

Marie-Thérèse  
SOMBO lance le  
**pre- FGSC**  
on July 15, 2026



# FORUM DU GENIE SCIENTIFIQUE CONGOLAIS

## 2026

**4<sup>e</sup> Edition**

### NSC

organizes its 61st ordinary session  
in Kinshasa

### Félix TSHISEKEDI and Cyril RAMAPHOSA

call for a coordinated continental  
response against Ebola

### Whale stranded in Muanda

Professor NGBOLUA KOTO-TE-NYIWA  
advocates for the preservation of  
Congolese zoological heritages



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## Edito

# On the road to the 4th edition of the Congolese Scientific Genius Forum 2026



Professor  
Pius MPIANA TSHIMANKINDA  
NSC President

**T**he future of a nation is planned and built through the audacity of its thinkers and the ingenuity of its youth. At a time when the Democratic Republic of Congo is facing multifaceted challenges, the 4th edition of the Congolese Scientific Engineering Forum (FGSC), whose pre-forum will be launched on July 15, 2026, by the Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation (ESURSI), Professor Marie-Thérèse Sombo, resonates like the beat of a rallying drum, calling all the children of the village to unite for a common cause.

This annual event signals a national awakening, demonstrating that Congolese "brainpower" is the primary driver of its sovereignty and sustainable development. The strategic advantage of this forum lies above all in its ability to transform the potential of our human capital into concrete solutions for the nation. Leading up to this major gathering, this 60th edition of the Science and Technological Innovation Bulletin highlights early scientific achievements, offering its readers a glimpse into the ingenuity of our researchers.

Recent initiatives by students at the ESI (Science and Technology Institute) in Likasi attest to this potential. Their research on an anti-aircraft targeting system, a remote-controlled vehicle, and a mini-drone model indicates that local technical skills can be channeled toward addressing the challenges of air border security and surveillance. Innovators, inventors, researchers, the time has truly come to step into the spotlight and write a new chapter in scientific history!

However, for this technological impetus to bear fruit, it must be supported by strong institutions and modernized infrastructure. This is precisely the purpose of the action taken by the Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation (ESURSI), Professor Marie-Thérèse Sombo, who has just officially

handed over the new, modern campus of the University of Kananga (UNIKAN) to its management committee, thus embodying the vision of a high-performing and inclusive higher education system championed by the Head of State, Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi. Similarly, the holding of the 61st ordinary session of the National Scientific Council (NSC) in Kinshasa underscores the central role of scientific governance in guiding, promoting, and directing the careers of our researchers.

The common thread running through this scientific emergence remains inextricably linked to the quest for our overall sovereignty. As the Center for Research in Human Sciences aptly emphasized during its recent conference assessing our autonomy 66 years after independence, the economic sovereignty of the DRC requires a break with neo-colonialism and the outward-looking nature of our economy. This necessarily involves food self-sufficiency, through the revitalization of our local agriculture, but also through rigorous reflection on social justice within our administration. This sectoral institution thus calls for a structural reform of the salary policy for state employees and civil servants, based on harmonization and biometric digitization to correct unjustifiable disparities and motivate public personnel, including researchers. This Congolese excellence and resilience are also evident in the face of the most acute crises, such as public health. The nation knows how to honor its distinguished sons, as evidenced by the recent promotion by the President of the Republic of Professors Jean-Jacques Muyembe Tsimfumu and Stanislas Sulu Maseb'a Mwanga for their exceptional careers in virology, oncology, and public health. Their dedication paves the way for addressing the major health challenges that are consuming our energies: from the urgent calls to strengthen early detection

and treatment of sickle cell disease, to the management of the 17th Ebola outbreak in the East and Ituri. Faced with this emergency, the government, through its spokesperson Patrick Muyaya, is prioritizing dialogue to address the demands of healthcare professionals involved in the response, while maintaining its focus on eradicating the virus, supported diplomatically by Presidents Tshisekedi and Ramaphosa's call for a coordinated and united continental response.

Finally, this Congolese ingenuity, which the forum is committed to promoting, must be integrated into a comprehensive approach to our biodiversity and natural resources. The analysis by national experts regarding the whale that stranded in Muanda aptly reminds us that every environmental event is an opportunity for multidisciplinary expertise. Instead of viewing rare specimens as waste to be buried, scientific research must preserve them as biological archives to enrich our national collections and lay the foundations for a true Natural History Museum in the DRC.

In short, the momentum generated by the 2026 Congolese Scientific Ingenuity Forum demonstrates that the DRC holds all the keys to its destiny. From technological innovation to security, from university modernization to medical and environmental research, the convergence of our intellects is the surest guarantee of our sovereignty. Proud of its history and strengthened by its scientists, the Congolese nation must, now more than ever, support, finance, and integrate its own innovations to transform this scientific potential into a strategic and definitive advantage for its development.

