

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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Angola Summary 23 February 2022

Angola's largest corruption trial to date opens in the Provincial Court of Luanda. Portuguese-Angolan businessman Carlos São Vicente, risk management director of national oil company Sonangol between 2000 and 2016 and chairman of the board of AAA Seguros, is charged with tax fraud, embezzlement and money laundering on an ongoing basis, and accused of having carried out "a scheme of illegal appropriation of shareholdings" of the insurer and of illegal appropriation of "income and profits produced by the system" of insurance and reinsurance in the oil sector in Angola. Angola's national diamond company, Empresa Nacional de Diamantes EP (Endiama-EP), forecasts diamond production and revenue to be significantly higher in 2022 than in 2021. Endiama predicts production of 10.05 million carats and revenue of \$1.4 billion this year, against 8.7 million carats in 2020. Endiama is planning new major mining ventures with partner companies in a bid to considerably raise diamond production in the medium-long term. Germany-based non-governmental organisation Transparency International has raised Angola's transparency score to 29/100 in its Corruption Perceptions Index for 2021, with a country ranking of 138/180. Angola has extended the State of Public Calamity until 28 February but has allowed nightclubs and similar entertainment houses to open for the first time in two years, for clients fully vaccinated against Covid-19 and only at 50% of capacity. Angolan authorities have eased measures to combat Covid as a result of the significant reduction in Covid-19 cases. Land borders are reopening, but the World Health Organisation warns that uptake of second vaccine doses remains very low.

Carlos São Vicente on trial for embezzling \$900m

Angola's largest corruption trial thus far opened on 11 February in the **Provincial Court of Luanda**. Former national oil company **Sonangol** risk management director **Carlos São Vicente** was arrested on 22 September 2020 on charges of illegal appropriation and has been held in preventive detention since October 2020.¹ His trial had been postponed from 26 January, at the defence's request.

São Vicente was risk management director of Sonangol between 2000 and 2016, and chairman of the board of **AAA Seguros**, a company in which Sonangol was initially the sole shareholder.² He is charged with having carried out "a scheme of illegal appropriation of shareholdings" of the insurer and of illegal appropriation of "income and profits produced by the system" of insurance and reinsurance in the oil sector in Angola, thanks to AAA's monopoly.³ The **Portuguese-Angolan** businessman was charged in March 2021 with five years of tax fraud, embezzlement and money laundering on an ongoing basis.⁴

The alleged illegal appropriations were made possible by the creation of a web of offshore companies, first by set up by Sonangol, and later extended by Carlos São Vicente. Sonangol registered **AAA Reinsurance Ltd** on 1 April 1999 in **Bermuda**. In 2000, São Vicente became the chairman of AAA Reinsurance. He then set up an offshore network of companies that effectively moved the ownership of AAA companies to his personal control and made him, not Sonangol, the principal owner.⁵

¹ Angop, 10 Feb 2022

² Angop, 10 Feb 2022

³ Angop, 10 Feb 2022

⁴ Jornal de Negocios, 26 Mar 2021

⁵ Maka Angola, 20 Nov 2020

Investigative journalist **Rafael Marques** says experts estimate that, on average, 85% of the amounts collected by AAA Seguros were transferred to AAA in **London (United Kingdom)** and Bermuda, as reinsurers, which then made trades with each other:

“Of this amount, less than 20 percent was passed on to international co-insurers that covered the real costs. Everything else was embezzlement of public funds.”⁶

According to Rafael Marques, the scheme substantially inflated oil insurance premiums in relation to the real price on the international market:

*“For example, in 2015, for Block 15, [United States (US)-headquartered] multinational [oil company] **Exxon** paid AAA Seguros a total of 44 million euros (\$49.9m) in insurance. Of this amount, 35.5 million [euros] (\$40.3m) was transferred directly as reinsurance premiums to the shell companies of São Vicente in London and Bermuda, belonging to the AAA group.”⁷*

