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presides over the ceremony marking
the 10th anniversary of the ENA

Marie-Thérèse SOMBO
commends the rigor of the NSC and the IGSC

**Jean-Pierre
LIHAU**
reassures the
2024 FGSC
medalists
of the
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information for submission

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Professor
Pius MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA
NSC President

The Triumph of Science

Triumph implies the culmination of a struggle, that sacred moment when the summit is finally reached by one who has long crawled in the shadows of the valley. Even if it shines with the brilliance of a medal or the sound of cheering, it remains, at its core, the result of quiet, unheralded work, the work of unsung heroes who forged victory far from the public eye.

As fifty of our researchers and inventors took to the stage at the Palais du Peuple in February 2026 to receive the Medals of Merit in Arts, Sciences, and Letters, the Democratic Republic of the Congo celebrated the triumph of intelligence over adversity. This triumph is first and foremost one of national recognition, as our researchers, inventors, and innovators are now being brought to the forefront by the vision of the Head of State, Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi TSHILOMBO. It is also a triumph of action, for through this recognition, every patent filed and every medal awarded represents a showcase of new ideas that benefit the Congolese people and the world. But since every true triumph requires public recognition, by honoring its researchers, the Nation affirms that "the DRC's sovereignty will be scientific, technological, and industrial," as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Service Jean-Pierre Lihau reminded us.

This triumph is also one of resilience, as exemplified by these "soldiers of science" who, coming from provinces plagued by insecurity, have countered barbarism with scientific rigor. Their innovations, recognized under the auspices of the Minister of ESURSI, Professor Marie-Thérèse SOMBO, prove that science is our most effective weapon of mass construction for restoring national dignity. Here, triumph takes on an inner dimension as a victory over discouragement, over a lack of resources, over intellectual exile. It is proof that one can triumph without crushing, conquer without humiliating. It is an ethical triumph: one of discipline,

merit, and fidelity to academic values. By imposing strict criteria for academic careers and combating clandestine doctoral schools, the Minister ensures that the triumph of our laureates is built on a foundation of unquestionable quality.

At the same time, this triumph is also evident on several other fronts of development. In the public administration, the celebration of the ENA's tenth anniversary confirms that scientific intelligence must be served by an elite administration, capable of driving reforms deep into our territories. The fields of the fight against hunger, financial isolation, and climate hazards are no exception. Some researchers are striving to transform research into concrete food solutions; others are using artificial intelligence to structure bankable projects or forming strategic alliances for sovereign control of our environmental data.

Aware that every triumph carries with it a responsibility—the capacity to endure, to be passed on, and to renew itself—our call rings out strongly: medals are not a destination, but a commitment. A triumph that is not shared becomes sterile, but a shared triumph becomes transformative. It is in this spirit that the launch of the Luc Gillon Prize at the University of Kinshasa takes place: to perpetuate excellence so that this triumph is not an isolated event, but a new national culture. As we close this 51st edition, one certainty remains: triumph is not the end of the journey but the moment when we realize that we now possess the wings necessary to aim for an even higher peak.

Activities of the President of the Republic



Family photo around His Excellency Félix Tshisekedi Tshilombo

Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi presides over the ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of the ENA

In an atmosphere that was both solemn and enthusiastic, the President of the Republic and Head of State, Félix-Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, presided on February 10, 2026, at the Cultural and Artistic Center of Central African Countries, the official graduation ceremony for the 9th class and the induction ceremony for the 10th class of the National School of Administration "ENA DRC," thereby marking the 10th anniversary of this training school for senior civil servants.

In his welcoming address, the Director General of the National School of Administration (ENA), Mr. Tombola Muke, recalled that the creation of this institution stems from the conviction that nations do not develop by chance but through competence; from the conviction that intelligence shapes the destiny of peoples; and finally, from the conviction to serve the State with excellence. The Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Service, Administrative Modernization, and Public Service Innovation, Mr. Jean-Pierre Lihau, emphasized the strategic role of the ENA in State reform. To date, 842 ENA graduates and civil administrators from across the country have been recruited through

competitive examination, rigorously trained, and integrated into public administrations.

He expressed his profound gratitude to the Head of State, whose personal presence at this ceremony, for the fourth consecutive time, was neither a mere protocol nor an act of courtesy. This is a major political act, a strong signal that clearly states that state reform begins with the quality of the women and men who embody and loyally serve the state.

The Head of State symbolically presented the 100 students of the 9th graduating class, named 'Mamadou Ndala,' with their graduation certificates before receiving from Deputy Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Lihau a yearbook listing the names of these 842 graduates of the National School of Administration (ENA).

This significant moment fulfills one of the President of the Republic's commitments: to strengthen the effectiveness of public services. 'A strong state cannot be decreed: it is built, first and foremost, through the quality of its human resources, a clear chain of command, simple procedures, a results-oriented culture, and rigorous ethics,' the Head of State stated in his address.



Deputy Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Lihau presents President Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi with a directory listing the identity of these 842 graduates of the National School of Administration (ENA).

The President of the Republic commended the Government's efforts in reforming the civil service and expressed his strong desire for the National School of Administration to be established at the local level, so that the reform would reach the provinces and decentralized territorial entities where citizens' access to public services takes place on a daily basis.

