

**DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 17 January, 2010 (10 January– 16 January, 2011)**

**by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC**

**Government owned media**

**(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 12 January, 2011, in French )**

- MPs approved the project for the revision of some articles of the Constitution. Eight articles should be revised, including the two-round ballot
- At the Senate, President Leon Kengo wa Dondo chaired a plenary session concerning the constitution and senators agreed to debate on the revision of some articles.

**Privately-owned media**

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 11 January, 2010, in French)**

- A woman was raped by a gang of five armed men south of Bunia town, Ituri District. They also injured the husband. The authorities think that the assailants are militia fighters still active in this area.

**(Radio Okapi, UN-sponsored radio, article dated 12 January, 2011, in French)**

**“War crimes trial of ex-DRCongo Vice-President Bemba resumes 11 January”**

- The trial of former Congolese Vice-President, Senator Jean-Pierre Bemba, resumed on Tuesday at the ICC. The session was a woman victim who was raped and whose property was looted by Jean Pierre Bemba's men.

**(Radio Okapi, UN-sponsored radio, article dated 12 January, 2011, in French)**

**“DRCongo opposition MPs boycott parliament vote on revision of constitution”**

- The National Assembly approved a proposal to revise the constitution after 334 lawmakers voted in favour. The vote took place without the participation of opposition lawmakers, who are opposed the amendment.
- The proposed review of the constitution affects eight articles, including the election of the president in two rounds of voting.

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 12 January, 2010, in French)**

**“DRCongo troops, militia clash in northeast”**

- Military sources from the office of the FARDC in Ituri District reported that heavy clashes took place between government troops and a group of the militia fighters of the Popular Resistance Front on Monday and Tuesday, at about 100 km south of Bunia. Two FARDC soldiers and nine militia fighters were killed.

- Hundreds of residents fled their homes.
- Col Fall Sikabwe said his troops were patrolling near Anyati village clashed with a group of about 200 militia fighters receiving military training. More troops came as reinforcement and managed to control the situation. The combatants have fled into the forest.

**(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 12 January, 2010, in French)**

**“Election présidentielle en RDC: La VSV s'insurge contre le scrutin majoritaire à un seul tour” by Abandengo Nduka**

- During a press conference, VSV (Voix des sans voix pour les droits de l'homme), a human rights group, said it is worried about the new constitutional and electoral amendments. The group's executive director and vice executive director said a one round ballot would not be in the interest of the population and would endanger democratic and electoral principles.
- VSV therefore called on Alliance to think twice about the new amendments. VSV believes that the best way to maintain peace and security is to respect the current constitution.

**(Misna, Italian-based Missionary Service News Agency, Rome, 12 January, 2011, in English)**

**“DR Congo House endorses draft law to revise constitution”**

- The National Assembly approved a draft legislation to revise the Constitution, despite heated discussions.
- The amendments proposed concern eight points of the Constitution, including the presidential election voting system. Indeed, the ruling party wants to impose a single electoral round rather than two.
- Other issues include the end of the mandate of MP's and senators, the budget, the creation of 26 provinces and the separation of powers.

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

**“La Monusco juge positives les opérations militaires en 2010” by Louis-Paul Eyenga Sana**

- According to Monusco, military operations during the Christmas season have been positive. Monusco's spokesman said the FARDC and the UN mission had succeeded in solidifying their position in the West thanks to operation “Western thrust.” They have gained the local populations' trust and were able to neutralize the Enyele rebellion, leading populations to return to the area. Despite rumours of recruitment, the situation is under control.
- In Oriental province, 2010 has been marked by new LRA activity in the " Bangadi-Duru-Doruma " triangle. However, operation “Rudia II” and “Iron Stone” have reduced the LRA's operational capacities. In Ituri, the FRPI and the FPJC's capacities have been reduced as well, and the two groups are believed to be in survival mode.

- In South and North Kivu, Monusco and the FARDC have continued joint operations as well, principally against the FDLR whose capacities have been reduced from 75 to 90% as thousands of soldiers have gone back to Rwanda.
- Calm has returned to Fizi after violence and human rights violations were reported last week. 13 women have apparently been raped while others subjected to cruel treatment. 10 soldiers have been arrested, including a FARDC officer.

**(L’Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 14 January, 2010, in French)**

**“Insécurité grandissante” by Willy Kilapi**

- A student has been found dead in Kinshasa where insecurity has been growing. Armed bandits named « Kaluna » operate at night and rape, steal and attack civilians.

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

**“Au cours d’un forum international. ITIE : les experts réfléchissent sur la levée de l’interdiction d’exploitation des minerais de l’Est” by Oliver Kaforo**

- After mineral exploitation was suspended in the eastern DRC, ITIE (Initiative pour la Transparence dans les Industries Extractives) experts are thinking about reopening mines in Lubumbashi. ITIE is a group which seeks to give various governments the chance to prove that they can be responsible and transparent when it comes to mineral exploitation. The initiative also allows its members to better organize their public finance. The DRC joined in 2005 but has so far fulfilled 14 of the 18 needed criteria to conform.
- In the DRC, 16% of the population directly or indirectly depends on mineral exploitation. In the 1980s, the mineral sector represented 25% of the annual fiscal revenues, 75% of the exports and 25% of the GDP. In 2005, the numbers had gone down to 0,24% of the GDP. The DRC is often cited as the prime example of the “resource curse”: although the country has many natural resources, the population is very poor.

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 15 January, 2010, in French)**

- The administrator of Irumu Territory, Ituri District, called for humanitarian assistance to IDPs who recently fled from Anyati village following clashes and attacks by the Popular Resistance Front in Ituri.

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 16 January, 2010, in French)**

- Lieutenant General Pakrash Chander, the Army Chief of staff of Monusco peacekeepers, ended a one-week visit in Ituri District. In Bukiringi, Aveba and Kabona, local administrative chiefs denounced the presence of the militia groups. In Kasenyi and Tchomia, residents said peace and stability prevailed. They also called on the UN mission to assist them more in the development programmes.