

40
1975-2015
INDEPENDÊNCIA NACIONAL

**ANGOLA
40YEARS**

Independence, Peace,
National Unit
and Development

ANGOLA

40 YEARS AS AN INDEPENDENT STATE



The President of the Republic of Angola, José Eduardo dos Santos

Today, the Angolan Republic celebrates 40 years of existence as an independent state. On November 11, 1975, the Angolans declared the independence of the Republic of Angola following a cruel war of national liberation against Portuguese colonialism that lasted 14 years, and thus they ended a 500-year long period of colonization.

Once it attained independence, Angola had to confront a civil war, fought mainly between the MPLA, which had been the party to declare independence and take on the government of the country, and the UNITA, which aided the army of the then apartheid regime of South Africa in an attempt to assume power.

The three movements of national liberation are the MPLA (the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola), the UNITA (the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) and the FNLA (the National Front for the Liberation of Angola).

On April 4, 2002, after 27 years of civil war, peace was finally attained by means of the Agreements of Luena, a province of Moxico, following the death in battle of the rebel leader Jonas Savimbi in February 2002. Within the framework of the Agreements of Luena, 80,000 UNITA soldiers put down their weapons and were taken into civilian society, into the Angolan Armed Forces and into the National Police Force. UNITA was transformed into a political party and it currently plays its role in the country's democratic life.

Republic of Angola

Land area: 1,246,700 km²

President: José Eduardo dos Santos

Vice-President: Manuel Domingos Vicente

President of the National Assembly

(Parliament): Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos

National Assembly (Parliament): 220 members

Main political parties: MPLA with 175 seats in the National Assembly, UNITA with 32 seats, CASA-CE with 8 seats, PRS with 3 seats and FNLA with 2 seats.

Last general elections: August 31, 2012

Next general elections: 2017

Official language: Portuguese

Currency: Kwanza (\$14.5)

Borders: To the north, the Democratic Republic of the Congo; to the east, the Republic of Zambia; to the south, the Republic of Namibia; and to the west, the Atlantic Ocean.

Border extension: Sea border: 1,650 km; Land border: 4,837 km.

Administrative division: 18 provinces: Bengo, Benguela, Bié, Cabinda, Cunene, Huambo, Huila, Kuando Kubango, Kwanza Norte, Kwanza Sul, Luanda, Lunda Norte, Lunda Sul, Malange, Moxico, Namibe, Uíge and Zaire.

Highest point: Moco Mountain (in Huambo) rising to 2,620 meters.

Geography: 60% of the land is a plateau with a height of 1000 to 2000 meters and a dense and extensive hydrographical area.

Main rivers: Kwanza, Cunene, Kubango, and the Congo River.

Population: 24,383,300 (2014)

Capital city: Luanda, with 6,542,940 inhabitants.

Main cities: Huambo, Benguela, Lubango, Cabinda, Lobito and Namibe.



Once peace was achieved, the President of the Angolan Republic, José Eduardo dos Santos, outlined the major goals of the government, namely national reconciliation and the process of national reconstruction, with emphasis on the revival of the production sector.

Rich as it is in natural resources, Angola rapidly became one of the countries with the highest economic growth rates in Africa and even in the world, and within a short space of time it became a prosperous country.

Natural Resources

Angola has rich soil, subsoil and sea resources. Vast and diverse terrains and climates provide favorable conditions for the development of a wide variety of farming products, both in tropical and mild regions. The tropical forests of Cabinda and the Kuango River valley, including some areas in Huila, Bié, Moxico and Kwanza Norte, offer exotic woods of great quality, especially mahogany, tola, ironwood, ebony and sandalwood.

Angola is also very rich in mineral resources. It is estimated that the subsoil holds 35 of the 45 most important minerals in world trade. The most important ones are oil and natural gas (Cabinda, Soyo, Kissama), diamonds (Malanje and Lunda), iron (Kassinga, Jamba,

N'Dalatando, Chibia, Kazombo), manganese (N'Dalatando, Balombo), copper (Benguela, Sumbé, Songo, Kazombo, Menongue), rock asphalt (Caxito, Gabela), marble (Virei), gold (Quilombo Dembos, Caala, Kassinga), lead and zinc (M'Banza Congo and Balombo), tungsten and tin (Kazombo), uranium (Caxito and Luçala), phosphates (Quelo) and sulphur (Caxito and Benguela).



