



**Marie-Thérèse
SOMBO** Temporarily
suspends activities at
ISTM/Kisantu

NSC

organizes its 60th ordinary session on
March 25, 2026

RCALC

celebrates International Mother
Language Day



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CONTENTS

Towards a Solutions-Oriented Science.....	P3
Activities of the Minister of ESURSI	
• CAMES: Marie-Thérèse SOMBO champions the scientific vision of the DRC.....	P4
• Marie-Thérèse SOMBO temporarily suspends activities at ISTM/Kisantu.....	P5
• Civil nuclear power: the DRC wants its voice heard at the Paris World Summit.....	P5-6
• Marie-Thérèse SOMBO: the merger of ESURSI marks the DRC's entry into the era of professionalizing scientific development.....	P7-8
• Marie-Thérèse SOMBO mobilizes the presidents of the conferences of heads of institutions around good academic governance.....	P8
NSC Activities	
• The NSC will hold its 61st ordinary session on February 25, 2026.....	P9
Echoes of Research Institutions	
• AIPS organizes capacity building for its staff.....	P10
• ACCOS organizes a meeting of Work with its members.....	P10
• ATSRC is organizing a scientific conference for its staff.....	P11
• RCALC is celebrating International Mother Language Day.....	
• ISTM/Kinshasa is organizing a scientific morning on strategic minerals.....	P11-12
• SEMATECH is organizing training on electronic archiving and electronic document management.....	P13
	P13
Read for you	
• The Role of Agriculture in the Socio-Economic Development of the Idiofa Territory: Issues, Dynamics, and Prospects.....	P14
Public Sector Research Centers and Institutes in the DRC.....	P15

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Professor
Pius MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA
NSC President

Towards a science of solutions

Science has long been conceived as a sanctuary of the mind dedicated solely to understanding the silent laws of the universe, but today it is asserting itself as a transformative force, called upon to respond to the urgent needs of humanity. This 52nd edition of the *Bulletin Sciences et Innovations Technologiques (Science and Technological Innovations Bulletin)* aims to reflect this fundamental transition where knowledge, to be legitimate, must imperatively establish itself as a solution.

This shift towards action-oriented science is first and foremost embodied by our international influence, championed with determination by the Minister of Higher Education, University Studies, Scientific Research, and Innovation, Professor Dr. Marie-Thérèse Sombo. By defending the Democratic Republic of Congo's vision for the future of African higher education, she reaffirms our country's status as a major historical player on the continent. Whether it concerns university integration or the challenges of global civil nuclear energy, she forcefully demonstrates that mastering cutting-edge technologies is, above all, a political solution serving our energy and industrial sovereignty. Consequently, science stands as a true shield for a nation that refuses to submit to global dictates in order to forge its own destiny.

Furthermore, at the national level, our sovereignty is patiently built within our laboratories and research institutions, where concrete solutions to the challenges facing our society are developed. In the context of everyday life, this science of solutions is emerging as a genuine act of social justice and public health. It is exemplified by research on the nutritional value of local products, which offer a bulwark against malnutrition, as well as by studies on rural development, proving that the modernization of agricultural techniques remains the essential key to inclusive growth. In this context, even preserving our identity through

education in mother tongues becomes a solution against cultural erosion, because a science that ignores its roots is a science that loses its profound meaning.

This issue also emphasizes that the solution provided by science lies in the harmony between technological progress and ethical responsibility, because science in action also means having the courage to link the legality of laws to the legitimacy of the needs of local communities. The debate surrounding the legal anthropology of mining underscores the urgent need to reconcile the exploitation of our resources with social well-being and environmental protection, particularly the mangroves of Moanda, the region's true ecological lungs. This comprehensive approach ensures that scientific progress leaves no one behind.

Finally, this issue celebrates a shift towards digital and entrepreneurial sovereignty. Joining the international GATEWAYS initiative and launching the Bokeli digital platform illustrate our commitment to breaking down bureaucratic barriers and unleashing creative genius. Thanks to artificial intelligence, researchers and entrepreneurs now have the tools to transform an idea into a structured and bankable project. The National Scientific Council, by ensuring rigorous governance, guarantees that every innovation is a step closer to a prosperous Congo. Science in Congo is now a dynamic force, on the ground, in the mines, in the fields, and on our screens, building a future of which we are the sole masters. May this science remain the clear answer to the questions of our time, so that every advance may be, for humanity, a promise finally fulfilled.

Activities of the Minister of ESURSI

CAMES: Marie-Thérèse SOMBO champions the scientific vision of the DRC

The Democratic Republic of Congo actively participated on March 9, 2026 in Lomé, Togo, in the official opening of the 7th Scientific Days of the African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education (CAMES), a strategic event for the future of African scientific research.

Led by the Minister of Higher Education, University Studies, Scientific Research, and Innovation, Professor Dr. Marie-Thérèse Sombo, the Congolese delegation is participating in a workshop held at the Palais des Congrès and the University of Lomé on the theme: "What kind of scientific research for a united, resilient, and developed Africa: towards an ambitious common research policy within the CAMES region?"

Addressing ministers, university rectors, researchers, and scientific partners from several African countries, the Congolese minister emphasized the urgent need for the continent to place science at the heart of its development.

