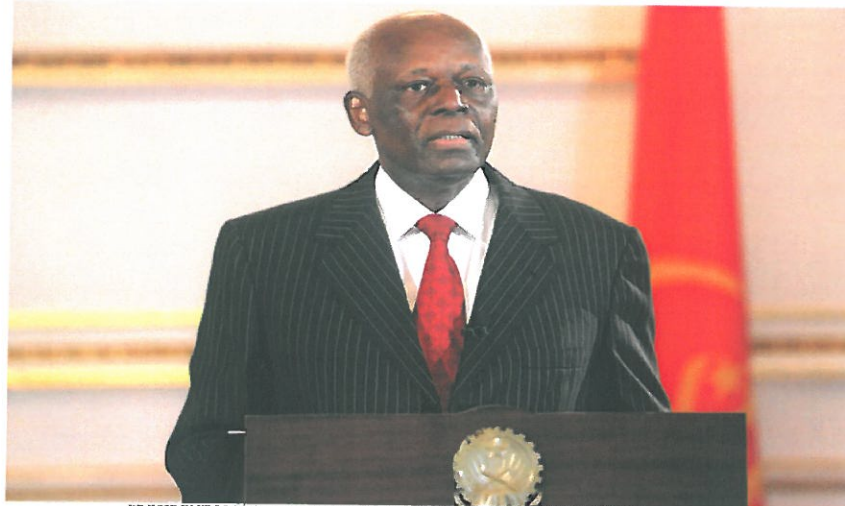


NEW YEAR MESSAGE

President stresses need for preservation of peace



PRESIDENT JOSÉ EDUARDO DOS SANTOS DELIVERS NEW YEAR SPEECH

Angolan head of State José Eduardo dos Santos highlighted the need to preserve peace, stability and consolidation of democracy and State-owned institutions.

Delivering his New Year speech, José Eduardo dos Santos said it was crucial to ensure the freedom of creation and expression in order for everyone to take part in building process of social welfare.

The president said that the human development, in particular the knowledge and ability of man to do things, are a key factor for social change and the basis for economic growth and social progress.

In this regard, the Angolan Statesman stressed the importance of cordial human relations, peace and mutual respect in the Angolan society. "These relationships allow to keep balance and stability that ensure security, public order and tranquillity, important for every one to make one's life and affirmation of citizenship," he said.

On the other hand, the President of Republic highlights happiness, brotherhood, solidarity and hope in his New Year message.

According to the president, despite the current difficulties caused by the global crisis, it requires creative and effective solutions to overcome such a situation. "One needs to believe in a better future. The Angolans can extract everything they need in the country's earth or underground. We spent much time talking about diversification of the economy, but we did very little", said the president, adding that it is better to start late than never start.

The Head of State recalled that the Angolan people had already managed to overcome complicated and difficult challenges than those being experienced today.

According to President of Republic, the success owed to the self-confidence attitude and determination, a stance that should be continued.

FINANCE

Angolan central bank raises interest rates

DECEMBER 23RD, 2015



National Bank Of Angola

The National Bank of Angola (BNA) raised benchmark interest rates, namely the BNA rate, which rose from 10.5 % to 11 %, according to the most recent decisions of the bank's Monetary Policy Committee.

The Angolan central bank said in a statement the commission decided to increase the interest rate on the marginal lending facility by half a percentage point to 13 % and reduced the interest rate on the liquidity absorption facility from 1.75 % to 0 %.

The Monetary Policy Committee of the National Bank of Angola also decided to set up a permanent liquidity facility with a seven-day maturity, having set the interest rate at 1.75 %.

The committee said in a statement it had noted the worsening of monetary conditions in the Angolan economy, after analysing the evolution of inflation and the exchange rate, as well as fiscal, monetary and external account indicators.

In November the Luibor (Luanda Interbank Offered Rate) stood at 11.53 % "overnight" and at 11.56 % and 12.00 % for maturities of three and 12 months, respectively. The average benchmark exchange rate stabilised against October at 135.312 kwanzas per dollar.

