

The Democratic Republic of Congo



Government Agenda

Kinshasa - August 2019

GOVERNMENT AGENDA

On 30 December 2018, the Democratic Republic of Congo organized the third electoral cycle of its young democratic history. Presidential and legislative elections were held, followed by Senate elections, as well as those of governors and vice-governors.

On January 24, 2019, our country has experienced, for the very first time since its accession to international sovereignty, a successful alternation and peaceful and civilized transfer of power between an outgoing President and a newly elected President of the Republic.

Also, after the effective installation of the two houses of Parliament, the country was waiting for the advent of a new Government in place, as the Constitution states: conduct the Nation's policy on a daily basis in consultation with the President of the Republic.

Under this requirement and in accordance with Article 78 of the Constitution, the Head of State proceeded first, to the appointment of a Prime Minister, on 20 May 2019 and then to that of the other members of the Government on 26 August 2019.

In order to comply with the provisions of Article 90 of the Constitution, the Government has developed this Action Plan, to submit to the sanction of the National Assembly, which is intended to meet, one after the other, the concerns of the Congolese people, particularly on the political, security, economic and social levels.

For decades, our nation has been seeking a path for its recovery and salvation. All successive governments have each had the ambition to create an environment of a dynamic economic and social development that could improve the daily lives of our people. All of them faced limitations of all kinds that did not allow for the effective takeoff of our great country.

To date, the economic and social situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo has not shined.

The challenges are known to all, and solutions can only be possible if all Congolese realize the imperative need to put their country on a new path, that of virtue and ethics, that of effort and work, that of justice and law, that of solidarity and brotherhood.

The many concerns expressed by the Congolese people both directly, through the forces consulted, and indirectly through its legitimate elected representatives, organized in provincial caucuses, beyond political divisions, have served as a compass for the development of this Agenda, which is intended to be ambitious and whose motto is ***“National Recovery from the Bottom Up”***,

The Agenda, summarized here, is structured around (fifteen) 15 key pillars, grouped into four (04) major sectors, developed in the following lines.

I. POLITICAL, DEFENCE AND SECURITY SECTOR

Pillar 1: Pacification of the country and promotion of reconciliation, cohesion and national unity

a. Pacification of the country

- Eradicate completely the seeds of insecurity throughout the national territory, in particular by militarily attacking all armed groups, particularly those who have opted for terrorism and asymmetrical warfare, with the involvement of all the others actors;
- Restore security in the North-East of the country;
- Strengthen mechanisms to secure our borders;
- Develop a defense and security policy based on six strategic functions: knowing, preventing, anticipating, deterring, protecting and intervening;
- Rehabilitate and rebuild the necessary military infrastructure;
- Revisit the Armed Forces Reform Plan and the Military Programming Bill in order to adapt them and come up with a new “One Nation - One Army” reference plan, with a substantial budget;
- Combat insecurity and banditry in all their forms;
- Train, retrain and moralize men in uniforms;
- Rehabilitate and build military bases and other training schools across the country;
- Equip the elements of the Armed Forces and the National Police;
- Improve the living conditions of military and police (Salary treatment, construction and rehabilitation of camps, barracks, schools, canteens, dispensaries and medical training).

b. Promoting reconciliation, cohesion and national unity

- Maintain a permanent dialogue between socio-political actors at all levels;
- Combat intolerance, divisionism and tribalism in all their forms;
- Ensure equal treatment of the various decentralized entities (provinces, territories, sectors...);
- Cultivate and strengthen patriotism and national unity;

- Engage a global approach involving all actors, upstream to prevent conflicts and, downstream to resolve them, including through justice and the establishment of a permanent dispute resolution structure with a follow-up mechanism.

Pillar 2: Strengthening the authority of the state, promoting the rule of law and democracy

a. Strengthening the authority of the state

- Revisit the National Police reform plan in order to adapt it and release a new "One Nation - One Police" reference plan, with a substantial budget;
- Reform the intelligence services so as to enable them to anticipate and prevent events in political, security and economic matters, and give them an undeniable national and republican image;
- Establish a true public administration at the service of the citizen;
- Reconcile the administration with the citizens.
- Pursue and complete the electoral process;
- Strengthen the capacity of civil servants
- Improve the living conditions of public officials;
- Depoliticize territorial administration;
- Make decentralization viable and effective.

b. Promotion of the rule of law and democracy

- Make justice the backbone of our governance, a factor that will make the Democratic Republic of Congo a state of law where all citizens are equal before the law;
- Ensure fair justice for all citizens
- Build police stations and establish a local police force throughout the national territory;
- Improve the functioning of the judiciary and ensure the proper administration of justice;
- Implement the provisions guaranteeing human rights in accordance with the Constitution and implement the functioning of the National Commission on Human Rights;

- Implement realistic and courageous reforms adapted to the realities of the country and to more democracy.

Pillar 3: Revitalizing our diplomacy and restoring its brand image

- Capitalize on the geostrategic position of the DRC in order to reinforce its presence on the African and international scenes where major global issues are playing out;
- Promote a development diplomacy;
- Warm up diplomatic relations with traditional partners;
- Strengthen cooperation links with new partners;
- Pursue the process leading the DRC to reoccupy its rightful place in the concert of nations;
- Renew the diplomatic corps by ensuring the strengthening of its capacities;
- Rehabilitate and rationalize our diplomatic missions;
- Improve the living conditions of our diplomats.

