



**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA IN THE STATE OF ISRAEL
OFFICE OF THE AMBASSADOR**

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**SPEECH DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MR.
JOSÉ JOÃO MANUEL, AMBASSADOR OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA TO THE STATE OF
ISRAEL, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 38TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA.**

TEL AVIV, NOVEMBER 11, 2013



- **YOUR EXCELLENCY MR. NAFTALI BENETT, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND LABOR, ALSO MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR JERUSALEM AND DIASPORA AFFAIRS;**
- **YOUR EXCELLENCIES, AMBASSADORS, HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS;**
- **DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;**
- **DEAR FRIENDS;**

- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

Today is a special day for the Republic of Angola and for all Angolans. We are celebrating our 38th National Independence Day.

As you noticed, Angola is a young country and, as you probably have heard, Angola is a country with enormous potential that guarantee its socio-economical development. Because of this it is a country that is offering great business opportunities.

With a consolidated peace and a stable political situation based on the pillars of democracy, Angola is now one of the countries in the world with a satisfactory level of economic growth. In spite of limitations that have been documented and that are still being documented in world economy – limitations that have been negatively reflected in the economy of most countries – the growth of the Angolan economy for 2013 is projected to reach 5.1%.

Revenue from the sales of oil, gas, diamonds and other natural resources is being used, on the one hand, to reconstruct infrastructures destroyed during the civil war, and on the other, to build-up a modern country with capability to provide commodities and services essential to welfare available to its inhabitants.

This endeavor is already producing perceptible effects, considering the large scale national operation of building-up infrastructures, the resumption of agricultural production and especially human training. As a matter of fact, quite a few of the guests here today can confirm this, because they too, have been and continue to be a part of this vast mission of building-up Angola. **To you, we would like to say: Thank you for your cooperation.**

Your Excellency, Mr. Minister,

Dear Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Angola is growing with the help and cooperation of a lot of countries –of course Israel is among them. The multifaceted cooperation between Angola and Israel that involves aspects of human training is currently going through a most gratifying phase.

The most active sectors in our bilateral cooperation have been Agriculture, Energy and Water, Health, Telecommunications, Defense and Security. As the President of Angola, José Eduardo dos Santos said in a recent interview with the Israeli journalist Henrique Cymerman who I think is probably here with us today, and I quote, *"There are businessmen from Israel who are interested in our market because Angola is a country that offers great business opportunities, allowing relations with Israel to be dynamic and multifaceted, thereby satisfying the interests of both countries."* These words that I have quoted allow me to express the fact that the Angolan market remains open for Israeli entrepreneurs interested in assisting in the construction of the New Angola, making it a good country in which to live.

The fields of culture, tourism and sport too, will make-up the next large-scale challenges to strengthen bilateral cooperation, considering that these sectors that are so dynamic, directly involve regular citizens.

We are focusing on promoting cultural exchange visits by Angolan groups and artists to Israel while our Israeli partners, the Mitrelli Group in particular, have worked hard to send cultural trainers and groups to Angola and this has had a positive effect on bringing the nations closer than ever to each other.

The tourist industry has also shown significant growth with Angolan groups of pilgrims visiting the Holy Land and now we hope that Israeli citizens will include Angola on their tourist itinerary giving them the opportunity to enjoy nice landscapes, beautiful beaches, animals in their wild habitat, and to meet the warm, friendly and ever happy Angolan people.

Dear Guests,

Your Excellency, Minister Naftali Benett,

Regarding to foreign policy, Angola has stable relations with nearly all the countries in the world. Angola upholds respect for constitutional order and for the resolution of conflicts and disputes by peaceful means.

This standpoint was reinforced last September by the Vice-President of the Republic of Angola, Manuel Vicente, on his speech before the UN General Assembly in New York. The vice-president of Angola once more made it clear that the government of my country supports the mediation efforts made by Secretary of State, John Kerry, and expressed the hope that the resumption of the bilateral dialogue between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority will result in a lasting peace settlement, culminating in the establishment of a Palestinian State that will coexist in security with the State of Israel.

Finally I would like to reiterate my thanks to all our guests, and most particularly to His Excellence, Minister Naftali Benett who has greatly honored us with his presence today.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH – TODA RABA