

# D.R. CONGO NEWS

Latest news, events, and announcements



**The Chairperson of the African Union, Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi, attended the opening of the extraordinary summit of ECCAS Friday, June 4 in Congo Brazzaville.**

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## **Volcano erupts in eastern D.R. Congo, Goma...**

**The DR Congo president, Felix Tshisekedi says situation is 'under control' after the volcano eruption**

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**Support for disaster-stricken populations and follow-up of the state of siege, Prime Minister Sama Lukonde flew with a delegation of 12 ministers to Goma to provide assistance to the victims**

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**WELCOME to the second issue of our newsletter D.R. CONGO NEWS**

We are pleased to say that our first issue was a roaring success, but even then, we noticed we needed to do a few corrections and improvements.

However, all in all, we're pretty satisfied with the result - let's hope this second one lives up to the first! As we start off our second issue, coronavirus is still taking people's lives and has changed the way we all live across the globe and forced us to work from home.

We have had a great response to the first issue and want to thank all of you who have taken the time to write or talk to us about it. We really appreciate your opinion on us and what we do, so please get in touch if you have comments on any aspect of the newsletter.

Despite all the challenges, we are thrilled that our first issue of D.R. CONGO NEWS had received massive support from you. However, we are still improving, and we hope that you will see this improvement in the coming issues.

**MOSSI NYAMALE Rosette**  
*Ambassador*

## POLITICS

## National Assembly: 336 national deputies out of a total of 337 voters voted for the organic law on the functioning of the Independent National Electoral Commission, "CENI"



**Kinshasa, June 04, 2021 (ACP) .-** National deputies voted, Friday, by an overwhelming majority, the organic law on the functioning of the Independent National Electoral Commission, (CENI), during the plenary session of the National Assembly led by its president, Christophe Mboso N'Kodia, at the People's Palace, in the municipality of Lingwala.

The President of the National Assembly who reported to the plenary on the results of the vote on the organic law, declared that 336 deputies out of a total of 337 voters voted "yes" , one deputy voted "no" and no deputy voted abstention.

Therefore, added Christophe Mboso N'Kodia Puanga, this bill will be sent to the Senate for a second reading. *"You have just provided the country with an important tool which governs the functioning of the CENI. Everything is ready to go to the elections in 2023 "* said Christophe Mboso N'Kodia Puanga to the national deputies before sending them his thanks for their diligence at work and their patriotism.



## POLITICS

## President Tshisekedi appoints Faustin Luanga as Goodwill Ambassador

**Under a presidential order made public, on Friday, June 4, 2021, Professor Faustin Luanga Mukela is appointed Roving Ambassador of the Head of State of Congo, Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, in charge of monitoring international organizations.**

Former official of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Faustin Luanga is the Democratic Republic of Congo's candidate for the Executive Secretariat of the Economic Community of Southern African States (SADC).

Doctor of economics trained in Japan, **Faustin Luanga** is a specialist in international trade.

Faustin Luanga has more than 25 years of experience both nationally and internationally in relation to issues related to the development of countries.

He is a fine expert of the state apparatus having previously assumed the functions of Economic and Development Advisor to the former President of the Republic Joseph Kabila.

Without delay, **Faustin Luanga** must fight hard to allow the Democratic Republic of the Congo to obtain the African seat of non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the years 2022 and 2023.

**By the editorial**

## POLITICS

## Lualaba: Vaccination campaign against COVID-19 launched by Minister Jules Kabwit records more success, "more than 1000 volunteers vaccinated in 1 week"



The Provincial Minister of Health, Jules Kabwit supervising the vaccination against Covid-19 in a vaccination center in Kolwezi.

The vaccine campaign against Covid-19 in the DRC continues in several regions most affected by this global pandemic.

In the province of Lualaba, launched on Saturday May 22 by the provincial minister of health in the province of Lualaba, **Mr Jules Kabwit**, the vaccination campaign against Covid-19 records several volunteers, the number continues to increase by day to day.

According to a dispatch from the vaccination team reaching [Oeildupeople.com](http://Oeildupeople.com), more than 1,000 people have been vaccinated for a week now.

The provincial Minister of Health, **Jules Kabwit** mobilized the teams for the success of this vaccination campaign which tends to reach a greater number of the vaccinated to protect the greatest number of the population against the coronavirus. Last Friday, Minister Jules Kabwit was with the response team in the city of Fungurume a few tens of kilometers from the town of Kolwezi to continue with the vaccination. The municipality of Fungurume, the second agglomeration center of Lualaba, is home to several workers (Congolese and foreigners) from mining companies, but also several artisanal miners.

