

INDEPENDENCE DAY

40th anniversary of Angola's independence



José Eduardo dos Santos reaffirms democratic and rule of law character of state

The Angolan head of State, José Eduardo dos Santos, stressed during his address to the nation, as part of the 40th anniversary of national independence, the democratic and rule of law nature of the Angolan State.

In his speech, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos said that the Constitution of the Republic defines the Angolan state as a democratic and rule of Law state that is founded on the separation of powers and the interdependence of functions.

He added that it enshrines the independence of the courts and the legitimacy of political power through free, periodic, multi-party, elections based on universal suffrage and also enshrines respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, the right to participate in political and civic activities, as well as an economy based on market principles.

The Angolan President also highlighted the fact that the centrally planned economy model has long been abolished and established the legal basis for the organization of the social market economy, where the private sector is to be more and more reaffirmed as the main source of creation of national wealth, conducting of economic activity and job creation.

Angola is being developed on the basis of universally accepted general rules while respecting its specificities and history.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Thousands of people attended cultural parade



On November 11, 1975, the then president of MPLA, António Agostinho Neto, proclaimed the country's independence, after a long period of Portuguese colonial occupation of the national territory

Thousands of people attended the main cultural parade at Luanda's Republic Square on Wednesday, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the National Independence.

On arrival at the site, the head of State, José Eduardo dos Santos, and his wife, Ana Paula dos Santos, paid a homage to the first Angolan President, António Agostinho Neto, by laying a wreath by his sarcophagus. Neto died on September 10, 1979, in Moscow, Russia.

The civic and military parade was preceded by the National Anthem played by the symphonic orchestra "Kapossoke".



About 6,500 people attended the parade representing various ministerial departments grouped into blocks, with highlight to those of the ex-combatants, children, public administration, youth and sports, social communication, education, health and environment.

The spectators cheered to the show of the blocks of the industry, construction and urban development, as well as those of agriculture and fisheries that included street vendors with their loaded baskets.

The event included the parading of garish allegoric vehicles.

The military parade started with a command from the commander-in-chief José Eduardo dos Santos, with 24 blocks of staff of the National Police and the three branches of the Armed Forces.



The national police parade involved road traffic, border and riot staff, while the three branches of the armed forces participated with cadets, giving the idea of renovation of their respective units, with highlight to the special forces.

The presidents of South Africa, Botswana, Congo, DR Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Namibia, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe witnessed the ceremony. Brazil and Cuba were represented by their respective vice-presidents, while Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea and Mali by prime ministers.

Representatives of Zimbabwe, Senegal, Zambia, Portugal, Ghana, China, Vietnam Nigeria and the former presidents of Mozambique, Cabo Verde and Ghana also attended the event.

Source: Angop

INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Embassy of Angola in Hungary commemorated the 40th anniversary of independence



Angolan ambassador to Hungary the independence of Angola had a geopolitical impact on the entire region of Central and Southern Africa

The proclamation of national independence, on November 11, 1975, gives to the people of Angola legitimately, the opportunity to pay a vibrant tribute to all that generation of Angolan patriots, determined and fearless who sacrificed their youth and sometimes their lives for our young country and the emergence of a free, independent and sovereign nation.

It is then with great emotion and a feeling of gratitude that we recall the memory of all those who fell for the ideals of freedom and emancipation of our young nation.

This is also an opportunity for all Angolans to draw a retrospective and evaluative assessment of the history of their young nation and a propitious opportunity to conduct a prospective analysis of its advantages and its role in Africa and the world.

Angola gained independence belatedly compared to other African countries. The proclamation of the independence, which occurred in the context of the Cold War, was immediately followed by a long civil war of twenty-seven years, the most violent of the African continent, with an extremely heavy human, economic and material toll.

Politically, the achievement of peace in 2002 allowed Angola to show the world a completely different geopolitical and geo-economic reality. A virtuous circle of peace, national unity, political reconciliation, reconstruction, economic and social development has replaced the vicious cycle of war, violence and destruction.

Peace is then, one of the finest achievements of our country since its independence. During forty years, our country has made significant progress towards the consolidation of pluralist democratic regime and a gradual move towards a state of law.

Economically, Angola has adopted the opened market economy, which has fostered a macroeconomic policy based on three main axes: the national reconstruction, the sustainable and durable economic and social developments plan as well as the economic diversification policy.

In essence, Angola has known, for the last ten years, an extraordinary economic growth and is now the third sub-Saharan African economy in terms of GDP, behind South Africa and Nigeria.

