

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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Angola Summary 18 October 2021

Angola's Tribunal Constitucional (TC) (constitutional court) has annulled the election of Adalberto Costa Júnior as president of main opposition party UNITA. The party will have to hold a new XIII Congress, whose date will be fixed in the second half of October at the meeting of UNITA's Standing Committee. Isaias Samakuva is once again president of UNITA in the interim. State diamond mining company Endiama has signed a diamond mining investment contract with United Kingdom- and Australia-headquartered mining multinational Rio Tinto for the major Chiri kimberlite concession in Lunda Sul, previously held by Isabel dos Santos. Former president Jose Eduardo dos Santos (1979-2017) returns to Angola from his two-year self-imposed exile in Spain. Dos Santos' reasons for returning to Angola have provoked considerable analysis, revolving around the affairs of his children and canvassing support for President Joao Lourenço's (2017-present) policies from the old guard of the ruling MPLA. Angola reports a surge in Covid-19 cases in mid-October, with 10,300 active cases and 349 new cases in a single day. Minister of state Francisco Furtado confirms increasing Covid-19 cases as he presents new preventive measures to control the pandemic including mandatory vaccination certificates or a current negative Covid-19 test.

Adalberto Costa's presidency of UNITA suspended

Angola's Tribunal Constitucional (TC) (constitutional court) has annulled the election of **Adalberto Costa Júnior** as president of main opposition party **UNITA**. The court's decision, handed down on 7 October, continues to have repercussions in Angolan politics. The affair has caused outrage among UNITA supporters and smaller political opposition parties and a wave of demonstrations is expected across Angola in the next weeks.¹

The party's leadership was a matter for the TC to decide because of the issues of dual nationality and the legitimacy of the operation of UNITA's XIII party congress in 2019, in allowing Costa Júnior's candidacy. UNITA elected Costa Júnior as its third leader on 15 November 2019, replacing **Isaias Samakuva**, who stepped down as leader.² The legal issue is that Costa Júnior stood for the leadership of UNITA while holding both Angolan and **Portuguese** nationalities. Since 2019, Angola's constitution does not allow candidates for the presidency of Angola to hold dual nationality. UNITA noted that Costa Júnior obtained Portuguese nationality during the civil war, as a way of evading **United Nations** sanctions on the movement of senior UNITA personnel. Costa Júnior's election to the leadership of UNITA meant that he would be a candidate in the elections to be held in 2022.³ A group of UNITA members submitted the complaint to the TC in July this year by. At that time, UNITA said in a statement that when the candidates were selected, "*Costa Júnior was the holder of only one nationality, the original Angolan*", and had renounced his Portuguese citizenship. The party dismissed the complaints as "*noise*" in July.⁴

The TC's decision on Costa Júnior's candidacy was leaked to Angolan TV stations on 5 October, two days before the formal announcement of the decision. This was the day that UNITA announced that Adalberto Costa Júnior had been chosen to lead the new opposition coalition group, the **Frente**

¹ Deutsche Welle, 8 Oct 2021

² Novo Journal, 5 Oct 2021

³ Lusa, 17 Jan 2020

⁴ Lusa, 16 Jul 2021

Patriótica Unida (FPU),⁵ which joins three opposition political parties in a single platform and has the declared aim of removing the ruling **MPLA** from power in the 2022 general elections.⁶ The FPU unites UNITA, veteran opposition politician General **Abel Chivukuvuku's Partido de Renascimento Angolana-Juntos por Angola Servir Angola (PRA-JÁ-Servir Angola)** project, and the opposition party **Bloco Democrático (BD)**, led by economist **Filomeno Vieira Lopes**.⁷

The FPU aims to break the "*blockades*" imposed on the legalisation of new political forces by the TC.⁸ In February 2020, PRA-JÁ-Servir Angola was refused recognition as a political party.⁹ Chivukavuka's previous political coalition group, **Convergência Ampla de Salvação de Angola-Coligação Eleitoral (CASA-CE)** was not invited to join the FPU.¹⁰

Costa Júnior said of the decision regarding the legitimacy of UNITA's 2019 congress:

*"There is no doubt that this is a legal 'fiction' and ... devoid of legal basis and refers to a political arrangement, whose purpose is the destruction of UNITA."*¹¹

Whether the complaint against Costa Júnior was an internal coup attempt within UNITA, an attempt by UNITA to probe the limits of the TC's powers over political parties, or as UNITA has claimed, an MPLA plot,¹² is not clear.¹³ Several senior lawyers have criticised the TC, which was not unanimous in its decision, for an overly legalistic and unwise decision.¹⁴ UNITA will have to hold a new XIII Congress whose date will be fixed in the second half of October, at the meeting of UNITA's Standing Committee.¹⁵ In the interim, Isaias Samakuva is once again president of UNITA until Costa Júnior is re-elected president, the most likely outcome.

