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Angola and the World Bank convene a high level meeting in Luanda to launch the Lobito Corridor Coordination Mechanism, a high-level coordination initiative between all the parties to the development of the Lobito Corridor. Mineral Resources, oil, and gas ministry says during the recent Mining Indaba that Angola will now seek a minority stake in United Kingdom (UK)-headquartered De Beers after chasing a majority stake last year. Angola's human rights failures and attempts to curb corruption face criticism in recent weeks from international organisations and internal legal challenges to restrictive legislation.

Angola, World Bank, and partners meet to inaugurate Lobito Corridor coordination

Angola and the World Bank convened a high level meeting in Luanda between 3 and 6 February to [launch](#) the **Lobito Corridor Coordination Mechanism**, a high-level coordination initiative between all the parties for the development of the **Lobito Corridor** to ensure they work together effectively, in what is the largest regional infrastructure transformation in modern African history. President **Joao Lourenço** (2017-present) [opened](#) the meeting.

The Lobito Corridor Coordination Mechanism is being set up to ensure that all the initiatives [promoted](#) by multilateral institutions, bilateral partners and private investors are properly coordinated, and that benefits from the development of the corridor accrue to the populations in all three countries. World Bank director general of operations, **Anna Bjerde**, [described](#) the Lobito Corridor as "one of the most consequential development initiatives in Africa."

The lengthy list of high level involved bodies and investors attending included the **United Nations (UN)**, **European Union (EU)**, **African Development Bank (AfDB)**, together with the **Africa Finance Corporation**, and the **European Investment Bank**. The [finance](#), transport, trade, and infrastructure ministers from Angola, the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**, and **Zambia**, who will carry out the practical coordination between their countries, and bilateral government partners from **France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and United States (US)** were also at the meeting.

Bjerde emphasised both the need for coordinated infrastructure investments and the corridor's role as an engine of economic growth, regional integration, and job creation and identified three major [opportunities](#) to unlock the full potential of the Lobito Corridor:

- Realising the full value of natural resources, as economic anchor of this regional axis which supplies "more than 17 percent of the world's copper and more than 70 percent of the world's cobalt," by speeding [delivery](#) of essential minerals to ports from the current 28 days to about five days;
- Economic diversification through improved [logistics](#), bringing opportunities for farmers and agribusinesses in the three countries, creating new value chains along the corridor;
- Well-coordinated policies, across [borders](#), such as "harmonised transit regimes, aligned land and industrial policies, and effective cross-border coordination."

Zambia's finance minister, **Situmbeko Musokotwane**, said governments must treat the Lobito Corridor as a development corridor for populations, not just transport. Musokotwane's view is reiterated more strongly in criticisms of the Lobito Corridor as a railway that connects foreign interests more efficiently than it connects the people who live along its tracks. Prominent local journalist **Rafael Marques** [has](#) pointed out that the railway was financed through **Chinese** oil-backed

loans that Angola continues to repay, and that the corridor remains just another extractive route, *"another line on the map where global powers profit while African communities stay on the margins."*

There is little doubt that the extractive element of the Lobito Corridor will work. The **Lobito Atlantic Railway** will transport the first sale of low-carbon copper [anodes](#) produced at the **Kamoa-Kakula Copper Complex** in the DRC. The shipment will be delivered to **Singapore**-headquartered **Trafigura's** dry port terminal in **Kolwezi** (DRC), and shipped through the Lobito Corridor, to the **Port of Lobito**, in Angola, taking about a week from mine to port.

Questions that the Lobito Corridor Coordination committee have to answer is whether a broader uplift for populations can be part of the scheme, and whether the proposed regional integration is possible, or whether it will be the colonial extraction scheme mooted by its critics.

