A NEW DYNAMIC: Angola and Russia

NORTH FROM LUANDA: A new road ahead

KIZOMBA: Angola’s dance sensation

INSIDE: oil and gas news
Magnificent Seven

After a long and lively campaign process involving every part of the country, Angola chose its seven favourite domestic tourist attractions in the 7 Natural Wonders competition in May.

During the contest Angolans learnt more about their own land and the natural treasures it possesses, thanks to the huge publicity generated.

After weighing up all the candidate attractions, the people voted in their tens of thousands for the top seven, which included mountains, waterfalls, rainforest, grottos and a lake.

What everyone learned from this engaging process is that Angola has magnificent natural riches which need to be cherished.

The millions of Angolans who have followed the contest closely now know what their country has to offer them as tourists. The hope is that they will help protect and preserve the Magnificent Seven and indeed all the other wonders so that future generations can share the same enjoyment.
President José Eduardo dos Santos made a three-day state visit to France at the end of April, where he met his counterpart François Hollande. In a speech to 80 key business people, President dos Santos encouraged investment in Angola to the mutual advantage of both countries.

“We consider it of the utmost importance that foreign investors establish true partnerships with Angolan investors with reciprocal benefits, involving not only capital investments, but also knowledge and technology transfers and shared participation,” he told his audience.

The Angolan head of state pointed out that the country had now consolidated macroeconomic stability and controlled inflation while undertaking an ambitious public investment programme in rebuilding, modernising and expanding infrastructure in health, basic sanitation, education and transport.

Luanda was the venue for a Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Committee of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) on March 24. The leaders discussed issues concerning the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and steps to be taken to neutralise the negative forces that still persist there.

The summit, hosted by President dos Santos, included Presidents Paul Kagame of Rwanda, Pierre Nkurunziza (Burundi), Jacob Zuma (South Africa), Joseph Kabila (DRC) and Denis Sassou Nguesso (Congo).

“We believe that there are many ways that can bring the parties to end the crises and conflicts, and help to normalise the situation in all the countries of the Great Lakes region,” said President dos Santos. In a further development, US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield, and President Obama’s special envoy to the Great Lakes region, Russell Feingold, paid a working visit to Angola on April 10–11. The move highlighted the strategic partnership dialogue that exists between the two countries and demonstrated US support for Angola’s leadership role in the ICGLR.

After making his visit to France, President dos Santos went to Rome, where Pope Francis received him in audience at the Vatican. Both acknowledged the important contribution of the Catholic Church to Angola through its educational and healthcare institutions. They also discussed various challenges in the region, such as the fight against poverty and social inequality.

During his trip President dos Santos laid a wreath at the ‘O Negrita’ tomb. This contains the remains of a 16th-century envoy sent by the Congo Kingdom to make contact with the church authorities.
Angolan census on track

Angola conducted a general population and housing census in the period May 16–31. This was the first to be done in the country since 1970. The procedure will be crucial for drafting public and private policies intended to improve Angola’s living conditions and the geographic distribution of the population. The census will discover how many Angolans there are, where they are and how they live.

Camilo Ceita, general director of the National Statistics Institute (INE), is co-ordinating the 2014 census. INE, was temporarily Angola’s largest employer during the nationwide operation, with around 65,000 people gathering information. Provisional results will be published three months after all the data is collected.

Voters choose 7 Natural Wonders

The result of Angola’s nationwide vote to select the nation’s top seven natural wonders was announced on May 2. Angolans in their thousands responded to the campaign, which aims to publicise and protect the country’s natural assets and attract sustainable tourism.

The top seven natural marvels were: the Fenda da Tundavala, a spectacular gorge in Huíla province; the Mayombe rainforest; Cabinda; the Kalandula waterfalls; Malanje; the Nzenzo Grottos; Uíge; Lake Carumbo; Lunda Norte; Rio Chiumble waterfalls; Lunda Sul and the Morro do Môco mountains in Huambo.

Portuguese now enjoying Angolan beer

Cuca, the market leader in Angolan beer, is now exporting to Portugal. It dispatched a first consignment of 86,000 bottles to Portuguese wholesaler Makro in April. Angolans living and working in Portugal are the target market, along with the many Portuguese expatriates who have previously worked in Angola.

US envoy praises Angola

US Secretary of State John Kerry has praised Angola’s role in mediating peace in the Great Lakes region.

“We heard congratulations from the American Secretary of State for the initiatives undertaken by President José Eduardo dos Santos and the Angolan government so that the continent may know peace,” said Angola’s foreign minister, Georges Chikoti.

Mr Kerry held private talks with President dos Santos during his 48-hour visit, and the two men also discussed a $600 million credit for Angola from America’s Ex-Im Bank to finance the purchase of more Boeing aircraft.

Angola in numbers

- $594 million - diamond sales from Angola’s Catoca mine in 2013
- 35,000 - number of homes Sonip is currently building
- $16 billion - amount of Total investment in projects in Angola
- 130 million - tonnes of phosphates about to be mined in Zaire province project
- 650 million - number of estimated barrels in the Kaombo project oil deposits

Ferry service expanding rapidly

President dos Santos officially opened four new ferry terminals on April 3. Two ferry boats, each with capacity for 420 passengers, will operate between the terminals. The service will initially connect the main hub, the Port of Luanda, to the southern suburbs of Macoco and Kapossoka, and the resort island of Mussulo. Eventually ferries will link all the main points along Angola’s coast as well as in the River Zaire estuary.
A NEW DYNAMIC: ANGOLA-RUSSIA

Angola and Russia’s friendship has endured despite long periods of adversity. Universo examines how relations are faring now that both countries are on the path to increased prosperity.
Russia’s roots run deeper in Angola than anywhere else in Africa. Russian Christian names proliferate, and it is not difficult to find Angolans called Ivan, Vladimir, Igor, and Nadiejda, to name just a few. Close cooperation between the two states, especially in the 1970s and 1980s, meant that significant numbers of Angolans lived and trained in the Soviet Union, while Russian doctors treated many Angolans. So, Russia’s language and culture has penetrated at all levels of Angolan society.

Many Angolans, including President José Eduardo dos Santos who trained there as an oil engineer, are fluent Russian speakers. Long and fruitful cooperation between the two countries dates back many years to the early days of independence when Russian specialists in many fields helped Angola establish itself as a stable and prosperous country.

“Russia has always helped Angola, and Angolan success is a source of pride for us,” said Dimitri Lobach, the Russian Federation’s ambassador to Angola, in a recent speech.

The combination of Angola’s return to peace in 2002 and Russia’s economic stability and strong growth in the past decade has instilled greater energy into their relations. The two countries are reinforcing existing cooperation in energy and diamond mining, while a recent drive to expand trade is focusing on new areas such as satellite technology and vehicle manufacture. However, the level of Russia’s economic exchanges is still currently relatively weak compared to those of other countries such as China, Brazil and many much smaller nations.