Rafael Marques claims that in the same year, Sonangol itself paid €16.7m (\$18.9m) of insurance for Block 3/15. Of this amount, €13.5m (\$15.3m) ended up, as reinsurance, at the accounts of shell company AAA in Bermuda, held by Carlos Manuel de São Vicente and his family. Thus, only \$3.6m remained in Angola as payment of the local insurance premium.⁸

There has been no reporting from the trial itself as yet. Before the hearing started, the court denied entry to journalists with cameras or recorders, although the hearing was not supposed to be closed, and informed them they could only observe, not report. This ruling is being challenged by the **Union of Journalists**.⁹

The case has also sparked legal action in **Switzerland**, where de São Vicente is accused of placing the \$900m in question in accounts at the **Geneva-based Banque SYZ**. Swiss prosecutors in 2018 froze that sum in his accounts on suspicion of money laundering. A Swiss court last year reversed part of that freeze, citing insufficient evidence.¹⁰

This case, called “the \$900 million case” in Angola, is the largest corruption case in monetary terms yet tried in Angola. It involves four jurisdictions, Angola, the UK, Bermuda and Switzerland, and demonstrates not only how complex the capital flight and fraud schemes can be in Angola but also a lack of oversight by the **Banco Nacional de Angola (BNA)** (central bank), which permitted this. It is also unclear how Sonangol allowed this transfer of shareholdings to happen.¹¹

Angola’s diamond mining industry plans post-Covid recovery

Angola’s national diamond company, **Empresa Nacional de Diamantes EP (Endiama-EP)**, forecasts diamond production and revenue to be significantly higher in 2022 than in 2021. Endiama predicts production of 10.05 million carats and revenue of \$1.4 billion this year, against 8.7 million carats in 2020, a lower than expected level due principally to the impact of the **Covid-19** pandemic on mining companies.¹² Even the 2022 output forecasts have been reduced by a third, from 13.8 million carats, which would have generated an estimated \$1.9 billion.¹³

Endiama chairman **José Ganga Júnior** says 13 mining projects are currently in production, three of which are primary deposits (kimberlites) and 10 secondary deposits.¹⁴ The mines, in the provinces of **Lunda Sul** and **Lunda Norte**, are: **Catoca**, presently Angola’s largest mine and the world’s fourth largest kimberlite mine, producing 7.8 million carats in 2019; **Luaxe**, a major kimberlite under development; **Kaixepa**; **Lunhinga Tchitengo**; **Cuango**; **Chitotolo**; **Somiluana**; **Luminas**; **Calonda**;

⁶ Maka Angola, 20 Nov 2020

⁷ Maka Angola, 20 Nov 2020

⁸ Maka Angola, 20 Nov 2020

⁹ Africa News, 11 Feb 2022

¹⁰ Africa News, 11 Feb 2022

¹¹ Africa News, 11 Feb 2022

¹² IDEX online, 18 Jan 2022

¹³ IDEX online, 18 Jan 2022

¹⁴ IDEX online, 18 Jan 2022

Lulo; Furi; Uari Cambange; Tchegi; Luembe; Luachimo; Mucuanza and Cassanguidi.¹⁵ A further 39 mines are being prospected.¹⁶

Angola, currently the world's fourth-largest diamond producer, is developing at least two major new mines. The Luaxe mine is expected to produce 5.7 million carats in 2023. However, mineral resources and petroleum minister **Diamantino Azevedo** noted in March 2021 that Covid had delayed the start-up.¹⁷ Major **Russian** diamond miner **Alrosa** and **Catoca Lda** discovered the Luaxe pipe in 2013. Catoca currently holds a 50.5% stake in Luaxe. Endiama and Alrosa each hold another 8% in Luaxe.¹⁸

Azevedo said that Endiama had been instructed to negotiate with UK-headquartered diamond company **De Beers** and **Anglo-Australian** mining corporation **Rio Tinto** to invest in the local diamond sector:

*"The latest information we have is that the negotiations are going at a good pace."*¹⁹

