

DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 21 March, 2010 (12 March– 20 March, 2011)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC

Government-owned media

(The New Times, government-owned Rwandan newspaper, Kigali, article dated 16 March, 2011, in English)

“Rwandan defence minister, UN envoy discuss regional security”

Edwin Musoni entitled "Kabarebe, UN envoy discuss regional security"

- The minister of defence, James Kabarebe the Head of Monusco, Roger Meece, to discuss regional security.
- Meece thanked Rwanda for its assistance in transporting the Mission's equipment to DRC through Rwanda.
- Meece said there as mounting pressure on militias in the DRC and stated that collaboration between the Rwandan and the Congolese army had made important progress in the road towards stability. He explained that good bilateral relations between the two countries had made an important impact on the capacity of the FDLR, especially the arrest of top leaders such as Callixte Mbarushimana. Meece hopes bilateral relations will continue so that lasting peace and security can be achieved.

Privately-owned media

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

- The Ituri district commissioner addressed a group of local miners who have invaded the Adidi mining site belonging to Ashanti Gold Kilo Company northwest of Bunia. He advised them to find representatives to look into compensation.
- Orientale Provincial Governor Medar must answer queries about embezzlement of public funds which were meant for certain development projects.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 13 March, 2010, in French)

- Haut Uele District commissioner urged residents to remain vigilant and restrain from providing assistance to the LRA. He denounced Congolese civilians believed to be collaborating with the rebel group.
- Orientale Provincial Governor Medar Outsai Asenga denounced the illegal occupation of a piece of land belonging to state-owned cement company.

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

- Congolese Social and Humanitarian Affairs Minister Benoit Kambere arrived in Bunia, Ituri District, to assess the humanitarian situation in the north eastern Congo.

- In Bunia, Monusco office in charge of information organized a two-day workshop for journalists in order to enhance journalistic professionalism, especially in the face of coming elections.

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 16 March, 2010, in French)

« Ouvrant la session ordinaire de mars 2011. Kengo wa Dondo : " la pauvreté demeure omniprésente à travers la RDC »

- Léon Kengo wa Dondo, President of the Senate, said poverty was widespread in all parts of the country.
- He said good macroeconomic performance is useless if it does not benefit the population. Resources must go towards the service sectors, especially the health sector, education and infrastructure. The productive sector must also be addressed in order to create jobs.
- Living standards must be improved. This requires the creation of a middle class
- Commercial deficits, difficulties in the banking sector, unemployment and the spectre of a new oil crisis are potential risks to the economy as well. Budget is still limited and measures must be taken to anticipate risks.
- Concerning international politics, current events in the Libya, Egypt and Tunisia show that populations aspire for freedom and democracy. He nonetheless added that popular revolutions need organisation and structure, and called on the African Union to keep an eye on the revolutions.
- Concerning recent attacks on the presidential residence, Léon Kengo wa Dondo reminded those assembled that such actions are illegal and a crime against the nation. He said such actions were unacceptable in the face of coming election. Elections should be peaceful, transparent, democratic and credible

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

- The Congolese minister for humanitarian and social affairs, Benoit Kambere, launched the distribution of food aid to hundreds of victims of the LRA in Ango Territory, Bas Uele District.

(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 17 March, 2010, in French)

- Civil society in Dungu Territory expressed satisfaction over the arrest of a police inspector after he reportedly freed several FARDC soldiers believed to have abused a Catholic priest from Dungu Catholic Diocese.

(L'Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 17 March, 2010, in French)

« Province Orientale : L'opération " Mission Bamangana " restaure la confiance auprès de la population »

- Military operation “Mission Bamanga” is said to have successful. It also established trustful relationship between the army, Monusco and the local population, facilitated the repatriation of IDPs and delivery of humanitarian assistance.
- The FARDC and Monusco will remain in the area in order to maintain security.
- The military operation led to clashes with the FDLR and Mai Mai combatants
- In South Kivu, the security situation is still positive as several FDLR fighters have been arrested and are now going through a DDRRR process. Three Mai Mai combatants have also surrendered.
- The High Commission for Refugees facilitated the repatriation of 48 Congolese refugees from Burundi to Uvira.
- Five FDLR rebels have been repatriated to Rwanda following the DDRRR process
- Ten children have been identified and taken away from Mai Mai rebel group PARECO.
- Monusco also added that the UN would repatriate 203 Burundians from Fizi and Uvira.
- Swedish military trainers will work in partnership with UNPOL to provide training to police officers of the Légion nationale de la Police d'intervention rapide (Rapid Intervention Police force) concerning the prevention of sexual violence

(L’Observateur, privately-owned daily, article dated 18 March, 2010, in French)

« La Monusco alerte : Les emblèmes des Nations Unies trafiqués pour truander les compagnies minières »

- Monusco warned the population against using the UN emblem to engage in illegal exploitation of resources. Monusco said those responsible would be prosecuted. Those responsible present their victims with false documents in an attempt to exploit resources. Monusco explained that the mission never gives mine export permits.
- Monusco did not say where this took place.