Trade between Angola and Russia totalled just $37 million in 2012 and rose to $100 million last year. Ambassador Lobach believes this amount of trade is still very little considering the level of historic, economic, cultural and scientific relations between the two peoples, and he is determined to raise it. Russia’s present wider foreign policy aims to consolidate its friendship and cooperation with Africa, and Lobach sees Angola as having a place of pride among its partners on the continent.

In the ambassador’s view, cooperation between the two countries is experiencing a new dynamic in its development, with collaboration extending not only to the economic, trade and finance domains, but also to technical and scientific investments. These areas are now receiving their due attention in political dialogue, as both sides have greater interest in their expansion, he says.

Air support

Russia’s most visible and enduring cooperation in Angola has been in aircraft and military equipment. The ubiquitous Kalashnikov AK-47 automatic rifle is the weapon of choice for Angola’s army and security guards. The Angolan air force uses sophisticated Russian MiG and Sukhoi fighter aircraft, while Russian Antonov and Ilyushin planes are the workhorses for a substantial part of the country’s much-needed cargo transportation. Russia’s transport aircraft have long played a vital role in carrying heavy and bulky freight throughout Angola, such as serving the important diamond mining industry in Lunda Sul province. They
can also swiftly bring in urgently needed equipment for the oil sector.

The former USSR offered less visible but equally vital support when it supplied the turbines for Angola’s largest post-independence power dam at Capanda in the 1980s. The USSR also provided educational and health support in the form of training and doctors.

Diamonds are forever

Russia has had an enduring and prosperous partnership with Angola in the Catoca diamond mining project in Lunda Sul since the early 1980s. This is the fourth largest diamond mine in the world, with 2013 output of 6.5 million carats.

The mine is one of the planet’s largest kimberlite pipes with deposits estimated at 271 million tonnes of ore, of which 189 million carats (worth about $11 billion) are recoverable.

Russia’s interest in Catoca, once exercised by the Soviet state diamond company Yakutalmaz, has been run by private company Alrosa since 1992. Yakutalmaz carried out the original geological and feasibility studies for Catoca on behalf of the Angolan government.

The Sociedade Mineira de Catoca (SMC), the consortium running the mine, was established in 1992. Its current shareholders are Angola’s state diamond company Endiama and Russia’s Alrosa (32.8 per cent each), Brazil’s Odebrecht (16.4 per cent) and LLI Holding BV, a China-Sonangol holding (18 per cent).

SMC aims to become the world’s third-largest exporter of rough diamonds by 2020 and have an annual turnover of around $1.6 billion, more than doubling 2013 sales worth $594 million.

Alrosa has developed a dam on the nearby Chicapa River to power the energy-hungry Catoca mine as well as Lunda Sul’s provincial capital, Saurimo. This has sharply cut operating costs by replacing expensive diesel generators.

Last year the company also approved the creation of new joint ventures for diamond prospecting and exploration in Africa, including an agreement with Endiama to prospect in Angola.

Space for growth

Russia’s economic revival has given fresh momentum to trade relations with Angola, accelerating co-operation in new areas. A major project benefiting from increased Russian interest is the sale of satellite technology to Angola. Space launch services survived and even prospered after the crisis that followed the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Angola is benefitting from a Russian experience and training; subsequently, the province’s deputy governor, Domingos Manuel Eduardo, said that Russia is currently supporting an Angolan PhD student, two Master’s students and four satellite specialist trainers.

There will be two bases for satellite operations: one in Luanda and one in Moscow. The initial phase of the project, centred in Moscow, will offer work experience and training; subsequently, the satellite will be operated from Luanda.

Trucks and turbines

Another new area of investment interest expressed by Ambassador Dimitri Lobach in March is building a plant to produce Russia’s top-selling Kamaz trucks.

“This year and next, we aim to implement the construction of a Kamaz assembly factory and of cargo wagons, providing jobs and contributing to the development of Angola,” he told Vice-President Manuel Vicente. The project is expected to take two to three years to complete.

The ambassador added that Russia was also interested in investing in farming and industrial infrastructure in Angola.

In a meeting with officials in Malange province, he said that Russia wanted to help the province with its experience, given that Russian businesses are disposed to invest in several sectors in this area.

Malange province is the site of the Capanda dam, which uses Russian turbines. It is also a major farming area where large-scale agribusiness in sugar and cereals is completing major developments.

The province’s deputy governor, Domingos Manuel Eduardos, said that Russia is a country which acts as a stimulus and make best use of the technology.
Angola: the view from space

From Siberia to Luanda

Sergei Abramochkin enjoys Kalandula Falls

Sergei Abramochkin, a 38-year-old native of Tomsk in western Siberia, recently spent three years of his 10 years at oil service company Schlumberger in Angola after working in the oil sector in Russia. He studied Electrical Engineering at the Tomsk University of Control Systems and Radioelectronics and Petroleum Engineering at Edinburgh’s Heriot-Watt University.

In Angola, Sergei worked in the reservoir engineering support of offshore well test operations. “Apart from Malaysia and Angola, I have worked only in Russia; in Moscow and Noyabrsk, North Siberia. I knew Angola was a challenge for anyone who can give you a better and friendlier experience into full enjoyment is to start training Angola’s armed forces. Over 500 Angolans underwent training in Russian military universities and police academies in 2012. Russian medical assistance also has a long tradition in Angola. Over 340 Russian doctors work all across Angola and enjoy a reputation for efficiency, despite facing many challenges in terms of housing and a lack of medical equipment.

Training for the future

During a visit to Angola in October 2013, Dmitry Rogozin, vice-president of the Russian Federation, said he expected companies in Russia’s energy sector to make greater efforts at taking part in Angola’s economy, because the country needs more power.

“A very important aspect that we underlined during our audience with President dos Santos is our industrial co-operation and the possibility of creating industrial units on Angolan soil for making machinery and mechanics such as cars, which will be in a number of agreements,” Rogozin said. He also said Russia would also seek co-operation agreements on fisheries, health and culture.

Co-operation in higher education is well established and began in the 1960s. Russia offers Angolans scholarships at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and there are joint scientific research projects between the universities of the two countries.

In 2012, some 90 Angolan undergraduates and PhD students attended Russian universities with the aid of grants from the Russian government. There are a number of agreements in place between the Angolan government and Russian universities, including St Petersburg Technical University, the People’s Friendship University of Russia, Kaliningrad State Technical University and Gubkin Russian State University of Oil and Gas.

Moscow also still plays a major role in training Angola’s armed forces. Over 500 Angolans underwent training in Russian military universities and police academies in 2012. Russian medical assistance also has a long tradition in Angola. Over 340 Russian doctors work all across Angola and enjoy a reputation for efficiency, despite facing many challenges in terms of housing and a lack of medical equipment.