De Beers revived plans to invest in Angola at the end of 2021, after what it describes as "*substantive and consistent reforms*" in the diamond sector. De Beers' previous prospecting in Angola did not lead to the development of any mining projects.²⁰

Rio Tinto has already formed a joint venture with Endiama to explore the **Chiri** kimberlite in Lunda Sul. Rio Tinto has a 75% stake in the first phase of the 35-year agreement, while Endiama has retained a 25% interest, which could potentially increase to 49%. Initial exploration will take five years.²¹

Endiama will be partially privatised this year, divesting non-nuclear assets linked to hospitality, operational safety and logistical support.²² Ganga Júnior confirmed that the company will move forward with the privatisation project of part of the share capital through a stock exchange auction.²³

Unresolved issues remain in the artisan and small-scale (ASM) mining sector, which is presently organised into cooperatives. Ganga Júnior says that only 62 of the 264 cooperatives are in operation, due to both the Covid-19 restrictions and to **Operation Transparency**, the government's police action to control illegal mining and diamond trading.²⁴

In January, Angola's **Ministério dos Recursos Minerais, Petróleo e Gás (MIREMPET)** (ministry of mineral resources, oil and gas) set up a working group, which includes the ministry, the **Agência Nacional de Recursos Minerais (ANRM)** (national mineral resources agency), Endiama and the **Sociedade Angolana de Comércio de Diamantes (SODIAM)** (Angolan diamond trading company), to undertake the conversion of mining cooperatives into commercial companies.²⁵

Angola is one of the few countries in the world with major unexplored or partly developed diamond deposits. As such, getting major new mining projects off the ground will not only make Angola an even more significant diamond producer, but possibly the last remaining producer of natural diamonds as reserves run out in other countries in the next 40 years. Angola has faced formidable difficulties in developing its diamond mines, ranging from civil war to problems with political ownership of many mines, and the reluctance of major mining companies to commit to projects they don't totally control. It remains to be seen how far Angola can develop the sector, after a century of diamond mining.

¹⁵ IDEX online, 18 Jan 2022

¹⁶ Jornal de Angola, 17 Jan 2022

¹⁷ Rough Polished.com, 9 Mar 2021

¹⁸ Rough Polished.com, 9 Mar 2021

¹⁹ Rough Polished.com, 9 Mar 2021

²⁰ IDEX Online, 9 Dec 2021

²¹ Rapaport News, Oct 11, 2021

²² Jornal de Angola, 17 Jan 2022

²³ Jornal de Angola, 17 Jan 2022

²⁴ Jornal de Angola, 19 Jan 2022

²⁵ Jornal de Angola, 19 Jan 2022

Transparency International improves Angola's ranking in the 2021 Index

Germany-based non-governmental organisation **Transparency International** has raised Angola's transparency score to 29/100 in its **Corruption Perceptions Index** for 2021, with a country ranking of 138/180. Angola's score has improved 10 points since 2017, according to TI,²⁶ and improved 2 points over 2020.²⁷

TI does not have a chapter in Angola and is seemingly not aware of the full extent of the government's anti-corruption investigations. Instead, TI seems to endorse a view that corruption trials in Angola are political in nature, taken from a survey in Angola in 2019, and proposes that the trials are aimed at President **Joao Lourenço's** (2017-present) adversaries:

*"Authorities have pursued high-profile corruption investigations into the former ruling family. Among them was **Isabel dos Santos**, the former president's daughter and ex-chief of the state oil company Sonangol. Dos Santos was the subject of the **Luanda Leaks** exposé and was also recently sanctioned by the US government for 'significant corruption'."*²⁸

TI claims that Angola rarely opens investigations in other cases, raising doubts about selective justice:

*"In a 2019 survey, 39% of Angolans said that the president was using the fight against corruption as a tool against political rivals."*²⁹

This view fails to take into account the scope of other investigations and trials, and anti-corruption measures and their provenance.

