



MAIN STORIES

After 20 Years, Why Was Safricom Expelled?

MONUSCO Racks Up 17 000 Plus Patrols in Three Months

Big Miners Reconsider Congo, Zambia Risks as Copper Price Surges

The Dan Gertler Saga

HIGHLIGHTS

- A power struggle between former and current government politicians and officials has ended African Society of Commerce's (Safricom) 20-year involvement in the DRC.
- The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) reports favourably on itself despite ongoing instability in eastern DRC.
- Dwindling big copper mines in the world and record-high prices could bring the DRC back into favour despite the high risks.
- Former president Joseph Kabila is facing possible problems at the International Criminal Court (ICC) after victims of his alleged misdeeds lodged a complaint.
- President Felix Tshisekedi has called for an audit of forest concessions and the suspension of all "questionable contracts" until the audit is concluded.
- The Congolese president is reportedly preparing to strike a blow against corruption by taking legal action against Dan Gertler's companies operating in the DRC.
- Endemic corruption leads to 90% of public expenditure being diverted despite government efforts to overcome such practices.
- The validation of Denis Kadima as president of the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) has led to widespread condemnation.
- Police used tear gas to break up clashes between supporters of the president and an opposition leader, as lawmakers selected a new head of the electoral commission.
- The United Nations (UN) expressed concern that after 13 years of an arms embargo rebels and militants in eastern DRC still acquired arms.
- A Jordanian man and a Ugandan woman were arrested for alleged 'tactical and or logistical support' to the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF).



- The World Bank's October 2021 Macro Poverty Outlook (MPO) for the DRC indicates that economic growth in the country is expected to rebound to 3.6% in 2021.
- Fitch Solutions foresees cobalt investments shifting to Australia due to human rights and environmental risks associated with cobalt mining in the DRC.
- The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) suggests a renegotiation of the DRC's US\$6 billion infrastructure-for-minerals deal with Chinese investors.
- As of 19 October 2021, the DRC had recorded 57 338 coronavirus cases, 5 317 active cases, 1 091 deaths and 50 930 recoveries, while 306 299 tests were done.
- A World Health Organization (WHO) report found that staff were among 83 aid workers who sexually abused DRC women and girls during the Ebola outbreak.
- A report by UN human rights chief Michele Bachelet on 7 October 2021 found some progress had been made in the human rights situation in DRC but that "extensive violations and abuses continue unabated in North Kivu and Ituri provinces."
- Conflict in the DRC is on "such a massive scale" that the country has the highest number of internally displaced (IDPs) in Africa, hampering humanitarian operations in a context where one in three people need assistance.
- The DRC scored 5.36 out of 10 (10 being highest) in the 2021 index report of Economic Freedom of the World.
- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will provide US\$1 billion to the DRC for investment in infrastructure, energy, health, mining, security and defence.
- Tshisekedi's upcoming trip to Israel is being organised by his security adviser François Beya Kasongo.

