

## AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

### Angola Monthly Briefing March 2022

#### Angola Summary 17 March 2022

*Angola, a longstanding ally of Russia with valuable business links to the country, was one of 35 countries abstaining from the historic United Nations General Assembly vote on 2 March on a resolution to condemn Russia for its invasion of Ukraine. Sanctions on Russia may have a strongly negative impact on Angola's economy, despite rising oil prices. Attorney general Hélder Pitta Grós confirms that former state-owned oil company Sonangol chair Isabel dos Santos remains under criminal investigation in Angola, after a long silence concerning the status of investigations into her affairs and the asset freeze imposed by Angola in December 2019. Charges made in 2020 concerned embezzlement of public funds during dos Santos' 18-month period as head of state oil company Sonangol. Angola's newest mobile phone operator, Africell Angola, has delayed the start of services until April following the failure of negotiations over the sharing of mobile network infrastructure with major Angolan mobile phone operator Unitel, amid accusations of extortion by Africell. The State of Public Calamity is extended to 31 March. Angola's borders are now open, with mandatory Covid-19 testing and certification. Mask wearing, social distancing and the presentation of Covid-19 vaccination cards also remain mandatory in many public spaces. About two-thirds of Angola's population have now received at least one vaccination against Covid-19.*

#### Russia-Ukraine conflict impacts Angola

Angola was one of 35 countries abstaining from the historic **United Nations (UN) General Assembly** vote on 2 March, which passed a resolution to condemn **Russia** for its invasion of **Ukraine** on 24 February.<sup>1</sup> Angola is a longstanding ally of Russia, with valuable business links to the country. The UN Security Council's escalation of the matter to the General Assembly is the first time it has done so since 1982.<sup>2</sup>

Angola's relations with the **Russian Federation** have become more distant than those with the **Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)**, which provided military support to Angola during the period of **South African** invasions of Angola from 1975 to 1988.<sup>3</sup> Nonetheless, significant business and military links remain even though direct trade is declining. The UN **Comtrade** database shows lower exports from the Russian Federation to Angola after 2017.<sup>4</sup>

Year	Trade Flow	Reporter	Partner	Trade Value (US\$)
2020	Import	Russian Federation	Angola	\$2,878,414
2020	Export	Russian Federation	Angola	\$79,422,440
2019	Import	Angola	Russian Federation	\$79,032,703
2019	Export	Angola	Russian Federation	\$179,010

<sup>1</sup> UN News, 2 Mar 2022

<sup>2</sup> UN News, 28 Feb 2022

<sup>3</sup> Wikipedia, accessed 17 Mar 2021

<sup>4</sup> UN Comtrade Database, accessed 13 Mar 2022

Year	Trade Flow	Reporter	Partner	Trade Value (US\$)
2018	Import	Angola	Russian Federation	\$95,275,059
2018	Export	Angola	Russian Federation	\$3,993,908
2017	Import	Angola	Russian Federation	\$121,251,005
2017	Export	Angola	Russian Federation	\$1,028,179

While Angola may benefit from raised oil prices and improved foreign exchange if oil production improves, there are major negative impacts from the international sanctions on the Russian Federation, in increased food import prices, diamond exports and mining investment, and banking. Angola's finance ministry recorded a rise in oil prices in February, noting an average sale price of \$66.5 per barrel in January and a provisional figure of approximately \$88 in February<sup>5</sup>. However, this was offset by a significant fall in production, from 1.2 million barrels per day in January, to 1.15 million barrels in February.<sup>6</sup> **Bloomberg** noted on 15 March that **Brent** crude had reached prices as high as \$139 a barrel earlier in the month, which may buffer Angola's fall in production.<sup>7</sup>

One unexpected effect is that the oil boom has helped rally Angola's kwanza, making it the world's best-performing currency against the dollar, strengthening 20% thus far in 2022.<sup>8</sup> That the worst-performing currency is the Russian ruble, down 37% this year,<sup>9</sup> will impact Angola's trade with Russia.

