

## AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

### Angola Monthly Briefing May 2020

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#### Angola Summary 11 May 2020

*President João Lourenço (2017-present) extends Angola's state of emergency for another 15 days, until 25 May, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The expectation, following confirmed cases of local transmission in Luanda, is that infection rates will increase and the state of emergency will continue. Testing and medical capacity have been ramped up across much of the country. Economic stimulus planning and business and populace support packages now define Angola's economy in the era of Covid-19 and the oil price crisis. These crises have reinforced Angola's determination to move away from oil dependence. Legal preparations move forward for the first local and municipal elections in Angola, which will replace the system of centrally nominated provincial governors and staff with locally elected bodies, probably in three stages over the next 15 years.*

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#### Covid-19: few cases reported but community spread found in Luanda

President **João Lourenço** (2017-present) has extended **Angola's** state of emergency for another 15 days, until 25 May, due to the **Covid-19** pandemic.<sup>1</sup> The expectation now, following confirmed cases of local transmission, is that infection rates will increase and the state of emergency will continue.<sup>2</sup> Non-essential commercial and industry activities may operate and there is a partial resumption of all public services in 17 of Angola's 18 provinces – except in the capital, **Luanda** – although no one may travel for leisure.<sup>3</sup> Interior ministry spokesman **Waldemar José** says the right of free movement in Angola is suspended for everyone, regardless of their status.<sup>4</sup>

Angola had reported 45 Covid-19 cases by the time of writing,<sup>5</sup> but community spread of the virus has now been reported in Luanda, where the municipalities of **Futungo** and **Talatona** have been placed under an "extraordinary cordon sanitaire" to arrest local transmission following the detection of eight locally transmitted cases of Covid-19 there.<sup>6</sup> A field hospital to treat Covid-19 patients is being installed in Luanda and will double the number of beds available when it becomes operational this month.<sup>7</sup> Across Angola at present, 1,139 persons are in institutional quarantine and 1,007 direct and indirect contacts under medical surveillance.<sup>8</sup>

Angola has ramped up its testing facilities. Daily testing capacity has been increased from 90 to 300 tests.<sup>9</sup> Covid-19 diagnosis is being extended from the microbiology laboratory in Luanda to **Benguela** and **Huila** provinces.<sup>10</sup> Huíla has received two more "gene expert" microbiology laboratories.<sup>11</sup> In **Malange Province**, closer to Luanda, Angolan and international returning travellers are being quarantined and tested.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Angop, 8 May 2020

<sup>2</sup> Angop, 8 May 2020

<sup>3</sup> IMF, 5 May 2020

<sup>4</sup> Angop, 4 May 2020

<sup>5</sup> Johns Hopkins, 11 May 2020

<sup>6</sup> Angop, 6 May 2020

<sup>7</sup> IMF, 5 May 2020

<sup>8</sup> Angop, 7 May 2020

<sup>9</sup> IMF, 5 May 2020

<sup>10</sup> Angop, 6 May 2020

<sup>11</sup> Angop, 8 May 2020

<sup>12</sup> Angop, 6 May 2020

The diamond province of **Luanda Norte**, where there is transit from the mining areas in neighbouring **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** and considerable commercial traffic (whether legal or not) related to the diamond industry, is a focus of particular concern for potential community spread into a vulnerable and economically significant area. Transmission into or out of Lunda Norte is more worrying because it is less controllable, and resources are being focused there to mitigate any outbreak. Health authorities have tested 40 people from eight countries over concerns about their circulation in the community and 42 people are being quarantined.<sup>13</sup> The health ministry has posted 12 **Cuban** doctors to Lunda Norte province to provide medical assistance for the Covid-19 pandemic and train local technicians in managing Covid-19 cases.<sup>14</sup>

Angola was able to contain early cases because these were related to returning travellers. With local spread of Covid-19 into communities in the capital, the government expects cases to increase and hopes that severe community control measures can break the transmission. The end of May should begin to provide answers on how well Angola has controlled the pandemic spread, if it has done so.

