

ANGOLA : THE DRAMA OF A RICH COUNTRY WITH A POOR POPULATION

Introduction

**Avelino CHICO
CHICOMA, S.J.,**
PhD on international
migration and
cooperation for
development.
Lecturer at Catholic
University of Angola.
avelinochc621@
gmail.com

Angola is one the richest countries in the world. Its wealth comprises human resources and its mental power as well as its natural resources. However, it is also one of the countries where the natural resources and the economic growth do not have any impact on the lives of the people. In the last ten years after the end of the civil war, the economic growth reached an average of 16% per year. This was so owing to oil, one of the country's commodities, whose price was high at the international market. The price of oil at the international market increased from USD 55 barrel per day to USD 131.22 barrel per day. A new middle class had started emerging as well as new economic and social infrastructures. Some of the buildings, which were constructed are far ahead of western standard¹. But poverty and hunger continue striking many regions of the country. Malnutrition affects 38% of the children and unemployment rate among the youth is estimated at 42%. Malaria is still the leading cause of death and accounts for 35% of curative care, 20% of hospital admissions, 40% of perinatal deaths and 25% of maternal mortality². Amid this situation, which no one is proud of, the country has produced the richest African woman.

In the first part of the article, we shall evaluate the economic indicators of Angola after the civil war. The economic growth which the country achieved after the civil war had very little impact on the majority of the population : the poor got poorer and the rich richer. Moreover, the population continued dying from

1 María ZARDOYA, "Una mirada a la arquitectura moderna de Luanda", *Arquitectura y Urbanismo* 27 (2-3), 2006, p. 52.

2 WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, "Angola : Country Cooperation Strategy". https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/136994/ccsbrief_ago_en.pdf;jsessionid=23776A71870D1579A53A6FCD-D331146C?sequence=1 (Checked 15/08/19).

hunger and power short ages became more frequent. Further more, there was water shortage and when the water was available it was contaminated and not safe for drinking. In addition, public transport service remained as chaotic as it had been forty years before. The second part will consider the impact of the economic growth on the lives of people, especially the construction industry that was considered an attractive factor for migrants from the neighbouring countries. The third part intends to look at Catholic Social Teaching (CST)'s intuitions on human development. These intuitions which are found in the Popes' encyclicals serve to measure people's development. CST states that economics is no longer the unique tools for measuring human development. Rather, it should be anthropocentric, integral, endogenous, sustainable, global and egalitarian. These intuitions can be applied to foster human development in Angola and that both the human and natural resources which the country possesses may be helpful to attain this development.

Economic growth

For more than thirty years, Angola was devastated by civil war, which forced lots of people to flee the country. More than 5 million people were internally displaced, and others sought refuge in neighboring countries. The Democratic Republic of Congo hosted the highest number of refugees amounting to approximately 500,000 persons³. Those who left the continent estimated at 350,000 emigrated to Portugal and Holland. The two countries keep historical ties with Angola. In the 15th and 17th centuries, both countries occupied Luanda : Portugal for five hundred years and Holland for only eight years (from 1641 to 1648). The argument that immigrants leave for a place where they can keep ties established through language, tradition, custom and historical affinity comes into effect for this option of Angolan diaspora⁴.