Communication Unit of the
Presidency of the DRC and Christian

MAZONO/NSC

Activities of the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the Civil Service

Jean-Pierre Lihau reassures the medalists of the FGSC 2024 of the Government's support

On behalf of Prime Minister Judith SUMINWA TULUKA, who was unable to attend, the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the Civil Service, Jean-Pierre LIHAU, presided over the ceremony to decorate the winners of the 2024 edition of the Congolese Scientific Genius Forum, organized by the Ministry of Higher, University, Scientific Research and Innovation Education (ESURSI), on February 19, 2026 at the Big Top of the People's Palace in Kinshasa.

During the ceremony, 50 medals of merit in Arts, Sciences, and Letters were awarded, including 10 gold, 14 silver, and 26 bronze, in recognition of the remarkable contributions of Congolese researchers, inventors, and innovators.

In his address, His Excellency Jean-Pierre Lihau emphasized the strategic role of science in national sovereignty: "A nation that does not transform the fruits of its discoveries will depend on the industries of others. The government, under the leadership of the Prime Minister and following the vision of the President of the Republic, Head of State Félix Antoine Tshisekedi, is convinced that achieving our full sovereignty must be based on scientific, technological, industrial, and digital sovereignty. Capitalizing on the fruits of research is not simply a sectoral program, but a national development strategy to be implemented at the interministerial level," he declared, in his capacity as the personal representative of the Head of Government.

The Deputy Prime Minister also advocated for strengthening innovation support structures. According to him, the Congolese Scientific Genius Incubator must evolve into a true national agency for promoting innovation, while the National Fund for Scientific Research and Technological Innovation is destined to become a genuine bank supporting Congolese ingenuity.

He commended the progress already



Deputy Prime Minister, Jean-Pierre LIHAU



The Chancellor of the National Orders, Major General MATUTEZULWA, the Deputy Prime Minister, Jean-Pierre LIHAU, and Her Excellency Minister SOMBO welcomed the award recipients.

evident in the projects of the award winners in several areas, notably job creation for young people and improved agricultural yields.

"Promoting innovation means building a bridge between current and future generations. It means passing on the torch of structured, protected, and productive knowledge. In line with the Head of State's vision, the government has instructed the relevant Minister to propose inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms to ensure a holistic and coherent approach to this national ambition," he stated.

For her part, the Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation (ESURSI), Marie-Thérèse Sombo, reiterated that making science the driving force behind the DRC's development is a pillar of the presidential vision, embodied

in particular by the Congolese Scientific Engineering Forum. She urged the award recipients to continue their efforts, emphasizing that science remains a policy for the future.

The award recipients, deeply pleased, hailed what they consider a historic turning point in the recognition of Congolese inventors, innovators, and researchers.

'Since 1960, the DRC had never truly promoted its inventors and researchers. We commend the government's commitment, which has translated words into action,' declared their representative, while also mentioning the persistent challenges they face in their work.

Communications Unit/Minister of Public Service and NSC/NSC

Activities of the Minister of ESURSI

50 FGSC 2024 laureates decorated by the Chancellor of the National Orders



Alongside the Vice Prime Minister, Jean-Pierre LIHAU and His Excellency SOMBO, several award recipients displayed their certificates.

The magnificent marquee of the People's Palace served as the setting for this grand ceremony, held on Thursday, February 19, 2026, under the auspices of the Ministry of Higher Education, University, Scientific Research, and Innovation. For the occasion, 10 outstanding award recipients received gold medals, 14 silver medals, and 26 bronze medals, in addition to several other special prizes.

In his address, the President of the National Scientific Council, Professor Pius Mpiana Tshimankinda, affirmed that the rigor and transparency of the evaluations conducted had led to the expected results. He congratulated the award recipients on their achievements.

For her part, the Minister of Higher Education, University Studies, Scientific Research, and Innovation, Professor Marie-Thérèse Sombo Ayanne Safi, commended the Congolese government's commitment to science and technology before reiterating the vision of the President of the Republic, Head of State Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, who sees research as a major driver of development for the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Minister Marie-Thérèse Sombo noted that science is a powerful tool for development. She also announced the upcoming establishment of a technology incubation and transfer structure to

bridge the gap between research laboratories and the market and stimulate wealth creation. Special tribute was paid to scholars from the provinces occupied by the Rwandan army.

These scholars, she explained, are presented as symbols of resilience and resistance through knowledge. Furthermore, Professor Marie-Thérèse Sombo praised the merit of her predecessor, Professor Dr. Gilbert Kabanda Kurhenga, who, it should be noted, was the first to initiate the Congolese Scientific Engineering Forum in 2023.

In addition to fifty award recipients, eight special prizes were awarded to individuals who distinguished themselves in their fields with products that have already been used and whose scientific value is recognized.

Speaking on behalf of Prime Minister Judith Suminwa Tuluka, the Minister of Public Service, Jean-Pierre Lihau, emphasized the



From left to right, H.E. G. KABANDA and H.E. SOMBO

importance of valuing Congolese ingenuity in order to equip the State's public services with genuine expertise. He emphasized quality assurance, patent security and the protection of Congolese innovations.

