

Title:

**TRANSFORMING LIVES:**

**THE SOCIAL COMMITMENT OF THE MINERAL RESOURCES, OIL AND GAS SECTOR IN 2023**

*- In an increasingly challenging reality, the extractive industry is challenged to demonstrate the impact of its social investment*

**Sebastião Panzo\***



Cricia Matos, 17 years old, is being celebrated as one of the best athletes in the province of Moxico, in Eastern Angola, but her journey is worth more than the smile and friendliness that reveals her as one of the most valuable taekwondo practitioners.

"It is an honor and I feel very happy," she confesses.

She masters the Korean martial art, which is characterized as a personal defense practice based on techniques of kicks, punches, knee strikes, elbows, and hands.

Taekwondo is also a very popular sport around the world, being an Olympic sport since the Seoul Games in 1988.

"Taekwondo aims to promote the physical, mental, and spiritual development of practitioners, as well as the values of respect, discipline, self-control, and personal improvement," says Cricia Matos.

"It is a practice that can be done by people of all ages, both for sports practice and for self-defense," she adds.

Cricia Matos is one of the athletes representing Angola worldwide.

She represented, for example, Angola at the CPLP Youth Games, a sports competition that brings together young athletes from the Portuguese-Speaking Countries Community (CPLP), an event aimed at promoting integration and sports exchange among the youth of Lusophone countries, as well as encouraging sports practice and friendship among the participating nations.

The CPLP Youth Games are held every two years and feature sports such as athletics, swimming, judo, basketball, volleyball, among others.

Cricia Matos represents Angola in the African Regional Games, a sports competition that brings together athletes from different African countries such as South Africa,

Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, among others.

### **The transformation**

Cricia Matos is an example of how part of the revenues from the Angolan extractive industry is helping young people and communities in various domains of human activity and the survival of thousands of citizens throughout the country.

"She is one of our most valuable athletes," says Manuel Quitadica "Docas," president of Clube Desportivo Maquis, a sports group exclusively funded by SODIAM E.P, the Angola Diamond Trading Company.

"We have 65 athletes for taekwondo," says Docas.

During the period from 2017 to 2023, the Mineral Resources, Oil, and Gas Sector in Angola reported having transformed thousands of lives like Cricia Matos and they intend to do much more.

"The Sector is involved in the development of the Angolan population in various domains," says Alexandre Garreth, Director of Planning at the Ministry of Mineral Resources, Oil, and Gas (MIREMPET), at a meeting on social responsibility of companies and institutions in the sector.

Indeed, the Mineral Resources, Oil, and Gas Sector in Angola has played a crucial role in promoting the country's socioeconomic development through investments in social responsibility projects.

"In 2023, companies in the sector continued to demonstrate a strong commitment to the well-being of local communities, investing in areas such as health, education, economic and social development, among others," informs Alexandre Garreth.

### **Social investments**

From 2017 to 2023, the Mineral Resources and Oil and Gas sectors demonstrated, in a report, their commitment to social development by investing significant amounts in projects with a positive impact on communities.

In total, more than USD 565 million was invested in 860 projects in the areas of Health, Education, Economic and Social Development, and Environment/Biodiversity.

The Mineral Resources Sector invested a total of USD 235,857,347.28 in 317 projects, of which 238 have already been completed.

On the other hand, the Oil and Gas Sector invested USD 329,234,211.19 in 543 projects, with 451 completed so far.

Sonangol has been at the forefront in the petroleum sector.

"We have played a fundamental role in promoting sustainable development in Angola through our social responsibility program. Through the SONA-HEALTH, SONA-ENVIRONMENT, SONA-REVITALIZATION, and SONA-YOUTH programs, our company has contributed to improving the living conditions of communities in various regions of the country," says Manuel Dionísio, from Sonangol's communication department.

"As part of our SONA-YOUTH program, we, as Sonangol, have supported entrepreneurship and professional training for young people, through the implementation of vocational training programs, professional internships, and entrepreneurship kits donation. This action promotes the integration of young people into the job market and stimulates the development of micro and medium-sized enterprises in the country," Dionísio adds.

### **The legacy**

The social impact of the Mineral Resources, Oil, and Gas Sector is built, according to its leaders, daily.

So far, social responsibility investments have contributed to reducing social asymmetries, improving living conditions of populations, and promoting sustainable development in the country.

"It is essential to recognize the positive impact that these investments have on people's lives and communities, contributing to a more prosperous and equitable future for all. We hope that this commitment to social development continues to grow and strengthen the relationships between extractive companies and local communities," notes MIREMPET in the social report of the extractive industry.

Crícia Matos may be celebrated as one of the best athletes in the province of Moxico, but the industry wants more and will continue, according to its decision-makers, to share prosperity for all.

"It is a fight that we all must wage for our people," said Jânio Correa Victor, Secretary of State for Mineral Resources, representing Minister Diamantino Pedro Azevedo, at the social responsibility meeting.