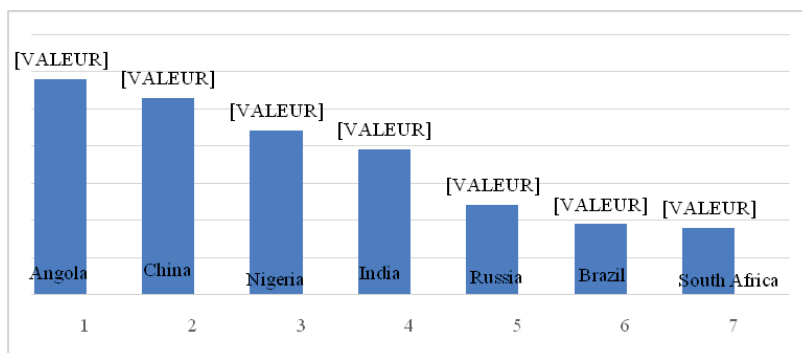
68% of the population were living on less than USD 1 per day and the inflation rate was set at 325% in 2000. Angola's Human Development Index was ranked 166th out of 177 countries. Furthermore, 90% of the infrastructures were devastated during the twenty-seven years' civil war. Schools and hospitals were destroyed ; communication and agricultural network disrupted ; dozens of bridges and buildings demolished ; and the inland abandoned. However, the situation has since changed from 2002. First, the political and social stability started taking shape after the civil war. Second, the end of the armed struggle coincides with the economic growth. The economy grew by 18% in 2005, 26% in 2006 and 17% in 2007. Third, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was 13.8% in 2008. Fourth, from

3 Didier PÉCLARD, "UNITA and the Moral Economy of Exclusion in Angola, 1966-1977", in *Sure Road ? Nationalism in Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique*, Leiden : Brill, 2012, p. 150.

4 José Manuel APARICIO MALO, "Migraciones y Doctrina Social de la Iglesia", in *Pensamiento Social Cristiano*, Madrid, Universidad Pontificia Comillas, 2015, p. 173.

2003 to 2012, oil exports grew significantly from USD 9.5 billion to USD 69.2 billion. Fifth, in the first semester of 2008, the country surpassed Nigeria producing 1,995 million barrels a day. Sixth, customs income had grown by 43% and fixed to USD 51 billion. Seventh, set at 325% in 2000, the inflation rate dropped to 14% in 2011. Therefore, Angola's economic growth was so promising that it was above other Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries and the giant China. For example, in 2010, Angolan economy had grown by 11.1% compared with China that registered 10.5%.

Figure 1. GDP growth rate 2002-2011 (Annual % variation)



Source : IMF (2018)

Table 1. Angola crude oil production (million bbl/d)

Year	Oilproduction (bbl/d)
2000	746
2001	742
2002	896
2003	902
2004	1,054
2005	1,249
2006	1,722
2007	1,748
2008	1,955
2009	1,876
2010	1,933
2011	1,755
2012	1,787
2013	1,842
2014	1,756
2015	1,806
2016	1,801
2017	1,689
2018	1,680

Source : OPEC (2018)

Impact of Economic Growth on People's Lives

Angola's economic boom brought forth a middle class. These were people who could leave the country and seek medical treatment in Brazil, Portugal, South Africa and Namibia. They could send their children to pursue their studies at renowned universities in Europe and America. Nevertheless, this class began disappearing from 2014 with the economic crisis. Most of them were members of the ruling party which was at the center of forming the middle class. They squandered the petrodollars and they were never held accountable⁵. They left the country in crisis and ruined people's hope of enjoying better life. In fact, people's life never changed : hospitals always lacked basic medicines ; malaria was not eradicated and remained a major public health concern ; the new roads began to have potholes ; running water in some taps was contaminated and it was no longer potable for drinking ; the flats built by Chinese migrants started leaking ; the public transport system deteriorated and the promise of building *Luanda urban rail* and suburban rail network never came out of the papers ; unemployment among the youth rose to 46% and over 70 out of 100 workers were in the informal sector⁶. Kofi Annan, the former UN Secretary General, did not hesitate to point the glaring reality of the economic crisis in Angola when he reiterated that : "Angola was one of the African countries where inequality between natural resource endowment and social well-being was felt at its most powerful"⁷.

The economic crisis that the country was experiencing was the reverse of the Human Development Index (HDI) that was growing exponentially. Table 2 shows the country's HDI for the last sixteen years of political and social stability. The HDI rose from 0,418 in 2002 to 0,581 in 2018. The sector where this increase was felt in Angola was the 'medium development' category. However, development is not only about numbers and statistics. Poverty is still a reality in Angola. It can not be attributed to lack of resources or under development. Rather, the situation in Angola is more related to structural factors. The state which supervises human development lacks manpower, vision and infrastructures. Soon after the war, there was need for qualified technicians. That is why cooperation with the Global North was the primary concern of the government. For instance, in 1979 only 226 Angolans were sent to Cuba to pursue university studies⁸. Moreover, most of the development projects carried by foreign

5 However, with the new political dispensation which came into place in 2017, some of these people who ruined the country are being charged. But most of them remain untouched and at large. That is why, the general opinion is that the prosecution of these persons is very selective. The big fishes are at large.

