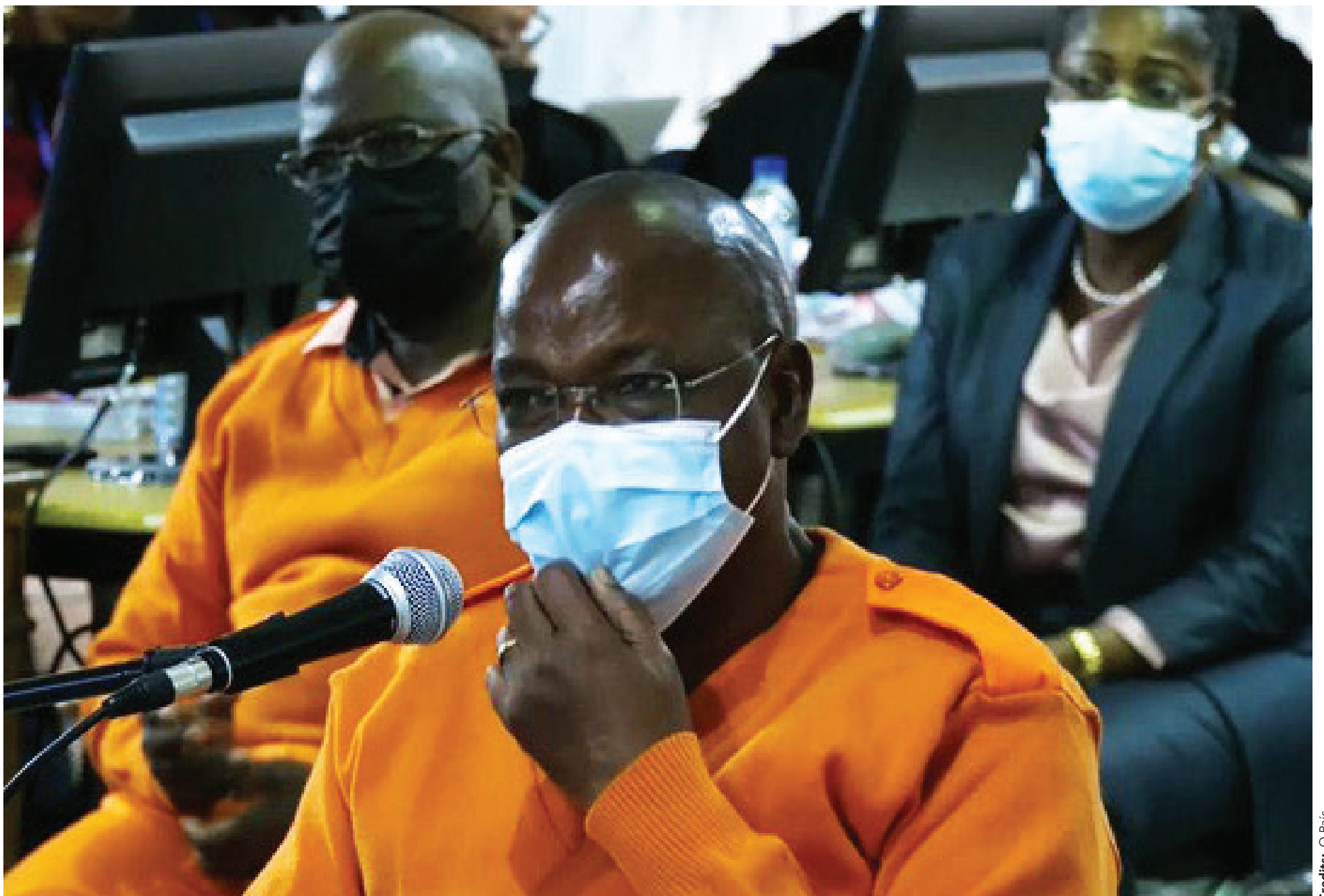


DAY XXIII OF THE "HIDDEN DEBTS" SCANDAL TRIAL

Gregório Leão questions the absence of other Joint Command members in the trial and the judge takes the opportunity to “clear” the name of Filipe Nyusi.

- Judge Efigénio Baptista explained yesterday that Armando Guebuza, former President of the Republic, and Filipe Nyusi, former Minister of National Defence, are not facing charges related to the “hidden debts” financial scandal because the Attorney General’s Office (PGR) found no evidence that they received money from Privinvest, the Abu Dhabi-based business group that helped negotiate a loan of USD 2.2 billion with state guarantees and supplied equipment to ProIndicus, EMATUM and MAM companies.

