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Economy, Commerce and Investments

Bechtel proceeds with LNG construction in Angola

Angola LNG Limited has given Bechtel's Oil, Gas & Chemicals global business unit (Bechtel) notice to proceed with construction of a 5.2 million-metric-ton-per-year liquefied natural gas (LNG) train, along with storage and marine loading facilities for LNG, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), and condensate.

Bechtel, in cooperation with ConocoPhillips under the ConocoPhillips-Bechtel Global LNG Collaboration, has been involved in detailed engineering and procurement for the Angola LNG liquefaction train since early 2007. "The first LNG production is slated for early 2012," says Bechtel's Project Director José Ivo.

The plant, adjacent to the town of Soyo, Republic of Angola, will utilize ConocoPhillips' Optimized Cascade(SM) LNG process and will produce LNG; LPGs, such as propane and butane; condensate; and domestic pipeline gas.

The Angola LNG project is an integrated gas utilization project encompassing offshore and onshore operations to monetize gas resources from blocks located offshore of Angola. The project will reduce natural gas flaring and greenhouse gas emissions from offshore oil producing areas, facilitate continued offshore oil field development, and contribute to the development of a future natural gas-based industry within Angola. Bechtel's engineering, procurement, and construction contract covers the onshore portion of this project.

Source: WEBWIRE

Brazilian airline Ocean-Air to start operations in Angola

Brazilian airline, Ocean-Air, will start flying between São Paulo and Luanda in April, with three flights per week. Ocean-Air will transport passengers and cargo on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. However, in May the company will begin daily flights to Luanda using a Boeing 737-ER300 aircraft, with 180 passengers in economy class and 32 in executive.

Source: ANIP

Sonangol business revenues reach 17 billion dollars in 2007



Sonangol's revenues reached 17 billion dollars last year according to the company's President, Manuel Vicente.

The manager disclosed this information in Luanda during a press conference relating to the company's 32nd anniversary although revenues have yet not been audited. However, he said that the company's net profits referring to last year may be calculated in USD 1, 3 billion. Apart from that the company contributed with USD 13 billion in taxes.

In terms of investment the Angolan company applied 300 million dollars in improving fuel supply across the country. Manuel Vicente pointed out that the company will continue giving priority into responding to the great demand for fuels. Since beginning of March/08 oil production in the country has registered a considerable increase having reached 1, 9 million bpd. In the event there is no constraint, the crude production in Angola may reach 2 million bpd still this year.

Source: J. de Angola

Sonair Company profited over USD 250 million during 2007



Sonair, an Air Company of the Sonangol group, profited more than USD 250 million in 2007, as

The Angolan company, which currently has 8,240 workers, will continue working on its internationalization, through the acquisition of shares in foreign companies in all market segments. Luanda's new refinery, which is now full possession of Sonangol, will be modernized.

Manuel Vicente announced the implementation of another refinery in the city of Soyo, Zaire, with production capacity of 200 thousand bpd. This refinery will be managed by national and private investors, as long as they present viable projects. On his turn, Sonangol EP's administrator, Syanga Abílio, stated that the company is interested in the American market to transform liquefied gas in the benefit of a LNG plant, whose works will start this year.

Concerning the recent oil spill that occurred on block 17, Sonangol's administrator guaranteed that the situation is under control and that technicians are working hard on it. There was an oil spill of 20 thousand barrels, which led to a local observation.

Concerning the contest for new blocks, Syanga Abílio expects an extension in the proposal delivery deadline, which was previously set to the following 13th March.

Lastly, Sonangol's administrator explained that in the near future the fuel distribution will be done by railway when trains are fully circulating. The responsible clarified that Sonangol never stopped transporting the products by road. Sonangol Distribuidora has currently 400 supply posts. Until 2010 the company expects to reach 1000 posts nationwide.

revealed by its Communication and Image responsible, Sónia Santos.