Angola and Russia shared a minor connection during the first ever space mission, Vostok 1. When Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin made the world’s first manned space flight on April 12, 1961, Angola was one of the few countries overflown in that single-orbit trip, which lasted just an hour and 48 minutes. While over Angola’s coast, Ofisput issued the re-entry procedure by firing the retro-rockets for his long descent and eventual landing at his base in the USSR some 8,000km away.

for investments, especially in the area of agribusiness, and that Malange is interested in hosting a Kamaz truck assembly line.

“Unfortunately, I did not succeed in exploring some remote parts of Angola, such as the mysterious Baía dos Tigres (Tigers’ Bay) and the fabulous Foz do Cunene (Cunene river delta), accessed only by risking a run along the endless ocean coast. I became so passionate about this idea that even nowadays, after being transferred back to Moscow, I keep looking at the map of Angola and asking myself, when am I going back there?”
Two dances from Angola are becoming unexpectedly popular around the world. *Universo* checks out their moves

By Lula Ahrens
A ngola’s semba and kizomba dances are seeing a surge in popular demand at home and a tremendous breakthrough worldwide. The country’s top dancers are excited, but are also worried about a loss of the dances’ Angolan ginga, or authentic natural movement, when performed outside their national borders.

Every Sunday after 5pm, semba and kizomba enthusiasts meet in a small square on Luanda Bay to dance all the way through Luanda’s magical sunset. A group of regular and new admirers gathers each time to watch.

Dance teacher and oil reservoir geophysicist Paulo dos Reis, created Kizomba na Rua ‘Kizomba in the Street’ in December 2012. Interestingly, the event was a replica of one in Europe. Dos Reis got the idea from a Cape Verdean friend, Addison Rodrigues, who set up ‘Kizomba in the Street’ in Paris on the banks of the River Seine.

Samba and kizomba have quickly gone global. “Six years ago, one could only find foreign dancing competitions – salsa, tango, house, and so forth in Angola. Now, it’s the other way round; Angolan kizomba and semba form part of the international dance scene. We have taken them onto the big stage,” Mukano Charles told Universo.

Charles is the ‘godfather’ of Angola’s very own International Kizomba Contest, which he started in 2009. Every year, the two contest finalists go on to represent Angola at the international competition Africa Dançar (Africa Dancing) in Portugal, which opens the doors to other dance opportunities around the world.

In Angola itself, semba and kizomba are also seeing a rapid increase in popularity. “Our country is growing. More and more young people are taking an interest in dancing. Unlike in the past, we now regard semba and kizomba as an art. They run through every Angolan’s veins,” said Charles. As well as Portugal, the countries in which these native dances are most popular include Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe, East Timor, Brazil and the territory of Macau (all former Portuguese colonies).

However, since around 2010, they have been also stealing the show in Belgium, the United States, Australia, Spain, Poland, France, Hungary, UK, Italy, Ireland, Luxembourg, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Slovenia and Serbia. It is an exciting development, but with some downsides as well.

“We Angolans dance naturally,” award-winning Angolan dancer Bonifácio Aurio explained. “Europeans tend to ‘mechanise’ the rhythms, because they don’t learn and listen to the music in its natural context. Foreigners take a workshop and then call themselves a ‘dancing instructor,’ which in the West is a lucrative profession. Outside our borders, these types of low-quality ‘teachers’ spread like a virus.”

“Our dances are misrepresented abroad, and turned into a type of tango or salsa due to lack of information,” Mukano Charles told Universo. “We need to respect the Angolan ginga of semba and kizomba. The Angolan contest finalists do that by bringing the dances’ true nature to the four corners of the world.”

Samba
Samba has been popular in Angola since the 1950s. The word semba originates in Angolan indigenous language Kimbundu and derives from masemba, which means ‘a touching of the bellies’ – a characteristic semba dance move.

The 19th-century travel writer Alfredo de Sarmento described semba dancing thus: “A katupure consists of a circle formed by dancers, where a black person goes into the middle and after performing a few steps, gives the person of his choice a belly-bump, known as a ‘semba’, who then goes into the middle of the circle to replace him.”

According to Sarmento, the ‘semba’ was a metaphor for sexual intercourse, and therefore highly criticised by the more conservative sections of colonial society. Samba music was strongly influenced by the ancient Kingdom of Kongo and central Angola’s Bantu people. Centuries later, it underwent further transformation as Angola became more urban and music developed in line with new Western technology.

Traditionally, semba songs are sung in Kimbundu, and sometimes other national languages such as Umbundu and Kikongo. Modern tunes are in Portuguese.

Lyrics often tell a cautionary tale of day-to-day life, usually in a witty manner. During the Angolan War of Independence (1961–75), semba songs focused mainly on Angola’s fight for freedom. The versatility of this dance music is evident in its inevitable presence at both Angolan funerals and parties.

Several new Angolan semba artists have broken through each year, rendering homage to the veteran masters, many of who are still performing.

The legendary band Ngola Ritmos has developed under the strong influence of Africans, most of them – again – from the Kingdom of Kongo, who were taken to South America as slaves.

Tango influences
Portuguese colonisers brought over a broad range of European and other dances to Angola, and these soon mixed with traditional local dances. These included the Argentinean tango. Tango influences appear in both semba and kizomba. Curiously, the tango originally developed under the strong influence of Africans, most of them – again – from the Kingdom of Kongo, who were taken to South America as slaves.
In 2005, William Brown and colleagues from Rutgers University and the University of Washington published a paper in *Nature* demonstrating that, as Darwin had proposed, humans use dancing also as a means for selecting genetically desirable mates. Dance ability is more useful for men than for women, as females are thought to be the more selective sex.

Kizomba and tarrachinha

Sema is the precursor of various music and dance styles including Angolan kuduro, Brazilian samba and Angolan kizomba. The name Kizomba these days is confusingly used to describe both semba and kizomba.

In Angola in the 1960s, the Kimbundu expression kizombada referred to a party. After Angolan independence in 1975, zouk music from the French Antilles became popular in Luanda. It mixed with semba to form kizomba in the 1980s.

Angola’s SOS Band spurred this development. Former band member Eduardo Paum, regarded as one of the founders of the kizomba genre, moved to Portugal in the 1980s, taking the music with him. Kizomba, in turn, gave rise to Angola’s most explicitly sensual or even sexual genre, tarrachinha. Tarrachinha is danced within both semba and kizomba on the music’s slow intermezzi, but has also developed into a genre of its own.

“Tarrachinha is the baby, kizomba is the mother and semba is the father,” according to Bonifácio Aurio. “In Angola, we don’t take tarrachinha very seriously. In Europe, they do.”

Dominant male

So what is so beautiful and enchanting about Angolan semba and kizomba?