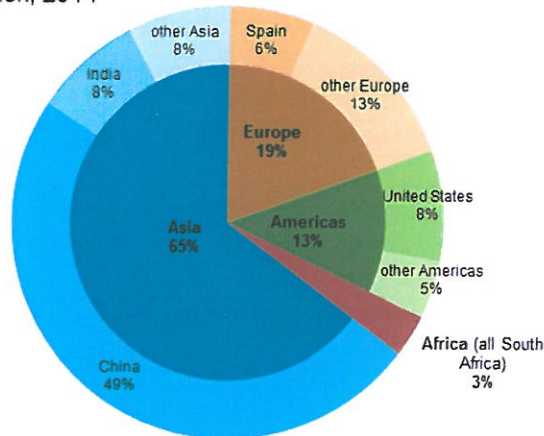
Source: Angop

INDUSTRY

Angola's oil production overtakes Nigeria's

DECEMBER 17TH, 2015

Figure 3. Angola's crude oil exports, including lease condensate, by destination, 2014



Note: Total exports were 1.65 million barrels per day.
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration based on Global Trade Information Services

Angola overtook Nigeria in November with regard to oil production, according to data provided directly to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The OPEC monthly report for December said that in November Angola produced 1.722 million barrels of oil per day, a monthly drop of 40,000 barrels per day, while Nigeria lowered output by 205,000 barrels per day to 1.607 million barrels per day.

The monthly downturn (November compared to October) registered in daily production in Nigeria was the highest among the OPEC member countries, followed by Saudi Arabia, the largest producer in the cartel, with 90,000 fewer barrels.

However, if production is based on secondary sources, the same report also said that in November while Angola produced 1.722 million barrels per day, a monthly increase of 24,400 barrels, Nigeria produced 1.925 million barrels per day, 25,000 fewer barrels than in October.

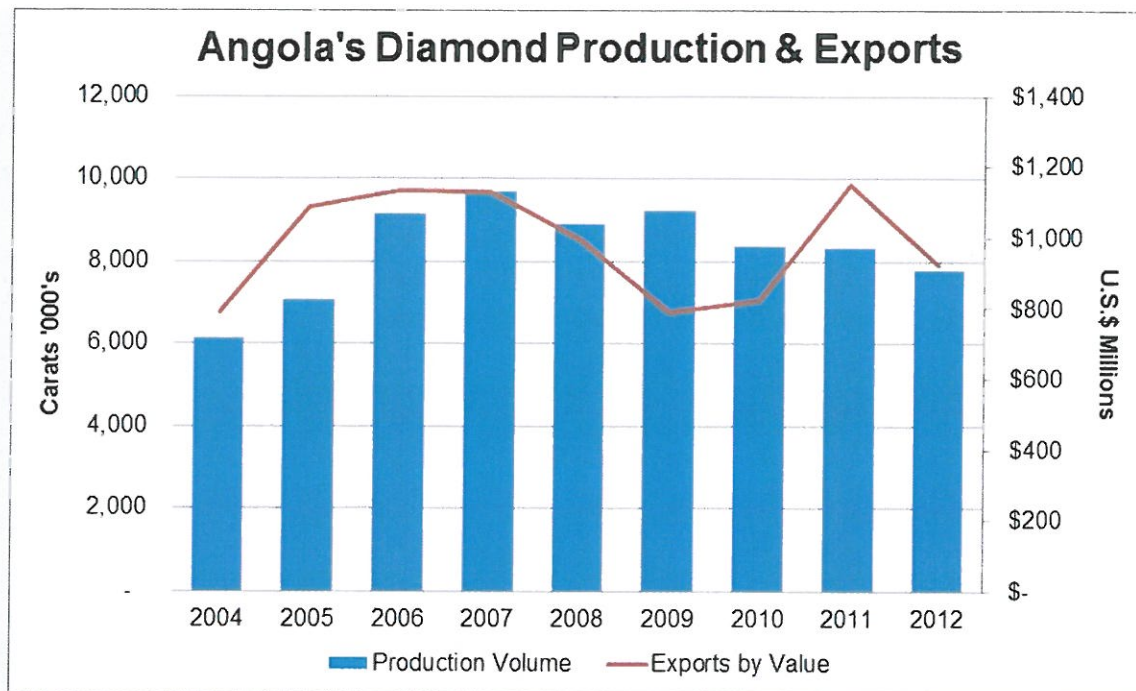
Angola, like other oil-producing countries, has been affected by the fall in world oil prices, the main varieties of which, Brent and West Texas Intermediate, are currently priced at less than US\$40 a barrel, the lowest price since 2009.

