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Royal Netherlands Embassy Luanda, Angola

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Economy, Commerce and Investments

Country to build 40 new hotels

Forty new hotels, with modern equipment, whose quality standards vary between 4 and 5 stars will be built in some provinces of the country until 2010, said the Hotel and Tourism minister, Eduardo Jonatão Tchinguñji.

The minister, who was speaking at the re-inauguration ceremony of Roma Hotel, said that this initiative is part of the Hotel and Tourism Ministry efforts to collaborate on addressing the nation's poverty and unemployment problem.

"With upcoming sports events in the country, it is important to create conditions for adequate accommodation, as well as to respond to the speed of the country economic development", thus showing our competence in this sector, noted the minister.

He added that, henceforth, necessary support would be extended to revive the staff training facilities in the field of hotels, so that these units provide services after investment.

Huambo province has four active hotels, and several guest houses.

Hotel Roma has the capacity to accommodate an average of 122 guests, distributed into 60 rooms and it employs 82 staff.

Source: Angola Press Agency

Angolan Government launches a new Website

The Government of Angola recently announced its new website, located at www.angola-portal.ao, the site is designed to inform and guide visitors about Angola. The website includes helpful links to government institutions, various Angolan laws and regulations. This comprehensive site is easy to navigate and full of valuable information.

Source: ANIP

Dutch Trade Mission to Angola from 18th to 23rd November 2007 (in Dutch)

In opdracht van de EVD, agentschap van het Ministerie van Economische Zaken, organiseert de Netherlands-African Business Council (NABC) van 18 tot en met 23 november 2007 een handelsmissie naar Angola. De missie richt zich in het bijzonder op het Nederlandse MKB in de sectoren infrastructuur, olie- en gas sector en landbouw. De handelsmissie staat onder leiding van Kees van Heijst, voorzitter van de NABC. De heer van Heijst heeft veel buitenlandervaring in Afrika en Azië en is onder meer 6 jaar directeur van Vlisco in Ghana geweest. De handelsmissie wordt in samenwerking met de Nederlandse ambassade in Angola georganiseerd.

Via de website van de EVD (www.evd.nl/cpa/angola) of de NABC (www.nabc.nl) kunt u zich aanmelden: u treft daar de links aan naar het registratieformulier (inclusief voorwaarden) en het programma. Gezien de verwachte grote interesse voor de missie (en het beperkt aantal plaatsen) wordt u aangeraden, indien u belangstelling heeft, om snel te reageren. Meer informatie kunt u bij Bob van der Bijl van de NABC verkrijgen (070-3043618 of 06-53192099).

Brazil's exports to Angola rise by 60 percent



Brazilian exports to Angola grew 60 percent in 2006, going from Usd 520 million in 2005 to Usd 836 million. The information was provided by Angolan Finance minister, José Pedro de Morais, at the opening of the Brazil/Angola trade relations seminar.

According to the minister, the flow of trade between the two countries has also increased in the first five months of 2007, this time by 14 percent.

Source: Angola Press Agency

He explained that financial provisions made available via the Exports and Funding Programme (Proex) and the National Economic and Social Development Bank of Brazil have been responsible for this growth in trade.

In 2005, the volume of financing reached about Usd 475 million, a figure that rose to 750 million the following year.

The minister added that the two countries are analyzing the possibility of expanding these financial provisions, in view of the level of absorption of the financial flow by the Angolan authorities.

Angola ranked as the fourth African country importing more Brazilian goods in 2006, after South Africa, Nigeria and Egypt.

Sponsored by the Embassy of Brazil in Angola, the seminar on bilateral trade was part of the celebrations of that Latina America Portuguese speaking country 185th anniversary, on September 7.

National currency stronger against US Dollar in the last four years

The Angolan kwanza (Akz) has strengthened by 48.3 percent against the US dollar in the last four years. In 2003, the kwanza was being sold at 79,20 Akz to the dollar, while in June 2007 this figure was 74,97. The information was provided by Brazilian economist Paulo Oscar Franca, during his speech on business opportunities between Angola and Brazil. Franca added that Luanda's Consumer Price Index rose by 83.4 percent in the same period, and this, together with an increase of about 60 percent in the GDP's growth rate, contributed to keeping inflation down.

