

64TH DAY OF THE "HIDDEN DEBT" SCANDAL TRIAL

## MOZAGO received more than 37 million meticaais for the work done in the residential complex of the defendant Ângela Leão

- The court that is judging the biggest financial scandal in the history of Mozambique is facing difficulties in locating some declarants who are linked to facts that are attributed to the defendant Ângela Leão. These are representatives of companies that provided some services in the different construction works belonging to Ângela Leão, wife of the also defendant Gregório Leão, former General Director of the State Intelligence and Security Service (SISE).



Miguel Alberty, manager of the company MOZAGO

The hearing of declarants who have a connection with Ângela Leão began last week, precisely at the time of the resumption of the trial sessions, after the interruption that occurred in mid-December. Due to difficulties in locating some declarants, the court had to make some changes to the calendar, but kept the hearing of former President of the Republic Armando Guebuza for 17 February, by the way, the last day for the hearing of declarants.

After Guebuza's hearing, the phase of submission of the closing arguments by the Public Prosecutor and the defence follows. Judge Efigénio Baptista warned yesterday that the trial will not be interrupted to give procedural actors time to prepare their closing arguments. "During the interruption we had due to COVID-19, you had a lot of time to prepare oral submissions. And, due to the absence of some declarants, on the 7 and 8 February there will be no sessions. So these days can also be used by procedural actors to prepare their closing arguments".

Yesterday, the court heard Miguel António Guimarães Alberty, the only declarant who appeared in court. A manager by profession, Miguel Alberty is a manager at MOZAGO, a company created in 2012 and dedicated to

civil construction, especially in offices and bank branches. He said that he the defendant Fabião Mabunda and Ângela Leão in 2014 in the context of civil construction work MOZAGO provided in the residential complex of the Leões, located at Jonasse neighbourhood, administrative post of Matola Rio, district of Boane, province of Maputo.

M Moçambique Construções, the company of Fabião Mabunda, paid a total 20,365,000 meticaís to MOZAGO, an amount related to finishing works, namely tiles, roofing, painting, wall barring, doors, windows, etc. MOZAGO also received directly from the Ângela Leão an amount of 15,198,000 meticaís to provide the same finishing services on Jonasse work.

Miguel Alberty said that he never knew why M Moçambique Construções had to pay bills for a work belonging to someone else, in this case Ângela Leão. "In an informal conversation, I was told that M construction works on the Jonasse residential complex. Since M Moçambique Construções was replaced before doing all the work for which it had already been paid, then it had to return the remaining money, paying the invoices from MOZAGO".

For the execution of the work in the Jonasse residential complex, the MOZAGO and Ânge-

la Leão did not sign any contract. "We presented a map of quantities and the price of the work to be performed". In total, MOZAGO received from M Moçambique Construções and from the Ângela Leão a total of 37,500,000 meticaís. The Public Prosecutor believes that the money used by M Moçambique Construções to pay for Ângela's expenses is part of the bribes paid by the Privinvest group in favour of the former Director General of SISE.

While work was still being carried out at Jonasse, MOZAGO was informed that it had to abandon the work, without any justification. "We were caught by surprise. We had about 40 workers on site. We had material that we had purchased specifically for that work, so we asked for our money back. We settled accounts, but we didn't come to an agreement. The amount was around five or six million meticaís, but they only paid us 1,300,000 meticaís".


MOZAGO took the material that consisted of lamps, artificial grass and bathtubs. "The material was ordered in South Africa and Portugal and would only be applicable in that work. A year later, Teixeira Duarte, the company that replaced us on the work, contacted us to buy the material. They sold for it for about four million meticaís."



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