"Science, research, and innovation must become the true driving force of African development," she stated, calling on African states to transform the continent's scientific potential into concrete solutions for the economy and society. The DRC Presents its Scientific Ecosystem Reform

Taking advantage of this continental platform, Minister Marie-Thérèse Sombo presented the reforms undertaken in the Democratic Republic of Congo to reposition scientific research as a strategic lever for industrialization and job creation.

At the heart of this transformation is the Congolese Scientific Engineering Incubator (IGSC), tasked with transforming research results into economic innovations. To date, more than 7,000 prototypes stemming from Congolese scientific ingenuity have been identified, with over 1,000 supported through to the final maturation stage.

The DRC has also established a strategic financial instrument, the National Fund for Scientific Research and Technological Innovations (FNRSIT), designed to support the technological maturation of innovations and their integration into the market. Since 2024, nearly 300 billion Congolese francs (approximately \$130 million) have already been mobilized to finance these programs.



A Congolese Contribution to African Science Policy

During the ministerial conference dedicated to harmonizing national research policies, the Congolese minister also advocated for greater scientific integration among CAMES member countries.

According to her, developing a common research policy is "an essential step to strengthen African scientific integration and enable our national research systems to effectively address the challenges of sustainable development."

The DRC believes that this harmonization will strengthen the comparability of degrees, the mobility of faculty and doctoral students, the pooling of scientific infrastructure, and the implementation of joint research programs that address the continent's priorities. The DRC's Strategic Scientific Assets

In her address, the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research also highlighted the DRC's significant scientific assets that can contribute to the CAMES common research policy.

The country is home to the world's second-largest rainforest, exceptional and largely unexplored biodiversity, and substantial strategic mineral resources such as cobalt, copper, coltan, and lithium, essential for the energy and digital transitions.

Towards African Research Serving Development

Through its active participation in the 7th CAMES Scientific Days, the DRC intends to fully contribute to building an integrated African scientific space, capable of transforming research into innovations, industries, and job opportunities for young people.

"Africa has immense scientific potential. Our collective responsibility now is to transform this potential into technologies, industries, and jobs for our youth," concluded Minister Marie-Thérèse Sombo. The work of these scientific conferences will continue in Lomé until March 12 with several panels, ministerial meetings, and technical sessions dedicated to the future of research and innovation within the CAMES region.

Communication Unit/ESU-RSI



HE SEM SOMBO AYANNE SAFI MUKUNA, Minister of ESURSI

Marie-Thérèse SOMBO Temporarily Suspends Activities at ISTM/Kisantu

The Minister of Higher Education, University, Scientific Research and Innovation (ESURSI), Marie-Thérèse SOMBO, temporarily suspended academic and para-academic activities at the Higher Institute of Medical Techniques of Kisantu (ISTM/Kisantu) on March 9, 2026, in the Kongo Central province.

This measure is contained in Ministerial Decree No. 058/MINESURSI/CAB.MIN/SASM/MMK/2026 of March 9, 2026, signed by the Supervisory Authority.

A decision made to preserve academic order

According to the reasons given for this decree, ISTM/Kisantu is facing incidents that have paralyzed the smooth running of academic and administrative activities, as well as an internal climate marked by persistent tensions. This situation has led to dysfunctions within the institution and prevented the management bodies from restoring the calm necessary for its normal operation.

In this context, the supervising Ministry deemed it necessary and urgent to adopt precautionary measures to prevent any further deterioration of the situation and to facilitate a swift return to institutional order.

Suspension of Activities Until Further Notice

In accordance with the provisions of Article 1 of this decree, all academic and

extracurricular activities at ISTM/Kisantu are suspended until further notice. The members of the Management Committee, the academic, scientific, and administrative staff, as well as the students of the institution, are urged to strictly observe this temporary suspension. Deployment of a Mission to Assess the Situation

To identify the root causes of the incidents and assess the situation on the ground, a mission will be dispatched to ISTM/Kisantu. Its mandate will be to clarify the facts, analyze the situation, and report to the supervisory authority so that appropriate measures can be taken to restore the institution's normal operations.

Finally, the Minister indicated that this decision reflects the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation's commitment to ensuring the stability, institutional discipline, and quality of the higher education system in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Communications Unit of the Minister of ESURSI) and Christian MAZONO/NSC



Civil nuclear power: DRC wants to make its voice heard at the Paris world summit

At a time when the energy transition and security of electricity supply are emerging as global priorities, the Democratic Republic of Congo intends to position itself in strategic debates on the future of civilian nuclear power. Kinshasa plans to participate in the second World Nuclear



Summit, scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, 2026, in Paris.

This international meeting will bring together heads of state and government, representatives of international organizations, financial institutions, industry leaders, and experts in the sector to discuss the role of nuclear power in addressing energy and climate challenges.

Organized by France in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency, this summit also aims to strengthen international cooperation and promote the safe, sustainable, and peaceful development of nuclear energy.

Speaking at the 81st meeting of the Council of Ministers held on Friday, March 6, 2026, at the African Union City under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Judith Suminwa Tuluka, the Minister of Higher Education, University Studies, Scientific Research, and Innovation, Professor Marie-Thérèse Sombo, informed the government about the upcoming international conference.