## Activities of the Presidency

### Presidents Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi and Cyril Ramaphosa call for a coordinated continental response to Ebola

**T**he President of the Republic, Félix-Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, received, on Thursday, July 2, 2026, at the African Union City in Kinshasa, his South African counterpart, Cyril RAMAPHOSA, who arrived earlier in the morning for a working visit.

The two Heads of State held a private meeting, which they then extended to their respective delegations. During these talks, they assessed the response to the Ebola virus disease outbreak before addressing diplomatic and human rights issues.

To gain a better understanding of the progress of the Ebola response, the two Heads of State visited the National Institute of Biomedical Research (INRB), where they received detailed briefings on the methods used to combat the epidemic, including the epidemiological detection and early warning system, which makes the INRB a center meeting international standards.

Following this visit, the two leaders reviewed the day's activities. Speaking first, President Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi commended South Africa's unwavering commitment, stating that it "remains a major partner for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in political, diplomatic, security, economic, health, and regional matters."

The President noted that "for a country like the DRC, located in the heart of the continent and surrounded by nine neighbors, cross-border health cooperation is not an option; it is a strategic necessity." He indicated that South Africa, through its institutional experience, scientific capabilities, regional leadership, and role within SADC and the African Union, can make a significant contribution to the collective response efforts.

The Head of State also emphasized the negative impact of the war in the eastern provinces, the epicenter of the epidemic, on the spread of the Ebola virus disease and called for a coordinated response. "In areas affected by armed conflict, insecurity undermines prevention, access to care, epidemiological surveillance, and rapid response to public



H.E Félix Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the DRC, His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa

health emergencies," he said.

"The fact that the DRC and the Republic of Uganda are simultaneously facing this threat confirms that health risks know no borders and call for a coordinated, united, and shared-responsibility regional response," President Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi continued.

Regarding the issue of human rights in South Africa, the Head of State stated that he had discussed this matter with his counterpart, Cyril Ramaphosa, who reassured him of the South African government's efforts to guarantee strict respect for the dignity of all people living in South Africa.

Taking the floor in turn, the President of the Republic of South Africa reiterated the purpose of his mission. In his capacity as the African Union's champion for pandemic preparedness, prevention, and response, he explained that his mission is to mobilize the necessary resources to strengthen cooperation among member states and support coordinated action across the continent. He expressed his solidarity with the Congolese government and people, who are going through difficult times in the fight against the Ebola epidemic, and paid tribute to the scientists and other organizations working tirelessly to combat its spread and contain its effects. "Throughout our history, the resilience, courage, and strength of our people have allowed us to overcome many crises, and we have no doubt that this crisis will also pass," he stated.

President Cyril Ramaphosa also expressed his hope that partners' commitments would translate into financial resources and the deployment of effective medical measures. He then called for a humanitarian ceasefire in the Ebola-affected areas to allow for the mobility of humanitarian actors: "This is an opportunity that proves the response to the Ebola virus disease can be a catalyst for peace," he stated.

The South African President commended the leadership of the INRB, which he considers a "world-class health institution," as well as Professor Jean-Jacques Muyembe Tamfum, whose achievements have transcended the borders of the African continent.

At the same time, the South African Head of State urged countries around the world not to close their borders to citizens of the DRC, as he believes this is not a solution for eradicating the epidemic. Regarding the issue of population migration, he stated that the South African government, guided by its Constitution, remains firm in its commitment to protecting human rights and will continue to meticulously ensure respect for the human dignity of all persons living on South African territory.

This joint press conference marked the end of President Cyril Ramaphosa's 24-hour working visit, after which he immediately returned to his country.

Communications Unit of the Presidency of the DRC

## Activities of the Presidency

### The President of the DRC decorates Doctors Jean-Jacques MUYEMBE TAMFUM and Stanislas Sulu MASEB'A MWANGA

The President of the Republic, Félix-Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, in his capacity as Grand Chancellor of the National Orders, raised Professor Jean-Jacques MUYEMBE TAMFUM to the rank of "Commander" in the National Order of the "Leopard" and awarded the medal of merit in Arts, Sciences and Letters to Professor Stanislas SULU MASEB'A MWANG, on June 27, 2026, at the African Union City in Kinshasa.

"Through Professor Jean-Jacques MUYEMBE TAMFUM and Professor Stanislas SULU MASEB'A MWANG, the Republic honors two exceptional careers today. It honors knowledge, hard work, rigor, dedication, the transmission of knowledge, and a profound sense of public service," declared the Head of State on this occasion.

A world-renowned virologist, Professor Jean-Jacques MUYEMBE TAMFUM played a pivotal role in managing health emergencies in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Head of State paid tribute to his exceptional career as a researcher, scholar, patriot, and pioneer, whose name is inextricably linked to the history of public health in the DRC, in Africa, and throughout the world.

