



# Time is Now!

## Royal Netherlands Embassy Luanda, Angola

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### **Economy, Commerce and Investments**

#### **Angola welcomes foreign investment**

A high-level mission from Angola visited Portugal to entice potential investors with new business opportunities arising from the newfound stability in the south-western African nation, one of the fastest-growing economies in the world today. But, they warned, foreign investors should forget about merely transferring profits abroad without leaving any benefits behind.

Deputy Prime Minister Aguiñaldo Jaime, who headed the one-week mission to Portugal in February, said foreign capital is welcome, but only if it includes technology transfer and other aspects that help to boost development in one of the world's poorest countries.

Economic analysts in Portugal consider Jaime to be one of the Angolan officials most open to Portuguese capital. However, the deputy prime Minister complained several times over the past week about companies which "perhaps do not believe in Angola" and that transfer neither technology nor decision-making responsibility.

Jaime told some 200 Portuguese businesspeople filling a conference room in the Lisbon Trade Association (ACL) that this approach would no longer be tolerated, and that in "this new phase, we must be clear about our partnership, while keeping our hearts open."

Although partnerships with local companies are no longer obligatory under Angolan law, during the conference on "the internationalisation of the Angolan economy: challenges and opportunities" in the ACL, Jaime said that joint ventures between foreign companies and local businesses are the "best route" for foreign investment, in order to contribute to improving living conditions, rather than merely "earning a quick profit and repatriating capital."

Businessman Manuel de Paula Calçada, who was born in 1962 in Angola, which was a Portuguese colony until 1975, told IPS that in 2006 he visited his land of birth because of "the big investment opportunities in different areas, and the greatly expanded facilities," especially "for those of us who are seeking to form partnerships with Angolans."

Calçada acknowledged that a foreign company interested in

doing business in Angola "must clearly take into account the fact that the infrastructure reflects four decades of war," which means there are "great difficulties in basic services like electricity and water, essential for carrying out any business endeavour."

And although, as Jaime said, it is no longer mandatory by law to form partnerships with local businesspeople, "it is recommendable," said Calçada, because it makes registration and other paperwork "much more simple."

Angola, which has a territory of 1.25 million sq km and a population of 16 million, "is a country of vast opportunities, where practically everything has to be rebuilt and raised from the ashes of the war, and that translates into enormous economic growth, which last year exceeded 27 percent," said Calçada.

In response to persistent questions by potential foreign investors on investment conditions in Angola, which was racked by 41 years of war (the 1961-1974 war of independence and the 1975-2002 civil war), Jaime gave his assurances that "Angola's future will be one of political stability."

Now that peace has been achieved, and a fully functioning parliament is operating, Angola has "a radiant future ahead, for the economy and for the country," led by President dos Santos, who he described as "a worker for peace and reconciliation."

The official also pointed to positive developments on the macroeconomic level, such as the recent exchange rate stability, balanced public accounts, a drop in interest rates, and a stable inflation rate of around 10 percent.

On several occasions during his visit to Portugal, Jaime sought to ease investors' worries about China's growing presence in Angola. China "should not be a source of concern" for investors from Portugal or other countries, because in Angola "there is a huge flood of opportunities and no one should be afraid of the competition," he said.

Asked by university professor Miguel Bezeza in the ACL conference about Angola's excessive dependence on oil, Jaime said he was pleased with the rate of growth of non-oil related economic activities.

He mentioned the case of the recently created Angolan Development Bank, which administers a fund for social projects financed by five percent of the country's oil earnings.

"Oil is not an infinite source of wealth, one day it will run out. Besides, prices won't always stay at the current high levels," he said.

Angola is presently the largest supplier of crude oil to China and the seventh largest supplier to the United States. About 1.5 million barrels of oil are produced daily, a figure that is expected to rise to two million this year. Driven by oil production, it is Africa's fastest growing economy and one of the fastest growing in the world.