With 335 new people vaccinated in the Kinshasa and provincial sites, the cumulative figure provided as of Wednesday, May 11, 2021 is 8,446 people vaccinated in the DRC with the first dose of the Vaxzevria vaccine (ex Astra Zeneca)

Since the launch in Kinshasa of the vaccination campaign on April 19, 2021, the DRC had exceeded the bar of 10,000 people vaccinated in one month according to the vaccination center.

The DRC tested this Friday, May 28, 2021, 230 samples, and 30 tested positive for Covid-19, as the daily bulletin of the technical secretariat of the response to Covid-19 informs. These cases are distributed as follows: 27 in Kinshasa, 2 in Haut-Uélé and 1 in Haut-Katanga.

No case of death has been recorded on this date. 11 new people came out of Covid-19 treatment centers and among patients followed at home, including 4 in Haut-Uélé, 4 in Kinshasa and 3 in North Kivu.

Since the start of the epidemic declared on March 10, 2020, the cumulative number of cases is 31,416, including 31,415 confirmed cases and 1 probable case. In total, there were 782 deaths and 27,665 people cured.

## POLITICS

## **The Minister of Finance, Nicolas Kazadi announces the possibility of another support of 1.5 billion USD from the IMF, at the initiative of the G20 ... "against the shocks of the COVID19 pandemic"**

The Minister of Finance, **Nicolas Kazadi Kadima** who participated in the meeting of the Council of Ministers this Friday, May 28, 2021, which was chaired by the Head of State, Félix Antoine Tshisekedi, welcomed the outcome of the discussions with the International Monetary Fund .

The new head of finance, **Nicolas Kazadi** notes that the credits that will be released will ensure, on the one hand, support for the balance of payments, and on the other hand, budget support.

*"The absorption of this amount in seven installments will be conditioned by a semi-annual review to allow the two parties to take stock of the good management of the resources made available". Said the Minister of Finance*

He also announced the possibility of another support of 1.5 billion US dollars from the International Monetary Fund IMF, at the initiative of the G20, to allow African economies to cope with the shocks of the Coronavirus pandemic. He applauded the upward trend in public revenues mobilized by the financial authorities, particularly the Directorate General of Taxes (DGI).

*The General Directorate of Customs and Excise (DGDA), for its part, experienced a decline in its achievements compared to its forecasts because of the paralysis of economic activities due to the volcanic eruption of Nyiragongo. He stressed.*

**By the editorial**

## POLITICS

## The President of the Republic, Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi, chaired this Friday, the 5th Council of Ministers of the Sama Lukonde government



His Excellency the President of the Republic, Head of State, **Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo**, chaired by videoconference, this Friday, May 28, 2021, the fifth meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Government of the Republic headed by His Excellency, Mr. Sama Lukonde Kyenge, Prime Minister.

The Council of Ministers essentially revolved around the Nyiragongo volcanic eruption.

The communication of the President of the Republic focused mainly on the situation prevailing in North Kivu marked, since May 22, by the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano and its consequences.

Strongly touched by this tragedy, the President of the Republic who has supervised every government action since, asked the Government to redouble its efforts to better take charge of the humanitarian situation. He urged the Government to continue efforts to preserve the safety and well-being of the population in the various reception areas.

In addition, he instructed the Government to put an end to all forms of harassment as denounced by the populations of North Kivu.

*"Anyone identified as responsible for these deviations will be punished immediately and severely."* **President Tshisekedi Said.**

## **President Tshisekedi wish to Create a public service of civil protection and disaster**

The President **Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo** expressed the wish to see the Government create a real public service of civil protection and disaster prevention to allow the Republic to have the appropriate framework that allows it to take precautions upstream and focus its interventions on the ground.

Regarding the risks that weigh in particular on Lake Kivu, he instructed the Minister of Hydrocarbons to do everything possible to get in touch with the operator who is to start degassing work on Lake Kivu and the Gulf of Kabuno.

On the security front, the President of the Republic praised the constant efforts of the new military authorities in the provinces of Ituri and North Kivu to defeat the enemy. He asked the Government to seize the Parliament to obtain an extension of 15 days in order to allow our officers to continue the deployment of their plans.

Several other points were dealt with during the Council of Ministers, the security, health, financial, economic situation, etc. made subject of information by the ministers concerned.

The minutes of this 5th meeting of the Council of Ministers were read by the Minister of Communication and spokesperson for the government.