Source: Lisbon Lusa News Agency

Country gets new fishing boats

The first shipment of a hundred sea-fishing boats and 300 engines of the "Yanmhar" label, part of the Angolan Government's Global Plan to re-launch artisan fishing, are already in the country.

Speaking to the Press, the director of the Artisan Fishing Development Institute (IPA), Agostinho Duarte announced that the boats of 9 m 60 cm length would be distributed to all fishing provinces in the country.

Agostinho Duarte stated that the official handing over of 33 boats to southern Namibe province, 10 boats and 50 engines to Luanda province, 10 boats and 35 engines to Kwanza Sul would be delivered this month. Besides, Bengo province had previously benefited from 35 engines and two boats that are already in the provincial capital, Caxito city.

Source: Angola Press Agency

BFA and CLUSA to finance agricultural projects in Angola



Banco de Fomento Angola (BFA) and Cooperative League of the USA (CLUSA) have signed an agreement to provide financing for agricultural projects and select production chains.

The agreement includes joint monitoring of project implementation and development and training

Source ANIP

Fernando Borges & Macedo Group invests in bottling mineral water

Fernando Borges & Macedo Group plans to invest USD 4 million on the assembly of its second bottling line for mineral water, in Humpata municipality, Huila Province. With the new bottling line, the group will increase monthly production to 2 million liters of "Agua da Chela," a brand that was created in Huila province and has been in the Angolan market for over three years.

Current production of "Agua de Chela" is approximately 600,000 litres per month, which does not meet the high demand from its main markets, including Huila, Namibe, Cunene, Benguela, Lobito and Luanda.

Source: ANIP

IMF sees progress in Angola, more transparency needed

Angola has made its oil-driven economy more transparent, but the African nation must do more to ease concerns about government corruption and unorthodox fiscal practices, the International Monetary Fund has said. Sub-Saharan Africa's second largest oil producer after Nigeria, Angola repeatedly ranks at the bottom of international corruption and transparency ratings. The IMF is among those urging its government to adopt fiscal reforms.

"Angola has made progress in the area of fiscal transparency in recent years," the IMF said in an internal report provided to Reuters by a highly-placed source in the Angolan capital Luanda. "Nevertheless, in order to come closer to international best practice on key aspects of fiscal transparency, the government needs and should find it feasible to improve processes, procedures, and management in a number of areas," it added.

The report said Angola should strengthen its budget processes and the finance ministry website should be constantly updated as it was "practically impossible" for the public to monitor and assess how public funds are collected and spent. It said the government in Luanda, a mix of reformed Marxists and Western-leaning technocrats, should strive to meet the IMF's Code of Good Practices on Fiscal Transparency, a widely accepted yardstick for government financial accountability. The document, which has not been published, was produced after an IMF mission visited Angola for discussions with authorities from May 24 to June 6.

The IMF and Angola have been at loggerheads since 2002, when a leaked IMF report alleged that \$1 billion had vanished from Luanda's coffers in the previous year. U.S.-based Human Rights Watch added fuel to the fire when it said in a separate report that \$4 billion in oil revenue had gone missing from Angola's treasury between 1997 and 2002.

Angola, which has a high rate of poverty and one of the continent's worst infant mortality rates, has dismissed suggestions the funds were siphoned by corrupt officials, instead blaming accounting problems for the discrepancies. The transparency row has gained traction as Angola enjoys an unprecedented economic boom that has been fuelled by a dizzy marriage of sharply rising petroleum production and high oil world oil prices.

State-owned-oil Company Sonangol, which holds all the rights to the country's oil, has been the biggest beneficiary of that windfall. It is not clear whether Angola's 16 million people, most of whom live in dire poverty, have materially benefited.

The government uses revenue from Sonangol to fund its spending and should stop doing so, the IMF said in the document. It also recommended that state companies (there are more than 250 of them) be more transparent about their accounting. "Sonangol's responsibility for carrying out budgetary actions is no longer justified. Its use of oil revenue for debt service, subsidies, and other quasi-fiscal activities should be gradually eliminated, in the mission's view, by end-2007." Audited accounts of Sonangol and state-owned diamond firm Endiama should be published as soon as possible, it added.