View of Luanda, the capital city of Angola

The economy

Angola is the second major oil producer on the African continent, just after Nigeria, and this source of energy represents almost 80% of the country's revenue. The National Fuel Society of Angola (Sonangol) aims to increase oil production in Angola with a goal for 2015 placed at 1.8 million barrels of crude oil a day, in spite of the international oil crisis.

As a result of this crisis, during 2015 the stability of the Angolan economy has been shaken by the various pockets of disturbance that have emerged on the international front and that have negatively affected the price of crude oil due to the imbalance between supply and demand on the markets.

Apart from substantially reducing public expenditure, the cut in the price of oil has also brought about a drop in export revenue, which has led to a decline in the supply of currency for economic operators and has had a direct impact on the growth of the GNP, having an effect on the entire economy as a consequence of the relations between the different sectors.

Projections for 2015 show an actual GNP growth rate of 4%, with the oil sector growing by 7.8% as a consequence of the rise in production and the non-oil producing sector (2.4%), reflecting the growth levels of agriculture (2.5%), the processing industry (2.6%) and the market services (2.2%).

Nevertheless, in 2015, the energy sector is estimated to grow by 12%, the construction sector by 3.5% and the diamond sector by 3.2%. In spite of this drop in resources and public expenditure, the State of Angola continues to guarantee uninterrupted essential public and social services.

After oil, the major source of Angola's revenue comes from diamonds, with Angola ranking as the fifth largest world producer. In 2014, Angola collected over \$1.6 billion from the mining of nearly 10 million carats of diamonds – constituting 8.1% of the global world value. The mine in Catoca, in the northern Angolan interior, is the fourth biggest diamond mine in the world.

In 2015, the Angolan government is proceeding with the implementation of 195 structural projects that have national priority and that focus mainly on strengthening the water supply system and the sanitation system, improving the water supply to the rural areas, the expansion of production capacity and the transport system of electric energy, logistics platforms, the repair and conservation of the road network and the hospital and teaching infrastructures.

Agriculture

The agricultural sector is currently the priority of the Angolan government, as it is aiming to diversify the economy and thereby circumvent the heavy dependency on the oil sector. Agriculture is one of the areas that is the most open to receiving foreign investors within the scope of the government scheme to fight hunger and poverty.

With the opening of the sector to foreign investors, Angola is intending to reclaim the period in which it was one of the biggest world exporters of coffee and other agricultural commodities such as cotton, sisal, corn, manioc chips and bananas. Today, agriculture in Angola is characterized by very low priced agricultural production and the country spends large amounts of money on the import of foodstuffs.



Kissama National Park

Angola has a potential area of nearly 58 million hectares that can be used for agriculture and out of these nearly 5.2 million were cultivated during the agricultural year 2010-11, constituting an increase of 6% as compared to the previous year. The margin of progress in agriculture in Angola is enormous.

Last September, the Minister of Agriculture, Afonso Pedro Canga, announced the cultivation of four million hectares of land all over the country during the agricultural campaign of 2015/2016.

Business opportunities

To people who knew Angola, the country today is a new one – more dynamic and safer. With political, military and economic stability, Angola is experiencing the most prosperous period in its entire history. Luanda, the capital of Angola, is a city with great potential for development. Public construction is worthy of note in the new socio-economic context.

Angola offers excellent business opportunities for foreign investors and it is the sector of agriculture that currently needs the most intervention as part of the Angolan government's priority of diversifying the economy as it continues on its quest for alimentary self-sufficiency.

Foreign investment is regulated by a new law that assures the protection of the business and the capital of the investor. The private investment law complies with the following general principles:

- Respect for private ownership;
- Respect for the rules of the free market and healthy competition between economic operators;
- Guarantee of safety and protection of the investment;
- Promotion of the free and full circulation of assets and capital in accordance with legal terms and restrictions.