The assistant considered the revenue quite positive, in the sense that the company accomplished its annual strategic plan. Sonair's activities have met an amazing growth during the last years, as a result of some investment in staff training, acquisition of aircrafts and infra-structures.

Recently the company acquired six new aircrafts, totalling 52, among which are 727 and 737-700 Boeing types, Airbus A-320, Fokker 27 and helicopters. Having in mind the company's growth and because human resources are a priority, Sonair is focussed on the nationalization of its staff, according to Sonia Santos.

“The institution has expat employees but in a smaller number compared to the Angolan employees and by the time it improves the know-how of the national human resources, Sonair will decrease foreign workforce”.

Concerning the company’s activity, Sonia Santos pointed out that Sonair operates non-regular national, regional and international routes, always and whenever its services are requested by the state or its economic partners.

However, Sonair, as Sonangol’s subsidiary, is more oriented to support the oil industry, she mentioned.

The Luanda/Houston/Luanda route is targeted at members of the United States-Africa Association (UASEA) and therefore a closed route (not open to the public in general) is being considered.

Asked about the possible IOSA audit to Sonair, the communication assistant referred that Sonair is not yet a member of IATA and therefore auditing is not compulsory for Sonair. Sonair strategically decided to associate with IATA in 2006 starting, in this way, its preparation for the referred audit, establishing a consulting contract with Lufthansa Consulting.

Sonair considers its relation towards TAAG as one of “sisterhood”, because both are state companies that are contributing for the development of the country, supporting the government’s policies in the satisfaction of its clients.

Sonair has as main clients public and private institutions, among others.

Source: J. de Angola

New custom duties benefit the incitement of national production.

The new custom duties to be implemented by the Ministry of Finance, will privilege the incitement of national production, due to tax exemption on importations of raw material, equipment means and industry resources.

The customs measures, whose new duties were discussed last Tuesday by the National Assembly (AN), reduce the taxation of 58 categories of essential goods, in benefit of the end customer. In this context, 33 categories of diverse products, on the scope of Importation and Exportation Law, saw their tariffs slightly increased, whereas 19 other categories maintain the same tariffs as before.

The Minister of Finance, José Pedro de Morais Júnior, who spoke at the end of the National Assembly session, said that the revision of custom duties aims the harmonization of the system and the adjustment of some product’s tariffs applied until now. The Minister of Finance informed also that the tax exemption over production factors, such as raw-materials, equipment and industry goods, aims to incite and support the growth of national economy.

In this context, the National Assembly gave the government permission to adjust importation tariffs and the updating of duties in conformity with the 2007 version of the nomenclature of the Harmonized system of designation and codification of merchandise.

The permission includes the creation of an importation surcharge inserted over the customs tariff on beverages and alcoholic drinks, tobacco, cars and other luxury items. The scope of the permission includes also the definition of Customs Regime, applicable to the importation of merchandise realized by the organisms of Defence, Safety and Internal Order and by political parties or colligation of parties, among other issues.

In their intervention, the members of the National Assembly defended the need for the government to exempt from the custom duties’s update the toys donated to children in need, essential medicines, motorcycles for disabled people, books, among other goods. In response to this, the Minister of Finance, José Pedro de Morais, guaranteed that these items will be exempted from taxation.

Source: J. de Angola

EX-IM Bank enlarges credits for Angola.

The US Export-Import Bank (EX-IM Bank) has announced its Angolan policy change, and is now covering middle-term projects (up to seven years), in both private and public sectors. According to a press release from the US Embassy in Angola, the bank expansion coverage policy in Angola entered into action on the 15th February 2008 and comes as a reflex of Angolan's stronger macroeconomic position in the external level.

"In the last years, Angola has showed positive results in the budget and has also decreased its inflation. The increase in GDP has been steady and the country has systematically discharged its external debt. Some of these successes are a result of oil's high prices but the reforms and measures taken by the government also played an important role in that", states the document.

