

LXVI DAY OF THE "HIDDEN DEBTS" SCANDAL TRIAL

## Confirmed another property purchased by Elias Moiane in the name of his mother Inês Moiane

● On Friday, the Court trying Mozambique's biggest financial scandal heard four declarants, most notably Tomás Mabjaia and Salomão Mabjaia. In 2017, Tomás Mabjaia and his partner Helder Sousa wanted to invest in catering services (restaurant and nightclub) in the grounds of the Clube Desportivo de Maputo in downtown Maputo City. As they both had no money, the only solution was to sell the Salomão Mabjaia's house, Tomás Mabjaia's uncle.





Declarant Gilberto Mabjaia



Declarant Naldo Manjate



Declarant Salomão Mabjaia



Declarant Tomas Mabjaia

The property located in Polana Cimento area, in Maputo City, was put at a price of 11,500,000 meticaís, having the real estate agent Aurélio Ndove, better known as Manito... (julgo o período incompleto) The defendant Elias Moiane, representing a third person not known by the sellers, appeared as the buyer of the house. To close the deal, the buyer (Elias Moiane) imposed that payment would be made by means of a transfer to a bank account domiciled at Standard Bank. As Tomás Mabjaia, only 33 years old, did not have a bank account at that bank, he asked a friend, Gilberto Mabjaia, to provide his bank account to receive part of that amount.

Gilberto Mabjaia, an economist by profession, told the Court that he told his friend that he would only give the account for this purpose if it were a legal transaction. However, Tomás Mabjaia guaranteed that it was a sale of a family property and that there was nothing illegal in the operation. The transaction took place. The defendant Elias Moiane transferred seven (7) million meticaís to Gilberto

Mabjaia's account. Moreover, the remaining 4.500.000 meticaís were paid in cash, at Matchedje restaurant.

After the operation, Tomás Mabjaia and his partner Helder Sousa went to the informal market to exchange the meticaís for dollars and then travelled to China, where they went to buy the materials they needed to equip their investments in restaurants and a nightclub in the grounds of Clube Desportivo de Maputo.

Both Gilberto Mabjaia and Salomão Mabjaia, as declarants, confirmed the facts recounted by Tomas Mabjaia. The declarant Salomão Mabjaia also stated that he learnt that Elias Moiane bought the property on behalf of a third person, namely his mother Maria Inês Moiane, who at the time of the facts was serving as Executive Secretary to Armando Guebuza.

Salomão Mabjaia, who lived in South Africa, said that he fully trusted his nephew, after judge Efigénio Baptista asked how it was possible to trust the declarant Tomás Mabjaia to be in front of a business of 11,500,000.00

meticaís and limit himself to sign documents relating to the sale of his property. "He has always been honest with me and I still trust him," the 63-year-old uncle repeated.

Apart from the Mabjaias, the Court also heard the declarant Naldo Manjate, brother of defendant Crimildo Manjate. The young man confirmed that his brother Crimildo Manjate used his account to receive 3.7 million meticaís from the sale of an unfinished house in Jonasse, in Boane district, Maputo province. When heard by the Court, the defendant Crimildo Manjate said he used his brother's account domiciled at Millennium BIM because he suspected that his was inactive, since he had not used it for a long time.

This version was confirmed by the declarant Naldo Manjate. However, as the unfinished house was bought by the defendant Angela Leão, the Public Prosecutor's Office believes that Crimildo Manjate knew of the (illicit) origin of the amount, so he used his brother's account as a strategy to avoid his involvement in the scheme.



**EDITORIAL INFORMATION**

**Property:** CDD – Centro para Democracia e Desenvolvimento  
**Director:** Prof. Adriano Nuvunga  
**Editor:** Emídio Beula  
**Author:** Emídio Beula  
**Team:** Emídio Beula, Julião Matsinhe, Dimas Sinoa, Américo Maluana  
**Layout:** CDD

**Address:**  
 Rua de Dar-Es-Salaam Nº 279, Bairro da Sommerschild, Cidade de Maputo.  
 Telefone: +258 21 085 797

**Twitter:** @CDD\_moz  
**E-mail:** info@cddmoz.org  
**Website:** http://www.cddmoz.org

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