Angola's continuing bid for De Beers

The mineral resources, oil and gas ministry confirmed at **Mining Indaba** in **South Africa** that it will now seek a minority [stake](#) of between 20% and 30% in **United Kingdom (UK)**-headquartered **De Beers** after chasing a majority stake last year. State diamond mining company **Endiama EP** and the national diamond marketing company, **Sodiam EP**, would represent the government's stake in De Beers. Mineral resources national director **Paulo Tanganha** [said](#):

"Assuming a majority stake in the luxury goods segment is very dangerous, because it depends on the market. Therefore, to reduce the risk, we need to acquire a stake that is sustainable for our economy. This interval is between 20% and 30% and we are satisfied with this,"

UK-headquartered **Anglo American's**, the largest shareholder in De Beers, decision is expected within weeks. Anglo American CEO **Duncan Wanblad** said that the [sale](#) of Anglo's 85% stake in De Beers was in *"the advanced stages of discussions with a select group of interested parties,"* and that critical decisions and negotiations were taking place over the *"next few weeks."*

The risks were made clear when Anglo-American published its annual results on 20 February. De Beers both mines and markets diamonds, and issues in the diamond markets, including the rise of lab grown diamonds, have pushed the [value](#) of De Beers down from \$9.2 billion in 2023, to just \$2.3 billion as of 20 February. Anglo American also reported a \$511m loss for 2025, although De Beers 2025 revenue was \$3.5 billion.

A 20% stake in De Beers would cost Angola at least \$460m at the company's current share valuation. [Tanganha](#) did not reveal how Angola will finance the acquisition of the stake in De Beers but finance minister **Vera Daves de Sousa** said the financing would not come from the 2026 budget.

A stake in De Beers makes considerable sense for Angola. De Beers has two diamond [prospecting](#) contracts in Angola and De Beers senior exploration manager **Mike Roberts** said in 2023:

"De Beers is focused on Angola. The Angolan projects are our flagship projects..."

Angola is currently the only country where new diamonds mines are expected to be found. As important, Angola is the world's most valuable diamond producer in 2025, when production increased by 9.4% in 2025, to [15.2](#) million carats and gross revenue increased by 20.8%, to \$1.8 billion. The **Luele mine** is responsible for the growth in Angola's diamond sector over the last two years; Luele and **Catoca** are currently the two [largest](#) mines in the country, accounting for at least 85% of Angola's production.

Negotiations between four Southern African diamond producers to form a consortium continue behind closed doors between **Botswana**, [Angola](#), **Namibia** and South Africa, with the aim of adopting a common position. Angola has been in [talks](#) with Botswana since November 2025. However, Botswana has been seeking a majority stake in De Beers, and according to **Wandblad**, as the remainder 15% shareholder in De Beers, Botswana will be *"crucial"* in determining the outcome of the various bids for De Beers shares.

Transparency and human rights reforms slow

Angola's human rights failures and attempts to curb corruption have come under criticism in recent weeks from both international organisations and internal legal challenges to restrictive legislation. **Germany**-headquartered **Transparency International**, the World Bank, **France**-headquartered **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**, and civil society in Angola have all raised legal and anti-corruption concerns, as reforms slow.

Transparency International's annual **Corruption Perception Index (CPI)** for 2025 points out that while Angola's ranking has increased 17 [points](#) on the CPI scale since 2015 through anti-corruption measures, [many Angolans](#) say these are insufficient and believe that reporting corruption may bring about retaliatory action.

TI CPI Rankings for Angola					
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Ranking	120/182	121/180	121/180	116/180	136/180
Score	32/100	32/100	33/100	33/100	29/100

Angola also remains on the FATF's [list](#) of countries under enhanced monitoring because of the risks of money laundering and terrorist financing, following FATF's plenary meeting between 11 and 13 February. The government has begun putting new laws in place to allow Angola to leave the FATF grey list of countries under enhanced monitoring, but FATF has asked for greater investigation of financial crimes and more convictions in line with the country's risk profile.

Civil society organisations in Angola have also expressed more concerned with the growth of repressive laws. **The Ordem dos Advogados de Angola (OAA)** (Angolan bar association) has protested to parliament that proposed laws on cybersecurity and the spreading of false information on the internet are a [setback](#) for democracy and freedom of speech as they stand and should be rethought. The OAA [told](#) parliament that the two laws together constitute a "systemic threat to the pillars of the Democratic Rule of Law". The organisation gave a collective [opinion](#) that the combination of a centralised authority with excessive powers, the marginalisation of judicial supervision, the use of vague legal concepts, a "draconian sanctioning regime" and "unenforceable operational obligations constitute a break with the principles of proportionality, necessity and strict legality".