The EX-Im programmes create new opportunities for the development of businesses in both countries, giving Angolan explorers access to additional financing instruments, such as credit guarantees and exportation credit insurance. It also concedes North-American companies access to the financing of projects, making it easier for them to contribute for the ongoing effort in reconstructing Angola in the post-war.

"In the next months and years, Angola will have to overcome the challenges inherent to the democratic transition, monetary and fiscal reform, and search for big investments by the government and to the country's dependence on oil and gas. The change in the EX-Im policy is a positive sign for potential investors that the Angolan economy is on the right track. Good ongoing financial management and good governance will attract more investment for the country", reads the press release.

On the other hand, the Embassy of the United States has announced trade support increase between the US and Angola. Since the 6th February 2008 Angola's economic progress has received, according to the document, "higher attention from the international community".

The EX-Im bank is the US's official credit agency for exportation. It has been helping to finance the selling of US's exportation products mainly to emergent markets all around the world for 71 years, by means of the concession of credits, credit insurances for exportation and direct loans.

Source: J. de Angola

Bulgaria and Angola to boost relations



The Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Feim Chaushev

Bulgaria-Angola relations are going to intensify greatly according to Bulgaria's Deputy Foreign Minister Feim Chaushev, who is leading an official delegation to the African country.

Chaushev stated during a joint press conference with the secretary of the Angolan Foreign Ministry that there are a lot of favourable prerequisites which could boost the relations between the two countries, and could reinvigorate their traditional historic ties.

He pointed out especially to the fact that many Angolans have received their education in Bulgaria, and as a result there are great possibilities for cooperation in fields such as agriculture and construction.

Angola has received with satisfaction the Bulgarian proposals aimed at relaunching and strengthening the bilateral relations, according to the online publication africast.com.

During his meeting with the Angolan Foreign Affairs Minister Joao Bernardo de Miranda, Chaushev presented him with an invitation from Bulgaria's Foreign Minister Ivailo Kalfin for an official state visit to Bulgaria. He also delivered a similar invitation to the Angolan President, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, on behalf of the Bulgarian President, Georgi Parvanov.

In the course of the political consultations, the Angolan side declared its intention to open an Embassy in Sofia.

Feim Chaushev also thanked Angola for paying off its debt to Bulgaria. Later he held an informal meeting with Angolan graduates of Bulgarian universities.

Source: Novinite.com

Angola calls for Bio-diesel investment

Angolan vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Zacarias Sambeny, has urged the entrepreneurs from the private sector to invest in bio-diesel production. During the opening of the seminar on "Bio-diesel in Angola", the Minister also recommended the operators of the private sector to seize the Agro-business opportunity.

According to Zacarias Sambeny, the meeting should produce guidelines on agro-business in Angola and on the integration of various institutions such as those of scientific research, universities and the private sector in the bio-diesel activity. The Bio-diesel workshop in Angola is an initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and comes in the light of the process of gathering contributions for the preparation of the National Strategy on Bio-diesel. The meeting gathered officials from the ministries of Oil, Industry, Planning, Energy and Water, as well as public and private institutions involved in the Agro-business.

Source: Angop

Portuguese entrepreneurs to invest in Kwanza Sul

Portuguese businessmen expressed their interest in investing in Porto-Amboim municipality, central Kwanza Sul Province, mainly in the fields of civil engineering and trade. Speaking to the press, the representative of the business group, Susana Ferreira, said she found favourable conditions for investment in Kwanza Sul.

She also said that the group's business revenue is about USD 1 million, which can be invested in this province. Therefore they are looking for partnerships with local entrepreneurs for an exchange. "We expect reciprocity from the local authorities and entrepreneurs, so that investments can be implemented in short term", she added.

Source: Angop

UNDP to fund USD 32 million for economic and social development

In 2008, the United Nations' Development Programme (UNDP) will invest USD 32 million in economic and social development programmes in Angola. The UNDP plans to promote the growth of micro-entrepreneurs as a way to empower young people working in the informal market. The programme is meant to support business centres, incubators, and private institutions.