With respect to Portuguese Prime Minister José Sócrates' repeated calls for Portuguese-speaking countries with strong economies like Brazil, or fast-growing ones like Angola, to invest in Portugal, Jaime told the "Jornal de Negócios" newspaper in Lisbon this week that the challenge had been taken up by Luanda, pointing out that the Angolan state-owned oil company had invested in the southern European country.

"Sonangol's entry into Portugal is a response to Sócrates' challenge," said the Angolan official, who also mentioned Angola Telecom as "a good potential partner that is in a position to go international."

Indeed, Portuguese drivers can now fill up their tanks at Sonangol gas stations along highways and freeways throughout the country, as well as at the stations run by the Portuguese state-owned oil company GALP, Britain's BP, the Anglo-Dutch Shell, France's Total, Spain's Repsol, Italy's Agip, or the U.S.-based Esso.

Source: Inter Press Service

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### **Alcatel-Lucent picks up GSM contract in Angola**

Alcatel-Lucent has been selected by Unitel in Angola to expand and enhance its wireless network with GSM/EDGE radio equipment. This contract, which is valued at approximately € 20 million (US\$29 million), is the result of a network evolution program designed by Unitel to further improve its network quality and extend national radio coverage in the country. Deployments will start from February to July 2008.

Under the agreement, Alcatel-Lucent will supply its field ATCA-based Base Station Controllers (BSC) evolution. Additionally, Alcatel-Lucent will supply its Twin TRX radio transceiver, which doubles base station capacity to support the requirements of urban environments and enables wider coverage in rural environments.

"This agreement further confirms Alcatel-Lucent's strong relationship with Unitel as a strategic supplier for cutting-edge technology in Angola and highlights the confidence both our companies have maintained since the establishment of the network," said Frederic Rose, President for Alcatel-Lucent's activities in Europe, Africa and Asia. "The operator's increased GSM capacity will give a larger number of people in remote communities access to vital mobile communications services. This new project reaffirms our commitment to bridging the digital divide in emerging countries, while meeting Unitel's needs for a reliable and cost-effective radio transmission solution".

Unitel is the country's largest operator, with 67% of the market according to figures from the *Mobile World* database. The operator ended last September with some 2.8 million customers, in a market with a population penetration level of just over a third.

Source: Cellular News

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### **Canadian entrepreneurs discuss about investing in Angola**

Angolan ambassador to Canada, Miguel Nzau Puna presented to Canadian entrepreneurs, the business opportunities existing in the Angolan market. The presentation ceremony occurred during a conference on business opportunities in the African continent, held in Calgary city, promoted by the Canadian Council on Africa (CCAfrica). Ambassador Nzau Puna pointed out the benefits offered by the Angolan market, based on a new legislation that protects foreign investment.

The CCAfrica was founded in May 2002 with the purpose to represent the interests of Canadian investors, and has partnership with authorities of that country on matters associated with business, investment and development in Africa. The Council is made up of 150 companies linked to the sectors of construction, education, energy, engineering, economy, mining, consultation and transport.

In Africa, CCAfrica has representations in Algeria, Ghana, Madagascar, Congo, Mali, Rwanda, Tanzania and Nigeria. To implement its projects, CCAfrica benefits from the assistance of Canada's Export Development Corporation (EDC) that provides funds to Canadian investors willing to invest in Africa.

Source: Angop

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### **Atlas Copco establishes customer centre in Angola**

Atlas Copco has established a new, fully-owned customer centre in Angola, to strengthen its offering to customers in one of the world's fastest-growing markets. The new customer centre, Atlas Copco Angola, Lda, started officially on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. It offers a full range of Atlas Copco equipment, as well as aftermarket products and services, for rapidly growing customer segments such as construction, mining, oil and gas as well as manufacturing. The headquarters are in the capital, Luanda.

"By establishing this new customer centre we are strengthening our commitment to existing and future customers, who will enjoy the benefits of shorter delivery times and better service," says Ronnie Leten, Business Area President, Atlas Copco Compressor Technique. "Considering the rapid pace of Angola's economic growth, this is an important market for us to be directly present in."