### Economics in the time of COVID-19

Economic stimulus planning and business and populace support packages now define most economies in the era of Covid-19 and Angola is no exception. President Lourenço authorised expenditure totalling \$61.4m during March and April to stimulate the economy in the face of the collapse in oil prices and the effects of economic shutdown due to Covid-19.<sup>15</sup> Infrastructure development is the main beneficiary with \$24.9m allocated to building new houses.<sup>16</sup>

The crises have reinforced Angola's determination to move away from oil dependence. Minister of state for economic coordination **Manuel Nunes Júnior** said that developing local industries, agriculture and Angola's fisheries are the priorities in increasing national production:

*"The Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries will have the greatest responsibility in revitalising the productive base, with a view to re-launching economic growth; only with the increase in domestic production will it be possible to improve employment levels and, consequently, the income of Angolan citizens and families."*<sup>17</sup>

Moving away from oil dependence has been a major theme of Angola's policies since Lourenço took office in 2017. That policies are already in place may help mitigate the disastrous global fall in demand for oil since the pandemic took hold. The reference price of an **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** basket of 13 crudes stood at \$22.21 a barrel on 8 May, far below Angola's base line of \$55 per barrel.<sup>18</sup>

OPEC managed to reach consensus on output with OPEC + to cut their combined output by 9.7 million barrels per day (bpd), or 23% each in May and June, from an agreed baseline. Angola's May programme was revised down to 41 cargoes, or 1.27 million barrels per day (bpd), from 45 cargoes initially published in its preliminary schedule, a cut of about 10%. The final June schedule was reduced to 39 cargoes or 1.25 million bpd.<sup>19</sup>

To further protect the budget, finance minister **Vera Daves** has ordered the suspension of any Public Investment Programme (PIP) contracts whose source of financing is not guaranteed, and stopped the execution of some non-priority and structural contracts without guaranteed funding. These are transitional measures in response to the Covid-19 and oil price crises.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Angop, 6 May 2020

<sup>14</sup> Angop, 8 May 2020

<sup>15</sup> Novo Jornal, 7 May 2020

<sup>16</sup> Novo Jornal, 7 May 2020

<sup>17</sup> Angop, 22 Apr 2020

<sup>18</sup> OPEC, 8 May 2020

<sup>19</sup> NASDAQ, 29 Apr 2020

<sup>20</sup> Angop, 22 May 2020

Angola has, like many countries, put business support measures in place to sustain employment. A credit line of \$31m is available to support small, medium and micro companies who promote domestically produced products. There have been nearly 2,000 applications for the loans, which are offered at 9% for two years.<sup>21</sup>

Business tax payment deadlines have been extended for an additional month<sup>22</sup> and **Instituto Nacional de Segurança Social (INSS)** (national social security institute) contributions, payable by companies and individuals, are suspended for three months to ease the burden during the Covid-19 crisis.<sup>23</sup> Goods imported or produced locally for humanitarian aid, and also donations, are exempted from paying Value Added Tax (VAT) under the emergency tax regulations, and the export of food goods, medicines and medical equipment is suspended.<sup>24</sup>

The **World Bank** is working with the authorities to provide financing for medical supplies equipment. The **United Nations** is also providing technical and financial support – an additional grant of \$12.5m.<sup>25</sup>

Angola's international liquid reserves increased by \$38.05m in February, to a total of \$10.92 billion but Angola's economy is still fragile and heavily indebted, and measures are being implemented within a restricted economic framework. The government is currently implementing short-term measures to protect employment and development.<sup>26</sup> Longer-term recovery is based on industrial and agricultural policies that were already being developed but which will become the backbone of post Covid (and post-oil crash) economic growth.

### Angola approves laws for local and municipal elections

The **Assembleia Nacional** (national assembly) has started to move forward with detailed laws for implementing decentralisation of Angola's local government, replacing the centralised gubernatorial system with local autonomy and administrative decentralisation, probably in three stages between 2020 and 2035.<sup>27</sup> This signals the beginning of the first real transfer of power away from Luanda in modern Angolan history.

The first step was taken last August when the Angolan parliament approved the **Lei Orgânica sobre a Organização e Funcionamento das Autarquias Locais e do Projeto de Lei da Tutela Administrativa** (organic law on the organisation and functioning of local authorities and the bill on administrative protection), a first step towards holding municipal elections in 2020.<sup>28</sup> Now, parliament has approved further laws that begin to define the modalities of the handover of power.<sup>29</sup> Since Angola has 18 provinces and 162 municipalities, local government structures may be large. At present, the executive appoints provincial governors, and the governors appoint municipal administrators.<sup>30</sup>

An ARC political source says of the gubernatorial system of administration:

*"The system of appointing state governors from the ruling party was, during the [former president **José Eduardo dos Santos** (1979-2017) administration, as much a system of patronage and looting of the provinces as anything else. With a few honourable exceptions, such as **Lunda Sul**, the system has not delivered much in the way of local development. For the poorest provinces with fewest resources there was little, or very slow, development of*