Under the public and private partnership with Chevron, Angola Reserve Bank (BNA), and the Development Workshop, the programme will provide young people working in the informal market with economic information and skills that will enable them to acquire credit and create their own businesses. The programme started two years ago and has already benefited around 23,000 people.

Source: ANIP

Oil, Mining and Energy

Angola's oil production reaches 1.9 million barrels per day



Manuel Vicente CEO of Sonangol

Angola is since February producing 1.9 million barrels of crude oil per day, thus moving from the previous 1.7 million until the end of 2007. Estimates indicate that by the end of this year the production should reach 2 million barrels a day. The information was provided by Sonangol's CEO, Manuel Vicente, during a press conference on occasion of the company's 32nd anniversary in Luanda.

Manuel Vicente revealed that this production increase has brought about a progressive growth of the company's workforce, which currently has an amount of 8,240 employees.

Analysing the activities carried out in 2007, Manuel Vicente highlighted that Sonangol has held business revenue of about USD 11 million, although these are still preliminary figures.

In terms of 2007 achievements, Manuel Vicente mentioned the effective transfer to Sonangol's control of the Luanda Refinery, although it does not hold all the shares of the refinery.

With regards to the internationalisation of Sonangol, the CEO explained that the company's activity will not be restricted to Portugal. Considering the current dynamics in the prices of crude oil in the international market, the company will try to enter any feasible market in order to diversify its activities.

For 2008, the company will have as priority the improvement of the fuel supply and its by-products, as well as ensure quantity and quality on the supply of fuel countrywide.

"We are improving the supply sector, increasing the capacity of distribution and storing of our products, in a combined action with the government, aimed at opening the market to the private sector", he explained.

Angola's oil production represented 90 per cent of the country's exports in 2007, 50% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 80% of its tax revenues. Sonangol is the sole manager of the country's exploration of hydrocarbons.

Source: Angop

Angolan government blocks oil tenders

Galp Energia SGPS' growth strategy for E&P is set to suffer a delay after the Angolan government postponed the concession tenders for ten oil blocks until after legislative elections in September/08, *Diário Económico* reported without citing a source. According to the newspaper, Galp had already been short-listed for the tenders, which were due to be completed in March.

Galp's management has high expectations of winning the tenders for three on-shore blocks and seven off-shores ones, especially as Galp's shareholder and Angolan state oil company, Sonangol is committed to helping Galp in Africa, the paper said. Sonangol has a 45 % stake in Amorim Energia, which controls 33.34 % of Galp.

Source: LISBON (Thomson Financial)

Zambia to buy USD 150 million oil refinery equipment in Angola

Zambia Government is to spend US\$ 150 million to procure equipment to be used in processing pure crude oil from Angola and other regional suppliers, Energy and Water Development Permanent Secretary, Peter Mumba, has said.

Mr. Mumba said the Government was considering procuring the equipment known as the hydro cracker, which would enable the processing of pure crude oil from Angola and other countries in the region, which Indeni was unable to do.

He said with the acquisition of the hydro cracker, Zambia would be able to process the crude from Angola to the final product thereby adding value to the product locally. Mr. Mumba said buying of pure crude oil from Angola would also help mitigating the high prices of the commodity that Zambia incurs from other sources. "The price of the crude oil will certainly be affordable once we start buying oil from Angola," he said.

Currently, Zambia cannot import crude oil from Angola because it contains certain particles that the existing refinery plant cannot process because it lacks the hydro cracker equipment. "If we buy crude in its current form, it means that we have to take it to South Africa for refining and this is expensive for the country," Mr. Mumba said.

Source: Times of Zambia

Country holds potential to apply oil recovery techniques

Angola has high potential to apply recovery methods in abandoned oil fields. There are fields that have been previously abandoned or whose primary or secondary mechanisms have already achieved their recovery potential and can therefore be reinforced. This was stated by Sonangol EP's Administrator, Syanga Abílio in Luanda during the closing session of the Technological Seminar on oil improved recovery techniques for exploration fields in Angola.