"For several decades, you have dedicated your intelligence, your energy, and your professional life to understanding, preventing, and combating some of the most formidable infectious diseases of our time." "Your historic contribution to the co-discovery of the Ebola virus in 1976 belongs to the world's scientific heritage," the Head of State stated.

Awarded the Gold Medal of Merit for Arts, Sciences, and Letters, Professor Stanislas SULU MASEB'A MWANG received this



H.E Félix Tshisekedi Tshilombo presenting the prize to Professor Muyembe Tamfum

distinction in recognition of his research in gynecology-obstetrics and oncology, as well as his major impact on patient care in the DRC. He is the founder of the Nganda Hospital Center.

"Your commitment to integrated maternal and child care reflects a profound understanding of public health: protecting the mother, supporting the child, and supporting the family is investing in the very future of the nation," the Head of State emphasized.

The President of the Republic particularly commended his role in introducing radiotherapy to the Democratic Republic of Congo, as his commitment, by providing patients with access to specialized care previously unavailable in the country, opened a new perspective in the fight against cancer.

In the presence of government officials and academics, the two recipients called for support for scientific research and encouraged young people to persevere in their work and patriotism. Professor Jean-Jacques Muyembe Tamfum reflected on his career, marked by both risks and discoveries.

He stressed that this recognition from his homeland holds particular value, believing that the country's prosperity rests first and foremost on its human capital and its intellectual capital. Addressing Congolese youth in particular, Professor SULU MASEB'A MWANG reminded them that no origin, however humble, is an obstacle when hard work, discipline, perseverance, and love of country guide a life.

This ceremony demonstrates, once again, that national distinctions are not mere honors. They express the Nation's gratitude to those who, through their lives, their work, and their commitment, contribute to giving Congolese genius a resonance that transcends borders.

**Communication Unit of the Presidency of the DRC**

## Activities of the Minister of ESURSI

### Marie-Thérèse SOMBO launches the pre-FGSC on July 15, 2026



H.E Marie-Thérèse SOMBO AYANNE SAFI MUKUNA, Minister of ESURSI

**T**he Minister of Higher Education, University, Scientific Research and Innovation (ESURSI), Professor Dr. Marie-Thérèse SOMBO, will officially launch the pre-Forum of Congolese Scientific Engineering (FGSC) 2026 edition on July 15, 2026 at the National Institute of Arts in Kinshasa.

This important national meeting aims to promote scientific excellence, technological innovation, and research in service of the country's sustainable development.

Journalists and several officials from the Ministry of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation (ESURSI) will also participate in this pre-forum launch session, a phase intended to pave the way for the actual 4th edition of the Congolese Scientific Engineering Forum, which officially begins next August.

The 4th edition of the Forum in 2026 will serve as a platform for exchanging and showcasing the results of Congolese scientific research, innovation, and inventions. It will bring together researchers, academics, innovators, public decision-makers, and national and international partners to discuss major issues related to

scientific and technological progress.

It should be noted that the "Scientific Engineering Forum" (FGSC) is a scientific meeting held annually in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Its purpose is to value and promote Congolese scientific ingenuity. It brings together researchers, inventors, and innovators who are invited to present the results of their creations and receive financial and technical support from the government for the winning products. It was initiated in 2023 by the Honorary Minister of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation, Dr. Gilbert Kabanda.

This scientific event begins with a process of identifying and registering Congolese researchers, inventors, and innovators, both within the country and among the diaspora, who possess research results, inventions, and innovations that contribute to the country's development and the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the Congolese people.

The organization of the FGSC (Forum for Scientific and Technological Innovation) relies on a commission responsible for its preparation and organization, established at the request of the supervising Minister.

This commission is subdivided into six sub-commissions (scientific, administrative and financial, logistics, technical secretariat, communication, and hostesses) and is overseen by a coordination team under the supervision of the Minister of Higher Education, Universities, Scientific Research, and Innovation.

This event comprises three stages: the Pre-Forum, the Forum itself, and the awards ceremony.

The Pre-Forum: the registration and evaluation phase is organized to pre-select the projects to be presented;

The Forum: the main phase allows for the exhibition of inventions and prototypes, as well as exchanges between creators and decision-makers;

The awards ceremony: the selected projects then receive financial and technical support.

MAZONO Christian/NSC

## Activities of the Minister of ESURSI

### Minister Marie-Thérèse SOMBO officially hands over the new UNIKAN campus to its management committee



"These buildings are a legacy that the President of the Republic is placing at your disposal. You have a duty to preserve them for future generations, including your own children. Respect for public property is a fundamental value that everyone must cultivate," she emphasized.

The ceremony concluded with the symbolic handover of the keys to Rector Emery Tshisanda of the University of Kananga, followed by a group photo of the academic authorities, students, and the ministerial delegation.