Atlas Copco has been represented in Angola through distributors for almost 50 years. It is the local market leader in compressed air and construction and mining equipment. The new customer centre operates as a part of the Compressor Technique business area.

Source: Oil Online

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### Prime Minister learns about Maersk's investments



Angolan prime minister, Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos received the CEO of the Danish shipping giant "Maersk", Nils Andersen, with whom he discussed matters relating to the group's investments in Angola.

Speaking to the press at the end of the meeting, Nils Andersen said he informed the Angolan premier about the work being carried out by his company at the terminal of Luanda's Port, with the benefits to arise soon.

Source: Angop

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### Angola plans for oil funding

Alberto Fernandes da Silva, an executive of the reserve bank of Angola, is working on a project to set up a sovereign fund similar to those that already exist in the Gulf countries. Part of Angola's oil revenue would thus be reinvested in companies and other projects. Lacking the expertise to set up the fund itself, the bank has asked Quantum Global Wealth Management to make contact with Western financiers who would be able to set up such a project. Quantum Global is chaired by Thomas Ladner; until last year the firm was run by Jean-Claude Bastos de Morais and Marcel Kruse. Bastos de Morais had close ties with a businessman with in-depth knowledge of Angolan oil circles, Dutch financier Nick Busink.

The reserve bank's project for a sovereign fund is still in its infancy but Africa Energy Intelligence has learnt that Quantum Global has already made contact with a number of British financial institutions.

Source: Africa Energy Intelligence.

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He specified that the investment underway in the Port of Luanda, without revealing monetary values, is being used in the rehabilitation of the harbour's terminal, as well as in the installing of cranes and other related equipment. According to Nils Andersen, his firm is preparing to start exploring oil in Angola, expecting to begin drilling in the coming months, whose investment volume lies around hundreds of dollars.

Available data shows that the port has grown in the past years, passing from 2,738 square metres of mooring wharfs to an area of 1.000,414 square metres, fulfilling therefore the need to build new infrastructures to meet the demand of goods.

In existence for about 100 years, Maersk Group is the major ship-owner worldwide and one of the leaders in terms of transporting cargo containers. At the moment, the Danish group is represented in over 130 countries, and also in Angola, where its first vessels started mooring in 1967 and its first agency was set up in 1997.

### **Government attracts investors in iron ore exploration**



Angola plans to attract investment to iron ore exploration in order to reduce the country's dependence on oil and diamonds, said Deputy

Source: Macauhub.com

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Geology and Mines Minister Mankenda Ambrose at a mining conference held in Cape Town. He said that iron ore was one of the resources that the government would soon open up to private investment.

The attraction of iron ore has increased steadily as its price on the world market has risen, mainly due to Chinese demand. Angola is rich in mining resources and it is estimated that 35 of the 45 most important minerals in world commerce are found there. In terms of iron, annual production was around 6 million metric tons before the country's independence.

### **Government launches tender to build and revamp 12 airfields across Angola**

Angolan, Spanish, and Swiss companies have presented proposals for the construction and refurbishment of 12 airfields in Angola, stated Angola's national airport management company ENANA.

Companies like Teletrinf, H3ptilca/Ana, Sul Avec, Africon-Bks, Consulgal-Angola, Norvia/Promode, Lumanco, and Sigma-Space put forward proposals to build and revamp airfields in Benguela, Cabinda, Catumbela, Dundo, Huambo, Cuito, Lubango, Luena, Malanje, Mbanza-Congo, Menongue and Namibe.

ENANA executive projects chairman Luis Coelho said ENANA would choose contractors that have the technical ability to do the job, regardless of whether they have representation in Angola or not. The funds involved in the projects were not disclosed.

Source: Macauhub online

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### **German dockyard executives suspected of Angola kickbacks**

Executives at Germany's main warship-building company are being investigated over claims that they offered kickbacks in Angola for an order, the weekly magazine Der Spiegel reported. No ship order was actually placed, but a corruption inquiry was under way against ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) staff involved in the tender, Spiegel said, adding that TKMS offices had been searched by police in Hamburg and Essen on last December 19<sup>th</sup>.