Pascal Masirika and the Editorial Staff

Activities of the Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research

Decoration of the FGSC 2024 winners: Marie-Thérèse SOMBO commends the rigor of the NSC and the IGSC

The Minister of Higher and University Education, Scientific Research and Innovation, Marie-Thérèse SOMBO, praised the rigor of the National Scientific Council (NSC) and the Congolese Scientific Genius Incubator (IGSC) during the awards ceremony for the winners of the 2024 edition of the Congolese Scientific Genius Forum (FGSC), chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the Civil Service, Jean-Pierre LIHAU, on February 19, 2026 at the People's Palace marquee in Kinshasa.

In her address, the Minister stated that the credibility of the medal awards rests on the uncompromising expertise of the National Scientific Council (NSC) and the General Institute of Scientific Research (IGSC). Excellence is not negotiable; it must be demonstrated, she emphasized.

Continuing, she advocated for a shift from a primarily theoretical academic model to one focused on Research and Development (R&D), capable of producing concrete solutions. According to her, Congolese scientific work must now contribute directly to the modernization of the economy, the revitalization of agriculture, and the country's industrial development.

The head of the Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation (ESURSI) thus instructed universities and research centers to establish mechanisms for leveraging scientific results, particularly through the patenting of innovations, the incubation of projects, and the transfer of technologies to the private sector. The stated objective is clear: to make science a lever for wealth creation, job creation, and the restoration of national dignity.

The ceremony took place in the presence of the Prime Minister's personal representative, Judith Suminwa Tuluka, namely the Deputy



SEM SOMBO speaking at this ceremony

Prime Minister in charge of the Civil Service, Jean-Pierre Lihau. The Minister commended the Prime Minister's leadership in implementing the vision of the Head of State, Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, which places science at the heart of the structural transformation of the national economy.

She also paid tribute to her predecessor, Professor Gilbert Kabanda Kurhenga, the initiator of the first edition of the Forum, emphasizing the importance of institutional continuity in consolidating the reforms undertaken.

One of the highlights of the ceremony was the address to the award recipients, among whom were several young scientists from provinces affected by insecurity linked to violence in the east of the country. Commending their determination despite a challenging context, the Minister called them "soldiers of knowledge," considering their scientific commitment an act of resilience and hope for the nation.

She reminded them that the distinction they received represents, above all, a responsibility: to put their knowledge at the service of the Congolese people, who face numerous socio-economic challenges.

In closing the 2025 edition, the Minister announced the launch of technical preparations for 2026, with the ambition of organizing a more inclusive Forum, more focused on new technologies and open to the Congolese diaspora.

Reaffirming that "science is not a luxury," but a strategic instrument for transformation, she assured them that the Higher Education, Scientific Research, and Innovation sector is now fully mobilized to make Congolese scientific genius a pillar of sovereignty, national security, and sustainable development.

Christian MAZONO/NSC and RTNC Editorial Staff

Activities of the Minister of ESURSI



HE SEM SOMBO AYANNE SAFI MUKUNA, Minister of ESURSI

47th session of CA-ISTAT: Marie-Thérèse SOMBO sets the course for rigor and excellence.

The Minister of Higher Education, University Studies, Scientific Research, and Innovation, Professor Dr. Marie-Thérèse Sombo, participated in the 47th Ordinary Session of the Board of Directors of ISTAT (CA-ISTAT), held from February 11 to 12, 2026, in Kinshasa.

This 47th Ordinary Session of the Board of Directors of ISTAT (CA-ISTAT) continued with rigor and institutional standards. On this occasion, the Minister, Professor Dr. Marie-Thérèse Sombo, delivered a speech of guidance and encouragement, clearly setting the course for the deliberations.

Speaking on the second day of the proceedings, which she described as a pivotal moment, the Minister reaffirmed her support for the administrators while reiterating that the reforms undertaken in the sector rest on three unshakeable pillars: quality, legality, and good governance. According to her, these principles must not remain theoretical, but must concretely guide every decision made during this session.

At the heart of her address was the management of academic careers. The Minister reiterated that the Staff Regulations, revised in 2018, remain the essential reference for

promotions and recruitment. She announced the strict application of the legal criteria for access to the position of Senior Lecturer, including holding a Master's degree or equivalent qualification, four years of effective seniority as an Assistant, and the publication of at least two high-quality scientific articles. She was particularly firm on respecting the recruitment age limit of 35 years, as stipulated in Instruction No. 027, emphasizing that no exceptions would be tolerated.

The Minister also stressed the need for rigorous administrative reform. Any incomplete or irregular file must be returned without delay in order to establish a culture of accountability at every level of the administrative chain. This requirement, she emphasized, is essential for the credibility of the higher education system.

Addressing the sensitive issue of doctoral training, she reiterated that, in accordance with Decree No. 134, the organization of postgraduate studies falls exclusively under the purview of universities. Higher Institutes lack the legal basis to independently organize doctoral schools and must be affiliated with a specific institution to guarantee the validity and credibility of degrees awarded in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Professor Marie-Thérèse Sombo urged the members of the Council to avoid any complacency or 'administrative tolerance' that could weaken the institutions. She called upon them to demonstrate a strong sense of public service so that this 47th session would yield concrete results that would bring stability and prestige to the CA-ISTAT. The deliberations in this final stretch, she insisted, must be guided by excellence.

