

## Angola Business Environment News

News over the last three weeks:

\*Both 8 March and 27 March 2009 or adjacent days may be treated as public holidays this year. Members are advised to ensure ahead of time that possible confusion will not disrupt planned business visits.

\*It is expected that the visit of the Pope to Angola between 20 and 23 March 2009 may disrupt normal business movements in Angola before, during and after the visit – members are most strongly advised to consider avoiding travel to Angola during that period.

\*Chamber members have been aware of the rabies threat in Angola for several years now – the high threat level remains and inoculation is strongly advised for anyone that may be exposed to stray animals in Greater Luanda including the Ilha de Luanda.

\*Reports from Angolans visiting South Africa suggest that a bribes solicitation network may be operating in the vicinity of the South African Embassy in Luanda – members are most strongly advised to reject any and all bribe solicitations and to report any such solicitation to the South African Ambassador.

\*Reports from members applying for visas at the Angolan Embassy in Pretoria suggest that the bureaucracy associated with visa applications is being strengthened with a consequent increased delay in the issue of visas. Members should not anticipate receiving visas in less than 10 to 14 days after delivery to the Embassy consular section. Members are also most strongly advised not to even consider soliciting “influence” to speed up the process. The Angolan Embassy Consular section does not yet appear to be applying the provisions of the November 2007 Immigration Law.

\*The Head of the investment promotion and facilitation service, ANIP, Jamie Aguinaldo, has urged potential investors not to be put off by the sharply declining Angolan GDP – officially now being estimated as possibly declining to around 3% during 2009. While the price of oil remains at around USD 40 and the diamond market remains weak the belt-tightening now in process within both the Angolan public and private sectors can be expected to continue. The announced possibility of Endiama / Sodiam buying some or all of Angola’s own production may or may not stabilize the Angolan rough diamond market – watch developments and in the meantime beware of being attracted into the diamond exploration and production business unless you have the resources necessary to survive both the exploration uncertainties and the diamond recession.

\*From member’s reports it appears that ANIP and GUE (the “one counter” company incorporation service) continue to experience weak cooperation from their partner Ministries – members should not expect improvement until direct experience proves that cooperation is actually improving.

\*Officials of the South African DTI will visit Luanda shortly – do not expect this visit to result in any improvements in the business environment until direct experience proves otherwise. More bilateral agreements are expected.

\*IGB AE reports the recovery of some excellent gem quality rough diamonds at their Luxinge concession.

\*The Minister of Urbanisation has announced the Angolan government’s intention to develop the area North of Luanda to Barra do Dande and Caxito as a new city called Sassa Bengo to accommodate the expected increase in population of Greater Luanda between now and 2030 – this project will present business opportunities across the board for members.

\*The declining Angolan GDP is freeing up accommodation in Luanda and seats on flights and property prices in certain areas of Greater Luanda are in free-fall.

Solutions-related events 2009 update:

\*Mitigating your human capital risk in a weak institutional, weak organisational and weak integrity environment – date to be advised

\*Panel discussion on “Tackling the Worsening Port Congestion Crisis by Road” – date to be advised

Wednesday 28 January 2009

Full day briefing of prospective Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry participants in 2009 Angola trade mission – Roger Ballard-Tremeer

(Repeat of this event due to popular demand to be held on a date to be advised)

**Tuesday 24 February 2009**

**Briefing on Angola to clients of South African International Business Linkages on Angola**

**Thursday 26 February 2009**

**Briefing on Angola to members of the South African Electrotechnical Export Council**

**Tuesday 3 March 2009**

**Repeat of full day briefing on Angola to JCCI members.**

**Tuesday 24 / 25 / 26 March**

**iPAD Infrastructure Conference in Luanda – see details at <http://www.spintelligent-events.com/ipad-angola2009/en/index.php>**

**Interim SA-Angola Chamber Manager: Sr Malaquias Baptista**

**South Africa – Angola Chamber of Commerce**

**41 Keyes Avenue, Rosebank 2196, Johannesburg**

**Telephone: +27 11 252 4635**

**Fax: +27 (0) 86 537 0592**

**Email: [info@sa-acc.co.za](mailto:info@sa-acc.co.za)**

**Website: [www.sa-acc.co.za](http://www.sa-acc.co.za)**

**Access the ABEN content since August 2007 on the SA-ACC website, at your convenience.**

**The content of the ABEN responds to your needs – make your needs known by replying to this message with your input.**

**ABEN enables you to engage in Angolan time travel – yesterday / today / tomorrow – look through the URLs and savour the experience.**

**Never rely solely on the English language versions of ANGOP and other translated reports – always refer to the original Portuguese language version for decision-making purposes.**

**Interpreting and translating – mitigate your legal risk – for compliance purposes only use interpreters and translators that are “sworn” and “accredited”:**