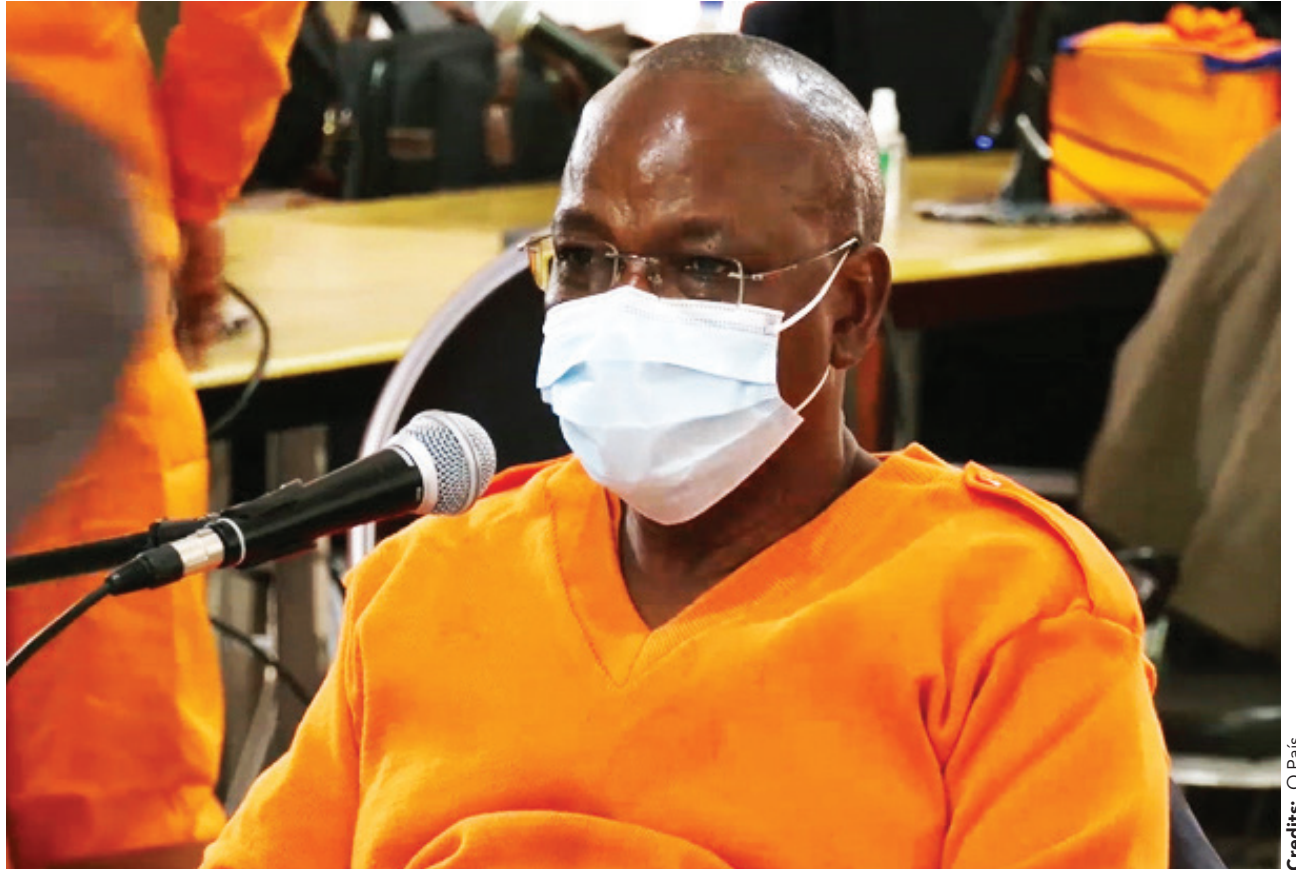


The judge was answering to the former General Director of the State Intelligence and Security Services (SISE), Gregório Leão, who has always complained that he is the only member of the Joint Command arrested in connection with the “hidden debts”. “In the Joint Command and the Operative Command we have hierarchies. However, I am here alone. Matters about the creation of the companies were closed, there was compartmentalisation of information. There was leakage of information and I am the one answering here. The former Minister of National Defense, Filipe Nyusi, and the former Minister of the Interior, Alberto Mondlane, should be answering. They were also part of the Joint Command,” Gregório Leão said.

Nevertheless, the judge answered saying that the issue in the trial is the money from the Prinvest group: “Those who have a relationship with Prinvest’s money are here. Whoever is not related to Prinvest money is not here. He added: “In the records there are traces of the entire Guebuza family bank accounts. In President Guebuza’s bank accounts there is not one transfer from Prinvest, in his wife’s bank accounts there is not one transfer from Prinvest. In his daughter’s bank account, unfortunately deceased, and the other President Guebuza’s son, I think it is Mussumbuluco, there are no transfers from Prinvest. Therefore, Ndambi Guebuza was not chosen to be here. There were transfers from Prinvest in his interest and he confirmed that he received money.”

Regarding the former Minister of National Defense, the judge said there is no evidence that he received money from the Prinvest group and asked anyone with contrary information to submit them to the Attorney General’s Office. “It is the same thing with President Nyusi. There is nothing in the proceedings indicating that he received money from Prinvest. In Alberto Mondlane’s account there is no evidence either. If anyone has proof that President Nyusi received money from Prinvest, 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 is no evidence that they received money from Prinvest. This is the reason, in the terms of the case record.”