Communication Unit/ESU-RSI and Christian MAZONO/NSC

Activities of the Minister of ESURSI

Marie-Thérèse SOMBO

opens the work on the management of research and innovation data in the DRC



The Minister of Higher Education, University, Scientific Research and Innovation (ESURSI), Professor Dr. Marie-Thérèse SOMBO, opened the workshop on research and innovation data management in the DRC on February 16, 2026 at the National Institute of Arts (INA) in Kinshasa.

Determined to make scientific research a major driver of the Democratic Republic of Congo's development, the Minister welcomed the initiative to structure the management of research and innovation data. This initiative aims, in particular, to improve the development, monitoring, and evaluation of evidence-based public policies, in line with the vision of the Grand Chancellor of Universities and Higher Institutes.

Professor Marie-Thérèse Sombo also reaffirmed her commitment to strengthening the competitiveness and application of research results for the benefit of Congolese society. The workshop, which began on Monday, February 16, 2026, continued until Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at the National Institute of Statistics.

It is worth noting that several prominent figures participated in this event, including the Secretary General of the RSI (Research and Innovation Society), the President of the NSC (National Scientific Council), and several Directors General of Research Institutions.

Communication Unit of ESURSI
and Christian MAZONO/NSC



Working session with the Minister of ESURSI

DRC–Switzerland: Towards the creation of a center of scientific research excellence in Kinshasa

The Minister of Higher Education, University Studies, Scientific Research and Innovation, Professor Marie-Thérèse SOMBO, granted an audience on Thursday, February 12, 2026, in her office, to a large delegation of scientists from major Swiss universities.

Led by the Swiss Ambassador to the DRC, Léo Trembley, this delegation included Professors Jurg Markus Etzinger Keiser, Hugues Abriel, Elisabeth Anne Odile Reus, Didier François Péclard, and Jérôme Chenal, representing, among others, the University of Bern, the University of Geneva, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL), and the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute.

This thirty-minute working session focused on an ambitious project to create a research and innovation center in Kinshasa. This initiative marks a decisive step in strengthening cooperation..

Communication Unit of ESURSI.

NSC Activities

President of the NSC: The FGSC has demonstrated that Congolese science is alive, creative and committed

“The Congolese Scientific Genius Forum (FGSC) has demonstrated that Congolese science is alive, creative and committed,” declared the President of the National Scientific Council (NSC), Professor MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA Pius, during the ceremony for the presentation of medals and prizes to the winners of the FGSC 2024 organized by the Minister of ESURSI Marie-Thérèse SOMBO, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Public Service, Jean Pierre LIHAU, representing the Prime Minister Judith SUMINWA TULUKA who was unable to attend, held at the marquee of the People’s Palace, on February 19, 2026.

According to him, Congolese science has provided concrete solutions to the challenges facing the DRC today: food security, public health, renewable energy, sustainable environmental management, urbanization, artificial intelligence, industrial transformation, and technological innovation.

He went on to say that the award recipients the country is honoring today embody scientific excellence and Congolese resilience. Their success is a personal victory as well as a collective one.

In closing, the head of the NSC called on the award recipients to also mentor young Congolese scientists. It should be noted that the NSC’s missions are outlined below:

- To deliberate on the orientations and priorities of scientific and technological research plans and programs to be carried out in the country;
- To deliberate on the allocation of resources from the State budget dedicated to scientific and technological activities;
- To monitor the financial management of Research Centers and Institutes;



The President of the NSC, Mr. Pius MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA

- To approve the budget of Research Institutes and Centers and submit it, along with an opinion, to the State Commissioner for Scientific Research;
 - To propose to the Minister of Scientific Research the appointment and promotion of scientific or senior administrative staff.
- Christian MAZONO/NSC.**

Speech by the President of the National Scientific Council, Prof. MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA Pius, at the Medal and Prize Award Ceremony for the 2024 FGSC Laureates, February 19, 2026, at the People's Palace tent

Your Excellency the Prime Minister, represented here;

Your Excellency the Minister of Higher Education, Universities, Scientific Research and Innovation;

Your Excellencies, Members of the Government;

Your Excellency the Chancellor of the National Orders,

Distinguished guests, in your respective titles and capacities, with all due protocol observed,

It is an immense honor and a great joy for me to speak at this solemn ceremony for the presentation of medals and prizes to the laureates of the 2024 Congolese Scientific Genius Forum.

You will recall that from August 19 to 29, 2023, the Congolese Scientific Genius Conclave was held in this same prestigious setting of the People's Palace marquee. This first Forum brought together Congolese researchers,



Your Excellency the Prime Minister, represented here;

Your Excellency the Minister of Higher Education, University, Scientific Research and Innovation;

Your Excellencies, Members of the Government;

Your Excellency the Chancellor of the National Orders,

Distinguished guests, in your respective titles and capacities, with all due protocol observed,

It is an immense honor and a great joy for me to speak at this solemn ceremony for the presentation of medals and prizes to the laureates of the 2024 Congolese Scientific Genius Forum.

You will recall that from August 19 to 29, 2023, the Congolese Scientific Genius Conclave was held in this same prestigious setting of the People's Palace marquee. This first Forum, bringing together Congolese researchers, inventors, and innovators living both in the country and in the diaspora, was opened and closed by the President of the Republic, Head of State, His Excellency Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, to whom we pay a vibrant tribute for his commitment to science and innovation.