According to her communications team, she will participate in this strategic event to represent the DRC and promote the prospects of the Congolese nuclear sector.

The Minister informed the Council about the World Nuclear Energy Summit scheduled for March 10, 2026, in Paris, France. She indicated that this second World Nuclear Energy Summit, initiated by the government of the French Republic in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency, will be attended by more than 60 heads of state. Discussions will focus on the strategic role of nuclear power

in addressing global energy, climate, and industrial challenges," reports the meeting summary read by government spokesperson, H.E. Patrick Muyaya.

According to the briefing note presented to the Council of Ministers, the Democratic Republic of Congo's participation aims, in particular, to reaffirm its status as a historical and credible player in civil nuclear energy in Africa.

"Addressing the strategic challenges facing our country, the meeting emphasized the need to reaffirm our status as a historical and credible player in civil nuclear energy in Africa, to modernize and revitalize our nuclear infrastructure, to attract strategic partnerships and international financing, to strengthen nuclear safety and security in accordance with the standards of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and to prevent any marginalization in the reshaping of regional leadership," the meeting summary states. Nuclear energy is generating increasing interest worldwide. According to the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, nuclear power now represents nearly 10% of global electricity production and is seen by many countries as an essential complement to renewable energies, enabling the production of dispatchable, low-carbon electricity.

In this context, the summit aims to foster dialogue between states that already have a nuclear program and those considering embarking on this path, particularly in emerging economies. It will also highlight the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in accordance with international commitments, as the Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of

Nuclear Weapons (NPT) approaches, scheduled for spring 2026.

A program focused on the priorities of civil nuclear energy

The morning of the summit will be devoted to a high-level session featuring speeches by heads of state and government. The afternoon will be dedicated to several panels and roundtables on key themes in the sector. Discussions will focus on the role of nuclear power in the energy transition and access to reliable, carbon-free electricity, financing mechanisms for nuclear projects, and technological innovations, particularly the development of small modular reactors (SMRs), which open up new possibilities for energy production and industrial applications.

Other discussions will also address security of fuel supply, the management of radioactive materials and waste, and the development of skills and supply chains necessary for the construction and operation of nuclear facilities.

Potentiel and Christian Mazono, NSC

Activities of the Minister of ESURSI

Marie-Thérèse SOMBO: The merger of ESURSIT marks the DRC's entry into the era of professionalizing scientific valorization



As part of the support for the effective and rational implementation of open and distance education, Her Excellency the Minister of Higher, University, Scientific Research and Innovation (ESURSI), Professor Dr. Marie-Thérèse SOMBO, has undertaken, since her accession to the head of the Ministry, several structuring initiatives both nationally and internationally.

The results of these actions are now tangible. To successfully conclude February 2026, the head of ESURSI has just achieved a major milestone: the Democratic Republic of Congo's official accession to the UNESCO-UNICEF GATEWAYS initiative.

Led by UNESCO and UNICEF, this global initiative, launched in 2022, aims to support countries in establishing and strengthening safe, inclusive, and free national digital learning platforms. It promotes universal access to quality educational content, aligned with school and academic curricula, for the benefit of students, teachers, and families.

GATEWAYS was created following

the United Nations Summit on Education Transformation, in response to the urgent need to extend public education into digital spaces and ensure equitable access.

With this membership, the Democratic Republic of Congo joins a group of countries already engaged in this initiative, including: Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Finland, Ghana, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Malta, Mongolia, Singapore, Uganda, the United States, Uruguay, and Zambia.

Among the actions planned under this initiative are technical support for member states, the sharing of experiences and best practices through study visits,

and the organization of strategic dialogues.

To this end, the supervisory authority has appointed Mr. Thierry ABANKWI IPAMA, Director of the Open and Distance Learning Service, as the Principal Country Representative. He will serve as the official liaison between the Democratic Republic of Congo and the initiative's leaders, ensuring effective coordination and optimal implementation of the commitments made.

With this significant step forward, Her Excellency Professor Dr. Marie-Thérèse Sombo is further realizing the vision of the Head of State, His Excellency Félix Tshisekedi, championed by the Government led by Her Excellency Prime

Activities of the Minister of ESURSI

Minister Judith Suminwa Tuluka, for the modernization, digitalization, and internationalization of the Congolese education system.

The book entitled "General Assembly of Higher and University Education" This book, the fruit of the collective work of some forty researchers in the Democratic Republic of Congo," constitutes a scientific record and an important historical reference for our sector. "This book retraces the resolutions of the Lubumbashi General Assembly in 2021, sheds light on the foundations, analyzes the dynamics, resistances, and prospects, and lays a solid groundwork for consolidating the reform of the higher education system in the DRC," stated Professor Marie-Thérèse Sombo.

For his part, the Coordinator of the Congolese Scientific Engineering Incubator explained that participants will complete 62 modules, each lasting two to four hours, covering the entire value chain, from the creation and governance of structures to intellectual property, from business plans to startup taxation, and more.

