Koninkrijk der Nederlanden

Time is Now !

Royal Netherlands Embassy Luanda, Angola

Table of contents

Economy, Commerce and Investments

Dos Santos is confident about sustainable development

The Angolan president, José Eduardo dos Santos, has reportedly said that despite the consequences that Angola may suffer due to the global economic crisis, it intends to maintain its sustainable development model and pace of strong economic growth.

In his end of year message to the Nation, the Angolan President referred that it is also his desire to generate more jobs and to improve the living standards of Angolan families and citizens.

He reminded that the world economy faces the greatest crisis since the 30s of the past century. The world's strongest economies are facing slow-down and present evident signs of recession.

This current strong fall of growth of economic activity, mainly in the United States of America and Europe is affecting the economies of African countries.

The incomes of these countries have been reduced significantly, because the most developed economies are using less and less raw materials. The supply of these products has increased in the market and their prices are dropping, said José Eduardo dos Santos.

"In our case, the price of oil and diamonds has been falling, thus prompting our Government to take actions aiming at re-adjusting the State Budget and some goals of the National Plan for 2009", he added.

The Angolan leader has emphasized that this readjustment will not modify the strategy or the objectives set for the social and economic sectors.

He assured that the government will do its best in order to maintain the political and macroeconomic stability and it will continue holding public investments in the rehabilitation and building of infrastructures, creating jobs and conditions for the growth of production, based on the rational exploitation of the natural resources and respecting the balance between the economy and ecology.

Source: Angop

Dutch Trade Mission to Angola from March 29th to April 4th 2009

The Netherlands African Business Council (NABC) is taking the initiative to organise a second trade mission to Angola for Dutch companies. The first mission to Angola was succesfully realised in November 2007. This mission will take place from March 29th to April 4th of 2009, and will be organised by NABC for the EVD, an agency of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Business' curiosity has been triggered by the high growth rate that the country has shown in recent years. Now that economic expansion in many European countries and the US is slowing down, this is an excellent time to look for new opportunities in countries with high potential, such as the resource rich Angola. Export revenues have fuelled the economy in the last years, while the government has invested a lot in diversification of the economy.

Developments in Angola offer specific opportunities for companies in infrastructure, construction and energy. During the mission there will be a focus on these sectors, which will be supported by the IRO, the Dutch branch organization for suppliers in the oil and gas industry. Moreover, the mission is fully supported by the Netherlands Embassy in Angola and other Angolan organisations and institutes.

The emphasis in the programme will be on matchmaking. NABC will compose a customized programme for each participant. Furthermore, there will be a number of seminars, networking events and company visits. If necessary and possible, another city will be visited besides Luanda.

Participation is open for all Dutch companies. For more information, please refer to our website: www.nabc.nl. Registration is exclusively possible through the website of EVD: www.evd.nl.

Source: NABC

Angola to revise 2009 budget on falling oil prices

Angola, which rivals Nigeria as sub-Sahara Africa's biggest oil producer, should consider revising its 2009 budget to counter the recent slump in oil prices, said the head of a parliamentary commission.

Diogenes de Oliveira, head of the economy and finance commission, said the drop in oil prices could hamper Angola's spending plan for 2009, mostly aimed at diversifying the economy beyond the oil sector and improving the lives of Angolans.

"The government must closely monitor the oil market and immediately evaluate the need to review its budget for 2009," Oliveira said. He was speaking before a parliamentary vote on the country's 2009 budget.

Angola's oil minister, Botelho de Vasconcelos, echoed similar concerns earlier this month and called on his government to seek ways to counter falling revenues from the oil sector.

Angola, dependent on oil for 90 percent of its income, plans to increase spending by 43 percent to $42 billion next year, with the budget deficit reaching 7.7 percent of gross domestic product.

The government calculated the budget based on an oil price of $55 per barrel, but the price has plunged by more than two thirds since hitting a record above $147 a barrel in July, and was trading around $45.14 early December 2008.