Rio Tinto signs diamond mining agreement with Angola

United Kingdom (UK)- and Australia-headquartered mining multinational **Rio Tinto** has signed a diamond mining investment contract for the major **Chiri** kimberlite concession in **Lunda Sul**. Negotiations started in April 2019.¹⁶ The contract was signed on 8 October by the CEO of Angola's state diamond mining company, **Endiama UEE, Ganga Júnior**, and by Rio Tinto's exploration director, **Kenneth Tainton**. The exploration licence was agreed in December 2020, by Presidential Decree No. 298/18 of December 5, 2019, as covering 108 km², with an operating period of 35 years.¹⁷

Rio Tinto said the initial exploration and prospecting programme will take five years:

*"Rio Tinto confirms that it has formed an exploration joint venture with Endiama, the national diamond mining company of Angola, to evaluate the Chiri kimberlite in the Lunda Sul Province of Angola, approximately 30km north of Saurimo. Rio Tinto will be the majority partner [and operator]. The JV will embark on a staged programme of evaluation that will take a minimum of five years to determine if the project will progress to development."*¹⁸

⁵ Lusa, 16 Jul 2021

⁶ Novo Jornal, 5 Oct 2021

⁷ Deutsche Welle, 5 Oct 2021

⁸ Deutsche Welle, 5 Oct 2021

⁹ Freedom House, 2021 Country report Angola

¹⁰ Deutsche Welle, 13 Oct 20

¹¹ Deutsche Welle, 13 Oct 20

¹² Novo Jornal, 5 Oct 2021

¹³ Deutsche Welle, 13 Oct 20

¹⁴ Club K Net, 8 Oct 2021

¹⁵ Deutsche Welle, 8 Oct 2021

¹⁶ Diamond Loupe, 10 Oct 2021

¹⁷ Angop, 8 Oct 2021

¹⁸ Diamond Loupe, 10 Oct 2021

In this first phase, Rio Tinto Angola has a 75% stake, and Endiama a 25% stake, in addition to the establishment of a joint venture.¹⁹ The contract also provides for the possibility of Endiama increasing its stake to 49%.²⁰

This is not a greenfield site. The Chiri concession was previously held by **Isabel dos Santos**, through **Avantis**, since 2003 but her licences expired.²¹ UK-based **Gem Diamonds** had an 11.25% shareholding and a co-operation agreement with Chiri between 2007²² and 2012, when Gem pulled out for financial reasons, writing off \$14.8m.²³

Increasing large-scale diamond production is a priority for Angola. At present, **Russia**-based diamond mining company **Alrosa** is the only international company with a kimberlite mine in production, at **Catoca** (Lunda Sul), but Alrosa's nearby **Luaxe** diamond deposit is expected to add 5.7 million carats to Angola's diamond production in 2023. Alrosa discovered the Luaxe pipe in 2013. Catoca, in which Alrosa owns 41%, currently holds a 50.5% stake in Luaxe. Endiama and Alrosa each also hold a direct 8% shareholding in Luaxe.²⁴ Exploration restarted at Luaxe in January this year.²⁵

Angola produced 7.73 million carats in 2020, down from 9.4 million carats in 2019 due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, and is aiming to produce 14 million carats a year in the near future, which will make it the world's third largest diamond producer by carat volume after Russia and **Botswana**.²⁶ Angola is looking for international investment in other major diamond deposits in the Lunda Provinces, the complex **Camafuca-Camazambo** mine, **Mulepe**, **Sangamina**, and **Tchiegi**.²⁷ Angola is also setting up a diamond hub in Saurimo, the provincial capital of Lunda Sul, to service the expanding mining industry, which President **João Lourenço** (2017-present) inaugurated at the end of August.²⁸

Although Rio Tinto is a major miner across a wide range of minerals including copper, bauxite, gold, and iron, its only current diamond mine is the **Diavik** mine in **Canada**, following the closure of its **Argyle** diamond mines in Australia in November 2020.²⁹ Rio's best known project is the **Oyu Tolgoi** mine in **Mongolia**, which holds one of the largest copper and gold deposits in the world. However, the UK's **Financial Conduct Authority** is investigating Rio Tinto over potential breaches of listing rules in disclosures about the value of Oyu Tolgoi and delays in the project in 2018 and 2019.³⁰