For the manager, the increase in the oil activity and the crude oil valorisation in the international markets have accounted for the fulfilment of internal demands, both technologically and financially speaking.

The responsible for the Angolan fuel company considers that the current crude oil high prices have enabled the financing of the development of new technologies that in turn will improve oil recovery rates, making it economically viable for the production of reserves, which in other way would not be monetized.

According to Syanga Abílio, Angola's positioning as one of the countries with the biggest oil activity growth, has transformed the country in a preferred partner for the main energy consumers worldwide.

The interest in preserving this partnership has brought great advantages to Angola. Sonangol's administrator has also said that fossil fuels will continue to be the main energetic source for years to come.

Syanga Abílio also considers that the improvement of recovery levels should be done by developing technologies with the lowest negative impact on the environment. During the seminar, which took place on the 19th and 20th of February, it was mentioned that the benefits from the application of these techniques must be evaluated in accordance with its risks.

According to Syanga Abílio the forum has marked the beginning of an integrated discussion on recovery methods that will allow the reinforcement of the current productive potential of the country. This opinion is shared by the Vice-Minister of Oil, Anibal Silva, who during the opening session considered the production levels in Angola a consequence of the discoveries made in deep waters and also of a correct management of reservoirs.

Oil extraction by means of traditional or standardized methods represents 20 to 40% of the original Oil. During the last 40 years several improved recovery methods have been developed and widely applied in some of the world's oil regions.

Promoted by the Norwegian company INTSOK, in partnership with the Ministry of Oil, Sonangol and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIA), the event gathered 100 technicians from the operative companies and also companies that supply services to the oil industry.

Source: J. de Angola

Sonangol to install butane gas post in Kwanza Norte

Sonangol is installing a butane gas post in the municipality of Lucala, which will be finished by the end of March. The new post will be able to fill 3,000 tanks per day, improving services and minimizing supply problems. There are 24 stations currently operating in the province, providing 2,500 12-kilogram tanks of LPG per week, which totalled USD 586,463 in 2007.

Source: ANIP

Government approves diamond prospecting in the Kuando Kubango province



Government formalises contract for prospecting of diamonds in Cafulo, province of Kubango

Angolan Government recently formalised the joint-venture contract involving the state-owned Endiama and the private Angolan firms Genius Mineira, Minara, Nahela and MJIT, for the prospecting of diamonds in the Cafulo region, south-eastern Kuando Kubango province. The project estimated at about USD 1.7 million is being called “Cafulo” and aims at the prospecting and research of diamonds in an area of about 3,000 square kilometres. According to the State Gazette, Endiama will hold 29 per cent of the shares, Genius Mineira (44%), Nahela (9%), MJIT (9%) and Minara (9%). The parties involved have signed a five-year contract.

Source: Angop

Banking and Insurance Sectors

Sonangol hiked stake in BCP



Banco Comercial Portugues said Angolan state-owned oil company Sonangol has raised its stake in

the bank from 4.98 % to 5.16 % reported at the end of last year by acquiring 6.5 mln BCP shares in March/08.

In a filing with stock market regulator CMVM, BCP said that after the stake hike, Sonangol held 186.5 mln BCP shares. Late last year, newspaper reports said that Sonangol was aiming to boost its stake in BCP up to 10 % in 2008. BCP dropped 0.04 euros or 1.96 % to 2.00 euros after surging 6.53 % amid rumours that Sonangol could be hiking its stake in the bank further.

Source: LISBON (Thomson Financial)

Angola Reserve Bank seeks implementation of Basel-II agreement



Angola's Reserve Bank vice governor, Rui Minguês

Angola's Reserve Bank (BNA) wants the country's banking system to become stronger and compliant with the regulations of the Basel II agreement, in order to meet the challenges of the international market, said BNA vice governor, Rui Minguês in Luanda.

