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Havana, Oct 21 (RHC) The Minister of Public Health of Cuba, José Ángel Portal, expressed gratitude to Angola for its unwavering support in the face of the economic, commercial, and

financial blockade imposed by the United States.

During the inauguration of the new hospital in Cuanza Sul, named after Comandante Raúl Díaz Argüelles, Portal emphasized the strong collaboration between the two countries in the field of healthcare, and reiterated the commitment to continue the joint work.

He highlighted the friendship between the two nations, built on mutual solidarity and respect, and reflected on the shared challenges and triumphs over the years.

During the ceremony, Angolan Minister of Health Silvia Lutucuta underlined the strategic partnership between Angola and Cuba. She expressed gratitude for the support provided by the island in this territory over time.

Currently, 1,243 Cuban medical professionals are serving in Angola, with over 16,500 since the beginning of cooperation. This includes contributions to the training of human resources in both countries, with 1,646 alumni and 52 continuing their studies.

Lutucuta emphasized the facilities of the new hospital, which has a capacity of 200 beds and provides services in pediatrics, hemodialysis, gynecology, obstetrics, otology, ophthalmology, surgery, orthopedics, cardiology, intensive care, mammography, and imaging. Over 1,100 employees, including 20 Cuban doctors, will provide care for the population of Cuanza Sul in this state-of-the-art facility.

During the ceremony, a tribute was paid to Raúl Díaz Argüelles, the first leader of the Cuban mission in Angola who passed away on December 11th, 1975, after a vehicle he was traveling in collided with an anti-tank mine.

Natacha Diaz-Argüelles, daughter of the combatant, participated in the ceremony as part of a Cuban delegation, which also included Major General Ramón Pardo Guerrero and other Cubans who fought for Angolan independence and territorial integrity. (Source: Prensa Latina)

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