Despite the controversy, Rio Tinto's range of mining interests is a good fit for Angola's re-emerging but under-developed mining industry, both as a company that mines diamonds on a large scale, and its capacity to mine other minerals and metals. Rio's profile for its country manager for Angola demonstrates that the multinational is looking to expand its profile in Angola, even in the short term, noting that s/he:

“will lead a multi-disciplinary technical team to deliver to the Rio Tinto Group ore bodies capable of becoming large, low-cost, long life mines, through discovery, joint venture, and acquisition...[and] recognise and capture new opportunities”.

¹⁹ Diamond Loupe, 10 Oct 2021

²⁰ Angop, 8 Oct 2021

²¹ Diario da Republica, 23 Sep 2003

²² Gem Diamonds Press Release, 20 March 2007

²³ Gem Diamonds Full Year results 2012

²⁴ Diamond Loupe, 9 Mar 2021

²⁵ Diamond Loupe, 25 Jan 2021

²⁶ Kimberley Process statistics 2020

²⁷ Diamond Loupe, 25 Jan 2021

²⁸ Diamond Loupe, 30 Aug 2021

²⁹ Mining.com 12 Aug 2021

³⁰ Financial Times, 27 Jul 2021

Ex-president Jose Eduardo dos Santos returns to Angola

Former president **Jose Eduardo dos Santos (JES)** (1979-2017) returned to Angola on 14 September from his self-imposed exile in **Barcelona (Spain)**.³¹ Although he was received with state protocol, the reasons for his visit to Angola have provoked considerable analysis, revolving around the affairs of his children and discreet politicking to support the ruling MPLA ahead of the next elections. A publicly acknowledged reason was to attend the engagement of his son, **José Avelino Gourgel dos Santos**.³²

Centro de Estudos Internacionais-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (CEI-IUL) professor, historian of Angola and political analyst **Jonuel Gonçalves** believes that JES has a major role to play in the settlement of his family's business assets and the return of those of other MPLA players, who are resisting handing back assets, to strengthen the MPLA's position in the clean-up of the corruption inherited from his mandate, which remains the party's greatest reputational weakness:

*"He may be paving the way for a solution to this problem of capital abroad because if the dos Santos family reaches an agreement on this matter, everyone else will have to reach an agreement."*³³

Gonçalves emphasises that:

"The ex-President of Angola is perhaps one of the cases in which we can say that he will have influence ... among the old guard, but in new trends, in the economic, financial and even cultural area, José Eduardo does not have much prestige."

An editorial in **Jornal de Negócios** put this even more bluntly:

*"José Eduardo dos Santos cannot run the risk of being assigned responsibilities in a possible erosion of the MPLA that paves the way for UNITA. To remain a reference of the country, the former head of state must give his support to João Lourenço."*³⁴

Gonçalves notes that son José Filomeno dos Santos is awaiting the outcome of his appeal to Angola's Supreme Court against the five-year prison sentence awarded in August 2020, and suggested that JES may have evidence to give to the appeal court (see *ARC Briefing Angola September 2020*).³⁵

The affairs of Isabel dos Santos are also an issue for her father. JES spent considerable time in **Dubai** from December 2020, after the death of Isabel's husband, **Sindika Dokolo**, until about April 2021.³⁶ While most of Isabel dos Santos' assets remain frozen, together with joint assets held with her late husband, the assets of the **Fundação Sindika Dokolo (Sindika Dokolo Foundation)**, a high-value collection of **African** and modern art held in **Luanda** and **Porto**, has not been mentioned as subject to seizure, certainly not those parts of the collection that belonged to Sindika's father, **Augustin Dokolo**, and were collected in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**.³⁷

The Fundação Sindika Dokolo was appointed a public utility under President dos Santos and retained the legal status of a non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Angola's February 2020 budget, thus paying no taxes. As a public utility, the foundation continued to receive money from the Angolan State Budget, suggesting these are not frozen assets.³⁸

Sindika Dokolo's holdings of more than 5,000 artworks are widely considered to be among the world's most significant and valuable collection of African and African diasporic art, and include work by **Yinka Shonibare**, **William Kentridge** and **Otobong Nkanga**, among many others.³⁹ Dokolo's