According to the responsible, who was addressing the opening of the workshop on "New Basel II Agreement", BNA in its capacity as Central Bank and supervisor of the country's banking activity, is enforcing a set of regulations for an efficient functioning of the financial institutions and safe working environment.

He said the first step towards the safeguard of the good functioning of the financial institutions was the promulgation of the new accounts plan that reflects, to a great extension, the approximation to the Basel II Agreement and the regulation on the capitals and needs of capital for each type of risk.

The creation of regulations allows BNA to gradually transfer to the banks the management and control of their own risks, in line with the Basel II agreement. "The Basel II agreement was signed four years ago for an appraisal of risks in small and medium size companies. With this new agreement, there is need for a change in the methods of management on the scope of adjusting or determining the risk," Rui Minguês explained.

BNA deputy governor said he hopes the seminar helps the commercial banks to better understand what is behind the regulation. The new Basel agreement on capitals is an international agreement that sets the rules of risk management that the banks are adopting seeking to keep pace with the changes regulating authorities are enforcing.

Such regulations aim at preventing the possibility of an international bank crisis, securing to that purpose that each bank, avails itself with enough capital to carry out its activities that involve some risk.

The seminar on "New Basel II Agreement" is being jointly sponsored by the Angolan Banks Association (Abanc) and the "Universidade Lusófona de Lisboa".

Source: Angop

BIC Bank opens a new branch in Benguela province

The International Credit Bank (BIC) opened a new branch in southern Benguela province, totalling seven agencies in the province and 84 countrywide. Speaking to the press, BIC's CEO, Fernando Teles, said that the facility will also house the Enterprise Centre, specifically to serve the business class of Benguela. BIC bank will also open new branches in Luanda, Lubango, Chinguar and Ondjiva, as part of the strategy of expanding its activity countrywide, he added. The cost concerning purchasing and construction of the referred branch is estimated at around USD 1 million.

Source: Angop

BIC Banc to invest USD 3 million in agric-livestock activities

BIC Banc will invest approximately USD 3 million in country's agriculture and livestock-raising industry. Hence, the provincial government has guaranteed land in the Bié province to help support entrepreneurs interested in developing large farms. In the future, the project may be extended to other provinces with Agricultural and livestock potential.

Source: ANIP

Logistics and Infrastructures

Zambia and Angola to expand railway to link countries



Zambia and Angola have agreed plans to expand the Benguela railway network to link the two countries and to construct a road network to boost trade, state media reported. State-run news agency Zanis, reported Zambian President Levy Mwanawasa as saying Zambia would construct a railway line from its mineral-rich Copperbelt province to the border with Angola to link up with the Benguela railway line.

"President Mwanawasa says he is determined to see the fruition of the construction of a railway line from Chingola on the Copperbelt to Lumwana (copper mine and then to) Angola before his tenure of office comes to an end in 2011," Zanis said. No

Source: Reuters

Government announces construction of Luanda new harbour

The new Harbour of Luanda will be built at "Baia do Dande" with the foundation being laid sometime this year. The new facility will boost current capacity, with 16 to 32 mooring stations and a greater depth. The port currently has only 15 mooring stations.

The news was provided by the Minister of Transport, Andre Brandão at the opening ceremony of the third consultative council of Harbour in Luanda. With 32 vessels mooring and higher sea-depth, the new harbour will have different characteristics and greater capacity compared to the current Luanda Port, he said.

"Currently the project studies have been concluded and the government has authorized the new harbour construction", said the Minister". The government is keen to construct the new harbour as it will address the current country's demands, mainly attributed to the current economic growth being registered. That's the reason why the infrastructure shall have its own characteristics and greater capacity, he added.

Over the past four years, port movement has risen substantially, with growth of 18% from 2006 to 2007. In 2007, 5,593,965 metric tons were handled by approximately 4,077 ships, of which 698 were dealing in foreign trade.

financial details were given for the projects. Mwanawasa visited Angola for talks with that country's leader, Eduardo Dos Santos.