Visibly moved, the students expressed their gratitude to the Head of State and the Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and

**T**he realization of the vision of His Excellency Félix-Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, President of the Republic and Grand Chancellor of universities and higher institutes, to provide the Democratic Republic of Congo with a high-performing, inclusive and equitable higher education system, continues to produce tangible results through the modernization of university infrastructure.

A few months after the official inauguration last January of the new campus of the University of Kananga (UNIKAN) by the Head of State, the Minister of Higher Education, University Studies, Scientific Research and Innovation, Professor Dr. Marie-Thérèse Sombo, officially handed over the infrastructure to the university's management committee on Thursday, July 2, 2026, for its responsible operation.

Before the key handover ceremony to the Rector of the university, the Minister conducted a thorough inspection of the various facilities to ensure their compliance and quality. The tour included student residences equipped with high-quality beds, the university restaurant, libraries, computer labs, the Rector's offices, the faculty lounge, kitchens, dining halls, drying rooms, laboratories, as well as sanitary facilities and technical equipment.

On this occasion, the head of ESURSI reminded



the members of the management committee of their responsibility in preserving this public heritage.

"Today, you benefit from infrastructure of exceptional quality, unprecedented since our country gained independence. You have a duty to ensure its rigorous management and continuous maintenance, like responsible stewards. These investments must be accompanied by quality training to meet the nation's expectations," she declared.

Addressing the students next, the minister urged them to demonstrate civic responsibility in their use of these facilities.

Innovation (ESURSI) for the construction of these modern facilities, which represent a major step forward in improving teaching, learning and research conditions at their university.

Minister's Communications Unit/ESURSI.

## NSC Activities

### The NSC is holding its 61st ordinary session in Kinshasa



Professor Pius Mpiana Tshimankinda, President of the NSC

**T**he National Scientific Council (NSC) held its 61st ordinary session on June 24, 2026 in the Maître José MPANDA KABANGU room at the Center for Research in Human Sciences (RCHS) in Kinshasa.

This important scientific meeting brought together members of the Council, heads of research institutes and centers, and several experts in the scientific field, in a spirit of rigor, responsibility, and strengthening of national scientific governance.

This session notably allowed for the following:

- to process the files for the appointment and promotion of researchers, administrative and technical staff;
- To present the operational status of Research Centers and Institutions during the intercession from March to June 2026;
- to address some organizational structures of Research Institutions;
- to present the record of decisions taken at the 60th Ordinary Session, etc.

This ordinary session confirms the central



The NSC members around their President

role of this institution in supporting the country's major scientific priorities.

Furthermore, the NSC reaffirmed its commitment to pursuing the reforms already underway in order to make scientific research and innovation a key driver of economic transformation, knowledge creation, and sustainable development.

It should be noted that the current President of the NSC insists on holding four sessions per year, as mandated by law.

Christian MAZONO/NSC

## Echoes of Research Institutions

### CRESH takes stock of the economic sovereignty of the DRC, 66 years after independence

**T**he Department of Economic and Financial Research (DREF) of the Center for Research in Human Sciences (RCHS) organized a scientific conference on the theme: "Economic sovereignty of the DRC in the face of neo-colonialism: assessment, challenges and perspectives, 66 years after independence", on July 2, 2026 in Kinshasa.

To better explore this rich and complex theme, the organizers structured it into three sub-themes, each developed by a university professor and expert in their respective field. Professor André Omanga spoke about the role the Congolese state should play in the face of external economic pressures. The other two speakers, Aimé Manzongo and Fortunat Ekomozele, addressed, respectively, the issue of food sovereignty as a pillar of economic sovereignty and the Congolese economy's dependence on external factors as a hindrance to the DRC's economic sovereignty.

According to Professor Omanga, the conference aimed to outline the prospects for the DRC of tomorrow, a DRC in which the state must not abdicate its responsibilities, but rather embrace its role in supporting the efforts of its entrepreneurs, whether agricultural, industrial, or service-oriented. A DRC of tomorrow in which it will now have to confront external economic pressures, brushing aside debt, the conditions of contract negotiations with "these" Western powers, and their imposition of prices on our minerals.

"The State must be able to cope with these external shocks and to determine its own course of action in order to freely and sovereignly define its development policy," he emphasized during the question and answer session following his opening remarks. Regarding the current partnership between the Democratic Republic of Congo and the United States, the Professor called for both parties to respect certain clauses.

"We must ensure that we uphold these clauses and be capable of both taking responsibility for ourselves and securing our own destiny," he concluded. Professor Aimé MANZONGO, who spoke after him, in his approach to the issue of food sovereignty as a pillar of economic sovereignty, emphasized the need for the DRC to now consider reviving its local agriculture, by gradually providing support to Congolese farmers.

