



Raúfo Ismael Irá

DAY XXXIX OF THE TRIAL OF THE "HIDDEN DEBTS" SCANDAL

Raúfo Irá says he heard about the creation of ProIndicus at the meeting held at the Ministry of National Defence on 21 December 2012

- The fifth declarant to be heard by the court, Raúfo Ismael Irá has been a senior intelligence officer since 1978. It was in this capacity that the declarant was appointed to be General Director of GIPS, a company belonging to the Social Services of the members of the State Information and Security Services (SISE). He later became a non-executive director of the company, when his SISE colleague Lucas Ponderane (also a declarant) was appointed to take over as executive director of GIPS



Raúfo Ismael Irá

Raúfo Ismael Irá explained that the company GIPS arose from the need to ensure sustainability for the Social Services of the SISE officers, since by the contribution of its members this would not be possible. "It was necessary to guarantee income for the sustainability of the company. And that is how GIPS was created in 2011." The declarant noted that, at the time, the Social Services did not have the money to pay up GIPS share capital, and the then SISE General Director, Gregório Leão, provided an amount equivalent to USD 10,000. In addition to generating revenue for the sustainability of the Social Services, GIPS also had to provide financial support to SISE itself.

On 21 December 2012, GIPS subscribed to 50% of ProIndicus share capital to participate in the implementation of the project for the monitoring and protection of the Economic and Exclusive Zone. It then signed the contracts for the financing and supply of goods and services to ProIndicus. Besides ProIndicus, EMATUM and MAM, GIPS has a stake in Sociedade Moçambicana de Explosivos (SOMEX), a company dedicated to the manufacture of pyrotechnic objects and ammunition, and in Maputo Shipyard and Pemba Shipyard. SOMEX is also owned by Monte Binga, a company under the Ministry of National Defence, and by Dalo Construções, under the Ministry of the Interior.

The declarant also referred to two service provision companies wholly owned by GIPS, one being a catering company - Esquina de Sabores, and the other focused on cleaning - Muline. "When I left GIPS in 2018, those were the companies owned by GIPS and that were

operating". The Public Prosecutor confronted the declarant with other companies participated by GIPS. Raúfo Ismael Irá acknowledged some companies and others did not. "For the creation of some companies, the executive director of GIPS coordinated directly with the General Director of SISE. Therefore, I am not aware of some companies".

Asked to whom Social Services of SISE members were accountable, the declarant replied that they reported to the respective general assembly and, simultaneously, to SISE General Director. "Social Services were supposed to receive a subsidy from the State Budget, but due to financial difficulties they never benefited on a regular basis". Asked whether the Social Services made a contribution to the State Budget, Raúfo Irá replied in the negative. "It is the Social Services of SISE members that need the support from the State, and not the other way around".

Bearing in mind that GIPS is a commercial company incorporated as a private company and that it subscribed social capital in other commercial companies also incorporated as private companies, such as ProIndicus, EMATUM and MAM, the Public Prosecutor questioned how it was guaranteed that the dividends that GIPS would receive from those companies would be channelled to the State. In response, Raúfo Ismael Irá said that nothing obliged GIPS to channel its dividends to the State. In fact, the declarant stated that there is no involvement of the State in GIPS that justifies the sharing of dividends.

The Public Prosecutor insisted on the question regarding the guarantee that the dividends of the three companies that received

money from the "hidden debts" would benefit the State, and the declarant replied that if ProIndicus, EMATUM and MAM had had revenues and profits, the dividends resulting from the participation of GIPS would end up in the Social Services, after the payment of loans. In the face of insistence, the declarant responded with a rhetorical question: "What would force GIPS to channel its dividends to the State?"

On the project to protect the Exclusive Economic Zone, Raúfo Ismael Irá said he heard about it for the first time on 21 December 2012, at the meeting held at the Ministry of National Defence. "I had no role in the design of the project". And it was on the same date that the declarant said he learned of the instruction for the establishment of ProIndicus.

However, it is written in the records that on 20 December 2012, Raúfo Ismael Irá and Joia Haquirene attended an extraordinary session of the general meeting of GIPS where they deliberated on the participation of this company in the share capital of ProIndicus. "There was a glitch in the date of the deliberation. The extraordinary session of the general meeting was held on 21 December and not on the 20. It was a mistake in the wording of the minutes in terms of the date" Asked if he could say which institution the defendant Teófilo Nhangumele was representing at the meeting on 21 December 2012 at the Ministry of National Defence, the declarant replied in the negative. To the question whether as the representative of GIPS in ProIndicus he may have done work to gauge to what extent the company's project was viable, the answer was no.

Declarant says he did not have time to analyse the supply contract and took comfort from the people who instructed him to sign

The declarant further said he did not review the supply contract entered into in February 2013 as he received the document at the time of signing. "Days before the contract was signed, I received an email from António Carlos do Rosário informing me how the ProIndicus project would be".

In addition to having requested the Portuguese version of the contract, the declarant said he sought to find out more from the António Carlos do Rosário and the General Director of SISE, but from that moment he was told it was following the meeting held at the Ministry of National Defence on 21 December 2012, even if he had some reservation he had no power to regress the process, but to fulfil the mission". I had the comfort of the people who instructed me to sign the contract". Raúfo Ismael Irá signed the contract to supply ProIndicus in his capacity as the company's Chairman of the Board of Director, even before the corporate bodies were constituted. "There was no resolution of the general meeting, but I was representing the will of the shareholders of ProIndicus".