A year later, in 2024, the second Congolese Scientific Engineering Forum was held in the Banquet Hall of the People's Palace.

It is worth recalling that during the first edition of the Forum, 297 research results, inventions, and innovations from Congolese people both in the country and in the diaspora were registered and

evaluated. Of these, 127 prototypes were shortlisted, and 50 were selected to receive the Medals of Merit for Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

In accordance with the Forum's regulations, the awards are presented to the winners a year later, at the following edition. Thus, the 2023 winners received their medals and prizes at the 2024 edition of the Congolese Scientific Engineering Forum. They also received industrial property patents granted by the Ministry of Industry for their research results, inventions, or innovations. The 2024 edition, which took place from August 13 to 29, 2024, recorded 400 research results, inventions, and innovations. Of these, 172 were shortlisted, and 50 winners, along with 8 special jury prizes, were to receive their awards in August 2025, at the closing ceremony of the third Congolese Scientific Genius Forum.

Unfortunately, this ceremony could not be held last year due to a scheduling conflict between the President of the Republic or his representative, the Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation (ESURSI), and the Chancellery of National Orders. This postponement led to various interpretations among many of the winners; impatience, even doubt, began to take hold.

The moment we are experiencing today is therefore much more than a simple protocol ceremony. It constitutes a powerful act of national recognition. He affirms that intelligence, creativity, and scientific rigor are essential pillars of the development of our beautiful country.

Our country is rich in natural resources, but even more so in human resources. In our university, our higher education institutions, our research centers, and in laboratories that are often modest but imbued with a spirit of excellence, ideas are

born that can transform our future.

The Congolese Scientific Genius Forum has demonstrated that Congolese science is vibrant, creative, and committed. It provides concrete answers to the challenges of our time: food security, public health, renewable energy, sustainable environmental management, urbanization, artificial intelligence, industrial transformation, and technological innovation.

The award recipients we are honoring today embody Congolese scientific excellence and resilience. Their success is a personal victory, but also a collective one.

To you, dear award recipients: this medal is not an end point, it is a beginning. It commits you to going further and to mentoring young Congolese scientists.

Once again, my sincere congratulations to all the winners.

Before concluding, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our fellow countryman, inventor Professor Jean Mongu Bele, for generously donating 10 Okapi brand phones to the winners.

Best of luck with your preparations for the 2026 Forum. Let us all believe in a bright future for our country. May God bless you all.

I thank you

NSC Activities

The President of the NSC participates in the launch of the "Luc Gillon Prize" for excellence.



Some participants at the 'Luc Gillon Prize' awards ceremony.

The President of the National Scientific Council (NSC), Professor MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA Pius, participated in the launch ceremony of the "Luc Gillon Prize" organized on Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at the UNIKIN Tent in Kinshasa.

According to the head of the National Scientific Council (NSC), representing the Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation (ESURSI), the Luc Gillon Prize is an award of excellence intended to encourage finalists who have distinguished themselves through the quality of their research, its dissemination through scientific publication, and/or relevant innovation serving society. It aligns perfectly with the vision of the 2023–2028 Strategic Plan, which aims to make the University of Kinshasa a driving force for national transformation through research, innovation, and academic excellence.

He further indicated that the launch of the Luc Gillon Prize, held at the University of Kinshasa's marquee, marked a symbolic and significant moment, designed to inform, mobilize, and engage the university and scientific community around this major initiative.

For his part, the Rector of the University of Kinshasa, Professor Jean Marie Kayembe, reaffirmed his fundamental conviction that there can be no sustainable development without science, without quality research, and without innovation that benefits society. UNIKIN, true to its historical mission, intends to remain a hub for knowledge production, the training of skilled professionals, and solutions to the country's major challenges.

Finally, the Academic Secretary General, Professor Felly LANGWANA, briefed the assembly on the eligibility criteria, evaluation process, regulations, and procedures for the Prize. Assistant Jonathan MUKANYA presented the selection process, which begins with the submission of research project abstracts via a Google Form, accompanied by 180-second explanatory videos for the Best Speaker. A jury will select the 20 best projects from each Faculty, who will then receive training in research and scientific writing. The jury's decisions will be final and reasoned. Winners will receive an official distinction, along with symbolic and/or material awards, depending on the resources available at the end of the academic year.

Through this prize, the University of Kinshasa aims to encourage a culture of valued

research from the undergraduate level, train a new generation of responsible researchers committed to excellence and integrity, and strengthen UNIKIN's scientific influence at the national and international levels.

The Rector commended the General Secretariat for Research, the Faculties, and the partners for their commitment to implementing this structuring initiative. He expressed his hope that the Luc Gillon Prize would become, over the years, a true mark of scientific excellence, a driving force for emulation, and a lasting instrument for promoting research at the University of Kinshasa.

The event was attended by the President of the National Scientific Council (NSC), the Director of the National Fund for Scientific Research and Technological Innovation (FNRSIT), the Deans, the Vice-Deans in charge of Research, Professors, other members of the scientific and administrative staff, and students.

