



66TH DAY OF THE "HIDDEN DEBTS" SCANDAL TRIAL

Did Gregorio Leão's former (Eugénia Mapandzene) and current (Ângela Leão) wives pay houses for each other or was it simply coincidence?

- She was married to the defendant Gregório Leão, former General Director of the State Intelligence and Security Service (SISE), between 1995 and 2000. She was listed as a declarant because she bought a house that was paid for by the defendant Fabião Mabunda, described in the case as a means to receive money from Privinvest which was for Angela and Gregório Leão. Declarant Eugénia Mapandzene told Prosecutor Ana Sheila Marrengula that she preferred not to answer a controversial question and the Public Prosecutor let it go, an unusual reaction in her relationship with defendants and declarants

The story begins in 2015, when Eugénia Mapandzene wanted to buy a USD 490,000 flat in the Elite Apartments building in the prime area of Maputo City. In the negotiation, it was agreed that the declarant should pay for the property in meticaís, at the fixed exchange rate of 37 meticaís per dollar.

With 250,000 dollars to pay the first instalment, Eugénia Mapandzene contacted the defendant Khessaujee Pulchand, at the time an employee of Africâmbios Exchange House, to facilitate the purchase of national currency. After doing his market research, Khessaujee Pulchand discovered that there was a company (Hydraform) interested in the transaction and that they were willing to pay 38 meticaís for each dollar, one metical above the exchange rate at the time

Eugénia Mapandzene agreed to the transaction, but made it a condition that Hydraform first transferred the 9,250,000 meticaís to Smark Imobiliária, which was the first payment for the property. After receiving confirmation of the transfer of the amount to Smark Imobiliária, Eugénia Mapandzene transferred 250 thousand dollars to Hydraform, as agreed with Khessaujee Pulchand

However, when she was heard at the Attorney General's Office (PGR) in 2019, the declarant learned that it was M Moçambique Construções, Fabião Mabunda's company, which had transferred the amount of 9,250,000 meticaís relating to the payment for her flat.

The declarant said that before being heard at the Attorney General's Office she did not know Fabião Mabunda, his company, as well as the company to which she made the transfer, Hydraform. "My concern was to have the money paid for the purposes I intended and that happened. At no time did I contact the-

se companies", Mapandzene replied to the question about how it why she sent 250 thousand dollars to a company different from the one that had paid the equivalent in meticaís (9.250.000 meticaís).

At the insistence of Prosecutor Ana Sheila Marrengula, the declarant said she had a rough idea of what had happened, but would not share it with the court. "I am not going to comment on this matter," she said firmly. In fact, all indications are that the declarant had no connection with the companies concerned. Eugénia Mapandzene shared with the Attorney General's Office all the documents relating to the correspondences she exchanged during the operation to buy national currency to pay for the property, including contacts she had with defendant Khessaujee Pulchand.

Curiously, the transfer of 250 thousand dollars made by Eugénia Mapandzene to Hydraform corresponds to a portion of the amount paid by defendant Angela Leão to the same company - Hydraform, for the purchase of a property valued at 1, 600, 000 meticaís. What happened is that the money presumed to be from the defendant Ângela Leão was transferred by Fabião Mabunda for the purchase of a property in favour of the Eugénia Mapandzene and the latter's money paid part of the value of a property belonging to Ângela Leão.

Contrary to all reports of a probable friendship between Eugénia Mapandzene and Angela Leão before the latter married Gregório Leão, the declarant explained that she only met the defendant after she married her former husband.

For his part, Carlos Malate, form Hydraform, the second declarant heard by the court yesterday, confirmed that, at the time of the facts, he did not know Angela Leão nor Eugénia Ma-

pandzene. However, through intermediaries and the real estate deal contract, he learned that Angela Leão was the purchaser of the property he was selling.

Malate fumbled in court for three reasons: Firstly, the evidence of the property sale deal was over the 1,700,000 meticaís that he was supposed to receive, according to calculations made at Attorney General's Office. Secondly, he told the court that he had only received one bank transfer in the property deal, but he received another from the Fabião Mabunda, in the amount of 28,000 dollars, two days after receiving the 250,000 dollars from the Eugénia Mapandzene. Thirdly and lastly, he could not explain what he used the money received in cash for; he only said his company every so often makes payments to informal suppliers for construction materials and seasonal workers, in addition to repayments to the bank as a result of debt servicing.

Also on day 66 of the trial, the court heard declarant Eduardo Magaia, who confirmed that he lived in the Elite Apartments building belonging to Smark's Turkish investors, the same building where declarant Eugénia Mapandzene bought a property. Eduardo Magaia said he met Eugénia Mapandzene around 2017 when they were both working at the Zambezi Valley Development Agency. He was the declarant who took the least time in court, less than 10 minutes.


Eduardo Magaia, an economist by profession, is one of the declarants whose testimony the public believes the judge could dispense with, and instead call personalities widely quoted during the trial and who had a direct involvement in the "hidden debts" scandal, such as the former Minister of National Defence, Filipe Nyusi



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