The drop in oil prices prompted OPEC to cut production by 1.5 million barrels per day in November and more cuts were expected to be announced at a December 17th meeting in Algeria.

The government expects the south-western African nation's economy, which has been growing in double digits since the end of a civil war in 2002, to have expanded by 15 percent in 2008 and 11.8 percent in 2009, on the back of growth in the non-oil sector.

Source: Reuters

Importers suggests more investment in Luanda port

Local and foreign importers in Luanda suggested to the Commercial Port Management of Luanda to invest in equipment and infrastructure and to introduce electronic means in order to avoid crowding of terminals with containers and ships off the coast.

Speaking on the scope of a meeting with the Luanda Port management, the importers told to the Press that an effort to improve the bureaucratic process of cargo unload, the system of container localisation and an increase in the number of cranes would improve the flow of trucks in and out of the port. According to them, three of the four port terminals (general cargo, containers, miscellaneous), are overcrowded with goods and need repair works to their quays, pavement and lighting.

The director for operations of Angola's Customs Warehouse, Domingos Candeeiro, said that every time his company imports goods, the ships hired for the purpose are forced to stay off the coast for several days, which pushes prices of goods up and delays deliveries. Domingos Candeeiro stated that his company seized the meeting with the port management to make suggestions towards the solution of problems and extend its assistance for a normal functioning of the terminals.

Refriango import director, Nuno Colaço, one of the importers who attended the meeting, said that he admits that the congestion of the Luanda Port is partly owed to the rising number of importers in the country.

Atlas Group import director, Santhosh Aravindakshan, said that due to constraints caused by the port, his company imports 300 containers per month and pays an additional USD 120,00 for each container, due to overstay.

Angoalissar import officer, João Jardim, suggested the creation of a ground crane at the port, and construction of a special terminal for cement, iron ore and other polluting materials and major internal organisation.

Shipping companies like Sogest, Unicargas, NDS, Multiparques and Maersk, pledged to work together with the Luanda Commercial Port management towards the modernisation of the company.

Source: Angop

Angola close to macroeconomic convergence

According to a note from the Angolan Embassy in Botswana, Angola is very close to macroeconomic convergence aimed at accomplishing the Economic and Monetary Union at the level of the country members of the Southern Africa Development Countries (SADC).

According to the note, Angola has achieved about 95 percent of the primary goals of SADC for 2008, lacking only the attainment of one digit inflation rate, which allows Angola to be among the three countries of the organisation that lead the race for macroeconomic convergence.

This conclusion resulted from a workshop held on 26-27 November, at the head office of SADC in Gaborone (Botswana), which objective was ‘Mobilisation for economic convergence’, in which experts from Angola and other countries members of SADC participated.

One of the primary goals outlined by SADC for 2008, is that countries members should present a fiscal deficit below 5 percent of the Gross Domestic product (GDP), Angola having presented a projection of 15 percent for the referred period, which corresponds to a surplus balance.

Other figures referred to in the primary goals of SADC are the Public Debt (which value should be lower 60 percent below the GDP) and the Deficit of the Current Account (that must be below 9 percent of GDP). With regard to these two figures, Angola presented values below 25 percent, and roughly 15 percent respectively.
Other figures that revealed the macroeconomic performance regarding convergence, includes the growth of GDP and external reserves as well as the credit of the Central Bank to the government.

The economists Manuel Tiago Dias of the National Reserve Bank (BNA), and Gardiana Melo of the Ministry of Finances participated in the event. The third secretary of the Angolan Embassy in Botswana, Etelvina Fonseca, was also integrated in the delegation.

The next assessment meeting for macroeconomic convergence at experts subcommittees level of the Ministries of Finances, Planning and Central Banks, is set for March 2009, in Gaborone.

Source: Angop

Angola's Unitel says in no hurry to list shares

Unitel, Angola's leading telecoms group and biggest private company, is not in a hurry to list its shares on Luanda's stock exchange, said the company's general manager Amilcar Safeca.

