

Brewer Resists Financial Pressure

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The production levels of the "Eka" brewery remain at five million liters per month, despite the adverse economic situation that the country has lived in the last two years, the director-general said yesterday.

At the Castel Angola Group, the management of the factory bet on the improvement of its services, being bottled the beverage in containers (bottles) returnable, mini non-returnable and canned "sleek". *Eka*, a traditional beer with roots in Dondo, in northern Cuanza province, takes away the possibility of internationalization, Marc Meyer said, in an interview with Angop. *"Considering the contracting of the market, Eka reduced its production in 2015, but we have had a satisfactory recovery, as a result of the measures taken by the Castel Group"*, he said, without having taken steps to increase levels of production.

Until the end of last year, according to the Director of the company, *Eka's* investments were about 50 million kwanzas, made to continue to respond to the current requirements of the market.

In the framework of this investment, the brewer has launched the new sleek can, which cools the drink faster, according to the source. *"During the 45 years, Eka went through several phases and investments were made to meet the needs of the market, and we continue to invest,"* he said. Without specifying the turnover of *Eka*, the official said that the company represents about five percent of the turnover of the Castel Group. As for competition from the Angolan market, the Director-General said it was "very gratifying" to receive from consumers the reinforcement of the taste preference. "Competition is healthy in any market, and this will not be different here in Angola," he said.

With 176 employees already at the time, Eka had an initial productive capacity of 150 thousand hectoliters per year. In 1972, the factory was inaugurated by the then governor-general of the Province of Angola, Roboxo Vaz.

The brewery went through several stages in terms of enlargement and modernization, moving from manual to automatic through the installation of state-of-the-art technology in all sectors, whose investment was budgeted at \$ 30 million.

Source: Angop