REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA

# OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

## MESSAGE FROM THE OMBUDSMAN OF ANGOLA AND PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN OMBUDSMAN AND MEDIATORS ASSOCIATION, ON THE OCCASION OF AFRICA DAY




**LUANDA, 2025**

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**MESSAGE FROM THE OMBUDSMAN OF ANGOLA AND PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN OMBUDSMAN AND MEDIATORS ASSOCIATION, ON THE OCCASION OF AFRICA DAY**

Honourable African Ombudsman and Mediators,

Today, 25 May, we mark Africa Day, a date of profound historical importance, which marks the foundation of the now defunct Organisation of African Unity, now the African Union, in 1963. The symbolic day represents the commitment of African peoples to the liberation, self-determination, solidarity, peace and development of our countries. Above all, it is a day to celebrate African identity and renew our commitment to building a fair, united and prosperous continent.

For us as African People, Africa Day has a special significance. Our history of struggle against colonial oppression is intertwined with the liberation movements that flourished across the African continent.

We are heirs to the courage of millions of Africans who gave their lives for a future of freedom and dignity. Today, that same courage must motivate us in the face of contemporary challenges such as poverty, social exclusion, conflicts, violations of citizens' fundamental rights and the consolidation of the democratic rule of law.

This is why the role of the Ombudsman is essential. As institutions for the promotion of fundamental rights and, other things equal, for the promotion of human rights, the Ombudsmen have the mission of protecting the rights, freedoms and guarantees of citizens, guaranteeing good public administration and ensuring that no one is left outside the justice system.

On our continent, where the democratisation of societies is still a work in progress, the Ombudsman is increasingly a bridge between citizens and public authorities.

As President of the Association of African Ombudsmen and Mediators (AOMA), I reiterate our organisation's commitment to promoting social justice, equity and institutional accountability across the continent. We work to strengthen the independence and effectiveness of Ombudsman institutions in Africa, ensuring that they are prepared to respond to the needs of citizens, particularly the most vulnerable.

On this Africa Day, it is imperative that we reaffirm the values of unity, solidarity and respect for the fundamental rights of citizens, because the

future of the continent depends on our ability to build strong, transparent and inclusive institutions. Peace and sustainable development will only be possible if we put human dignity at the centre of our policies and practices.

I conclude by inviting all Angolans and Africans to reflect, both as individuals and as institutions, on this day, on the role that each can play in consolidating a fairer and more resilient Africa. Active citizenship, mutual respect and commitment to the ideals of justice, equality and democracy must be the pillars of our collective action.

**OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN AND PRESIDENT OF THE AFRICAN OMBUDSMAN AND MEDIATORS, in Luanda, 25 May 2025.**

**THE OMBUDSMAN OF ANGOLA AND PRESIDENT OF THE OF AFRICAN OMBUDSMAN AND MEDIATORS ASSOCIATION,**

**ANTÓNIA FLORBELA ROCHA ARAÚJO**