TKMS had tendered to supply a corvette and three coastal patrol boats worth 750 million euros (1.1 billion dollars) to Angola under a deal that had been initiated by the Angolan military with a letter of intent on February 22, 2006. Spiegel said the executives were suspected of offering military officers or politicians a payoff funded from its earnings if the German company obtained the order. Since 1998, Germany has banned attempts to corrupt foreign officials.

Spiegel said TKMS had confirmed there was an inquiry under way, but said an internal review, backed by outside advisers, suggested the claims would not stand up.

Source: Earthtimes.org.

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### Europeans to re-evaluate TAAG security situation



The European Commission expert team started reassessment of the security measure aimed at solving the security problems by TAAG, which since July/2007 had been listed in the EU blacklist.

Delegations of Angolan Air Carrier (TAAG) and of the European Union Civil Aviation Committee met in February in Luanda at a closed-door conference to analyse the correctional plan being implemented by the company in order to overcome the irregularities that banned TAAG from flying over European Union countries. The Angolan representation had been led by the chairperson of

TAAG Managing Council, Nelson de Jesus Martins, while the European Union was headed by the Italian Roberto Salvani.

The meeting, that took place at one of the halls of TAAG Maintenance and Engineering Department, analysed the correctional plan that hindered it from flying over European Union air space, such as updating of flight charters, instruction and maintenance manuals, safety and quality systems, IOSA auditing, among other matters of bilateral interest.

The withdrawal of TAAG from the EU blacklist depends on the outcome report to be produced by the expert team at the end of the assessments. Agnela Barros, TAAG Head of Communication and Image, said to LUSA that in their vision "every thing" had been done to remove TAAG from the EU blacklist. "All the insufficiencies and debilities were solved. Besides, more has been done than was required", she added.

Source: Angop & Angonoticias

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### Sonangol a factor for Portugal's economic development

The Portuguese Foreign minister, Luís Amado, said in Luanda that the investment of the Angolan State-owned oil company (Sonangol) in his country's businesses constitutes an important factor for the development of Portugal's economy.

Speaking to the press at the end of an audience with the Planning Minister, Ana Dias Lourenço, the Portuguese official said Sonangol's participation in the capitals of his country's firms will help reinforce the vitality of the companies and the economy. "We have seen with great satisfaction the application of Sonangol's investments in Portuguese companies, and we think that foreign investments in Portugal are important, especially the Angolan ones," he said.

On the other hand, Luís Amado stated that the Planning Minister, Ana Dias Lourenço, leads a very important area for the development of Angola and trade relations as well as investments from both countries, in view of the current dynamics of the economic intervention in Southern Africa. He said he was happy because he was also briefed on how the process of economic integration of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), one of the continents' most developed regions, is evolving.

Source: Angop

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### Bana Maziezie invests USD 1.5 Million in Coffee Industry

Angolan company, Bana Maziezie is investing USD 1.5 million in Uíge Province to launch its coffee production business in 2008. The company will be purchasing mills, roasting machines and coffee packaging. A machine will be set up for de-husking coffee beans in the Negage municipality, where the beans will be used to make instant coffee and non-alcoholic drinks for Spain. Bana Maziezie plans to set up branches in all municipal areas of the province in order to buy and export the coffee produced by local coffee growers. The project will create approximately 100 jobs in its initial stage.

Source: ANIP

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### **Hotels increments rates to over USD 200**

The daily rates at the main hotels in Luanda have been increased to over USD 200 per night. The 4-star Trópico hotel offers a single room for USD 330, a double for USD 380, an executive suite for USD 800, and a top rate of USD 2,750 for its presidential suite. Another well-known 4-star hotel, Hotel Alvalade, has set rooms rates at USD 295 for a single, USD 360 for a double, and USD 545 for a suite.

