

Government will use \$21 Million returned by Switzerland in demining

Luanda, 10/25 - The \$21 million returned by Switzerland to Angola will be used in demining activities and staff training, states a communiqué issued by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), which Angop had access.

The document refers that the measure is based on the terms of a bilateral agreement signed last November, in Luanda, between Angola and Switzerland aiming at finalising the programmes funded by the \$21 million (26.5 million Swiss Franc or Euro 16,7 million) returned by Switzerland to Angola.

"On the contrary to what has been reported by some media organs, there is no Angolan private or public money frozen in Switzerland", points out the source, adding that the two partners are about to finalise the execution of humanitarian programmes in the fields of personnel training and landmines clearance activities.

"Anxious for putting again the country's economy on stable and lasting basis, the Angolan Government should, above all, carry out the urgent needs of demining the country", states the communiqué.

SDC confirms that the rumours published by some Spanish and Portuguese media, stating that the Angolan funds were still blocked in Switzerland, are groundless, and it considers that this kind of speculations may only harm the good relations between the two countries.

It also reminds that the \$21 million released last year by the Geneva Justice never belonged to the Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and its restitution had been negotiated by the Swiss authorities and the African nation's Government officials.

For more information, SDC asks those interested to contact its spokesperson Jean-Philippe Jutzi, at 079 292 08 49, e-mail: jean-philippe.jutzi@deza.admin.ch.