“The connection!” exclaimed Paulo dos Reis. “The possibility to talk without speaking, to lead and follow, without one being superior over the other. When the woman understands my every little signal, and it just flows...that’s too beautiful.”

There is, however, a clear difference between the male and female roles in both dances. The man not only leads, he is also the creative brain and by far the more active of the two.

“Sema and kizomba are most difficult for men to learn,” Aurio said. “The man is the ‘fighter’, he performs and creates most tricks and has to develop his own style and charisma.”

Dancing king

Bonifácio Aurio won Angola’s International Kizomba Contest and Lisbon’s África Dançar in 2012 together with his former dancing partner Conceição Matuaia. This year, he is one of the contest’s jury members.

To reach a high level as a male performer takes time, effort, talent and enthusiasm, he explained. “I started dancing kuduro as a child. Sema was very mysterious to me, I used to watch it a lot. One day when I was 10, my mum put me on her feet. That’s how she taught me to dance. To this day, semba is my favourite dance alongside Afro house.

“I danced everywhere I could, then took semba, kizomba and other lessons every day for four years at a well-known local dancing school called Kandengues Unidos. In 2009, I became a teacher at the school.”

While semba and kizomba have become a lucrative business in the rest of the world, Angolan teachers still face a lack of opportunities at home. Mukano Charles, Paulo dos Reis and Bonifácio Aurio all agree that Angola is in dire need of professional dancing schools.

Aurio moved to Portugal in May 2013 to study International Relations and give dancing classes. “In Angola, I don’t see a long-term professional future for myself as a dancer. There is a lack of opportunities – professionally speaking, it is an underdeveloped area. Angola desperately needs a professional dance academy, also for our traditional, regional dances. Our country has many talented dancers, so I believe that day will come.”
Angola’s northwest has become more easily accessible from the capital, thanks to a newly-rebuilt highway. *Universo* looks at the broad range of exciting investment and travel opportunities in the region.
Luanda now enjoys continuous direct overland access to M’banza Kongo in Zaire province, close to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) border. The highway north linking Luanda to the province completes the last major artery from the capital.

On its way, the 340km road penetrates a promising area of investment and tourist options. Once clear of the intensely busy port and Smith offshore service area at Luanda, the road soon turns into a six-lane-wide avenue as far as Cacuaco on the edge of the densely-packed urban area. From there it passes through sparsely populated countryside to Caxito, Ambotu and Nzeto before turning inland and on to M’banza Kongo. A variant from Nzeto continues along the coast to the important oil industry centre of Soyo. This crucial Nzeto–Soyo 250km highway is still under construction.

M’banza Kongo heritage

M’banza Kongo is the administrative capital of Zaire province. It also has strong ambitions to develop its tourist industry based on its history as home to the kings of the Kongo. To this end it has been seeking UNESCO World Heritage Site status since 2007. The Angolan government has designated it a ‘National Cultural Heritage City’ in preparation for its UNESCO status bid with Minister of Culture Rosa Maria Martins da Cruz e Silva guiding the process.

Portuguese explorers first made formal contact with African royalty at M’banza Kongo in 1483. The city now aims to recover part of its past greatness by rebuilding and modernising its infrastructure. In recognition of M’banza Kongo’s importance to Angola, President José Eduardo dos Santos laid the first stone for a monument commemorating Kong King Dom António I there in September 2012.

Apart from showcasing its ruins, the city is developing a museum to tell the Konge kings’ story. Tourists can also visit Sungulua on the River Zaire, where the kings were ceremonially washed before burial.

The city also has great significance for Angola’s main religion, Catholicism. In 1992, Pope John Paul II visited the ruins of M’banza Kongo’s Sé Cathedral. Built in 1491, the cathedral was the first below the equator.

Thanks purely to its natural beauty, the M’benge waterfalls at Kuimba, 50km east of M’banza Kongo, is another tourist attraction. Apart from its political and historic importance, M’banza Kongo has promising agribusiness potential, thanks to its location at the edge of Angola’s plateaus. Farms around the city produced 170,000 tonnes of crops in 2013, including cassava, groundnuts, maize, beans, bananas, sweet potatoes, citrus fruits and pineapples.

Zaire’s highland areas also have excellent timber products potential as the area is part of the Congo rainforest. Angola’s Forestry Development Institute (IDF) has tree nurseries near M’banza Kongo at N’kunga a Paza and at M’kunde to ensure sustainability.

The 225km Nzeto–M’banza Kongo highway, recently completed by German firm Gauff Engineering, goes through Tomboco, where there is a sawmill and carpentry industry fed by timber cut in the Kuimba area.

Soyo: investment magnet

Lying at the mouth of the mighty River Zaire some 440km from Luanda, Soyo is northwest Angola’s economically most important city and has recently attracted substantial new investment.

Soyo hosts the landward terminal for most of the oil and gas piped from Angola’s offshore fields. It is also where a $10 billion Angola LNG plant is now producing liquefied natural gas, LPG, butane and condensate for sale at home and abroad. The environmentally friendly plant uses gas formerly burned off as a waste product.

The city is also home to major oil industry base, Kwanza. Here oil companies Texaco, BP, Fina and Sonangol and service companies Bechtel, Halliburton and Petromar operate support facilities and shipyards. This cluster of service companies means Soyo is well placed for vocational training and one speciality developed so far is metalworking.

Recently GLS Oil & Gas, a joint venture led by General Electric, announced a $175 million investment.
Angola’s northwest has rich mineral potential, including copper, silver, bauxite, mercury, lead, granite and mineral water.
simultaneously and, with its 24 shops and three restaurants, rivals Luanda’s airport in terms of comfort.

Soyo will undergo a communications revolution when the new Nzeto road is completed, which will likely have a strong impact on cutting food prices and increasing the flow of tourists. The new road will also form an energy corridor as it will have running alongside it a gas pipeline and transmission lines from the Soyo generation plant currently under construction.

The port of Soyo will also shortly open up the coast’s tourism potential where a day out on the beach and sampling Angola’s mouthwatering seafood is most visitors’ idea of a good time. 

Nzeto awakens

Roughly halfway between Luanda and M’banza Kongo lies Nzeto, at present a sleepy fishing town on an important road junction just two hour’s drive from Luanda on a newly-resurfaced road. When the Nzeto–Soyo road is completed later this year, the town’s economy is likely to experience a boom as new traffic passes through and allows the easier distribution of farm products. For example, some 2.5 million eggs will soon be produced each year by the Agrarius agribusiness concern which began operating along the coast of Angola’s northwest in April 2014. Eventually the Nzeto-Soyo road will extend from the capital to Luanda province in April 2014. Eventually the Nzeto–Soyo road will extend from the capital to Luanda province in 2017.