Another new law, to [regulate](#) Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's) is the subject of legal action being planned by more than 20 member organisations of Angola's **Grupo de Trabalho de Monitorização dos Direitos Humanos (GTMDH)** (human rights monitoring working group). The GTMDH are mounting a legal [challenge](#) in the **Tribunal Constitucional** (constitutional court), saying that a law passed in parliament in January allows the government powers to extinguish or suspend NGOs, which, they argue, violates the Constitution, the Angolan civil code and the associations law.

NGO's believe that the new law is an [attempt](#) by the government to reintroduce state control. They also criticise the lack of public consultation, with representatives arguing that the [law](#) as it now stands attacks the existence of NGO's:

"The law attacks the autonomy of organizations so that they cease to exist and allows only those that are aligned with the established regime or those that propose to do the will to the system,"

FATF requires regulation of NGO's as part of the regulation of money laundering but NGOs say that the government has gone too far.

The effects of [fuel](#) reform subsidies in Angola, which caused demonstrations, arrests, and resulted in at least 30 deaths in 2025, were the subject of a World Bank report published on 11 February. The World Bank said there was a need to [mitigate](#) the measures by using the savings of up to \$3 billion for increased social provision. The report also showed limited public awareness of fuel subsidy policies,

low levels of trust in the government, and lack of clarity in government communications, which added to the problems.

Higher level of authoritarian governance and a stalled anti-corruption policy are the themes emerging from criticism of Lourenço's government at present, but clear external pressure for change from FATF, World Bank guidance, and targeted requirements from both international and national bodies may go towards rectifying the issues in 2026.

Planner

2023-2026 **(Angola) Programa de Privatizações (PROPRIV)** (privatisation programme) extended to manage government divestment of 138 companies;

Apr 2026 **Moxico Leste (Angola)** Construction work on the **Luau** solar photovoltaic park to be completed

3-7 May 2026 **Luanda (Angola) Global Tourism Investment Forum**

5 May 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** Closing date for **Moçamedes Railway** tender;

Jul 2026 **Lunda Norte (Angola)** The **Cafunfo** photovoltaic power plant expected to begin the supply of energy to more than 30,000 consumers;

2026 **(Angola) Agência Reguladora de Certificação de Carga e Logística de Angola (ARCCLA)** will open logistics platforms in **Luvo (Zaire)**, **Caála (Huambo)**, and **Namibe** this year;

2026 **Luanda (Angola)** Privatisation of telecommunications company **UNITEL** and sale of government stakes in **Standard Bank Ltd** expected to take place;

2026 **(Angola)** Government to introduce **World Health Organisation** approved malaria vaccination and anti-malaria education programme;

2026 **Moxico (Angola) Luau Hybrid Photovoltaic Plant** in Moxico, and associated distribution and electrification network, comes on line;

2026 **Cabinda (Angola)** End of phase 1 of construction of **Porto do Caio** is expected in the first half of the year;

2026-27 **(Angola) International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** and the **Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)** will promote investment in key sectors in Angola;

2027 **Cabinda (Angola) United Kingdom**-based **Gemcorp's Cabinda Refinery** begins phase 2 of refinery in 2027 and phase 3 to upgrade the units immediately thereafter;

2027 **Cuanza-Norte (Angola)** The first turbine of the **Caculo Cabaça** dam is expected to begin operating;

Aug-Sep 2027 **(Angola)** National elections

Chronology

20 Feb 2026 **Luanda (Angola) Expansao.** The **Namibian** government approves the development of the **Angola-Namibia Transmission Interconnection Project (ANNA)**, which will connect the electricity supply in the southern region of Angola to the Namibian system;

18 Feb 2026 **Luanda (Angola) Expansao.** **Capital Market Commission (CMC)** is evaluating the adoption of **International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)** by the non-banking financial and investment sector that it regulates;

