



IN TRANSFORMATION
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MONTHLY UPDATE

ANGOLA



MAIN STORIES

A Critical Look at Angola's Electoral System

ICT Sector

HIGHLIGHTS

- Angola has a unique electoral system. Its main peculiarity is that it involves voters electing the president, deputy president and members of parliament simultaneously with a single mark on a single ballot paper. This has a negative impact on the quality of the country's representative democracy.
- President Joao Lourenco published an order that authorises the privatisation of the 90% participation that the state holds in the Multitel's share capital, through a public tender.
- Angolan operator Unitel is about to launch a service called Unitel Money - a form of digital money that will allow people to make deposits, withdrawals, transfers and payments from their mobile phone without having a bank account.
- Africell, which already has a presence in Sierra Leone, The Gambia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, has announced plans to deploy a brand-new 5G-ready network in Angola with the help of Nokia.
- The MPLA has denied the accusations of the alleged "enticing" of UNITA members to protest against the party's president, Adalberto Costa Júnior.
- Angolan oil company Sonangol will take control of Isabel dos Santos's 6% indirect stake in Portuguese oil company Galp Energia SGPS SA, after a court ruled in favour of the state-owned firm in a legal battle against Africa's once-richest woman.
- Finance minister Vera Daves has warned that Angolan banks are vulnerable to cyber-attacks, urging banks to invest more in the security of their technological systems. Daves noted that the country was gradually seeing the entry of new operators into the financial system, which brought threats and opportunities with enormous disruptive potential.
- On 26 July, Banco de Poupança e Crédito (BPC) resumed the partial operation of branches that suffered an interruption as a result of a cyberattack

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- Angolan companies with sufficient funds to develop oil and gas blocks remain few and far between. As such the Angolan administration must make do with bids from firms with strong ties to the former regime.
- Angola's plan to sell a majority stake in state-owned insurer Empresa Nacional de Seguros de Angola (ENSA) won't be enough to revive its privatisation programme without more transparency and improved governance, analysts warn.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects the growth in non-oil GDP to rebound slowly from the pandemic, reaching 2.3% in 2021. The IMF projects overall growth of 0.4% in 2021. Fitch Solutions forecasts weak growth of 1.7% in 2021.
- Angola's state diamond company Endiama and RGS Holdings, run by the Gulamo family, close to Mozambican Frelimo party, are launching a massive agricultural development project in the Lundas provinces, the bastion of the country's diamond industry.
- By 5 August 2021, Angola had registered 43 158 Covid-19 cases, 1026 deaths and 39 582 recoveries. More than 820 000 tests have been done.
- Angola has agreed to deploy 20 officers and a transport aircraft to Cabo Delgado as part of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) mission supporting Mozambique's military against insurgents.
- Angola and Switzerland signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on mutual legal and judicial assistance in criminal matters, to accelerate asset recovery by the Angolan government.