**Leila Neves +27 72 122 5869**

**Ricardo Branco +27 82 851 6413**

**Marinela Carmo +27 83 657 0206**

**João M. Cabrita +268 623 5751**

**Ad hoc interpreting services:**

**Ms Induina Cambacolo +27764253257**

**Sr Malaquias Baptista +27725513440**

**Angola-specific management coaching:**

**Bronwyn Allan +27837083475**

**Incorporation and ANIP support:**

**Sandra Macieira +244917484683**

**José Rodrigues +244929336318**

**Angola – some “do-it-yourself” news, profiles, blogs and image searches:**

**<http://www.newstin.com/us/luanda>**

**<http://www.npr.org>**

**<http://www.macauhub.com.mo/en/countries.php?ID=222>**

**<http://www.skyscrapercity.com>**

<http://www.portalangop.co.ao>  
<http://www.angolafieldgroup.com>  
<http://archive.wn.com/2008/11/25/1400/angolaenergy/>  
<http://www.noruega.ao>  
[http://article.wn.com/view/2008/11/19/World\\_Bank\\_to\\_loan\\_Angola\\_1b/](http://article.wn.com/view/2008/11/19/World_Bank_to_loan_Angola_1b/)  
<http://actsa.msg2u.net/cgi-bin/v.pl?p=2%2E35%2E15%2E19%2E12%2E2008%40a%3A219%2Ec%3A2%2Ee%3A59%2Er%3A4029%2E1%3A0%2Eac%3AVI%2Es%3A168>  
<http://www.ipsnews.net>  
<https://www.osac.gov/Regions/country.cfm?country=145>  
<http://www.panoramio.com/>  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country\\_profiles/1063073.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1063073.stm)  
[http://www.afrora.com/site/news/index.php?loc=en\\_US&ctr=ao](http://www.afrora.com/site/news/index.php?loc=en_US&ctr=ao)  
[http://www.cfr.org/about/newsletters/editorial\\_detail.html?id=1271](http://www.cfr.org/about/newsletters/editorial_detail.html?id=1271)  
<http://www.jornaldeangola.com/>

**Angola-related blogs:**

<http://blogsquefalamdeangola.blogspot.com/>

**Governance:**

Historically, directors, and particularly non-executive directors, had little formal liability when it came to the decisions they made at their companies. Now, however, there is a much more serious fiduciary burden on directors, and they face possible fines or jail time if they fail in their duties. . . . The negligent and / or fraudulent carrying on of business by directors and / or the company officers (including deployed country managers) thereby causing liability to the company may result in the directors and / or the company officers being personally liable at least in terms of delict in common law – in a weak governance environment the risk of negligence escalates considerably – mitigate this cross-border risk using software and gap coaching – contact ABEN

**South Africa – Angola Chamber of Commerce – nearly six years of members doing better business and mitigating their compliance risk by applying this code of conduct in trade with, and investment in, Angola.**

Article 1: Extortion and coercion

No one may, directly or indirectly, demand or accept a bribe.

Article 2: Bribery and "Kickbacks"

- a.) No Member may, directly or indirectly, offer or give a bribe and any demands for such a bribe must be rejected.
- b.) Members should not (i) kick back any portion of a contract payment to employees of the other contracting party, or (ii) utilize other techniques, such as subcontracts, purchase orders or consulting agreements, to channel payments to government officials, to employees of the other contracting party, their relatives or business associates.

Article 3: Agents

Members should take measures reasonably within their power to ensure:

- a) that any payment made to any agent represents no more than an appropriate remuneration for legitimate services rendered by such agent;
- b) that no part of any such payment is passed on by the agent as a bribe or otherwise in contravention of these Rules of Conduct; and
- c) that they maintain a record of the names and terms of employment of all agents who are retained by them in connection with transactions with public bodies or State enterprises. This record should be available for inspection by auditors and, upon specific request, by appropriate, duly authorized governmental authorities under conditions of confidentiality.

Article 4: Financial Recording and Auditing

- a) All financial transactions must be properly and fairly recorded in appropriate books of account available for inspection by boards of directors, if applicable, or a corresponding body, as well as auditors.
- b) There must be no "off the books" or secret accounts, nor may any documents be issued which do not properly and fairly record the transactions to which they relate.
- c) Members should take all necessary measures to establish independent systems of auditing in order to bring to light any transactions which contravene the present Rules of Conduct. Appropriate corrective action must then be taken.

Article 5: Responsibilities of Members

The board of directors or other body with ultimate responsibility for the member should:

- a) take reasonable steps, including the establishment and maintenance of proper systems of control aimed at preventing any payments being made by or on behalf of the member which contravene these Rules of Conduct;
- b) periodically review compliance with these Rules of Conduct and establish procedures for obtaining appropriate reports for the purposes of such review; and
- c) take appropriate action against any director or employee contravening these Rules of Conduct.

Article 6: Political Contributions

Contributions to political parties or committees or to individual politicians may only be made in accordance with the applicable law, and all requirements for public disclosure of such contributions shall be fully complied with. All such contributions must be reported to senior corporate management.

Article 7: Company Codes

These Rules of Conduct being of a general nature, members should, where appropriate, draw up their own codes consistent with the ICC Rules and apply them to the particular circumstances in which their business is carried out. Such codes may usefully include examples and should enjoin employees or agents who find themselves subjected to any form of extortion or bribery immediately to report the same to senior corporate management. Members should develop clear policies, guidelines, and training programmes for implementing and enforcing the provisions of their codes.

With acknowledgement to the ICC <http://www.iccwbo.org/>