**PProfessor Paulin Mutwale Kapepula, SGR –UNIKIN
and Christian MAZONO/NSC**

Echoes of Research Institutions

The RCMD/Bunia launches an agropastoral project for sustainable food sovereignty

The Multidisciplinary Research Center for Development in Bunia (RCMD/Bunia) launched its agropastoral research support project on February 19, 2026. Through this initiative, the center demonstrates its full commitment to addressing the food security challenge facing the country. True to its mission of operational research, RCMD/Bunia, through its agronomy and environment section, has transformed its internal resources into a lever for local development, an open-air laboratory.

The project, which integrates agriculture, fish farming, and sheep and goat breeding, aims



Les chercheurs de RCMD/BUNIA en pleine activité



to be a model of action research. Here, the environment is studied while simultaneously producing what the population consumes.

This project aligns perfectly with the vision of Her Excellency Professor Marie-Thérèse Sombo, Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation (ESURSI), who advocates for 'scientific research into solutions, the engine of socioeconomic development and the guarantor of our food sovereignty.' By focusing on agriculture and environmental protection,



the RCMD/Bunia is responding to the 2024-2028 National Strategic Development Plan (PNSD). 'We want to demonstrate that research can be self-financing and serve as a basis for experimentation for farmers,' explains Kermwa Ugenbero Thomas, Acting Director General of RCMD/Bunia. Indeed, by using its own resources, the center demonstrates exemplary resilience, transforming budgetary constraints into opportunities for innovation. This initiative aims to bring a glimmer of hope to Ituri, a region in northeastern DRC rich in biodiversity but often confronted with instability.

Beyond its productive aspect, the project will serve as a sanctuary for nature studies. The protection of soils, water, and local species

is a scientific priority, ensuring that today's development does not compromise tomorrow's resources. Ultimately, this project is a symbol of Congolese ingenuity serving its land. If it continues on this path, the RCMD/Bunia could well become a beacon of agropastoralism in northeastern DRC.

BALOGIJE SELENJE Jean-Luc/ RCMD-Bunia.

ATSRC is hosting a scientific morning session on energy performance diagnosis

The Centre for Research in Applied Sciences and Technologies (ATSRC) organised a scientific morning for its researchers on February 11, 2026 at the Centre for Geological and Mining Research (RCGM) in the commune of Gombe.

Several interesting topics were addressed by researchers, including the challenges and prospects of Energy Performance Diagnosis (EPD) in the DRC. This topic was presented by researcher Emmanuel Asobee Anakonda from the Department of Materials Science and Technology (DSMT) at ATSRC.

He began his presentation by explaining the concept of Energy Performance Diagnosis (EPD). This document is an assessment tool designed to measure the energy consumption of buildings, expressed in kWh/m²/year, as well as their greenhouse gas emissions, expressed in kg CO₂/m²/year.

The speaker then described the objective of the EPD as an essential tool for evaluating the performance of housing by classifying energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions (and their environmental impact). It allows for the assignment of an energy rating ranging from class A (very efficient) to class G (very energy inefficient), thus facilitating the understanding of a building's energy efficiency level and the identification of potential improvements. At the international level, Energy Performance Diagnosis (EPD) is part of energy transition and climate change mitigation strategies.

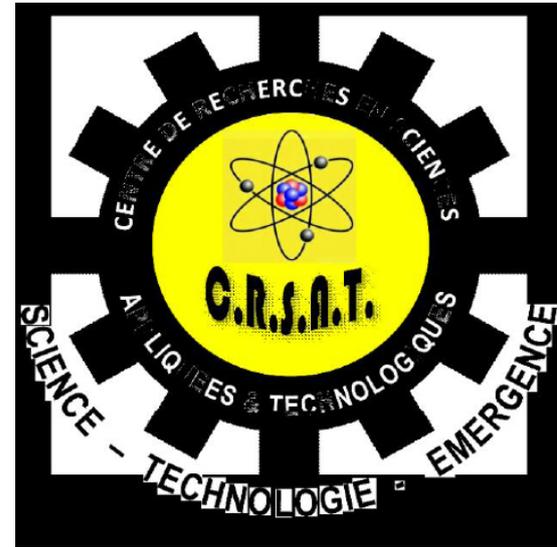
The EPD expert continued his presentation by placing it in the context of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), noting that the issue of building energy performance is of particular importance. The country is experiencing rapid urbanization and sustained growth in its housing stock, often without the systematic integration of energy efficiency principles. Furthermore,

he noted that limited access to electricity, frequent power outages, and a heavy reliance on generators and fuelwood (wood and charcoal) generate high costs and significant environmental impacts, particularly in terms of deforestation and CO₂ emissions.

The researcher added that adapting the Energy Performance Diagnosis (EPD) to the Congolese context requires taking into account climatic realities (hot and humid tropical climate), local building materials (cement blocks, terracotta bricks, adobe), and the energy sources actually used (electrical grid, solar, generators, biomass). Two assessment approaches can be considered: a simplified method, based on direct observation and estimation of consumption from local data, particularly suited to informal or semi-formal buildings; and a conventional method inspired by international standards, adjusted to the specificities of the tropical climate.

The expert specified that the key indicators selected include specific energy consumption, estimated CO₂ emissions, the share of renewable energy, and the degree of dependence on wood fuels. A practical illustration of the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) in a detached house in Kinshasa highlights variations in energy consumption depending on the room: the kitchen and bathroom appear to be the most energy-intensive spaces, while rooms with good natural ventilation and LED lighting show better performance. Overall, the analyzed building corresponds to an average energy performance (class C), appropriate for the local context.

