



IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

AUGUST • No 8/2021

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF CONGO (DRC)



MAIN STORIES

**White House Remains
Pro-Tshisekedi Despite
Best Efforts of
Katumbi's Lobbyists**

**How the Fight
Against Ebola
Became Part of the
Conflict in Eastern
DRC**

**Does Prime Minister
Sama Lukonde Have
Any Real Power?**

HIGHLIGHTS

- President Felix Tshisekedi's strong relations with the United States (US) may falter with the imminent departure of US Ambassador Mike Hammer.
- Sama Lukonde, the DRC's new prime minister, is struggling to assert himself within an administration in which much of the power is concentrated at the presidential level.
- The DRC is one of the most hostile and dangerous regions for journalists due to violence and insecurity.
- Transnational efforts to contain Ebola in the DRC appears to be a source of both grievances and opportunism, that inadvertently triggers resistance and aggravating the conflict.
- The arrest by the National Intelligence Agency (ANR) and trial of Moïse Katumbi's Ensemble pour la République party's youth leader may threaten the coherence of the ruling Sacred Union.
- Prime Minister Lukonde believes the census for the 2023 election may provide a credible 'electoral file' of the population.
- Nobel laureate Denis Mukwege opposes the appointment of former rebel leader Tommy Tambwe as coordinator for the disarmament and demobilisation programme.
- The United Nations Organisation Stabilization Mission in DRC (MONUSCO) have registered mediation and stabilisation successes in Ituri and north Kivu provinces.
- The State of Siege has been extended but critics believe it should be suspended due to the security and humanitarian situation becoming worse.
- Misinformation about a DRC student's death in Indian police custody led to looting and violence against Indian businesses in the DRC.
- Chinese citizens in Kolwezi received short-term 'penal servitude' for the humiliating treatment of illegal Congolese miners.

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- China's Molybdenum is to invest US\$2.51 billion the Tenke Fungurume mine.
- Rwanda's role in sophisticated smuggling networks that extract gold and coltan from the DRC conflict zones was highlighted in a UN investigation report.
- As of 17 August 2021, the DRC had recorded 53 346 coronavirus cases, 21 916 active cases, 1 050 deaths and 30 380 recoveries, while 295 631 tests were done.
- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) revealed that rival armed groups in the DRC were carrying out horrific sexual attacks against women and girls.
- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is to provide US\$1.6bn to the DRC as part of its renewed cooperation strategy.
- The DRC is to spend US\$35 million to develop its fibre network.
- The United Kingdom (UK) has committed to stabilising eastern DRC to increase opportunities for more investments.
- The DRC's membership of the East African Community (EAC) is awaiting approval by the EAC Council of Ministers.
- US Special Forces is to help the DRC's armed forces (FARDC) fight the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) in the national parks of Virunga and Garamba.