17 Feb 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Expansao*. Release of Angola's 2024 census results shows that about 10.4 million Angolans were left unaccounted for, in a population estimated at 36.6 million, meaning about 28.3% of the population wasn't polled;

17 Feb 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Straits Times*. **United Kingdom**-headquartered **Amnesty International** says that prominent Angolan journalist **Teixeira Candido** was infected with surveillance software from spyware vendor **Intellexa** during May 2024, by an unknown source;

16 Feb 2026 **Abuja (Nigeria)** *Daily Trust*. **Nigeria** and Angola sign a bilateral agreement on the waiver of visa requirements for holders of diplomatic and official passports;

12 Feb 2026 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Expansao*. President **João Lourenço** meets **South Africa's** President **Cyril Ramaphosa** to examine the state of bilateral cooperation between the two countries;

12 Feb 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. Angola and the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** sign an agreement in Luanda to establish the **Permanent Joint Commission for Defence and Security** to enhance security along their common border;

12 Feb 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Expansao*. **Japanese** bank **Mitsubishi UFJ Finance Group** will provide financing of € 449m (\$525m) for the construction of five tourism development centres - one in the province of **Ícolo and Bengo**, one in **Cuanza Sul**, and three in in the province of **Namibe**;

12 Feb 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Expansao*. Mineral resources, oil and mining ministry authorises the unification of the development areas of the **Pluto, Saturn, Venus and Mars** oil blocks in Block 31, whose principal operator is Angola-based **Azule Energy**, thus creating a single operational area and extending the production period until the end of 2032;

12 Feb 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. **Development Bank of Angola (BDA)** executive committee chairman **João Quintas** says the Development Finance Institutions (DFI's) of the **Southern African Development Community** plan to create a regional bank with capitalisation of \$2.5 billion;

10 Feb 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Expansao*. Angola's National Consumer Price Index (IPCN) recorded a year-on-year variation of 14.56%, 1.13 percentage points less than in the previous month and a significant reduction from 26.48% in January 2025, showing inflation in Angola has maintained a gradual slowdown, albeit still at historically high levels;

10 Feb 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. President **João Lourenço** is elected president of the **African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)** steering committee;

9 Feb 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Expansao*. **Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company PJSC (Masdar)** receives concessions for the **Tômbwa** (250 MW) and **Chipindo** (100 MW) photovoltaic solar power plants under the Build, Operate and Transfer model (BOT) adding a further 350MW of installed capacity;

8 Feb 2026 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Angop*. President **João Lourenço** ends his one-year term of office as chair of the **African Union (AU)**, handing over to **Burundi's** President **Évariste Ndayshimiye** of Burundi;

8 Feb 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. **Agência Nacional de Petróleo, Gás, e Biocombustíveis (ANGP)** (national agency for petroleum, gas and biofuels) CEO **Paulino Jerónimo** says investments in Angola's oil sector have risen from \$8 billion to \$14 billion between 2019 and 2025 and that Angola aims to stabilise production above one million barrels per day by 2030;

7 Feb 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Expansao*. **Agência Nacional de Petróleo, Gás, e Biocombustíveis (ANGP)** (national agency for petroleum, gas and biofuels) says oil production in Angola has recorded a 40.2% drop since 2016, with average production of 1.722 million barrels per against 1.029 million barrels/day in 2025;

6 Feb 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. The renewed **United States (US) African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)** passes the US legislature, allowing free or low tariff imports, principally oil in the case of Angola, into the US until December 2026;

4 Feb 2026 **Washington DC (USA)** *United States Department of State*. Angola attends the **United States (US) Government's Critical Minerals Ministerial**, which aims to reshape the global market for critical minerals and rare earths;

2 Feb 2026 **Dubai (United Arab Emirates)** *Angop*. President **João Lourenço** seeks to launch a new investment initiative for mobilising investments from the African continent during the **World Summit of Governments** in Dubai, with the first ordinary summit of the initiative to take place in Angola's capital, **Luanda**;

6 Feb 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. Director of airport operations and cargo Soraia de Sousa. announces that most airline operations have transferred from **4 de Fevereiro Airport in Luanda to Dr António Agostinho Neto Airport (AIAAN)** in **Icolo e Bengo**;