"These immersive experiences will allow, among other things, prototype engineering, direct dialogue with industry professionals, experimentation with incubation mechanisms, and analysis of real market constraints," revealed Professor Antoine Tshimpi. In total, 72 teacher-researchers, business executives, and industrial and commercial experts are involved as trainers. Among the institutions represented among the trainers are the universities of Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, and Goma, the Federation of Congolese Enterprises (FEC), and the National Institute for Vocational Training (INPP). The military is also involved to integrate the strategic innovation dimension.

Furthermore, the Ministries of Foreign Trade, Industry, Entrepreneurship, and SMEs are also participating.

ACP

Marie-Thérèse SOMBO is mobilizing the presidents of the conferences of heads of institutions around good academic governance

As part of strengthening governance in the Higher and University Education sector, Her Excellency Professor Dr. Marie-Thérèse SOMBO brought together in Kinshasa the presidents of the provincial conferences of heads of ESU institutions in order to consolidate the momentum of structural reforms undertaken within the Congolese university system.

During this orientation meeting, the Minister emphasized that the success of the ongoing reforms depends heavily on the effective involvement of higher education institutions, particularly the smooth functioning of the provincial conferences of heads of institutions.

"This dynamic of structural reforms can only bear fruit if sustained efforts are made at the level of each institution and especially at the provincial conferences of heads of institutions. Hence the necessity and urgency of the optimal functioning of these conferences," the Minister stressed.

This meeting thus provided an opportunity for the supervisory authority and academic leaders to harmonize their actions around several strategic priorities.

These include ensuring the effective operation of the provincial conferences of heads of institutions, validating the principle and implementation procedures for the national student card with a unique number, and reiterating the formal prohibition of unauthorized off-campus lectures. Discussions also focused on preparing for student missions, verifying the effectiveness of the 2025-2026 academic year, and collecting the statistical data necessary for sector planning.

Furthermore, the issue of non-payment of tuition fees was examined, with the identification of coercive measures designed to ensure compliance with regulatory obligations by the institutions concerned.

Through this initiative, the Minister reaffirmed her commitment to strengthening the institutional accountability of heads of institutions and to establishing a rigorous monitoring and control mechanism following this meeting. This mobilization of academic leaders is part of the commitment of the government led by Ms. Judith SUMINWA TULUKA to consolidate transparency, administrative discipline, and quality governance within the Higher Education system in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Communication Unit of the Minister of ESURSI/NSC

NSC Activities

NSC is holding its 60th ordinary session on March 25, 2026.

The National Scientific Council (NSC) will hold its 60th ordinary session on Wednesday, March 25, 2026 in the "Master José MPANDA KABANGU" conference room of the RCHS located on Avenue Comité Urbai, No. 33 in Gombe township.

Several points will be at the heart of this session, including the reading and adoption of the minutes of the 59th ordinary session of the NSC of December 22, 2025, the summary of decisions and recommendations of the ordinary session of the NSC of February 22, 2025, the operation of Research Institutions during the intersession from January 2026 to March 2026, the report of the commissions created by the NSC, the preparation of the budget forecasts for the IRs for the 2027



fiscal year, the adoption of the organizational structures of the Water and Environment Research Center (WERC), the Goma Volcanological Observatory (OVG/Goma) and the Maintenance and Technological Support Service (SEMATECH), the files concerning

the appointments and promotions of staff and managers of the Research Centers and Institutes, and other matters.

Note that the President of the NSC, Professor Pius MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA, emphasizes the importance of all members participating in this session and reminds them that the decisions made therein are binding on the Research Institutions.

In fact, the NSC meets four times a year to discuss matters related to the proper functioning of Research Centers and Institutes. These sessions are held in March, June, September, and December.

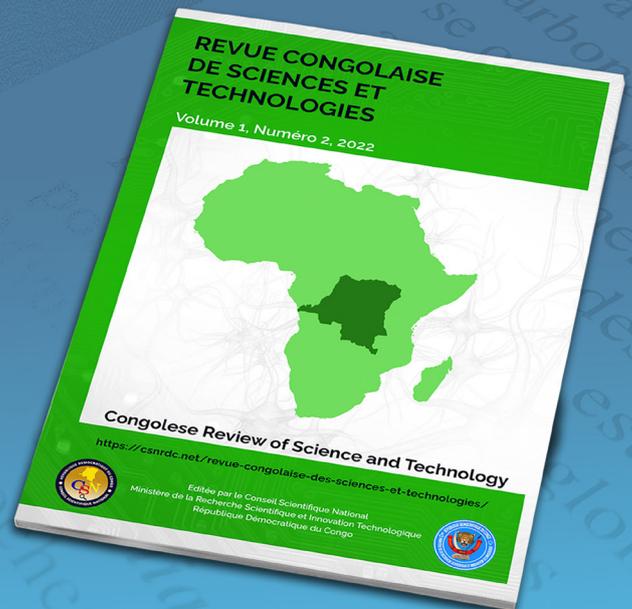
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Echoes of Research Institutions

AIPS organizes capacity building for its staff

Under the high patronage of Her Excellency the Minister of Higher Education, Universities, Scientific Research and Innovation, the African Institute for Prospective Studies (AIPS) will organize a capacity-building training session for its staff on the theme "The Congolese State: Cheikh Anta Diop and AIPS's Mission for Africa," on March 25, 2026, in Kinshasa.

