
Angola Monitor

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The Angola Monitor covers the politics, economics human rights and development of Angola. It is published quarterly by Action for Southern Africa (ACTSA).

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We welcome readers' responses to the Angola Monitor. Please send your comments to info@actsa.org. For more news and information on Angola and southern Africa visit the ACTSA website www.actsa.org.

Political news

Angola tackles Coronavirus Pandemic

As of 13th August, Angola's had a [total](#) of 1,762 cases of Coronavirus and 80 deaths. Since the pandemic, the Secretary of State for Public Health, Franco Mufinda, has been hosting daily COVID-19 briefing updates.

[On 26th March](#), President João Lourenço declared the State of Emergency in Angola, as part of measures to fight Coronavirus. As the pandemic continued, Angola extended [the State of Emergency](#) until 25th May. [Angola](#) banned public gatherings, [closed shops](#) and other leisure activities, restricted movement to limit the spread of COVID-19 and made facemasks compulsory. At the start of April, a [special police unit](#) in armoured vehicles patrolled Luanda to enforce anti-coronavirus regulations. Police arrested several hundreds of people during a two-week period for defying the restrictions. Residents were deeply concerned about the police deployment with reports of police beating anyone who leaves the house. [On 22nd June](#), it was reported by the Home Affairs Minister that during Angola's State of Emergency, 15,658 Angolan citizens had been arrested, 10,429 vehicles and 20,445 motorcycles seized.

To [boost testing capacity](#), the Association of Exploration and Production Companies in Angola (ACEPA) donated a new bio molecular machine to the National Health Research Institute in Angola. This will be able to conduct up to 320 COVID-19 tests per day and will serve to prevent and mitigate the further spread of COVID. However, on June 22nd, the government announced that it would be [reducing the number](#) of Coronavirus test carried out, reducing from 600 to 400 tests per day due to the temporary deactivation of its National Institute for Health Research (INIS).

Angolan borders still remain closed, as all international commercial flights to and from Angola were [suspended](#) to try and reduce the number of possible COVID infections. However, since the end of May, Angola declared the State of Calamity by easing initial measures to combat and prevent the pandemic. [From 10th August](#), they will allow the entry and exit of cargo, goods, humanitarian aid and medical emergencies, alongside official trips.

On [28th June](#), President João Lourenço stated the possibility of re-imposing a new lockdown if the number of positive cases increase and will not hesitate to do so.

Angola's national assembly endorses revival of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

On 28th July, [Angola's Parliament](#) endorsed the revival of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to boost the integration of the bloc's member countries. Angola's National Assembly signed the [draft resolution](#) that ensures Angola's ratification of the revised ECCAS treaty. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Tete Antonio, highlighted that the revision would strengthen permanent working mechanisms of the Community and improve the procedures for selecting candidates for the positions of president and vice president.

Inter-ministerial Commission for State Reform

[On 24th June](#), Angola's Inter-ministerial Commission for State Reform on Tuesday approved a report on the reform and resizing of the country's public institutes. According to the commission, the reform aimed to optimize administrative structures and avoid duplication of public services, so as to ensure organisational efficiency and operational effectiveness. The report included the reform of the procedure for granting public utility status based on the reassessment of the collective activity of the existing legal persons of public utility.

Angola to report to the Southern African Development Community

Angola will speak at the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Forum that will value the present cross-border transportation situation with special sanitary restrictions due to COVID-19, [announced](#) by the Foreign Ministry on 23rd June. The extraordinary meeting of the SADC Council of Ministers will meet by videoconference. The SADC Forum is aimed at analysing the regional guidelines on harmonisation and facilitation of cross-border transport services and procedures for monitoring vehicles at COVID-19 entry points and checkpoints.

