection System, but confirmed signing the subscription of the share capital of

ProIndicus representing the shareholder GIPS. "I would find the documentation already done and they would say there are orders to sign. I did not worry about what the documents were for, I only signed documents as a GIPS director. I did this because I was convinced that it was in the interest of SISE and of the security of the country. This is how we work in SISE". He said that he does not remember anyone informing him of the steps towards the creation of other companies in which GIPS had a stake, namely EMATUM and MAM.

Asked whether in his capacity as a SISE officer and GIPS shareholder he had participated in the creation of companies called secret service operating vehicles, Haquirene Joia replied in the following terms: "Let me scratch my head. I always knew that vehicles were cars. I have only just started hearing in this trial that there are operative vehicles. Since I don't know what an operative vehicle is, I cannot have participated in its creation." Asked how to prove that the 30% share he held in GIPS was not his own but SISE's, Joia Haquirene said he had no way of proving it. "But I have people who can testify".



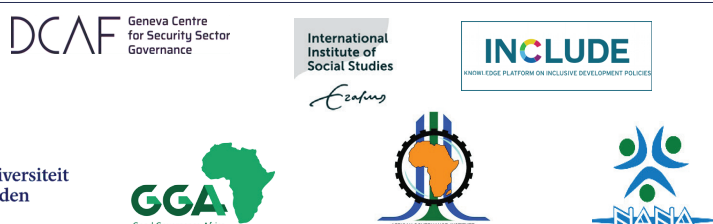
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