The improvement in oil revenue may help counterbalance the expected rise in food prices in Angola, which imports over half of its food. Food security is a major issue in Angola. International market prices are rising, and **Oxford Economics** notes that Russia's invasion of Ukraine could increase bread and cereal prices in Angola, which imports wheat and yeast from Russia.<sup>10</sup> The government has already started preparations to protect food prices, lowering VAT and exempting customs duties on certain products in the basic food basket. It has also set up the **Reserva Alimentar Estratégica** (strategic food reserve) to increase the supply of products in the country at lower prices, although this is not yet in operation.<sup>11</sup> However, a banking source believes this has come too late.<sup>12</sup>

Food importers are also pessimistic,

*"It is true that food products will become more expensive. Sooner and later, Angola will feel the consequences of this war, because we depend essentially on imports. Sea freight will become even more expensive, commodities in the international market will become more expensive."*<sup>13</sup>

Recent **United States' (US)** sanctions on trading in rough diamonds produced by Russian diamond miner **Alrosa**, which came into effect on 11 March, will also impact Angola.<sup>14</sup> Alrosa is a 41% shareholder in Angola's largest diamond mining company, **Catoca Lda**, which produced 5.6 million carats in 2021, with a value of \$683.2m, about 68% of Angola's diamond production. Alrosa is also the mine operator.<sup>15</sup> Alrosa began direct sales to world markets of part of its diamond output from Catoca in 2017.<sup>16</sup> However, 60% of Catoca's diamonds are sold to state-owned diamond trading company

<sup>5</sup> Jornal de Angola, 14 Mar 2022

<sup>6</sup> Trading Economics, accessed 17 Mar 2022

<sup>7</sup> Bloomberg, 15 Mar 2022

<sup>8</sup> Bloomberg, 15 Mar 2022

<sup>9</sup> Bloomberg, 15 Mar 2022

<sup>10</sup> Club of Mozambique, 28 Feb 2022

<sup>11</sup> Expansão, 5 Mar 2022

<sup>12</sup> Expansão, 5 Mar 2022

<sup>13</sup> Expansão, 5 Mar 2022

<sup>14</sup> IDEX Online, 15 Mar 2022

<sup>15</sup> VerAngola, 23 Dec 2021

<sup>16</sup> TASS, 15 Mar 2017

**SODIAM** under the current diamond trading law, mainly to **Indian** cutters. It is thus unclear how far these sanctions will impact Angola. There is a risk of further US sanctions on Russian-owned rough diamonds.<sup>17</sup> Depending on where these diamonds are traded, they may not appear in the COMTRADE database above.

Alrosa is an investor in the major **Luaxe** pipe, which is scheduled to come on stream this year and double the value of Angola's diamond production in 2023, making the country the world's largest diamond producer. Catoca Lda currently holds a 50.5% stake in Luaxe. Alrosa holds another 8% direct shareholding in Luaxe, giving Alrosa about 28% of the pipe. Investment in the start-up of this mine is likely to stall for the time being.<sup>18</sup>

Angola's **VTB Africa SA** bank will also be negatively affected, since the bank is majority owned by **VTB Bank PJSC in Moscow**, with a shareholding of 50.1%.<sup>19</sup> VTB Bank is under **United Kingdom (UK)**, US and **European Union** sanctions and can no longer use the **Swift** network. Russia's second-largest lender is now preparing to wind down its **European** operations.<sup>20</sup>

President **João Lourenço** (2017-present) last made an official visit to Russia in 2019. He noted that Russia's key relations with Angola were in the fields of mineral resources, education, healthcare and defence. At the time, a raft of military and security measures were under discussion. Agreements to supply military equipment to Angola were finalised. Russia delivered six SU-30K fighter jets in 2019 and Angola expressed interest in procuring a Russian S-400 air defence system. A partnership with Russia for manufacturing defence equipment in Angola was also under discussion.<sup>21</sup> Russia was preparing to launch Angola's second telecoms satellite this month, **Angosat II**, which has been under construction in Russia since 2021.<sup>22</sup>

The impact of sanctions on the Russian Federation may prove very damaging for Angola if Russia's war against the Ukraine continues. The damage to Angola's economy will not be offset unless oil prices remain very high for a significant period – and that will impact food prices in any case. The effect on Angola's diamond industry is not predictable at present but also has the capacity to be very significant.