Source: OPEC

ECONOMY

Angola sees record diamond production in 2015

DECEMBER 31ST, 2015



Angola in 2015 reached a new record in diamond production with the extraction of 8.837 million carats, which generated revenue of US\$1.107 billion, said Wednesday in Luanda the minister of Geology and Mining.

Francisco Queirós, who gave a summary of the activities of the diamond and ornamental stone sub-sectors in 2015, said that although production had hit a record, revenues were lower than in 2014 due to a drop in the price of diamonds on international markets. Revenues from the sale of diamonds in 2014 amounted to US\$1.303 billion. "However, we are pleased, because we have reached a very good production target, which amounted to 103 % of the forecast in the revised National Development Plan," the minister said. The production of ornamental stone reached 39,500 cubic metres, which accounted for 71.4 % of the target of 55,000 cubic metres projected in the development plan.

In this case, although production has been lower than expected, revenues reached US\$8.3 million, against a forecast of US\$6.6 million. "In terms of production this year was very positive," said Queirós, adding that production of aggregates, in particular for the construction sector, reached 4.5 million cubic metres.

2015, the Ministry of Geology and Mining issued 33 licenses, including 21 for the production of ornamental stone and aggregate, three for diamonds and one for gold, which raised 120 million kwanzas in fees, and charges for the state.

Source: Ministry of Geology and Mining

AGRICULTURE

**SHOWCASE OF MODERN AGRICULTURE IN
ANGOLA**

DECEMBRE 20TH, 2015



Two farms run by China's Citic company are serving as a showcase of modern agriculture in Angola, said Liu Guigen, general manager of the farming development program of Citic Africa.

Black Rock in Angola's central Malanje province is one of the two 10,000-hectare farms Citic is developing in Angola, with currently 3,000 hectares of corn and 1,000 hectares of beans planted. To the delight of the Angolan agriculture ministry, Black Rock yielded over 20,000 tons of corns and beans in the last two harvest seasons, the highest unit production in Angola's farming history.

Liu told Xinhua that Citic's agricultural cooperation with Angola was still at a preliminary stage and two farms served as a showcase of modern agriculture in the African country. The Angolan government hoped Citic might establish modern farms in other provinces, he said. The other 10,000-hectare farm was in the northern Uige province, and was devoted to rice planting and animal husbandry, said Liu.

It is estimated that Angola needed some 4 million tons of grains a year to meet the need of its 23 million population. Only 1.5 million tons are locally produced each year. Modern farming seems indispensable for the country to achieve self-sufficiency in grain production.

Norberto dos Santos, governor of Malanje, said his province hoped to cooperate with Chinese companies in the farming sector, in particular in irrigation, processing of agriculture produces, household farming and the training of local farmers to provide more jobs and improve the living standards of the local population.

Cui Aimin, Chinese Ambassador to Luanda, said food security was a key part of national security, and the development of agriculture was a key part of national development. The Ambassador expressed the Chinese government's support to the cooperation between Chinese companies and their Angolan counterparts in the field of agriculture.