**By the editorial**



## TOURISM

## **GOMA: The Nyirangongo Volcano, measuring 3470 m, is more than 34 eruptions with several consequences (Editorial)**



*Saturday, May 22, 2021, the Democratic Republic of the Congo experienced a worst natural disaster, an eruption of the Nyirangongo volcano in Goma towards the evening.*

*Measuring 3,470 meters, the Nyirangongo Volcano is more than 34 eruptions since the last recorded sighting in 1882. The best known are those of 1977 and 2002 which killed 600 and 250 people respectively. Its last eruption dates back to February 2002, after that of 1977 according to the volcanic observatory of Goma (OVG).*

The first two eruptions are the most serious because of the consequences caused on the local population and the environment.

On January 17, 2002, early in the morning, the Nyirangongo volcano erupted. Two years earlier, scientists from the Goma Volcanological Observatory (OVG) had alerted RCD officials to a possible eruption of this volcano whose lava lake activities were intense, but not monitored for lack of adequate equipment.

At 9 a.m. that day, scientists who flew over the area announced that the lava flow was heading towards Rwanda in the eastern part of the volcano and another towards western Goma. And they reassured the inhabitants of this city of Goma about its safety.

But, around 4 p.m., surprise, the lava that passed through the cracks formed by this volcano came out at three different places, including at Goma airport.

It was this flow that destroyed at least 40% of the economic fabric of the city and part of the airstrip of the airport. At least 50 schools have been destroyed, health centers, pharmacies, part of the urban road network, as well as several residential houses. At least 100 people were killed in the explosion of a fuel tank that was close to lava.



## **The deadliest volcanic eruption in the DRC (at the time of Zaire)**

The January 1977 volcanic eruption was the deadliest in the history of this volcano. More than two thousand people were killed within minutes, according to local sources.

The eruption of Nyiragongo occurs every 20 years, say scientists. It is among the most active volcanoes in the Kivu region as well as the Nyamulagira. The latter, located 5 km north of Nyiragongo, erupts each year, thus dumping its lava into Virunga National Park, far from homes.

The volcanic eruption causes significant human and environmental damage.

The recent eruption of the Nyirangongo volcano which took place yesterday Saturday evening has already caused the loss of human life, a woman and her child are said to have died burned alive in the lava flows. Pending the government's official report, local sources confirm this information. A photo of a charred woman and her child has been circulating since this morning on social networks.

overnight, more than 7,000 people fleeing the volcanic eruption in Goma fled to neighboring Rwanda, according to the Rwandan government. This morning, some began to return to Goma with the help of the Rwandan government, which made free transport buses available.

According to local corroborating sources, several hundred houses were set in ashes by the lava flows. A humanitarian situation is serious, the government has put in place an emergency plan to help the populations. The President of the Republic, Félix Antoine TSHISEKEDI even interrupted his stay in Europe to return to the country to manage this crisis.

The ecological, environmental and humanitarian consequences of the eruption of the Nyirangongo volcano are serious, indicates a Coordinator of a citizen movement from Goma, who invites the authorities to provide emergency support to displaced families and those who have lost their homes.

**By the editorial**

## DEPLOMACY



## **MALI: The President of the African Union, Félix Tshisekedi condemns the arrest of the Malian President and demands his unconditional release**

The Head of State, Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, current Chairperson of the African Union, heard about dismay of the arrest, in Mali, of the President of the transition, Bah N'daw and his Prime Minister, Moctar Ouane, by soldiers.

The President Tshisekedi is Strongly condemning any action aimed to destabilizing Mali, according to the presidency's announcement.

President Tshisekedi calls on all actors in the Malian political transition to restraint as well as to respect the constitution.

It demands the immediate and unconditional release of the arrested personalities.

The President of the African Union believes that everything must be done to preserve the stability of Mali and consolidate peace in the sub-region.

## **Malian Crisis: AU President Félix Tshisekedi met on Tuesday with his counterpart from Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo, President of ECOWAS**

The Head of State, Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, current President of the African Union met on Tuesday with his counterpart from Ghana, President Nana Akufo-Addo, current President of the Economic Community of the States of the West Africa, on the situation in Mali.

The President of ECOWAS, reacting to President Tshisekedi's position demanding the release of the Malian personalities arrested, announces that a delegation is going, as of today, to Bamako (Mali) in order to inquire into the real situation on ground.

On the return from the said mission leading the former Nigerian President, Goodluck Jonathan, Presidents Tshisekedi and Nana Akufo-Addo will give a more in-depth look at the Malian matter.

