

President Dos Santos receives Message from Kenyan Counterpart on the crisis in Somalia



Luanda, 01/16 - A message about the situation currently faced by the region of the horn of Africa, was delivered this Tuesday in Luanda to the Angolan Head of State, José Eduardo dos Santos.

The message was delivered by George Saitoti, who came to Luanda with this purpose in his capacity of special envoy of the Kenyan President, Mwai Kibaki.

"In general, (...) I came to Angola in order to update the President of Angola of the situation prevailing in the horn of Africa, that is in Somalia, which is extremely worrying", George Saitoti told journalists at the end of the audience.

He referred that this situation does not only worry the African continent, but the whole international community.

The Kenyan diplomat assured that President Dos Santos "is one of the great leaders of Africa who is capable of helping to solve conflicts on the continent, including Somalia".

Angola, in the light of its own history, can give an important assistance for the solving of the Somali crisis, informed George Saitoti.

Recently, the International Somalia Contact Group (ISCG) accepted to gather financial aid for the urgent sending of peacekeeping forces to this country and urged donors to help stabilise the nation, after the victory of Government troops supported by Ethiopian forces over the combatants of the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC).

The Contact Group urged the Somali government to open negotiations with moderate Islamic groups, the only guarantee of a lasting peace in the country, deprived of a functional government since President Mohamed Siad Barre was deposed in 1992.

This group is made up of representatives of the African Union (AU) and of the European Union (EU), among others.