The two largest cases so far were not initiated in Angola. The case of Sao Vicente, addressed above, was raised by Swiss authorities. The case against **Jose Filomeno dos Santos** came about after UK authorities contacted Angola over a suspicious bank transfer.³⁰ Neither of these came about for political reasons. Prosecution of much smaller-scale cases of corrupt officials also continues.³¹ Reducing corruption in Angola is not a quick task, but it is demonstrably a continuous one.

Justice and human rights minister **Francisco Queiroz** told a regional seminar on the **Accelerated Monitoring of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption** on 10 February that Angola currently has 715 criminal cases open, for corruption, fraud, embezzlement and other financial crimes.³² Queiroz told the seminar that Angola has recovered assets worth over \$11.5 billion, that had been embezzled from state coffers and placed in accounts abroad by officials linked to the government of former president **José Eduardo dos Santos** (1979-2017).³³ Assets have been seized and/or frozen in Angola, Switzerland, **Portugal, Singapore**, Bermuda, the UK, **Monaco** and **Luxembourg**, among other countries.³⁴ President Lourenço has proposed that a total of \$24 billion was looted, mainly from Sonangol, under dos Santos.³⁵ However arrests of currently serving officials in Angola makes it clear that corruption is a continuing problem and does not simply belong to a previous regime.

Covid-19 update

Angola has extended the **State of Public Calamity** until 28 February but has allowed nightclubs and similar entertainment houses to open for the first time in two years, for fully vaccinated clients and

²⁶ Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index for 2021

²⁷ Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index for 2020

²⁸ Transparency International, 25 Jan 2022

²⁹ Transparency International, 25 Jan 2022

³⁰ Angop, 9 Apr 2018

³¹ Jornal de Angola, 18 Feb 2022

³² Voice of America, 10 Feb 2022

³³ Voice of America, 10 Feb 2022

³⁴ Voice of America, 10 Feb 2022

³⁵ Africa News, 11 Feb 2022

only at 50% of their capacity.³⁶ Because of the significant reduction in Covid-19 cases, the Angolan authorities decided to ease measures to combat the disease but have maintained the ban on access to beaches and public pools.³⁷

Land borders are also being reopened. The border with **Namibia** is now open, and the **Multisectoral Commission to Prevent and Combat the Covid-19 Pandemic** will meet with **Zambia**, the **Republic of Congo** and the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** to allow Angola's northern and eastern borders to be reopened.³⁸

State-owned **TAAG Angolan Airlines** has increased domestic flights from 20 to 44 weekly and international flights from 13 to 29 weekly. **Emirates Airlines** resumed flights to Angola on 13 January.³⁹

The number of Covid cases has reduced considerably. Secretary of state for public health **Franco Mufinda** noted on 8 February a 73% reduction in cases from the week 24-31 January to the week 31 January-7 February.⁴⁰

Despite the falling case numbers, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** is concerned that many Angolans have not taken a second dose of Covid vaccine. WHO representative in Angola **Djamila Cabral** said that authorities need to continue to encourage people to vaccinate and, in the case of Angola, mainly to take the second dose,

*"...so we have to continue to raise awareness."*⁴¹

Since 2 March 2021, Angolan health professionals have administered 15,303,529 doses of vaccine, more than four million for complete doses and the rest for the first dose. This equates to 67.6 % of the population vaccinated, with completed courses of vaccination being 31.6%.⁴²

Planner

3 Mar 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** New deadline for submitting applications for the design construction operation and management of the logistics platforms of **Luvo** and **Soyo (Zaire Province)**;

Q1 2022 **Lobito (Angola)** Winner of public tender for 30-year contract for management and maintenance of the **Lobito Corridor** railroad infrastructure will be announced; bidders must have technical and financial capacity and extensive experience in operating this type of infrastructure;

16 -19 May 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** Angola hosts the 8th Edition of the **Africa Oil Congress and Exhibition (CAPE VIII)** to promote and support investment in the national oil sector;

