

DAY XXV OF THE "HIDDEN DEBTS" SCANDAL TRIAL

## **“I want to talk about the hidden debts, please. We are going into the bush. The people want to know about the hidden debts”**

- António Carlos do Rosário went to court prepared to answer questions about the Exclusive Economic Zone protection project, creation of the ProIndius, EMATUM and MAM companies and contracting of the “hidden debts”. But the Public Prosecutor preferred to start the questioning with questions about the positions held by the defendant at SISE, the functions he performed, his business and commercial interests. António Carlos do Rosário was agitated by the insistence on this type of questions and he lose his temper: “I want to talk about the hidden debts, please. We are going into the bush. The people want to know about the hidden debts”.





● Judge Efigénio Baptista had to interrupt him to explain that all the questions the Public Prosecutor was asking were related to the hidden debts. However, António Carlos do Rosário was not convinced and said he already knew the strategy: "You like to drag matters out. I have been here for more than 10 minutes answering questions about companies that are not related to the hidden debts". The judge's patience reached its limit when the defendant said he knew the "little games" of the administration of justice. In addition to threatening the defendant with autonomous criminal proceedings, he asked that lawyer Alexandre Chivale to warn his client. After the usual interruption on Wednesday, the trial resumes tomorrow with the hearing of the same defendant.

● When the session resumed a little after 9pm, the defendant overreached himself and accused the court of being unfair. "You are not being fair. The Prosecution cannot ask questions based on the Kroll report without citing the contradictory we have presented. That is basic. You are not doing justice." The judge confused justice with law, lost his humility and boasted about his training: "You are not in a position to teach me Law. And not just anyone can teach me Law".



● The defendant tried to warn the judge that he was confusing law with justice. "Whether or not the judge was admitted with high marks it does not entitle you to be disrespectful to the defendant. You are wasting your time and you should be dealing with the hidden debt matters. You'd better announce the judgment straight away. I am talking about justice and you're talking about Law. I've been fighting for my rights for years. You are blatantly lying. That is the least you can do. I request you to announce the judgment", António Carlos do Rosário said. The judge ordered a record of all the statements made by the defendant António Carlos do Rosário to be drawn up and sent to the Public Prosecutor's Office for criminal proceedings to be initiated against the defendant.

After four days of questioning the former State Intelligence and Security Service (SISE) General Director, it was expected that the Tuesday's session would start with the hearing of António Carlos do Rosário, former SISE National Economic Intelligence Director and Chairman of ProIndicus, EMATUM and MAM. But Judge Efigénio Baptista had some questions for the defendant Gregório Leão related to the beginning of ProIndicus' operations.

Therefore, Antonio Carlos do Rosario, 46, entered the courtroom at 11.55am and as the press was capturing his images he took off his mask, clenched his right hand fist and began to wave. Responding to questions about his identity, the defendant insisted to be treated as a polygamist and not a single marital status.

As usual, Judge Baptista preferred the Public Prosecutor to question the defendant, António Carlos do Rosário. Ana Sheila Marrengula said that she had prepared more than 200 questions. The first was related to an identity that the defendant used, namely Manuel Jorge in an email. "It was an operational email from Economic Intelligence. I had over a thousand email addresses and I used each one according to the matter and the sender. I do not have operational passwords because I was not the email manager. And I can't even identify the person for security reasons".

When asked about when he joined SISE, the defendant replied that, formally speaking, it was in May 1999. But he had already been a collaborator for years. "In 2002 I had two promotions: I was promoted to the post of Head of Section for Southern Africa and SADC, at the Africa and Middle East Department at the Analysis Division. Six (6) months later I was promoted to the post of Head of the Africa and Middle East Department. In 2006 I was appointed National Director for International Affairs (threats/opportunities) at the Analysis Division. In 2015 I was appointed National Economic Intelligence Director. I was formally appointed because I had already been cumulatively exercising that role when we were setting up the National Economic Intelligence Directorate".

Invited to talk on his various positions duties he held in SISE, the indicted said that he could only do so in a generic way due to security issues. "Today I can say that I am burnt out here, but Mozambique must continue. We have been trained and formed to forget our work whenever it is to speak publicly." When he was acting as National Director for International Affairs in the Analysis Division he was advising the SISE General Directorate and was given the mission to set up an Economic Intelligence unit. "We had to select staff from various structures, create a nucleus



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The defendant explained that as National Director for International Affairs in the Analysis Division he reported to the Director of Analysis Division and as National Director of Economic Intelligence, he reported directly to the SISE General Director. He confirmed to have attended meetings of the Operational Command and Joint Command. To a question whether he had experience or training in the areas of shipbuilding and maintenance, fishing industry, civil aircraft and telecommunications, he replied in the negative. “I only have management experience, that is why I was PCA of the three companies.

If he had business interests in his individual capacity, he replied in the following terms: “While I was a SISE employee I managed SISE business or those the institution was interested in. I have stake in companies, but I do not manage them. And I don’t remember such companies as I have been in prison for a long time. I cannot talk about SISE’s companies, but if the Public Prosecutor mentions some names I can remember them”. Asked whether he knew Indico Property, he answered positively, stating that he owns the company. Regarding Informática Mania Lda, he said it was a SISE company in which he had stake. “It is an operative hedging company created to enable our operations.”