³¹ Reuters, 15 Sep 2021

³² Angola 24 Hours, 1 Oct 2021

³³ Voice of America, 20 Sep 2021

³⁴ Angola 24 Hours, 28 Sep 2021

³⁵ Voice of America, 20 Sep 2021

³⁶ Deutsche Welle, 14 Oct 2021

³⁷ <http://www.dokolo.com/>

³⁸ Deutsche Welle, 15 Feb 2020

³⁹ Art Forum International, 30 Oct 2020

business associate, **Ricardo Diz**, director of **Exem Energy**, proposed that by September 2021 it is likely that issues concerning succession to Dokolo's estate would be clarified.⁴⁰ ARC sources close to Dokolo's affairs believe that JES may have had some control over Dokolo's assets, although we have not been able to confirm this elsewhere.⁴¹ So, JES may also be in Luanda to help negotiate succession for his daughter.

JES is not likely to participate in the eighth congress of the MPLA, from 9 to 11 December.⁴² The reasons for his visit are likely to be identified only by the outcomes, but all analysts agree that he needs to intervene with the 'old guard' of the MPLA, to bring it behind Joao Lourenço, to prevent possible electoral defeat.

Covid-19 update: State of public calamity extended and new measures in place

Angola reported a surge in **Covid-19** cases in mid-October, with 10,300 active cases and 349 new cases in a single day.⁴³ Most of the new cases were in Luanda, with the rest in the cities of **Huambo**, **Benguela** and **Huila**. Minister of state **Francisco Furtado** confirmed increasing cases as he presented new preventive measures to control the pandemic, in force from the beginning of October:

*"The epidemic curve of covid-19 shows a worrying significant increase in positive cases during the month of September, with a growth rate of about 13%...the epidemiological situation of the country was influenced by the relaxation of measures, aggravated by the circulation of highly transmissible and dangerous variants."*⁴⁴

Rather than making vaccination mandatory, as was anticipated, the new State of Public Calamity orders instead make mandatory the presentation of a COVID vaccination certificate or a negative COVID-19 test, which is valid for seven days only, effective 15 October.⁴⁵ Minister of state for the Presidency's **Casa Civil**, **Adão de Almeida**, noted:

*"From October 15, the vaccination certificate becomes a condition of access to various services...the main objective is to strengthen, accelerate and transmit an increasingly present message to citizens of the importance of vaccination."*⁴⁶

A vaccination certificate is now mandatory for all civil servants and all those who provide services directly to the public, including drivers, taxi drivers and motorcycle taxi drivers; for access to restaurants and educational establishments, and for meetings and activities in closed spaces, and recreational activities in general, although Luanda's beaches remain closed.⁴⁷

While the vaccination rate is increasing, there is a serious bottleneck due to problems with the online registration system for vaccinations, which makes the government's vaccination goals unachievable. Health minister **Silvia Lutucuta** says three million people have been vaccinated with over 1 million fully vaccinated but it would be necessary to vaccinate about 100,000 people a day for the country to reach 60% of the eligible population by December.⁴⁸ Lutucuta hopes that a very much lower daily vaccination number of about 3,000 people will be reached within the time frame.⁴⁹

To boost the vaccination programme, the government has bought ten million vaccines from **China**-based **Sinopharm** for \$26.4m, with the first three million doses arriving in Luanda in early October

⁴⁰ <https://jusmundi.com/en/document/decision/en-exem-energy-v-sonangol-i-award-tuesday-27th-july-2021>

⁴¹ Source; email to author

⁴² Voice of America, 20 Sep 2021

⁴³ Lusa, 14 Oct 2021

⁴⁴ Expansao, 4 Oct 2021

⁴⁵ Expansao, 4 Oct 2021

⁴⁶ Expansao, 4 Oct 2021

⁴⁷ Expansao, 4 Oct 2021

⁴⁸ Expansao, 4 Oct 2021

⁴⁹ Expansao, 4 Oct 2021

and the rest by December.⁵⁰ However, unless the vaccination registration systems are improved the government's ambitious vaccination plans, and the vaccine certification policy, are likely to fail.

Angola has recorded 62,842 cases of Covid-19 in its population of roughly 34 million, with 1,664 Covid-19-related deaths and 50,626 recoveries, as of 18 October.⁵¹ At time of writing, there were approximately 10,552 active cases.