May 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** The 35th Annual Ordinary Session of Heads of State and Governments of the **African Union** holds **Summit on Terrorism in Africa** proposed by Angola in 2020;

Aug 2022 **(Angola)** National elections;

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 Dec;

2022 **(Angola)** is president of the **African Petroleum Producers Organization (APPO)**, after being elected in 2021;

³⁶ Jornal de Angola, 31 Jan 2022

³⁷ Jornal de Angola, 21 Feb 2022

³⁸ Jornal de Angola, 31 Jan 2022

³⁹ Jornal de Angola, 13 Jan 2022

⁴⁰ Jornal de Angola, 8 Feb 2022

⁴¹ Jornal de Angola, 21 Feb 2022

⁴² Jornal de Angola, 21 Feb 2022

2022 **(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;

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

2022 **Luanda (Angola) Jose Filomeno dos Santos** and other defendants appeal sentences in the “*case of \$500 million*”, to be heard in the **Supreme Court**;

2022 **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**;

2022 **Luanda (Angola) Angolan Diamond Exchange** to open on a preliminary basis;

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;

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

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

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

21 Feb 2022 **Luanda (Angola) Novo Jornal**. Foreign minister **Téte António** attends meeting of foreign ministers in **Kinshasa (DRC)** ahead of the 10th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the countries signatory to the 2013 Framework Agreement on Peace, Security and Cooperation in the DRC;

21 Feb 2022 **Luanda (Angola) Jornal de Angola**. **United States**-based **Standard and Poor’s** ratings agency raises Angola’s rating from CCC+ to B- after debt levels fall by more than 55% of GDP, saying Angola exited recession in 2021, but warns of credit risks from 2023 due to high debt repayment levels;

21 Feb 2022 **Luanda (Angola) Novo Jornal**. **Instituto Nacional de Estatística** (national institute of statistics) finds that of 5,561,193 young people of working age at the end of 2021, 60% were unemployed and 37% survive informally with odd jobs;

18 Feb 2022 **Luanda (Angola) Novo Jornal**. The government reduces the available budget for spending on medicines and PPE in the **Orcamento Geral de Estado** (State budget) 2022 to Kw 5 billion (\$10m) from Kw 6.6 billion (\$13m) in 2021;

17 Feb 2022 **Luanda (Angola) Novo Jornal**. Vice president **Bornita de Sousa** represents Angola at the sixth **African Union-European Union** summit, held in **Brussels (Belgium)** and aimed at countering **Chinese** influence in **Africa**;

