



MAIN STORIES

Constitutional Review

Saurimo Diamond Hub; Showpiece of Lourenço's Reforms

HIGHLIGHTS

- Angola's parliament recently approved a bill to review the country's constitution 11 years after its promulgation. The revision introduces notable changes to the constitution. These include the clarification of the institutional relationship between parliament and the executive branch when it comes to political oversight.
- Saurimo's new diamond hub, built at top speed, and presented as a key feature of João Lourenço's mining reform programme, comes at a timely moment in the president's electoral calendar, allowing him to score points on several fronts.
- The ruling MPLA party and opposition Broad Patriotic Front are involved in an increasingly venomous war of words.
- The reduction of the prison sentence of General José Maria, the former director of the Serviço de Inteligência Militar (SIM – Military Intelligence), and his release may be an indication of an ongoing rapprochement between President Lourenço and former President Eduardo dos Santos.
- After years of the persecution of Muslims during the regime of former President José Eduardo dos Santos, Islam is beginning to move towards its 'regularisation' in Angola. The leadership of the Islamic Council of Angola (CONSIA) took office on 22 August 2021 and plans to represent all Muslims.
- Several leaders and members of the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God (IURD) in Angola were formally charged with several crimes. They are accused of criminal association and money laundering.
- SOS Habitat denounced the increase in housing demolitions and inhumane evictions in Luanda.
- Angola will invest US\$600 million to increase the electricity capacity in the southern region in 2022.
- Despite previous involvement in corruption scandals, including those centred in Angola, the Brazilian construction company Odebrecht won a public tender to build the Barra do Dande Ocean Terminal.

ANGOLA



- Angola's annual inflation rate rose for the fourth straight month to 25.72% in July 2021 from 25.32% in June 2021, its highest level since October of 2017, as the kwanza remains under pressure.
- By 7 September 2021, Angola had registered 48 790 Covid-19 cases, 1282 deaths and 44 054 recoveries. More than 920 000 tests had been done.
- The South African Department of Home Affairs (DHA) announced in August that qualifying Angolans could now apply for the Angolan Exemption Permit. The DHA invited about 5,000 qualifying Angolan nationals to apply for the permit.