## ECONOMY

## Excellency Madame Fifi Masuka kicked off the work of the international conference on natural and environmental resources in Kolwezi

By the editorial



From May 27 to 29, 2021, an international conference on natural and environmental resources is being held in Kolwezi in the province of Lualaba, organized by the University of Lubumbashi in collaboration with the University of Kolwezi under the high patronage of the Interim Governor of Lualaba, Her Excellency Madame **Fifi Masuka Saini**.

The main theme chosen for these meetings was: "Africa's contribution and counterpart to the contemporary development of humanity".

Governor Fifi Masuka kicked off the conference bringing together leading scientists. Madame Fifi Masuka Saini was entitled to military honors and was then welcomed by the intellectual elite mainly composed of the faculty of the various higher and university institutions of Haut-Katanga, Lualaba and elsewhere.

The Rector of the University of Lubumbashi, Mr. Gilbert Kishiba Fitula, in his introductory remarks, gave the quintessence of this highly scientific work which brings together several professors and researchers from all over the world. The main objective is to support the Head of State during his mandate at the head of the African Union.

It should be noted that the President of the Republic, Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo is represented at these meetings by his adviser to the college of education and scientific research, who praised this initiative and the head start of the universities of greater Katanga.

For her part, Mrs. Fifi Masuka Saini, during her speech, invited the audience to observe a minute of silence in memory of the victims of the volcanic eruption of Goma in the Province of North Kivu.

Mrs. **Fifi Masuka**, at the same time, paid tribute to the President of the Republic, **Félix Antoine TSHISEKEDI** for the efforts made to obtain a lasting peace in the eastern part of our country.

The Provincial Authority also encouraged the intellectual elite gathered on this occasion, to work in all serenity to achieve a positive result.

Several personalities took part in the opening ceremony. Among them: the provincial deputies, members of the provincial governments of Lualaba and Haut-Katanga, the Mayor of Kolwezi, the mayors of these two provinces and many others.

These meetings are a response from the scientists of the Katanga Space to the wish expressed by the Head of State when he first arrived in Lualaba a few days ago. During his various communications, the Head of State insisted on the win-win partnership between the Congolese State and mining companies with the emphasis on improving the living conditions of the population.

By the editorial

## ECONOMY

## The Businessmen of the Egyptian Consortium EGAAD meet President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi



President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, met on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, in his office at the city of the African Union in Kinshasa, a group of Egyptian businessmen representing the Egyptian Consortium of Egyptian African Arab Co for Development (EGAAD), led by Mr. Reda Boulos, came "to examine the possibilities of working in synergy with the Congolese in investments in several areas, in a win-win partnership". Reports the Communication Unit of the Head of State.

*"The two parties, Congolese and Egyptian, will henceforth work in a system of knowledge transfer and sharing of know-how", underlined Reda Boulos, adding that he offered his condolences to the President of the Republic in memory of the Congolese. died following the recent volcanic eruption in Goma and Nyiragongo territory.*

This consortium of Egyptian companies will operate in various fields including mining, construction, sustainable development, renewable energy, roads, fiber optics and construction in Kinshasa, of the new Kitoko city.

This visit, it is recalled, follows the various contracts signed last February by the Congolese government in Egypt, during the last visit of the Head of State, Félix Antoine Tshisekedi, in Cairo. This Egyptian consortium has therefore come to respond to this commitment to work now in the DRC under the auspices of President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo.

Regarding the start of work, Réda Boulos reassured that this will take place within a month with the start of work on the 10 Mega Watts photovoltaic station in Mbuji- Mayi in the province of Kasai Oriental.

Other projects will follow, such as the construction of the new Kitoko city for which studies are continuing so that it meets modern urban planning standards. The first stone could probably be laid next year to mark the effective start of the work, concluded the Egyptian businessman.

**By the editorial**



**The Minister of Mines, Antoinette N'SAMBA had an exchange with the Egyptian billionaire, Naguib Sawaris, who is keen to invest in the mining sector in the DRC**

The Minister of Mines, Antoinette N'Samba Kalamбайi spoke with a delegation of Egyptian businessmen led by the man Naguib Sawaris on Monday, May 24, 2021. This meeting with the number 1 mines in the DRC and Egyptian investors revolved around investment in the mining sector was at the center of their discussions.

The Head of the delegation, Egyptian businessman, Mr. Naguib Sawaris and Egyptian billionaire is keen to invest in the Democratic Republic of Congo in several areas, more specifically in the mining sector. More than 15 years after his last visit to the DRC, the Egyptian billionaire Naguib Sawaris decides to explore, exploit and produce more minerals in the gold industry.

In return, the Minister is waiting for the necessary documents from this firm which will enable the government to provide her with support.