<sup>21</sup> Verangola, 8 May 2020

<sup>22</sup> Angop, 14 Apr 2020

<sup>23</sup> Angop, 29 Apr 2020

<sup>24</sup> Angop, 15 Apr 2020

<sup>25</sup> IMF, 5 May 2020

<sup>26</sup> Novo Jornal, 8 May 2020

<sup>27</sup> UNDP, 8 May 2020

<sup>28</sup> Deutsche Welle, 13 Aug 2019

<sup>29</sup> Angop, 23 Apr 2020

<sup>30</sup> Source: OECD country data Angola

*infrastructures such as roads, houses, clinics, schools, electricity and water supplies. Local autonomy in theory should begin to utilise local resources in a more targeted way.”<sup>31</sup>*

Parliament passed the core law determining the transfer of power from Luanda to the provinces, **‘Lei da Transferência de Atribuições e Competências do Estado para as Autarquias Locais’** (law on the transfer of attributions and competences from the state to local authorities), on 22 April.<sup>32</sup> Key points of the new law are:

- bringing decisions closer to citizens;
- delimitation of jurisdiction between state and municipal bodies;
- rationalising available resources;
- adapting public services to local reality from a territorial and population perspective;
- promotion of local economic development;
- capture of local revenues to foster the development of the local authority;
- local initiatives to promote employment, self-employment and entrepreneurial activity.<sup>33</sup>

Parliament has also finalised the draft law that approves the **‘Estatuto dos titulares de cargos no governo local’** (the status of the holders of local government posts), who will be elected officials, led by a mayor. The law is intended to define the framework of duties, rights and perquisites for the holders of local authority bodies. Transfer of the functions of the local state administration (for example, provincial governors) to the municipalities is also included in this draft.<sup>34</sup> Parliament has to consider the final draft of the **‘Lei sobre o Regime Geral dos Governos Inter-Loicais’** (law on the general regime of local government relationships), which defines how local authorities may co-operate.<sup>35</sup>

Territorial administration and state reform minister **Marcy Lopes** warned that financing the local government structure is problematic at present:

*“It is publicly known that we are going through a contentious financial phase and ... it is recommended that rights and perquisites of a patrimonial nature must not be approved, at the outset, if the state does not have the capacity to materialise them.”<sup>36</sup>*

Implementing local government is a very important step forward in modernising Angola’s political structures and increasing social democracy. It will also benefit President Lourenço’s development plans for agricultural development to reduce food imports and local business development to provide jobs and increase tax revenues, for instance. It is not yet clear though, whether the government will have the resources to hold elections across all municipalities at the same time, or even this year. The workings of the new systems are only just being clarified so there are still many caveats about how local government will work that need to be resolved before the elections happen.

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<sup>31</sup> Angola political analyst, London

<sup>32</sup> Angop, 23 Apr 2020

<sup>33</sup> Angop, 23 Apr 2020

<sup>34</sup> Angop, 7 May 2020

<sup>35</sup> Angop, 5 May 2020

<sup>36</sup> Angop, 28 Apr 2020

## Planner

2019-2022 **(Angola) Programa de Privatizações (PROPRIV)** (privatisation programme) to manage government divestment of 195 companies; the first tranche of 80 companies will be launched in 2019 and 81 offered for tender in 2020;

Jan 2020 - Dec 2021 **(Angola)** Angola serves on **World Food Program (WFP)** Executive Committee;

2020 **Luanda (Angola)** Government to construct a new administrative political centre in **Praia do Bispo** which will be implemented based on the build, operate and transfer (BOT) model;

2020 **(Angola)** Angola to host meeting of the **African Solidarity Trust Fund (ASTF)**, managed by the **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** to mobilise resources for anti-hunger and anti- poverty projects across **Africa**;

2020 - 2025 **(Angola) World Bank** to provide funding to increase economic diversification for a five-year period;

2020 **(Angola) Luaxe** kimberlite mine, managed by **Russia**-based **Alrosa**, begins production;

2020 **(Angola)** First local and municipal elections are in the planning phase;

2020 **Congo and Cuanza basins (Angola)** Terrestrial oil blocks in the Congo and Cuanza basins will be opened to tenders;

Q1 2021 **Cabinda Lifua A** oil platform scheduled for completion to support offshore **Takula-Bloc-0** field Cabinda; **Lifua B** and **C** phases will follow;