The IMF also raised concerns about the use of oil-backed credit (Luanda has received at least \$4 billion in such loans from China alone) and questioned the dual role of state firms in issuing concessions and being partners in the same projects.

"In recent years the potential conflict of interest has been managed with greater transparency, but it is still present," the report said.

Source: Reuters

Ericsson to set up fiber Optic Network

State owned company Angola Telecom has chosen the Ericsson group to supply and assemble an undersea fiber optic network linking six coastal provinces of Angola. The contract is worth USD 70 million and will include the supply and assembly of equipment as well as associated services.

The network called ADONES (Angola Domestic Network System), will cover the entire 1,600 km stretch of the Angolan coast, from Cabinda Province to Namibe. The network is due to start operating in 2008.

ANIP

Angola shows it will not be China's puppet

A casual visitor to Angola might conclude the country has been taken over by China. There is hardly a street in the capital Luanda without a team of Chinese engineers repairing the rundown infrastructure.

Prof. Henrique Mendes head of planning for the second city of Huambo, takes nearly a minute to list China's commitments ranging from building hospitals, schools, stadium and a polytechnic to renovating the water system.

The road east of Luanda shows a starker sign of the apparent dominance: not only is its Chinese-laid asphalt the first decent road surface into the interior in decades, but it is lined by fortress-like compounds for workers from Chinese state companies.

Chinese companies are behind the rebuilding of Benguela railway from the coast to the borders with Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Analysts often use Angola to support the theory that China has a neo-colonial relationship with Africa, with Beijing as the bossy patron, uplifting impoverished clients, in return for raw materials and influence.

Until recently the two governments did little to counter that impression. Since 2004, China has provided credit lines worth between USD 6 billion and USD 11 billion and shipped in tens of thousands of workers. It is buying ever more Angola oil. It imported USD 9 billion (€6.6 bn, £4.5 bn) worth last year, up from USD 5.6 billion in 2005, making Angola its largest source.

But in the past few months, diplomats and analysts have realised the relationship may be more balanced than once thought. Not only are Chinese companies finding it harder to work in Angola than they anticipated, but Luanda is making clear it does not want to be a puppet. The cancellation this year of a contract with Sinopec, the Chinese state-owned oil company, to build an oil refinery in the port of Lobito (a \$ 3 billion project) was seen as a sign of Angola asserting itself.

"Everyone is going ballistic about China's growing footprint in Angola," said Lucy Corkin, an analyst at South Africa's project for China studies who has undertaken three research trips to Angola. "Not enough credit is given to Angola for managing its own affairs. They are aware of the danger of putting their eggs in one basket and want to get the most they can out of China without relying too much on one economic partner."

Cushioned by huge oil resources (production is to rise to 1.7 million barrels a day in September), Angolan officials argue they have found their own "third way" in dealing with the world. They want to work with the west and China, while being beholden to neither. They like to depict their relationship with China not as supplicatory but strategic. Stung by the reluctance of the traditional donor nations and the International Monetary Fund to reach financing agreement because of concerns over corruption, they say they saw China as an obvious alternative.

"We tried a big diplomatic initiative after the war ended in 2002," said Dr. Mendes. "But donors did not come. So we looked for others solutions. We take care to remind the Chinese that we are not spending donor money, but that we are the donors, so we should have the final word."

The Angolan Government keeps a tight lid on details of the relationship to the fury of its critics who suspect funds go astray. President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who has been in power since 1979, directly controls the disbursement of the loans through the office for National Reconstruction, headed by a close ally, General Vieira Dias Kopelipa.

There have been hints of tension. In late 2004, the finance minister was sent to Beijing to reassure China about the use of the loans after some Angola senior officials were accused of siphoning off Chinese money. China's President Hu Jintao did not visit Angola on his eight-nation tour of Africa in January.

Source: World News

FMO and Dutch government to launch new fund for the development of the financial sector in Africa

FMO, the Dutch Finance Development Company, and the Dutch Government in good cooperation with the AfricInvest Capital Partners will soon create a new EUR 20 million Private Equity Fund. This a special fund, Africinvest Financial Sector Development Fund, will be going to support the development of financial sectors in Africa. The Fund will aim a better structuring of financial sectors in post-war African countries and at further developing of new niches in already-established African financial sectors.

