

WELCOME TO ANGOLA

NATIONAL SYMBOLS



THE FLAG

The **red** represents the struggle for independence; the **black** symbolizes Africa continent; and the **yellow** denotes the country's wealth and resources.



THE INSIGNIA OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

A cogwheel represents workers and industrial production. Corn, coffee, and cotton branches symbolize farmers and agriculture. At the base, an open book stands for education and culture, with a rising sun representing the birth of the nation. In the center, a machete and hoe symbolize labor and the start of the armed struggle. At the top, a star signifies international solidarity and progress. At the bottom, a golden ribbon reads "Republic of Angola."

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM – "ANGOLA AVANTE"

PT Ó **Pátria**, nunca mais esqueceremos
Os heróis do **quatro de Fevereiro**.
Ó Pátria, nós saudamos os teus filhos
Tombados pela nossa Independência.
¶ Honramos o passado e a nossa História,
Construindo no Trabalho o Homem novo.

Coro:

Angola, avante!
Revolução, pelo Poder Popular!
Pátria Unida, Liberdade,
Um só povo, uma só Nação! ¶

Levantemos nossas vozes libertadas,
Para glória dos povos Africanos,
Marchemos combatentes Angolanos,
Solidários com os povos oprimidos,
Orgulhosos lutaremos pela Paz,
Com as forças progressistas do mundo.

EN Oh **Motherland**, we shall never forget
The heroes of the Fourth of February.
Oh Fatherland, we salute your children
Who died for our Independence.
We honour the past and our History,
As by our work we build the New Man.

Chorus:

Forward, Angola!
Revolution through the power of the People:
A United Country, Freedom,
One People, one Nation!

Let us raise our liberated voices
For the glory of the peoples of Africa.
We shall march, Angolan fighters,
In solidarity with oppressed peoples.
¶ We shall fight proudly for Peace
Along with the progressive forces of the world.

THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME

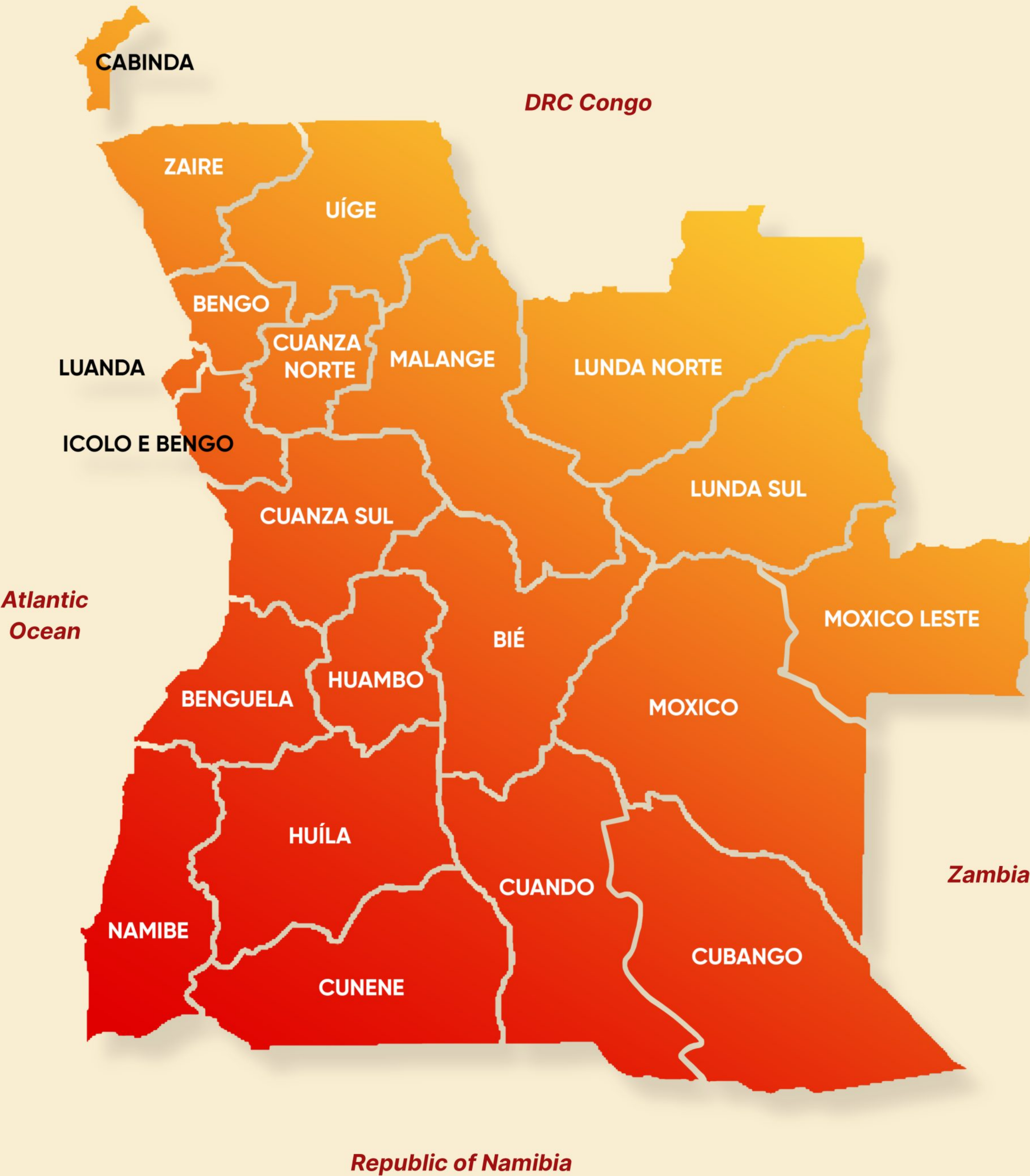
The name "**Angola**" comes from "**Ngola**," the title of one of the Ambundu rulers of the ancient Kingdom of Ndongo, located between Anzele, Ambaca, and Pungo Andongo (in today's Bengo, Kwanza Norte, Kwanza Sul, and Malanje provinces), during the rise of Portuguese influence in the region in the late 16th century.