Analysts have long considered Unitel as a prime candidate for Luanda's stock exchange which is expected to open in the first half of 2009. "That is a matter we will have to evaluate. It's not something that worries us at this time," said Safeca, on the sidelines of a presentation on Unitel's new advertising campaign.

Unitel controls around 60 percent of Angola's mobile market with over 4 million subscribers. The company is owned by Portugal Telecom, Angolan state-owned oil company Sonangol and local firms Geni and Vidatel, which each hold 25 percent of Unitel. In December 2008, Unitel bought 49.9 percent of Angola's leading bank BFA.

Source: Reuters

Angola to launch telecom satellite

Angola is to launch a multi-sectoral support telecom satellite in January 2009, said the Angolan Minister of Telecom and Information Technologies, Jose Carvalho da Rocha. During his ministry's end of the year meeting, the Minister said Angola "will start in January 2009 the commercial launching of the satellite telecommunication system of multi-sectoral support (Infrasat)".

He said his ministry has realized all important goals in 2008, including the preparations for the launching of Infrasat, adding that the telecom satellite, among other aspects, will provide NetSat services, enabling the use of telephone and internet in remote areas. The minister said his ministry also computerized all the post offices, cyber-centers assisted by the Project Internet.

Referring to the work in 2009, he said the ministry will produce a white book of telecommunications and information technologies, adding that the white book will constitute a guideline for the sector's improvement in the coming years.

In 2009, he said, the ministry will keep on developing actions towards the improvement of human resources both at pre- and post-university levels through the Angolan Telecommunications Institute, adding that the ministry will establish a technical institute of communications and information technologies.

Source: chinaview

Angola’s economy and the impact of the global financial crisis

In an effort to contribute to donor coordination and harmonization in Angola, the World Bank in November 2008 organized its Fifth Economic Forum.

Economic attachés from Western and African countries, as well as representatives from China, gathered at the World Bank office in Luanda to share information on the country’s current state of affairs and on the global financial crisis and its possible impacts on Angola’s economy.

Other issues discussed included growth prospects for 2008-2010, the Angolan government's development plan for the period 2009-2013, and the 2009 proposed State budget.

The event was chaired by World Bank Country Manager for Angola Alberto Chueca and by the Bank's Senior Country Economist Ricardo Gazel.

In his presentation, Gazel praised the Angolan government's fiscal and monetary policies in recent years, which, he said, helped remarkably to reduce the inflation rate. Gazel's presentation on the country's economic performance and the world's economic crisis provided the basis for a lively discussion among the participants.

According to Gazel, Angola's economic performance continues to be strong, with both the oil and non-oil sectors performing well, with average real GDP growth around 14 percent in the last six years and close to 18.5 percent in the last four years. Measured in billions of current dollars, GDP has doubled every third year, from 19.8 in 2004 to 60.4 in 2007. The GDP real growth rate of 22.3 percent in 2007 reflected the real growth of 20.4 percent in the oil sector and 25.7 percent in the nonoil sectors, including growth of 37 percent in construction, 32.6 percent in manufacturing and 27.4 percent in agriculture.

For 2008, GDP growth rate should be around 15 percent and about 10 percent in 2009 (government forecasts 11.8 percent) as oil production hits or even exceeds its OPEC reference-quota by the end of 2008. However, given the decline in oil prices, nominal GDP is likely to decrease in 2009 resulting in lower national income, lower government revenues and consequently lower rates of growth of public expenditures and investment, which have significant negative impact on the demand for the non-oil sectors.

GDP Real Growth rates

	2007	2008	2009	2010
IMF	21.1	16.0	13.3	11.7
Government	23.3*	15.0**	11.8***	NA
Senior Economist		15.0	10.0	8.0

Sources:
* Report "Executed Budget for 2007"
** Statement by Deputy Governor of Central Bank
*** Budget Proposal for 2009

As oil production stabilizes around two million barrels per day, GDP real growth rate will depend basically on the non-oil sector, whose performance is highly correlated to oil prices. Oil tax revenues remain a major engine of growth through government expenditures, especially investment.