The Fund will invest in financial institutions in Africa and in general into financial services related activities: banking, leasing, factoring, consumer credit, brokerage, credit bureau, rating, asset management, insurance, etc. It will particularly focus on new or existing financial institutions in countries where the financial sector is still not well developed, i.e. in countries with nascent financial sectors, in post-war countries and in less-developed countries, without excluding any other African country. These opportunities have a high risk profile but hold interesting financial and development return potential. The aim is also to work closely with existing Financial Partners in Africa and to assist new initiatives in developing modern and sustainable financial institutions in Africa, whereby the international Best Practices, Corporate Governance and high accessibility for the mass in Africa will be a focus.

The Fund will be managed by Africinvest Capital Partners (ACP), a leading African private equity investment manager, jointly initiated by FMO and Tuninvest Finance Group, as a generalist private equity fund manager operating in the Northern and Sub-Saharan Africa. ACP will be supported by local African management teams: CAURIS Management, CENAINVEST S.A., Fidelity Capital Partners, IBTC Ventures, Marocinvest, and Tuninvest Finance Group.

“Developing the financial sector is a pre-requisite for economic development,” said M. Ben Zwinkels, senior investment officer at FMO. “The Fund will thus help better structure the financial sector in post-war countries, where substantial financial needs meet investment opportunities. It will also focus on developing non-existing niche activities in more advanced African financial sectors.”

“This fund will not superpose with bigger investments made directly by development financial institutions like FMO but will play a complementary role,” said Aziz Mebarek, executive partner at Africinvest Capital Partner. “Indeed, Africinvest Financial Sector Fund will invest no more than €2.5 million by investment and will act as a catalyst to the growth of financial institutions with important value added being brought through the team, through technical assistance, and through FMO network and deep knowledge of financial institutions.”

The Fund will also aim to be additional to what other investors in this sector, like development institutions or local or regional private investors are offering. It will offer access to the FMO Capacity Development budget to financial institutions and companies in need of technical know-how, training and implementing Best Practices.

Source: FMO.nl/disclaimer

Rare sees bright future in Angola and West Africa

PIPE manufacturer and fluid conveyance specialist Rare Holdings said Angola represented the single largest growth opportunity for the group and could also be used as a springboard into oil-rich West Africa.

The group recently opened an office in Angola, the continent's largest supplier of crude oil to China.

A strong sales drive into neighbouring African countries and a buoyant construction industry saw Rare net profit for the year to June surge 45% and revenue 48%. Revenue rose to R 318 millions from R 213 millions, lifting operating profit 43% to R 26 millions from R 11,18 millions.

CEO David Scheepers said headline earnings per share of 28c from 22c previously and after-tax profit of R 16 millions from R 10 millions were in line with forecasts.

Rare also said it had signed a contract worth R 45 millions for the design and supply of 1200 tons of high-pressure pump columns for the Konkola copper mine in Zambia and was bidding on several mining tenders worth more than R 100 millions. The group had also secured other contracts worth more than R 100 millions in Zambia, Ghana and Angola.

"We have had a very exciting first year as a listed company and we are very bullish about the contracts we have won in (other parts of) Africa and our ability to penetrate the broader African fluid conveyance market further," said Scheepers.

He said he was particularly impressed with the group's recent acquisitions, Rare Water and Rare Chemical, which showed exceptional turnover growth of 85% and 240% respectively. "We believe this bodes well for Rare's strategy to enter more fluid markets and reduce our dependence on the energy sector."

Source: Business Day (Johannesburg)

Oil and Mining

OPEC agrees to boost crude oil output

OPEC sought to reassure jittery oil markets by agreeing to boost crude production by 500,000 barrels a day, a move the cartel conceded was prompted partly by "clouds on the horizon" from the U.S. housing slump.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries said the higher output would begin Nov. 1st. It pledged to "vigilantly monitor" the other factors buffeting crude markets, including worries that supplies might not keep pace with higher demand later this year. Significantly and surprisingly the 12-nation cartel said the increase would be based on current production, meaning it will add real oil to the market.

Adding to the editor, OPEC member Angola is set to export a record 1.7 million barrels per day of crude oil during September, up 50,000 bpd from the previous month, traders said.

Angola exports most of its oil production, consuming only about 62,000 bpd domestically. As a result, Angola's output can be pegged at around 1.76 million bpd in September.