It is important to emphasize that, beyond the internal political and economic balance, the independence of Angola has exceeded the national border, with a geopolitical impact on the entire region of Central and Southern Africa and, in particular on the process of independence of Namibia and Zimbabwe, as well as the end of the apartheid in South Africa.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Angola and Hungary reaffirm their historical links



"Hungary and Angola established diplomatic relations on April 8, 1977 with the signature of an agreement on economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation.

Since then, the relations between our two countries are in good shape and characterized by a high-level dialogue.

It is also my duty to recall the role played by your country in supporting those who fought for the independence of Angola and the participation of Hungary in the deployment of United Nations military forces in the United Nations Verification Mission in Angola.

As in the past, many of Angolan staff continues to receive training scholarships offered by Hungary and we thank you very much for all.

While welcoming the prospect of the forthcoming opening of an Embassy and a Trade Office of Hungary in Angola, allow me, Excellency, to reiterate our wish and our will to deepen diversify and amplify the bilateral relations between our two countries".



Dr. László Szabó, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, guest of honor of the ceremony

ECONOMY

Proposed State Budget Law for 2015 approved by the Angolan parliament



The bill of the General State Budget (OGE) for 2016 in Angola was approved Tuesday by the majority in the National Assembly (the country's parliament) although the Minister of Finance said risks associated to public revenues remained in place.

Minister Armando Manuel said that these risks remain a reality, similar to what happened in 2015, when it was necessary to rectify the state budget approved at the end of 2014, due to the sharp fall in the price of oil, the country's principal export.

Therefore, the State Budget for 2016 includes a number of restrictions such as the limitation on new hires and promotions within the civil service, "with some exceptions for the health sector, education and for new services that require new staff to enable them to operate."

The OGE was drafted on the basis of a price per barrel of oil of US\$45 and oil production of 1.888 million barrels per day.

The macroeconomic scenario underlying the budget forecasts a real gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 3.3 percent, a budget deficit of 5.5 percent and expenses of 6.4 trillion kwanzas (US\$47 billion).

The finance minister quoted by Angolan news agency Angop, said in parliament that the non-oil sector was expected to post growth close to 2 percent, and the main contributions would come from energy (12 percent), construction (3.5 percent), industry manufacturing (2.5 percent) and agriculture (2.5 percent).

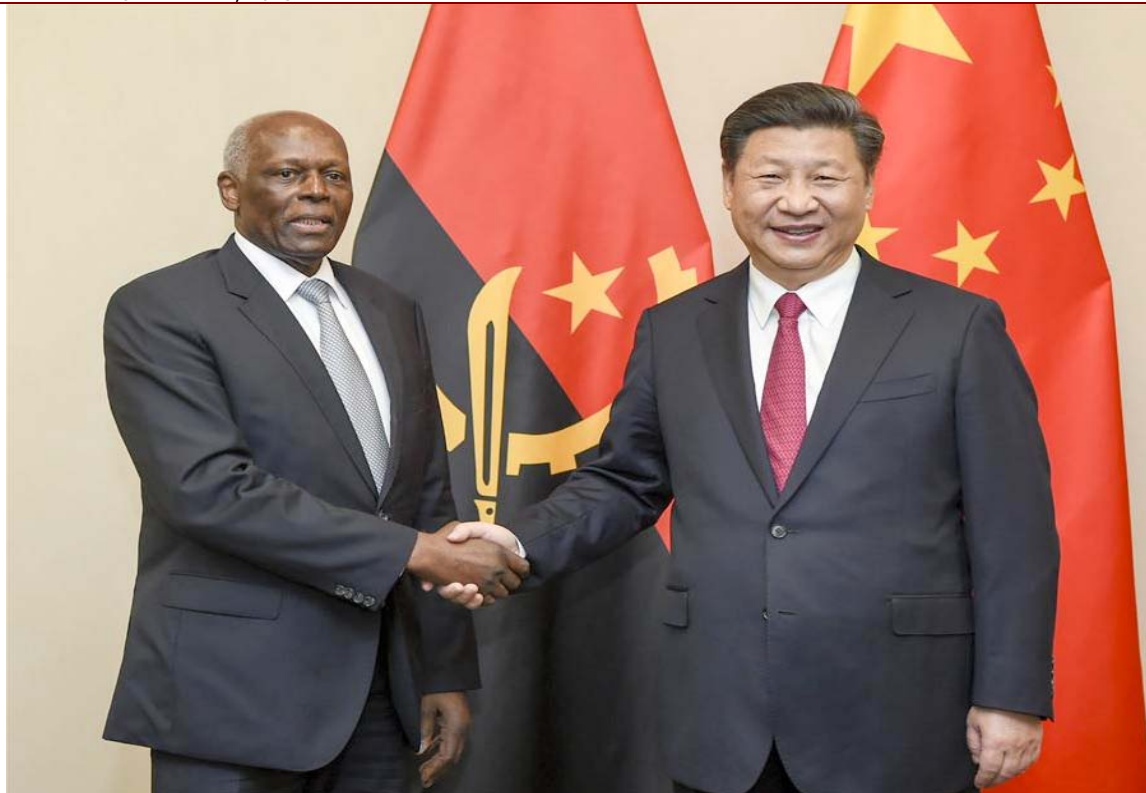
The social sector will absorb 43.2 percent of spending, general public services 22.9 percent, defence, security and public order 20.2 percent, while the economic sector should absorb a share of 13.7 percent of the state budget.