According to Gazel, the impact of the financial crisis in Angola is likely small due to the following:

- No stock market
- No strong connection of the domestic bank system with international financial markets (except via Portuguese banks, where performance should be closely monitored)
- A small inter-banking credit market
- Low loans to deposit ratios
- Solid macroeconomic indicators in the last year: budget surplus, high international reserves, low external debt.

However, Angola is not isolated from the world economy and so potential impacts include:

- **Real Economy**: the lower price of oil means lower government revenues and lower national income. Nominal GDP will decline, current account surplus will decline substantially, recent fiscal surpluses are likely to become a deficit in 2009, and, given the prominent role played by the public sector, lower growth of public current and capital expenditures will impact the non-oil sector negatively.

- **Exchange Rate:** a stronger dollar can have an impact on inflation as import prices from European goods would be lower in *Kwanzas* (local currency).
- **Investment and Capital Flows:** less liquidity in international credit markets can reduce private investment flows as the price of capital increases and commercial banks' credit lines can be reduced. Although existing bilateral credit lines are likely to remain in place to finance Angola's imports from countries issuing them, further deterioration of economic and financial conditions in those countries could result in lower levels of new bilateral financing.

Source: News & Broadcast

Oil, Mining and Energy

VetcoGray signs USD 27 million contracts for Angola offshore

VetcoGray has signed a $27 million contract with Cabinda Gulf Oil Co. of Angola, a subsidiary of U.S. oil company Chevron, to retrofit the existing subsea trees in the field, which has been in production since June of 2006. The increase in production is expected to occur shortly after the retrofit project is completed in 2009.

"VetcoGray has developed a retrofit package that allows customers to deal with unexpected circumstances after the initial equipment installation. Examples could include increased scale deposition, larger than expected chemical injection requirements, flow improvements and instrumentation upgrades," said David Tucker, chief operating officer of VetcoGray and Hydril. "The Cabinda project illustrates our commitment to be a reliable partner from project inception through field maintenance and equipment modifications and upgrades."

In addition to increased production, another key benefit of the retrofit project will be the capability to use smaller work vessels instead of drilling platforms to perform scale-squeeze operations. Once the equipment upgrade is completed, the operator will be able to conduct scale-squeeze operations that will inhibit scale formation on the initial equipment and piping systems. A key to this operation is the application of large volumes of chemical in a short period of time, which cannot be achieved through a typical chemical dosing line.

Under the contract with Cabinda, VetcoGray has responsibility for the total subsea system. New equipment to be supplied for the retrofit will include scale-squeeze inserts for short- and long-term operations, a fluid cap, a choke insert with full functionality with an additional port for chemical injection and a chemical line with landing skid. The use of the VetcoGray choke interface, a port in the subsea tree, allows choke inserts (the pressure/flow controlling element) to be removed and replaced as required during the life of the field.

VetcoGray's service team in Angola will support the retrofit operations. "The infrastructure we have built up in Angola is a key to the successful execution of the equipment installation and ongoing operation over the life of the field," said Tucker.

Source: E&P Magazine

Sonangol to focus more on crude oil refining

The Angolan state-owned National Fuel Society (Sonangol) will pay greater attention to crude oil refining, its by-products and fuel supply, said the company's CEO, Manuel Vicente. "We'll pay special attention to oil refining and distribution", he said at the end of the ceremony that served to swear in the new Administrative Board of Sonangol.

He also said that during his new mandate, while the construction of the Lobito refinery is not concluded, Sonangol will rehabilitate and expand the Luanda refinery, as well as work with partners to build another refinery in order to respond to the demands of the market.

With regard to foreseen expenditures for the coming years, Manuel Vicente informed that considering the fall of the oil price in the international market, cuts will be done in the investment costs to adjust them according to the current situation. “At the level of investments we have to reduce costs, adjust our expenditure to the current situation, but there are expenses that we cannot postpone, otherwise we might pay a higher price”, he underlined.