**By the editorial**

## FOLK

## **VOLCAN: The President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi recognizes the extent of the tragedy but reassures the control of the situation**

**Felix Antoine TSHISEKEDI, President of the DRC in front of the press on the humanitarian crisis in Goma after volcanic eruption. Saturday May 29 in Kinshasa.**

Speaking to the press, on Saturday, May 29, 2021, after an audience granted to members of the government mission dispatched to Goma who came to report to him, the President Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo is reassuring in his remarks in connection with the management of the disaster caused by the volcanic eruption of Nyirangongo. **"The situation is under control"**, he allowed himself to declare while acknowledging the scale of the humanitarian drama currently raging in Goma and the surrounding area, which requires adequate care.

### **Stay alert and listen to scientists**

*"I want to go and see first-hand the organization of this support for our compatriots but also bring them comfort and support", he said, not without inviting his compatriots in the East to be vigilant. since the spectre of danger has not yet completely moved away from Goma and its surroundings. "What is certain is that today, the lava is no longer on the crater, but the volcano remains active. We must remain wary. We are following the scientists and we do not want to rush things," said the President while expressing some reservations about the imminent return of the displaced who have reached the surrounding territories or neighbouring Rwanda.*

*"I strongly advise against it. We at this stage do not yet have information allowing us to authorize the return. We're not sure yet. Scientists must reassure us 100%. Even if there is still 1% uncertainty, I will not want the population to come back," said President Félix Tshisekedi clearly referring to the underground lava flow that can spurt out at anytime and anywhere in the city, in addition to the risk of explosion caused by the masses of gas contained in Lake Kivu.*

### **Call for national mobilization**

In addition, the Head of State launched a vibrant appeal for help and solidarity to compatriots from all corners and corners of the country to come to the aid of the disaster-stricken population of Goma through gestures of generosity that can relieve so much. do little to hurt hearts in these difficult times. At the same time, he denounced a certain campaign of intoxication tending to make the public believe that the events were beyond the control of the authorities. Humanitarian aid is already reaching the victims, especially in Sake where there has been distribution of food to the needy, said the Head of State.

Very concerned by the damage caused by this humanitarian disaster, the President of the Republic expressed his wish to go immediately, in the company of the First Lady, to the province of North Kivu in order to forge a real conviction in relation to the situation on the ground. This will be effective as soon as the airports currently closed are reopened to air traffic, he added, impatiently awaiting the go of the Civil Aviation Regulatory Authority.

## FOLK

## Support for disaster-stricken populations and follow-up of the state of siege: PM Sama Lukonde arrived in Goma at the head of a large government delegation



The Prime Minister, **Jean Michel Sama Lukonde Kyenge**, arrived on Saturday June 5 in Goma in the province of North Kivu, with a strong delegation of 12 members of the Government to provide support to the populations, victims of the harmful effects of the volcanic eruption and follow up on the implementation of the state of siege.

The Head of Government of the Sacred Union of the Nation said he was first of all the bearer of a message of comfort to this population of Goma.

"I am happy to be able to be here in Goma to bring a message of support. Since May 22, after the volcanic eruption and subsequently the seismic movements that have not stopped, the population of Goma has found itself first totally displaced and then partially displaced for certain neighborhoods. Since that time, we at the government level have been affected by the situation in Goma. We started by bringing in a delegation of members of the Government to take stock of the situation. Following this ministerial delegation, we in turn decided to come and bring a message of support to this population of Goma who, beyond the security abuses, had to face this natural disaster", **Jean Michel Sama Lukonde said**, as soon as he got off the plane at Goma airport.



**FOLK**

The prime minister was also the bearer of the support message of President Tshisekedi in favor of the displaced populations of Goma and immersed in their situation.

"Bring a message of support from the President of the Republic, His Excellency Félix Antoine Tshilombo who called on all our compatriots to be alongside this population of Goma even those who are beyond the borders to be able to support them.

We also came to realize the situation in which these displaced populations find themselves in Minova, Sake, on the Rushuru axis in Kibumba, in South Kivu too, to see the state in which they are, to make sure that they can be in the most optimal conditions possible ", **Prime Minister Sama Lukonde, said.**

The prime minister braved all risks by inaugurating, with this humanitarian visit, the resumption of flights to this Goma airport closed because of volcanic larvae.

Equally, he had the right words to salute the support of various friendly and brotherly countries for their various supports, both material and financial.