Source: ANIP

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### **Business forum gathers more than 180 companies**

Representatives from more than 180 companies and entrepreneur associations from both Angola and Germany took part in a business forum on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February.

German entrepreneurs of all different activity sectors have recognized that Angola is today an interesting and desired country for investments, given the economic growth and the undergoing political and economical reforms.

They also asked the Deputy Prime Minister about the best way to enter the market. Among other concerns, German entrepreneurs mentioned the bureaucracy in issuing working visa and in the approval of investment proposals, as well as traffic circulation in Luanda. In this domain, they pointed out that the difficulty driving in the city has negative effects on company productivity and make contacts with clients in working time very difficult to accomplish.

In response to that, Aginaldo Jaime explained the government's strategy for industrialization and sustainable development. He talked about the investment in basic infra-structures, presented plans to solve the traffic circulation in Luanda and referred to the creation of specific conditions that enable the private sector to invest outside the mineral sector.

The forum will be from now institutional and shall take place once a year alternately in Angola and Germany.

Germany is Europe's largest economy and the world's third, after USA and Japan, regarding GDP. The country is a world leader in a number of exports, and has a domain of almost 35% over merchandise transportation by sea concentrate in Ruhr, the biggest industrial complex in Europe. Frankfurt is its financial capital where the stock exchange is located, the biggest and most important stock exchange in Europe.

Trade exchange between Angola and Germany has intensified during the last years mainly due to the improvement in relations between both countries. In 2006 bilateral trade registered 260 million euros, double that of 2005.

## Oil, Mining and Energy

### **VWS Westgarth awarded oil development contract by Total E&P Angola**

VWS Westgarth, part of Veolia Water Solutions and Technologies has been awarded a contract by Total E&P Angola in excess of US\$ 25 million for their Pazflor oil development in Block 17, deep offshore Angola.

The contract is for the supply of a Sulphate Reduction Process (SRP) package of capacity 302,000 BPD. The specialist process uses a membrane-based system that removes sulphates and other divalent ions from the sea water to prevent the formation of barium sulphate and strontium sulphate scale forming in the sub-sea injection piping system and in the reservoir itself.

The plant will be engineered in VWS Westgarth's UK offices in Gloucester and in East Kilbride, where the company's numbers have grown to more than 125 oil and gas industry dedicated staff.

In recognition of both the obligation to promote Angolan content and in the operational need to support our existing and future Angolan installations from a local base, VWS Westgarth are proud to announce the opening of our Angolan Business Unit, based in Luanda. The office is scheduled to be ready for business by March 2008.

Veolia Water Solutions and Technologies is the technical subsidiary of Veolia Water and have 120 subsidiaries in more than 55 countries.

Source: Offshore-technology

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### **Total E&P announces crude oil spill at block 17**

Oil Company Total E&P Angola informs, in a press note delivered to ANGOP about a crude oil spill occurred at Block 17, without casualties.

The incident occurred offshore during an unloading operation from Dália FPSO to an oil tanker. "There are neither victims from this occurrence nor production interruption", reads the note from Total. The operator, who regrets the incident, guarantees that efforts are being carried out, in collaboration with local authorities, in order to reduce its negative impact on the environment.

However, to solve the problem, a technical team was set up to analyse the causes of the incident and follow up the operations.

Source: Angop

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### **Angola oil exports to fall to 1.79 mln bpd in April**

Angola is set to export 1.79 million barrels per day of crude in April, down by 20,000 bpd from the previous month, trade sources said. Export volumes, on a preliminary basis, for Plutonio, Mondo and Dalia are likely to fall in April. There will be no export cargo available for Xicomba, traders said. Exports for Cabinda and Kuito are likely to increase. Angola exports nearly all of its oil production, consuming only around 62,000 bpd domestically. As a result, output can be pegged at around 1.85 million bpd for April.

Source: Reuters

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### Endiama to produce 10 million carats of diamond



Endiama increments its production to ten million carats

Angola's State-owned National Company of Diamonds (Endiama E.P.) expects to increase its annual production from 9 million to 10 million carats of diamond this year.