6 Martins CHAMBASSUCO, "Desemprego afecta um em cada dois jovens com idades entre os 15 e os 24 anos", *Expansão*. <http://expansao.co.ao/artigo/111862/desemprego-afecta-um-em-cada-dois-jovens-com-idades-entre-os-15-e-os-24-anos-?seccao=5> (Checked 16/08/19).

7 Cf. Jon SCHUBERT, "Angola", in *African Yearbook : Politics, Economy and Society South of the Sahara in 2013*, Leiden : Brill, 2014, p. 446.

8 Isaac SANÉY, "Cuba and Africa : Recasting Old Relations in New but Familiar Ways", in *Cuba Foreign Policy : Transformation under Raúl Castro*, Maryland : The Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, 2018, p. 105.

companies were all overcharged⁹ and had little to do with people's needs. Corruption and the lack of strong structures to render the State's officials accountable of their actions and expenditures worsened the situation. In fact, "construction in Angola is a lucrative business for the few people and families close to the president [Dos Santos]"¹⁰.

Impact on the Construction Industry

The economic growth prompted the birth of the so-called Angolan model christened *oil for construction*. This was meant to use oil's revenue for the construction of infrastructures. Oil represents 55% of GDP and 95% of exports and government revenues. Some areas of concern, such as economic and social infrastructures, were prioritized in order to overcome the ruins of the civil war. In 2002, the government approved the National Reconstruction Program (PRN, in Portuguese acronym) to rehabilitate these infrastructures. Two years after the National Reconstruction Office (GOE) was created with the objective of identifying and monitoring the execution of the construction of infrastructures. In the same year, The Poverty Reduction Strategy (ECP) was approved to combat poverty and social crisis in the country. Moreover, during the election campaign, in 2008, José Eduardo dos Santos, the former president, promised to build one million houses across the country. In 2009, Dos Santos' promise came into effect with the approval of the National Urbanization and Housing Program (PNUH). In 2010, more than 270,000 people were involved in the construction sector.

Table 2. - Selected sectors for poverty reduction

Domain	Cost (million \$)	(%)
Social integration	271,2	10,3
Mine clearance program	263,3	10
Food security and rural development	65,8	2,5
HIV/AIDS prevention	65,8	2,5
Education	416	15,8
Health	144,8	5,5

⁹ In 2009 the government created with Chinese Credit Line the Special Economic Zone (ZEE, in Portuguese acronym). The zone comprises 8,434 hectares and a 35 km perimeter between the provinces of Luanda and Bengo. The aim of ZEE is to attract both domestic and foreign investments as well as to encourage the development and diversification of Angola's economy. A total of 112 industries are meant to be constructed there. At the moment, they were built 76 but only 26 are fully operational. Others are not working because of the lack of the raw materials. Though some people got their first job in these industries, the investment was too high and today more than half of what was building is deserted. The same is happening with the houses which were building by Chinese immigrants. Many of them are empty because of the prices which go from USD 125,000 to USD 250,000. Many people cannot afford it. Therefore, the majority of the population remains in the *musseques* (slums).

¹⁰ Paulo FARIA, *The Post-War Angola : Public Sphere, Political Regime and Democracy*, Cambridge : Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013, p. 180.