Angola, officially the **Republic of Angola**, is on the west-central coast of Southern Africa. It is the second-largest **Portuguese-speaking country** by area and population and the seventh-largest in Africa. It borders Namibia to the south, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the north, Zambia to the east, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. Angola also includes the exclave province of Cabinda, bordering both Congos. The capital and largest city is Luanda.

Angola has been inhabited since the Paleolithic Age. After the Bantu migrations, states formed by the 13th century, later organized into confederations. The Kingdom of Kongo rose to prominence in the 14th century, establishing ties with Portuguese explorers in 1483. To its south were the kingdoms of Ndongo and Matamba, the Ovimbundu further south, and the Mbunda Kingdom to the east.

ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF ANGOLA

Angola is divided into twenty-one provinces. Each province is further subdivided into municipalities, which in turn are divided into communes.



Area	1,246,700 Km ²
Population	37,202,061
Population Growth Rate	3.33% (2024 est.)
Largest City	Luanda (Population: 2,831,280)
Ethnic Groups	Ovimbundu: 37% Kimbundu: 25% Bakongo: 13% European: 1% Mixed European and native African: 2% Other: 22%

Portuguese (Official)	Umbundu	Kikongo	Kimbundu
71.2%	23%	8.2%	7.8%
Chokwe	Nhaneca	Nganguela	Fiote
6.5%	3.4%	3.1%	2.4%
Kwanhama	Muhumbi	Luvale	Other
2.3%	2.1%	1%	3.6%

1975: End of the War and National Independence



APRIL 25, 1974

End of the Dictatorship in Portugal



On 25 April 1974, an almost-bloodless coup brought down more than 40 years of dictatorship in Portugal and ended Europe's longest-lasting dictatorship that culminated of the independence of the colonies that Portugal had.

The Angolan War of Independence (1961–1974), known as the Armed Struggle of National Liberation, was a war of independence fought between the Angolan nationalist forces of the MPLA, UNITA and FNLA, against Portugal. It began as an uprising by Angolans against the Portuguese imposition of forced cultivation of only cotton as a commodity crop. As the resistance spread against colonial authorities, multiple factions developed that struggled for control of Portugal's overseas province of Angola

The **Alvor Agreement**, signed on 15 January 1975 in Alvor, Portugal, granted Angola independence from Portugal on 11 November and formally ended the 13-year-long Angolan War of Independence



January 17, 1975 | The three leaders of liberation of Angola in Portugal during the Alvor Agreement
Left Jonas Savimbi (UNITA), middle Agostinho Neto (MPLA) and right Holden Roberto (FNLA)

NOVEMBER 11, 1975

Angola Proclaims Independence from Portugal



11 November, 1975 | Angola achieved its independence, with Neto as its first President



End of Portuguese colonialism after 500 years and beginning of a new era.

