

DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 18 April, 2011 (8 April– 17April, 2011)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC

Government-owned media

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 8 April, 2011, in French)

- The voters' registration exercise is running smoothly in Bandundu Province despite several people deploring the slowness of electoral actors.

(The New Times website, government-owned Rwandan newspaper, Kigali, in English 16 April, 2011)

“Rwanda, DR Congo said in talks over repatriation of refugees” by Fred Ndoli originally entitled "We are in talks with DR Congo over Congolese refugees -Gatsinzi"

- The Rwandan minister of disaster management and refugee affairs, Marcel Gatsinzi, said his ministry was holding talks with the DRC in order to repatriate Congolese refugees. The minister was visiting the refugee camp in Gicumbi District after several cases of protests against poor conditions on the ground were reported last year. Problems include accommodation, food security and education. About 19,000 refugees live in the camp.
- Both the UNHCR and Rwanda are trying to respond to the concerns of the refugees and urged them to cooperate. The UNHCR urged refugees to abide by Rwanda's laws, while to mayor of Gicumbi asked refugees to ensure better sanitation.

Privately-owned media

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 11 April, 2011, in French)

“Insécurité à Kisangani : la Société civile tire la sonnette d’alarme”

- In Kinsangani, acts of armed banditry and looting have increased with four cases reported last week. Several people were injured. Authorities said investigations had been opened and civil society called for increased security.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 6 April, 2011, in French)

- FARDC Military announced the arrest of four of its naval soldiers near Lake Albert. They added that they are being held at the military prison in Bunia Town on charges of desertion and violent armed robberies.

(DR Congo's Radio Canal Revelation news, 1730 gmt 13 April, 2011, In French)

- Civil society in Orientale Province deplored the lack of funds affecting the voter registration process throughout the province. Civil society groups said the situation discouraged many workers at various enrolment centres after the National Independent Electoral Commission failed to pay their salaries.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 6 April, 2011, in French)

- The coordinator of the Peace and Justice Commission of Dungu Catholic Diocese has reported that a vehicle belonging to a humanitarian agency was ambushed by the LRA near Linguma Village, Dungu Territory. Two humanitarian workers were killed, the vehicle set on fire, and goods looted.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 13 April, 2011, in French)

**Est de la RDC : trois défis à relever
Par Louis-Paul Eyenga Sana**

- In the east, many issues need to be addressed in the next three months, including the elections, development and security.
- Government representatives and the PAM visited North and South Kivu, Ituri and the Uélé districts in order to evaluate the impact of humanitarian intervention.
- Several improvements have been made. Many IDPs and refugees have returned to their homes and free food and health kits have been distributed by UN agencies, including PAM, FAO and national and international NGOs. This seems to show that the security situation has improved.
- The current atmosphere encourages the population to get involved in agricultural activities.
- Nonetheless, local authorities rarely help refugees and IDPs.
- The government has signed a contract with PAM which will reinforce humanitarian aid and ensure food security, while contributing to long-term development.
- The second challenge concerns the securitization of the east in order to ensure the delivery of food aid and boost agricultural production.
- Many deplore the absence of security forces and the FARDC in certain areas. Worse still, the military lacks logistical means to ensure the security of the population. The LRA is still present in Uélé, the FPRI in Ituri, the ADF-NALU in Beni, Oicha and Lubero, while the FDLR and Mai Mai militia men still reside in Massisi, Walikale and Rutshuru, as well as South Kivu.
- Joint military operations between the FARDC and MONUSCO have continued.
- In terms of the forthcoming elections, the government and CENI need to reassure the population that elections will be transparent and peaceful. Sensitization campaigns and electoral kits are necessary. CENI must also ensure that those living in remote areas will be able to vote.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 14 April, 2011, in French)

“A Goma, une équipe de la Police Monusco”

- In Goma, MONUSCO met representatives of CENI to discuss shortcomings concerning the electoral process. The problems could discredit the voters' registration process started in April. CENI said that despite the lack of transportation, all registration centers will be controlled.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 14 April, 2011, in French)

“Les anciennes fractions du mouvement Mayi Mayi”

- Former factions of the Mayi Mayi in North Katanga are about to create their own party, according to the President of the PRM (patriotes Résistants Mayi-Mayi), M. Pardonne Kaliba. According to Kaliba, the creation of this party comes as a response to historical events in the DRC since its independence. The president of the party, Kalombo Basile believes the coming together of several factions will benefit the country. The ideal situation would be to incorporate the faction in the PRM.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 14 April, 2011, in French)

“A la suite des attaques subies par deux équipes de Médecins”

- Following attacks of two Médecins sans frontières (MSF) teams in South Kivu, the organization has decided to suspend its mobile clinics operations in the areas of Uvira and Shabunda until further notice. On Sunday, on the road Bukavi-Kamanyola route, an MSF vehicle was attacked by a group of armed men. Two MSF workers were injured. The same day, two other MSF vehicles were attacked in Marungu. The attackers robbed the workers and their goods.
- Considering the fragile and deteriorating security situation, MSF has decided to suspend its operations but will continue their work in hospitals. Since the beginning of the years, 20 attacks on humanitarian workers have been recorded in the province. The situation is grave since it deprives those in need of any kind of assistance.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 14 April, 2011, in French)

“Les réfugiés congolais vivant en Tanzanie s’apprêtent à regagner la RDC”

- More than 60.000 Congolese refugees living in Tanzania are waiting the end of the school term to return to the DRC, said the provincial Minister of Internal Affairs in South Kivu.
- During his visit to several camps, Etienne Babungo was asked by Congolese refugees to ensure their safe repatriation. They also would like to make sure their children will be able to attend school and access their abandoned land.
- The minister noticed that several young people are not completely willing to return to the DRC and rely on the international community to survive.

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 16 April, 2011, in French)

“Nord-Kivu : Julien Paluku palpe du doigt les réalités de Muhangi” by Albert Tshiambi

- The governor of North Kivu, Julien Paluku, paid a surprise visit to the residents of Muhangi, Lubera territory on Monday. This is the first time since independence that provincial authorities visit this area of the country.
- Local residents told the governor the security situation was rather stable and welcomed the gradual deployment of state authorities.
- They also told him about their daily challenges, such as the lack of basic infrastructure, particularly roads, which are which to import and export agricultural goods.
- The governor used this opportunity to urge residents to register for the elections.
- According to observers, the governor's visit is an important symbol because it reassures locals that they are not being forgotten. For the governor, it was an opportunity to evaluate the security situation and daily challenges faced by the populations of these remote areas.