



MAIN STORIES

President Tshisekedi's Coalition Shows Its Weaknesses

Will the Government Ever Reduce Its Spending to Invest More?

Tshisekedi to Review Chinese Mining Contracts, Will Allies Agree?

HIGHLIGHTS

- President Felix Tshisekedi's Sacred Union remains fragile given parliamentary opposition to some of his wishes.
- The government's budget and continued wasteful spending, especially by the presidency, has become a concern.
- President Tshisekedi's push to have foreign mining companies renegotiate their contracts may create problems within the Sacred Union.
- Former president Joseph Kabila and Israeli billionaire Dan Gertler are implicated in an alleged international money-laundering ring.
- President Tshisekedi believes the Sacred Union will come to an end by the 2023 election with new alliances created for the election.
- The 2021 International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) Global Rights Index gave the DRC a 4-rating, i.e. "systematic violations of rights".
- The law amending the organisation and functioning of the CENI (Commission Electorale Nationale Indépendante) was promulgated by the President.
- Former prime minister Augustin Matata Ponyo Mapon has been stripped of parliamentary immunity.
- Reporters Without Borders (RSF) expressed concern about the harassment of journalists in the provinces under the state of siege.
- Two captured Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) fighters revealed information on the ADF modus operandi, organisation and recruitment practices.
- Ivanhoe Mines' Kamoia-Kakula project in the DRC has the potential to rival the biggest new mine, Escondida in Chile.
- The government-owned Entreprise Generale du Cobalt (EGC) will be buying artisanal cobalt soon.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)



- As of 21 July 2021, the DRC had recorded 46 356 coronavirus cases, 16133 active cases, 1 018 deaths and 29 205 recoveries, while 236 885 tests were done.
- The DRC faces a continued acute and complex humanitarian crisis due to persistent conflict.
- The World Bank's June 2021 Global Economic Prospects (GEP) projected the DRC economy to grow by 2.5% in 2021.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a new three-year US\$1.52 billion extended credit facility programme for the DRC.
- A team from the East African Community (EAC) secretariat completed its verification mission to eastern DRC, pending membership approval.
- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) renewed the sanctions regime on the DRC with a 12-months extension of the Group of Experts' mandate.
- The UNSC was informed that a new government action plan to neutralise violent armed groups has the potential to create stability in eastern DRC.