"We therefore need agricultural extension agents like those who existed in the past, whose role would be to help farmers ensure good production. The State must be the primary supplier of improved seeds to farmers. Today, with climate change, there is a problem of resilience. We therefore need seeds adapted to climate change. There is also the issue of financing for agricultural entrepreneurship," he stated.

He encouraged the Congolese State to provide more funding for the entrepreneurial efforts of Congolese people working in agriculture to help them address the food deficit that prevails in the country.

"This will help us become self-sufficient to the point of being able to export our surpluses. The State must therefore develop road infrastructure as well as means of transporting agricultural products to their consumption centers," he emphasized. In the same vein, he called for the reactivation of the Office of Roads and Agricultural Services, which he observed had fallen into a state of inactivity, and he therefore hopes its role will be strengthened.

"The State must allocate sufficient resources to help us put an end to the current situation and alleviate the hunger plaguing the Congolese population due to a lack of food sovereignty," he stated.

In his definition of the concept, he described it as a problem of political will on the part of our state, which must commit wholeheartedly to

the path of agricultural revitalization.

"The problem of our country's economic development is primarily a Congolese problem; the FAO, for example, could only provide support," he clarified.

Speaking last, Professor Fortunat OKOMOZELE identified the root cause of the slowdown in this sovereignty as the hyper-extroverted nature of the Congolese economy, an economy, he explained, that is more oriented towards external markets.

For Mr. Danny MULIONGO of CRESH, who honored us by granting an interview at the end of the event, the Congolese state must make enormous efforts and implement the necessary strategies to boost its food and economic sovereignty, not to mention its sovereignty over its natural resources. "This sovereignty should not stop at the national level, but rather extend to the international level through the export of its surpluses," he wished.

Communications Unit/RCHS

and Saint-Germain EBENGO

## Echoes of Research Institutions

### International Sickle Cell Day 2026: CMMASS calls for strengthening early detection and patient care



The CEO and the AFD of IRSS, the CMMAS Management Unit and some guests

**T**o mark International Sickle Cell Day, celebrated on June 19, 2026, the Center for Mixed Medicine and Anemia (CMMASS) organized an awareness session to inform the public about this genetic disease, its consequences, and the challenges related to its management in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This activity was led by the Center's Medical Director, Dr. Jacques Tshibamba.

In his presentation, Dr. Tshibamba reminded the audience that sickle cell disease is a hereditary genetic disorder that affects red blood cells and is one of the leading causes of chronic anemia. He explained that this condition results from the transmission of the S gene by both parents. A person carrying only one S gene is considered a healthy carrier (AS); they generally do not develop the disease but can pass this gene on to their offspring. Conversely, when an individual inherits two S genes, they develop sickle cell disease.

Addressing the clinical manifestations of the disease, the Medical Director indicated that vaso-occlusive crises are among the main warning signs. These crises manifest primarily as joint, abdominal, or generalized pain. In addition to these symptoms, anemia, chronic fatigue, and shortness of breath, linked to a decrease in hemoglobin levels, are also present. Regarding treatment, Dr. Tshibamba emphasized that advances in medicine now

allow, in certain contexts, for a definitive cure through bone marrow transplantation. However, he specified that this therapeutic option remains largely inaccessible in the Democratic Republic of Congo due to a lack of specialized infrastructure and high-tech equipment. He nevertheless stressed that regular medical follow-up, combined with a healthy lifestyle, significantly improves the quality of life for people living with sickle cell disease.

The head of the CMMASS also addressed the daily challenges his institution faces in caring for patients. He highlighted the financial constraints faced by many families, who often arrive at the center with seriously ill children without the resources to cover medical expenses. Despite this reality, the medical teams continue their mission with dedication to ensure continuity of care whenever possible.

Taking advantage of this platform, Dr. Tshibamba appealed to the parents of children with sickle cell disease, urging them not to succumb to prejudice or beliefs that equate this disease with mystical practices. He reiterated that sickle cell disease is exclusively a genetic condition requiring appropriate medical care as well as family and social support.

The Medical Director also reassured the

public regarding the life expectancy of people with sickle cell disease. He indicated that, with proper medical care, they can live long and active lives. As an example, he cited the case of a doctor with sickle cell disease working at the CMMASS (Center for Medical and Social Support), now in his later years but still practicing.

In conclusion, Dr. Tshibamba reiterated that sickle cell disease remains a significant public health problem in the Democratic Republic of Congo, among the countries most affected by this disease. He advocated for strengthening early detection, improving medical care, developing specialized infrastructure, and intensifying awareness campaigns to reduce mortality and associated complications.