One of the region’s major resources already being developed is phosphates from the Lucunga Basin, just north of Nzeto. Vale Fértil Limitada is developing the $82 million first stage of a $1 billion project to exploit the estimated 162 million-tonne deposit. Phosphates are a key fertiliser ingredient and are also used in toothpaste, detergents, soft drinks, vitamin supplements and animal feed.

The project consists of a mine, a processing plant and storage units. A new port in the Nzeto area will be built and a power generator installed when the project is completed in 2017.

World demand for phosphates is very high, and Angola’s deposits have the advantage of a coastal location, allowing easy access to overseas market as well as to the promising domestic farming sector.

Ornamental stones are already quarried at Tombeiras and at Mussera, halfway between Nzeto and Ambului. An Angolan-South Korean joint venture works quarries at Mussera and also at Caxito further south. The company is also interested in developing metals mining in Angola’s northwest.

Just over the border from Zaire province in neighbouring Uíge there are large areas of mineral deposits, stretching from Bombe, a copper mine before 1974, to Mavvio near Maquela do Zombo on the DRC: border. Copper reserves are estimated at around 16 million tonnes. Intensive mineral surveying is currently underway. Geology and Mines minister Francisco Queiróz has revealed there are large term plans to build a 400km-long railway from the mining area to the port of Soyo.

Bengo: thriving province

The port of Ambriz in Bengo province lies just off the Luanda–Nzeto highway and is home to another oil industry facility. Here, Petrofume, a joint venture of ENI’s Saipem and Sonangol, builds metal structures for the oil industry. 

Nearer Luanda, Barra do Dande hosts an Angoflex yard where umbilicals are manufactured and loaded for use in deep-sea oil and gas production. Umbilicals are sheaves of pipelines that connect to and control suites of valves on the seabed.

The busy little fishing area of Barra do Dande nearby has been chosen as the site of the new port of Luanda which has now no extra capacity. The new deepwater port will have plenty of room to expand and will have a bulk terminal for future iron ore and manganese exports from the Dondo region. This port will likely have a rail link to the mining Luanda-Malange line.

Not far from Barra do Dande is Caxito, capital of Bengo province. Caxito forms a natural gateway and service centre for the farming areas in Zaire and Uíge, gives its location at the road junction of the two provinces. The city is already developing as a centre for agribusiness and aims to form a cluster of support industries that can manufacture and repair tractors, farming implements and irrigation equipment.

Caxito itself has a thriving and expanding irrigated farming area and food processing with its own power dam, Malhuhu (27MW output). Caxito produces increasing yields of fruits and vegetables, with bananas and tomatoes in the forefront, for the nearby Luanda market.

There are many investment opportunities in Angola’s northwest that the new highways and power supplies will make even more attractive.
France’s Total, one of Sonangol’s largest international partners, marked 60 years in Angola by investing $16 billion in the country’s deep-sea oil and gas fields. The money will be used in the Kaombo project in Block 32, which will cost $4 billion less than originally estimated. Kaombo has reserves of around 650 million barrels of oil, and output is expected to reach 230,000 bpd when the facility starts up in 2017. The deposits are located 260km off the coast of Luanda between water depths of 1,400 and 1,900 metres.

Total operates Block 32 and has a 30 per cent stake, as does Sonangol P&P. Other shareholders are Sonangol Sinopec Internacional (20 per cent), ExxonMobil (15 per cent) and Portugal’s Galp (5 per cent).

Sonangol announced Angola’s largest pre-salt oil discovery so far in the Kwanza Basin on May 1. The find was made in the Cobalt International Energy-operated deepwater Block 20/11 in exploratory well Orca-1. Orca-1 reached a depth of 3,872 metres. In tests the well yielded 3,700 barrels of oil and 16.3 million cubic feet of gas per day. Cobalt estimated the well’s reserves to be 400–700 million barrels. Block 20/11 partners are Cobalt (40 per cent), Sonangol P&P (30 per cent) and BP Exploration Angola (30 per cent).
Angoflex contract win

Sonangol and Technip joint venture Angoflex has won a contract to supply umbilicals for Total Angola's Kaombo project worth up to $690 million. Angoflex will work on the project with UK company Duco.

The work includes engineering, procurement and manufacture of 120km of umbilicals. Most of this will be done at the Angoflex yard in Lobito, making it one of the largest umbilical projects to be undertaken there following the facility’s expansion in 2012.

Sonamet expands yard

Sociedade Nacional Metalúrgica (Sonamet), manufacturer of metal structures for the offshore oil industry, is investing $56 million in building new quays at its Lobito shipyard in Benguela province.

The quays, half of which Sonamet will complete this year, will be 320 metres long and will have capacity to load structures weighing up to 5,000 tonnes. Sonangol has a 40 per cent interest in Sonamet, while lead shareholder Subsea 7, owns 55 per cent.

Latest products from Angola LNG

Angola LNG sold its first butane and first condensate cargoes in March and April, respectively. Sonangol, which has a 22.8 per cent stake in the company, purchased both shipments.

The butane and condensate shipments mean that Angola LNG has now successfully completed loadings of all its products. The firm’s Soyo plant has already shipped LNG and LPG.

Mateus de Brito (1960-2014)

Sonangol EP and all those associated with the company regret the sudden death of former board member Mateus de Brito. Mr de Brito passed away at the early age of just 53 on April 2.

Born in Dondo, Kwanza Norte province, on October 23, 1960, Mr de Brito gained a degree in Geophysics with specialties in Geology and Mathematics from the University of Tulsa, Oklahoma. He also completed postgraduate courses in geophysics in Colorado and Texas, as well as in England.

Mateus de Brito began working for Sonangol in 1984 as an assistant in the Planning Department. Two years later he was transferred to the Prospecting and Research Department. From 1997 to 2002 he was assistant director-general of the Sonawest joint venture between Sonangol and Western Geophysical.

Mr de Brito was named director of Exploration at Sonangol in 2002 and three years later joined Sonangol EP’s board.

As well as his playing a leading role at Sonangol EP, Mateus de Brito was also president of Petro Atlético Sports Club from January 2012. Under his leadership, Petro enjoyed success by winning two Angola Cup trophies and one Supercup as well as two African club champions’ cups for women’s handball. Mateus de Brito was always an example to all sporting leaders and has left an important legacy for sport in Angola, Petro said.

Sonangol EP offers its sincere condolences to Mr de Brito’s family, friends and former colleagues.

Angolan blocks under the hammer

Angola started the tender process for 10 new onshore oil exploration blocks on May 30. Seven of the blocks are in the Congo Basin and three are in the Kwanza Basin.

Companies taking part submitted documentation on their business structures, activities and finances before April 30 in order to prequalify. Most Angolan oil is tapped from deep-sea offshore wells. Development of onshore oil is much cheaper and therefore should attract more bidders than usual.

