

Angola dances to the Blue tune

By [Pedro de Gouveia](#)

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In Africa, there are few countries in which the ubiquitous red and white colours of Coca-Cola haven't been plastered across billboards, buildings and banners to epitomise "Cocacolonisation" by the world's biggest soft drink brand.



Coca-Cola was recently measured as the world's most valuable brand by Interbrand. They valued it at cool \$66,667 million. Not bad for a bit of coloured carbonated sugar water!

However, Atlanta's mega marketing soft drink machine has failed to wrestle the number one position in Angola's rapidly growing soft drinks market. This can be viewed as a failure of note in a country with a young, fast growing population, and the fastest growing economy in the world thanks to the pouring in of Petro Dollars in return for the other globally popular

liquid, Oil.

Angola is oppressively hot throughout the year thanks to being in the shadow of the Equator. These are all good enough reasons for launching and establishing cold liquid refreshment brands in this land of thirst. Refriango, a soft drinks Angolan company founded with Portuguese and Angolan investment in a production plant in 2002 has filled this gap in the market.

Refriango has a production capacity of 200 million litres per year and employs 428 Angolan, Portuguese and Brazilian workers. This is above average in the African continent. In February 2005 it launched a carbonated soft drink - Blue in seven flavours. Refriango quickly achieved wide grass roots distribution throughout Luanda and other big cities and towns like Lobito, Benguela, Soyo, Huambo and Lubango.

Today these soft drink cans and the modern, trendy eye-catching imagery adorns walls, store signage, umbrellas and painted sides of buildings, that can be seen in the CBD, suburbs and townships of every city.



Every where you look, you will see people selling Blue; be it in tiny stores or stalls, at markets, in independent city stores or at vendors with refrigerated carts selling their beverages at busy intersections. The price on the street is 50 Kwanza per can, which is approximately R3,80. It's even cheaper at the Shoprite and Usave stores found in Luanda and Lobito.

The current advertising theme is centred around music and dancing, two of Angola's favourite passions and past-times as per the billboard that reads, "When the body wants to dance, ask for Blue"

Good old Blue must surely make Coca-Cola green with envy.

ABOUT PEDRO DE GOUVEIA

Pedro de Gouveia is GM of Salient Strategic Advertising and Design, which opened its doors in March 2006. The agency has more than 80 years of accumulated management experience acquired from within the South African advertising and marketing industry. Clients include Red Security, Shoprite, Caturra, Hungry Lion, Boss Paving, International Academy of Health and Skin Care and OFRA Cosmetics (USA).

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