

Speech of His Excellency the Ambassador Daniel Antonio Rosa

Virtual Ceremony of the Official Reception on the occasion of the 46th Anniversary of
the Republic of Angola's National Independence

17th November 2021

**Your Excellency Alvin Tan, Minister of State Trade & Industry, and Culture,
Community and Youth;**

Distinguished Members of the Government of the Republic of Singapore;

**Excellencies High Commissioners, Ambassadors and Members of the Diplomatic
Corps accredited in the Republic of Singapore;**

**Distinguished guests from the Angolan Communities who are residing in Singapore
and the other countries of the Embassy jurisdiction;**

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Excellencies;

It is my great honour and satisfaction, to convey for the first time in the Republic of Singapore, in the capacity of the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Angola, this message on the occasion of the so far most important date of my country's history.

On the last 11th November, the Republic of Angola celebrated 46 years of National Independence, in the year that it is celebrated the nineteen years of achievement of peace.

We thank you, Your Excellencies, for the friendship, fraternity, and solidarity which you have ascribed to the People of Angola, this gesture is confirmed with your honourable virtual presence during this commemorative event that takes place under the theme "United, Let us Build a Prosperous Angola". Prosperity founded on the goals and objectives that the country defined within the framework of the National Development Plan (PDN 2018-2022) and of the Long Term Development Strategy, "Angola 2050", complemented with the Agenda 2030 related to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2063 of the African Union named "The Africa that we Want" related to the Common Strategic Framework for the Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development.

This Plan, the Development Strategy, and the Agenda that are being implemented constitute the base for the significant progress that Angola has been recording in the last years, across the political, economic, and financial domains, as well as in the social and cultural aspects.

In this respect, the consolidation of democratic, free and participative society; the promotion of unity and national cohesion; the promotion of the human development and wellbeing along with the increasing educational and sanitation levels of the population; the promotion of sustainable development; the diversification of the national economy and macroeconomic stabilisation; the mitigation of social and regional asymmetries; the promotion and insertion of the country in the world economy, particularly in Africa and the commitment to the economic diplomacy capable of attracting foreign private investment, are essential objectives that constitute the “flag” by which His Excellency the President of Republic, João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, his Executive Power and related institutions direct great efforts, capacities and intelligence.

Excellencies,

To those who follow, with attention and a constructive spirit, the Angolan reality indeed records evident facts confirming that Angola moves sustainably in the direction outlined for its development.

We are aware that we have a long way to go, and this way is not and could not be exempted from difficulties, including skepticisms, states of anxiety, and impatience from some people, which result in certain manifestations from citizens who demand from the Estate’s institutions and entities, to skip stages, and race through this process in order to have, in a blink of an eye, their needs met such as the daily needs they felt of things such as jobs and decent housing.

These are natural and normal behaviours in a free, tolerant, inclusive and democratic society that we are trying to build and consolidate, for which the Executive, beyond the dynamic that endeavours to intend to satisfy gradually the legitim desires and expectations of the citizens, understands that it is through the permanent social dialogue that eventual disagreements or existing mistakes should be clarified and overcome.

Indeed, to govern in a national environment that is still characterised by varied and complex problems, and own fragilities, and undergoing the context of an economic and financial crisis caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic, with increasing political and social disturbances, imposes the duty of prudence and serenity to the one who leads the process, in this case, the Executive, under the risk of compromising all the victories achieved over several decades of fights and sacrifices.

Anchoring in the theme of the governance “To improve what is well and to fix what is bad”, the Angolan Executive has focused its action on perfecting mechanisms that generate efficient and effective governance, fighting relentlessly against the dangerous factors posed to the development, namely the economic crime, corruption and impunity which unfortunately were implanted into the society, jeopardising the greatest interest of the Nation.

Despite ongoing difficulties, if there is no systemic setback, Angola’s macroeconomic forecasts point to an economic growth of 2.4% for the year 2022. This growth recovery will surely reduce unemployment levels, improve the well-being of citizens and the businesses environment.

Excellencies;

Next year, according to the Constitution of the Republic, the General Elections will take place in order to choose the future leaders and the institutions which represent the political power of the country for the following 5 years. For the first time, since the implementation of the multi-party system in Angola, citizens residing overseas will be able to vote.

For this purpose, the process of officious electoral registry is ongoing at the moment throughout the whole country, for the national citizens with the electoral age to be able to carry out their right to participate in this important citizenship act. For the Angolan citizens residing in Singapore, in the Philippines, and other countries under the jurisdiction of this Embassy, the process to update the officious electoral registry will begin in January 2022 and end in March of the same year. New electoral cards for the voters will not be issued, the utilisation of their Identity Card will be enough to update the referred registry. Technical teams from the Ministries of the Territory Administration, External Relations, and from the Embassy in Singapore will be engaged to work in the process from next January.

At the same time that the country competent institutions create the necessary conditions to allow the elections to be well organised and to happen in an orderly way, free and transparent, the different political parties, associations, and organisations of the civil society multiply the appeals to the conscientious and voluntary adhesion of citizens in the process of electoral registry.