Sonangol said the 10 blocks may hold average deposits of 700 million barrels of oil each. Angola's total reserves are under 13 billion barrels.
MAKING CAREER WAVES

A life on rolling seas interrupted by constant visits to a noisy engine room: being an engineer aboard a ship is not everyone’s cup of tea. It takes special qualities of endurance and inner strength to face the routines of this relatively isolated occupation. So, when one meets 23-year-old Arlete Jandira Ginga Fastudo, her bubbling enthusiasm for her chosen occupation comes as a bit of a surprise. Arlete has taken to her role as a marine engineer – well, like a duck to water – and she leaves one in no doubt of her determination to succeed. Her bright personality and optimism are bonuses for those who come into contact with and work alongside her.

For women in many countries, a career on a ship has not been an option, if at all, until relatively recently. Why did you choose to be a marine engineer?

Since I was a child I couldn’t decide whether to be an engineer, because I saw my father fixing almost anything and I wanted to be like him, or to be a lawyer, owing to the influence of films, but as I’ve always been a very practical person with a desire to do and solve things, I chose engineering. Once I entered high school, I became passionate about engineering, and since then my love for this area has just kept on growing.

What was your parents’ reaction to your career choice?

Mum was very frightened, and even now she doesn’t understand, which is comprehensible, as it isn’t very easy for a mother to see a daughter in an area which is more promising for men. Dad is a sailor, and he helps and gives me lots of support and only says he doesn’t like small ships.

So, what’s it like being a woman in the world of men that is a ship?

It isn’t easy. Some men are fascinated; others discriminate against you, often because it’s a job without many women, especially in Angola. When people hear about it, they are fascinated, but aboard the ship some people test your capabilities all the time. Others are afraid for you when you are doing a heavy job, and they come to help.

Unfortunately there’s still much gender discrimination, something that nowadays shouldn’t happen, because we women have already shown sufficient capability and that we are able to do any kind of work.

Are there many female mariners?

I don’t think so, but we’re growing in number. There are a considerable number...
People’s names can tell a story. ‘Fastudo’ is an unusual surname and attracts interest. It translates as ‘does everything’ – a perfect moniker for a multi-tasker. Arlete’s grandfather Domingos Fastudo Augusto Rosa gained the name because of his many occupations. He was a farmer, trader and owner of the Boa Altura ranch in fertile Kwanza Sul province.

There are 28 women working on Sonangol ships: one officer and 19 cadets. In the last ship I was on there were two women and 23 men aboard.

Are there women on other African ships?

I’ve no idea of the numbers, but I can say that Nigeria is the country training the most women for the merchant navy; there are also Congolese and South Africans in this world of shipping. That’s in Africa, but I believe in the whole world there are many countries with a high number of women in this job.

Angolan women since the country’s War of Liberation are noted for taking on roles normally associated with men, such as in the armed forces. Is the lack of trained personnel an explanation for this prominence, or do they have specific talents for tasks that they do well and may even be better at than men?

I would say that necessity is the main reason why Angolan women get involved in these jobs and battle to get what they want, apart from the courage and determination which are characteristics of Angolan women.

What are the career steps needed to become a marine engineer?

The career ladder is: cadet, fourth engineer, third engineer, second engineer and chief engineer. The road is long and it isn’t easy to reach the top, but, with my force of will and humility, I plan to reach the highest level and, who knows, one day, I may work as a supervisor. Whereas a chief engineer is in charge of engineers on board a ship, a superintendent works on land and inspects ships.

Has your career inspired friends to copy you, and does the smart uniform attract people’s attention?

Yes, it has. Some are very curious to know more about a woman who has had the courage to follow a career at sea, and there are those who approach me just because of the uniform.

What’s life like on a long voyage?

Life on board a ship is calm, but there are also days that are very busy, as in all workplaces. The time it takes to reach a destination depends on the route planned and the speed of the ship, but is normally around 20 days. As for facilities, we have wifi, table tennis, a gym, a recreation room where we watch safety videos once a week, games, karaoke. We watch films, read magazines. The cabins are clean and comfortable, and when I’m in my cabin normally I listen to music, watch a film, do research and study.

In days on duty when I’m on the high seas, I work from 8am, take a tea break from 10 to 10:30, have lunch between 12 and 1pm, then a break 3:30–4pm and at 5pm we finish. Then I return to my cabin, and at 9pm I go down to the engine room for a round. When we are in port, we work in shifts: six hours on and six hours off.

Which countries have you visited as a student and crew member so far?

As a student I went to India and Scotland (Glasgow). As a member of the crew I’ve been to the United States, Nigeria, Singapore, England, Congo, Denmark and Holland.

What would you say to a young person choosing a career?

Be yourself and follow your dreams. Just do what you love, because no one else will do it for you.

There’s no doubt Arlete is clearly doing exactly that. ■

Arlete Jandidra Ginga Fastudo – What’s in a name?

Angola Maritime Training Centre

The $80 million Angola Maritime Training Centre (AMTC) officially opened on February 24. Located at Sumbe, 305km south of Luanda, the AMTC includes staff and student residential facilities. It is owned by Sonangol EP and operated in collaboration with City of Glasgow College (COGC), Scotland.

The centre aims to vigorously and actively support the Angolaisation programmes of both Sonangol and the wider maritime industry in the region. It will provide complete training for maritime ratings and the first year of academic training for deep-sea deck and engineer officer cadets. COGC will continue to provide the second academic year in Glasgow until AMTC has developed its own capability in this area.

Australian John Lloyd has been named as AMTC’s first principal. The initial intake was 14 cadets, of which four were female. Eight were deck cadets and six engineer cadets. Cadet numbers were set to double after April. AMTC will eventually offer courses for 192 students which will have international accreditation and approval from the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) or the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA). So far SAMSA has accredited 12 safety and technical courses.

AMTC opening ceremony
Taking off from Luanda airport on a clear April evening, a plane heads southwest. It arcs round to the east to take up its northern flight path over the dark sprawling city below. Suddenly a dense, bright array of lights catches the passengers’ eyes. This is Kilamba, the massive new residential area that Sonangol’s housing arm, Sonip, is helping develop alongside the modern highway that embraces the capital.

As the plane flies northwards, everyone’s attention is drawn to two equally brightly-lit districts along the same road. These are two more Sonip-supported developments: Zango and Cacuaco.

All three new housing projects stand out in sharp contrast to the large darker areas of Luanda which power infrastructure and supplies have yet to reach.

Universo visited Zango and Kilamba in late March and was impressed by how growing numbers of residents were settling into both developments and making them into thriving communities.

The giant Kilamba development, 20km south of Luanda city centre, is the nucleus of a 21st-century town which will eventually become home to as many as 485,000 people. Its spacious, well-kept green areas have schools, clinics, bars and restaurants, and most of the accommodation is high-rise.

“It’s the largest housing project ever built in Angola and is an outstanding example of social policy carried out in a country to solve the housing deficit,” said President José Eduardo dos Santos when he officially opened the complex in July 2011.