INFRASTRUCTURE

**CONSTRUCTION OF DEEP-WATER PORT
OF CABINDA, SCHEDULED FOR 2016**

DECEMBER 30TH, 2015



Construction of the deep-water port of Cabinda in Caio Litoral, is scheduled to start in the first quarter of 2016, said the president of the Port of Cabinda, Nazareth Neto.

Cited by state newspaper "Jornal de Angola", Neto said construction of the port was his company's most important construction project and said conditions were in place for work to begin, "after overcoming all the constraints experienced in 2015."

In 2016 the port company also plans to undertake other works including construction of the breakwater along the coastal area of Cabinda, in order to slow down the huge waves that affect the region, making it safer for ships to dock and unload and load goods.

There are also plans to build a Sea Passenger Terminal, taking into account the national programme to transport Cabinda residents to other parts of the country and mainly to operate routes between Cabinda, Soyo and Luanda.

The future deep-water port will have a minimum draft of 12.5 metres, which is enough to receive large ships arriving from Nigeria, South Africa and other countries, as well as ships in the service of the oil companies. The first phase, with an estimated cost of US\$600 million, includes a terminal with a 675-metre quay for large ships, 31 hectares of land area developed and includes a breakwater to protect against winds and waves. When the work is complete the port is expected to receive over 50,000 containers per year, compared to 26,000 at the moment.

TRANSPORT NETWORK

**BENGUELA RAILROAD IN ANGOLA INCREASES
FREIGHT AND PASSENGERS**

DECEMBER 16TH 2015



The Benguela Railroad (Caminhos-de-Ferro de Benguela - CFB) this year transported 27,000 tons of various goods and 461,000 passengers, said Thursday in Lobito the company's president, José Carlos Gomes.

The president of CFB said freight transport represented an increase of 42.4 % compared to the amount carried in 2014, while the number of passengers represented an annual increase of 29.7%.

Despite these increases, Gomes acknowledged that the company's financial situation is weak and it remains dependant on the state budget to pay salaries and allowances.

Gomes also said the speed currently achieved by the trains was not ideal and the company was working on increasing it to 80-90 kilometres per hour.

CFB links the port of Lobito on the Atlantic Ocean coast, to the border town of Luau in the eastern part of the country, crossing the provinces of Benguela, Huambo, Bié and Moxico.

The line was completely rebuilt by the China Railway Construction Corporation (CRCC), under a public work project of Chinese design. The project involved construction of the line and 67 stations and supplying rolling stock, at an estimated cost of US\$1.83 billion.

The Benguela Railroad Company was established in August 1899 but work to build the railway itself began on 1 March 1903 and was completed on 2 February 1929. Due to the civil war that devastated Angola, circulation in the railroad was interrupted for a period of 30 years, and resumed in August 2012.

CULTURE

NATIONAL DAY OF CULTURE

JANUARY 8TH, 2016



The Culture minister, Rosa Cruz e Silva, is since Monday, January 4, in the central Huambo province, where she will preside over the main event of the National Day of Culture, to be marked on Friday 9 January.

In this region, the minister, who was welcomed by the provincial governor, Calunga Francisco Quissanga, will unveil on Friday the provincial library, one of the highlights of the program.

On Thursday afternoon, Rosa Cruz e Silva will chair the act of classification of the Fety Archaeological Station and Caninine Rocks as national historic heritage. Speaking to the press, the official stressed the library as an infrastructure that will create condition for research and investigation, aiming to increase the students' knowledge.

The program also includes the seminar on the orthographic standardization of the vernacular language of Umbundo, Theatre journeys, with « Vozes de África » group, classification of Drº António Agostinho Neto Square, Kamdumbo Fortress, Arts and Culture fair and the launch of the national craft catalogue.

The National Culture Day was installed on the basis of a speech made in 1979 by the first President and founder of the nation, Antonio Agostinho Neto. The speech had served as guidelines of cultural activities and an essential reference in all discussions on cultural issues of the country.

The Cultural Day was established in 1986 by the Angolan government in recognition of Agostinho Neto in his thinking and its contribution to the national culture