This grand scientific morning will be led by Professor Bilolo Mubabinge, Director of AIPS Ethics and professional conduct, the origins and missions of AIPS, as well as future prospects, are the main topics of this scientific, cultural, and political seminar.

Several participants from around the world will take part in this scientific event, which will be held in March of this year with the support of the National Scientific Council. With the



invitation extended warmly, the scientific and research communities will gather in a few days to clarify key issues and address the challenges facing Africa and the world.

Théodore LUMU/AIPS

ACCOS is organizing a working meeting with its members

The Congolese Academy of Sciences (ACCOS) held a working meeting with its members on February 25, 2026 at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Kinshasa.

The Congolese Academy of Sciences (ACCOS), under the chairmanship of Professor Jean-Jacques Muyembe, held its working meeting on February 25, 2026, at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Kinshasa.

In addition to reviewing the Muyembe and Ishango Prizes, the focus was on the Congolese Journal of Science and Technology, a true showcase of national academic innovation.

The ceremony was presided over by Professor Jean-Jacques Muyembe and Professor Mpiana Puis, Chairman of the Scientific Council, who participated in his capacity as Secretary of the Division of Physical and Applied Sciences. The agenda for this working session included the following items: Remarks by the President of ACCOS, reading and



Active participants

approval of the minutes of the meeting of October 29, 2025, presentations by four academics of the highlights of their scientific research (6 minutes each), and information (J.J. Muyembe Prize and Ishango Prize), visit to the International Community in Athens, Greece, AMASA report, Congolese Studies Congress (Mbuji-Mayi), and Symposium on the 65th anniversary of the death of the UN Secretary-General.

Regarding the journal, the President of the CSN received applause from Professor Tshimanga of the School of Water and from Professor Taba,



Permanent Secretary of ACCOS. He was congratulated for his outstanding work on the Congolese Journal of Science and Technology (RCST). The two professors invited other professors to highlight their research work in the RCST and to publish regularly in order to better showcase the innovations of ACCOS academics.

Moise TSHIBANGU

Echoes of Research Institutions

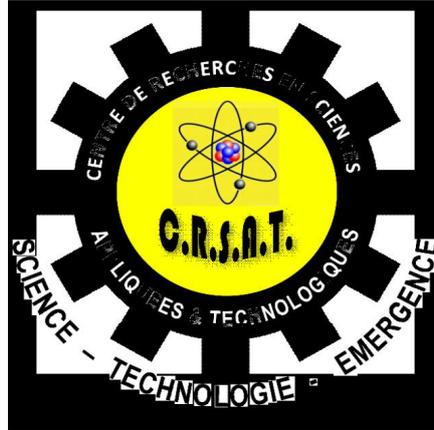
The ATSRC is organizing a scientific conference for its staff

The Centre for Research in Applied Sciences and Technologies (ATSRC) organised a scientific morning on 04 February 2026 in the conference room of the Centre for Geological and Mining Research (CRGM) on the theme: "the impact of fermentation on the biochemical and nutritional effects of fortified flour and its potential in the prevention of malnutrition in children under 5 years of age and women of childbearing age".

This scientific morning session aimed to evaluate the impact of fermentation on the nutritional quality of an enriched flour formulated from local raw materials, intended to combat malnutrition in children under five and women of reproductive age.

It was led by researcher NKUTU KEMBISA Lumière, a second-year assistant professor in the Department of Biotechnology, Environment and Natural Substances (DBESN) at ATSRC. The conference was attended by scientists from various scientific fields and CRSAT administrative staff.

The speaker addressed the issue of malnutrition, which remains a major public health obstacle in many developing countries, particularly affecting children under five and women of reproductive age. It manifests as deficiencies in protein, essential micronutrients, and bioactive compounds vital for proper development and health maintenance. In this context, valorizing local food resources through simple and accessible technological processes, such as fermentation, represents a promising and sustainable approach.



Ms. Lumière went on to specify that this study will focus on the evolution of the flour's nutritional composition before and after fermentation, particularly its macronutrient (protein, lipid, and carbohydrate) content, mineral content, as well as nutrient bioavailability and the reduction of antinutritional factors.

The speaker used soy flour, corn flour, caterpillar flour, and other natural substances in her study to obtain a well-balanced nutrient mixture.

The researcher explained that the fermentation will be carried out with a strain of *Lactobacillus plantarum* according to a controlled protocol, highlighting its effects on the physicochemical parameters, microbiological quality, and functional properties of the flour. The nutritional value assessment will be complemented by the analysis of antioxidant activity and the identification of metabolites produced by the fermentation process.

The expected results will demonstrate that fermentation significantly improves the nutritional quality, digestibility, and bioavailability of nutrients in fortified flour, while also enhancing its food safety. This work will contribute to proposing an innovative, economically accessible food solution adapted to the nutritional needs of vulnerable groups, supporting strategies to combat maternal and child malnutrition.

The research concluded that this will provide a nutrient solution containing essential vitamins, proteins, minerals, carbohydrates, and lipids—all crucial elements for good health. Finally, this project will demonstrate the impact of fermentation on the nutritional and technological value of fortified flours, contributing to the formulation of more nutritious local products better suited to combating malnutrition.