ANGOP learnt this in Johannesburg, South Africa, from the head of delegation of Endiama's technicians, Domingos Tiago Dias, who attended the 13th Conference On Mining Investment In Africa, held in Cape Town between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of February.

According to Domingos Tiago Dias, the country's diamonds production last year reached 9.7 million carats, estimated at USD 1.3 million.

In 2007, the most productive province, in terms of volume, was Lunda Sul, due to the creation of the Catoca Project, which represents more than 60 percent of the country's diamond production.

Endiama attended the Cape Town Conference with a delegation of technicians, who promoted main activities developed by the diamond-production sector, aiming at attracting new investors. Angola's Diamonds Trading Society (Sodiam), was set up in 1999 and is tasked with selling all rough diamonds produced in Angola.

Source: ANGOP

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## Banking and Insurance Sectors

### BES aims to add 500,000 clients by 2010

Portugal's Banco Espirito Santo SA aims to add 500,000 new clients in total by 2010, said an official source at the bank. The source added that BES also aims to boost customer loyalty, so that about a quarter of its client base would have assets of some € 2,500 at the bank.

Press reports said the new customers would take BES's client base to about 2 million clients. Separately, the source said that BES plans to open a brokerage and investment bank in Angola this year, to add to its banking operations there.

Late in February Angolan Deputy Prime Minister Aguinaldo Jaime said that the country aims to have its stock market in place before the end of this year.

Source: Thomson Financial

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### Standard bank to begin operations in Angola

The South African Standard Bank plans to begin operating in the Angolan market once the Angolan Government approves the submitted plans. The bank is currently seeking Angolan investors to set up a partnership, in which the bank will hold a 51 percent share. The bank will focus its initial strategy on corporate investment banking, before moving into the retail segment. The Standard Bank will enter the market with an initial capital of USD 25.5 million which has the potential to rise to USD 50 million within two years, with the participation of Angolan partners.

Source: ANIP

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### **BPC to open new branches in Bié province**

Banco de Poupança e Crédito (BPC) will be opening five new branches in the Bié Province. Three of the new branches will be built in the city of Kuito, while the other two will be built in the municipalities of Chinguar and Kamacupa. However, of the three existing Bié branches, two are in Kuito and one is in Andulo.

Source: ANIP

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### **BNA sells bonds estimated over USD 134 million**

Banco Nacional de Angola (BNA) sold over USD 134 million of Central Bank bonds (TBC) at an auction. The amount of total bonds placed on the market by BNA was approximately USD 241 million. The bonds' annual rates of return vary from 12.8% to 14.99%.

Source: ANIP

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## **Logistics and Infrastructures**

### **Dutch Tahal wins Angola water project**



Tahal will build a water supply network distribution system to seven neighbourhoods in a 3,530 km area south of the capital, Luanda. The company will design distribution system and install 400 kilometers of PVC pipes and 140 fountains. Construction will take 18 months.

Tahal President and CEO Gustavo Kronenberg said, "We've spotted the huge potential in Angola. In 2008, we'll focus on promoting large-scale water infrastructure projects in regions where we already operate, and we'll also seek attractive opportunities in new regions, in line with the company's strategy."

The Dutch Tahal Group BV has signed a contract to build a €34 million water supply infrastructure project in Angola. The agreement was signed with Angola's national water company, Empresa Pública de Água (EPAL). The Angolan government will finance the project.

Tahal is already carrying out water infrastructure projects worth hundreds of millions of dollars in Europe, Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

Source: Globes online

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### **Mota Engil wins 96 mln US tender to build pier at Cabinda port in Angola**

Mota Engil SGPS unit Mota Engil Engenharia e Construcao has been selected as the preferred bidder in a 96 million USD public tender to build a pier in Angola's Cabinda port. In a statement, Mota Engil said construction work on Angola's third-largest port is expected to take 487 days. It added that its order book in Angola will increase to about €400 million after this project is awarded.