Industry officials estimate that Angola, the second-largest oil producer in sub-Saharan Africa, will pump two millions bpd next year. That is nearly double the output from 2006.

Source: The Bryan-College Station Eagle

Angola to offer 10 new oil blocks by year-end

Angola's state oil company announced that it would hold a licensing round for new oil concessions before the end of the year. Sonangol will be accepting bids for one onshore block, Cabinda Centro, and for nine offshore blocks, the company said in an advertisement in The Financial Times newspaper. Details on bid round details and pre-qualification would be announced at a later date, it said.

Source: Dow Jones

Subsea 7 oil Company gets USD 80 million contract

Norwegian offshore contractor, Subsea 7, has been awarded a three-year deal, valued at over USD 80 million, by BP Angola, with possibilities to extend for another two years.

The contract, which will begin immediately, includes support services in the Block 18 Greater Plutonio development.

Subsea 7 and its subsidiary, Sevenses Angola, will provide project management and engineering for the maintenance, repair and light construction work required in this deepwater field.

Source: ANIP

Angola to load 53 crude cargoes in November



Total SA, Chevron Corp. and other companies will load at least 53 crude cargoes in November from Angola, Africa's third-biggest oil producer, in line with October's total.

The November loadings will include seven for Total, one more than in October, six each for Chevron and Exxon Mobil Corp., four for BP Plc and three each for Eni SpA and Statoil ASA. State-run Sonangol SA has 22 cargoes, one less than in October, and Sonangol Sinopec International, a venture between Sonangol and China's biggest refiner, will load two Plutonio cargoes.

Angola's cargoes range from 950,000 barrels to 1 million barrels apiece. Shipments of Girassol crude

Source: Bloomberg

will rise to nine in November from eight in October and Nemba will fall to nine from 10. Kuito is unchanged at one, while Dalia crude will increase to eight from seven.

Shipments of Cabinda are unchanged at six, Hungo will fall to eight from nine, and Kissanje to seven from eight. There is one cargo of Xikomba scheduled for November, unchanged from October.

The four cargoes scheduled from the Greater Plutonio field are one more than in October. BP and Sonangol have one each. Greater Plutonio is one of seven major projects that Tony Hayward, BP's new chief executive officer, said in February would start this year. BP's 50 percent share of the 250,000 barrel-a-day project is equal to about 3 percent of the company's worldwide production.

Angola's first oil project to be operated by BP is using a purpose-built floating production, storage and offloading vessel to gather oil from deepwater wells.

Greater Plutonio is in block 18, which is held 50 percent by BP and 50 percent by Sonangol Sinopec International.

Angola became the 12th member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in January. The African nation is expected to have a production quota next year, OPEC Secretary General Abdalla El-Badri said on Sept. 14. Angola's quota may be announced at the group's meeting in December.

Pepperl & Fuchs supplies fieldbus for BP project in Angola

Pepperl & Fuchs Company has been awarded a contract to be the fieldbus interface supplier, partnering with Emerson Process Management, for the project awarded by BP to automate the floating production, storage, and offloading vessel that will develop the Greater Plutonio Deepwater offshore oil fields of Angola.

Emerson will implement the Pepperl & Fuchs field bus installation system FieldConnex, a range of foundation fieldbus interface solutions which includes the FieldBarrier, a unique fieldbus distribution module that combines the three essential physical layer functions of distribution, short circuit limitation, and intrinsically safe explosion protection in one product. For this project, the FieldConnex products were supplied mounted into customized stainless steel enclosures and pre-wired to a specification requested specifically by the client.

Pepperl & Fuchs FieldConnex will interface the field measurement instrumentation to Emerson's DeltaV digital

automation system which includes the unique AMS Suite predictive maintenance software. These key components of the company's PlantWeb digital plant architecture are at the core of the innovative digital approach that will include more than 1,000 smart digital field devices.

The vessel, being built by Hyundai Heavy Industries, will be 310 meters long, weigh 80,000 tons, and be capable of storing 2 million barrels of crude oil, with living quarters for 100 crewmembers. The topside facilities will produce an average of 200 thousand barrels per day of export quality oil. All production, gas and water injection wells will be subsea.