Construction of basic infrastructures	882,1	33,5
Employment and professional training	42,1	1,6
Governance	218,5	8,3
Macroeconomic management	57,9	2,2
Current expenses	205,4	7,8
Total	2.633	100

Table 2 illustrates the domain and the money allocated to each for poverty reduction
(Source : Adapted from the Ministry of Planning, 2005)

For the construction of roads, the government sought foreign aids from China. Chinese Credit Lines (CCL) started dropping in Angola soon after the civil war : in March 2004, China injected USD 2 billions into the construction sector. In February 2005, another USD 2 billions was given by the Chinese to support construction and in July 2007, USD 500 millions and in September of the same year, USD 2 billions¹¹. According to the foreign aid contract signed between the Chinese and the Angolan government, 70% of the constructions would be done by Chinese Company and 50% of the material should be shipped from China. Furthermore, 80% of workers would be Chinese nationals. Moreover, the Angolan government pays the debt with oil, which China needs for its energetic industries. In 2008, Angola was the biggest exporter of its oil reserves to China followed by Saudi Arabia. It exported its 35,4% oil production to China¹².

Table 3. - Projects financed by the Chinese Eximbank

Domaine	Number of contracts	Cost (\$)
Health	9	206,100,425.42
Education	8	217,158,670.63
Electricity and water	8	243,845,110.58
Agriculture	3	149,753,214.00
Transport	1	13,840,468.00
Social communication	1	66,905,200.00
Public sector	1	211,684,100.65
Total	31	1,109,287,188.28

Table 3 shows some projects financed by LCC in early 2008
(Source : Campos & Vines, 2008)

Thanks to the flow of LCC, Angola has gained notable modern infrastructures. Four new sport stadiums were built in 2010 to host the African Cup of Nations. New urban villages (*centralidades*) are still being built all over the country. The tallest tower in Africa is also being

11 Indira CAMPOS and Alex VINES, "Angola and China: A Pragmatic Partnership", *Center for Strategic and International Studies*, 2008, p. 10.

12 Sofia FERNANDES, "China and Angola : A Strategic Partnership ?", in *China and Angola : A Marriage of Convenience ?*, Cape Town : Pambazuka Press, 2012, p. 71.

built in Luanda. With 325 meters tall and 70 floors as well as a budget of eight hundred million dollars, Torre Angola is located downtown. In the ranking follows Carlon Center with 223 meters tall and 50 floors and Ponte Investment with 173 meters tall and with 54 floors. These two buildings are situated in South Africa. New airports were constructed in the main cities of the country. Currently, the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) is building the new Luanda International Airport. The construction began in 2004 and is set to be completed in 2022. The budget is placed at 3.3 billion euros and its capacity is approximately 15,000,000 passengers per year. The airport will have two double runways and 31 sleeves. In its website, CITIC Construction, the Chinese Company that was previously involved in the construction, maintains that they have at hand the construction of the biggest airport in Africa¹³. The railways and the road heading to the airport are being built by Chinese Companies, too.

However, while the Chinese aid has contributed to the economic growth in Angola in terms of modern infrastructures, there is a need to evaluate whether China is benefiting more from this aid. First, the cost of oil that Angola is exporting to China compared to the cost of export in other countries seems to be higher. That is why the Angolan president, João Lourenço, recently said that Angola will stop offering oil as collateral for credit lines negotiated with China¹⁴. Second, according to the contract of the Chinese aid, 70% of the constructions would be done by Chinese Company, which means that the local companies would lose out in the contract paving the way to unemployment. Third, 50% of the material should be shipped from China and this implies that local companies would not benefit from selling their materials to the construction of these infrastructures. Fourth, 80% of workers would be Chinese nationals ; so, this would increase unemployment among the national youth. From the aforementioned, it is clear that the contract is tilted towards the benefit of the Chinese. The solution to this wretched state of affairs consists of reconsidering the contracts signed with China as well as fostering the know-how among the local people.

Impact on Migration

The Angolan economic growth was also felt at the level of immigration. The country was always an immigrant-sending country, but after the Luena Peace Agreement reached in 2002, the country's migration map began to change. Apart from the returnees, who had fled the war, two groups of international migrants headed to Angola. There were those who came under

13 CHINA INTERNATIONAL FUND LIMITED, "Airport Projects". <http://www.chinainternational-fund.com/projects1.asp?Id=283> (Checked 16/08/19).