ATTUNGU SANGOL Dieudonné/ ATSRC

The RCALC celebrates International Mother Language Day

International Mother Language Day, which this year UNESCO designated under the theme: "Multilingual education, a pillar of intergenerational learning", was celebrated on February 21, 2026 at the Centre for Research in African Languages and Cultures (RCALC) in Kisangani.

In the format of a working seminar, progressing from an opening conference to roundtable presentations to foster the most practical discussions possible through participatory debate, participants were invited to reflect on the role of mother tongues in daily life.

The seminar's target audience consisted of schools, universities, communities, journalists, civil society, and political and administrative authorities.

After welcoming and registering participants, and distributing working documents, the UNESCO message was read by Research Attaché Edouard MEBWA, the day's main moderator, preceded by the national anthem and followed by a welcome address from the Acting Director General of the CRLCA, Professor Nicolas MOMBAYA Lwila of the University of Kisangani. Under the theme 'Mother Tongue in the Congolese Context and its Global Emergence,' Professor David Kopa, Research Fellow, delivered the opening lecture, which guided the rest of the presentations and the participatory debate in light of the objectives outlined above. He demonstrated that mother tongue in the DRC constitutes a space for negotiation between cultural heritage, national imperatives, and global pressures.



It is both a tool for emancipation and a field of symbolic competition. The speaker concluded that the challenge for the DRC is not to substitute one language for another, but to build a Congolese model of harmonized pluralism, capable of preserving cultural richness while promoting national and international integration.

Following the opening conference, during an

Echoes of Research Institutions

interactive session moderated by Research Fellow Norbert MONDENGÉ MESALA, three presentations were given: The first, by Professor Emmanuel NGBANGA BANDOMBELE, was entitled 'When Intellectuals Kill African Languages in Africa.' The Research Fellow warned of the alarming situation of African languages, which are threatened with extinction on several linguistic levels phonetic, morphosyntactic, and semantic and advocated for the revitalization of these languages through an active language policy. Professor Nicolas MOMBAYA LIWILA, Scientific Director and Acting Director General of the RCALC, then explained the link between 'Languages, Collective Memory, and Intergenerational Transmission.'

The acting Director General of the RCALC demonstrated that mother tongues, beyond their communicative functions, constitute reservoirs of collective memory, essential vectors of cultural, historical and identity transmission in which are inscribed the history of peoples, social and political experiences, ecological and medicinal knowledge, and worldviews.

The disappearance or marginalization of a language therefore leads to the erosion of collective memory. He appealed to the conscience of all Africans in general, and all Congolese in particular, to value their languages and preserve their cultures. Finally, Dr. De Gaule ITOLOME LINGONDE reiterated the need for 'the integration of mother tongues into primary, secondary, and university education.' The Research Fellow demonstrated the importance of the mother tongue in education, especially at the beginning of schooling, as it fosters comprehension, academic success, and the intellectual development of the learner. He emphasized, however, that the use of the mother tongue must complement the learning of official or international languages. This speaker ultimately advocated for a balanced educational policy that integrates the mother tongue and foreign languages, which he considers the best way to guarantee inclusive and quality education.

Finally, facilitated by ATR LOSINGO, a participatory and inclusive open discussion was held on the theme 'How to Value Mother Tongues in Everyday Life?' The discussion aimed to create a space for reflection, dialogue, and concrete proposals regarding the promotion of mother tongues in daily life.

The discussions revolved around four main themes: mother tongues and family, mother tongues and school, mother tongues, media and digital technology, and mother tongues, culture, and public policy.

The overall objective was to contribute to the valuation and promotion of mother tongues as tools for communication, education, social cohesion,

and knowledge transmission. Specific objectives of the participatory discussion were to encourage participants to:

- analyze current uses of mother tongues;
 - identify obstacles to their promotion;
 - gather local experiences and best practices; and
 - formulate recommendations and concrete actions.
- The summary of discussions by theme is as follows:

Mother tongues and family

Participants emphasized that the family remains the primary space for language transmission. However, a tendency to favor French or certain dominant languages was noted, along with a decline in intergenerational transmission and the influence of schooling and urbanization. Therefore, they proposed to:

- Encourage the systematic use of native languages at home;
- value the role of parents and grandparents;
- promote stories, songs, and proverbs.

Mother tongues and school

The discussions highlighted the gap between school and the linguistic realities of learners. The observation was that there was a weak integration of mother tongues into teaching and a lack of appropriate teaching materials. Participants proposed:

- Gradually introduce mother tongues in schools;
- train teachers;
- produce multilingual teaching materials.

Mother tongues, media, and digital technology

The media have been identified as major drivers of language promotion.

The observation here is the still limited presence of local languages in certain media outlets and the strong appeal of social networks to young people. The following proposals have been made.

- Strengthen native-language programming;
- produce digital content (videos, podcasts);
- involve young content creators.

Mother tongues, culture, and public policies

The discussions highlighted the key role of cultural institutions and language policies. The findings were as follows: insufficient institutional support and weak coordination among stakeholders. The following was proposed:

- Integrate mother tongues into local

government;

- support cultural initiatives; strengthen linguistic research and documentation.