He emphasized that despite the absence of a specific national regulatory framework and the lack of reliable energy data, the EPC represents a strategic lever for improving the energy efficiency of the building sector in the DRC. Its gradual integration into public policies, real estate projects, and environmental impact



assessments could contribute to reducing energy costs, promoting renewable energies—particularly solar—and supporting sustainable and resilient urban development.

The scientist concluded, emphasizing the importance of considering energy consumption during the construction or rental of buildings (housing), in order to minimize the significant environmental impact, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and protect humanity.

ATRATITUNGU SANGOL Dieudonné ATSRC

PUBLIC-SECTOR RESEARCH CENTERS AND INSTITUTES IN THE D.R. CONGO

RIHS (Research Institute in Health Science)

Objective: To improve the state of health of the population through research in the following fields: pharmaceutical, medical, anthropological, psychological or socio-cultural.

Address: 9, Av. Lukusa C/Gombe; E-mail: dnyembo@gmail.com; Tel: 0824580211

ATSR (Applied and Technologic Sciences Research Center)

Objectif: Mettre au point des matériaux, des appareils, des méthodes ou procédés Objective: To develop materials, equipment, methods or processes with a view to finding solutions to the population's urgent problems in various fields: housing, rural development and the modernization of the society.

Address: 106, Blvd du 30 Juin, C/Gombe; E-mail: Jeannoel.mputu@gmail.com; Tel: 0821138261

RCHS (Research Center in Human Sciences)

Objective: To ensure the human development of the Congolese people through the study of its social, economic and political dimensions with a view to identifying the factors that have a positive or negative influence on its development.

Address: 33, Av. Comité Urbain C/ Gombe; E-mail: mingashang@yahoo.fr; Tel: 0819377821

RCMT (Research Center in Mathematics Teaching)

Objective: To carry out research in the field of mathematics teaching with a view to improving quality.

Address: 84, Av. des Ambassadeurs C/ Gombe; E-mail: mabelamatendorostin@gmail.com; Tel: 0815031877

GRC (Geophysical Research Center)

Objective: To provide the country with a national geophysical observation network, for the global study of the internal behavior of the earth in the DRC.

Address: 44, Av. de la démocratie, C/ Gombe (within GMRC); E-mail: tondozi@gmail.com; Tel: 0854426228

AIPS (African Institute of Prospective Studies)

Objective: To carry out forward-looking studies in order to propose solutions to crises and problems linked to the evolution of African societies.

Address: Av. Cardinal Malula, C/ Lemba; E-mail: mgrtarcbangu@yahoo.fr; Tel: 0996658741

MDRC (Multidisciplinary Development Research Center/Matadi)

Objective: To carry out operational research in central Congo in the field of applied linguistics of African cultures and applied sciences

Address: Hôtel de la porte Matadi; E-mail: Mwanzanicolas5@gmail.com; Tel: 0815037949

NCPIR (National Committee for the Protection of ionizing Radiation)

Objective: - Regulatory authority for protection against the dangers of ionizing radiation in the DRC management of radioactive sources of radioactive materials such as uranium.

Address: 4675, Av. Colonel Ebeya, Immeuble Quitus 2ème niveau; Email: Flory1963@gmail.com; Tel: 0816684665

AEC (French Atomic Energy Commission)

Objective: To carry out, promote and coordinate scientific and technical research in various fields of science and industry, concerning the use of atomic energy and space research.

Address: UNIKIN building; E-mail: Steve.muanza.kamunga@gmail.com; Tel: 0808643248

CGI (Congo Geographic Institute)

Objective: Production of the base map of the DRC at a scale of 1/50,000 and its derivatives.

Address: 106, Blvd du 30 Juin, C/Gombe; E-mail: Fidele.balibuno@unikin.ac.cd; Tel: 0974449240

GMRC (Geologic and Mining Research Center)

Objective: To carry out studies and analyses to improve knowledge of the soil and subsoil of the national territory.

Address: 44, Av. de la démocratie, C/ Gombe; E-mail: rolandkakule@gmail.com; Tel: 0851506161

NIASR (National Institute for Agronomic Study and Research)

Objective: To promote the development of agriculture in the Congo. To maintain varieties, multi-local trials, and its farmers, management and conservation of germplasm. Set up a program to monitor and evaluate research activities.

To disseminate new varieties. Give the emerging technical department its reason for being, with a view to producing basic and pre-basic seed. Resume publication of the agricultural magazine to disseminate research results.

Address: 13, Av. des Cliniques, BP :2037 KINSHASA, C/Gombe; E-mail: domikankonde@yahoo.fr; Tel: 0818248620

RCALC (Research Center into African Language and Culture)

Objective: To coordinate and carry out all research projects concerning African languages and cultures.

Address: 53 C, Av. Makiso, blvd du 30 juin, Kisangani/ Tshopo. Tel: 0851934320

AFRC (Agro-Food Research Centre/Lubumbashi)

Objective: To identify processes for processing and preserving basic local agricultural products. To improve the quality of imported or locally produced foodstuffs by applying approved standards and quality control.