Nadia MPASE- et Vanessa ABWAYI/ RIHS

## Echoes of Research Institutions

### Whale stranded in Muanda: Professor NGBOLUA KOTO-TE-NYIWA advocates for the preservation of Congolese zoological heritage



Aerial view of the beached whale in Muanda

**T**he need for in-depth scientific reflection to preserve zoological heritage" declared the Secretary General in charge of Research at the Higher Institute of Medical Techniques of Kinshasa (ISTM-Kinshasa), Professor NGBOLUA KOTO-TE-NYIWA, regarding the recent death of a whale that beached itself on the Atlantic coast of Muanda, in the province of Kongo Central (South-west of the Democratic Republic of Congo).

"The recent death of a whale that washed ashore on the Atlantic coast of Muanda, in Kongo Central province, should prompt, beyond the emotion and legitimate health concerns, a thorough scientific reflection on the conservation of the DRC's zoological heritage," stated Professor NGBOLUA KOTO-TE-NYIWA.

Biologist NGBOLUA explained that "According to available information, this cetacean, estimated to be between 10 and 12 meters long, was removed for burial. The exact cause of death had not yet been officially established at the time of the initial public statements.

In zoology, the preservation of dead specimens is a fundamental tool for scientific research, university teaching, and the documentation of biodiversity," he declared.

He went on to assert that reference zoological collections allow for the long-term preservation of information on the morphology, anatomy, taxonomy, genetics, biogeography, ecology, and evolution of species. According to him, a rare animal specimen should therefore not be considered merely a carcass to be disposed of; on the contrary, after the necessary health and biosecurity requirements have been met, it could

become a veritable biological archive for the benefit of present and future generations of researchers.

#### *The case of the whale in Muanda is considered important*

Furthermore, the Secretary General in charge of Research at ISTM-Kinshasa indicated that the case of the Muanda whale is particularly important.

"The presence of a large cetacean on the Congolese coast represents an exceptional scientific opportunity. Before any destruction or permanent burial, a multidisciplinary assessment could have allowed for the precise taxonomic identification of the species, the determination of the animal's sex and approximate age, the performance of a scientific autopsy, the investigation of the probable causes of death, as well as the collection and preservation of tissue, organ, parasite, and genetic material samples," he explained.

Beyond these investigations, the cetacean's skeleton could, after preparation according to appropriate scientific and sanitary protocols, be preserved in a national reference zoological collection.

He said it would constitute exceptional material for teaching zoology, comparative anatomy, evolutionary biology, marine ecology, and biodiversity conservation.

"The creation and enrichment of inanimate collections represent a major challenge for a country's scientific development. The world's leading scientific and museum institutions have built a significant portion

of their knowledge on biodiversity thanks to zoological collections accumulated over decades, even centuries. These collections still allow us to conduct research today using technologies that did not exist when the specimens were collected, including genetic and genomic analyses, advanced morphometrics, the study of environmental contaminants, and certain approaches to paleobiology and evolutionary biology," the biologist explained.

#### *The DRC is one of the world's main reservoirs of biodiversity*

According to Professor NGBOLUA, the DRC is recognized as one of the world's major biodiversity hotspots and should further strengthen its own national scientific collections.

Each rare specimen, he argued, potentially represents an irreplaceable source of scientific information.

"It would therefore be desirable for the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation to re-examine, when technical and sanitary conditions still permit, the approach of exclusively burying this specimen. Consultation with universities, zoologists, marine biologists, veterinarians, anatomists, ecologists, geneticists, and conservation specialists could allow for a scientific evaluation of the possibilities for utilizing all or part of the specimen," he suggested.

The biologist also advocated for an integrated approach that reconciles public health, biosecurity, scientific research, education, and the preservation of natural heritage.

## Reflections of our researchers

The Muanda event should thus serve as a starting point for a broader national discussion on the creation or strengthening of a National Museum of Natural History and reference biological collections in the DRC.

"Permanently burying a rare zoological specimen can mean the irreversible loss of a valuable source of scientific information. Preserving, studying, and promoting it while respecting health standards can, on the

contrary, transform an unfortunate event into a major opportunity for science, education, and knowledge of Congolese biodiversity," he concluded.

Christian MAZONO/NSC and ACP

## Payroll for state agents and civil servants: what salary policy for social justice in the DRC?



**T**he remuneration of state employees and civil servants is one of the cornerstones of public administration. In any modern state, salary policy plays a crucial role in motivating public employees, ensuring institutional stability, and guaranteeing the effectiveness of services provided to the population. However, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the issue of civil servant pay remains marked by numerous inequalities and dysfunctions.

For several years, salary demands have been multiplying in various sectors of the Congolese civil service, particularly in education, health, justice, and local government. These tensions reflect a deep-seated discontent linked to pay disparities, irregular payments, and a sense of injustice felt by many public employees.