31 Jan 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. **Cuba's** ambassador to Angola, **Óscar León González**, says that Cuba and Angola are working toward a new meeting of the **Intergovernmental Commission for Economic and Technical-Scientific Cooperation**, which will take place in Cuba;

31 Jan 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. **Zambia's** ambassador to Angola, **Elias Munshya**, visits **Moxico Leste**, and **Lunda Norte** provinces, next to the Zambian border, to further his country's goal to invest in agriculture and mining;

31 Jan 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Expansao*. **Grupo de Trabalho de Monitorização dos Direitos Humanos (GTMDH)** (human rights monitoring working group) says it will submit a legal challenge on the new law governing non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Angola, saying the law is unconstitutional and a threat to freedom of association and participatory democracy as provided for in the constitution;

30 Jan 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Expansao*. National public procurement service blacklists at least 53 companies which are now prohibited from signing contracts with the state due to non-compliance with contracts already signed, mostly linked to civil construction with unfinished works;

30 Jan 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. President **João Lourenço** and **African Union** chair stresses the need for a concerted effort to build a stable and peaceful Africa where peace and reconciliation are priorities, in a speech to commemorate the Day of Peace and Reconciliation in Africa;

30 Jan 2026 **Saurimo (Angola)** *Angop*. Justice and human rights minister **Marcy Lopes Saurimo** opens a new office in **Saurimo (Lunda Sul Province)**, which includes civil, property and automobile registry offices, and official notary services;

30 Jan 2026 **Saurimo (Angola)** *Angop*. Angola's permanent delegate to **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**, **Maria Candida Teixeira**, makes a submission for the **Tchitundu-Hulu Rock Art Site** to become a World Heritage Site, which if approved, it will become the second Angolan world heritage site on the list after **Mbanza Congo**;

29 Jan 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. President **João Lourenço** speaks with the **Spain's** prime minister, **Pedro Sánchez**, concerning the strengthening relations between Angola and Spain;

29 Jan 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Expansao*. **Agência Angolana de Regulação e Supervisão de Seguros (ARSEG)** (Angolan agency for insurance regulation and supervision) announces it sanctioned 81 non-compliant companies during 2025, including a fine of Kz 100m (\$109,051) applied to **Sol Seguros**, the insurance arm of **Banco Sol**;

28 Jan 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. A memorandum of understanding for the implementation, operationalisation, and expansion of the **Drought Combat Project Platform** is signed in Luanda with the **Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land**

Management (SASSCAL), an initiative of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Germany;

27 Jan 2026 **Luanda (Angola) Angop. Sindicato de Oficiais de Justiça de Angola (SOJA)** (Angolan court officials union) suspends a strike scheduled from 9 February to 6 March after reaching an agreement with the government on the eight points of their demands;

27 Jan 2026 **Luanda (Angola) Angop. Côte d'Ivoire**-headquartered **Schiba Holding Group** plans to invest very extensively in road and agricultural infrastructure sectors in Angola;

27 Jan 2026 **Huambo (Angola) Angop. Institute of Veterinary Services (ISV)** confirms an outbreak of African swine fever in **Huambo Province** and decrees a 60-day ban on the entry and exit of pigs in the province, as well as banning pork products in formal and informal markets;

23 Jan 2026 **Luanda (Angola) Expansao.** Finance ministry says it expects to pay Kz 516.1 billion Kwanza (\$5.65 billion) in internal state arrears this year, with debts payable to 632 entities between Angolan, foreign companies and individuals, with **Chinese Citic Construction** owed Kz 175.6 billion (\$191.5m) and **Pan China Construction Group** owed Kz 55.2 billion (\$60m);

20 Jan 2026 **Luanda (Angola) Angop** Interior minister, **Manuel Homem**, attends a regional workshop titled 'Training for Strengthening the Investigation of Cases of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing in Southern Africa' with experts from the law enforcement bodies of the **Southern African Development Community (SADC)** and representatives from the **Institute of Security Studies** and the **Interpol Regional Bureau**, to harmonise investigative procedures and practices throughout the region.

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