Luanda’s recent housing developments offer new dwellers a sense of space and freshness of the open air thanks to the gardens and wide avenues separating the buildings. This is a huge improvement over the cramped, insanitary conditions of the huge, often roadless shanty towns that still cover much of the capital.

“The creation of the city of Kilamba is a modern way to think about cities and is part of the executive’s efforts to face up to the constant growth of the country’s capital, whose infrastructure is unprepared for the population of over five million it has today,” said the president.

“This decentralisation will enable the pressure to be taken off the old centre of Luanda, improve the participation of the citizen in public matters, meet the growing needs for housing and give its inhabitants a better quality of life,” he added.

Zango has two main types of housing. One consists of tall, colourful blocks surrounded by lush, well-established gardens; these are located alongside the beltway. The other type is of individual and semi-detached chalet-like homes with backyards that already boast fruit trees. They are found between the beltway and along the road to Calombo on the River Kwanza, just to the south of the main runway of Luanda’s new giant international airport development.

Press tour

The capital is the largest but not the only part of Sonip’s work in providing much-needed housing for Angola. In early March Sonip’s executive commission president, Orlando Veloso, toured several Angolan provinces with journalists over a period of five days to show them the housing projects it is managing.

In Luanda the delegation visited the Zango development, which will have a total of 8,000 homes when completed later this year. They also looked around the first phase of Kilamba, scheduled to have its first 5,000 homes ready in 2015.

Veloso told the journalists Zango was 75 per cent complete, and Kilamba first stage was...
When these new houses and apartments are fully occupied, the two developments will have 78,000 residents, all with guaranteed water supply, basic sanitation and electricity. Other services include schools, crèches and local government offices.

As well as visiting Luanda, the tour took in Cabinda, Huíla, Namibe and Benguela provinces.

Cabinda
In oil-rich Cabinda province, just north of the mouth of the River Zaire, the special housing area at Chibodo with 2,002 apartments is practically finished, and its first residents will move in this June.

Huíla
The press group saw 11,000 homes under construction at the Kilemba development in Huíla’s lush highland provincial capital, Lubango. This project consists of 6,160 houses and 4,840 apartments, and the first 7,500 units will be ready to live in by the end of 2016.

Namibe
A visit to Namibe, Angola’s seaboard desert province, took in the Praia Amélia and Cinzo de Abril developments, which comprise a total of 4,000 properties. The first has 3,656 houses and 344 apartments, which is 78 per cent finished, while half of the latter’s 1,800 houses and 200 apartments have been built.

Namibe
The journalists then inspected Benguela’s Praia Amélia and Cinzo de Abril developments, which comprise a total of 4,000 properties. The first has 3,656 houses and 344 apartments, which is 78 per cent finished, while half of the latter’s 1,800 houses and 200 apartments have been built.

Benguela
The journalists then inspected Benguela’s Praia Amélia and Cinzo de Abril developments, which comprise a total of 4,000 properties. The first has 3,656 houses and 344 apartments, which is 78 per cent finished, while half of the latter’s 1,800 houses and 200 apartments have been built.

Government’s social policy
During the visit to Benguela, Sonip’s Orlando Veloso explained, “During this tour of five days, we’ve visited more than 35,000 homes that are today a reality. What we see here is social housing, which is the main concern and objective of government actions.”

When all the housing developments visited are completed, they will have some 210,000 residents. House sales will be carried out in stages.

Veloso also said that Sonip has been the executor of this undertaking, and pointed out that the advanced stage of completion of most of the projects will permit the housing of thousands of families in better conditions by the end of this year.
The projects will permit the housing of thousands of families in better conditions

– Orlando Veloso, president of Sonip’s executive commission
All companies aim to perform well, but safety and protection of the environment are becoming equally important concerns. *Universo* examines the growing sophistication of Sonangol’s workplace culture.
Surprisingly, most accidents are likely to happen at home, despite the perception that this is the safest place to be. Some 4,000 people die and a whopping 2.7 million suffer accidents requiring hospital treatment in the UK each year.

The consequences of these domestic misfortunes do not usually go beyond the walls of the house.

How much more difficult and serious is the question of ensuring company health and safety, especially if the workplace is an offshore oil rig handling highly inflammable oil and explosive gas pumped under great pressure? The risks multiply and may affect large numbers of people. An oil sector work accident could involve dozens of work colleagues and the wider general public, and costly oil spills may damage the environment over a large area.

“We’re in a high risk industry; we couldn’t not do QHSE,” Daniela Matos, director of Sonangol’s Quality, Health, Safety and Environment Department, told Universo. “QHSE helps Sonangol control risks and improve safety while protecting the environment at the same time. It’s a preventive process.”

Sonangol is pursuing a vigorous QHSE policy. This is a body of procedures and practices designed to reduce and eliminate risks in the workplace and their impacts on the wider environment. The quality element aims to enhance organisational performance. QHSE practitioners treat all four factors as intrinsically connected.

The costs of not having a totally effective QHSE programme can be catastrophic. The Deepwater Horizon rig explosion in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 cost the lives of 11 workers and $42.7 billion so far in damages. Experts believe another $20 billion may have to be paid out in compensation and fines.

So not surprisingly Sonangol, along with most other major oil companies, has chosen the path of proactive prevention by implementing detailed, comprehensive QHSE programmes.

Daniela Matos brings key skills to her job; she studied Chemistry in Boston and also completed a master’s degree in Environmental Management in Milan.

Her objective is to add value to Sonangol as a result of the implementation of a QHSE system through the control of risks that may affect the organisation.

“For an organisation to have an environment to develop its activities successfully, it’s necessary that all actions that are carried out follow the standards of safety, quality and environmental care. That’s how the QHSE Department adds value.”

“To have a better understanding, it’s necessary to think that the occurrence of an environmental, safety or quality incident can stop or hinder the normal functioning of an organisation,” Matos explained.

“The idea that such an event could undermine the performance of the organisation is what boosts the development of control measures, resulting in the application of known techniques of QHSE.”

The implementation of a QHSE programme starts with a meticulous survey of how an organisation operates and a detailed analysis of its objectives. Then courses and training are administered to optimise the effectiveness of staff in meeting their objectives in terms of performance, health and safety and impact on the environment. The aim is to achieve best practice by a process of continuous monitoring and improvement.

“Quality, safety and environment have the same origin. The same causes which lead to problems in quality also lead to problems in safety and environment. As such, creating creating a culture of QHSE in the organisation is important because doing so allows you to solve problems at their origin,” said Matos.

Matos is determined that the result of Sonangol’s QHSE programme will be that all company personnel will have greater knowledge and a better perception of how to best perform their roles.

