

ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT JOSÉ EDUARDO DOS SANTOS DURING THE VISIT OF
PRESIDENT HUGO CHÁVEZ OF VENEZUELA

Luanda, 31 August 2006

It is with great pleasure that we are today receiving in our capital President Hugo Chávez and the delegation accompanying him.

I am certain that his visit will represent a decisive step in strengthening existing friendly relations between us, facilitated by the fact that the Venezuelan people have a rich combination of heritages, including an African one. Like Venezuela, Angola is made up of people of many origins and ethnic groups. We speak many languages of our own and Catholicism is the predominant religion.

All these aspects are important in bringing our peoples together and ensuring mutual understanding, at a time when we want to identify projects that help to strengthen mutually advantageous bilateral cooperation.

We have followed with interest the changes you have brought about since you have been at the helm of your country, which have been enormously supported by the Venezuelan people.

In a continent still marked by inequalities and penuries of all kinds, it is always salutary to see a policy geared to fighting underdevelopment and seeking a fairer distribution of national wealth.