Ladies and gentlemen;

Excellencies;

In the context of foreign policy, the Republic of Angola maintains its position as an international strategic partner; promoting peace, stability, and the sustainable and harmonious development of the Peoples, mainly, in Africa. For instance, His Excellency

President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço presides the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (CIRGL); in the same way that the Commission of the Economic Community of the Central Africa States (CEAAC) is led by the Angolan Ambassador, Gilberto da Piedade Veríssimo.

Angola will continue to strengthen its cooperation with the Republic of Singapore and the other countries that participates in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which are part of the Embassy diplomatic cover.

Still, concerning Singapore, the combination of comparative advantages, like the financial and technological conditions available in this country, and the plethora of natural resources and minerals and the opportunities for businesses that Angola has, can increase the financial flows to our country, contributing to this way to the process of socio-economic development, especially in the construction of infrastructure, in the transforming industry, among other priority sectors.

At the same time, we record the presence in Angola of companies from Singapore and the countries under the jurisdiction, we would like to see as well Singapore exploring the economic value of such resources in our country, generating and creating more jobs, more infrastructure, training more Angolan human resources, and all of this based on the transferring of technology and knowledge, since these technological, financial and qualified resources are able to bring other advantages into the economic and financial cooperation, with results and benefits that are mutually beneficial.

The Republic of Angola is strongly committed to the cause of climate changes. This is evident with the participation of the Head of the Angolan State, His Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, in the 26th United Nations Climate Summit (COP26), in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom. In his speech, the Angola Statesman committed to the fact that the Executive branch will be using 70% of renewable energy resources until 2025. He said that and I quote here his words “the climate changes constitute one of the greatest challenges faced by Humanity, considering the ranges of direct and indirect effects which affect both the economic and social areas of the Nations, a fact that represents a true challenge to the development”. (end of citation).

Excellencies,

The signature of the Memorandum of Understanding last 17th of August between AIPEX (Agency for the Private Investment and Export Promotion) and the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise, contributed inexorably to strengthening the existing friendship and cooperation ties between our two countries.

Angola is looking forward to seeing concluded the legal cooperation tools that are under negotiation, namely:

- The Visa Exemption Agreement for Diplomatic Passports, Official/Service and Ordinary Officials;
- Reciprocal Investment Protection Agreement between the Republic of Angola and the Republic of Singapore;
- Double Taxation and Tax Evasion Agreement between the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Angola and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Singapore; and
- The Agreement related to the Bilateral Political Consultations between the Ministry of External Relations of the Republic of Angola and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore.

The finalisation of these important legal instruments in several domains is going to strengthen even further our bilateral cooperation, recently reinforced through the messages of congratulation by His Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, on the last 9th of August, and Her Excellency Halimah Binti Jacob, President of the Republic of Singapore, regarding the celebration of the 46th anniversary of Independence of Angola, on the past 11th November. In the messages, the two Heads of the States manifested the desire to see being developed further the friendship ties and cooperation that unite both Countries and Peoples.

The participation of the Republic of Angola in the 6th Edition of the Africa-Singapore Business Forum on the last 23rd to 24th August, represented an extremely important moment since it allowed our countries to share the opportunities for businesses, as well as it strengthened and consolidated the currently existing business relations.

On the other hand, the Republic of Angola has welcomed with great satisfaction the election by the Republic of Singapore as one of the strategic partners in Africa. In the same way, we received with unmeasured joy the news about the choice of Porto of Lobito as the recipient of the Only Maritime Window Pilot Project from the International Maritime Organisation.

This year as we celebrate 21 years of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the Republic of Angola and the Republic of Singapore, and the same number of years since when Angola's National Society of Fuels – SONANGOL.EP. – started its crude oil trade operations in Asian countries, Angola as part of the internationalisation process of its companies envisions to strengthen its presence in the Southeast Asian countries.

Excellencies;

In defending its independence and sovereignty, Angola is grateful to the international cooperation and solidary support that has been receiving, over the years, from different countries here represented by Your Excellencies High Commissioners, Ambassadors, and members of the Diplomatic Corps.

To the African countries; a singular word, on behalf of our Africanism; our values of solidarity, cooperation and partnership; for the habits and traditions that we proudly carry together.

To the belonging CPLP countries, in which the pro tempore Presidency is held by the Republic of Angola, goes a particular reference, on behalf of fraternity and secular cultural and historical ties that unite us, exalted by the common language that we share and enjoy.

To Singapore and Singaporeans, we dedicate a very special recognition for the cordial welcome you have given us in this wonderful country.

We cannot hide the situation of such profound financial and economic crisis with social effects, that the world is currently living, caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic. For this reason, allow me to express our sincere encouragement to this country, for the measures adopted to restrain the pandemic outbreak and preserve human lives. We have the strong conviction that, with the resilience and wit of the Singaporean people, the possible exit will be achieved, despite all the current difficulties.

Angola and Singapore will overcome these difficult times!

I close, reiterating my thanks due to your generous presence, friendship and solidarity.

Hooray Angola!

Thank you very much