14 Venâncio RODRIGUES, "Angola admite deixar de pagar dívida com petróleo, disse PR João Lourenço", *Opais*. <https://opais.co.ao/index.php/2019/03/27/angola-admite-deixar-de-pagar-divida-com-petroleo-disse-pr-joao-lourenco/> (Checked 22/10/19).

the government cover and were involved in the National Reconstruction Program. Most of them were westerns and had working permits as well as contracts signed in their countries of origin. The second group includes those who fled their countries because of economic hardship. Among these are the Congolese whose country was facing political and economic unrest ; the Ivoirians who fled their home because of the post-electoral dispute between Alassane Ouattara and Laurent Gbagbo ; and some Europeans, mainly from Spain and Portugal which were facing economic hardship¹⁵. In fact, while the Angolan economy was flourishing, most European countries were struggling with their economy. The third group comprises those who entered Angola illegally, others used forged papers and there were also those who came with tourism visas and remained behind after the expiry of their visas. This third group includes African immigrants. They have settled in the informal sector as money exchangers, traders as well as illegal diamond miners. At the moment, the country hosts 638.499 immigrants and 95.600 refugees and asylum seekers¹⁶. Despite the economic crisis which Angola has been facing since 2014, the number of immigrants is on the rise.

Table 4. - Migrants' flow to Angola (1990-2017)

Year	Immigrants (men)	Immigrants (women)	Immigrants	% Immigrants
2017	307,681	330,818	638,499	2,14%
2015	304,635	327,543	632,178	2,37%
2010	37,113	39,436	76,549	0,33%
2005	30,240	31,089	61,329	0,31%
2000	23,367	22,741	46,108	0,27%
1995	20,755	19,058	39,813	0,27%
1990	18,142	15,375	33,517	0,26%

Source : Expansión (2018)

Table 5. Angola migrant remittance

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Remittance sent (US\$ million)	38,9	43,4	43,7	44,9	44,7	43,1	42,7	46,9
Remittance sent (% GDP)	0,05%	0,04%	0,04%	0,04%	0,04%	0,04%	0,04%	0,04%
Remittance received (US\$ million)	18	0,2	0,2	0	11,1	11,1	11,1	4,2
Remittance received (% GDP)	0,02%	0%	0%	0%	0,01%	0,01%	0,01%	0%

Source : World Bank (2019)

15 Lisa ÅKESSON, *Postcolonial Portuguese Migration to Angola : Migrants or Masters ?*, London : Palgrave Macmillan, 2018, p. 102.

16 IOM, "Angola : Facts and Figures". <https://www.iom.int/countries/angola> (Checked 23/10/19).

Catholic Social Teaching's (CST's) Intuitions

The addresses of the Catholic Church on human development is traced back to Pope John XXIII's encyclical *Mater et Magistra*. According to the Pope, the role of the State consists "of promoting the production of a sufficient supply of material goods [...] of protecting the rights of all its people [...] working actively for the improvement of the conditions of the population"¹⁷. In other words, the State is responsible for the fostering of development. Similarly, the Second Vatican Council affirms that : "those who deprive their community of the material aid that it needs seriously endanger the common welfare"¹⁸. The Council Fathers set the ground for anthropocentric dimension of economic development. That one should be at "the service of man, and indeed of the whole man with regard to the full range of his material needs and the demands of his intellectual, moral, spiritual, and religious life"¹⁹. This is a new understanding of development both in economic and political ground. Considering the resources of Angola and the economic development which the country has registered soon after the civil war, no Angolan could suffer from neither hunger nor starvation if the focus was humanly centered. The infrastructures built with petrodollars could also have been better than those the country has gained.

Pope Paul VI's encyclical *Populorum Progressio* is the pre-eminent document on human development. The Church states that authentic development "cannot be restricted to economic growth alone. To be authentic, it must be well rounded ; it must foster the development of each man and of the whole man"²⁰. In this sense, beside the adjective *economic*, the document introduces a new feature about development : it should be *integral*.

