



IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

MONTHLY UPDATE

ANGOLA



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MAIN STORIES

Lourenço Pledges to End Angola's Economic 'Storm'

Bilateral Relations with the Ivory Coast

HIGHLIGHTS

- “Our reform must have two main objectives, which are to strengthen the democratic rule of law and implement a true market economy,” said President João Lourenço in a rare interview. The private sector, he added, must be unleashed through a rolling programme of privatisations so that it “can function as an economic engine”.
- After considering a close military alliance last year, Angola and Ivory Coast are stepping up their diplomatic and financial ties, to the extent of creating a real axis between the two leading powers of West and Central Africa.
- Angola's largest opposition party UNITA joined forces with two other groups in a coalition aimed at defeating the MPLA, which has ruled the country for almost half a century, in next year's general election.
- President Lourenço told the media that the holding of demonstrations “reflects the good state of democracy” and “show that citizens are not prohibited from airing their views.” President Lourenço stressed that these were “mere demonstrations” in his view and must not be called protests.
- The Episcopal Conference of Angola and São Tomé (CEAST) expressed concern about increasing violence, political tension and insecurity throughout the country.
- President Lourenço said during his State of the Nation Address (SONA) that the country witnessed a gradual increase in violent crimes. He added that the police must exercise greater control over private security companies.
- The Central Court of Criminal Instruction of Portugal unblocked a bank account of Tchizé dos Santos, daughter of José Eduardo dos Santos, due to a lack of evidence that the origin of the funds was illicit and because the investigation exceeded set deadlines.
- The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime published the Global Organised Crime Index – 2021, which it said is the first tool of its kind designed to assess levels of organised crime and resilience to organised criminal activity. Angola is ranked 75 out of 193.

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- The World Bank October 2021 Macro Poverty Outlook states that excessive dependence on oil exposes Angola to macroeconomic instability and hinders inclusive growth and poverty reduction. From a peak of 1.8 million barrels per day in 2015, oil output has declined by 30 percent as existing fields are depleted and Angola's remaining blocks have failed to attract adequate investment.
- President Lourenço said during his SONA that the total installed power in the country stands at 5.9 Gigawatts, 44.5% higher compared to 2017.
- President Lourenço dismissed TAAG's Board of Directors as part of the implementation of the company's restructuring plan.
- One of the strategies to reduce Angola's carbon footprint calls for increasing the use of natural gas as a major transition fuel.
- The National Assembly ratified Angola's entry into the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). The ICSID, a World Bank organization, is an international arbitration institution devoted to the settlement of cross-border foreign investment disputes.
- By 9 November 2021, Angola had registered 64 724 Covid-19 cases, 1721 deaths and 60 229 recoveries. More than 1 133 000 tests had been done.
- With tensions persisting between Angola and Brazil over the open conflict between their respective branches of the IURD (Universal Church of the Kingdom of God), Brazilian state deputies close to the powerful evangelical church have voted in favour of a motion demanding an official explanation from Bolsonaro's government and Angola's diplomats.