2021 **(Angola)** Six offshore oil blocks and free areas of oil blocks 31 and 32 will be offered for tenders;

2021 **(Angola)** National elections;

2022 **(Angola)** Angola to host the 10<sup>th</sup> **African, Caribbean and Pacific Group** summit;

2022 **(Angola)** End date for **Banco Poupanca e Credito's** recovery plan;

2022 **Luanda (Angola)** Luanda's **Novo Aeroporto Internacional de Luanda (NAIL)** (new international airport) expected to open;

2025 **(Angola)** Three major refineries at **Lobito** with capacity to refine 200,000 barrels/day, **Soyo** (100,000 barrels/day) and **Cabinda** (60,000 barrels/day), are expected to give Angola crude oil refining capacity of 360,000 barrel per day this year, meeting domestic needs and ending fuel imports;

2027 **(Angola) Sonangol's** Strategic Exploration and Production Plan 2020-2027 gives Sonangol 10% of national production by this date, producing 120,000 barrels per day.

## Chronology

9 May 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Agência Angola Press*. President **João Lourenço** declares a new period of state of emergency for another 15 days, starting 11 May;

8 May 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Lusa*. Government says that nothing justifies the undue use of force by the **Poliçia Nacional** during the state of emergency, after MP's expressed concern at multiple reports of violence;

8 May 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. National police and military are monitoring **Covid-19** compliance on roads and on the border with **DRC**, as well as compliance with mask-wearing in public places and shops;

8 May 2020 **Lucapa (Angola)** *Angop*. The major **Lulo** diamond mine in **Lucapa (Lunda Norte province)**, source of the largest diamonds that have come out of Angola in recent years, reduces its capacity by 50%, following the declaration of the state of emergency in April;

8 May 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. Warehouses and shops in **Viana, Luanda** are closed for non-compliance with measures against the spread of **Covid-19**, for allowing too many customers inside and lack of hygiene;

8 May 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. Main opposition party **UNITA** leader **Adalberto Costa Júnior** says there is a need for improvements in the testing system for **Covid-19** in Angola;

8 May 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. Telecommunications, Information Technology and Mass Media minister **Manuel Homem** says there is a need to speed up the modernisation of state-owned **Edições Novembro**, the owner and producer of the newspapers **Jornal de Angola, Jornal dos Desportos, Jornal de Economia & Finanças, Jornal Cultura, Jornal Metropolitano Luanda, Jornal Planalto** and **Jornal Ventos do Sul**;

8 May 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. **Banco Millennium Atlântico** announces a 12% increase in net profit in 2019, of 30.5 billion kwanzas (\$55.3m) and a reduction in its operating costs by 8.2%;

7 May 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Lusa*. Privatisation of **Banco de Comércio e Industria (BCI)** is agreed for later this year, by presidential order;

7 May 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. **Angolan Fishing Port Company (PESCANGOLA UEE)** chairman of the board of directors **Sebastião Alfredo Macunje** says Angola's industrial fishing capacity has reduced by 50% since the end of 2018, as the fishing fleet reduced from 100 vessels to only 50;

7 May 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. Luanda-based multinational telecommunications company **Angola Cables** announces it has increased the capacity of its portal from 10GE (Gigabit Ethernet) to 100G, as part of its partnership with **United Kingdom-based London Internet Exchange (LINX)**;

7 May 2020 **Malange (Angola)** *Angop*. The provincial government of **Malanje** announces it disbursed just over 3.7 billion kwanzas (\$6.7m) for local development and combating poverty in 2019;

6 May 2020 **Cabinda (Angola)** *Angop*. **Policia Nacional** chief commissioner **Gaspar de Almeida** says border police are increasing measures to combat illegal immigration on the border between Angola's northern province of **Cabinda**, the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** and **Republic of the Congo** as part of preventive measures against **Covid-19**, including night surveillance devices, observation posts and drones;

6 May 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. Angola sees a decrease in crime rate in the first 30 days of the State of Emergency (27 March to 25 April, although scores have been detained across the country for violating the rules of the State of Emergency);

6 May 2020 **Washington (United States)** *Human Rights Watch*. Non-governmental organisation **Human Rights Watch** expresses concern about the spread of **Covid-19** in **Angola's** prisons, as new arrests lead to detention, despite the earlier release of 1,900 people held in pretrial detention;

4 May 2020 **Soyo (Angola)** *Angop*. **Policia Nacional** general commander **Paulo de Almeida** says that reinforcements will be sent to Soyo municipality (**Zaire Province**) to protect the river border with **Democratic Republic of the Congo**;

