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Angola pode ganhar “com mais foco na educação de qualidade e ênfase na aprendizagem do inglês”

Quais são os pontos mais positivos que os empresários indianos apontam sobre Angola? As empresas indianas estão adaptáveis e flexíveis, graças a sua capacidade de se adaptar às novas situações. Em Angola, a capacidade de se adaptar é particularmente importante, devido ao alto nível de insegurança política e econômica do país.

A Índia é hoje um dos principais parceiros econômicos de Angola. A cooperação entre os dois países data do final do século XVIII durante o período de colonização portuguesa. A Índia estava na vanguarda dos países da África que apoiam a independência de Angola. A Independência foi um momento de esperança para muitos angolenses que sonhavam com um futuro melhor. A cooperação entre os dois países tem se fortalecido ao longo dos anos, e hoje Angola é um importante parceiro econômico para a Índia.

Os dois países têm relações tradicionalmente cordiais e amistosas, que têm se fortalecido ao longo dos anos. As duas nações têm um currículo comum em áreas como agricultura, energia, infraestruturas, etc. Os dois países têm se beneficiado de sua cooperação, e agora Angola é um importante parceiro econômico para a Índia.

Em Angola, a Índia está se tornando um importante parceiro econômico, e isso tem se refletido em diversos campos, incluindo energia, infraestruturas, saúde e educação. A experiência que a Índia tem no campo da educação e da formação profissional é de grande valor para Angola, que busca melhorar a qualidade da educação e da formação profissional no país.

A Índia é um importante parceiro econômico para Angola, e essa cooperação tem se fortalecido ao longo dos anos. É esperado que essa cooperação continue a crescer, e Angola continuará a beneficiar-se desta relação com a Índia.
As part of an article about Angola’s biggest trading partners that appeared in the 23 November 2018 edition of the Newspaper Expansão, Ambassador of India HE. Mr. Srikumar Menon answered some questions about the current status of bilateral relations between Angola and India.

Ambassador Menon spoke about how India’s priorities are focused on strengthening economic and commercial relations with Angola, sharing of Indian expertise and supporting the Angolan government in capacity building, infrastructure development in key areas of health, education, solar electrification, mining, agriculture, fisheries, food processing etc., while also leveraging Angola’s strengths in the petroleum and diamonds sector and benefit from the Angolan government’s economic diversification policies and recent initiatives.


Here is an English translated version of the Questions and Ambassador’s responses

1. India is one of Angola’s biggest commercial partners. What is your assessment of bilateral relations so far?

Ambassador Menon: India, currently is one the fastest growing major economy in the world. It is a 2.5 Trillion dollar economy. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) sees India soon emerging as one of the top three economic powers over the next 10-15 years. With foreign exchange reserves in the region of US$ 400 billion, our current average GDP growth rate is 7.2 percent. India has a huge substantial middle class (which as a potent consumer class) is fueling India’s growth and economy.

The cooperation between our two countries date from the late 18th century and through the period of Portuguese colonization. India was all along at the forefront of countries in the United Nations that sought the independence of Angola.

Angola’s independence was a historic event that came after long periods of struggle and immense sacrifices of its people. ...something which we in India could easily relate to, as we ourselves had experienced similar struggle to achieve our independence from British rule 71 years ago. Since 1975, we have had traditionally warm and friendly relations which has been strengthening steadily over the years. We want to share India’s developmental experience, its expertise and technology to contribute to Angola’s economic resurgence.

Our priorities are focused on strengthening economic and commercial relations. Energy forms the heart of the India-Angola partnership. Angola is the second largest African oil supplier to India, after Nigeria. Bilateral trade is about $300 million and there is potential for more. India imports crude oil, iron, steel,
copper, aluminum and lead from Angola, while India exports meat, transport equipment (like buses, cars, two-wheelers, tractors, locomotives), pharmaceuticals and textiles.

We see culture playing an important role in our diplomacy here in Angola. Here, there’s so much love for Indian music, films, costumes, food and so on. India also offers every year, 30 ITEC training slots as well as ICCR scholarships for Angolan scholars and students.

We also want to provide and share our expertise in supporting Angolan government in capacity building and infrastructure development in key areas of health, education, solar electrification, mining, agriculture, fisheries, food processing. We are also ready to offer concessional lines of credit (LOC) for undertaking other sustainable development projects, in alignment with Angola’s socio-economic priorities.

Our Prime Minister had delegation level talks with President Joao Laurence at Johannesburg on 26 July 2018 on the sidelines of the BRICS summit, where the two sides agreed to intensify bilateral relations in trade and investment, agriculture & food processing, pharmaceuticals, oil and natural gas etc. From the bilateral perspective, this was an important milestone as it charts the way forward - being the pre-cursor to more intense engagements in the near future. The follow-up on the identified areas of cooperation is to be taken up in a more focused manner at the Joint Economic Commission Meeting that is being scheduled very soon.

2. The new Angolan Government intends to replace imports by domestic production and is inviting foreign businessmen to invest in the country. What business opportunities does Angola have that will be of interest to Indian entrepreneurs?

Ambassador Menon: The Angolan side have sought India’s support and assistance in the field of agro industry, veterinary, rural development and capacity building and irrigation, while seeking investments from Indian companies. There is potential for a food processing incubation unit. India is also ready to share its knowledge and experience in agriculture, farm machinery, water management and production of oil seeds.

There are excellent opportunities for cooperation between our two countries in the Diamond mining and polishing sector - in the form of direct trade, investment and exchange of technical know-how.

A delegation led by Angola’s Minister of Health had visited India in July 2018. There are vast potential areas of cooperation between Angola and India in healthcare - including Training of Health professionals; support for human resources development & healthcare services; exchange of experts between hospital units & research institutions; regulation of pharmaceuticals, medical
devices and cosmetics; acquisition of medicines, medical equipment and materials; and Cooperation in area of Traditional Medicine.

3. What are the most positive points that Indian entrepreneurs points to Angola?

Ambassador Menon: Indian entrepreneurs are by nature adaptive, innovative and enterprising. Importantly, they see that there are substantial and positive prospects that exist in Angola.

While there have been significant developments in the Angolan Diamond sector with the promulgation of a new “Diamond Marketing Policy”, the government has also taken significant steps in the agricultural domain that support domestic production as a viable alternative to expensive imports. India stands to benefit from the large potential for Diamond Mining in Angola and also leverage Indian expertise in Diamond polishing to enter the Angolan diamond market.

Besides Angola’s strengths in the petroleum and diamonds sector, the government’s economic diversification policies have also addressed the issue of reconstruction of infrastructure in the entire country, and facilitating growth and resurgence of new businesses.

4. And what are the main criticisms they make?

Ambassador Menon: I have not heard anything that can be seen as negative in this regard. Indian entrepreneurs are generally very positive and keen to do business in Angola as long as the security of their financial investments are guaranteed and assured. If the present trends continue, I am sure the ease of doing business in Angola will improve.

5. How do you see the future of Angola?

Ambassador Menon: I am quite optimistic. Angola is rich in natural resources, has large agricultural land area, political stability and strong leadership. The country is thus well poised to play a leading and important role in Africa in the years to come. With more focus on quality education and emphasis on learning English, Angola will soon be able to join other developing and developed countries and benefit from global economic growth.

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