Zambian officials say the first phase of the railway link to Angola will involve the construction of 245 km (153 miles) of railway between the new mining town of Solwezi and Chingola in the northwestern region. The privately-owned Northwest Railways said in 2007 it secured \$250 million in financing from investors in South Africa, Britain and the United States for the rail project.

Mwanawasa was quoted as saying the railway line would enhance trade between the two nations, the Democratic Republic of Congo and other countries in the region. He said Zambia was also keen to construct a road network from its northwestern town of Kalabo to Angola to boost trade. "Zambia has since embarked on an ambitious programme to construct rail and road infrastructure linking Zambia with Angola in a bid to promote trade between the two nations and beyond."

The Benguela line used to run through Angola to the Zambian border, but was badly damaged during the oil-rich southern African nation's decades-long civil war.

During the 3rd Consultative Council of the Harbour in Luanda analysed were among other aspects, the general organisational evolution of the port, expansion works, improvement of the access to the harbours and the perspectives related to the modernization of the harbour.

Source: Angop

Supermarket “Nosso Super” inaugurated in Namibe

Namibe province has a new supermarket “Nosso Super” inaugurated in the framework of the Programme of Restructuring the Systems of Logistics and Distribution of Essential Goods to the Population (Presild). The supermarket occupies an area of 10,000 square metres, being 1,600 metres for the commercial area and the rest for parking, collection and preserving of products.

The construction of the infrastructure began in September 2007 and ended this month. Construction cost has been estimated at USD 1.5 million. The Supermarket will employ 44 people. The governor of south west Namibe province, Álvaro de Boavida Neto, cut the inaugural ribbon during a ceremony attended by the economic assistant of the Angolan Prime Minister and member of Presild’s co-ordination, António Furtado, national trade director and Presild’s technical co-ordinator, Gomes Cardoso, among other invited guests.

Source: Angop

Poland to fund construction of fisheries academy

The Republic of Poland will finance, with about USD 22 million, the construction of a fisheries academy, in Namibe province, said Piotr Mysliwicz, Polish Ambassador in Angola. Piotr Mysliwicz revealed this information to the press at the end of an audience granted to him by the Angolan Prime Minister, Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos.

Piotr Mysliwicz, who did not reveal the date for the start of works, declared that the agreement includes the construction of the academy, supply of equipment, as well as the curriculum and teachers to guarantee the training of Angolan staff. The diplomat, who presented his credential letters in November 2007, admitted the possibility of increasing the amount of the project, depending on the demands.

The Polish Ambassador in Angola considered the political relations between the two countries good, adding that “there is a lot of work to be done in order to develop the economic ties”. Concerning the health sector, he referred that there has been cooperation in various provinces of the country and pointed out the extending of cooperation to other fields, mainly the technological one, as one of the main challenges of his mission to Angola.

On the other hand, he referred that Poland is interested in the acquisition of Angolan energy resources.

Source: Angop

Telecom to install new telephone booths countrywide

At least 1,000 telephone booths will be installed in the country every year, to reinforce the existing ones, meant to facilitate the communications among the main urban centres. According to the spokesman of the country's state-run telecommunications company, Angola-Telecom, Manuel Cesar, the telephone boxes will reach the country in the second quarter of the year and the installation is scheduled for the end of the year. For this year, Angola-Telecom intends to install 1.000 phone boxes, a number that will be distributed by the country's 18 provinces, on the scope of the extension of the telecommunication services. Currently, there are only about 500 telephone booths countrywide. Angola-Telecom is celebrating this year its 16th anniversary.

Source: Angop

Kuanza Norte main roads still under rehabilitation

Road circulation in the 129 kilometres of the road connecting the localities of Samba Cajú, Banga, Quiculungo and Terreiro, district of Bolongongo, northern Kwanza Norte province, will have improved in 18 months time, when its rehabilitation's complete. The road rehabilitation project, which started in January this year, is part of the government special programme of national roads rehabilitation, approved by the Standing Commission of the Cabinet Council.