Planner

2019-2022 **(Angola) Programa de Privatizações (PROPRIV)** (privatisation programme) to manage government divestment of 195 companies;

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

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

9 Jul-9 Nov 2021 **(Angola)** Public tender launched in July for investment in the **Lobito** refinery, centre-west **Benguela Province**, with a four-month period to present proposals to **Sonangol**;

8 Sep 2021 – 7 Dec 2021 **Lobito (Angola)** Public Tender for 30 years management and maintenance of the **Lobito Corridor** railroad infrastructures launched. Bidders must have technical and financial capacity and extensive experience in operating this type of infrastructure;

9 – 11 Dec 2021 **(Angola)** VIII Ordinary Congress of the ruling **MPLA** party will select candidate for President.

Dec 2021 **(Angola)** Opposition party **UNITA** will hold its XIII Congress to elect the party leader;

2021 **London (United Kingdom)** Hearing of **Melbourne Investments v SODIAM** takes place at **London Court of Arbitration**, despite death in October 2020 of shareholder and manager **Sindika Dokolo**;

2021 **London (United Kingdom)** Hearing of **UNITEL SA v Unitel International Holdings (UIH)** takes place at **London Court of Arbitration**, to resolve issues of UIH alleged debt of \$400m to **UNITEL**;

2021 **Luanda (Angola)** **Jose Filomeno dos Santos** and other defendants appeal sentences in the "*case of \$500 million*", to be heard in the **Supreme Court**;

2021 **(Angola)** France's President **Emmanuel Macron** plans state visit to Angola;

2021 **(Angola)** First local and municipal elections are in the planning stages but implementation is delayed by **Covid-19** and an election date will be set, probably for 2022;

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

Q4 2021 **Luanda (Angola)** Angola announces the launch of biometric passports begins in last quarter of 2021;

Q4 2021 **(Angola)** **Luanda/Soyo/Cabinda** ferry for passengers and cargo begins operations;

Q4 2021 **Luanda (Angola)** **Angolan Diamond Exchange** to open;

May 2022 **Talatona, Luanda (Angola)** **Huawei Technology Park** to be completed

⁵⁰ Expansao, 4 Oct 2021

⁵¹ [Worldometers](#), accessed 18 Oct 2021

Dec 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** becomes chair of the **Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS)** during the Summit of Heads of State and Government, to be held from 6-9 December 2022.

2022 **(Angola)** National elections;

2022 **(Angola)** Angola to host 10th **African, Caribbean and Pacific Group** summit;

2022 **(Angola)** End date for **Banco Poupança e Crédito's** recovery plan;

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

2023 **(Angola) Luaxe** mine (**Lunda Sul**) expected to produce 5.7 million carats of diamonds.

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)** State-owned oil company **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

15 Oct 2021 **Luanda (Angola) Angop.** President **João Lourenço** says that the country's tax revenue projections indicate an increase of around 26% of 2021 General State Budget (OGE) which was estimated at 13.5 billion kwanzas (\$22.6m);

14 Oct 2021 **Luanda (Angola) Angop.** **Romania** announces investment in the diamond sector, through diamond exploration projects in **Nharêa Municipality** (central **Bié Province**);

14 Oct 2021 **Luanda (Angola) Lusa.** Ruling **MPLA** party militant **António Venâncio** announces his intention to run for the presidency against **João Lourenço** at the party's congress in December;

14 Oct 2021 **Luanda (Angola) Deutsche Welle.** The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** says in its 'Fiscal Monitor' that Angolan public debt remains above 100% of GDP 2021 but the ratio of public debt to GDP has fallen 136.5% in the year past, to 103.7% this year and 90.8% in 2022;

8 Oct 2021 **Luanda (Angola) Expansao.** **South Africa**-headquartered regional airline **Airlink** announces it will start three flights a week to **Luanda** from **Johannesburg** (South Africa) from 21 October, replacing **South African Airways** flights, albeit with smaller planes;

8 Oct 2021 **Luanda (Angola) Lusa.** Angola establishes rules and procedures for the granting of oil concessions under a permanent offer regime, in presidential decree No. 249/21, of 5 October, which aims to create conditions to boost access to areas and blocks on an uninterrupted basis;

5 Oct 2021 **Luanda (Angola) Jornal de Angola.** **Italy**-headquartered oil company **ENI** invests up to \$150m over the next five years in a project for the production of between 200 and 300 thousand tonnes of biofuels per year in Angola, which will initially feed ENI's biofuel refineries in Italy;

4 Oct 2021 **Luanda (Angola) Expansao.** **Tribunal das Contas** (court of auditors) says there are not enough trained specialist inspectors to monitor the financial management of the State, especially in public works;

