Angola post Dos Santos: Change or continuation?

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Presidential elections in Angola ‘17.

- New presidential candidate (MPLA)?
  - Who is he?
  - What will he inherit?
  - His priorities and key challenges (if elected).
  - Discussion; change or continuation
Eduardo dos Santos, back from Barcelona
Um povo sofredor

- A country with a tragic legacy of exploitation, foreign meddling and continuous suffering.
  - Ricardo Soares de Oliveira: Magnificent and Beggar Land, Angola since the civil war

- 250 years of Slave trade
- Colonial (harsh) regime: 1648 – 1974
- Civil War (1975-2002)
  - Cost of war damage estimated US$60 billion

- 15 years of (positive) peace
A spectacular reconstruction (2002 - 2011)

- In 13 years oil has generated over US$468 billion.
  - 2011 according to IMF 4.3 billion in infrastructure 14% of the GDP
    - Roads
    - Renovation of rail system
  - Schools
  - Hospitals
  - Access to water increased
  - Electricity
  - More jobs
  - More houses have been constructed

Ricardo Soares de Oliveira: Magnificent and Beggar Land, Angola since the civil war
Situation at the moment: Deepest crisis since the end of the war

- Deep financial crisis;
  - Low oil prices.
  - Projections for 2017 point to public debt reaching 70% of GDP.
  - Endangering the functioning of the state
- Discontent at street level and among opposition;
  - But no popular uprising.
- High unemployment rate.
- Turbo urbanization.
  - Luanda reaching 6.5 million, Benguela 2 million and Huila 2.3 million out of a population of over 24 million
- Food security
- Functioning institutions
MPLA Presidential candidate

João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço (Lobito, 5 of March 1954)

Angola Minister of Defence
Known to Angolans - increasing popularity also in rural areas

- Political and military background
  - Provincial Commissioner for the MPLA in the province of Moxico.
  - President of the Regional Military Council of the 3rd Military Region
  - 1st Party Secretary.
  - Head of the National Political Direction of FAPLA (The People's Armed Forces of Liberation of Angola).
  - Minister of Defence
  - Presidential candidate (MPLA).
Main focus – increasing private investment

Q: How would your government be different from that of President dos Santos?

Lourenço: We are going to make every effort to have a transparent administration. We are going to combat corruption, and we are going to underscore the fact that we want the private investors to be a major part of our future economy. The public sector will be limited to reconstruction and infrastructure, and even in those areas we will try and set up public private partnerships. In other areas, such as airports, there will be 100 percent private investment.

Steven Mufson, Washington Post, 21st of May ‘17
Main focus areas

- Increase transparency.
- Corruption.
- Increase private investment.
- Attract foreign investment.
- Creating jobs.
- Fight crime and violence.
Key challenges

- **Getting the economy going and state institution**
  - Incoming “President Joao Lourenco” will need to institute difficult economic reforms and restore the functioning of key state institutions.

- **Security apparatus**
  - Reforming the security apparatus will be a challenge if Lourenco wants to streamline command and control and professionalise the sector.

- **External relations**
  - Managing external relations will test Lourenco as he takes the reins with a huge debt to China.
    - Paula Cristina Roque; Institute for Security Studies, Southern Africa Report 8, May 2017
Change or continuation?

- Political and military stability
OBRIGADO