Development is *integral* when it spreads itself out to all human capabilities, including the spiritual dimension. A country alone may have difficulty providing all these needs to its people. Pope Paul VI introduces another feature about development, that is, *solidarity*. No one "can be unaware of the fact that in some continents countless men and women are ravished by hunger and countless children are undernourished"²¹. Even though it could not meet its own people's needs, the Angolan government never stopped assisting others. The recent action of solidarity was completed in March 2019 during the Mozambique's typhoon Idai. To Mozambique, Angola sent over fifty tons of food and medicines, as well as doctors and security forces. The medicines and other supplies were meant to prevent epidemics.

Development should also be *exogenous*, and people must be empowered to become leaders of their own development. For that, the right for work

17 *Mater et Magistra*, 20.

18 *Gaudium et Spes*, 65.

19 *Gaudium et Spes*, 64.

20 *Populorum Progressio*, 15.

21 *Populorum Progressio*, 45.

should be guaranteed : “work is a good thing for man-a good thing for his humanity-because through work man not only transforms nature, but he also achieves fulfilment as a human being [...] becomes ‘more a human being’²². John Paul II’s encyclical *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* and Benedict XVI’s *Caritas in Veritate* build on Paul VI’s intuition. The first adds that development should be *ecological*²³. For Benedict XVI, development implies the rejection of guns’ trade, avoiding human trafficking and religious fundamentalism²⁴.

Pope Francis not only builds on his predecessors’ intuitions but brings in other features on how human development should be. In *Evangelii Gaudium*, the Pope affirms that “not to an economy of exclusion and inequality. Such an economy kills”²⁵. He condemns the ‘throw away’ culture which is now spreading”²⁶. The Pope also states that “not to share [motherland’s resources and] wealth with the poor is to steal from them and to take away their livelihood”²⁷. In this reflection, it is also clear and understandable that development is *global* and *egalitarian*. Pope John Paul II’s thought is rather clearer.

Collaboration in the development of the whole person and of every human being is in fact a duty of all towards all, and must be shared by the four parts of the world : East and West, North and South ; or, as we say today, by the different “worlds.” If, on the contrary, people try to achieve it in only one part, or in only one world, they do so at the prejudice of the others ; and, precisely because the others are ignored, their own development becomes exaggerated and misdirected²⁸.

‘*Laudato Si*’ suggests that true economic growth should always “lead to an integral development and an improvement in the quality of life”²⁹. In this encyclical, Pope Francis retrieves and develops Pope Paul VI’s intuition on the *ecological* dimension of development. This development fosters ‘ecological culture’³⁰ which, in turn, implies adopting “a circular model of production capable of preserving resources for present and future generations”³¹, improving “human environment and the natural environment”³² and “strengthening the conviction that we are one single human family”³³. Finally, in *Amoris Laetitia*, the Pope reflects on the effects of economic progress in the family.

22 *Laborem Exercens*, 9.

23 *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, 34.

24 *Caritas in Veritate*, 29.

25 *Evangelii Gaudium*, 53.

26 *Evangelii Gaudium*, 53.

27 *Evangelii Gaudium*, 57.

28 *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, 32.

29 *Laudato Si*, 46.

30 *Laudato Si*, 111.

31 *Laudato Si*, 22.

32 *Laudato Si*, 48.

33 *Laudato Si*, 52.

It should be kept in mind that ‘the family has the right to decent housing, fitting for family life and commensurate to the number of the members, in a physical environment that provides the basic services for the life of the family and the community’. The family is a good which society cannot do without, and it ought to be protected. ‘The Church has always held it part of her mission to promote the family’, especially today, when they are given scarce attention in political agendas. Families have the right ‘to be able to count on an adequate family policy on the part of public authorities in the juridical, economic, social and fiscal domains.’ At times families suffer terribly when, faced with the illness of a loved one, they lack access to adequate health care, or struggle to find dignified employment. ‘Economic constraints prohibit a family’s access to education, cultural activities and involvement in the life of society. In many ways, the present-day economic situation is keeping people from participating in society. Families, in particular, suffer from problems related to work, where young people have few possibilities and job offers are very selective and insecure³⁴.

