

Artisanal fishermen will have access to **50%** non-refundable credit

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Africa-Press – Cape verde. Artisanal fishermen will have access to a 50% non-repayable loan, granted by the Government, through an agreement signed with micro-finance institutions. The guarantee was given this Saturday by the delegation of the Ministry of the Sea for the Southern Region.

Vera Gominho spoke to Inforpress about the celebration of the National Fisherman's Day, which is celebrated today, February 5th, in all fishing towns in Cape Verde, under the motto "We Love the Sea".

According to this official, in the first public notice, this ministry has invested in the fibering of vessels, and is still in the process of delivering some already fibered, so that they can have greater navigation safety and a longer life span.

"In the second public notice, we signed an agreement with the micro-finance institutions that allows artisanal fishing operators to access a 50% non-refundable credit, which is shared by the Ministry of the Sea", he advanced.

With this, as explained by Vera Gominho, operators in this sector will be able to repair their vessels, buy engines, diving equipment and thermal and refrigerated bags, with easier access to credit.

Infrastructure in fishing communities

In addition, work is underway on the issue of the infrastructure of fishing communities, whether on the rehabilitation of social technical centres, support for associations with regard to stores selling fishing materials and the acquisition of installations for new ice production units in some localities.

The delegate added that they also intend to work on improving infrastructure, namely in the construction of piers and boats for artisanal fishing and also projects that will help fishermen in hauling boats in a more facilitated condition.

In terms of Cape Verde, as reported by Vera Gominho, in terms of active vessels, according to data from 2021, artisanal fishing recorded 1,434 boats, 3,020 fishermen and 1,881 fish sellers. In terms of semi-industrial fishing, there are 72 vessels operating.

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