“QHSE should not be seen as a boss, but something staff see as their own. It’s important that the staff internalise the concept, that it becomes intrinsic to what they do and then becomes their routine and a state of mind,” she explained. “Quality, safety and respect for the environment is a permanent campaign.”

Sonangol’s QHSE Department has

“QHSE should translate instinctively into productivity, quality and benefits for the environment”

– Daniela Matos

What is QHSE?

The four components (Quality, Health, Safety and Environment) treated together are a responsible corporate management approach based on the belief that human error causes all accidents, and therefore better management and training can prevent these accidents

“Quality, safety and environment are based on the same philosophy of action: prevention. When a threat is detected, it is analysed and controlled. Prevention is the basis of the philosophy of risk control in QHSE”

– Daniela Matos, director of Sonangol’s QHSE Department

*Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA).*
Sonangol has never suffered a major oil accident or spill; the QHSE Department aims to keep it that way

a mantra: "A work of quality is a faithful reflection of the person who does it."

According to the director, QHSE begins by challenging staff perceptions of how they perform their roles, and then observing the importance of their taking responsibility for their actions. Staff and the company must make sure standards are implemented well.


Quality certification
As part of QHSE, Sonangol is undertaking a wide-ranging quality performance certification programme throughout the company. Here, independent auditors verify the achievement of high standards such as ISO 9001.

So far several subsidiaries, including Sonangol’s training, distribution, logistics, telecommunications, Luanada refinery and trading arms, have earned quality certifications.

Certifications for other subsidiaries – oil operator Sonangol P&P, SonAir (aviation), Sonave (oil and gas trading) – are expected by the end of 2014. Sonangol EP and 10 other Sonangol businesses are scheduled for quality certification by the end of 2018.

Kevin Stearns, office manager at Sonangol’s London office, said there is no compulsion for companies to undertake QHSE and performance certification programmes, but they are an important quality indicator for potential business partners, apart from their intrinsic benefit for the company.

Going forward
A recent DNV position paper on offshore safety has shown that occupational health and safety has improved tenfold in the past 20 years throughout the world. Major accident hazards have also diminished in some operating areas, notably in the North Sea. However, this improvement has not extended to all offshore areas globally.

The tasks of QHSE professionals are relentless. In Sonangol’s case, they must ensure workforce awareness of the risks involved in increasingly complex work environments such as deep-sea drilling or new onshore oil and gas facilities.

Sonangol is a relative newcomer to the world of QHSE, but its commitment to success in this demanding area is clear. The company has never experienced a major accident or oil spill. Daniela Matos and her colleagues are determined that this will remain the case.
Francisco de Lemos José Maria
President of Sonangol’s board

Francisco de Lemos José Maria was born in Lobito, Benguela province, on May 31, 1962, and joined Sonangol in April 1989. He has a degree, diploma and a master’s in Economic Sciences.

He exercised several management positions at Sonangol before joining Sonangol EP’s board. He was finance director, executive administrator, director of Planning and director of Foreign Trade before being promoted to the board presidency in January 2012.

Anabela Soares de Brito Fonseca
Administrator

Born in Huambo on September 3, 1960, Anabela Soares de Brito Fonseca has worked for Sonangol since January 1996. She holds a degree in Chemical Engineering and has occupied several leading positions at Sonangol.

Before joining the Sonangol EP board, she was director of the Office for Market Operations (GOC). Mrs Fonseca now oversees the following activities at Sonangol EP and its subsidiaries: the Department of Information Technology, Department of Quality, Safety and Environment, Sonangol Exploration and Production (P&P), Sonangol International Hydrocarbons, Sonangol International Trade (Sonaci) and Sonangol Shipping International Limited (SSHL).

Ana Joaquina Van-Díñem Alves da Costa
Administrator

Ana Joaquina Van-Díñem Alves da Costa was born in Luanda on January 2, 1961. She has a Chemical Engineering degree and joined Sonangol in April 1989. She has held several management positions at the company and before joining the board was the administrator delegate for Sonangol Luanda Refinery. She now supervises the departments of Company Security, Department of Administration and Infrastructure, Sonangol Refining (Sonaref), Sonangol Natural Gas (Sonagas), MISTelecom, Generation of Electrical Energy (Luanchiva Limited), and the Petrochemical Nucleus.

Fernandes Gaspar Bernardo Mateus
Administrator

Born in Malange on May 22, 1966, Fernandes Gaspar Bernardo Mateus has been working at Sonangol since May 2000. He has a degree in Economics and has performed a variety of management roles at Sonangol. Before joining the board of Sonangol EP, he was director of Planning. He now oversees the departments of Planning, Finances and Risk Management, the Office of Communication and Image, Sonangol Finance Limited, Sonangol Holdings Limited and the Process Management Unit.

Fernando Joaquim Roberto Neto
Administrator

Fernando Joaquim Roberto Neto was born on Gabala, Kvatza Sul, on August 8, 1957 and has been at the company since April 1978. He has a degree in Economics and postgraduate degree in Economy and Business Management. He has held several management positions at Sonangol. In 2005 he was board president of Sonangol Distribuidora. He is responsible for overseeing the Human Resources Department, Social Services Department, Girassol Clinic, Sonangol Academy, PUÇA, the Commission for Social Projects at Soyo, the Paz Flor Recreation Centre and the Cajaetico Cooperative.

Mateus Sebastião Francisco Neto
Administrator

Mateus Sebastião Francisco Neto was born at Dande, Bengo province on July 3, 1955, and joined Sonangol in June 1981. He holds a degree in Aeronautical Engineering and Air Administration. He has undertaken a variety of management positions and commissions at Sonangol and has served on the board of SonAir and some years later the board of Angola Airlines (TAAG). Before becoming a Sonangol EP board member, he was president of the board of Sonangol Logística.

Mr Neto supervises the Centre for Entrepreneurial Support, Sonangol Logística, Sonangol Distribuidora, Sonangol Industrial Investment (SIIND), Sonangol Integrated Logistic Services (Soulis), ESSA, Drilling and Basic Projects and Logistic Installations.

Paulino Fernando Carvalho Jerónimo
Administrator

Paulino Fernando Carvalho Jerónimo was born in Luanda on March 22, 1960, and has been at Sonangol since July 1985. He holds a degree in Geophysical Engineering from the Superior Institute of Oil and Gas at Baku, Azerbaijan.

He has held a number of management positions at Sonangol, and before joining the board he was the only manager of Sonangol Hydrocarbons International. He oversees the following activities at Sonangol: Department of Exploration, Department of Production, Department of Business, Department of Economy of Concessions, Department of the Control Committee for Concessions, the Archive Office and Data Base, the Central Laboratory, Supervision of Pre-Salt and SonAir.
Angola’s 7 Natural Wonders

Tens of thousands of Angolans have voted to select the most beautiful and stunning natural wonders of Angola.

Come and see for yourself these and many more.