ANTÓNIO AGOSTINHO NETO

Became the first President of Angola (MPLA)



H.E. PRESIDENT ANTÓNIO AGOSTINHO NETO
1922 (Ícolo e Bengo, Angola) — 1979 (Moscow, Russia)

António Agostinho Neto (1922 – 1979) was an Angolan doctor, writer and politician, the country's main figure in the 20th century.

He was President of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola and in 1975 he became **the first President of Angola** until 1979. In 1975-1976 he was awarded the **Lenin Peace Prize**.



1975: From War to War

1975

Beginning of Angola Civil War



After the end of colonization, the Angolan Civil War began in 1975 and continued, with interludes, until 2002. The war began immediately after Angola became independent from Portugal in November 1975. It was a power struggle between two former anti-colonial guerrilla movements, the communist People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and the anti-communist National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

SEPTEMBER 10, 1975

Agostinho Neto Died in Russia victim of cancer after 4 years in power.

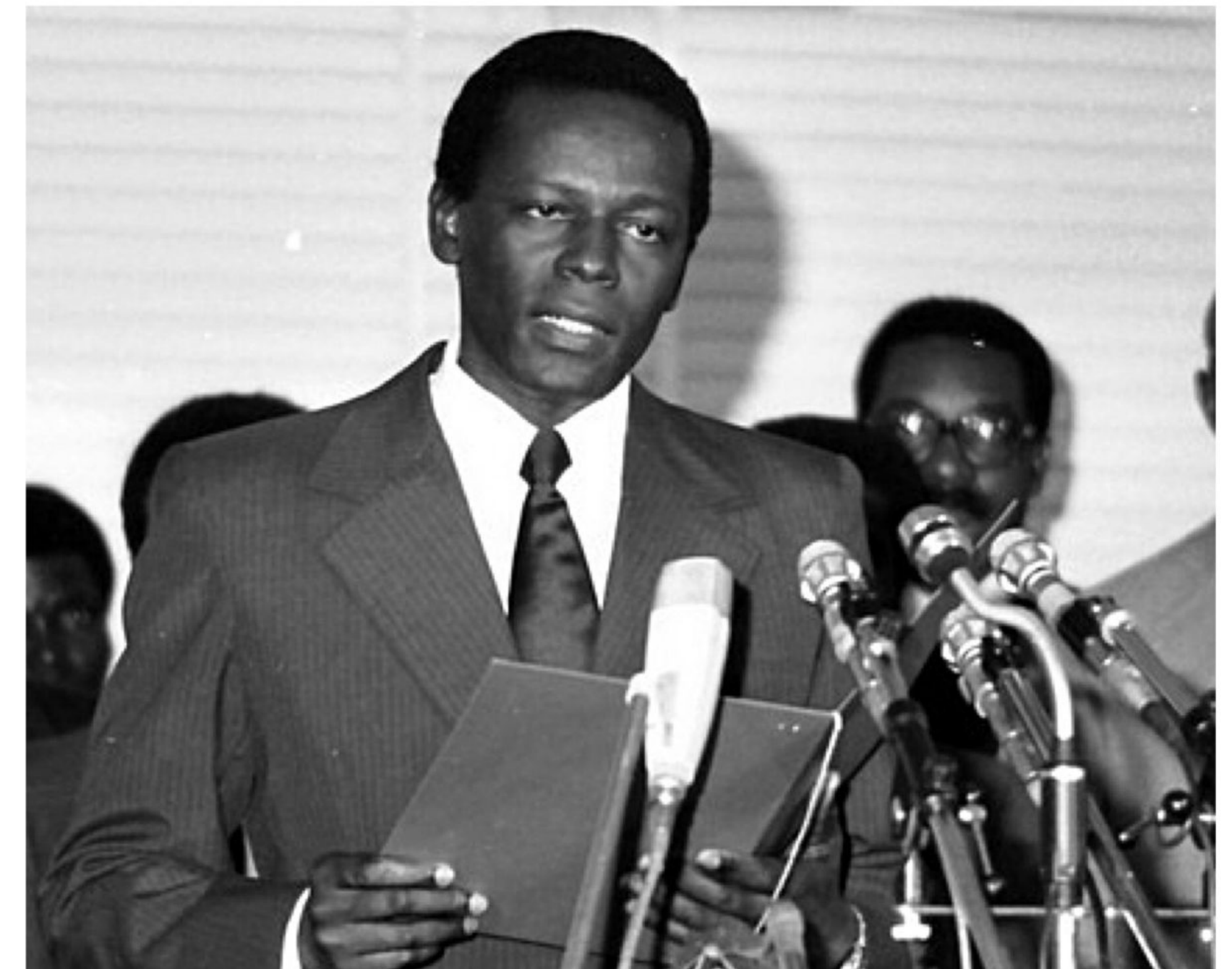


11 November, 1975 | Angola achieved its independence, with Neto as its first President

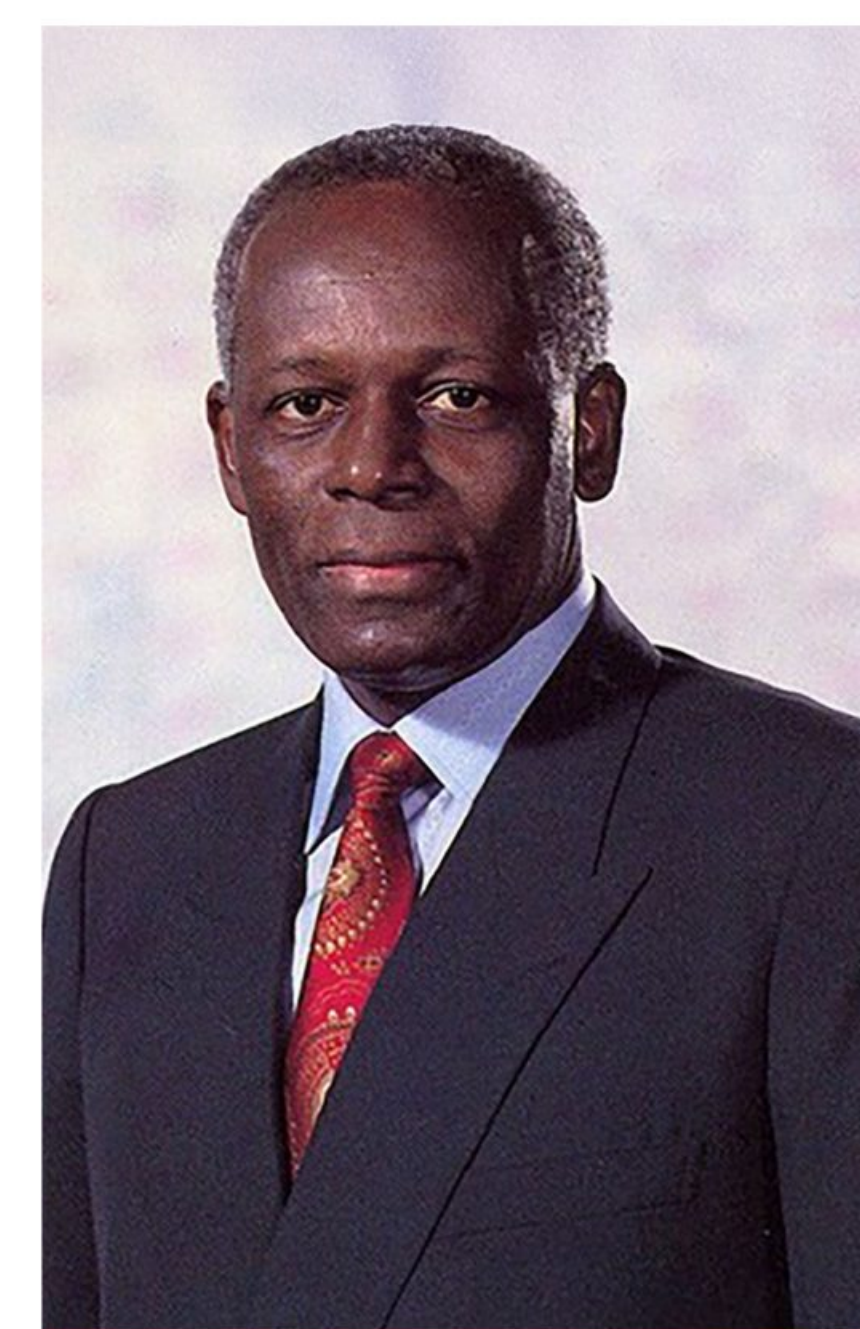
He was part of the generation of African students who would play a decisive role in the independence of Angola and other countries under the yoke of what became known as the **Portuguese Colonial War**. He was arrested by the International and State Defense Police (PIDE), the political police of the Salazarist regime then in force in Portugal, and deported to Tarrafal, a political prison in Cape Verde, and was later given residence in Portugal, from where he fled into exile. There he assumed the leadership of the **Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA)**, of which he had been honorary president since 1960. At the same time, he developed a notable literary activity, writing poems in particular.