Angola’s New Political Dispensation

The tools offered by CST can be applied to the Angolan context. The country had, and still has, resources that can change the lives of its people. The economic growth which the country had registered in the years after the war was more than enough to change people’s fate. Instead, the poor got poorer and the rich, richer. The health sector did not advance that much as it is shown in table 7. The only thing the country has done, about which we are not proud of, was to produce the richest African woman. Isabel dos Santos is the daughter of the former head of state and owns a fortune amounting to USD 2.2 billions³⁵. She controls the country’s mobile phone operator (Unitel) and Bank BIC. She has also several share certificates in Portugal’s telecommunications (NOS) as well as in the energy sector (Galp and Efacec). Till November 2017, Isabel was the CEO of Angolan Oil Company (Sonangol). She was appointed to that position by her father. Most of what she gained was acquired through her father’s favor. That is why she is no longer at ease with the new leadership headed by president João Lourenço. Though the social situation is still deteriorating, Lourenço’s crusade against corruption is flashing glimpse of hopes.

João Lourenço is the third president of Angola after the country’s independence and he was elected in the 2017 general elections. President Lourenço has not only inherited a country rich in human and natural resources, but also, he is facing one of the worst economic crises in its

34 *Amoris Laetitia*, 44.

35 Estelle MAUSSION, “Angola: Isabel dos Santos refuserait le rapatriement de ses capitaux à l’étranger, assure un journal portugais”, *Jeune Afrique*. <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/674868/economie/angola-isabel-dos-santos-refuserait-le-rapatriement-de-ses-capitaux-a-letranger-assure-un-journal-portugais/> (Checked 14/08/19).

history. From the social point of view, the country was, and is still, on the verge of collapse³⁶. First, the oil industry, the motor of the economy of the country, was shaken between lights and shadows. The price of the crude oil was below USD 45 per barrel. Second, inflation was 42% and the national currency *kwanza* had been devalued to 22%. Third, foreign currencies, like the dollar and the euro, had disappeared from the official circle ; yet they were abundant in the black market. Fourth, people could not get access to their foreign bank account and immigrants had their salaries frozen. Not less important, corruption earned alarming tentacles and government officials were never brought to justice.

However, Lourenço is creating an environment of trust, and therefore attracting foreign investments and aid. First, he launched the campaign to end the monopolies. An international contest to create a third mobile phone network service is already underway. Second, Lourenço approved of the Law 10/18, Law on the Private Investment, which excludes the obligation to have a national partner. Third, he created the investor visa which allows foreigners to invest in Angola. For those who do so in the countryside and whose investments create jobs opportunity for national citizens will be exempted from paying taxes. Fourth, he approved of the Presidential Decree 56/18 that simplifies the procedures for obtaining a tourist visa. Fifth, in his crusade against corruption, he passed the Law 9/18, the Law on Repatriation of Financial Resources Domiciled Abroad³⁷. The law encourages the return of financial capital which was taken out of the country illegally. Since the beginning of the operation, there were returned : 52 properties, 8 mobile assets, 15,681,000,000kz (USD 34,419,100), USD 313,000,000 and 9,629,000 €³⁸. Sixth, Lourenço has been traveling to several

36 The recent Pastoral Letter '*O tempo urge*' from the Bishops' Conference of Angola testifies it. The bishops state that the 2017 general elections brought many expectations. The hope of better life and to improve the social and economic atmosphere of the country was at stake. However, two years later, the situation has worsened. The economic indicators show that people's living conditions has deteriorated. The bishops suggest that the country should invest in agriculture as well as secure food stock for those places of the country which are always affected by hunger, starvation and drought.