Source: Thomson Financial

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### **Sonangol to install information technology system in Andulo**

The National Fuel Society of Angola (SONANGOL) will, in the coming days, install an information technology system linked to the Internet network in Andulo district, 130 kilometres to the north of Kuito city, central Bié province.

Sonangol's director of Communication and Image, Osvaldo da Conceição, said that the system, dubbed "Prom-Com", aims at promoting information technology as well as contributing to the training of youths. He also said that the system shall be supported by apparatus of receiving and distributing the signals, to be connected to 10 high-tech computers, with a view to facilitating various subjects. Osvaldo da Conceição said that at the moment his company is working on the training of technicians who will equip the apparatus, install the computers, as well as guarantee technical assistance.

He added that after Andulo, the system shall also be installed in Kuito district, so as to enable the population to have contact with the country and the rest of the world. According to the source, the system is already functioning in the provinces of Luanda, Huila, Namibe and Benguela.

After it starts functioning, the information technology system will be connected to the Angola-Telecom fixed-telephone wireless system, apart from the mobile telephone systems of Unitel and Movitel, therefore being an added advantage for the local population.

Source: Angop

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### **Government invests US\$ 8 million in infra-structures rehabilitation in Bié**

The government of Angola's central Bié province will release USD 8 million this year for the rehabilitation of social infrastructures destroyed during the country's armed conflict, ANGOP learnt from official sources.

The above amount will be earmarked for the rehabilitation of schools, hospitals, health centres, churches and construction of houses to accommodate teachers.

The undertakings will be rebuilt under the programme to improve and increase the supply of basic social goods and services to the population and civic training of youths. The district administrator of Andulo, Maria Lúcia Chicapa, voiced satisfaction at the government's initiative in rehabilitating such infrastructures.

Rehabilitation tenders have already been released, awaiting only the awarding and starting date of works, planned for the first quarter of 2008.

Source: Angop

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### Government invests USD 7 million in a water project in Huíla province



The southern Huíla Province executive invested USD 7.4 million in the construction of a system to treat and distribute potable water, at Lufinda sector, Chibia District, 45 kilometres south of Lubango City, to benefit 10,000 people.

The information was provided by Water and

Source: Angop

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Energy provincial director, Abel da Costa, saying that the system has the capacity for three thousand cubic meters per hour, covering a network of two kilometres. The system is part of the Public Investments Programme (PIP) for 2008,

Abel da Costa stated that the project will directly supply ten residences, institutions connected to the communal administration, as well as schools.

As part of the same programme, two community laundry houses and an equal number of fountains were built to facilitate water access to the population of 34 communes in the region.

A similar project was executed in the districts of Dongo, N'gola, Jau, Hoque, Capunda Cavilongo, which also included the building of power centres and rehabilitation of electricity distribution networks at Kihita and Frechel localities.

### Bridges to be equipped with cargo weight control scales

The minister of Public Works, Higinio Carneiro, announced in the Kwanza Norte province, the installing of scales at bridges so as to control the cargo weight of heavy vehicles, in order to avoid accidents. The official was speaking to the press whilst visiting the metallic bridge, which was rehabilitated over Mucoso River, in Dangi ya Menha locality (Kambambe district), which collapsed last January due to a truck overloaded with freight.

The scales, which will be installed at police posts at the end of main urban centres, have already been ordered and will be arriving in the country in the coming days.

The action is part of a programme that was recently approved by the Angolan government, which includes the rehabilitation and construction of 1,500 bridges, as well as the main roads of the country.

The programme aims at installing definitive bridges on the main roads and construction of metallic bridges on secondary and tertiary roads, in order to link all roads of the country.

Source: Angop

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### Lack of financing is threatening the survival of Sécil Marítima

Sécil Marítima may paralyse its activity in case it isn't able to cope with the financing problems it is currently going through and the subsequent incapacity of competing against foreign companies operating in the country. These are statements made by the company's director, Maria Amélia Rita, for whom the navigation activity has been dominated by foreign companies, especially in merchandise, equipment and raw-materials transportation.