Economic news

Angola committed to meeting energy objectives amid COVID-19

[A webinar](#), hosted by Africa Oil &Power (AOP), and the US-Angola Chamber of Commerce, on 25 June addressed how Angola can continue to prioritise its development of national transmission and distribution capacities in the long-term, with a view toward increasing electrification, job creation and economic growth. By 2025, Angola's power demand is expected to grow at a substantial rate, with the overall system load reaching 7,200MW – more than four times the current level – closely linked to the country's industrialisation

plans. While industry currently accounts for just nine of energy demand, energy-intensive activities such as mining and iron exploration will serve as major drivers of growth, with industry aimed to account for 25 per cent of total consumption by 2025.

Angola national airline deal

[At the end of June](#), Angolan national airline TAAG received one aircraft out of the total of six Dash 8 airplanes it bought in April from Canada. According to Rui Carreira the CEO of TAAG, the arrival of the first aircraft in the country was initially scheduled for the end of April but was further rescheduled due to COVID-19. The acquisition of the airplanes is part of the renewing process of the company's fleet, with Angolan state spending around 118 million U.S. dollars as a result of a financing contract signed between TAAG and the banking union, represented by ABSA Bank Limited. The aim is to make domestic and regional routes more profitable from the point of view of fuel consumption, maintenance costs and overall operating costs, Carreira said, adding that conditions are being created to achieve the economic and financial efficiency of the company.

National Agency of Mineral Resources

On 22nd June, the [National Agency of Mineral Resources](#) (ANRM) was created, which is a fundamental step towards restructuring the mining sector. The [Minister of Mineral Resources](#) stated that the ANRM is a “fundamental step in the restructuring of the mining sector”. The new body will aim to solidify the constant dialogue with the business community and the main agents involved in this economic activity.

Human rights news

Angola and US strengthen human rights cooperation

Angola and the United States on 25th June discussed matters concerning [cooperation on human rights](#) between the two. Speaking to journalists at the end of the audience, ambassador Nine Fite said the meeting examined the possibility of a teleconference this year for an exchange of views on human rights issues, and how cooperation in this field could be reinforced. On the occasion, the US diplomat praised Angola for its commitment to training of personnel in the field of human rights, with stress to an agreement just signed with various universities focusing on human rights awareness.

Angolan teen killed by soldier during Coronavirus mask operation

During May, a [17-year-old was killed](#) by a soldier during a Coronavirus mask operation. The soldier shot the teenager who was allegedly protesting against a military-led awareness campaign on wearing a facemask. This is not an isolated case in Angola, as on 9th May, a 21-year-old man was “accidentally” shot when police clashed with a group of people caught flouting a curfew.

Arrests for civil disobedience

On June 22, it was reported that the [defence forces and security services](#) of Angola have arrested 918 citizens for disobedience to the prevailing State of Calamity from June 13 to 20, the country's Home Affairs Minister Eugenio Laborinho said Monday. The minister said that in the same period a total of 1,814 vehicles were seized for overcrowding and for illegally performing motorcycle taxi activity. A total of 175 cases of violation were registered.

Aid and development news

UNAIDS helps response to food insecurity during COVID-19 outbreak in Angola

On 19th June, it was announced that [UNAIDS](#) would help with responses to food insecurity during the COVID-19 outbreak in Angola. As a result of the nationwide lockdown experienced in Angola, the need for food emergencies across Angola was crucial, as people were told to stay at home to reduce the number of Coronavirus cases. To respond to the food insecurity that this caused, especially among people living with HIV, the UNAIDS Country Office for Angola leveraged its partnerships to reach thousands of people in Luanda with food baskets.

New contracting deal of drinking water considered by government

[In the middle of June](#), the Angolan government announced that it was considering contracting a \$910 million syndicated loan to finance a drinking water supply project. The new borrowing program will target a group of international banks led by Hong Kong's Standard Chartered Bank. It aims to improve the supply of drinking water in Luanda. Specifically, the new funds will be used to finance a 6km long pipeline that will be capable of supplying Luanda with water from the Kwanza River at a rate of 3 cubic meters per second. This operation is part of the government's public investment strategy provided for in the national development plan for 2018-2022.

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