Manuel Vicente also assured that Angola will uphold the decisions taken by OPEC, with regard to cuts in crude oil production.

Source: Angop

Petra Diamonds cuts exploration budget by $20 million

Mining and exploration company Petra Diamonds is cutting $20 million from its annual diamond exploration budget, mostly by reducing its activities in Angola.

The company’s stock, listed on AIM in London, shed 3p or 4% to 71p after the announcement, despite a generally upbeat trading update on the year to December 2008.

Petra’s share price halved in the past year from 144,5p with the negative short-term outlook for diamond prices and investor aversion to smaller firms.

The company said it had decided to scale down exploration spending as it could grow revenue and production more by investing in its producing mines than undertaking early-stage exploration. It decided to withdraw altogether from its Alto Cuilo licence and scale down activities at Luangue, in Angola.

Earlier in 2008, BHP Billiton withdrew from its participation in Alto Cuilo and Luangue. But Petra Diamonds insisted at the time it was happy to have a greater share of Alto Cuilo, which had shown a higher than normal number of prospective kimberlites.

Petra has also cut back on exploration activity in Botswana, but will not lose its concessions there, and is “discussing its options” on its Kono project in Sierra Leone with its joint venture partner.

CEO Johan Dippenaar said Petra was comfortable in relinquishing capitalintensive exploration projects, which had traditionally been its focus, because its acquisitions of Kimberley Underground in SA and Williamson in Tanzania would add more production in the next six months.

Petra’s operating mines are all in SA, and include the Cullinan and Koffiefontein mines, bought from De Beers, and Star, Helam and Sedibeng.

It said that after adjusting capex plans, these mines, except for Star and Helam, would be cash positive at current rough diamond prices. Star and Helam might have to be put on care and maintenance,

In the six months to December, Petra’s revenue from diamond sales, based on its 37% stake in Cullinan, fell marginally to $31,1 million compared with the previous corresponding period. At Cullinan, Petra is concentrating on recovering large , special diamonds, which has resulted in significant improvement in the average value realised a carat to $91 compared with original expectations of $75.

Petra has also sealed deals with De Beers to buy Kimberley Underground and 75% of the Williamson mine in Tanzania. It expects the Kimberley Underground deal to be completed early next year and Williamson “shortly”.

Source: BusinessDay

Angola might become one of top three greatest producers of diamonds

Luanda – Angola might become in 2010 one of the three greatest diamond producers, considering the new investments and mining contracts, says a study by the KPMG consulting firm, issued in Luanda. According to the study, this will be confirmed in 2010 if Angola reaches a production rate of 19 million karats, surpassing the seven million recorded in 2006.

With the goal of exporting this product with a greater value, the state-run diamond company Endiama-EP is creating a second industrial factory for cutting and polishing diamonds, in the eastern Lunda-Sul Province, expecting thus an amount of 20 million US dollars per month. Under the study, Endiama - EP has been developing a project meant to create a factory for jewels production and 400 people will be trained to work in this sector.

Official data point that there is a strong possibility of improving diamond production due to investments by Endiama, that has been signing various international contracts.

Source: Angop

Banking and Insurance Sectors

BPC signs Euros 100 million agreement

Credit and Saving Bank (BPC) and the Bank of Spain (Banesto) has signed a financial agreement estimated at €100 million.

According to a communiqué from BPC, the agreement between the two financial institutions will allow Banesto grants credit lines to fund social projects, outlined by the Angolan Government, through the Ministry of Finance.

The agreement, signed by the BPC managing board chairperson, Paixão Júnior and by the Banesto's director for foreign market, Cristina Garcia, indicates that part of the referred amount will be used to import equipment and other goods and services.

With the signing of this agreement, raises to Euros 150 million the global amount made available by Banesto. "This credit line is a result from the good relationship that the BPC has kept with the foreign market, aiming at obtaining financial resources to support the Government projects", reads the note.