The budget's description, examined and approved during the first ordinary plenary session of the 4th Legislative Session of the 3rd Legislature, will go to specialized committees for review and should be approved definitively by 15 December.

COOPERATION

Presidents of Angola and China call to strengthen bilateral cooperation

DECEMBER 4TH, 2015



Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos and Chinese President Xi Jinping

Angola and China should consolidate and deepen the existing bilateral strategic partnership for mutual benefit, Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos and Chinese President Xi Jinping said Thursday in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Xi noted that bilateral relations are “at their highest level ever” and gave assurances that China intended to continue to work with Angola to support the country’s development, particularly in the industrial, financial and infrastructure construction sectors.

Cited by Chinese state news agency Xinhua, China’s president called for increased exchanges in areas such as education, culture, healthcare, media, youth, tourism and human resources.

The two leaders, who met in Johannesburg on the sidelines of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the China/Africa Cooperation Forum taking place Friday and Saturday, seized the moment to review some international issues, particularly those related to the Great Lakes region in central Africa.

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, after referring to his state visit to china earlier this year in which “important consensus” was reached, mentioned some economic sectors in which Angola is interested in Chinese cooperation, including the oil industry, conservation of water resources and food processing, as well as the financial sector.

The Chinese ambassador to Angola, Cui Aimin, said Monday there were ongoing meetings between technical groups of the two countries for development of monetary agreements, reciprocal protection of investments and introduction of visa facilities.

(Angop/macauhub/AO/CN)

CHINA-AFRICA SUMMIT

Angola and Mozambique expect more investment and financing after Africa/China Forum

DECEMBER 7TH, 2015



The 6th edition of the China/Africa Forum served to approve a Chinese financing package of US\$60 billion for Africa and to convey a message of confidence in the existing relationship that was received positively by the leaders of Angola and Mozambique.

Since the 1st Forum on China/Africa, trade between China and Africa has increased 21 fold, exceeding US\$222 billion in 2015, but the ambition voiced by Angolan and Mozambican leaders at the Johannesburg summit was also reflected in their call for more investment in industry, technology transfer and financing projects.

The Angolan Finance minister, Armando Manuel said that the intervention of the Chinese president at the summit “demystified the belief that China’s relations with Africa had at their core the raw materials that Africa offers,” adding there was “a very precise strategy to respond to the three areas of infrastructure, human capital and financial resources,” needed by African countries.

As for the package of US\$60 billion for development projects in Africa, US\$5 billion is expected to be donations and US\$35 billion in preferential loans, not including one-off loans from Chinese commercial banks, according to Armando Manuel, cited by the Angolan press.

The finance minister also highlighted the prospect raised by China of “moving Chinese industry to African economies,” while for the minister of Agriculture, Afonso Canga, Angola should take advantage of the financial and technological availability of China and the aim is a programme of investments in the agricultural sector with investors from both countries.

Max Tonela, Minister for Industry and Trade of Mozambique, told Radio Mozambique of a desire for greater technology transfer and installation of Chinese labor-intensive industries.

In a meeting with his counterpart Xi Jinping, the Mozambican president, Filipe Nyusi presented agriculture and mineral resources as two of the priority sectors for the beginning of the industrialization of the country, which is needed to abandon the current model of exporting raw materials and move on to investing in selling processed products.