"We appreciate the help provided by our partners, in particular the countries that sympathize with us, but also MONUSCO, all United Nations agencies and humanitarian workers. I would also like to say thank you to all our compatriots who kindly welcomed all these families who found themselves outside. We hope that we will continue to have the best conditions so that the populations return to Goma" **He added.**

## **Nyiragongo: Sama Lukonde realized the damage caused in the water and electricity sectors**

After visiting the pharmaceutical and food depots in Goma, the Head of Government observed the damage caused by the lava flows from the Nyiragongo volcano on May 22.

About 20 kilometers from Goma, in Kilimanyoka (where the lava had cut the RN2 in 2 at a distance of about 2 km) in the territory of Nyiragongo (North Kivu), the Prime Minister was greeted by the site director of the Virunga National Park (PNVI), Emmanuel Demerode. Here, Sama Lukonde received a clear explanation of the damage caused by the lava, including the destruction of biodiversity and the damage to Matebe's electric power infrastructure. Virunga Énergie technicians are deployed in the field to repair damaged power infrastructure.

On his return from Kilimanyoka, the head of government made a stopover in Bushara, behind the Bukumu chiefdom office, where the REGIDEDO water tanks are installed which supply Goma and part of the Nyiragongo territory. On the spot, where the lava is still hot and lava fumes still visible, the Prime Minister was put to the scent of the destruction by the lava of part of a reservoir of the three which are located there and others water infrastructure including pipes. REGIDESO engineers and workers are hard at work to repair the damage.

Drinking water and electricity needs are still being felt in several districts of Goma and in the territory of Nyiragongo.

According to the humanitarian coordinator, Mr David MCLACHLAN-KARR, the lava flows and the consequences of the Nyiragongo volcano have caused the death of more than 30 people, more than 3,000 houses destroyed, health centers and schools have also been affected.

**By the editorial**



## INTERNATIONAL

## Brussels: Félix Tshisekedi will recover the relics of Patrice Emery Lumumba on June 21



**Patrice Émery Lumumba** was a Congolese politician and independence leader who served as the first Prime Minister of the independent Democratic Republic of the Congo from June until September 1960.

During the council of ministers he chaired on Friday, June 4 in Kinshasa, Prime Minister Jean Michel Sama Lukonde made progress on the file concerning the repatriation of the relics of the former Prime Minister, Patrice-Emery Lumumba, according to the agreed program between the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Lumumba family and the Kingdom of Belgium.

To this end, the ceremony for the recovery of the relics by President Félix Tshisekedi is scheduled in Brussels on June 21.

Then, a tour with these relics will take place through the towns of Lumumba-ville (Sankuru), Kisangani (Tshopo) and Shilatembo (Haut-Katanga). The funeral is planned at Place Échangeur in Kinshasa in the presence of the King of the Belgians.

**Félix Antoine TSHISEKEDI**, President of the DRC visiting the site where the relics of Patrice Emery Lumumba will be deposited in Kinshasa place Échangeur de Limete.

The Prime Minister, Jean Michel Sama Lukonde, transmitted, on Friday, during the Council of Ministers which he chaired by videoconference, on June 04, 2021, the message of the President Félix Tshisekedi, relating to the repatriation in DRC of the relics of the former Prime Minister, **Patrice Emery Lumumba**.

"The Government has therefore been instructed to take, as of now, all measures to accelerate the preparations for this great event and to organize cultural ceremonies considering the theme of the presidency of the African Union of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. : 'Culture, Art and Heritage' ", indicates the report of the Council of Ministers.

**Patrice Lumumba** was killed on January 17, 1961 in the village of Shilatembo about fifty kilometers from Lubumbashi on the Lubumbashi - Likasi road axis, with two of his supporters: Maurice Mpolo and Joseph Okito. "His body has never been found and it is believed that one of his teeth is preserved in Brussels by one of the people who participated in its elimination,"

## INTERNATIONAL

## Africa: The chairperson of the African Union, Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi, attended the opening of the extraordinary summit of ECCAS on Friday, June 4 in Congo Brazzaville



The President of the Republic, Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, current President of the AU, attended this Friday, June 4 in Congo Brazza at the opening of the extraordinary summit of ECCAS.

Organized under the high patronage of the President of the Sister Republic of Congo, Denis Sassou-N'Guesso, also current President of ECCAS, these meetings are mainly devoted to the security situation in Chad, following the sudden death of the Marshal. President Idriss Déby Itno.

Several Heads of State and government representatives took part in the extraordinary conference in Brazzaville. We noted the presence of the Central African and Angolan Presidents, **Joao Lourenzo**.