According to the World Bank (2008), the Congolese salary system suffers from significant fragmentation of compensation mechanisms and a lack of coherence in the management of public employee payroll. The existence of multiple special schemes

and sectoral bonuses has progressively exacerbated inequalities between government departments.

In this context, the following question deserves particular attention: what salary policy can guarantee greater social justice in the pay of state employees and civil servants in the DRC?

Public Employee Payroll: Between Administrative Necessity and Social Justice

Civil servant compensation is not merely a budgetary expenditure. It also represents a mechanism for social and professional recognition. A balanced pay policy helps to strengthen employee motivation, the quality of public services, and trust in the state. From a social justice perspective, pay differences can be justified when they are based on objective criteria such as level of responsibility, professional qualifications, technical skills, risks associated with the position, or seniority.

However, these disparities must remain reasonable and transparent. As Rawls

(1971) points out, inequalities can only be socially acceptable when they are based on principles of fairness and benefit the overall functioning of society.

In the DRC, many public officials denounce pay gaps that are difficult to justify between certain government departments. In some cases, non-strategic administrative services receive higher salaries than essential sectors such as education, health, or scientific research.

This situation fuels demotivation, a feeling of abandonment, corruption for survival, and a loss of trust in public institutions. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2021), salary systems perceived as unfair increase social tensions and reduce the efficiency of public administrations.

The limitations of the current salary policy in the DRC: disparities between government departments

One of the main characteristics of the Congolese salary system lies in the existence of significant disparities between

## Reflections of our researchers

professional groups. Over the years, certain categories have obtained special statuses, exceptional bonuses, specific benefits, or alternative compensation mechanisms. This proliferation of special schemes has gradually weakened the unity of the state salary system. The World Bank (2008) estimates that this fragmentation reduces the coherence of the civil service and complicates the management of the wage bill. The table below clearly illustrates this point.

### The weakness of basic wages

In several public sectors, basic wages remain insufficient to meet the cost of living. This low purchasing power forces some employees to develop side hustles or rely on informal practices to survive. The United Nations Development Programme emphasizes that precarious employment is a major obstacle to the quality of public services in developing countries.

### Lack of transparency in payroll management

Payroll management for public employees in the DRC continues to face several challenges: incomplete administrative files, ghost employees, irregularities in payment mechanisms, lack of workforce control, and limited digitization of administrative systems. These dysfunctions undermine public employees' trust in the administration. What salary policy can strengthen social justice?

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|-------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|
| 2016  | 93,661                        | 333,663                        | 119,289              | 752,127                        | 83,118                   | 2,196,704              | 1,066,937           | 149,070             | 310,168             | 125,999  |
| 2017  | 91,503                        | 422,934                        | 115,633              | 732,682                        | 81,355                   | 2,116,069              | 1,039,353           | 147,834             | 302,149             | 123,807  |
| 2018  | 104,824                       | 354,750                        | 149,386              | 800,527                        | 105,500                  | 4,562,300              | 969,113             | 156,657             | 378,569             | 150,573  |
| 2019  | 144,345                       | 449,641                        | 176,540              | 653,196                        | 147,050                  | 4,977,592              | 1,402,900           | 184,810             | 636,401             | 197,713  |
| 2020  | 126,513                       | 493,225                        | 161,165              | 1,310,586                      | 192,736                  | 4,964,894              | 1,158,859           | 303,031             | 775,538             | 201,625  |
| 2021  | 144,446                       | 465,145                        | 224,218              | 1,817,805                      | 204,861                  | 5,701,179              | 3,119,588           | 248,353             | 744,039             | 242,356  |
| 2022  | 152,589                       | 495,753                        | 233,313              | 2,308,780                      | 259,821                  | 6,560,390              | 3,358,701           | 251,583             | 926,307             | 276,467  |
| 2023  | 235,974                       | 711,268                        | 304,206              | 2,308,780                      | 314,379                  | 5,745,316              | 3,358,701           | 482,848             | 1,376,015           | 363,443  |
| 2024  | 232,902                       | 907,741                        | 297,801              | 2,308,780                      | 314,379                  | 8,045,095              | 3,314,711           | 410,913             | 1,787,233           | 374,878  |
| 2025  | 511,374                       | 1,425,839                      | 309,845              | 2,605,667                      | 448,684                  | 8,401,380              | 5,145,870           | 350,503             | 1,508,791           | 516,645  |

Table. Evolution of average monthly remuneration in CDF per employee and by staff category