He has known Cipriano Mutota since he started taking part in SISE’s advisory

boards in 2002, but he denied having a business or commercial interest with him. He said he met Bruno Langa at the Língamo prison after hearing of his name during the legalization of his prison in February 2019. Regarding Armando Ndambi Guebuza, the defendant said the first time he saw him was in Língamo jail. "I have known Angela Leão since ISRI. She was a student of mine. When she married Gregório Leão I started going to her house because of the relationship I had with her husband. Gregório Leão was my classmate and later my boss at SISE". Asked whether he had or still has business relations with Angela Leão, he replied in the negative. "There was an attempt to do so, but it did not move forward".

Meanwhile, the defendant is reportedly a partner in Jociro Internacional Lda, along with defendants Cipriano Mutota and Ângela Leão. "Mutota and I wanted to create an operative vehicle and we needed someone who would go unnoticed and who would not hint that he has links with SISE. That is why we spoke to her. But it didn't move forward. It ended up at the BR (Report of the Republic) . When Gregório Leão became aware of it, he advised us not to go ahead".

The Public Prosecutor recalled that Jociro Internacional holds 15% shares in the company Indo Pacific Moçambique Lda, to which the defendant responded by stating that he did not have knowledge of the facts. "There is a resolution signed by the partners of Jociro Internacional, including yours truly, authorizing the subscription of 15% of the shares in Indo Pacific Moçambique Lda," the judge explained. The defendant said that the signature is similar to his own, but insisted that he did not know the company Indo Pacific Moçambique Lda. This company had the defendant Teófilo Nhangumele as its agent.

He said that he met the defendant Teófilo Nhangumele in the Língamo prison. But when he was heard at the Attorney General's Office on 30 January 2019, he said he met Teófilo Nhangumele at the Polana Hotel through Cipriano Mutota, after the creation of ProIndicus. At the time, Nhangumele was claiming payment for the work he did in setting up ProIndicus. He went on to say that he directed the defendant Cipriano Mutota to explain to Nhangumele that there was nothing to pay. Confronted with his statements, he confirmed his signature and explained that at the time he was in tension with the Attorney General's Office because he did not agree with much that was done at that time. "I don't know if I had that meeting. I don't know where my head was at because the facts are not real. I have been working with the Attorney General's Office on this matter since 2015 and I have been

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heard many times."

He said he does not know M Mozambique Construções, the company of the defendant Fabião Mabunda. Regarding Txopela Investments, he said he was the one who ordered the creation of the company. "It is an operating hedge company created with two objectives: The first one: to capture foreign private investment for Mozambique and, secondly, as Economic Intelligence, we use our own or third party companies to carry out the activities." He also said that this company was created in September 2013 and had SISE officials as shareholders. "Today I no longer remember the names of the other shareholders because I was more interested with operational issues. But I would also not give names for security reasons. I do not remember the registered office of Txopela or the governing bodies. I only know that one of the directors is Dr Alexandre Chivale".

The case does not include the name of António Carlos do Rosário as a shareholder of Txopela Investments. The defendant said that he never held a position in that company, but directed the former director Bilal Sidat to carry out certain operations. He said he passed on his shares in Txopela Investments, but could no longer remember to whom. One of the shareholders of Txopela Investments is a foreign company, namely IRS - Infrastructures, Resources and Services. The IRS registration certificate shows that the company was established in Lebanon on 12 February 2015. The Public Prosecutor questioned how the IRS company was a founding member of Txopela Investments if it did not legally



exist, to which he said that he had no explanation.

One of the IRS representatives had connections with the Privinvest and was even a director of one of the companies in the Privinvest group. He is alleged to have authorized the order for the transfer of 13 million dollars to pay for the activities of ProIndicus.

Asked whether his participation in the companies had been reported to the SISE General Director, as required by law, António Carlos do Rosário said that he was authorized to create Indico Property. Regar-

ding Jociro International and Informática Mania, he said that these were operational companies authorized by the SISE General Director.

He said he knew the lawyer named Imran Ahmad Adam Issa and was the one who created Txopela Investments, as an employee of SISE's Economic Intelligence. He has known Tayob da Silva Cadango since his childhood in Quelimane. When asked if Tayob da Silva held any position in Txopela Investments, he said he did not know. Regarding Nordine Aboobacar, the indicted said he was a friend since high school, but

he does not know if he held a position at Txopela Investments. He confirmed Gregório Leão's words that Txopela Investments was created under the project to protect Mozambique's Exclusive Economic Zone. "Sometimes it acted as an operating vehicle to serve the shareholders in their relationship with third parties, which include entities linked to the project to protect Mozambique's Exclusive Economic Zone." He confirmed that his lawyer Alexandre Chivale is an employee of SISE and that it is in that capacity that he performs the duties of director of Txopela Investments.



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