37 Lourenço's combat against corruption has brought many former and actual government officials under arrest. One of the first to fall was José Filomeno dos Santos, the son of the former president of the country. Currently, he is waiting to be judged. The former Minister of Transport, Augusto Tomás, was also accused of corruption. On August 16, 2019 he was given a sentence of 14 years. At the moment, the one who is being judged is General José Maria, the former head of the state security. He is accused of taking at home military document of the fierce battle of Cuito Cuanavale. The battle took place between 1987 and 1988 in the Angola's town of Cuito Cuanavale and involved the country's warring sides as well as Cuban and South African troops. Moreover, there are several government officials or Lourenço's MPLA party members who are under house arrest and some are forbidden leaving the country. Right now, the sons of the former president of the country, starting from his elder daughter Isabel dos Santos, are all out of Angola. Apart from taking people by surprise, Lourenço's crusade against corruption, money laundering, embezzlement, fraud, bribery and other crimes has made him popular in Angola and beyond. People seem to back him, and the image of Angola is no longer like the one during Dos Santos' tenure.

38 JORNAL DE ANGOLA, "Estado recupera património imobiliário avaliado em mil milhões de dólares". <http://jornaldeangola.sapo.ao/politica/estado-recupera-patrimonio-imobiliario-avaliado-em-mil-milhoes-de-dolares> (Checked 23/10/19).

nations to convey that trust in person. Finally, to improve the human condition of vulnerable children, since August 2019, the government has launched *Programa Valor Criança* (Child Value Program) which is financed by the European Union. Under the program, each child gets 3,000 kz (USD 6) per month to cater for basic needs. Families with more than 3 children get 27,000 kz (USD 60). Due to the cost of living, this amount is too insignificant. Moreover, it is only provided every three months.

Concluding remarks

Throughout this article we have discussed how the economy of Angola had grown in the years after the civil war. The economic growth reached 16% per year. All of this was so thanks to the country's resources whose prices were high at the international market. Angola is the second oil producer in Africa, just after Nigeria, and the price of crude oil rose from USD 55 barrel per day to USD 134,55 barrel per day. The oil accounts 55% of the GDP and 95% of exports and government income. The signs of economic growth were perceived in several sectors. In the sector of construction, every corner of the country turned into a construction site many of which were controlled by the Chinese. Apart from new schools, Angola built new buildings, new hospitals, new sport stadiums, new roads, new bridges and new power stations. However, some of these social and economic infrastructures are already in bad conditions. The houses are leaking, the roads are full of potholes and the bridges are converted into open markets for people who are fighting to survive. Therefore, people's living conditions have not changed.

The economic growth which the country had achieved did not address people's needs and hope. The countless natural resources in the country seem not to have any impact on their life. People continue dying of hunger. Not until a Portuguese TV station showed some images of people starving that the local authority awoke from their sleep and redundant discourse. Water and electricity remain luxuries reaching only the very few ones. The greater majority lives with power cuts and rusty taps. Public hospitals have not improved that much, they continue offering poor services. In the pediatric hospitals, children are sharing beds and some are sleeping on the floor. Meanwhile, the government is set on the construction of the tallest building in the continent, but it is not concerned with building parks for people's entertainment neither of improving public transport to reach those buildings.

Since the State seems to be far from satisfying people's needs, the article sought some intuitions from the Catholic Social Teaching (CST). The key word the CST addresses this issue is 'development'. The state is the one tasked to ensure people's development. For the Church, the way

of measuring it is far beyond economics. Instead, it is humanly centered or anthropocentric. It is also integral, solidary, endogenous, sustainable, global and egalitarian. These features are found in Popes' encyclicals. Paul VI's encyclical *Populorum Progressio* brings the first references on integral and interdependent development. In other words, it should address people's whole dimension. John Paul II's *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* and Benedict XVI's *Caritas in Veritate* enrich Paul VI's intuition adding that development should also be ecological, sustainable, and the individual is the protagonist of his own development. Finally, Pope Francis will not only develop the idea of ecological development but also places it within the family context. If Angola wants to make good use of its resources, CST's features about development should be of much help. ■

PRÉVISIONS THÉMATIQUES POUR L'ANNÉE 2020

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