

The long hearing of António Carlos do Rosário, the last defendant who may make revelations about the “hidden debts”, begins today

- The Former National Director of Economic Intelligence in SISE (State Intelligence and Security Service) and Chairman of ProIndicus, EMATUM and MAM, António Carlos do Rosário is the 19th defendant to be heard by the court and closes the first phase of the trial: the defendants hearing. Due to his deep involvement in the project to protect the Exclusive Economic Zone, the creation of the three companies linked to the Defense and Security sector, feasibility studies, negotiation of supply and financing contracts, everything suggests that his hearing could last throughout the week. Similarly to what happened with the hearing of the former SISE General Director, Gregório Leão.



- Despite the fact that Judge Efigénio Baptista tried to “clean up” the image of the current President of the Republic by stating that he did not receive money from the Prinvest group, it is rumoured that António Carlos do Rosário was the person who provided Filipe Nyusi with the car that he used in the 2014 election campaign. There are also reports that António Carlos do Rosário bought cars and houses for Filipe Nyusi’s children. This information may or may not be confirmed during the hearing of the last defendant in the “hidden debts” case.

The “hidden debts” financial scandal trial enters its seventh week, today, with the hearing of the most awaited defendant in the case: António Carlos do Rosário, 47 years old. He has been a SISE officer since 1999, where he served as National Director for International Affairs in the Analysis Division, from 2006 to 2015 and National Director of Economic Intelligence, from 2016 to 2018.

It was in these capacities that António Carlos do Rosário played a key role in designing the exclusive economic zone protection project, in light of which three companies linked to the Defense and Security sector were created, namely ProIndicus, EMATUM and MAM. When he was arrested in 2019, he was PCA of the three companies.

Perhaps it is for these and other reasons that last week, the former SISE General Director referred to António Carlos do Rosário the entire explanation on the creating process of the three companies, its feasibility studies, the negotiations of the supply contracts with the Prinvest group and the financing contracts with the Credit Suisse and VTB banks, as well as the State guarantees issue requests.

During his hearing last week, Gregório Leão said several times that António Carlos do Rosário, as National Director of Economic Intelligence, represented SISE in all phases of design, development and implementation of the exclusive economic zone protection project. The former SISE General Director observed that António Carlos do Rosário would clarify in detail all the issues raised by the court, the Public Prosecutor, the assistant in the case (Mozambique Bar Association) and the defense.

Just last week, Gregório Leão questioned the fact that he was the only member of the Joint Command of the Defense and Security Forces arrested in connection with the “hidden debts”. The Joint Command is the body that deliberated on the implementation of the project to protect Mozambique’s Exclusive Economic Zone, and apart from the SISE General Director, it included the Minister of National Defense (Filipe Nyusi); the one of the Interior (Alberto Mondlane); the Chief of General Staff of the Armed Defense Forces



of Mozambique; the General Commander of PRM. “In the Joint Command and the Operational Command we have hierarchies. However, I am here alone. The issues on the creation of the companies were closed, there was compartmentalization of information. There was an information leakage and I am the one who is answering here. The former Minister of National Defense, Filipe Nyusi, and the former Minister of the Interior, Alberto Mondlane, should also be answering. They were also part of the Joint Command.

Nevertheless, the judge explained that

from the screening done to the bank accounts of the other members of the Joint Command no evidence of money transfer from the Prinvest group was found. “It is here who has relation with the Prinvest money. Whoever is not related to that is not here,” said Judge Efigénio Baptista.

However, Filipe Nyusi’s name is reported to have been quoted as having received USD 1 million from Prinvest 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 elec-

tion 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, the manager of the Privinvest group, during the trial in the United States of America in November 2019. There are also reports that it was António Carlos do Rosario who arranged for Filipe Nyusi to

receive the car he used in the 2014 election campaign. António Carlos do Rosário is also reported to have bought luxury vehicles and houses for the children of the President of the Republic, Filipe Nyusi.

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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<p>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</p>	<p>Address: Rua de Dar-Es-Salaam Nº 279, Bairro da Sommerschild, Cidade de Maputo. Telefone: +258 21 085 797</p>	<p>Twitter: CDD_moz E-mail: info@cddmoz.org Website: http://www.cddmoz.org</p>
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