

DAY XXXVIII OF THE "HIDDEN DEBTS" SCANDAL TRIAL

Henrique Gamito, Director of EMATUM, says that the feasibility study was out of touch with reality and the company was not prepared to implement the project

- He joined EMATUM by the hand of the then Minister of Finance, Manuel Chang, to whom he served as security advisor. On the same day that EMATUM was created, Henrique Gamito was appointed executive director for the financial area and signed the equipment supply contract with Abu Dhabi Mar, one of the companies of the Privinvest group. Apart from the salary to which he was entitled as Director of EMATUM, Gamito said that he did not receive any commission, was not bribed and was always convinced that he was serving the sovereignty of the State.



Henrique Gamito

Henrique Álvaro Gamito, 71, retired from the Ministry of Finance, was EMATUM Executive Director from August 2013 to July 2015, and became a non-executive director until January 2016. He was informed by the then Minister of Finance, Manuel Chang that he should join EMATUM's management, representing the Institute for the Management of State Holdings (IGEPE), and was appointed Executive Director on the same day the company was created. The declarant said that when Manuel Chang informed him that he was to join EMATUM's management, the company had not yet been created. "The then Minister of Finance informed me that it would be a company run by SISE and the main objective would be to raise revenue for the financing of the defence and security sector".

He confirmed signing the equipment supply contract with Abu Dhabi Mar (one of the companies in the Privinvest group) and the USD 850 million EMATUM financing contract with Credit Suisse. The declarant said he had access to the EMATUM feasibility study through the company's then Chairman of the Board of Directors, António Carlos do Rosário, but says he does not know who made it. By the time he received the feasibility study he had already signed the supply contract. "The supply contract was signed on 2 August 2013, the same day EMATUM was created and its corporate bodies were constituted"

Asked by the Public Prosecutor if he had time to analyse the supply contract before signing, Henrique Álvaro Gamito replied that the documents had already been drawn up and had the signature of the Chairman of the Board of Directors, in addition to the fact that they were in English, a language he does not master. "I went to EMATUM on the recommendation of the Minister of Finance and it was in good faith that I signed it. I was convinced that the supply contract had been sifted and scrutinised by other stakeholders before it reached my hands. I was not familiar with the boats and equipment in the contract. I had no capacity to make an assessment of that."

As Executive Director of EMATUM, he was tasked with obtaining authorisation from the Bank of Mozambique to contract the USD 850 million debt with the Credit Suisse bank. "The entire process of setting up, financing and contracting the company supplying equipment to EMATUM was handled by António Carlos do Rosário in his capacity as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company and senior SISE officer. This entire process was treated with secrecy because it involved State security".

Asked if as Executive Director of EMATUM he could mention any concrete aspects that show that the company was linked to securi-



ty, Henrique Gamito referred to the staff, the majority of whom were SISE officers. "Some of them I already knew before. My connection with the security area goes back to 1991. I was posted as head of Department Zero of the Ministry of Finance. My placement in EMATUM came from the fact that I had worked in the security area in the Ministry of Finance." To the question whether he was aware of a concrete activity of EMATUM related to defence and security, the declarant replied negatively.

Henrique Álvaro Gamito admits that, although he signed the EMATUM financing contract, he had no contact with Credit Suisse and the documents he signed received from António Carlos do Rosário's hands. "I signed the equipment supply contracts, but I did not participate in the respective procurement and negotiation process. It was reported in one of our meetings at EMATUM that, besides the equipment in the contract signed with Abu Dhabi Mar, other equipment of a military nature was included. This equipment was estimated at USD 500 million".

According to the declarant, EMATUM received three million dollars from abroad (from one of the companies in the Privinvest group) to pay the costs of setting up the company and logistics for the start of activities. "It was the Chairman of the Board of Directors, António Carlos do Rosário who informed the Board of Directors that EMATUM would receive three million dollars. That information is in the minutes of the meeting." Part of the amount was used to buy vehicles for some members of the board of directors. He added

that EMATUM received other money from Credit Suisse, which he could not specify, because it was found that there was a remainder of the amount related to the interest rate paid by the company.

