



### MAIN STORIES

#### Regional Role

#### Debt and Oil

## HIGHLIGHTS

- With Angola's regional influence having faded in the twilight years of the Dos Santos era, President João Lourenço has been working hard to recover lost ground by finding key regional appointments for his diplomats and spymasters.
- Angola has accumulated around \$1bn in debt to Western oil companies operating its oilfields, with the bill prompting the country's recently launched sale of stakes in its flagship offshore blocs.
- The new simplified process for public administration dubbed "Simplifica 1.0" was launched on 23 June 2021. The project aims to simplify 32 administrative acts.
- The Interior Minister, Eugénio Laborinho, said that the country registered 67,097 crimes in 2020, a reduction of 3,570 compared to the previous year.
- The World Bank said in its June 2021 Global Economic Prospects (GEP) that the economy is projected to grow by 0.5% in 2021.
- The government is preparing the schedule that will define the sale of 30% of the capital of Sonangol.
- US-owned mobile network operator Africell, the first wholly foreign-owned operator licensed to provide mobile services in Angola, has vowed to shake up the "overly cosy" market there.
- The Economic Commission of the Council of Ministers has approved a plan to improve the business environment in the country.
- By 6 July 2021, Angola had registered 39 300 Covid-19 cases, 915 deaths and 33 739 recoveries. More than 656 tests had been done.
- The Angolan central bank's monetary policy committee (MPC) recently hiked the country's benchmark interest rate from 15.5% to a record 20%.

# ANGOLA



- Less than a year after João Lourenço's government applied to join the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), the committee it has set up to oversee its admission to the organisation held its first meeting on 9 June in Luanda.
- The Secretary of State for the Interior, José Bamoquina Zau, has affirmed that Angola supports SADC's efforts of fighting against terrorism in in Mozambique.



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