- 16 Feb 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** *Novo Jornal*. **Banco Nacional de Angola (BNA)** (central bank) tightens up regulation of foreign exchange purchases and sales by banks; insisting these must be at the same rate as published by the banks at the time of sale or purchase, if the BNA so requests;
- 15 Feb 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** *Novo Jornal*. Government announces it will divest its 20% shareholding in the Angolan arm of Portugal-headquartered company **Mota Engil** through a public tender, rather than selling the shares as initially planned;
- 13 Feb 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** expresses interest in supporting Angola in the process of repatriation of assets illegally leaving the country, by serving as an intermediary and facilitator in the dialogue with the governments of the receiving countries;
- 13 Feb 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. State-owned airline **TAAG - Linhas Aéreas de Angola** announces it has eliminated much of the \$1.2 billion debt to internal and external suppliers, leaving only \$250m to pay;
- 8 Feb 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. **Lei da Actividade Seguradora e Resseguradora** (bill on insurance and reinsurance activity) is debated in parliament, providing for the option to open the Angolan market to branches of foreign insurance companies to operate in Angola, for the introduction of micro-insurance and increased oversight by the **Agência Angolana de Regulação e Supervisão de Seguros** (Angolan insurance regulatory and supervision agency);
- 3 Feb 2022 **Vatican (Italy)** *Fides News Agency*. Archbishop of **Saurimo, José Manuel Imbamba**, calls for the strengthening of democracy and human dignity in **Angola** and calls on all Catholics in the country to vote in the August elections to support this;
- 2 Feb 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. **Ministry of Mineral Resources, Oil and Gas (MIREMPET)** organises the **Investment Forum for the Saurimo Diamond Development Pole at Expo Dubai 2022**, with the aim of attracting potential investors to diamond cutting in Angola;
- 2 Feb 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. UAE-based **DP World** and government of Angola sign a memorandum of understanding with the aim of cooperation in the development of the Angolan logistics sector and international and cross-border trade;
- 31 Jan 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. The director of the **African** department of the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** raises the forecast for economic growth in Angola this year from 2.4% to 3.0%;
- 31 Jan 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. **Bureau Político do Comité Central do MPLA** (political bureau of the MPLA central committee) announces the death of **Irene Agostinho Neto**, sister of the first president of Angola, **António Agostinho Neto**, due to illness;
- 30 Jan 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. **Fitch Solutions** consultancy improves the forecast for Angola, anticipating growth of 0.6% in 2021 and economic expansion of 2.7% this year, which will accelerate to 3.4% in 2023;
- 30 Jan 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. **Banco Nacional de Angola (BNA)** (central bank) maintains the basic interest rate at 20%, expecting accumulated inflation of 18% in 2022 according to BNA governor **José de Lima Massano**;
- 30 Jan 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. **Instituto de Gestão de Activos Participações de Estado (IGAPE)** (state asset management institute) chairman of the board announces that the privatisation process of state insurer **ENSA** will be completed in the second half of February;
- 23 Jan 2022 **Cape Town (South Africa)** *Daily Maverick*. **Angola** launches worldwide campaign for voter registration of about 450,000 Angolans living abroad, despite fears that exiles may support opposition parties, who could win 64% of the vote according to recent polls;

26 Jan 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. Two business consortia have been selected for evaluation, following tenders, to submit full proposals for the management and maintenance of the railway and logistics infrastructure of the **Lobito Corridor**; **Chinese** companies **CITIC**, **Sinotrans** and **China Railway 20 Bureau Group Corporation (CR20)** are one consortium, the second consists of **Swiss Trafigura** group and **Vectoris AG**, and **Portugal**-headquartered **Mota Engil SA**;

24 Jan 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. **United States (US)**-based **Fitch Solutions** consultant predicts that the kwanza will appreciate 15.1% this year, to 514.39 kwanzas per US dollar;

22 Jan 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. **United States**-based financial rating agency **Fitch Ratings** improves Angola's rating to B-, with a stable evolution perspective, anticipating an economic expansion of 2.1% for this year, after growing 0.1% in 2021;

21 Jan 2022 **Sumbe, Cuanza-Sul (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. State-owned oil company **Sonangol** begins building its long-awaited **Scientific Research and Development Centre**, to be completed by mid-year;

20 Jan 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. **European Union** announces it will make available 275 million euros (\$312m) in financing for projects to diversify the economy and human capital in Angola in the period 2022-24;

18 Jan 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. Angolan oil company **Somoil** announces that it has agreed to acquire all shares in **Angola Block 14 BV (AB14BV)** from **France**-based oil company **TotalEnergies**, and **INPEX Angola Block 14 (IAB14)**, through its subsidiary, **Somoil Block 14 BV**;

17 Jan 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. The **Comité Nacional de Coordenação (CNC)** (national coordination committee) of the **Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)** meets to approve its Rules of Procedure and Activity Plan until 2023, ahead of final ratification of membership of EITI;

18 Jan 2022 **New York (United States)** *Committee to Protect Journalists*. **Committee to Protect Journalists** says Angolan authorities should ensure the safety of journalists covering protests and investigate recent incidents of assault, after six reporters were assaulted while reporting on the taxi drivers strike called in protest of **Covid-19** restrictions, poor state of roads, demands for social security benefits, and a call for the end to alleged extortion by police;

13 Jan 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. **Emirates Airlines** resumes flights between **UAE** and Angola.

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