

## AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

### Angola Monthly Briefing April 2026

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#### Angola Summary 23 April 2026

*The trial of Russian citizens, Igor Rotchin Mihailovich and Lev Matveevich Lakshtanov, and Angolan citizens, Amor Carlos Tomé and Francisco Oliveira, on charges of fomenting anti-government protests, conducting a campaign of disinformation, and attempting to interfere in next year's presidential election begins in Luanda on 24 March. The World Bank announces an innovative financial initiative aimed at supporting Angola's economic transformation and strengthening its public finances. To further support these goals, Angola issues \$2.5 billion in Eurobonds. The World Bank and Angola, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Angola, separately agree on new systems to manage aspects of the Lobito Corridor.*

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#### Russian and Angolan citizens on trial for subversive activities in Angola

The [trial](#) of **Russian** citizens, **Igor Rotchin Mihailovich** and **Lev Matveevich Lakshtanov**, and **Angolan** citizens, **Amor Carlos Tomé** and **Francisco Oliveira**, on charges of fomenting anti-government protests, conducting a campaign of disinformation, and attempting to interfere in next year's presidential election began in **Luanda** on 24 March. Police arrested the four in August 2025. Police also arrested political consultant, **Igor Ratchin**, and translator, **Lev Lakshtanov**, who are facing eleven [charges](#), including terrorism, espionage and influence peddling.

Authorities have accused Mihailovich and Lakshtanov of [acting](#) on behalf of **Africa Politology**, which was set up by **Yevgeny Prigozhin**, [founder](#) of the Russian paramilitary group **Wagner**. [Leaked](#) internal records published in 2024, detailing financial and operational relationships, revealed Russian foreign intelligence services took over Africa Politology after the Wagner Group was dismantled following the death of Prigozhin in 2023.

Mihailovich and Lakshtanov [are](#) referred to in leaked records unconnected to the court case as Africa Politology agents in Angola. However, their [defence](#) team deny they are connected to Africa Politology and were not acting on behalf of the Russian state, but were in Angola to create a cultural 'Russian House' in Luanda. The leaked records also mention the opening of four new [cultural](#) centres of this type in 2024, notably in **Niger**, Angola, **Chad**, and **Guinea**. The documents note that in [Angola](#), the organisation was seeking "update its network and obtain first-hand information".

Angola's attorney general's office alleges they intended to overthrow the current regime and "provoke political alternation, leading the **UNITA** party [the opposition] to power" or else force [change](#) "within the leadership of the **MPLA** [the ruling party]." The prosecution alleges the Russians hired Angolan sports journalist, **Amor Carlos Tomé**, and political activist and [UNITA](#) youth leader, **Francisco Oliveira**, to conduct their activities in the country. Tomé and Oliveira face nine and five charges respectively, including terrorism, espionage, and influence peddling, charges their legal team have also denied.

Lakshtanov gave [evidence](#) on the 15 April, telling the court that he was an interpreter for Ratchin, and that they had private meetings with political figures from the MPLA and UNITA, including **Higino Carneiro** and **António Venâncio**, during which the 2027 elections were addressed. Carneiro and [Venâncio](#) have both put themselves forward as candidates for the 2027 election under the MPLA.

The state says it had evidence that a team of Russian operatives, including **Maxim Shugalei**, a prominent Wagner-linked political operative sanctioned by the **European Union (EU)** for overseeing disinformation campaigns and his long-term translator, **Samer Suaifan**, first arrived in Luanda in

2024. Suaifan has acknowledged being acquainted with the defendants, Shugalei has denied knowing them.

There is no doubt amongst commentators how what the goal of this operation was. **European** think-tank **European Council on Foreign Relations' Africa Programme** director **Alex Vines**, [commented](#):

*"There's clearly an element of Russian disinformation to try and build up more sympathy towards the Russian Federation."*

Vines added that this approach was *"indicative of Russian anxiety of the direction of travel of Angola under the Lourenço administration."*

Under President **João Lourenço** (2017-present), Angola has pivoted towards Western partners, and away from Russia, which was a key partner to the former administration. Notably, Russian diamond mining company **Alrosa** and bank **VTB** have been forced to leave Angola due to international sanctions imposed because of the **Ukraine** war. This would have also impacted Russia's reputation in Angola and impacted economic ties, making Lourenço's pivot away from Russia even more necessary. However, this has led to Russia losing influence among a key partner in southern Africa.