Due to this situation the company has dismissed 300 workers keeping only 150 to maintain operations. The company has already requested the government's intervention in this issue and is optimistic about a positive outcome.

Among the several problems the company is going through, the director points out the lack of its own ships, no cooperation bounds with other companies operating in the country, no working means. In her opinion the

problems are not to do with bad management in the company, but with a lack of interest from foreign companies in selecting the state company for cargo transportation.

At this moment the company is working with two ships. One is operating in Namibe and the other operates between Portugal and Angola on a regular basis. At this point the company is focused on gathering revenues in order to increase routes and re-admit the workers who are currently out of work.

Source: J. de Angola

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### **Unicer to build beer factory in Angola**

Unicer, a Portuguese beer manufacturer and distributor, plans to build a factory to produce Super Bock beer in Angola. The company expects to increase sales of the product in Angola, where in 2007 it sold a record 108 million litres of beer.

Source: ANIP

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### **USD 800 Million Housing Project in Bom Jesus**

The Bom Jesus Real Estate Project, located 45 kilometres north of Luanda city, will begin an investment estimated at USD 800 million in the second half of 2008. The project will consist of the construction of 2,000 houses in a 550-hectare area. It will include private and semi-private condominiums, as well as leisure space for each house.

Source: ANIP

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## **Information Royal Netherlands Embassy in Luanda**

The Department for Consular Affairs is opened for the public from **09:00** to **12:00** from Monday to Friday.

Consular Affairs provide the following services:

- Visa applications
- Legalization of documents
- Passport applications
- Consular declarations
- Residence visa's (MVV)
- Other consular related issues

To contact the consular department by phone:

From Monday to Thursday from **8:00** to **16:30**

Friday from **08:00** to **13:30**

Tel.: (+244) 222 310686/222 311239/222 311269 or 222 311511

Fax: (+244) 222 310966

E-mail: [lua@minbuza.nl](mailto:lua@minbuza.nl)

[www.angola.nlembassy.org](http://www.angola.nlembassy.org)

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## Useful Websites

Official Republic of Angola website:  
[www.angola.org](http://www.angola.org)

Royal Netherlands Embassy in Angola:  
[www.angola.nlembassy.org](http://www.angola.nlembassy.org)

AngolaPress  
[www.angolapress-angop.ao](http://www.angolapress-angop.ao)

Dutch Webpage with Practical Links:  
[www.angola.startpagina.nl](http://www.angola.startpagina.nl)

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## Exchange Rates

Below the estimated exchange rate for the Angolan Currency Kwanza (KZ), according to the National Reserve Bank (BNA):

- KZ 75,213 to the US Dollar (USD)
  - KZ 113,128 to the Euro (EUR)
  - KZ 10,067 S. African Rand (ZAR)
  - KZ 149,328 to the British Pound (GBP)
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**For comments, suggestions and remarks on this Newsletter, or any other business, please contact the Commercial Team at the Netherlands Embassy in Luanda:**

- Mr. Hans Akerboom (Counsellor/Economic Affairs)  
[hans.akerboom@minbuza.nl](mailto:hans.akerboom@minbuza.nl)
- Carla Rodrigues (Translator Politics/Economics)  
[carla.rodrigues@minbuza.nl](mailto:carla.rodrigues@minbuza.nl)
- Mr. Mario I. Lironel (Assistant Economic and Commercial Department)  
[mario.lironel@minbuza.nl](mailto:mario.lironel@minbuza.nl)

Tel: (00 244) 222 310866 or (00 244) 222 311239  
Fax: (00 244) 222 310966  
E-mail: [lua-ea@minbuza.nl](mailto:lua-ea@minbuza.nl)

**For more information, please visit our website:**  
[www.angola.nlembassy.org](http://www.angola.nlembassy.org)

If you are not interested in obtaining this newsletter every month, please advise through the email [lua-ea@minbuza.nl](mailto:lua-ea@minbuza.nl) and we will remove you from the distribution list. Thank you.

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