Source: Twinsburg, OH

Banking and Insurance Sectors

Investment bank grants credits of USD 700 million

The African Investment Bank (BAI) granted credits estimated at USD 700 million, said Pedro Silva BAI marketing director. In the framework of the inauguration of a new agency in Boavista area, in Luanda, the director explained that in the first semester of this year the bank's net worth amounted to about 2.75 billion dollars.

However, BAI stocks were estimated at USD 190 million, while the number of clients reached 120,000. BAI's solvency ratio is now at around 13.5%, that is, above the 10% set by the National Reserve Bank (BNA). With the opening of this new agency, BAI increases the number of service posts to 19 in Luanda and 42 countrywide.

Source: Angola Press Agency

Sol bank credits reach USD 78 million

The package of credits of the Angolan private owned "Banco Sol" has reached Usd 78 million in the first semester of this year, against 33 reached in 2006. The information was released by the bank's commercial director, Albino de Azevedo.

Albino said that the bank's deposits reached USD 267 million, beating the management's estimates (USD 220 million). However, during the corresponding period of the year 2006, the package of deposits were of USD 170 million. Based on the result achieved so far, the bank expects to reach about USD 320 million until the end of this year, he added.

Albino Azevedo explained that his institution expected to attract 85,000 clients initially, but ended up gathering 93,000. Hence, it seeks to reach 150,000 clients until the end of this year. "Banco Sol" was established in 2001 and has more than 300 workers.

Source: Angola Press Agency

Keve bank opens branch in Huambo

A branch of the private owned bank "Banco Keve" was recently opened in Huambo province, to boost the region's socio-economic development and grant credits to singular and collective initiatives.

According to the bank's managing board chairman, Amílcar Silva, his institution will first direct its credits to the agro-farming sector. "The opening of this branch is part of the programme of expansion of our services, whose purpose is to act in all regions where there are potential clients," he stated. High quality and public service are factors that, according to the official, will help "Banco Keve" to beat competition in the local financial market.

On the occasion of the inauguration, Huambo governor, Paulo Kassoma, stated that the opening of "Banco Keve" will stimulate the population's interest to participate more actively in the increment of internal production.

With this new branch, Banco Keve reaches six different provinces of the country.

Source: Angola Press Agency

International merchant bank signs agreement with development bank of Angola

The International Merchant Bank (BNI) is going to offer products and services of the Development Bank of Angola (BDA) at its branches, as a result of a financial agreement signed by the two institutions. The agreement was signed by BDA CEO Paixao Franco and by the BNI's president Mário Palhares.

Franco explained that the agreement is aimed mainly at extending the BDA's products and services, as it could not, on its own, have the capacity to respond to the country's current needs. Thus it is looking for partnerships with other commercial and investment banks, as well as financial associations. He added that it is not his bank's goal to compete with commercial banks, but rather to complement their work where they do not find immediate funding through conventional banks. In his turn, Palhares said the agreement will enable both banks to drive national business.

Source: Angola Press Agency (Luanda)

Logistics and Infrastructures

Angola national contingency plan for disasters and calamities

Angola may adopt, in the near future, a National Contingency Plan to guarantee an adequate response to situations of disasters and calamities, which might happen in the country. For the effect, the National Civil Protection Service (SNPC), backed by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), carried out in Luanda, a workshop aimed at defining the strategies for the elaboration of the plan.

SNPC's coordinator, Lieutenant General Eugénio Laborinho, who presided over the event's opening ceremony, said he expects that with the elaboration of the plan the country can conduct a prospective management to avoid the future dangers. He also called for the reduction of the existing danger, strengthening it through the adoption of financial mechanisms of protection (special funds, insurance). This would create a set of responsibilities and actions which all institutions will stick to.

The insertion of prevention in the strategy to reduce poverty through the establishment of a concrete criterion meant to reduce the risks in the social planning process and public investment are also part of the fixed goals, stressed the SNPC official. Civil Protection in Angola is a new structure and has been carrying out actions for its full institutionalisation, namely on national and provincial levels, and intensive works of technical training for the staffs of the system.

The workshop was attended by senior technicians who are experts in public and private services and NGOs, and is being lectured by the UNDP specialists. The main topics discussed were about natural disasters in Angola and national mechanisms of response, mobilising of resources to respond to the emergencies, and management of humanitarian information among others.