### **World Bank offers budgetary support to Angola and raises \$2.5 billion in Eurobonds**

The **World Bank** announced an [innovative](#) financial initiative aimed at supporting Angola's economic transformation and strengthening its public finances during the World Bank and **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** Spring meetings, held from 13 to 18 April in **Washington DC (United States)**.

The World Bank's director of operations for Angola, the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, **Burundi**, and **Sao Tome and Principe**, **Albert Zeufack**, confirmed on 14 April that the institution's board of directors had [approved](#) a budgetary support package designed to promote structural reforms and accelerate Angola's economic diversification efforts. This marks the first time such an instrument has been used. The instrument includes guarantees from both the World Bank and the **Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)**. Zeufack [commented](#) that the funding reflects the World Bank's *"strong partnership"* with the Angolan government and its reforms that *"promote inclusive growth, strengthen fiscal sustainability and human capital, and protect the most vulnerable"*.

Finance minister **Vera Daves de Sousa** acknowledged in an announcement on 18 April that the World Bank will shortly disburse \$750m to finance expenses in Angola's 2026 state [budget](#) noting that this is the first in a series of the bank's operations to support Angola's ambitious structural reform agenda. Accompanying this will be a \$240m policy-based guarantee, complemented by a second loss [guarantee](#) from MIGA. The two guarantees cover a \$400m commercial loan, bringing the total package to \$1.1 billion.

Daves said that the funding will help [cover](#) public expenditures and the guarantee mechanism will reduce the cost of Angola's existing debt. It will enable Angola to refinance more expensive loans and generate savings that can be redirected toward priority sectors, including education and reducing youth [unemployment](#), which stands at 51.8%. The World Bank has been a key multilateral lender for Angola and has a strong portfolio with the country. The two are also working to expand [access](#) to electricity and clean drinking water, with the \$230m **Bita Water Treatment** plant in Luanda expected to start up at the end of 2026.

Daves explained that the initiative was anchored in a set of [measures](#) already implemented, and that public [debt](#) remains sustainable. One recent measure is Angola's [issue](#) of \$2.5 billion of **Eurobonds** on 25 March, with high investor demand for the two tranches, which have maturity of seven and 11 years and interest rates of 9.25% and 9.8%, respectively. Daves said that Angola is to use \$500m to buy back [debt](#).

High [fuel](#) prices in the international market due to the **United States (US)-Iran** conflict have led to higher Brent crude prices for Angola, reaching over \$100 per barrel at several points during April, against the country's reference price of \$61, keeping growth around [4%](#) this year. Daves said that,

from a fiscal perspective, the government anticipates a reduction in the budget deficit which will reduce the need for external debt.

### World Bank, Angola, and DRC agree areas of integration in Lobito Corridor

The World Bank and Angola, and the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** and Angola, have separately agreed new systems to manage aspects of the **Lobito Corridor**. Angola and the World Bank launched the 'Locomotor' [project](#) co-ordination platform during a session on the sidelines of the Spring meetings on 16 April. The corridor's **Transport and Transit Facilitation Agency** executive secretary **Amadeu Leitão Nunes** told a press conference after the presentation that a total of \$26 billion dollars is being [invested](#) in infrastructure across the three countries that make up the Lobito Corridor - Angola, DRC, and **Zambia**.

