

Press Release

FACRA announces Angola's first investment fair

Government-backed Fundo Activo de Capital de Risco Angolano launches a raft of initiatives during to stimulate MSME sector in Angola

23rd January 2015, Luanda: The Angolan government-backed venture capital fund, FACRA, will hold its first investment fair in Luanda in the first quarter of 2015, as part of its efforts to provide funding opportunities for Angolan MSMEs or international businesses looking to expand in Angola. The announcement was made during the investment forum, FACRA Day, held yesterday in Luanda.

FACRA Day took place to help facilitate better engagement between local Angolan businesses and their international counterparts with the aim of supporting long-term value creation opportunities, promoting the creation of reliable partnership networks and strengthen their investment capabilities.

Commenting on the launch of the investment fair, Sérgio Serrão, President of FACRA, stated, "FACRA's investment fair underpins the Fund's objective to stimulate the country's MSME sector and boost the local economy - goals shared by the Angolan government. Angola is Sub-Saharan Africa's third largest economy and the government is working hard to diversify the economy and accelerate the rate of job creation."

"Supporting innovation is one of the main goals of FACRA, particularly in growing organizations operating in non-oil industries such as agriculture and technology, among others. FACRA is open for businesses. By funding innovative businesses in fast-growing sectors, FACRA can contribute to the creation of new products, innovation and jobs, in Angola".

The investment fair will also provide a platform for young businesses to meet with international investors and FACRA representatives. During the fair, FACRA aims to provide advice and guidance on how FACRA can help Angolan businesses to grow, how venture capital funds work and how a government-backed VC can offer much more than a traditional VC company or a bank, along with connecting local businesses with international MSMEs.

FACRA was launched by the government of Angola in order to provide an alternative source of capital for growing businesses that may be unable to secure funding from traditional sources such as banks. Thanks to its deep knowledge of the local marketplace, the Fund is also able to provide strategic advice and support on how to grow a business, advising on some of the biggest challenges that companies face as they expand.

With assets exceeding USD 250 million, FACRA also provides support to foreign investors looking to enter the Angolan market and aiming to create partnerships with promising Angolan companies.

During his speech at the closing of the Investment Forum FACRA Day, the Minister of Economy, Dr. Abrahão Pio dos Santos Gourgel stated that this fund, as a minority shareholder of the companies in which it invests, it provides a golden opportunity for the Angolan business to ensure stable capital and long-term financing, and to realize their potential and play their role in the economic growth of Angola.

The Investment Forum was attended by 160 people among FACRA experts, university teachers, entrepreneurs, public and private institutions, members of Diplomatic Corps accredited in Angola,

consultants, and others, who discussed "Venture Capital and its impact on emerging economies" and "FACRA as a Venture Capital Fund and its procedures."

About FACRA

The Fundo Activo de Capital de Risco Angolano (FACRA) is a public fund, created by the **Presidential Decree No. 108/12 of 7 June 2012**, focused on investing in Angolan Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME); in its creation, innovation and expansion of its business in Angola. FACRA offers to MSME a new investment platform and the opportunity to explore the vast Angolan market or expanding existing business or launching new initiatives.

To know more about the event, please contact the Fundo Activo de Capital de Risco Angolano: info@facra-angola.com, Tel: [00244 923 614 857](tel:00244923614857)