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REVIMO hides information about salaries of board members and toll revenues from Maputo Ring Road

Two months ago, the Center for Democracy and Development (CDD) asked REVIMO - Rede Viária de Moçambique, S.A, based on Law No. 34/2014, of December 31 (Right to Information Law) and its Regulation, approved through Decree No. 35/2015, of December 31, the following information, in what does not constitute classified matter or State secret:

(a) Salary information clarifying the monthly amount earned by each member of the REVIMO Board of Directors, including the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

b) Detailed information about the revenue REVIMO collected through the collection of toll fees at the Costa do Sol, Zintava, Cumbeza and Matola Gare toll plazas on the Maputo Ring Road in February and March 2022.

c) Information about the destination being given to the revenue REVIMO collected from the collection of toll fees on the Maputo Circular Road.

However, since then, REVIMO never deigned to respond to the request made by the CDD. REVIMO claims that it is carrying out an activity in the public interest and in the inte-

rest of citizens in general who use the Maputo ring road, but it shows serious difficulties in providing the information indicated above, in order to demonstrate that it is in fact working and managing citizens' money with due transparency, in the maintenance and improvement of roads.

In a State where there is notorious and recurrent corruption and mismanagement of public goods in the various service sectors which are essential for the quality of life that citizens aspire to, one would expect REVIMO to be more transparent with regard to this

controversial and contested issue of tolls, accounting to the people, even on its own initiative, about the revenue collected from tolls.

In fact, REVIMO does not even provide information on the number of vehicles which actually pay tolls each month, taking into account the various categories of road transport and the corresponding toll rates.

The non-availability of the above information is further evidence of how obscure REVIMO's activity is. Strictly speaking, the exercise of the fundamental right to information is a precondition for the constitutional principle of permanent democratic participation of citizens in public life. As a matter of fact,

in the terms of article 8 of the Right to Information Law, "the permanent participation of the citizen in public life presupposes access to information of public interest, in order to formulate and manifest their opinion on the management of public goods and thus influence the decision making processes of the entities that exercise public power".

REVIMO, by ignoring to respond to the CDD's request, violates the right to information, in terms of consulting, receiving and disseminating information of public interest, as provided in Article 13 of the Right to Information Act, unless the information requested falls within the restrictions and limits on the exercise of the right to information explicitly

identified in the Right to Information Act. But this is not the case, because if it were, REVIMO should deny making information available on this basis, demonstrating such limitations under the applicable law.

Therefore, REVIMO's conduct in denying relevant information about the management of citizens' money calls into question the principles of transparency, democratic participation, legality, pursuit of public interest, collaboration of the Administration with the public, participation of the public, decision and reasoning. In other words, REVIMO is acting as if it were in a state of anarchy, to the detriment of the Democratic Rule of Law that characterizes Mozambique.



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