As he opened the summit, President Sassou N'Guesso, recalling the memory of the late President Deby Itno, reminded participants of his memory of a man dedicated to unity and development. of his country as well as his commitment to a prosperous Africa, committed to its values. Denis Sassou-N'Guesso promises to get involved and create momentum as current President of ECCAS, for a successful transition in Chad.

The appointment of a High Representative and a Special Representative and Head of the AU Liaison Office in N'Djamena



The speech of President Sassou Nguesso was preceded by the speech of the President of the Commission of the African Union, Moussa Faki Mahamat. The latter also mentioned the need for the African Union to support Chad in its transition. Moussa Faki announced the appointment of Senegalese Ibrahim Fall as High Representative of the AU in Chad as well as that of Congolese (Brazza) Basile Ikweli as Special Representative and Head of the AU Liaison Office in N'Djamena. With the combined efforts of all Africans, the AU and Ceeac, he said, Chad can achieve a peaceful transition.

**By the editorial**

## MINING

## VINMART/SOMIKA GROUP

Trading and processing cobalt and uplift the socioeconomic status of surrounding communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



**The Vinmart/Somika Group** was founded in 1997 by Mr. Chetan Chug, beginning with Vinmart Tanzania, a commodity trading firm based out of Dar es Salaam. In 2001, with the decentralisation of mining in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, he decided to venture into trading and processing cobalt and formed the Société Minière du Katanga (Somika), based out of Lubumbashi. Since then, the Group has forayed into drilling, steel manufacturing, FMCG, agriculture, construction, solar energy, chemical trading, engineering services, and more, across various regions of DRC, cementing the Group's belief and dedication to the country.

**The Vinmart/Somika Group** has operated as a partnership between the Chug and Dhrolia families in DRC since the inception of Somika. Mr. Chetan has been joined on this journey along with members of both families who have been crucial to the continuous success of the Group, including support from Mr. Hitesh Chug and Mr. Rahim Dhrolia for over a decade each in DRC, and by more next generation members.

Along with these relatives, the Group's motto has been, "**Somika, c'est ma famille; Congo, c'est mons pays!**" (**Somika, is my family; Congo, is my country!**) – a phrase that has been truly engrained in the culture of the Group which employs around 10,000 Congolese and around 600 expats, including family members of many staff members as well.



### Who is Mr. Chetan?



After spending his formative years in India, Mr. Chetan went to the UK for further education and studied accounting before moving to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to work with relatives operating a trading business in the early 1990s.

It was during this period of time that he saw the immense potential and opportunity in DRC and developed an attachment to the culture and its people. Since the inception of Somika, he has strongly believed in giving back to and developing surrounding communities, beginning with sponsorships of students' fees, donations of school and medical equipment, and more, leading eventually to the formation of **Vinmart Foundation** to formalise non-profit work done by the Group.

## Non-profit work of the Vinmart Foundation to help the surrounding communities.



The Foundation believes that in order to uplift the socioeconomic status of surrounding communities, it is imperative to build upon the four pillars of **education, entrepreneurship, infrastructure, and healthcare.**

Each sector has continuous programs such as a digital literacy program and subsidising or sponsoring children's education, providing agricultural seeds, fertilisers, etc.

Along with training by agronomists, drilling and making borewells and building marketplaces, health centres, roads, etc., and providing medicines to community health centres, running a nutrition program for malnourished children, and conducting surgical campaigns.

Along with his regular activities, the Group remains dynamic and sensitive to the need of the prevailing situation to assist when and where required. For example, Vinmart Foundation sponsored over 1000 people to get the Covid vaccinations in DRC and recently provided a sizeable **donation of food supplies and goods to those displaced by the Goma volcanic eruption**



## The Vinmart/Somika Group believes in the D.R. Congo

Through the Group's various ventures, Mr. Chetan and the family have cemented their belief in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which they have also shared with various foreign businessmen and entities. The Group looks forward to continuing to expand and develop across various regions of the country and sharing their success with the world.

**By the editorial**

## **A CONGOLESE ELECTED TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

First of all, it should be noted that the Human Rights Committee of the Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU) is a global Organization of national parliaments. It gives parliaments of sovereign states and parliamentarians the means to promote peace, democracy and sustainable development. It was created in 1889 and is the oldest of the international intergovernmental institutions.

Secondly, according to sources close to the lower house of the Congolese Parliament, the National Member of Parliament **Boris Mbuku Laka** of the Democratic Republic of Congo was elected member of the Human Rights Committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) during the 142<sup>nd</sup> Session of the IPU held from May 26 to 27, 2021 via video-conference.