China International Radio reported that Xi Jinping asked for China and Mozambique to deepen cooperation in the areas of oil and gas, mining, processing, agriculture, infrastructure and finance.

The Angolan president, José Eduardo dos Santos in his speech at the summit called for the Johannesburg Declaration to reflect the “depth and strategic vision” of the Forum and the 2016-2018 Action Plan to open a “new era of cooperation and progress.”

On the sidelines of the meeting, Santos met with a delegation from the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), the world’s largest, which funded construction of the largest housing project in Angola, the city of Kilamba, and is funding construction of a combined cycle power plant in Soyo.

The Chinese President, Xi Jinping, asked his Angolan counterpart during a meeting between them, for more dynamic cooperation between China and Angola, stressing that bilateral relations “are experiencing the best period ever” with “mutual political trust” and “economic complementarity.”

José Eduardo dos Santos stressed the “success” of his six-day visit to Beijing last June, when Angola was granted a new loan from China totalling US\$6 billion.

Angola and China are negotiating at a very fast pace an agreement on visas and another on currency conversion, as well as an agreement for reciprocal protection of investments, said the Chinese ambassador to Angola, Cui Aimin, on the eve of the summit.

Also in Johannesburg was the President of Cabo Verde (Cape Verde), Jorge Carlos Fonseca, who in addition to being seen with the Chinese President also met with a Chinese company from the audiovisual sector that wants to invest in the archipelago.

Source : Angop @ Macaub

INFRASTRUCTURE

Angola's major cities linked by road



Waldemar Alexandre Pires, the minister of construction

The most important locations in Angola are all linked to the national road network, said in Luanda the minister of construction, Waldemar Alexandre Pires.

The minister stressed that the government had succeeded in just over 10 years “in recovering the 8,000 kilometres that represented the road heritage inherited from colonial times, which in 2002 was in general disrepair.”

Pires said that besides reconstruction of those 8,000 kilometres, another 4,300 kilometres of roads were built, bringing the total to 12,300 kilometres, “which resulted in the connection of the provincial capitals either directly or indirectly.”

The Minister recalled the recent approval of the Road Fund to pay for the road network and said that conditions were in place for the road maintenance programme, under the responsibility of the Angolan National Roads Institute (INEA), to be re-launched to ensure preservation of investments made in the road network.

Angola, the minister said cited by Angolan news agency Angop, has a road network of 76,000 kilometres, 12,300 kilometres of paved primary roads, a secondary network of 27,200 kilometres and a tertiary network of 36,500 kilometres.

Included in the State Budget for 2016 are 33 repair projects of about 2,400 kilometres of roads, costing US\$960 million, involving both the primary and secondary network.

The minister recognised that there are currently around 4,500 kilometres of the 12,300 kilometres that were built or rebuilt since 2002 already in a poor or serious state of disrepair.

ECONOMY & FINANCE

Angola: BNA to release coins of 50 and 100 kwanzas



Governor José Pedro de Moraes

“Replacing notes with coins in Angola offers savings to the State”



Coins of 50 and 100 kwanzas

The two coins of 50 and 100 kwanzas put into circulation in Angola will replace the notes of the same denomination, and represent a saving for the state, said Monday in Luanda the Governor of the National Bank of Angola.

The ceremony to launch the two coins was held Monday in Luanda at the headquarters of the National Bank of Angola, in a ceremony presided over by Governor José Pedro de Moraes and is part of the commemorations of the 40th anniversary of the independence of Angola.

The BNA director responsible for Cash in Circulation, António Manuel Ramos da Cruz said that at the moment the BNA has just 240,000 new coins but added that a total of 50 million 50-kwanza coins and the same number of 100-kwanza coins would eventually be provided.

Ramos da Cruz recalled that the notes of smaller denominations last about three months in circulation in the market, while the coins will last much longer, which “will allow a reduction of cost of production of notes and also keeps them longer in the market.”

The notes of 50 and 100 kwanzas will be replaced as the new coins come into the market, with the National Bank of Angola giving assurances that the money supply will remain unchanged.

The BNA currently has about 243 million coins in circulation, a number that is considered reasonable for the market’s needs.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

China and Angola negotiate agreement on currency conversion

DECEMBER 1ST, 2015



CUI AIMIN - CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO ANGOLA

"Angola is a strategic and important partner of China in Africa as well as an active and beneficiary participant of China-Africa Cooperation Forum (FOCAC), stressed Monday in Luanda the Chinese Ambassador to Angola, Cui Aimin"

Negotiations between Angola and China for an agreement on the introduction of facilities in granting visa and another on currency conversion are taking place "at a rapid pace," said Monday in Luanda the ambassador of China in Angola.