The members of the EMATUM board of directors had a monthly remuneration of 180 thousand meticais net, including representation and fuel allowances. The salaries were paid through funds that EMATUM received from abroad, namely from the Privinvest group. The declarant said that all members of the board of directors received salaries, but he does not know if those who were simultaneously civil servants received other remunerations. Until July 2015, when he stopped being an executive director, the company had more than 190 employees.

Henrique Gamito's statement contradicts those of the defendant António Carlos do Rosário according to which in his capacity as PCA of the three companies (ProIndicus, EMATUM and MAM) he did not receive any remuneration. In addition to the revelation made by Henrique Álvaro Gamito that all members of the board of directors of EMATUM received a net salary of 180 thousand meticais, on Monday the also declarant Eugénio Matlaba revealed that the members of the board of directors of ProIndicus had monthly salaries ranging between 200 and 300 thousand meticais.

Henrique Álvaro Gamito confirmed that during the operation of EMATUM it was found that the feasibility study that had served as the basis for the establishment of the company was out of touch with reality, in addition

to the fact that no good preparation had been made for the implementation of the project. “The personnel involved in the fishery were trained too late, the price of tuna on the international market was lower than estimated in the feasibility study, the fishing equipment arrived late and with operational deficiencies that required them to be adapted. However, he noted that no major interventions were needed, considering that repairs were made within the country without the need to go to the manufacturer. “During their manufacturing there was inspection, but when they arrived in Maputo, it was detected the need to add some equipment, such as beds.”

The Public Prosecutor wanted to know what the EMATUM boats had that differentiated them from common fishing boats, to which the declarant replied in the following terms: “If they had different components than normal fishing boats, I can’t say for sure, but I knew that there was an interconnection between the companies. There was a complementarity between the EMATUM, ProIndicus, and MAM boats, I heard this from the PCA, António Carlos do Rosário, in the EMATUM

board sessions.

The declarant also said that the abundant tuna on the Mozambican coast is of inferior quality to the tuna in the feasibility study, in addition to the fact that the processing capacity at the time he was at EMATUM did not match the internationally required standards. Regarding the process of issuing state guarantees for the contracting of EMATUM’s debt, he said that he had no intervention or gratification. Henrique Álvaro Gamito said that he followed the problems related to the high costs of operating the boats and the shortage of bait for catching tuna in Mozambican waters, but he could not give details because it was not his area of action. “We had an administrator for the operations area who can give details. I’m talking on Ivone Lichucha, a fisheries officer.”

Asked if during his term in EMATUM as executive director the company had revenues, he said that he remembered that he witnessed the unloading of 10 and 14 tons of tuna at the Maputo Port. However, he did not specify the amount that merchandise generated. “Some of the tuna from the first haul was

offered to the internment centers and some was sold on the domestic market.”

Quoting the 2014 audit report made by Ernest & Young, the Public Prosecutor’s Office representative said that EMATUM had a loss of more than one billion meticaís, with a trend of exponential worsening in subsequent years. In addition, she questioned the declarant where the capital for the operation of the company would come from, since the report said that there were no revenues: “We had to make an effort to reduce operating costs and expenses with the insurance of the boats. From the moment that the company was going to operate at full capacity, with all the boats, it would be in a position to generate sufficient revenues.

Before being appointed to the EMATUM board, Henrique Gamito worked as an advisor to the former Finance Minister (Manuel Chang) in the area of security. The Prosecutor asked whether in that capacity he had received a file relating to the project for the protection of the Exclusive Economic Zone of Mozambique, to which the declarant replied in the negative.



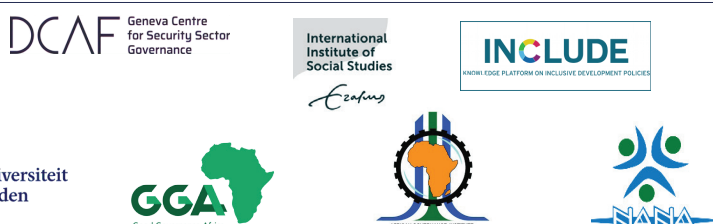
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