



**SOVEREIGN ORDER OF SAINT JOHN OF JERUSALEM  
KNIGHTS OF MALTA  
FEDERATION OF THE AUTONOMOUS PRIORIES**

*Magisterial House*

**MAGISTERIAL DECREE 03 / 2020**

**To all Dames and Knights, Brethren of  
Our Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem  
Knights of Malta  
Federation of Autonomous Priories,  
let it be known by the present letters that**

**We, José, by the Grace of God Hereditary Regent and Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Order of Cyprus, Hereditary Grand Prior and Procurator General of the Grand Priory of the Most Holy Trinity of Villedieu and, by the Will of Our fellow Knights, Prince Grand Master and Head of State of the Federation of Autonomous Priories of the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, also said of the Knights Hospitallers or of Malta, hereinafter designated as “ Federation or as KMFAP “, in virtue of the powers bestowed upon Us, namely the by the Articles n° 1 and n° 2 of Chapter III and of the Chapter VII of Our Constitutional Letter,**

**considering the high purposes and scope of the Federation enshrined in the Articles 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of the Chapter III of Our Constitutional Letter;**

**Chapter III - PURPOSES AND SCOPE OF THE FEDERATION**

Article 1<sup>st</sup>. - The purposes of the Federation, in conformity with the intentions of the founding fathers of the old Order, are, under the patronage of Saint John of Jerusalem, to preserve the Order as a brotherhood composed of those who desire to contribute to its existence by applying in their private, social and public life, nationally and internationally, the principles of Charity, Tolerance and Service to the Mankind, caring and assisting the people who are ill and in need, with the full intention of helping themselves mutually and of helping and assisting the others, in order to achieve a better and more perfect life, both morally and materially.

Article 2<sup>nd</sup>. - The Federation, presently based only on philanthropic principles, is open to all persons of good will who wish and request to become a part of a Sovereign Order, that is supra-national and multi-confessional, without any discrimination whatsoever, and without distinction of social classes or races.

**Considering also the Rights and Obligations of all Knights and Dames of the Federation, enshrined in the Articles 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of the Section IV of the Chapter XXIV of our Constitutional Letter, which clearly states that all Knights and Dames have the Obligation to respect, comply and enforce the legislation of their home countries and of the countries where they live or work, as well as the legislation of this Federation and its Constitutional Letter, but they have also the obligation of defending at all times the Federation, its interests, its good name and reputation;**

Chapter XXIV – ON THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF ALL THE KNIGHTS AND DAMES OF THE FEDERATION

IV - ON THE OBLIGATIONS OF OUR KNIGHTS AND DAMES

Article 1<sup>st</sup>. - All Knights and Dames have the obligation to respect, comply and enforce the legislation of their home countries and of the countries where they live or work, the legislation of the Federation, including the present Constitutional Letter, and also the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights of the United Nations.

Article 3<sup>rd</sup>. - The Oath and pledge of loyalty to the Federation and to its Constitutional Letter, made at the moment of the Ceremony of Investiture, gives to every Knight and Dame the obligation of defending at all times the Federation, its interests, its good name and reputation.

**Considering the several different complaints and allegations that arrived to this Magisterial House about an alleged criminal conduct of Our Knight and Secretary of State for African Affairs Amb. Sir REINALDO VIRIATO DE SOUSA, We have decided to open immediately, with the support of Our Intelligence Unit a vast investigation to the acts and actions of the said Knight, coordinated personally by the Grand Master and Head of State of this Federation;**

**Considering that during the said investigation We have received signed testimonies, reports and documental evidences from identified Knights, from identified persons who are not Knights or Dames and also from companies, hotels, institutions and even from a Court of Law, all from different countries, namely Benin, Congo, Cameroon, Central African Republic, France and United States of America, we have arrived to the following conclusion about the actions and deeds of Amb. Sir REINALDO VIRIATO DE SOUSA:**

**A- In recent times Amb. Sir Reinaldo Viriato de Sousa received for his own personal benefice monies, support, transportation, food and lodge from several persons and institutions, either by promising to them Knighthood and Diplomatic appointments in the Diplomatic Corps of Our State, which he had no authority to give or to promise, or by promising financial support of Our Sovereign Order to projects and businesses, which he clearly was not authorized to give, to promise or to engage in.**

**B- We have proof that Amb. Sir Reinaldo Viriato de Sousa fled - without paying his bills - from hotels where he had registered as Secretary of State and Diplomat of Our State, and for that reason enjoyed credit.**

**C- Amb. Sir Reinaldo Viriato de Sousa engaged, not only in his personal name, but also in the name of the Government of Our State, in a written promise of buying an expensive vehicle, which he used for a period of time with no intention of paying for it, and did this by forging, signing and stamping a KMFAP document, which he had no authority or capacity to issue nor to sign, and used to give credibility to the document a copy of rubber stamp and a dry seal of the Federation's Government, that he had no permission to use or to have in his possession, and by doing this he**



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incurred in a crime of forgery of documents and of counterfeiting seals and stamps of the Government of this Federation.

The car was never paid to its owner as promised, fact for which he was convicted by a Court of Law of the country where these crime was perpetrated.

