



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

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**SPEECH DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY
ADMIRAL FELICIANO ANTONIO DOS SANTOS,
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL, ON THE OCCASION
OF THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA**

TEL AVIV – 15.11.2015

YOUR EXCELLENCY MRS GILA GAMLIEL, MINISTER FOR SOCIAL EQUALITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL;

DEAR COLLEAGUES – AMBASSADORS, HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS;

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

It gives me great pleasure to have you here with us at this ceremony to mark the celebration of the fortieth Independence Day of the Republic of Angola. A warm welcome to you all.

Forty years ago, on November 11, 1975, the people of Angola joyfully celebrated the proclamation of the independence of the Republic of Angola, following the war of national liberation fought against Portuguese colonialism that had lasted for fourteen years and thus they ended a long period of five hundred years of colonization.

Once it had attained its independence, Angola unfortunately had to begin dealing with a period of civil war that, apart from resulting in thousands of human victims, destroyed infrastructures and profoundly affected the country's production sector.

On April 4, 2002, that is to say, after 27 years of civil war, peace was finally attained by the Angolans through dialogue, culminating in the signing of the Agreements of Luena, a province of Moxico.

Within the framework of these Agreements, UNITA, previously a rebel group, was transformed into a political party and it currently plays a political role in the country's democratic life.

Ladies and gentlemen;

Distinguished guests;

Angola's political situation is stable and His Excellency the President of Angola, Engineer José Eduardo dos Santos, has therefore determined the following issues as being government priorities:

- The need to preserve the peace;
- The importance of national reconciliation for the sake of national unity;
- The strengthening of democratic institutions;
- The implementation of an impressive program for national reconstruction involving the recovery of infrastructures, the revitalization of the production sector and the implementation of various projects of social development.

My dear guests;

The Angolan People, led by President José Eduardo dos Santos, is building a new Angola. It is this Angola that you can see in the photographs displayed here and the video being screened at this event.

Angola is the second major oil producer on the African continent and the fifth largest producer of diamonds in the world.

Considering that oil is the major source of the country's income, the current international oil crisis caused by the drop in the price of crude oil is significantly affecting the Angolan economy and slowing it down considerably.

As an immediate step, the Angolan government has started to adopt a more cautious management of public expenditure and has selected agriculture as one of the priority sectors, aiming at diversifying the economy and thus preventing its permanent dependence on the oil sector.

**Ladies and gentlemen;
Distinguished guests;**

The spectacular socio-economic growth of Angola, the most visible aspect of which is the construction of thousands of kilometers of roads, railways, new airports, new cities, hospitals and schools, accompanied by a promising national plan of executive training programs, has obviously had the participation of companies and businessmen from friendly countries, such as Israel.

And I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Israeli companies and businessmen who operate projects in Angola, some of whom are present here with us today. In addition, I would also like to invite interested parties to invest in Angola. I urge them not to hesitate to do this because Angola offers wonderful business opportunities for foreign investors, particularly in the agricultural sector which is the area that is presently most in need of intervention.

To give you a notion of the possibilities available in Angola in the agricultural sector, I would like to tell you now that there exists a potential area of nearly 58 million hectares of farming land and just 4 million in the whole country are being cultivated as part of the agricultural campaign of 2015/2016.

Foreign investment is regulated by a new law that guarantees the protection of the investors' businesses and capitals and the repatriation of the gains.

Your Excellency, **MRS. GILA GAMLIEL**, allow me to stress my country's satisfaction with the excellent state of our bilateral cooperation and to express my wish to see it strengthened even further.

**Ladies and gentlemen;
Distinguished guests;**

Internationally, Angola puts itself forward as a defender of dialogue and mutual respect as a means of solving disputes with the aim of promoting the peace, stability and development of the peoples who inhabit our planet.

This is the stand upheld by Angola at the United Nations where it holds the position of Non-Permanent Member of the Security Council of the United Nations for the period 2015-2016; at the African Union and at other international forums such as the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, currently presided over by Angola.

Angola also endorses the need for reform in order to revitalize the system used by the UN, particularly that of the Security Council, by increasing the number of its permanent and non-permanent members.

So in this way Angola reaffirms the right of the African continent to be represented within the ranks of the permanent members of the Security Council.

**Your Excellency, MRS. GILA GAMLIEL;
Your Excellencies, dear colleagues – Ambassadors, Heads of
Diplomatic Missions and International Organizations;
Distinguished guests;
Ladies and gentlemen;**

Allow me to conclude by reaffirming the wish of Angola to see the process of peace negotiations resumed between the government of the State of Israel and the Palestinian National Authority.

It is the wish of Angola that by means of negotiations, Israel and Palestine come to achieve a peaceful and lasting solution based on two States, living side by side in peace and security.

Thank you very much.

ANGOLA 40 ANOS

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