The programme includes the rehabilitation of the pavement, improvement of the drainage system, preparation and enlargement of existing structures. The road will gain characteristics that will improve traffic safety. According to the official in charge for the company MetroEuropa, Leonardo Ribeiro, the contractors will operate on two fronts in order to speed up the works. One of the main purposes of the project is the reconstruction of a road to relaunch the economic and social activity of the population of that region.

Source: Angop

Premier inaugurates maritime fiscal unit

The new facilities of the Maritime Fiscal Unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs were inaugurated in Luanda by the Prime Minister, Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos. The Unit, located at Luanda Island, replaces the previous one that operated on the premises of the National Institute of Fishery Investigation.

It has as main tasks the maritime and fluvial control, preservation, investigation and repression of fiscal infringements, as well as securing public order and tranquillity in the maritime area, in cooperation with other organs of the State. The jurisdiction area of the Unit has an extension of 690 nautical miles. The unit comprises six maritime control stations as follows: Cabinda, Zaire, Bengo, Namibe, Kwanza Sul and Benguela.

The institution has integrated forces that include, besides the control of the coast line, infringements to the customs regulations, fire services to assist eventual victims of fires and rescue of drowning persons. It has also patrolling boats, fuel stations, medical centres and a game court. The ceremony was attended by the Minister of Internal Affairs, Roberto Leal Monteiro, the National Police Commander and high ranking offices of the Prime Minister's offices and police officers.

Source: Angop

Government formalises fisheries management measures

The Angolan government recently formalised the fisheries management measures for the current year, in the country, with the aim of adjusting catches to the available potential of aquaculture and of aquatic resources.

The measure is contained in the resolution nr. 16/08, of the Cabinet Council published in the State Gazette nr.26, 1st Series, of 13th February 2008. According to the State Gazette, the decree establishes that all artisan fishing boats should have a global positioning system (GPS).

On the other hand, it refers that boats for industrial and semi-industrial fishing, regardless of their respective arts of fishing, as from 15-metre long, should compulsorily have to install the vessel monitoring system (VMS), in compliance with the law in force. It warns that fishing certificates and licences that do not abide to the aforementioned decision will neither be issued nor renewed, and those that have already been issued or renewed can be rescinded. It also determines that every boat with shrimp-trawling nets should have fishing observers on board. According to the document, it is compulsory to have fishing observers on boats or vessels that supply services to firms that assist or work on oil platforms.

Source: Angop

Dánia Company invests USD 20 million for Hotel construction in Soyo

"Dánia" company to invest around USD 20 million for construction of a four-star hotel in Soyo city, northern Zaire province.

Named "Nempanzo Hotel", the project, whose foundation stone was laid this month by the Deputy Municipal Administrator of Soyo, Pascoal Aurora, will comprise 104 rooms, including 12 suites and will be concluded in 18 months. According to the representative of the investing company, Daniel Josefina, the USD 20 million was funded by the Keve and Espírito Santo banks, in an initiative aimed at assisting the government in the Tourism and Hotels sector.

Source: Angop

N'gola Beer Company invests over USD 13 million

N'gola Beer Company invested USD 13.134 million in the purchase of equipment. The investment brought an increase in production from 436,356 hectolitres in 2006 to 492,237 in 2007. In addition, the investment created 55 jobs.

Source: ANIP

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

www.angola.nlembassy.org

Useful Websites

Official Republic of Angola website:

www.angola.org

Royal Netherlands Embassy in Angola:

www.angola.nlembassy.org

AngolaPress
www.angolapress-angop.ao

Dutch Webpage with Practical Links:
www.angola.startpagina.nl

Exchange Rates

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

- KZ 74,876 to the US Dollar (USD)
 - KZ 118,109 to the Euro (EUR)
 - KZ 9,284 to S. African Rand (ZAR)
 - KZ 149,459 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:

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