4 May 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Lusa*. **Banco Nacional de Angola (BNA)** (central bank) plans to auction \$700m in foreign currency in May and June, noting the amount is 'indicative', depending on external accounts;

30 Apr 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Lusa*. Angola approves an \$80m subscription for 98,600 shares of the **African Development Bank**;

29 Apr 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Lusa*. The Council of Ministers approves a monitoring and follow up unit for infrastructural projects and those with special national or regional impact;

29 Apr 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. The Economic Commission of the Council of Ministers approves changes in tariff regulation for public sector electricity companies;

29 Apr 2020 **Lisbon (Portugal)** *Angop*. Twelve more **Angolan** nationals test positive for **Covid-19** in **Lisbon**, bringing to 25 the number of Angolans infected there;

29 Apr 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop* The National Bank of Angola (BNA) fines 16 financial banking institutions (IFB's) and five other non-banking institutions (IFNB's) AKW72.7 million \$131.7 thousand in the first quarter of this year, for reporting failures;

28 Apr 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop* The **Banco Nacional de Angola (BNA)** (central bank) announces it will implement "Mobile Money", an instant Money Transfer System (IMTS), to broaden financial inclusion across Angola, and expects to receive proposals that will culminate in the choice of the IMTS technological operator;

27 Apr 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. The ministry of health says it will increase the capacity for laboratory testing of suspected cases of **Covid-19**, from 90 tests to 400 per day, and will set up more testing sites in addition to the **National Molecular Biology Laboratory**;

26 Apr 2020 **Lucapa (Angola)** *Angop*. The **Chitotolo** diamond mining company reduces its production and workforce by 40% on a temporary basis;

23 Apr 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. The finance ministry says that all public contracts for the acquisition of goods and public works contracts for preventing and combating **Covid-19** will now be made under a simplified procurement procedure;

20 Apr 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. **Sonangol** and Angolan registered **Pumangol**, owned by **Singapore**-based company **Puma Energy**, a joint venture between **Trafigura** and **Sonangol**, agree to use the Pumangol fuel terminal (TCPL), in Luanda, to create a fuel reserve for the country; Sonangol will be able to store almost 300,000 cubic meters of fuel;

20 Apr 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. Secretary of State for Civil, Maritime and Ports Areas **Carlos Borges** says the transport sector needs nearly \$200m to reduce spending and maintain the sustainability of companies and jobs and will seek support from commercial banking;

20 Apr 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. The culture, tourism and environment ministry says that preliminary findings of an oil leak off the **Ilha de Luanda** suggest a small potential discharge of unknown origin;

16 Apr 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. President **João Lourenço** appoints the new boards of directors of the Pprt companies of Luanda and Lobito (**Benguela Province**): **Willy Lucti Maio Guimarães, Horácio José de Macedo Feijó, Miguel Marcos Vidal Pipa** and **Aníbal António**

**Vuma** become executive directors in Luanda while **Celso Rodrigues de Lemos Rosas** (CEO), **Romão Matoso Pedro de Andrade** and **Janeth Sofia Alberto dos Santos Matana** are appointees in Lobito;

16 Apr 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. Angola suffers a country-wide electricity failure in all power production plants and transportation lines in the country's Interconnected System;

16 Apr 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. Industry and commerce minister **Victor Fernandes** says that imports between January and March guarantee the supply of essential products to the population in the coming months, despite delays in the licensing process for importers;

16 Apr 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop* President **João Lourenço** joins the group of **African** and **European** leaders who voice support for a debt payment moratorium and unprecedented economic and health assistance packages;

15 Apr 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. The **Multi-sector Commission for Prevention and Combat of Covid-19** announces an end to exceptional flights allowing the return of people who were caught out of their areas of residence when the State of Emergency came into force on 27 March;

15 Apr 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. President **João Lourenço** appoints **Fernando Bartolomeu Cativa** as secretary of the president for political and parliamentary affairs and **Pedro Fiete Correia Raimundo** as secretary of the president for state reform;

14 Apr 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. The **United Nations (UN)** resident coordinator in Angola, **Paolo Balladelli** says the UN is providing \$16m to complement the country's effort to combat Covid-19, including \$3.5m for food security in the southern provinces;

13 Apr 2020 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. Angola orders 90,000 bio-safety overalls and nine million masks to combat **Covid-19** from **China** and 25 tonnes of medical materials from **South Africa**.

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