SEPTEMBER 21, 1979

José Eduardo dos Santos assumes the presidency of Angola



H.E. JOSE EDUARDO DOS SANTOS EMPOSSADO
President from 1979 to 2017



José Eduardo dos Santos

(1942-2022) was President of the Republic of Angola for 38 years (a position he held from September 21, 1979 to September 26, 2017), head of government and commander-in-chief of the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA).

He led the **MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola)**, the party in power in Angola since the country's independence on November 11, 1975.

1975: From War to War



August 11, 1980

Amendments approved in the Constitutional Law of the People's Republic of Angola, which enshrines **Marxism-Leninism**



February 14, 1988

UNITA and South African forces attack MPLA bases in Cuito Cuanavale, Cuando Cubango province, giving rise to the second largest battle in the history of the African continent.



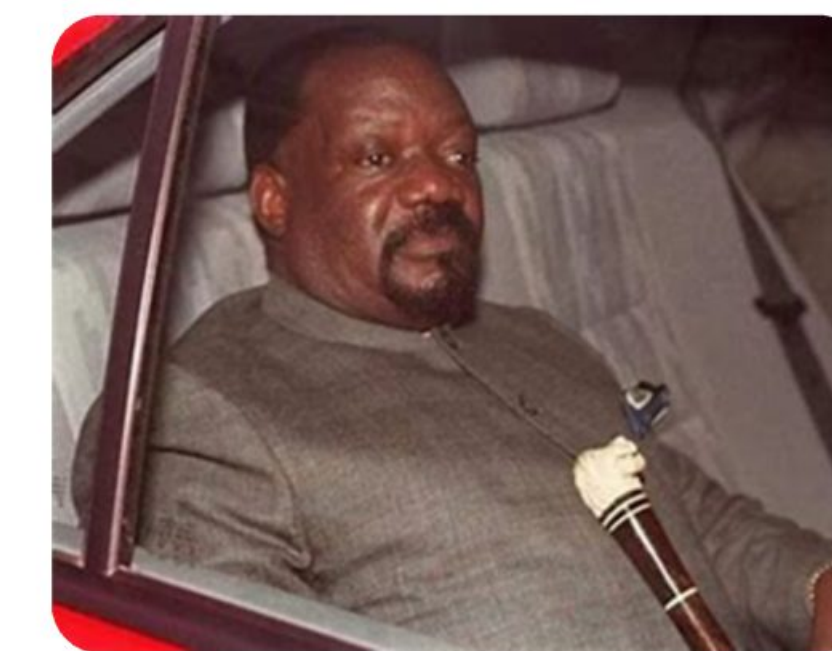
May 31, 1991

Signing of the Bicesse Agreement by the government and UNITA, which provided for a ceasefire, the creation of a single army and the holding of general elections, under the supervision of the United Nations.



September 29, 1992

Presidential and parliamentary elections. MPLA wins with an absolute majority, with UNITA in second place. José Eduardo dos Santos received the most votes in the first round of the presidential elections.



February 22, 2002

The government forces announces that Savimbi was shot dead in Moxico province.