### **Isabel dos Santos remains under criminal investigation in Angola**

Angola's attorney general, **Hélder Pitta Grós**, confirmed on 10 March that former state-owned oil company **Sonangol** chair **Isabel dos Santos** remains under criminal investigation in Angola, after a long silence concerning the status of investigations into her affairs and the asset freeze imposed by Angola in December 2019.<sup>23</sup> The only charges to be made public in Angola thus far, in January 2020, concerned embezzlement of public funds during dos Santos' 18-month period as head of Sonangol.<sup>24</sup> Pitta Gros said at the time:

*"Isabel dos Santos ... is thus charged in the first instance with the crimes of money laundering, influence peddling ... forgery of documents, among other financial crimes."*<sup>25</sup>

Dos Santos denied the charges, in a statement through her **London (UK)**-based public relations consulting firm:

*"I have always operated within the law and all my commercial transactions have been approved by lawyers, banks, auditors and regulators."*<sup>26</sup>

<sup>17</sup> IDEX Online, 15 Mar 2022

<sup>18</sup> Rough Polished.com, 9 Mar 2021

<sup>19</sup> SP Global 28 Feb 2020

<sup>20</sup> FT 6 Mar 2022

<sup>21</sup> InDepthNews, 5 Apr 2019

<sup>22</sup> TASS, 1 Sep 2021

<sup>23</sup> Reuters, 31 Dec 2019

<sup>24</sup> ICIJ, 23 Jan 2020

<sup>25</sup> ICIJ, 23 Jan 2020

<sup>26</sup> ICIJ, 23 Jan 2020

Asked about the delays in the investigations into dos Santos, which have produced criticism in Angola and elsewhere, Pitta Grós said the absence of Isabel dos Santos, who lives in **Dubai (United Arab Emirates)**, is hindering the progress of the proceedings:

*"The slowness in terms of definitive result is, on the one hand, the complexity and size of the process, and because Isabel dos Santos is not in Angola, this also creates some difficulties."*<sup>27</sup>

Pitta Grós noted that the criminal investigation is in a "secret phase",

*"where we share only with lawyers, when necessary. Work is being done internally, and it is not ethical for us to disclose procedural documents or acts."*<sup>28</sup>

Isabel dos Santos and her late husband, **Sindikó Dokolo**, have owned 818 known companies globally in multiple jurisdictions.<sup>29</sup> It is not known whether her husband's assets have been transferred to Isabel. Under Angolan law she is automatically entitled to half his estate, which includes a substantial and highly valuable **African** art collection.<sup>30</sup> It is the financial relationships of the web of offshore companies to her companies in Angola that the attorney general's office needs to unravel.

In addition to extensive holdings in Angola, **Portugal** and other Portuguese-speaking countries, dos Santos has, or held, companies in several UK offshore jurisdictions, including the **British Virgin Islands**, and in **Malta** and **Cyprus**.<sup>31</sup>

Isabel dos Santos set up several of these companies, such as those in Malta, using her Russian nationality.<sup>32</sup> In January 2020, the Russian state-owned news agency **TASS** reported that Isabel dos Santos has Russian citizenship and "became a Russian citizen [under the name] **Isabel Dosovna Kukanova**, [her mother's family name]" in a process directed by President **Vladimir Putin** (2000-2008;2012-present). Dos Santos told TASS that she is "Russian by birth". She was born in **Baku (Azerbaijan)**, then a part of the USSR.<sup>33</sup>

Dos Santos' Russian nationality may provide her with a route to escape the consequences of prosecution in Angola or elsewhere,<sup>34</sup> but may now also prove problematic if she attempts to move assets to Russia or trade assets linked to her Russian nationality, due to current international sanctions. If dos Santos returns to Angola to answer questions raised by the attorney general, she will likely be arrested and held as a flight risk, as has happened to other high-level players faced with criminal charges, including her brother, **Jose Filomeno dos Santos**. The investigation into dos Santos is not likely to be completed quickly, having already taken two years. Meanwhile, her father, former President **Jose Eduardo dos Santos** (1979-2017), has now left Angola to return to **Barcelona (Spain)** for medical treatment.<sup>35</sup>