Source: Angop

BPC unveils international money transfer services

A fast money transfer service from and to Angola of the Credit and Saving Bank (BPC) will come into effect. According to a communiqué released by BPC, in the first phase the fast money transfer service will be available in 10 counters in Luanda province, foreseeing its extension to other provinces from January 2009 onwards.

For the creation of this service, BPC counted on the partnership from the management of Money Gram, a company based in South Africa. In order to launch this new product, which was scheduled for December 15th, the commercial bank received green light from the National Reserve Bank (BNA), in its capacity of supervising authority of the country's foreign exchange and banking system.

Source: Angop

BNI expects to reach $85 million

Angola's *Banco de Negócios Internacional* (BNI) expects to reach $85 million of proper funds by the end of 2008. According to a note from BNI, its social capital has risen to $55,5 million, and until September 2008, the institution had reached an amount of $24 million.

The bank will open 40 new branches of its "Express Network 24" in all provinces of the country in 2009 to deal with the development of retail and electronic operations. BNI, that celebrated its second anniversary on November 13th 2008 , has currently nine branches of its "Express Network 24" counters and two business centres in the provinces of Luanda, Benguela, Zaire, Kwanza Sul, Kwanza Norte, Lunda Norte, Huíla and Cunene.

BNI is among Angola's eight major banks and the first to issue Visa and MasterCard debt and credit cards in the country.

Source: Angop

BAI bank with over $100 million in credits for 2009

The African Investment Bank (BAI) has $150 million for the concession of loans to its clients in 2009, in the central Huila Province, revealed the institution's executive officer, Luis Lélis, in Lubango city (provincial capital).

Speaking during the opening ceremony of two of the bank's branches in Lubango, he indicated that the credits will be used for economic, social and production purposes, with particular emphasis to industrial, agricultural and cattle breeding sectors.

Luís Lélis stressed that the financial institution has been registering satisfactory growth in terms of deposits and number of subscribers, which is allowing the bank to create favourable conditions to grant credits, particularly to province and to other parts of the country.

In view of this, the financial institution foresees the opening in 2009, of new branches in Luanda, Soyo (Zaire), Caxito (Bengo) and Lobito (Benguela), aimed at expanding banking services and allowing the bank to become closer to its customers. At the moment, BAI has over 60 branches countrywide, 200,000 customers and 1,000 workers.

Source: Angop

Millennium bank opens new branches in Cabinda and Luanda provinces

The Angolan privately-run Millennium Bank has opened its first branch in the northern Cabinda province and it expanded its network to six cities of the country, namely Luanda, Benguela, Huambo, Mbanza Congo and Lubango.

The newly opened branch in Cabinda province is the 14th branch of Millennium Bank network countrywide. Likewise, Millennium Bank inaugurated two new branches at Comandante Valódia and Rei Katyavala avenues in Luanda, which will start operating from Monday to Friday. With the opening of these new branches, the number of branches of this bank countrywide rises to 16. Currently, Millennium Bank has branches in the provinces of Luanda, Benguela, Huambo, Zaire, Huíla and Cabinda.

The branches are equipped with Automatic Telling Machines (ATM) to withdraw money, and will give credit and savings solutions to individuals and companies, with attractive interest rates. The transactions can be carried out in Angolan Kwanza, USD and Euros.

Source: Angop

Logistics and Infrastructure

Mega order for Van Vliet trucks

The Dutch company Van Vliet Trucks, a supplier of, amongst others, buses, has celebrated its 55th anniversary with a big order from Angola. The company announced it will deliver 250 new Scania citybuses to the country.

The order of €40 million is the biggest the company has ever received. Van Vliet is especially active as a supplier of used company vehicles. The firm has clients from all over the world and mostly obtains its orders from abroad.

Source: ANP

New Supermarket inaugurated in Kilamba Kiaxi district

A new supermarket of the commercial network “Nosso Super”, inserted in the restructuring programme of the logistical and distribution system of essential products to the population (Presild), was inaugurated in Kilamba Kiaxi District, in Luanda.