April 4, 2002

Establishment of peace Day in Angola

In And Between the War



August 11, 1980

Princess Diana visited Angola in January 1997 to support the campaign to eradicate landmines.

The visit drew worldwide attention to the cruelty of the use of anti-personnel mines in armed conflicts. Princess Diana's wish **to ban anti-personnel mines** was fulfilled in 1997, after her death, with the signing of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use and Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines, known as the **Ottawa Convention**, of which Angola is a signatory.



10th August 2013

Twenty-two years after Princess Diana walked through a minefield in Angola, **Prince Harry** continued her legacy today as he visited HALO's Angolan programme.

After camping by one of Africa's great rivers, he visited a remote minefield being cleared by HALO in southern Angola before returning to Huambo to retrace his mother's footsteps, highlighting the connection between humanitarian mine clearance, development and conservation.



June 26, 1998

Death of Alioune Blondin Beye, also known as Maitre Beye, Special Representative for Angola to help resolve the Angolan Civil War

In 1993, **Boutros Boutros-Ghali** appointed Beye as the UN Special Representative for Angola to help resolve the Angolan Civil War that had been raging since 1975.

Beye's mediation led to a 1994 peace agreement where UNITA gave up lands it controlled to the Angolan government.

Beye also served as the head of **UNAVEM II** from June 1993 to 1997, and then as head of the UN Observation Mission in the country from 1997 until 1998.



Cultural Flowering



BONGA

Icon of Angolan Music



In the last decades of colonial control, Portugal actively encouraged the production and recording of music by local artists. Valentim de Carvalho Studios were created in Luanda, which only ceased operations in 1975. The result was a mini-industry that, combined with the excitement of the freedom that was anticipated, saw the birth of excellent musicians and several original styles between the mid-60s and Independence.

Angolan music has been shaped both by a wide range of influences and by the country's political history.

During the 20th century, Angola was divided by violence and political instability. Its musicians were oppressed by government forces, both during the period of Portuguese colonization and after independence. Over the years, Angolan music has also influenced Brazil and Cuba.

Luanda is the birthplace of several styles such as merengue, kazukuta, kilapanda and semba. On the island off the coast of Luanda, rebita was born, a style based on the accordion and harmonica. Semba, which shares roots with samba, is also a predecessor of kizomba and kuduro.

MISS UNIVERSE

In 2011,
Leila Lopes
was crowned Miss Universe
2011, becoming the first
Angolan woman to win a
major international pageant.



SEMBA



Semba (masemba in plural) is a traditional music genre and dance genre from Angola that became popular in the 50's.

It is the product of an evolution as it was influenced by different ethno linguistic groups from Angola as well as several different African rhythms. In the context of dancing, the word Semba means "the body of the man that comes in contact with the body of the woman at the level of the belly button.



KUDURO



SEBEM
Kuduro Artist



Nagrelha
Kuduro Artist

Emerging in the 1980s, **Kuduro** has been modernized with new dances and the mixing of electronic elements with Angolan popular music. New beats (instrumental) and musical groups creating their own figure and representation, such as the hair painting seen in **Nagrelha**, **Sebem** and Nellisbrada Catchenhé, or using typical costumes like the Namayer of Príncipe Ouro Negro and Presidente Gasolina.



KIZOMBA

Kizomba has its origins in Angola, emerging in the late 1970s and early 1980s as an evolution of **Semba**, a traditional Angolan musical and dance genre that also influenced Brazilian samba.

Semba, known for its lively rhythm and agile steps, was transformed by the introduction of new musical influences, especially zouk from the French West Indies. This process resulted in a softer, more melodic and romantic sound, characteristic of Kizomba.

Eduardo Paim is often referred to as the "Father of kizomba" due to his contribution to the structuring of the musical genre, both in production and in the diffusion of the style within and outside Angola.



EDUARDO PAIM
Musician (Kizomba Genre)

Sports: Rise and Achievements



Angola Wins World Soccer Amputee Cup



Angola Female Team at FIBA Africa Championship



Paralympic Athletics Champion



World champion of the 12th edition of the ARES Fighting Championship

September 2004

Angola wins three gold medals at the Athens Paralympic Games won by athlete Jose Sayovo.

Junho 2006

The Angolan National Football Team, known as the Palancas Negras, participated in the 2006 Football World Cup in Germany.