2 Oct 2021 **Luanda (Angola) Jornal de Angola.** The finance minister says Angola has spent 270 billion kwanzas (\$451m) over three years on 1,781 projects in the **Plano Integrado de Intervenção nos Municípios (PIIM)** (integrated intervention plan in municipalities);

1 Oct 2021 **Luanda (Angola) *Expansao***. Angola's insurance regulator says gross premiums in Angola's insurance sector were 116 billion kwanzas (\$194m) in the first half of 2021, with petrochemical being 43% of the total, at 48 billion kwanzas (\$80m), followed by health insurance at 30%, worth 34 billion kwanzas (\$50m);

1 Oct 2021 **Luanda (Angola) *Angop***. Two companies qualify for Angola's International Multipurpose Terminal tender in **Lobito**, the **International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI)** from **Philippines**, and **CITIC Construction**, subsidiary of **Chinese Group SPG**, with both meeting tender terms of disbursing \$80m -100m, while **France**-based company **Bolloré** failed to qualify;

30 Sep 2021 **Luanda (Angola) *Angop***. The Angolan government and the **World Bank** announce preparation of a report on climate change in Angola and the strategy for development of the "blue" (maritime) economy;

30 Sep 2021 **Luanda (Angola) *Angop***. The **Portuguese** government approves the draft agreement for mobility between the nine states of the **Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa (CPLP)** (community of Portuguese language countries), following signing of the agreement on mobility between CPLP member states in Luanda on 17 July;

27 Sep 2021 **Ruacana (Namibia) *New Era***. **Namibia Power Corporation (NamPower)** spokesperson **Tangeni Kambangula** says decreased power generation from Namibia's **Ruacana** power station is a result of a decline of 85.7% of river flow from **Angola's Kunene River** due to a dry rainy season and drought conditions in the south of Angola;

23 Sep 2021 **Luanda (Angola) *Angop***. **Angola Cables**, 82% state-owned multinational telecommunications operator of fibre optic cables, launches a sales partnership programme giving service providers and vendors the opportunity to market a range of products and services;

22 Sep 2021 **Luanda (Angola) *Angop***. Electoral registration update process begins across Angola, for a six-month period;

22 Sep 2021 **Luanda (Angola) *Angop***. President **João Lourenço** arrives in **New York (United States)** to participate in the debate of the 76th session of the **United Nations General Assembly**, from 21-27 September;

22 Sep 2021 **Luanda (Angola) *Angop***. President **João Lourenço** approves a \$1.5 billion electrification project contract with **United States (US)**-headquartered company **Sun Africa** and funding from the US **EximBank**, which will make it possible to electrify all Angola's municipalities and its main communes, starting with solar energy and water supply systems in Angola's southern region;

21 Sep 2021 **Luanda (Angola) *Angop***. **World Bank** regional director general for **Africa**, **Jean Christophe**, says the World Bank has invested about \$70m in aiding agricultural projects in the provinces of **Bié**, **Huambo** and **Malanje** since 2018, to good effect;

21 Sep 2021 **Ondjiva (Angola) *Angop***. The **Angolan Red Cross** donates 10 tonnes of humanitarian assistance to 400 families affected by hunger as a result of drought in **Cahama** municipality;

21 Sep 2021 **Luanda (Angola) *Angop***. **Policia Nacional de Angola (PNA)** and the **Serviço de Investigação Criminal Angola (SIC)** (criminal investigation service) announce plans to work on identifying cybercrime;

21 Sep 2021 **Luanda (Angola) *Angop***. Former chairman of Luanda bus transport company **Transporte Colectivo Urbano de Luanda (TCUL)** **Abel António Cosme**, accused of involvement in embezzlement as manager of state-owned freight company **Unicargas EP**, arrives in Luanda after extradition from **Portugal**;

21 Sep 2021 **Luanda (Angola) *Angop***. President **João Lourenço** announces that Angola has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **United States**-based wild-life park management company

African Parks for a public-private partnership, co-management and development of the **Luengue-Luiana** and **Mavinga** natural parks, located in the trans-border **Okavango-Zambezi** region;

20 Sep 2021 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. Angola registered a positive trade balance of 3.3 billion kwanzas (\$5.53m) in Q2 2021 after improvement in the crude oil price, with exports rising by 146.0%, and imports by 48.5%. **China** remains Angola's largest export partner with 64.1% of oil exports and 15.8% of imports.

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