Help the technological development of the existing agro-industry by providing them with technical assistance wherever possible.

Address: 1, Av. Président LLEO, Q/CRAA, C/Lubumbashi; E-mail: Julesnkulu@gmail.com; Tel: 0997131002

SSRC (Social Science Research Center / Bandunduville)

Objective: to carry out practical scientific research into major socio-economic and cultural issues.

To promote sustainable aquatic development.

Address: 29, Av. de la mission, Q/Salongo, C/Basoko. BANDUNDUVILLE, BP. 223; E-mail: akuzituka@gmail.com; Tel: 0815898971

FERC (Forest Ecology Research Center /Mabali)

Objective: Scientific research on plants, aquatic species and animal species.

Address: D.S/MBANDAKA D.S/MBANDAKA/PROVINCE OF ECUADOR; E-mail: bosomboependi2@gmail.com; Tel: 0825241704

NDRC (Nutritional Diseases Research Center/Gemena)

Objective: Research into diseases linked to malnutrition, such as related diseases by isolating certain molecules, such as SYZYSIUM GUINESIE to combat amoebic yeasts and diarrhea in South Ubangi.

Address: Mobutu n° 220/A. GEMENA/ SOUTH UBANGI PROVINCE; E-mail: cherusangi@yahoo.fr; 0992416091

NSRC (Natural Sciences Research Center /Lwiro)

Objective: To carry out, promote and coordinate research in the fields of science, technology and industry throughout the DRC.

Address: LWIRO LWIRO, TERRITORY OF KABARE/SUD KIVU; E-mail: robert.kasisi@umontreal.com; Tel: 0996806699

MDRC (Multidisciplinary Development Research Center /Bunia)

Objective: To carry out operational research in the north-east of the DRC in the fields of applied linguistics, African cultures and applied sciences.

Study of nature, fauna, flora and protection of endangered species.

Address: BUNIA/ITURI; E-mail: Kermwathomas@gmail.com; Tel: 0997717070

HRC (Hydrobiology Research Center in Uvira)

Objective: To program, coordinate and monitor research activities in hydrobiology, limnology and hydrology.

hydrobiology, limnology and fisheries in all ecosystems.

Address: 115, Av. du Congo, Q/Kimanga, C/Kalundu, UVIRA / SUD KIVU; E-mail: bida-kamuloza@gmail.com; Tel: 0997716307

CBRNEC (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Excellence Center)

Objective: To contribute to the mitigation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risks.

Address: 106, Blvd du 30 Juin, C/Gombe; E-mail: coe.cbrn.rdc@gmail.com; Tel: 0817742543

GVO (Goma Volcanological Observatory)

Objective: Prevention of volcanic risks by monitoring volcanoes and Lake Kivu. Kivu; Management of natural risks; scientific research.

Address: 142, Avenue Du Rond Point ; Quartier Les Volcans ; Commune de Goma ; Ville Goma; North-Kivu; E-mail: mavotulu@gmail.com; Tel: 0998584734

WERC (Water and Environment Research Center)

Objective: To serve as a training and research center focusing on water and environmental management.

To propose solutions to problems that could arise around water. Create a national network of Congolese scientists and researchers to analyze and disseminate information on the impact of climate change in the DRC. Promote education and the right to the environment.

Address: 44, Comité Urbain C/ GOMBE; E-mail: ngelipatience@gmail.com; Tel: 0818105625

RCSARP (Research Center for the Selection and Adaptation of Ruminants and Pigs)

Objective: To carry out studies and research in the field of ruminant and pig breeding

Address: 45, Av. Lumumba, Q/de la gare, LUPUTA/ KASAI-ORIENTAL; E-mail: tshamalagabriel@gmail.com; Tel: 0851817370

NCRS (National Center for Remote Sensing)

Objective: Research in remote sensing.

Address: PLACE ROYAL IMMEUBLE PLACE ROYAL IMMEUBLE KASAI; E-mail: davidngindub@gmail.com; Tel: 0815103502

NCROS (National Center for Research in Oral Science)

Objective: To carry out studies and research in the field of oral health.

Address: 13, 10ème Rue, Industriel Quarter, C/Limete; E-mail: Cnrsbd.rdc@gmail.com; Tel: 0822244152; 0811835159; 0840922982

CAS (Congo Academy of Sciences)

Objective: Promotion and dissemination of science, technology, arts and letters. Support for inventive initiatives.

Address: Sciences Faculty/ UNIKIN local 28; E-mail: jjmuyembet@gmail.com; Tel: 0813330242

MIPRC (Matadi Interdisciplinary Pedagogical Research Center)

Objective: -Information science.

Address: The buildings of the Matadi Higher Pedagogical Institute; Tel: 0896501462

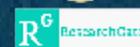
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1. to deliberate on the guidelines and priorities of the scientific and technological research plans and programs to be carried out in the country ;
2. to deliberate on the allocation of resources from the State budget to scientific and technological activities;
3. supervising the financial management of research centers and institutes
4. approving the budgets of the Research Institutes and Centers and submitting them to the Minister for Scientific Research for approval
5. approving the organic regulations of the Research Institutes and Centers;
6. proposing to the Minister for Scientific Research the appointment and promotion of scientific and administrative personnel.

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