The declarant said that from his reading of the ProIndicus supply contract, he understood that it was aimed at the acquisition of equipment for the protection of the Exclusive Economic Zone and, in addition to the security component, it had the commercial one. Confronted with Kroll data indicating that the ProIndicus supply contract had inflated prices, Raúfo Ismael Irá replied that he had no explanation on the matter, claiming that he did not participate in the negotiations of

the said contract.

On the Integrated Monitoring and Protection System (SIMP), the declarant said that he started hearing about the project in late 2013, when the publication of the respective decree in the Council of Ministers was being prepared. To the question whether he knew that SIMP provided for tuna catching and maintenance and repair of vessels, he replied in the negative. "I only know that the motivation for the establishment of MAM was to ensure the maintenance and repair of the equipment of ProIndicus and EMATUM. The measure was aimed at avoiding the exposure of the means, according to the explanation given by António Carlos do Rosário".

Asked on what basis the declarant and Mr Lucas Ponderane came to decision to subscribe to EMATUM share capital, he replied saying that they did everything following superior instructions. "We received instructions from António Carlos do Rosário and that instruction was confirmed by the SISE General Director. I heard about EMATUM days before the deed was signed. The shareholders of EMATUM did not meet before the incorporation of the company to discuss its terms." As was the case with ProIndicus, the declarant did not participate in the EMATUM feasibility study, nor did he undertake any work to ascertain whether the company was viable or not.

To the question whether in the context of EMATUM's creation he became aware that the company was linked to State Defence and Security, the declarant replied in the following terms: "I was told by António Carlos do Rosá-

rio that EMATUM pursued the same object as ProIndicus. He did not give many details". On whether he may have found some practical aspects that indicated that EMATUM was a company linked to State Defence and Security, the declarant said that he had no direct contact with the means. He also said that in his capacity as GIPS representative, one of EMATUM's shareholders, he had no contact with the company's supply and financing contracts. "I accompanied some difficulties faced by the company".

Asked to explain how the idea of GIPS subscribing to 98% of MAM's share capital came about, he replied as follows: "It was thus decided superiorly by António Carlos do Rosário in coordination with the SISE General Director". The declarant did not participate in the preparations for the creation of MAM and said that he heard about the company a few days before it was created. Similarly to what happened in the creation of EMATUM, MAM's shareholders did not meet prior to the establishment of the company to discuss and define its terms. Bearing in mind MAM's corporate purpose, the Public Prosecutor asked how one could be sure that the company was linked to State Defence and Security, to which the defendant explained that the assumption made was that it would ensure the maintenance of security vessels, specifically ProIndicus's and part of EMATUM's. On the participation of GIPS in MAM as majority shareholder, Raúfo Ismael Ira said that this was determined by António Carlos do Rosário, following superior orders.

MAM directors received 240 thousand meticaís/month paid with the money transferred by the Privinvest group

The declarant confirmed that MAM received one million dollars transferred by the Privinvest group in July 2014. "We had difficulties to record this amount in accounting terms because it was not clear, either in the supply contract or in the financing contract. I thought the amount was part of the USD 535 million MAM loan".

Months after MAM was established, the company's share capital had not been paid up and this created difficulties in setting up the company as well as starting with activities. "I reported this to the Chairman of the Board of

Directors António Carlos do Rosário and he instructed us to open an account in dollars to receive an amount that would be used to set up and run MAM. At this time I do not remember the documents we submitted to the bank to justify the receipt of the amount".

According to the declarant's explanation, the amount was used for the lease and adaptation of the building for MAM headquarters, purchase of furniture, purchase of computer equipment, purchase of two vehicles (one for work at the MAM headquarters and the other for the Pemba naval base), current expenses,

including the payment of salaries. "As MAM directors, my colleagues and I had the right to vehicles for personal use. But we gave it up to prioritise the setting up of the company. As director of MAM I received a net salary of about 240,000 meticaís. We started with lower salaries, a little over 100 thousand meticaís. As long as there was money, all MAM employees received salaries. I finished my mandate with some unpaid salaries because the company no longer had money".

MAM did not generate significant revenue. Two companies owned by MAM were for-

med, namely Maputo Shipyard and Pemba Shipyard. "Maputo Shipyard is fully functioning, is generating revenue and is employing about 70 employees. I do not know the current situation of Pemba Shipyard". He points out as the main difficulty faced by MAM the lack of availability of space next to the Port of Pemba for the construction of a shipyard from scratch, as provided for in the supply contract. "That was the major difficulty. If that had happened, right now MAM would be generating revenue. The space was not made available

and I was informed that adaptation work at the Pemba Naval Base and the rehabilitation and equipping of the Pemba Naval School was carried out".

Another problem was at the Maputo shipyard level. "Although in 2013 there was a joint order from the Ministers of Economy and Finance, Transport and Communications and the General Director of SISE determining the cession of operation of the shipyard to SISE which, in turn, should cede it to MAM for its operation, it was only made available

at the end of 2016. The idea was that the shipyard would be transferred to SISE before the arrival of MAM's resources in February 2015. As the shipyard was not available, the equipment was stored at the Port of Maputo." The shipyard was under state concession to SOMONAV. The delay in giving up the shipyard forced the extension of the contract with the Privinvest group for three months. This is the shipyard currently operated by Maputo Shipyard, a company that is making maintenance of State and private vessels.



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