

MONTHLY UPDATE

IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF CONGO (DRC)



MAIN STORIES

Positives of Break-up of Power-Sharing Agreement

Tshisekedi Camp Prepares for the Dismissal of Prime Minister Sylvestre Ilunga Ilunkamba

Chinese Companies Are Betting Heavily on the DRC's Mines

The Islamic State in the DRC

Why Rangers in the Congo's Virunga National Park Are Under Attack

Restoring Coffee Production in DRC

HIGHLIGHTS

- Some positive developments may flow from the break-down of the power sharing deal, such as ending the dysfunctional stalemate in governance.
- In difficulty since the announcement of the breakdown of the Common Front for Congo (FCC) – Cap pour le Changement (Cach) coalition, Sylvestre Ilunga Ilunkamba is now in the sights of pro-Tshisekedi deputies.
- President Felix Tshisekedi insisted that the 26 governors of the provinces should respect the state of law and national unity.
- Senator Modeste Bahati was tasked to determine whether the Sacred Union has the support of a majority of members of parliament.
- President Tshisekedi, Moïse Katumbi and Jean-Pierre Bemba failed to find common ground on a new governance deal.
- Joseph Kabila consulted with members of the FCC to find a way out of the current political crisis.
- Presidential pardon was granted to all those convicted in the murder of Laurent-Désiré Kabila in 2001.
- The ADF (Allied Democratic Forces) remains one of the most violent of the many armed groups in the region.
- FARDC and ADF fought near Beni following the killing of civilians by the latter, with ISCAP (Islamic State's Central Africa Province) claiming responsibility for another attack near Beni.
- The killing of Virunga National Park rangers is probably due to their close cooperation with the security forces.

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- War-displaced persons in Ituri province asked MONUSCO (United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo) to increase peacekeepers in this region.
- CODECO (Cooperative for Development of the Congo) and FDBC (Defence Force against the Balkanization of Congo) groups have been fighting in Djugu territory, highlighting the threat of militia violence in rural areas of eastern DRC.
- Chinese companies are betting big on the DRC's mining industry as copper prices surged.
- The DRC joined the Cobalt Action Partnership to eliminate child and forced labour from the cobalt value chain.
- The DRC's coffee industry is being revived following years of rebuilding.
- The DRC's Human Development Index (HDI) value for 2019 is 0.480, which put the country in the medium human development category, positioning it at 175 out of 189 countries and territories.
- As of 19 January 2021, the DRC had recorded 21 060 coronavirus cases, 5 470 active cases, 631 deaths and 14 810 recoveries.
- The DRC has re-joined the AGOA (African Growth and Opportunity Act) trade partnership with the US.
- The UN Security Council extended MONUSCO's mission by one year, while initiating a gradual withdrawal plan.
- President Tshisekedi paid a working visit to South Africa to discuss regional and international issues within the context of the African Union.
- China and the DRC signed a MoU for cooperation on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