### **Mobile phone operator Africell accuses Unitel of "extortion" amid start up delays**

Angola's newest mobile phone operator, **Africell Angola**, has delayed the start of services until April, following the failure of negotiations over the sharing of mobile network infrastructure with major Angolan mobile phone operator **Unitel** earlier in March.<sup>36</sup> The Africell Group, which is headquartered in the UK, is an Africa-focused provider, with services in **Uganda, Sierra Leone, The Gambia**, and the

<sup>27</sup> Jornal de Angola, 11 Mar 2022

<sup>28</sup> Jornal de Angola, 11 Mar 2022

<sup>29</sup> Source: ICIJ: Luanda Leaks - List of companies held by Isabel dos Santos and Sindika Dokolo accessed 15 Mar 2021

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.insurancegateway.co.za/Angola/PressRoom/ViewPress/Irn=5512&URL=Marriage++an+immutable+fact+1#.YSyduy1Q1m8>

<sup>31</sup> Source: ICIJ: Luanda Leaks - List of companies held by Isabel dos Santos and Sindika Dokolo accessed 15 Mar 2021

<sup>32</sup> Source: ICIJ: Luanda Leaks - List of companies held by Isabel dos Santos and Sindika Dokolo accessed 15 Mar 2021 and Malta Register of Companies

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.polygraph.info/a/angola-isabel-dos-santos-russian/30381700.html>

<sup>34</sup> Moscow Times, 12 Feb 2020

<sup>35</sup> Jornal de Angola, 7 Mar 2020

<sup>36</sup> Expansao, 14 Mar 2022

**Democratic Republic of the Congo.**<sup>37</sup> Africell received Angola's fourth mobile operating licence in February 2021, joining existing operators **Movicel**, Unitel and state-owned **Angola Telecom**.<sup>38</sup>

Africell is to share mobile network infrastructure with Unitel, which is mandated by Angolan telecoms legislation, and which Unitel is to lease to the new operator.<sup>39</sup> Negotiations between the two operators stalled for the second time earlier in February, amid statements by Africell accusing the national telecommunications giant of attempted "*extortion*" in these negotiations.<sup>40</sup> Africell, whose start-up has already been postponed twice, said of the delays:

*"The Angolan Government said there would be no problems with access to infrastructure and we were waiting for this sharing with Unitel. But the negotiations for this share did not go well, because Unitel literally tried to extort us at unaffordable prices."*<sup>41</sup>

Africell pointed to a range of issues, saying that Unitel was willing to share little infrastructure and that much of that was outdated and of low quality, since Unitel hasn't invested in infrastructure:

*"We ended up investing a lot of money to be able to install our own infrastructures."*<sup>42</sup>

Africell had planned to make substantial investments in Angola, including "*several hundred million dollars*" in infrastructure and services during the first phase of its rollout in Angola. The company secured a \$100m loan from the US **Development Finance Corporation** in 2018 to fund an expansion strategy that includes growing mobile payment systems and micro-finance offerings and upgrading its 2G, 3G and 4G networks.<sup>43</sup>

Unitel denies extortion and has pointed to "*technically and physically unfeasible*" infrastructure sharing requests, due to excess equipment weight and energy demands, which caused Unitel to reject some of the sites proposed by Africell.<sup>44</sup> In July, Africell reportedly asked Unitel to check if it had transmission points in 100 geographical points of **Luanda** for full sharing, but

*"...it was only in August 2021 that Africell finalised the specification of the equipment to be implemented in Unitel towers, namely the weight of the equipment, as well as the necessary energy and the necessary space ... some did not have enough energy and none of the sites had the technical capacity to sustain Africell's equipment, which was 339 k."*<sup>45</sup>

Unitel has over 1,000 transmission sites in Luanda, which are low-configuration towers accommodating 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G. Unitel claims that accommodating the weight of Africell's equipment would mean rebuilding the sites. Africell itself is building almost 800 sites.<sup>46</sup>

