

DAY LIX OF THE "HIDDEN DEBTS" SCANDAL TRIAL

Five positive Covid-19 cases force interruption of trial sessions until January 6th , 2022

- Judge Efigénio Baptista decided yesterday to interrupt the sessions of the "hidden debts" trial to allow the observance of the mandatory quarantine of 14 days due to the registration of positive cases from Covid-19 in the tent set up in the Maximum Security Penitentiary Establishment (B.O).



Judge Efigénio Baptista taking the Covid-19 test

There are altogether five (5) positive cases of Covid-19 diagnosed in two lawyers, a journalist, a television production assistant and a driver. Of the five cases, four were detected yesterday during the rapid tests to which all people participating in the trial sessions of Mozambique's biggest financial scandal were submitted.

The quarantine period ends on December 27, but the judge decided to set January 6 as the date for the resumption of the sessions of the hidden debt scandal trial. This is, in fact, a decision that satisfies the request of the trial's assistant, the Mozambique Bar Association (OAM), requesting a break during the festive season of Christmas and the end of the year.

OAM suggested to the Court that all the people present in the tent set up at the B.O. should undergo Covid-19 tests before the trial resumes on January 6. But Judge Efigénio Baptista dismissed the suggestion on the grounds that the Court should not spend time looking for Covid-19 infected people. In defending his position, the judge said that the solution to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus is to comply with prevention measures.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic in the B.O tent, the Court should update the schedule of declarant hearings. For example, for yesterday was scheduled the hearing of the declarant Nuno Mucavel, whose facts about which he would be questioned have links to the defendant Armando Ndambi Guebuza. The second declarant who was to be heard yesterday is



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Place where the judgment of the hidden debts case takes place

Filipe Januário, of the Fish Inspectorate.

The most expected hearings are of the lawyer Alexandre Chivale, the former Minister of Interior, Alberto Mondlane, the former Minister of Fisheries, Victor Borges, the current Minister of Economy and Finance, Adriano Maleiane, and the former President of the Republic, Armando Guebuza.

Based on the work already done, Judge Efigénio Baptista predicted that the trial sessions may last until the end of February, 2022,


at the maximum, since most of the hearings have already been held. The judge promised that after the hearing of the declarants he will again give the floor to the defendants, and the first should be António Carlos do Rosário, former Director of Economic Intelligence of SISE, followed by Gregório Leão, former Director of SISE, and the last will be Elias Moiane. Prior to this, the hearing of defendant Zulficar Ahmed will be repeated, at the request of his lawyer.



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