Following the discussions, the following recommendations were made:

1. Place mother tongues at the heart of family life.
2. Strengthen their presence in the education system.
3. Leverage media and digital tools as platforms for promotion.
4. Support local cultural initiatives.
5. Implement inclusive language policies.

Encouraging Language Research and Documentation

The workshop highlighted the strategic importance of mother tongues for identity, social cohesion, and sustainable development. Promoting mother tongues in everyday life requires a collective commitment involving families, schools, the media, institutions, and communities.

Participants expressed their hope that the recommendations from this workshop would serve as a basis for concrete and sustainable actions.

**Dr Prof. Nicolas MOMBAYA
Liwila/CEO/RCALC**

Echoes of Research Institutions

ISTM/Kinshasa is organizing a scientific morning on strategic minerals

The Higher Institute of Medical Techniques of Kinshasa (ISTM-KIN) organized a scientific conference on the main theme: "Strategic minerals in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): from geographical scandal to social tragedy", on February 26, 2026 in Kinshasa.

"I cannot proceed without first warmly thanking the organizers of this scientific seminar, whose main theme is: Strategic Minerals of the DRC: From Geological Scandal to Social Tragedy, with an emphasis on environmental and health issues," declared Professor Nicole Ntumba, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Head of State, responsible for political, legal, and diplomatic affairs, and the keynote speaker at this seminar.

Speaking on the theme "The Paradox of Natural Resources in the DRC," she raised several questions, notably why the abundance of natural resources does not contribute to development. To answer these questions, she invited the audience to explore another perspective to better understand the paradox that of legal anthropology.

However, she explained that "the term legal anthropology refers to the science of humankind. It means considering humankind within a legal system, within a system of norms, within a system of texts." How does this man behave in the face of the texts that govern the mining sector, in this particular case? Legal anthropology, she explained, analyzes in this context how mining companies conceive, produce, and interpret regulations, while striving to uncover the underlying logic of their thought patterns and their coexistence with traditional chieftaincies, perceived as older and

more legitimate.

It also considers the needs of local communities in the mining areas. This legal anthropology, she continued, takes into account the dichotomy between legality and legitimacy, written law, customs and traditions, and the model of conduct and behavior in mining operations, all in order to contribute to the development of local communities and the country as a whole.

Resources and economic challenges

Speaking on "Economic Resources and Challenges – Mapping and Strategic Value of Minerals: Impact on the National and Global Economy," Professor Roland Kakule, Director General of the Research Center for Geological and Mining (RCGM), discussed the wealth of mineral resources in the DRC, including copper, cobalt, uranium, gold, diamonds, coltan, and lithium. According to him, the DRC has four types of coltan in the two provinces of Kivu and Ituri, as well as other components that need to be identified through international market research. The processing, refining, and sale of these minerals in the DRC were among the issues raised by Professor Kakule. Furthermore, Professor Jean-Pierre Beya, speaking on "Environmental Resources of the DRC: A Source of Conflict," recommended, in particular, strengthening mining governance, transparency, and traceability in the management of natural resources. "The DRC's environmental resources are essentially the country's potential resources, but they are also a source of external and internal conflicts. Sustainable management is essential and relies heavily on the sometimes corrupt Congolese workforce. Human resources must take precedence over other environmental

resources," he explained.

The General Director of ISTM-Kinshasa, Professor Joséphine Ntumba, thanked the Chief of Staff to the Head of State, Professor Nicole Ntumba Bwatshia, and the two other speakers for the quality of their presentations, which enabled students to grasp the links between the DRC's strategic minerals, health, and the environment.

According to her, ISTM-Kinshasa trains health specialists who are called upon to understand the issues surrounding strategic minerals. Following this scientific event, Professor Ntumba inaugurated an auditorium at ISTM-Kinshasa bearing her name, "Nicole Bwatshia." The construction of this auditorium, with a capacity of over 200 students, was funded by the Nicole Ntumba Bwatshia Foundation. ISTM-Kinshasa, established in 1961, currently offers more than ten departments and a doctoral school in various fields of medical science and technology.

ACP and Christian MAZONO

SEMATECH is organizing a training on electronic archiving and electronic document management.

The Specialized Maintenance and Technological Support Service (SEMATECH) organized a workshop on electronic archiving systems and electronic document management on March 11, 2026 at RCHS in Kinshasa.

This training workshop aimed to train staff from Research Centers and Institutes on electronic archiving systems and electronic document management.