Gregório Leão reacted by saying that he also did not receive money from the Prinvest group in his accounts. Nevertheless, the judge reminded him that his wife Angela Leão exchanged emails with Prinvest about money transfers to the account of M Moçambique Construções, the defendant Fabião Mabunda’s company. “No money



Gregório Leão

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was found in her account, but the prosecution, under the terms of the indictment, believes that the 387 million that Fabião Mabunda received through his company M Moçambique Construções was in her interest. Before Mr Mabunda received the money, there are indications that your wife,

a defendant in these proceedings, already knew that he would receive it. Moreover, your wife had no relation with Prinvest. You had a relationship with Prinvest. Therefore, according to the indictment, your wife was a front head. Your wife is here because she received bordereaux from Prinvest and instructed the defendant Fabião Mabunda how to spend the more than 387 million meticaís received.”

Although Judge Efigénio Baptista said the Attorney General’s Office found no evidence of receipt of money in Filipe Nyusi’s accounts, his name was mentioned as having received one million dollars from Prinvest to support his 2014 presidential election campaign. “Nyusi 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 the future President Filipe Nyusi, to which we contributed”¹, Jean Boustani, the Prinvest group manager, during the trial in the United States of America in November 2019.

In addition to the current President of the Republic there are other personalities who have been mentioned as having benefited from money from the Prinvest group who are not on trial. In relation to the Frelimo Party, there are bordereaux proving transfers of millions of dollars made by the Prinvest group. But so far, the Attorney General’s Office has not given the leadership of the ruling party notice to give clarification.

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

Former General Director of SISE says that MAM was sabotaged because some people did not want to hand over the shipyards

After some insistent questions from the Public Prosecutor's representative, Ana Sheila Marrengula, the Bar Association of Mozambique (OAM), assistant in the case, began questioning the defendant at 17h00. The former General Director chosen not to answer many questions posed by the OAM (in the voice of Flávio Mene-te, former President of the OAM), claiming that he had already answered on the first and second days of his hearing. On the trips to Germany and the expenses payment to people outside the institution, he again said that as General Director of SISE he had no obligation to know who was part of the missions, as he was only interested in the results. "I authorized the directors of the areas and it was up to them to select the members of the mission. Depending on the nature of the mission, SISE officers could travel using a different identity.

Asked if he had ever met with the Prinvest directors, namely Jean Boustani, Leão replied that it was António Carlos do Rosário who interacted with the group. During the hearing at the Attorney General's Office, the defendant said that the main objectives which led to the establishment of the companies ProIndicus, EMATUM and MAM had been achieved. OAM questioned what indicators he had to make such a conclusion, to which he responded by pointing to the acquisition of necessary means for the control and security of maritime space.

In the first days of his hearing, the defendant said that there was a MAM sabotage because some people did not want to hand over the shipyards, a situation that undermined the company operationalization. "In Pemba it was easy because the shipyard belonged to the Ministry of National Defense, but in Maputo it was not easy because it did not belong to the Defense and Security Forces. I had to intervene to unblock the situation. I had to meet with the Ministers of Transport and Communications and of Economy and Finance. We eventually succeeded, although it was late".

Asked whether he was aware of a study by the Fisheries Research Institute advising against commercial tuna fishing, the defendant replied in the negative. "I was not aware of it. I remember an interview given by the Minister of Fisheries, Victor



Judge Efigénio Baptista

"I as General Director had no time for issues related to the construction of the house. I attended to security issues inside and outside the country. And I was doing that every day. It was for that reason that I left everything in the responsibility of my wife so that I could concentrate on my work."

Borges, to the *Jornal Notícias* (one of the national magazines) in which he said that the annual revenue from tuna fishing would be around USD 200 million per year. The information I received from the interaction with the Minister of Fisheries is completely contrary to these studies that said they advised against commercial tuna fishing", he explained. In fact, Victor Borges, gave an interview to *Jornal Notícias* on 2 December, where he stated that exporting

tuna would contribute in USD 200 million to the balance of payments in the next few years, as well as allowing for greater collection of other revenues for the State.

To the question if he accompanied the construction works of his residence located in Jonasse, Gregório Leão said that he only participated in the laying of the first stone. "I as General Director had no time for issues related to the construction of the house. I attended to security issues inside and outside the country. And I was doing that every day. It was for that reason that I left everything in the responsibility of my wife so that I could concentrate on my work." To the questions related to the payments made to several companies for finishing services of the Leão's residence, the defendant remained silent.


On the detached properties on the Ponta D'Ouro beach bought by his wife, the defendant Ângela Leão, through funds transferred by the Prinvest group to M Moçambique Construções (Fabião Mabunda's company), Gregório Leão said that he never heard on these houses. He again stated that he had never interfered and did not interfere in his wife's business activity, that is why he refrained from answering questions about the houses. Asked whether he was a Leão Investment Group partner, established on 23 July 2014, based in Mpumalanga, South Africa, he said he did not know the company.



EDITORIAL INFORMATION

Property: CDD – Centro para Democracia e Desenvolvimento
Director: Prof. Adriano Nuvunga
Editor: Emídio Beula
Author: Emídio Beula
Team: Emídio Beula, Ilídio Nhantumbo, Isabel Macamo, Julião Matsinhe, and Ligia Nkavando.
Layout: CDD

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

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

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