The elected from Idiofa territory in Kwilu Province and the person who took part in this work alongside Hon'ble **Jean-Marc Kabund**, the First vice-president of the National Assembly said: "It is the members of this committee who defend the rights of parliamentarians around the world. The committee is made up of ten members across the world, that is two members per continent. And so an election had been held obviously online, and several candidates were running, and we applied regularly, we also campaigned online and we were elected. We were chosen by 96 countries, they chose us. We are now members of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, which sits in Geneva for a five-year term. "

Furthermore, the member of the Parliament states that he knows already knows the responsibility that awaits him in this position. "It is through this work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union that we will deal with issues related to the violation of the rights of parliamentarians worldwide.

## **THE FÉDÉRATION DES ENTREPRISES DU CONGO (FEC), AIRLINES' CAPTAINS AND GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCE THE REDUCTION IN THE PRICE/RATE OF DOMESTIC PLANE TICKETS TO 50%**

The Fédération des Entreprises du Congo (FEC), the airlines as well as the Minister of National Economy decided on Thursday 27, 2021 to agree on the reduction of the price of plane tickets to 50% in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Traveling by domestic plane in the DRC was a puzzle because to move from the capital to the province the price of the return ticket was equivalent to that of the journey from the DRC to Europe, something which was not understandable for many years of its existence.

We all are aware that Air transport animates the life of individuals and the community like the blood in the human organism, it ensures the development of people, the exchange of goods, services and products.

It should be noted that transport constitutes the main factor of growth, it requires, on the one hand, a prior investment which varies from one economic agent to another and, on the other hand, it faces the various costs which cannot be avoided to go through its exploitation. The most economically rich countries are those which have developed and modernized their system of Transportation.

It is in this context that after this consultation between the two parties, the minutes was signed by the FEC and the government party, represented by **H.E. Mr Jean-Marie Kalumba**, Minister of the National Economy.



### D.R.Congo, Gridworks Sign \$100 Million Solar-Hybrid Power Deal

U.S. Ambassadors to the African Union Jessye Lappen of the United States in the DRC Mike Hammer and of the European Union in the DRC Jean-Marc Châtaigner assured President Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo of the support of the International Community during his tenure as President of the African Union (AU).

U.S. Ambassador to the African Union Jessye Lappen said this after a hearing that President Felix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo gave them in his office in the AU City on Thursday, May 6, 2021. For Jessye Lappen, it is a question of supporting the leadership of the President of the African Union and the DRC in his diplomacy.

### BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE D.R. CONGO AND RUSSIA AT THE CENTER OF AN EXCHANGE AT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Kinshasa, May 20, 2021 (ACP) .- The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Samy Adubango Awotho**, on Thursday discussed cooperation between the DRC and the Russian Federation, with the itinerant ambassador of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russian Federation on official mission in the DRC, **Oleg Ozerov**, during a hearing he granted him Thursday, in his office.

The two personalities discussed on the preparation of annual consultations between the Russian Foreign Ministry and that of the DRC, the preparation of the second Russia Africa summit scheduled for 2022 and the Russia-Africa partnership forum.

"Bilateral cooperation between the DRC and Russia and between Africa and Russia is part of a long-term approach and is based on the fight against neo-colonialism," said the itinerant ambassador of the Russian Ministry of Affairs foreigners at the end of the interview.

### D.R. CONGO - NORTH KOREA COOPERATION

Meanwhile, Deputy Minister **Sami Adubango Awotho** also received in audience, on the same day, North Korean Ambassador **Kim Myong Sik** accompanied by his advisors. According to the Korean diplomat, the two parties (Congolesse and Korean), have pledged to strengthen bilateral relations between their countries.

### THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL FOR THE GREAT LAKES REGION AT SAMA LUKONDE

The Prime Minister, **Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde Kyenge**, received in audience, on Monday, May 24, 2021 in his office, the delegation of the United Nations Office for the Great Lakes region led by **Huang Xia**, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General for the Great Lakes region.

In front of the medias, the Representative of the UN Secretary General stated that I wanted to express to the Prime Minister my warm thanks for his very important appointment, while thanking him for having received us despite his very busy schedule. As you know, my Office is responsible for supporting the countries of the Great Lakes region to ensure the implementation of the Addis Ababa Framework Agreement. As part of this enforcement, there is a lot of activities every year. It is also within this framework that a new strategy has been adopted. Also, it was the opportunity for me to exchange with the Prime Minister, especially to listen to the high Congolesse authorities on the priorities of the DRC and to see how the United Nations Office for the Great Lakes region could work better with them, to accompany and support them as well.