2011

Angola won its first African title at the 2011 FIBA Africa Championship for Women in Bamako, Mali.

August 2016

Angola was crowned in masculine African basketball champion in the under-18 category

November 4, 2018

The Angolan team was crowned world champion of football with crutches after beating Turkey 5-4 in the final that took place in Mexico.

August 9, 2024

Angola won the gold medal at the World Mixed Martial Arts Championship in Abu Dhabi.

Economy and Development



Civil War and Its Aftermath (1975 — 2002)

After gaining independence from Portugal in 1975, Angola plunged into a 27-year civil war between the MPLA and UNITA factions.

Economic impact:

- Infrastructure was destroyed.
- Agriculture collapsed.
- Millions were displaced.
- Oil production was limited, though offshore operations continued.

Post-War Recovery (2002 — 2008)

Oil Boom: Angola used oil revenues to rebuild. It became Africa's second-largest oil producer after Nigeria.

- Growth: GDP growth rates were among the highest in the world (up to 20% in some years).
- Chinese Investment: China became a major partner, exchanging infrastructure development for oil.

Global Oil Price Crash and Recession (2014 — 2017)

- Oil prices collapsed: From over \$100/barrel to below \$40.
- Angola's economy shrank: Government revenues plunged, causing budget deficits and currency devaluation.
- Kwanza devaluation: The national currency lost over 70% of its value, fueling inflation.
- Debt crisis: Angola borrowed heavily during the oil boom and struggled to repay.

Reforms and Diversification (2018 — Present)



New leadership:
President **João Lourenço**
elected in 2017

- Anti-corruption efforts
- Economic reforms:
- Devaluation of the Kwanza to a market-based exchange rate.
- Reforms in public finance and transparency.
- IMF support and loans (beginning in 2018).
- Diversification push:
- Efforts to grow agriculture, mining, tourism, and fisheries.
- Still, oil and gas remain dominant.

Political Transition and a New Era



AUGUST 23, 2017

José Eduardo dos Santos
Officially Ended His
Political Career



General elections were held in Angola, in which the MPLA candidate, João Lourenço, won, becoming the third President of Angola.

The election marks the end of the presidency of José Eduardo dos Santos, who was president of the country for almost forty years.



SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

João Lourenço took office as President of the Republic of Angola, the third since November 1975.

On September 8, 2018, he was elected president of the MPLA, becoming the seventh person to hold the position since the party was founded in 1956, and the first in 39 years.



JULY 8, 2022

Death of **Jose Eduardo dos Santos** President of Angola for 38 years – from 1979 to 2017.

He was considered a moderate Head of State, committed to maintaining peace in the country, and won awards and international recognition.



AUGUST 24, 2022

The final results of the Angolan elections were known on August 29. The MPLA won 51.17% of the votes, 124 deputies, against 43.95%, or 90 deputies, of UNITA.



SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

President João Lourenço was re-elected for a second five-year presidential term, with the MPLA's victory in the general elections of August 24, 2022.

Projects In Development



The Lobito Corridor

It is a significant infrastructure project in Africa that aims to connect the mineral-rich Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Zambia to Angola's Atlantic coast port city of Lobito. This corridor enhances trade routes and provides access to Eastern Africa, facilitating mineral and oil exports from the DRC and Zambia to the Atlantic Ocean.



New international airport serving the capital of Angola, Luanda

Luanda's new international airport, called António Agostinho Neto, was opened with a capacity for 15 million passengers per year and has modern infrastructure, including two double runways and 31 boarding bridges.



Port of Caio (Cabinda, Angola)

Angola is building a deep-sea port in its northern Cabinda province, part of a surge of port construction in West Africa, with several ports working toward capacities in excess of 1 million twenty-foot-equivalent units.