Ambassador Cui Aimin, speaking about the 2nd China/Africa Forum Summit due to be held in Johannesburg on 4 and 5 December, explained that Angola and China were also negotiating the signing of an agreement for reciprocal protection of investments.

Cui Aimin said China's cooperation with Angola, under the established strategic partnership agreement in 2010, contributed to the development of Africa, although he acknowledged he was not yet satisfied with the level of cooperation between the two countries, given the great potential there is.

The diplomat said that in addition to economic and trade cooperation, it was important to lay the foundation for cultural exchanges, particularly through the Chinese and Portuguese language, to positively influence other areas of bilateral cooperation, according to Angolan news agency Angop.

Trade between Angola and China in 2014 reached, US\$37.7 billion, while trade between Africa and China in the same period exceeded US\$200 billion.

The ambassador also said Angola had managed, using credit lines from China, to recover or build 2,800 kilometres of railway, over 2,000 kilometres of roads and 130,000 social houses.

Angola also built 1,000 kilometres of power transmission lines, 14 power substations, 78 schools, 39 hospitals and 10,000 hectares of agricultural irrigation projects.

Source : Angop and Macaub

ANGOLA & EUROPEAN UNION

European Union Wants to Boost Partnership With Angola



The minister of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg, Jean Asselborn

The European Union expressed Thursday in Luanda interest in boosting the partnership with Angola in the fields of trade, development and diversification of economic cooperation, according to the minister of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg, Jean Asselborn.

The European official was speaking at the opening of the Second Ministerial Meeting Angola / European Union, which aims to analyze the implementation of the agreement "Joint Path", signed on July 23, 2012 in Brussels, and outline new areas of cooperation.

After having congratulated Angola for the 40th anniversary of the National Independence and the efforts to maintain peace and to the achievement of sustainable development, Jean Asselborn said the "Joint Path" agreement has been a platform to address regional, continental and world challenges, in a constructive dialogue base.

He spoke of the need to strengthen cooperation in the energy sector, which plays a crucial role in economic development by diversifying energy sources and improve access to energy in rural areas.

The minister also appreciated the exchange with Angola, on security issues, especially in the Great Lakes region, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the emerging crisis in Burundi, hoping that together there will be found the best positive solutions, Angola and non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and the presidencies of the Great Lakes Region and the Kimberley Process.

AGRICULTURE

Coffee production expands in the province of Kwanza Sul, Angola



Coffee production in Angola's Kwanza Sul province has been increasing in recent years due to the efforts of producers who are focusing on revival of the crop, said the director of the provincial delegation of the National Coffee Institute of Angola (INCA).

Magalhães Alfredo Lourenço, who was speaking on the sidelines of a visit of the provincial governor of Kwanza Sul, Eusébio de Brito Teixeira, to the "Gravidade" farm, announced that this year forecasts point to a harvest of over 3,000 tons of commercial coffee from a crop area of 18,000 hectares. "Within a decade and a half we intend to be producing 80,000 tons of commercial coffee per year, over an area of 120 000 hectares, similar to what happened in the 1970s," he said.

One of the drivers of the recovery process is the "Gravidade" farm, which is implementing a coffee seedlings multiplication programme, initially providing 160,000 seedlings to rural families.

The project manager, Célia Luís, said in the long term the program would provide 3 million seedlings, adding that had been greater demand for seedlings by farmers due to new coffee growing areas.

The beginning of coffee production on a large scale in Kwanza Sul province and in the country in general dates back to the 1920s, and in the 1970s Angola was one of the world's largest producers.

Until 1974, when the country became independent, the production of commercial coffee in Kwanza Sul province totalled 80,000 tons, from an area of 120,000 hectares.

The government of Angola plans to relaunch coffee production in the country by supporting producers and renewing plantations, said in Luanda the minister of Agriculture, Afonso Pedro Canga.

The minister was speaking at the 55th General Assembly of the Inter-African Coffee Organisation (IACO), which under the motto "gender and youth in the African coffee industry", said that the introduction of technical support programmes to producers and research is also an area that needs focus in order to revive coffee cultivation.

Angola, an ICAO founding country in the 1970s was the world's third largest coffee producer and currently the main African producers are Ethiopia, Uganda and Ivory Coast.