

MONTHLY UPDATE

IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF CONGO (DRC)



MAIN STORIES

Islamic State Claims
Prison Break in DRC

Are Tshisekedi and
Kabila Ready to
Divorce?

Education and Child
Protection Challenges
in Eastern DRC

Cobalt Mining in the
DRC Needs Urgent
Attention

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Islamic State (IS) has claimed responsibility for a massive prison break in Beni, north-western DRC.
- On-going contestations between President Flix Tshisekedi and Joseph Kabila over governance control may lead to the breakup of their coalition arrangement.
- Former President Joseph Kabila told the Common Front for Congo (FCC) that the crisis with President Tshisekedi was mainly due to the latter not complying with their agreement and violating the Constitution.
- President Tshisekedi has started a consultation process with political and other stakeholders on the way out of the governance impasse resulting from disagreements with Kabila's group/ruling coalition partners.
- President Tshisekedi sworn in three constitutional court judges, giving him greater influence over law making and election issues.
- According to the 2020 Mo Ibrahim Index on African Governance (IIAG), the DRC was placed 49th on overall governance out of 54 African countries (1=best; 54=worst).
- The FARDC (Armed Forces of the DRC) has warned that those people who were trying to incite the army into revolting, will not succeed.
- MONUSCO (United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo) is in the process of strengthening its presence in the Rwenzori sector, Beni Territory, to protect the population from attacks by the ADF (Allied Democratic Forces) armed group. The ADF has reportedly killed large numbers of people in the eastern DRC in the recent weeks.
- FARDC have forced fighters from the Burundi National Forces of Liberation (FNL) from their stronghold in the eastern DRC.

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- The DRC government has begun a process of disarming the Front for Patriotic Resistance in Ituri (FRPI) in terms of a peace agreement.
- A US Court has sentenced OZ Africa for corruption linked to mining projects in the DRC.
- A company of Israeli billionaire Dan Gertler, who is under United States (US) sanctions for corruption, bought rights from the DRC's state mining company to royalties from one of the world's largest cobalt projects.
- The increasing world demand for battery minerals presents a unique opportunity to develop a model for responsible artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) of cobalt in the DRC.
- As of 19 November 2020, the DRC had recorded 11 918 coronavirus cases, 323 deaths and 11 190 recoveries. The DRC has experienced severe knock-on effects of COVID-19.
- Education provision in the DRC's eastern region are challenged by overwhelmed resources, persistent conflict, and enforced closures of schools due to COVID-19 containment measure.
- The DRC announced the end of the eleventh Ebola outbreak in the country.
- Africa Oil & Power has launched the Africa Energy Series (AES) Special Report: 'DRC 2020' to identify and promote bankable opportunities across oil, gas and power sectors in the DRC.
- The political adviser to the Belgian Embassy in the DRC believes that the Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration (DDR) mechanism is the only way out of armed conflicts in the DRC.
- South Africa and the DRC discussed issues of mutual interest within their Strategic Partnership, while a special envoy was sent by President Cyril Ramaphosa to President Tshisekedi.
- The European Union (EU) has earmarked €20 million from the 11th European Development Fund for the Police Reform Support Programme in the DRC.