The National Civil Protection Service was set up by government to prevent and manage disasters and natural calamities. SNPC belongs to the National Civil Protection Council, an organ coordinated by the Head of State, José Eduardo dos Santos, and includes all ministers.

EU grants € 5 million for water projects in Kwanza Sul

The European Union (EU) will invest € 5.6 million in water supply to rural areas in the coastal Kwanza Sul province. For the start of the project, an EU team paid a two-day visit to Sumbe city to discuss with local authorities issues related to the water supply programme.

According to the EU Water and Sanitation project Coordinator, Mauro Divariti, the project will be implemented under the EU programme aimed at "supplying water for all" in the country. Thus, the programme foresees the drilling of wells, rehabilitation of water systems and installation of tap water system.

In the meantime the local director of the provincial department of Study, Planning and Statistics, Mateus de Brito, said that the water department has already drafted a project aimed at assisting around 50,000 families in the districts of Sumbe and Amboim Port.

Source: Reliefweb

Lunda Norte road network repaired soon

The road network in Lunda Norte province will be rehabilitated this year. The rehabilitation is aimed at improving driving safety, traffic and the socio-economic development of the region. The project is part of the 2007/2008 government program on improved and increased supply of basic commodities and services to the population and it includes the rehabilitation of nearly 30 bridges.

The repair of primary, secondary and tertiary roads in Lunda Norte is paramount as it will ease the road traffic, and benefit the trade, agriculture, transportation, and the hotel sectors. Under the same program, the public works Ministry will continue to rehabilitate the national road so as to connect the provinces of Luanda, Bengo, Kwanza Norte, Malange, Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul.

Source: ANIP

USD 490 million are needed for Namibe port rehabilitation

The MP Fernando França Van-Dunem voiced for the need of conceiving projects for the rehabilitation of Namibe Port in the framework of the State Budget.

França Van-Dunem, who was leading a parliamentary team commission of the National Assembly, said Namibe Port is a strategic point for national development given its location in Angola's southern region and the neighbouring Namibia.

Namibe Port needs at least USD 490 million for its total rehabilitation, said its executive director, Bento da Paixao, during a meeting with MPs.

The port contributes with USD 1 million revenues to the state budget.

Source: Angola Press Agency (Luanda)

Kwanza Sul province to get new city

Serafim do Prado, the governor of the coastal Kwanza Sul province, reportedly announced the construction of a new city in Sumbe under the framework of the improvement of social conditions to the population. Speaking to the press at the end of visits to various social undertakings being built in Sumbe city, the governor noted that the new city will be built 15 kilometres to the north of the current city in 2009.

"The new city project proposal is now being outlined by the Public Works Ministry", stressed the governor, adding that the current Sumbe city has the capacity to accommodate just 30,000 inhabitants, which is not enough as per the increased inhabitant caseload currently settled in that province.

Source: Angola press Agency (Luanda)

Rebuilding of railroads in Angola 75% Complete



Reconstruction work on the Angolan railroad system is approximately 75 percent complete. The route between Luanda and Malange is about 80 percent complete. The foundations for setting the sleepers have been built, and the 140 km stretch from Baya to Dondo is ready to be used.

Of the three railroad lines that make up the country's rail system, the Benguela railroad is in need of the most rehabilitation requiring several tunnels to be built. In order to guarantee rail travel in Angola, 8 locomotives, 40 carriages and 500 wagons have been purchased.

Source: ANIP

Albano Machado airport rehabilitation works to be completed soon

The rehabilitation of Albano Machado Airport, in Angola's central Huambo Province, will soon be completed. The project is in its final stage, with some work still to be finalized within the main building, departure areas and protocol zone.

A total of USD 1.4 million has been invested by the National Air Navigation and Airports Company (ENANA) for the rehabilitation and equipping of the Albano Machado Airport.

Huambo airport rehabilitation includes renewing the main building, restaurants, departure areas, and provision of technical equipment.

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 74,799 to the US Dollar (USD)
 - KZ 106,005 to the Euro (EUR)
 - KZ 10,822 to the S. African Rand (ZAR)
 - KZ 152,538 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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www.angola.nlembassy.org

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Thank you.

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