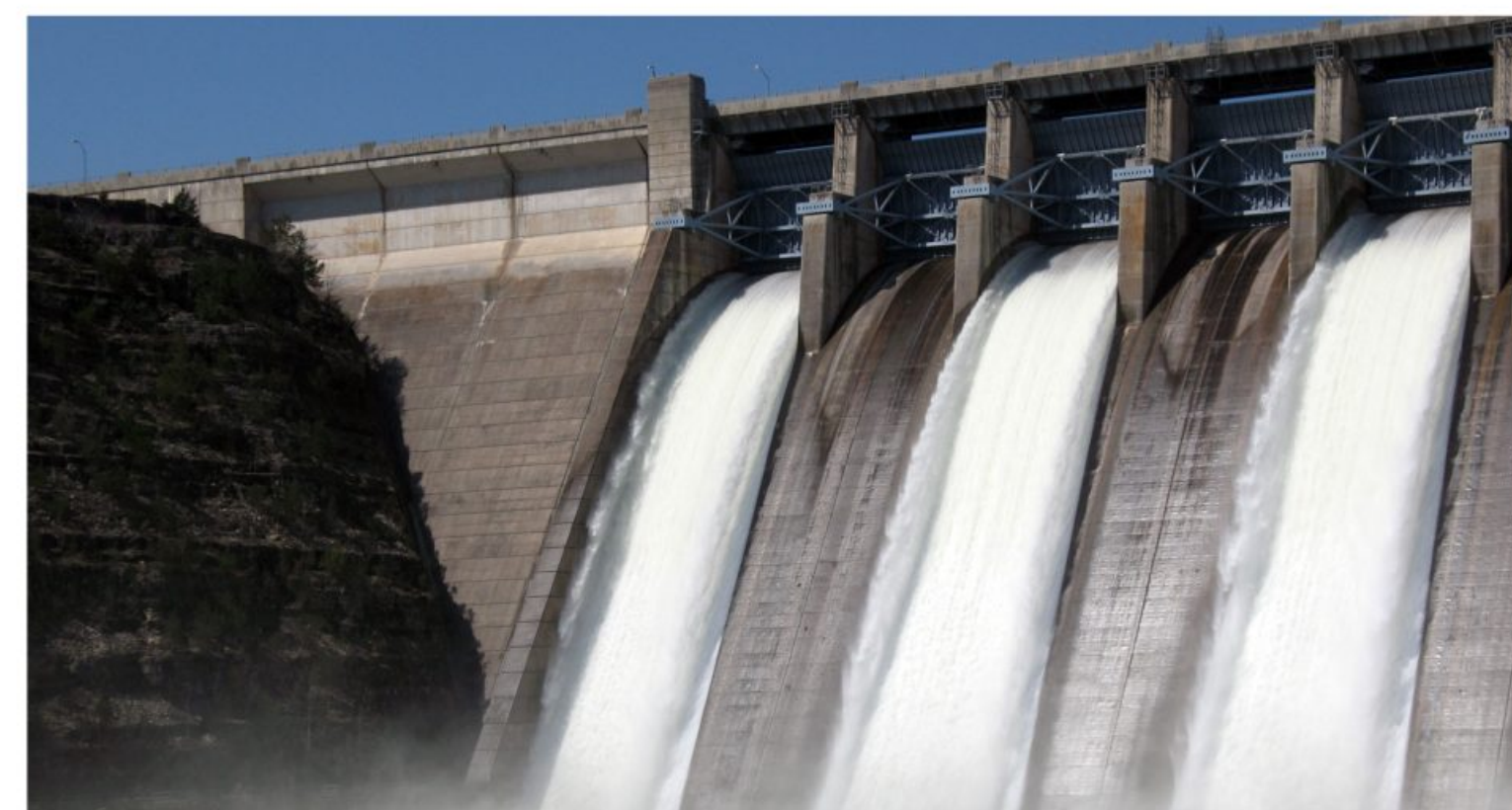
AngoSat-2 is an Angolan communications satellite, which operates in geostationary orbit.

Angola intends to use space for peaceful purposes, improve communications throughout Angolan territory, carry out strategic studies in order to establish cooperation agreements with technical-scientific institutions.



Laúca Hydroelectric Power Station (Dam)

The Laúca Hydroelectric Power Station is a 2,070 MW (2,775,916 hp) hydroelectric power plant in Angola. It is the largest power station in the country.



Caculo Cabaça Hydroelectric Power

It is currently under construction and is expected to soon become the largest source of water and electricity supply.



Cabinda Refinery

Angola is Africa's second-largest oil producer, producing 1.1 million barrels of crude oil per day - mainly off the coast of Cabinda, an Angolan enclave bordering the Democratic Republic of Congo and the smaller Republic of Congo.