This is the 26th Nosso Super supermarket and it was inaugurated by the secretary of state for Rural Development, Filomena Delgado. The official praised the insertion of the national production in the commercial circuit, “so that the products of Angolan farmers do not get spoiled”. She also praised the initiative of Presild in guaranteeing jobs for young people.

The local administrator, José Correia, said that this infrastructure will increase the supply of basic commodities at fair prices, with quality and acceptable hygienic conditions. The administrator promised to stop with informal sale of products near official markets by street sellers.

The supermarket has the capacity to cater for 500 people per day, and it occupies a gross area of 1,600 square metres, 800 square metres for exhibition and sale. The establishment has generated 70 jobs, in which 42 posts are occupied by women and it has 4000 various products available.

The infrastructure is located in Calemba II ward and it is the 9th supermarket of the commercial network Presild in Luanda Province. It is the second NossoSuper in Kilamba Kiaxi District.

Source: Angop

Construction of new "Lactiangol" dairy factory to start in 2009

The new factory of the Dairy Firm of Angola (Lactiangol) will start being built as from May 2009, in Viana district, in Luanda, informed its CEO, José César Macedo.

Speaking to ANGOP in the light of the goals of the firm for 2009, the source said that during the first quarter the firm will prepare the land and will carry out other researches of the project, and in the second it will start building the new factory, one of the main commitments of the institution for the year 2009.

According to José Macedo, the new Lactiangol facilities shall be built near the Kikuxi water treatment station, to ease the access to the precious liquid and the flow of products, after the construction of the Cacuaco/Viana/Benfica highway.

"The business volume obtained by Lactiangol in the past years enabled the firm to supply products to the provinces of Huíla, Malanje, Huambo, Kwanza Norte, Kwanza Sul, Bengo and Benguela", informed José César Macedo.

Having operated in the Angolan market for 14 years, until this moment the company has four warehouses to preserve finished products and intends to build two more, in light of the goals to increase production.

Weekly, Lactiangol produces 150,000 litres of long-lasting milk, 135,000 litres of solid yoghurts, 50,000 litres of liquid yoghurts, 25,000 litres of juice, 40,000 packets of butter and 250,000 litres of the "Kamba" school milk.

Source: Angop

Development bank to finance honey and rice production

The Development Bank of Angola (BDA) is ready to finance business projects for the production of honey and rice, since the interested entrepreneurs have well-structured programmes.

The information was revealed in Luanda by the chairman of the board of directors of BDA, Paixão Franco, whilst addressing the theme “Present and Future of Construction Materials in Angola”, during a meeting held in the Angolan capital.

Paixão Franco, urged businessmen with project designed for the production of rice to create partnership, since the institution is available to fund the development of this activity.

According to him, BDA does not only finance industrial projects, but also those meant for activities in which the particular region have the potential for.

He stressed the need of re-launching the production of honey in the country, so as to slowly reduce the importing of large quantities of this product.

The Development Bank of Angola is a state-owned banking institution that implements development and investment policies of the Angolan government.

Source: Angop

Country to have 14 ceramic factories in 2009

At least 14 ceramic units for the manufacturing of bricks, roof-tiles, glazed tiles, mosaics and sanitary wares will be built in 2009 in Angola, reported the general-director of Unicerâmica, Artur da Silva Mota.

According to him, the construction of these ceramics will employ dozen young people and increase the current ceramic production rate, estimated at 5.6 million bricks per month.

In the opinion of Silva Mota, the fully functioning of the new ceramics will count on a production capacity estimated at 12.3 million bricks per month.

The ceramic industrial unit currently manages 14 units, of which 12 are working and another two about to be launched.

The industrial unit counts on two ceramics in Luanda, three in Catete (Bengo), one in Porto Amboim and Wako Kungo (Kwanza Sul) two in Benguela, three in Lubango (Huila) an one at Caala (Huambo) and another to be opened next April.

The ceramic industry unit was created in 1975.

