



UN Communication Chief Welcomes Good Collaboration between DRC and United Nations system

UN Under-Secretary General for Communication and Public Information, Mr. Kiyotaka Akasaka, visited DRC from 14 to 17 February, said MONUC spokesman at last Wednesday weekly press conference.

In Kinshasa, Mr. Kiyotaka Akasaka met with Mr. Lambert Mende, DRC Minister for Communications and the Media, with whom he reviewed the progress made by DRC in the restoration of peace and security as well as the collaboration between the Government, MONUC, and UN agencies and Programmes based in DRC. Mr. Akasaka highlighted that Africa was high on the UN Secretary-General's agenda. He also underscored the need for attaining millennium development goals: particularly in the areas of health, education and poverty reduction.

In this regard, the Under-Secretary General and DRC Minister shared the view that communication must play a pivotal role in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. They agreed that attention must now be focused on DRC's development and good collaboration between the DRC and the United Nations system for a better future of the country. MONUC has made a meaningful contribution and continues to support DRC Government's efforts to restore peace and security. The UN country team also continues to provide its assistance to the Congolese people and Government in promoting peace and development.

Earlier, Mr. Akasaka traveled to Kisangani where he visited Kapalata Training Center for the Congolese National Police which has been hosting since last Tuesday a training session for 600 Congolese policemen with the financial support from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).



UN proceeds with support to DRC through road construction along Kisangani-Lubutu axis in Eastern Province (UNOPS Photo/Mohamed Arjoune)

Other elements from the press conference

In other developments, MONUC spokesman Madnodje Mounoubai provided clarifications in response to recent reports that MONUC had ceased cooperation with the FARDC pending removal of three senior officers from the command of the Operation Amani Leo due to misconduct.

Referring to the above, the spokesman said MONUC and its FARDC partners were surprised by these reports, since MONUC had never made such a request and FARDC has never received one. "We set up a joint procedure MONUC/FARDC to govern MONUC's support to Operation Amani Leo in conformity with UNSC Resolution 1906. The procedure is a result of prior consultations between FARDC and MONUC," he further indicated.

Moreover, Mr. Mounoubai denied press reports published last week

indicating that MONUC had issued a 45-day ultimatum for DRC's armed groups to accept to be integrated or demobilised. "This information is totally incorrect. The ultimatum was not given by MONUC; it was rather given by the DRC Government to all the residual armed groups. MONUC and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provide their support to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration within the framework of the Stabilisation and Reconstruction plan (STAREC)," he highlighted.

Responding to a question about the killing of seven women from the Mulombozi village, territory of Mwenza (South Kivu) by FDLR during the night of 11 to 12 February, the spokesman conveyed Alan Doss' indignation: "FDLR has once again proven how important it was for the Congolese people and the international community to maintain pressure and



put an end to the threat they represent. The massacre of the seven women in the South Kivu province – adds further to the ordeals suffered by the population at the hands of these killers. The attack is a reflection of FDLR's cowardice in preying on the most vulnerable."

The spokesman also informed that operations for the integration of

the elements of the Mai Mai Kifuafua group along the Walikale axis were concluded yesterday. Altogether, 515 elements were registered out of the 934 candidates announced for integration into the army; 286 were handed over to operations command in North Kivu for integration into FARDC; 146 opted for demobilization

while 45 children were handed over to the organizations operating in the child protection area. 51 weapons were recovered. The second phase of the registration of the Mai Mai Kifuafua elements is scheduled for next coming days on the site Hombo in the South Kivu province, said Mr. Mounoubai.



Kisangani

MONUC strengthens the operational capacity of 600 Congolese police officers in Oriental Province

Six hundred Congolese police officers from Haut-Uélé, Bas-Uélé and Tshopo districts and the town of Kisangani started on Tuesday 16 February 2010 a one-month training programme at the training centre of Kapalata, a few kilometres from Kisangani. The training is being provided by MONUC with financial support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

This training is being held to further address a specific need, that is, to professionalize the police force in Oriental Province. For 31 days the participating police officers will follow a range of course modules focusing on the following issues: public order maintenance, road traffic management, general information gathering, judicial policing with special emphasis on combating sexual violence, and peace restoration.

All speakers at the training opening ceremony emphasized that the reform of

the Congolese National Police (PNC) is critically important for the DRC, given the many challenges facing this sector.

In his speech, the head of MONUC's office in Kisangani, Mr Ivan Timnev, said: *"The training is consistent with the objectives MONUC is pursuing, namely, to assist the DRC Government in establishing peace and a stable security environment in the country and especially in our province, without which there will no sustainable development. This is why MONUC Police were requested to organize the present training session, in collaboration with the*

PNC's Inspection Provinciale (Provincial police authority)."

He was echoed by the PNC's Deputy Inspector General in charge of Administration and Logistics, Charles Bisengimana, as well as the Provincial Minister of Public Service, Vincent Okoyo, who represented the province's Governor at the ceremony. Both expressed the need to establish, as a matter of urgency, a stable security environment for the DRC which is need of economic development.

"We want the Congolese police to be a service dedicated to actually providing protection to people and property. We want a police force that reassures the population," Mr Okoyo. On behalf of the Congolese people, both the Provincial Minister of Public Service and the PNC's Deputy Inspector General expressed thanks to MONUC, UNDP and JICA for providing the means, time and expertise necessary to turn the Congolese police into a well-trained force for it to play its role.

The present training is part of a vast re-training programme directed at 6200 PNC personnel, which started in November 2009 at the training centres of Kasangulu in bas-Congo province and of Mbandaka in Kinshasa.



A partial view of the trainee police officers during the training opening ceremony
(MONUC Photo/Codjo Houegniglo)