The platform will incorporate all the investment [data](#) and interests of the agencies, to avoid overlapping projects. Nunes observed that ongoing investments have yet to be fully mapped but that a multiplicity of projects have been announced from the public and private sectors across **Europe**, the US, and Africa.

Zeufack also held [meetings](#) with the Angolan delegation to discuss the transformative initiative:

*"The Lobito Corridor is becoming a good example of how to transform infrastructure into a corridor of economic development and a platform for job creation for the Angolan population."*

The third **Angola-DRC Economic Forum**, which took place from 26 March to 2 April, also addressed issues relating to the Lobito Corridor, under the theme 'Sub-regional Integration and Development of Cross-border Trade'. **Banco Nacional de Angola** (central bank) governor **José de Lima Massano** told the [meeting](#) there is a "common ambition to build an integrated, shared and prosperous economic space" and that concrete results could emerge in [areas](#) of common interest, such as food security, energy transition, development and sharing of transport and logistics infrastructure, and financial inclusion, but at present most trade is through the informal cross border market. Massano highlighted that the lack of modern cross-border trade facilities is an impediment to trade development but that Angola is tackling this issue; in February, the \$635m **Luvo Border Post** [opened](#) to replace the old post, with Massano announcing Angola's intention to build more posts like this.

Massano added that Angola has already [applied](#) to the DRC's central bank for licenses, to facilitate financial flows for such trade. Angola's credit guarantee fund, **Fundo de Garantia de Crédito**, has also clarified that Angolan exporters to the DRC can obtain public guarantees of up to \$5m per project, to mitigate credit risk in the agro-industry, logistics and services sectors, with particular emphasis on companies located along the Lobito Corridor.

Authorities have [created](#) institutional mechanisms to facilitate the transport and transit of goods between Angola, DRC, and Zambia to reinforce regional logistical integration. However, there are critical issues, including formidable logistical obstacles on the DRC side of the border. The [EU](#) is providing funding of €6m (\$7m) for regional trade facilitation through **TradeMark Africa**, to help simplify customs and reduce barriers between DRC, Angola, and Zambia, but the cost of a single modern border post was 100 times more.

### Planner

9 Apr 2026 – 27 Jul 2026 **Cabinda (Angola)** International public tender for the 20-year management and development plans for the **Caio** deepwater maritime terminal;

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

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

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

Jun 2026 **Viana (Angola)**. Angola's first gold refinery to begin operating;

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

9 – 10 Dec 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** The ruling **Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola (MPLA)** 9th Ordinary Congress;

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

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

2026 **Cabinda (Angola)** End of phase one of construction of **Porto do Caio**

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

2026 **Luanda (Angola)** Luanda to host an extraordinary session of the **African Union's Conference of Heads of State and Government** to analyse threats to peace, security and development;

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

2027 **Cabinda (Angola)** **United Kingdom**-based **Gemcorp's Cabinda Refinery** begins phase two of its refinery;

2027 **Cuanza-Norte (Angola)** First turbine of the **Caculo Cabaça** dam expected to begin operating

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

## Chronology

21 Apr 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angola24Horas*. An **Agência Nacional de Petróleo, Gás, e Biocombustíveis (ANPG)** (national agency of petroleum, gas, and biofuels) identifies significant risks of money laundering, corruption, and terrorist financing across the country's upstream oil sector, spanning from initial bidding to well abandonment;

21 Apr 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angola 24 Horas*. Supreme court postpones the start of the trial of former fisheries minister, **Vitória de Barros Neto**, to 29 April;

21 Apr 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Reuters*. Pope **Leo XIV** ends his three day Apostolic visit to Angola;

19 Apr 2026 **Moxico (Angola)** *Angop*. **Luau Hybrid Photovoltaic Plant** in **Moxico Province** begins an experimental start-up of approximately 55,000 solar panels, with an installed capacity of 32.2MW; full operating capacity is expected to be reached by June;

