

XXIV DAY OF THE "HIDDEN DEBT" SCANDAL TRIAL

Gregório Leão Says There Were No Failures in The Project to Protect Mozambique's Exclusive Economic Zone

- On the fourth and last day of his hearing, the former General Director of the State Intelligence and Security Service (SISE) stated once again that he does not know why he has been detained for over two years and denied that the project of the Integrated System for Monitoring and Protection of Mozambique's Exclusive Economic Zone (SIMP) has failed. The protection of Mozambique's Exclusive Economic Zone against various threats identified by the Defense and Security Forces, such as illegal migration, piracy, terrorism and illegal fishing, was the main reason that led to the creation of the military and paramilitary companies, namely ProIndicus, EMATUM and MAM, and the mobilizing of the illegal loans with State guarantees amounting a total of two (2) billion dollars.



Answering to the defense questions, the defendant insisted stating that the loans given to the three (3) companies connected to the Defense and Security Forces were used for the intended purposes. "There was a project and at the various stages of its execution, the money was used for that project. Nothing went wrong and I do not know why I am in jail," he said. He added that all the equipment was handed over to the entities responsible for its use and referred to defendant António Carlos do Rosário for more details on the matter. Some equipment bought with the "hidden debts" money, namely the EMATUM tuna fishing boats and the ProIndicus surveillance and intersection boats are practically abandoned at the Maputo Fishing Port and the Pemba naval base.

Since the first day of his hearing on Monday, the former SISE General Director has always complained to be the only member of the Joint Command arrested in connection with the "hidden debts". "In the Joint Command and the Operative Command we have hierarchies. But I am here alone. Matters on the creation of the companies were closed, there was information compartmentalization. Thus, there was information leakage and the one who is answering here is me. The former Minister of National Defense, Filipe Nyusi, and the one of the Interior, Alberto Mondlane, should be answering too. They were also part of the Joint Command. The Joint Command is the body that deliberated on the implementation to protect the Mozambique's Exclusive Economic Zone Project and at the time of the facts it was headed by Filipe Nyusi, in his capacity as Minister of National Defense.

On Thursday, Judge Efigénio Baptista explained to the defendant Gregório Leão why he is the only member of the Joint Command on trial. "Those who have a relationship with Privinvest's money are here. Whoever has no relation to that company is not here. In the files, there are traces of accounts of the entire Guebuza family. In President Guebuza's accounts, there is not one transfer from the Privinvest, and in his wife's accounts, there is not one transfer from Privinvest. In the accounts of the daughter, unfortunately deceased, and the other son of him, I think is called Mussumbuluco, there are no transfers from Privinvest. Therefore, Ndambi Guebuza was not chosen to be here. There were transfers from Privinvest in



his interest and he confirmed to have received money."

Regarding the former Minister of National Defense, the judge said there is no evidence that he received the Privinvest money and asked anyone with contrary information to present it to the Attorney General's Office. "President Nyusi, ditto, has nothing in the case that shows that he has received Privinvest money. In Alberto Mondlane's account there is no evidence either. If anyone has proof that President Nyusi received money from Privinvest, they can go and hand it over to the Attorney General's Office. The other members of the Joint Command are not here because there are no evidences that they received money from Privinvest. This is the reason, according to the files."

Gregorio Leão reacted by saying that he also did not receive money from the Privinvest group in his accounts. However, the judge reminded him that his wife, the defendant Angela Leão, exchanged emails with Privinvest about money transfers to the M Moçambique Construções account, the defendant Fabião Mabunda's company. "In your account no money was found, but the Public Prosecutor, under the indictment terms, believes that the 387 million that Fabião Mabunda received through his company M

Moçambique Construções was in your interest. Before Mr Mabunda receives the money, there were indications that your wife, a defendant in these files, already knew that he would receive it. And your wife had no relation with Privinvest. You were the one with relationship with Privinvest. Therefore, according to the indictment, your wife was a front head. Your wife is here because she received bordereaux from Privinvest and instructed the defendant Fabião Mabunda how to spend the more than 387 million meticais received.

Despite Judge Efigénio Baptista state that the Attorney General's Office found no evidence of receipt of money in Filipe Nyusi's accounts, his name was quoted as having received one million dollars from Privinvest to support his 2014 presidential election campaign. "Nuy is the current President of Mozambique, Filipe Jacinto Nyusi. We paid him one million dollars as a contribution to his election campaign. I think it was in May 2014, by then we already knew how big the projects in Mozambique were. It was also the campaign of future President Filipe Nyusi, to which we contributed"¹, " said Jean Boustani, manager of the Privinvest group, during the trial in the United States of America in November 2019.

¹ <https://www.voaportugues.com/a/d%C3%ADvidas-ocultas-filipe-nyusi-recebeu-um-milh%C3%A3o-de-d%C3%B3lares-diz-jean-boustani/5174964.html>



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