Source: Angop

Lonrho Plc gets $5 million contracts in Angola

Lonrho Plc, the British-based conglomerate with various business interests in Africa, has announced its e-Kwikbuild unit received two contracts worth $5 million for its prefabricated buildings in Angola.

The company said the first contract, worth $4.5 million, was from Kimbo Limbombewa, a local non-governmental organisation (NGO), to develop a school, training rooms and accommodation for young orphans.

Lonrho, which holds 55.6 percent in e-Kwikbuild, said it also received a $500,000 contract from Sul Engineeria for the supply of an office and residential buildings on the outskirts of Luanda.

E-Kwikbuild, which develops insulated prefabricated buildings, had said in November that it completed and started production from a new prefabricated panel production plant in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

"With the opening of the new production facility in Port Elizabeth we are now seeing an increasing order book across other African countries," Chairman David Lenigas said in a statement.

Shares of Lonrho, which have lost about 90 percent of their value since the beginning of the year, were up 2.4 percent at 4.59 pence at 1009 GMT. (Reporting by Tresa Sherin Morera in Bangalore; Editing by Gopakumar Warrier).

Source: Reuters

Head of State inaugurates Nosso Super's logistical centre
The Angolan Head of state, José Eduardo dos Santos, recently inaugurated the first Center of Logistics and Distribution (CLOD), which will enable Nosso Super to store and supply products.

CLOD will operate with 250 employees, 24 hours a day and will have 55 trucks. It has cold-storage containers for meat, fish, and fruits, a laboratory, commercial area, hotel, police station and a waste treatment sector.

A similar infrastructure is also under construction in Lobito City, southwest Benguela Province, and is expected to begin operation in 2009.

Source: ANIP

Coca Cola Company with 1000 containers congested in the port of Luanda

Coca Cola company, with at least 1.000 containers, is one of the main importers with the highest number of goods to clear from Luanda Port. This information had been announced by the Luanda Port administration board chairman, Silvio Vinhas. According to the official, who was speaking at a meeting with importers, the list of firms also comprises the Golfrate group, Arosfram, Refriango, Cuca and Nosso Super.

Silvio Vinhas said that this behaviour by importers and other entities creates a lot of constrains to the normal functioning of Luanda Port, adding that this situation is also due to the bureaucracy on paperwork dealings and lack of machines for clearance. This situation has caused serious monetary damage to the port, as its revenue comes mainly from the timely clearance of goods.

Currently, Luanda Port receives 540 containers per day, but it can not manage to clear the same number as there are goods out of the scheduled term for clearance. There are at least 45.000 containers awaiting for clearance.

Source: Angop

Angola invests in poultry processing facility

The Government of Angola plans to begin the construction of a poultry processing facility in Malanje Province, valued at $40 million. Angola will receive a loan from South Korea's Export-Import Bank to begin the project.

Source: ANIP

Logoplaste to open factory in Luanda

The Portuguese plastic packaging company, Logoplaste, plans to open a factory in Angola, with an investment of $6.3 million.

Logoplaste currently exports pre-molds and plastic molds to Angola, and would like to focus on production in Angola. Producing packaging near the customer is beneficial in terms of logistics, costs and environmental implications.

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

ANIP Agencia Nacional de Investimento Privado
www.investinangola.com

www.evd.nl/angola

Exchange Rates

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

- KZ 74,994 to the US Dollar (USD)
- KZ 107,317 to the Euro (EUR)
- KZ 7,914 to S. African Rand (ZAR)
- KZ 109,514 to the British Pound (GBP)

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

- Mr. Mário I. Líronel (Assistant Economic and Commercial Department)
  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

For more information, please visit our website:
http://angola.nlembassy.org/

If you are not interested in obtaining this newsletter every month, please advice through the email lua-ea@minbuza.nl and we will remove you from the distribution list.
Thank you.

Disclaimer
The content of this newsletter does not reflect the views of the Royal Netherlands Embassy. It is merely a resume of news articles, from both national and international newspapers and news agencies, which we deem of importance to you the addressee.