D- Amb. Sir Reinaldo Viriato de Sousa altered, without any previous authorization from his superiors, which would never be granted, a document issued by this Federation, using for that the same rubber stamp above-mentioned that he had counterfeited and was not allowed to use nor to have in his possession.

Amb. Sir Reinaldo Viriato de Sousa used that altered document as a Certificate of recognition granted by KMFAP of an Consular appointment made by a third country, this was made to hide a swindle of several thousands of Euros perpetrated against a man who he made believe that had been appointed for a Consular position by a certain African Government. That appointment, as expected, was false and never took place, and KMFAP had nothing to do at all with that matter.

E- Using the credibility and prestige of being not only a Knight of Our Sovereign Order, but also a State Secretary of the Government of Our State, Amb. Sir Reinaldo Viriato de Sousa obtained loans and other financial benefits for himself, which were never paid to those who, in good faith and due to the good reputation and prestige of the Federation, believed in him and trusted his words.

F- During Our investigation We have been informed of several other deceptive and dishonest actions perpetrated in different countries by Amb. Sir Reinaldo Viriato de Sousa and that he had also falsified signatures and documents in a certain international institution from which he was recently expelled.

Besides the aforementioned reports We have also received the documents that substantiate the reported facts.

G- Furthermore We have confirmed that all the members of the Leadership of Our Sovereign Order and of the Government of Our State, in their good faith, trusted Amb. Sir Reinaldo Viriato de Sousa and had confidence on him, and that all of the above-mentioned actions have been done by him without their knowledge or their consent, misleading everybody and abusing of his position and of the confidence placed on him in good faith, by all the parts involved and also by the Leadership of the KMFAP, which is also a victim of his less scrupulous actions.

**Considering that by his wrongdoing, and by his criminal actions and deeds Amb. Sir Reinaldo Viriato de Sousa has broken not only the Laws of several countries, but also of this Federation, as well as he broke his Constitutional obligations as a Knight of St, John, and that he has seriously harmed other Knights, many persons and institutions at international level and has gravely offended and harmed the good name and reputation of Our Sovereign Order and State;**

**Considering the Constitutional powers of The Grand Master, enshrined in the Paragraphs 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of the Chapter VII, as well as the Article 5<sup>th</sup> of the Chapter XV of Our Constitutional Letter;**

Chapter VII - POWERS OF THE GRAND MASTER

Article 1<sup>st</sup>. - The supreme representative and governing head of the Federation is the Grand Master, upon who rests the full legal and international representation of the Federation and of its Government.

Article 3<sup>rd</sup>. - In all matters concerning the Federation the decisions of the Grand Master are final, irrefutable and irrevocable.

Chapter XV - THE MAGISTERIAL COURT OF PEACE OF THE FEDERATION

Article 5<sup>th</sup>. - The disciplinary sanctions, depending on the gravity of the fault or infraction, which the Grand Master or the Magisterial Court of Peace may adopt are as follows:

- a) Admonition
- b) Reduction of Grade
- c) Suspension of Functions
- d) Obliteration or Expulsion.

**After having had all the above stated facts in consideration and having consulted Our Prime Minister and Lieutenant General, as well as other members of Our Government on this matter, in accordance with the terms of Our Constitutional Letter**

**We come to decree and We do decree:**

**ARTICLE 1. By the present Decree We suspend Amb. Sir Reinaldo Viriato de Sousa of all the positions, appointments and assignments that he had in the Government of the State of the Federation, loosing like this the titles of Ambassador and of State Secretary for African Affairs, as well as all rights and privileges inherent to the said positions, including the use of his Diplomatic Passport, which from this moment on becomes VOID and NULL.**

**ARTICLE 2. By the present Decree Sir Reinaldo Viriato de Sousa is dishonorably downgraded to the rank of Knight.**

**ARTICLE 3. By the present Decree the Knight Reinaldo Viriato de Sousa is EXPELLED FOR DISHONERABLE AND CRIMINAL CONDUCT AND ACTS from the Federation of Autonomous Pories of the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights of Malta, loosing all rights, titles and privileges inherent to Knighthood.**



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**ARTICLE 4.** Mister Reinaldo Viriato de Sousa, a citizen of the Republic of Angola, has 48 ( Forty Eight ) hours from the last hour of the day of issuance of the present Decree to handle over to our Embassy to Luanda, city of his usual residence, or to send by DHL or any other registered international courier his Diplomatic Passport, and decorations of the Order, as well as the rubber stamp and the dry seal that illegally and illegitimately he used in the documents aforementioned and eventually in other of which existence We so far ignore.

After this period, if the mentioned items are not returned to Our hands, the Government of the Federation will take the appropriate measures.

**ARTICLE 5.** The present Magisterial Decree is effective from this day on and shall be made public not only for the safeguard of future victims, but also to clean and clear the good name and the reputation of our Sovereign Order and State and as a proof of Our severity every time that its fundamental and strict principles of honesty and transparency and the laws are broken.

This decree, was given in Five pages, at Our Magisterial House in Zejtun, Città Beland, Malta this 11th day of the month of March of the year of our Lord 2020 and to it We have hereunto set Our hand and the seals in use at this House .



**His Most Eminent Highness José, PRINCE**  
GRAND MASTER and HEAD OF STATE