



MAIN STORIES

**Chinese Ambassador
Pays Visit to Opposition
Leader Moïse Katumbi**

**'It's Easy to Accuse
Kabila, But Has
Tshisekedi Done Any
Better?' – FCC Head**

**Can Joseph Kabila
Keep Emmanuel
Ramazani Shadary at
the Head of the
PPRD?**

DRC in the EAC

HIGHLIGHTS

- The public visit of China's DRC Ambassador to Moïse Katumbi raises questions about China's current relations with the Tshisekedi-government.
- The Front Commun pour le Congo (FCC) is keeping its options open for the 2023 elections, with Joseph Kabila as its possible presidential candidate.
- The benefits of the DRC's new membership of the East African Community (EAC) remain tentative given the rivalry between Uganda and Rwanda.
- The DRC is ranked 125 out of 180 countries (1=best; 180=worst) on the 2022 World Press Freedom Index, up from 149 in 2021.
- François Beya is in custody in Makala prison following two months of detention at the National Intelligence Agency (ANR).
- Vital Kamerhe's 13-year jail term has been set aside by the courts.
- The government is to assist Dan Gertler's effort to be taken off the US sanctions list as part of a settlement agreement.
- Peace talks with some militant groups in eastern DRC facilitated by the EAC have raised optimism for peace albeit excluding the major fighting groups.
- Amnesty International said the state of siege has led to an abuse of powers.
- The Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) reportedly uses its camps in the DRC to train jihadists from East Africa, also those operating in Mozambique.
- The United States (US) imposed sanctions on Belgian businessman Alain Goetz and his network of companies for the illegal minerals trade in the DRC.
- Several of the world's largest companies including Apple, Tesla and Intel may be using conflict minerals from the DRC in their products.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)



- The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said 83 000 people had been displaced due to an escalation in violence in the eastern DRC.
- The DRC's economy is forecast to expand by more than 6% for a second consecutive year as revenues from a booming mining industry are expected to blunt the impact of the war in Ukraine, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- The Ukraine-Russia war could have a severe impact on the DRC with rising food prices a major risk that could become a major source of instability.
- The government approved a plan to auction 16 oil blocks, nine of which fall in the sensitive ecosystem of Cuvette Centrale, in the Congo River basin.
- President Tshisekedi is lobbying support from both the Democrats and Republicans in the United States.