For foreigners interested in investing in the sectors of electricity, water, hotel management and tourism, transport and logistics, civil construction, telecommunications, information and social communication technologies, the law of private investment requires the establishment of partnerships with Angolan citizens, with the latter holding at least 35% of the capital and their actual participation in the management.

In accordance with the law of private investment, foreign investors are compelled to promote the training and guidance of national workers and the progressive 'Angolization' of boards of directors and senior management.

Foreign policy

Internationally, Angola puts itself forward as a defender of dialogue and mutual respect as a means of solving disputes with the aim of promoting peace, stability and development in the region.

Angola holds the position of the United Nations' Non-Permanent Member of the Security Council for the period 2015-2016 and it chairs the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. During its presidency of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, Angola has pledged to look for solutions to the problems that affect the region, both in the bilateral and in the multilateral context, as well as within the scope of the Security Council of the United Nations and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.

Regarding the functioning of the United Nations, Angola wishes that the UN act as an organization able to promote international peace and security, to act swiftly and effectively in situations of conflict and provide answers to current and developing challenges.

According to the Vice-President of the Republic of Angola, Manuel Domingos Vicente, in his speech before the UN General Assembly last month, the 70 years of the organization should constitute an additional incentive to accelerate reforms that aim to revitalize the system of the United Nations, particularly the Security Council through the expansion of the number of its permanent and non-permanent members, with the organ becoming more representative and better equipped to offer answers for the challenges and opportunities faced by the world. In accordance with the declarations of its Vice-President, Angola reiterates the right of the African continent to be represented among the permanent members of the Security Council.

As for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the government



Leba Mountain in southern Angola

of the Republic of Angola supports the need to resume the process of negotiations that will lead to a peaceful and lasting solution based on two states with its citizens living side by side in peace and security.

Tourism

The tourism sector is one of the areas open to foreign investment and it has great potential for high-quality business, especially when it comes to the construction of the tourist infrastructure.

Wealthy and offering a great variety of landscapes, flora and fauna, Angola offers visitors amazing scenery such as high waterfalls, warm-water beaches, virgin forests and savannahs that go as far as the eye can see.

Moco Mountain, located in the *cordillera* (chain of mountains) that goes along the country longitudinally and where the hydrographical basins of some major rivers like Kwanza, Keve Cunene and Kubango are formed, is the highest point of this vast territory, climbing to a height of 2,620 meters.



A dancer at the Carnival

Culture

Music, dance, festivals and socializing are key aspects of Angolan culture, which is very rich and full of nuances and colorations that differ from province to province. Angolans, in general, are notable performers of any of these enjoyable and social displays.

The music is exceptional, both the traditional music with its ritualistic flavor that mark moments of community life, and the latest so-called popular music, the product of individualized creations – from *semba* and *kizomba* (meaning 'feast' in the Kimbundo language) to *kuduro* music (the most recent beat with a strong interventional and social nature), from *cabetula to zouk* (imported music from the Caribbean). The Carnival is the synthesis of all this – it is the Angolan gala par excellence: music, dance, fiesta and fun!



Kizomba dancers



The Kizomba dance style is an Angolan dance that is conquering the world.

Kizomba is a development of the Masmamba "belly" dance, where couples embrace each other to the beat of slower and usually very romantic rhythms compared to *semba* music.

With the closing of the main recording studios following Angola's independence in 1975, the *zouk* began to take over at parties (*kizomba*), and the majority of Luanda's radio stations played this type of music. A rhythmic mixture of *semba* and *zouk*, *kizomba* became the young people's music of choice in the 1980s.

In Israel there are places where Israeli citizens are learning the techniques of the *kizomba* dance. One of the places is Laura Studio Latino which since August 2014 started with *kizombalsemba* and Afro workshops, inviting masters from Angola to Israel. Whoever wants to learn this amazing dance can do so by joining the "Kizomba & Semba social dance" every Thursday. (Laura Studio Latino: Facebook and Youtube: Laura Studio Latino, Group on Facebook: "Kizomba Israel Angola," E-mail: laura@studio-latino.co.il, Tel: 054-5912169).