- Implementing a fairer wage policy in the DRC requires structural reform of the civil service. This reform would include the following four measures: harmonizing the salary scale: the State should establish a harmonized national salary scale based on qualifications, responsibilities, seniority, arduousness of work, and performance. Such a reform would reduce excessive disparities between government departments ;
  - Modernizing payroll management: the digitization of the civil service is a key lever for strengthening salary transparency. According to Estrada, Burdescu, and Shamavu (2025), implementing a digital biometric register of civil servants in the DRC helps improve workforce control and reduce payroll irregularities. Digitization enables, in particular, reliable employee identification, the reduction of duplicate entries, career tracking, and better control of the wage bill.
  - Budgetary sustainability: any wage policy must take into account the state's financial capacity. A disorderly increase in wages without sufficient economic growth could jeopardize public finances. Social justice must therefore be reconciled with the requirements of budgetary stability.
  - Social dialogue and transparency: wage reform also requires ongoing dialogue between the government, trade unions, professional organizations, and regulatory bodies. Transparency in defining remuneration criteria is essential to restoring trust in the state.
- The issue of state pay for employees and civil servants in the Democratic Republic of Congo is a major challenge for social justice and public governance. Salary disparities, opaque compensation mechanisms, and low base salaries undermine social cohesion and reduce the efficiency of the public administration.
- A fairer salary policy does not necessarily mean absolute equality of pay. Rather, it requires transparent, consistent, and objectively justifiable criteria for remunerating employees according to their responsibilities and skills. The success of such a reform will depend on the Congolese state's ability to modernize payroll management, harmonize salary systems, and establish public governance based on fairness and transparency.

**Prof. Bobo B. KABUNGU**  
Scientific Director of CRESH

## Read for you

### Ebola in Ituri

#### Patrick MUYAYA promises answers to the demands of the professionals involved in the response.

**T**he Minister of Communication and Media, Government Spokesperson, Patrick MUYAYA, assured that government authorities are continuing their mobilization in the response against the Ebola virus disease, while announcing a new mission of the Minister of Public Health, Hygiene and Social Welfare, Samuel Roger Kamba, to Ituri, in order to assess the progress of operations on the ground.

While the Ebola response has been shaken by numerous demands from healthcare professionals, particularly regarding the non-payment of their bonuses and other concerns, the government spokesperson sought to reassure the public. He indicated that the grievances expressed last week by some of those involved in the response were examined following a meeting between the military governor of Ituri and the Incident Manager, with the aim of finding solutions to the various concerns raised.

"We are committed to the response against the Ebola virus disease. Last week, we heard the cries of some of those affected by the response. The military governor brought them together with the Incident Manager." "I believe the concerns have been addressed, and in the coming hours, the Minister of Health will visit the site to ensure the smooth implementation of all response activities," Patrick Muyaya stated on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, during a press briefing with his colleague, the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development.

The Minister also addressed union demands in the health sector, affirming that the government prioritizes dialogue while reiterating that combating the epidemic is a national priority.

"There was a lot of commotion in Kinshasa with unions threatening to strike. I believe the Minister of Health has just finished a meeting. A statement will be made shortly. This demonstrates that we are working in a spirit of openness where concerns are listened to." But we must not forget that we all have a collective emergency, including you, media professionals: to work together to put an end to the virus that is circulating," he stressed.



Patrick Muyaya also urged the media and the public to refer to official communications to follow the evolution of the epidemiological situation.

"I hope that you regularly consult reliable sources, such as the Ministry of Communication and Media or the Ministry of Health, which regularly publish figures on the disease and its progression. We have 253 recoveries. We have reached 81% in contact tracing. The target is 95%. We continue to work tirelessly to improve care every day and provide solutions to those who need them," he stated.

The government spokesperson also emphasized the importance of prevention and early treatment of patients.

"We also reiterate that the disease can be combated through prevention. Even though there is not yet a treatment or vaccine available, clinical trials are underway." If people are well-informed and go to the hospital quickly at the first sign of symptoms, they can receive treatment. I would also like to remind everyone that free healthcare has been declared in Ituri so that all those suffering from symptoms, particularly headaches, can go to health centers. Treatment is provided free of charge to protect all of our communities," emphasized Patrick Muyaya.

On May 17, two days after the official declaration of the 17th Ebola virus disease outbreak in the DRC, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared this outbreak

a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. Centered in the east of the country, this epidemic is linked to the Bundibugyo strain, for which there is currently no licensed vaccine or approved treatment. It is occurring in a region facing armed conflict, a context that further complicates response operations.

Despite this worrying situation, Congolese authorities are trying to reassure the public and reject any alarmist rhetoric. They highlight the efforts deployed, in collaboration with national and international partners, to contain the epidemic. They also recall the country's experience in managing health crises, the Democratic Republic of Congo having already faced sixteen previous Ebola epidemics, all brought under control following major response operations.

Clément MUAMBA/Actualité.cd and  
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: mgrtaricibangu@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: Mwanzanicolos5@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: 097449240

### 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: domikan-konde@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 ILEO, 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: cherusan-gi@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-kamuhoza@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: tshamal-agabriel@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: davidng-indub@gmail.com; Tel: 0815103502.

### NCRS (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 (Congolese 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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