Unitel has also refuted Africell's claims over its site rental prices, claiming that they provided prices aligned with international tower companies such as **Helios Towers**,<sup>47</sup> which owns and operates telecommunications towers and passive infrastructure in seven African countries, as well as the rental prices Unitel charges in Angola to other operators.<sup>48</sup>

Africell Group chairman and CEO **Ziad Dalloul** opened Africell's new data centre in Luanda in October.<sup>49</sup> It is entirely feasible that Unitel's infrastructure has suffered from underinvestment and is

<sup>37</sup> Reuters, 3 Feb 2021

<sup>38</sup> Reuters, 3 Feb 2021

<sup>39</sup> Comms Update, 15 Mar 2022

<sup>40</sup> Expansao, 14 Mar 2022

<sup>41</sup> Expansao, 14 Mar 2022

<sup>42</sup> Expansao, 14 Mar 2022

<sup>43</sup> Reuters, 3 Feb 2021

<sup>44</sup> Reuters, 3 Feb 2021

<sup>45</sup> Reuters, 3 Feb 2021

<sup>46</sup> Reuters, 3 Feb 2021

<sup>47</sup> Reuters, 3 Feb 2021

<sup>48</sup> Helios Towers, accessed 16 Mar 2022

<sup>49</sup> Africell Press release, 20 Oct 2021

expensive to rent, but the acrimony between the companies is more likely about potential market share.

### Covid-19 update

Angola's **State of Public Calamity** (*Estado de Calamidade*) has been extended to 31 March. Angola's borders are now open to those with Covid-19 certification. Although mask wearing, social distancing and the presentation of Covid-19 vaccination cards remain mandatory in many public spaces, the renewed mandate has further liberalised life in Angola. Beaches, public pools and other bathing areas opened on 5 March. However, the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages remains prohibited in public places.<sup>50</sup> Angola had been recording an average of 20 cases a week since mid-February, 98,985 cases since the beginning of the pandemic and a total of 1,900 deaths attributed to Covid-19 in its population of roughly 32.8 million.<sup>51</sup>

Angola has vaccinated 20.7 million residents against Covid-19 from March 2021 to early March 2022, almost two-thirds of its population, according to secretary of state for public health **Franco Mufinda**. 15.7 million of those vaccinated are individuals over 18 years of age and 4.9 million are aged 12 to 17 years. However, the total figure belies the low take-up of the second dose of vaccine, which remains low with 10.8 million people receiving the first dose only, 5.6 million receiving both doses and 253,513 having had a booster dose.<sup>52</sup>

### Planner

24 Mar 2022 **Brussels (Belgium) European Union/Angola Business Forum**

31 Mar 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** will submit its application for membership of the **International Committee of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (ITIE)** by end March

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;

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**;

<sup>50</sup> Sweden Abroad, 3 Mar 2022

<sup>51</sup> Our World in Data, accessed 15 Mar 2022

<sup>52</sup> Angop, 6 Mar 2022

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

10-13 Dec 2022 **(Angola)** Angola to host 10<sup>th</sup> **African, Caribbean and Pacific Group** summit;

2022 **(Angola)** End date for **Banco Poupança e Credito'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

15 Mar 2022 **Luanda (Angola) Bloomberg.** Angola's currency, the **kwanza**, is the world's best-performing currency against the dollar in 2022, strengthening 20%, buoyed by surging oil prices, several credit-rating upgrades and the likelihood the central bank will continue to raise interest rates;

14 Mar 2022 **Humbo (Angola) Committee to Protect Journalists.** Angolan police question two reporters from the Catholic Church-run **Radio Ecclésia Huambo** and its director, as part of a criminal defamation and insult complaint by police officers following a report about a local police commandant's alleged dealings in arms trafficking;

14 Mar 2022 **Luanda (Angola) Jornal de Angola.** High-security tax seals - digital stamps, non-holographic physical seals and holographic physical seals - become mandatory for the sale of alcoholic beverages and tobacco and their manufactured substitutes from April this year;

14 Mar 2022 **Luanda (Angola) Angop.** Secretary of state for planning **Milton Reis** announces that a **European Union/Angola Business Forum** will take place on 24 March in **Brussels (Belgium)**;