19 Apr 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. Attorney general, **Pedro Mendes de Carvalho**, holds meetings this week with the ambassadors of **Switzerland** and **China** in Angola, with the aim of strengthening bilateral cooperation in the field of criminal justice;

17 Apr 2026 **Washington DC (United States)** *Angop*. A network of central banks of the **Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CLCP)** is formalised to strengthen strategic cooperation between CLCP states, with the first meeting taking place in **Luanda (Angola)** in November;

17 Apr 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. The **African Bank of Oman (ABO)**, owned by the Sultanate of Oman, opens its first branch in Angola;

16 Apr 2026 **Lunda Norte (Angola)** *Angop*. **Chitotolo Mining** Company, an Angolan diamond mining company with revenues of about \$250m per year annum, announces plans to invest approximately \$1.4m in the local education sector in the first half of 2026;

- 16 Apr 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. Energy and water ministry announces that water security in **Cunene Province** will significantly improve with the completion of the **Calucuve** dam, which can store 141 million cubic meters of water, in July 2026;
- 15 Apr 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *The Namibian*. **Namibia** and Angola sign agreements to develop the N\$941m (\$57.5m) **Anna Interconnector Project**, a 400 kV transmission line aimed at boosting regional energy trade and reliability;
- 15 Apr 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Expansao*. Agriculture and forestry minister, **Isaac dos Anjos**, says in a speech to the financial sector including the **African Development Bank (AfDB)** and the **International Financial Corporation (IFC)**, that institutions that do not finance Politically Exposed People (PEPs) should leave the country;
- 14 Apr 2026 **Benguela (Angola)** *Angop*. Dredging work at the **Port of Lobito** to improve operational efficiency and prepare the infrastructure for larger ships is 57% complete after 50 days;
- 13 Apr 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. During high-level meetings in **China**, mineral resources, petroleum, and gas minister **Diamantino Azevedo** seeks to elevate bilateral ties to a new political-strategic level specifically within the mineral resources, oil and gas sectors;
- 8 Apr 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. Finance ministry approves the issuance of treasury bonds worth Kz 170 billion (\$185m) to capitalise national carrier, **TAAG**;
- 8 Apr 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. Court of auditors says that it is now able to carry out audits of state contracts in coordination with courts of auditors from **Brazil** and **Portugal**;
- 9 Apr 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. Angolan Brent Crude reaches its highest price at \$111.64 per barrel, against the country's reference price of \$61;
- 6 Apr 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *AA*. Torrential rains in **Benguela** and **Luanda** provinces kill at 29 people and displace over 33,000;
- 4 Apr 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Angop*. The **United States** state department says it has mobilised \$6 billion in investments for the **Lobito Corridor** and aims to accelerate its leadership in this strategic logistics infrastructure;
- 2 Apr 2026 **Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo)** *Angop*. The **3<sup>rd</sup> Economic Forum DRC-Angola** ends and recommends accelerating the digitalisation and interconnection of the customs systems and single stop border crossings, while acknowledging formidable obstacles;
- 28 Mar 2026 **Luena (Angola)** *All Africa.com* A passenger train carriage is derailed the **Benguela Railway** at Luena, causing mainly minor injuries to 78 passengers;
- 26 Mar 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. Finance minister **Vera Daves de Sousa** meets with the of **BRICS New Development Bank (NDB)** president **Dilma Rousseff** to discuss potential financing for infrastructure and sustainable development projects;
- 22 Mar 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *Jornal de Angola*. Officials, including transport and logistics minister **João Jorge Matlombe** and **Associação dos Portos de Língua Portuguesa** (association of Portuguese-speaking ports) president **Manuel Nazareth Neto**, call for stronger coordination and revitalisation to boost trade among the organisations members states;
- 20 Mar 2026 **Luanda (Angola)** *All Africa.com*. Luanda's first instance court convicts 21 defendants of tax fraud of more than Kz100 billion (\$108m), with prison sentences ranging from three to nine years and six months.

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