

DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 7 February, 2010 (31 January– 6 February, 2011)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC

Global current situation

In January, President Kabila promulgated a new constitution following its adoption in the parliament. Key amendments

- A controversial one-round presidential election
- New presidential power to dissolve provincial assemblies, revoke governors
- A prosecutor's office within the ministry of justice

The opposition is against these amendments and boycotted parliament, arguing that the new amendments would benefit the president. These claims were dismissed by Lambert Mende.

Government owned media

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 31 January, 2011, in French)

- Lambert Mende Omalanga (Convention of Unified Congolese) chaired an ideological seminar over the week end. Among issues discussed were the murder of Patrice Lumumba and Laurent Desire Kabila, the up-coming elections and the recent constitutional review.

(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 1 February, 2011, in French)

- The Minister of Environment Jose Endundu Bononge announced that the government had completed the re-conversion of old forest titles which aims at fighting illegal exploitation of Congolese forests.
- Union for Congo Development's chairman, Banza Mukalay Sungu, urged public services to reinforce the security of the population. He criticised the harassment of civilians, especially salesmen, and the closing of universities

Privately-owned media

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 1 February, 2010, in French)

- Vice representative of the UN General Secretary met local administrative leaders in Bunia. He promised UN humanitarian agencies and Monusco's full assistance in restoring peace in Ituri District where certain areas are still controlled or affected by militia groups
- The Independent Electoral Commission's office in Ituri District started an outreach campaign for the pygmy community. The aim is to encourage more pygmies to participate in the up-coming elections.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 1 February, 2010, in French)

- Vice representative of the UN secretary-general in DRC met representatives of IDPs and local administrative leaders of Walendu Bindu. Walendu has experienced various attacks by militia groups in recent months. Local leaders called on Monusco to arrest Popular Front for Resistance Ituri Leader Col Cobra Matata,

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 3 February, 2011, in French)

“Elections 2011 : la Monusco prend acte des préoccupations des acteurs politiques” by Louis-Paul Eyenga Sana

- Monusco has received several complaints from Congolese political actors concerning the electoral process in the DRC. Monusco said it had taken notice of the parties’ concerns and promised to talk to the Security Council about the issue.
- Last week, Monusco declared that it was “a church in the middle of the village” and that Monusco’s mandate had been defined by the Security Council.
- Monusco also added that it had helped transferring 11 FARDC militia men from Uvira to Bukavu. Among the soldiers is lieutenant-colonel Kibibi Mutware who, along with other soldiers, has been accused of human rights violations, crimes against humanity, rape, torture and looting. The UN is still investigating the issue
- Monusco’s spokesman, Mamadou Gaye, said the security situation was relatively stable, especially in the West in Katanga and Maniema.
- Although the security situation in North Kivu is improving, there have been clashes between the FARDC and the FDLR in Ruthuru and Masisi. One FARDC soldier, two children and one FDLR rebel were killed.
- In South Kivu, there has been an increase in militia activities.
- Negotiations between the FARDC and the Forces Républicaine Fédéralistes (FRF) have been successful. About 500 FRF combatants have been integrated within the FARDC. However, Monusco was told several children had been integrated within the army as well. The FARDC called on Monusco’s child protection unit to investigate the issue.

(L’Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 3 February, 2010, in French)

« Nord Kivu: Le nouveau groupe armé Mai Mai FDN sème déjà des troubles » by Dovin Ntelolo Diasonga

- According to Monusco, a new rebel group has emerged in North Kivu: Mai Mai FDN. They are acting against government forces and have been very active. Civilians and PNC security forces have been attacked, and six women were been kidnapped in Ntoto. The hostages have been freed and have not been raped.
- The group also took several PNC elements hostage before setting them free after two Monusco units intervened.
- Several Mai Mai rebel groups have emerged in recent years. They usually call for the protection of their rights, interests and national integrity, and are against foreign encroachment in the eastern DRC. The emergence of these groups is linked directly to the lack of state control in certain areas of the country and the government’s incapacity to protect the civilian population. The official goals and interests of these groups often hide more self-interested aims, such as the exploitation of the natural resources

- There have been allegations of rape by the FDLR in Fizi. According to Monusco, investigations are still taking place and protection has been increased

(AFP news agency, Paris, 0637 gmt, 4 February 2011, in French)

“Unidentified armed group attacks airport in south eastern DR Congo”

- An unidentified armed group attempted to seize control of the Lubumbashi airport, the administrative town of the mining province of Katanga. Shots were heard and soldiers were attacked at airport early Friday morning, said Lambert Mende. The attack has been attributed to a “secessionist group” but more details are yet to be revealed.
- Katanga is a major mining town and possesses over 30% of the world’s cobalt reserves, 10% of copper, as well as gold and uranium

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 4 February, 2011, in French)

“La stabilisation de la paix dans l’Est évoquée au ministère de la Défense » by Albert Tshiambi

- External partners are worried about the security situation in the eastern DRC.
- The Minister of Defense, Charles Mwando Nsimba, met with UN Secretary General to the DRC, Leila Zerrougni on Wednesday to discuss the current security situation.
- The Minister of Defense said he was happy with the collaboration between the FARDC and Monusco. According to Zerrougni, this is the result of mutual trust between the two parties.
- Zerrougni urged Congolese authorities to preserve peace in Oriental Province. Several militia men accused of rape have been arrested

(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 4 February, 2011, in French)

« Tirs à l’aéroport de la Luano vendredi matin. Katanga : plus de peur que de mal »

- Several gunshots were heard early on Thursday morning at Luano airport. However, the situation is now under control after provincial authorities quickly intervened. An investigation has been launched.
- At Lubumbashi airport, Katanga, an identified group attempted to take control of the airport. Several soldiers were attacked Friday morning. The attacks have been attributed to a “secessionist group” but more details were not given. According to villagers, the situation now seems to be under control.
- Katanga is a resource-rich province