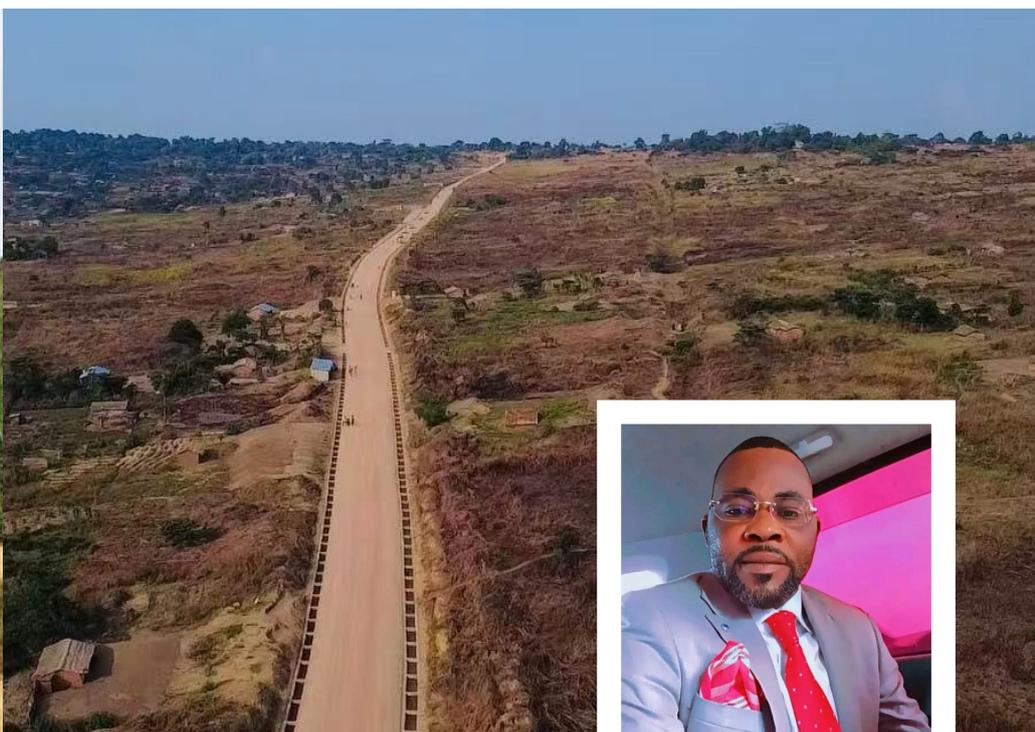
According to Alain Baza, Director General of SEMATECH, several recommendations were reiterated. These included the need to

implement an electronic archiving (EE) and electronic document management (EDM) platform, the establishment of a governance framework, the provision of support training to Research Institutions by the National Scientific Council (NSC), and the necessity of visiting each Research Center to train researchers on electronic archiving systems and electronic document management. Permanent Secretary Johnny Kabeya Bajika represented the President of the NSC, who was unable to attend. The STIB editorial team will provide further details in the next edition.



Christian MAZONO/NSC

Read for you



Kalala Eyay Kennedy
Researcher/RCMT

The role of agriculture in the socio-economic development of the Idiofa territory: Issues, dynamics and perspectives

Researcher Kalala Eyay Kennedy from the Research Center for Mathematics Education (RCMT) and his research team published a scientific article on February 2, 2026 in the Congolese Journal of Science and Technology entitled: "Role of agriculture in the socio-economic development of the territory of Idiofa: issues, dynamics and perspectives".

According to these researchers, the agricultural sector remains one of the leading activities in the economy of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), particularly in rural areas where it remains the population's sole source of income.

Continuing their analysis, they indicated that in the Idiofa territory of Kwilu province, agriculture is fundamental for the survival and livelihoods of households, the organization of trade within the community, and the transmission of local knowledge.

Furthermore, the authors argued that this sector suffers from very low productivity due to the use of outdated farming methods.

They further noted that these determining factors raise profound questions about the capacity of traditional agriculture to ensure future renewal in

the face of ever-increasing population demands and to initiate reasonable and sustained economic and social development. For them, Idiofa has everything it needs to support agriculture: fertile land, a favorable climate, regular rainfall, and a largely committed population. The agricultural reality, however, revolves around challenges such as the isolation of production areas, limited access to modern agricultural inputs, the lack of effective technical supervision, the scarcity of processing facilities, and the absence of agricultural policies adapted to the local context. The development of a market-oriented agricultural system capable of sustainably reducing poverty is hampered by these factors.

Paradoxically, the DRC, an agriculture-oriented nation, depends on imports for most of its food products. This dependence exposes deep weaknesses in agricultural governance, and indeed, the gradual increase in national production requires a major transformation at the agricultural level. Campaigns to raise awareness of the need to consume locally produced goods are frequently launched, but there is a complete lack of sustained investment in local production. This is accompanied by opaque institutional practices, informal taxation, and an unfavorable climate for agricultural entrepreneurship.

They emphasized that these institutional obstacles

stifle producers' efforts and proposed concrete avenues for the territorial modernization of agriculture in Idiofa.

These researchers concluded that agriculture in the Idiofa territory remains primarily family-run, non-mechanized, and geared towards subsistence farming. Farms are generally small (less than 2 hectares) and managed by rural families, often without technical assistance. The main crops grown are cassava, maize, beans, rice, leafy vegetables, and some fruit crops. The use of modern tools, improved seeds, or chemical fertilizers is very limited, while agricultural techniques rely on traditional knowledge, including slash-and-burn agriculture, natural crop rotation, and subsistence polyculture.

Christian MAZONO/NSC

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

ATSRC (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: Cnrsrd.rdc@gmail.com; Tel: 0822244152; 0811835159; 0840922982

CAS (Congoese 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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