14 Mar 2022 **Luanda (Angola) Jornal de Angola** Angola launches 13 billion kwanzas (\$28.5m) of **Obrigações do Tesouro Não Reajustável** (non-readjustable treasury bonds) at a maximum interest rate of 18.5% and 19.5% and maturities of up to four and six years;

13 Mar 2022 **Luanda (Angola) Upstream.** Oil and gas giants **BP** and **Eni** strike formal deal to form a joint venture in **Angola**, creating the country's largest oil and gas producer with an output exceeding 200,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day plus resources of 2 billion boe;

7 Mar 2022 **Luanda (Angola) Angop.** Angolan government repatriates 30 Angolan students studying in **Ukraine** from **Poland**, with a further 247 electing to remain in Poland;

6 Mar 2022 **Luanda (Angola) Angop.** Government launches the **Plano Nacional de Ação para a Erradicação do Trabalho Infantil**, an action plan for the eradication of child labour in Angola;

5 Mar 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. **South Korea** announces it will start manufacturing small, medium and large vessels in Angola from 2024 as an initiative of the **South Korean Economic Development Association**;

3 Mar 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. **Abu Dhabi**-based investment group **Yas Holding** executive **Abdumonem Mohamed Darwish Almarzooqi** says the group plans to invest in five sectors in Angola: food and agriculture, information technology, education, health, and aviation and aeronautical safety;

3 Mar 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** is negotiating with the governments of **Angola** and the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** for the resumption of the process of repatriation of about 30,000 refugees settled in the municipality of **Lóvua (Lunda-Norte province)**, since May 2017;

1 Mar 2022 **Ndungu (Angola)** *Offshore*. Oil and gas major **Eni** starts up the **Ndungu Early Production** oil development in **Angola's** deep-offshore **Block 15/06**;

24 Feb 2022 **Kinshasa (DRC)** *Jornal de Angola*. President-in-Office of **La Conférence Internationale sur la Région des Grands Lacs (CIRGL)** notes that **Uganda** and **Rwanda** have taken a bilateral decision to reopen the **Gatuna-Katuna** border post;

23 Feb 2022 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. **Agência Nacional de Petróleo, Gás e Biocombustíveis (ANPG)** (national petroleum, gas and biofuels agency) announces it is prospecting and producing oil and gas in the concession area of **Block 24**;

### About Africa Risk Consulting:

**Africa Risk Consulting (ARC)** is a pan-African consulting company that provides timely, relevant information and advice that enables its clients to take informed investment decisions and to safeguard their reputations.

**ARC's** core consulting services include integrity due diligence and corporate investigations, political advisory and country assessments, opportunity monitoring and reputation risk management. Most relevant to private equity firms is ARC's integrity due diligence and corporate investigations capability. Specifically, ARC offers pre-deal integrity checks to highlight red flags before negotiations start; full detailed multi-jurisdictional reputation due diligence; and supplier and senior hire vetting and repeat due diligence for compliance programmes. ARC is unique in that it offers a 10-day delivery for a routine integrity due diligence. ARC also offers a suite of corporate investigations services from immediate investigation, evidence gathering, e-discovery, forensic accounting and whistleblower support on one end to crisis media management and regular monitoring on the other.

[www.africariskconsulting.com](http://www.africariskconsulting.com)

### About ARC Briefing:

**ARC Briefing** is ARC's essential business information service.

Companies at any stage in their Africa expansion, whether building or communicating an Africa strategy, investing directly, expanding current operations, financing other investors, doing the legal leg-work or researching the Africa growth trend, need ARC Briefing.

**ARC Briefing** is an information service keeping you:

- Up to date with Country Chronologies of business-critical events
- In the know via Country Briefings on political, economic, business and operating trends. Written in-country, ARC experts analyse and comment
- Ahead with Country Planner which details future elections, budgets, regulatory changes etc.

[www.africariskconsulting.com](http://www.africariskconsulting.com)

### Getting in touch

Please contact us by email [info@africariskconsulting.com](mailto:info@africariskconsulting.com) or call + 44 (0) 20 7078 4080

Follow us on Twitter: @ARCBriefing