II. ECONOMIC AND FINANCE SECTOR

Pillar 4: Combating corruption and economic crime

- Create a specialized jurisdiction in the fight against corruption, tax fraud, money laundering and misappropriation of public funds;
- Combating corruption, in particular by strengthening verification, control and monitoring mechanisms in areas prone to corruption.

Pillar 5: Improving governance in the management of natural resources, portfolio companies and state finance

a. Natural Resource Management

- Leverage natural resource development to promote the social well-being of the Congolese;
- Rationalize, in accordance with the Mining Code, the mining industry from exploitation to processing, in order to support the industrialization of other sectors of the national economy;
- Make good use of revenues from non-renewable natural resources (minerals, hydrocarbons).

b. State's Assets Management

- Manage and better protect the State's assets, especially against alienation and spoliation;
- Provide public services and facilities with the necessary infrastructure and equipment to fulfill their missions;
- Finalize the reform of state portfolio enterprises.

c. Public Financial Management

- Clean up public finances by mobilizing budgetary revenues as provided for in the Finance Act and by committing to expenditure within the permitted limits, without sacrificing the quality of such expenditure or resorting to monetary financing;
- Implement and generalize the use of program budgeting to anchor, in our departments and administrative services, the practice of true results-based management.
- Combat fraud and tax evasion by strengthening the operation of the “Guichet Unique” especially by the dematerialization in the transmission of information to the customs officers.

Pillar 6: Improving the business climate and promoting entrepreneurship and the middle class

- Finalize the process of implementation of the Treaty and the Uniform Acts of the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa (OHADA)
- Monitor and apply the Business Climate Assessment Indicators developed by the World Bank’s “Doing Business”;
- Stimulate an entrepreneurial culture to allow the emergence of a Congolese middle class.

Pillar 7: Diversification of the economy and creating conditions for inclusive growth

a. Economic inclusion

- Diversify the national economy particularly by revitalizing agriculture (food, industrial and sustainable), fisheries and livestock;
- Make agriculture the spearhead of our food self-sufficiency and our shield against the importation of basic necessities

- Design an "Industrialization Master Plan";
- Increase the economic involvement of national actors by expanding the middle class (subcontracting contract for SMEs and SMIs);
- Make tourism one of the levers of the diversification of the economy by creating, particularly through the Public Private Partnership, conditions conducive to its development as an industry respectful of our ecosystem and biodiversity, which participates in a substantial way to creating wealth.

b. Social and geographical inclusion

- Redistribute the effects of growth in the best possible way particularly by creating indirect jobs;
- Reclaim the internal market, to reduce the serious extraversion of our economy;
- Elaborate a "Strategic Plan of Economic Development Divisions," including the restructuring of the banking sector.

III. AREA OF RECONSTRUCTION

Pillar 8: Modernization of basic infrastructure and national planning

- Implement a coherent policy of ongoing investments in basic and community infrastructure. These include transport and communications, roads, rails, river and lake routes, ports and airports;
- Identify innovative sources of financing including the creation of a sovereign wealth fund and the promotion of public-private partnership.

Pillar 9: Promotion and Development of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

- Adapt Congolese legislation to international standards and technological developments;
- Build the fiber optic backbone network to increase ITC penetration and reduce the cost of communication;
- Interconnect all provinces;
- Strengthen the capacity of State staff, with a view to their further development in the use of the IT tool.

Pillar 10: Combating climate change and creating conditions for sustainable development

- Assert our global and African leadership in the field of water and forest including the establishment of a "national charter of the environment and sustainable development", the establishment of a forest map assessing our biodiversity potential and protecting of our local communities and peat lands;
- Manage optimally the national territory through the distribution of landed intended for habitat, agricultural, mining and forest exploitation as well as the conservation of the nature;

- Protect and preserve the environment through better management of forests, water, air and wildlife;
- Protect local communities by ensuring the proper management of mining and forestry concessions, as well as related cadastres.

IV. SOCIAL AND CULTURAL SECTOR

Pillar 11: Improvement of social conditions with the following main axes: education as key to change and the main social lift and access to health care for all, as well as ensuring universal health coverage

a. Access to employment

- Expand employment opportunities in the public and private sectors particularly by promoting private investment (tax facilities, credits to the economy) and the implementation of large public projects;
- Promote and support the creation of SMEs and SMIs;
- Promote the implementation of labor-intensive investments in collaboration with the National Agency for the Promotion of Investment (ANAPI);
- Create and promote employment in all sectors of national life;
- Promote all trades in terms of supervision and protection;
- Regulate work permits for foreigners and prohibit child labor;
- Require employers to comply with the labor code, particularly with regard to continuing vocational training.

b. Access to basic social services

- Implement a health policy for all;
- Enact laws and regulatory scripts for sustained governance of the health system;
- Organize, for the transformation of our educational system, the «General States of Education, Training and Research» which will focus on the educational mission, the issues of accessibility and success, curriculum, subjects relating to pedagogical dynamics, the situation of vocational and technical training, continuing training and financing;

c. Social protection

- Improve the retirement policy;
- Promote the establishment of mutual health insurance;
- Implement a policy of solidarity and assistance for the poorest groups (orphans, widows, old people, and so-called "street children," ...)

Pillar 12: Development of the water and electricity sector

- Ensure access to drinking water for the population;
- Affirm the DRC's leadership on water management in the Congo Basin;
- Develop our hydroelectric potential as well as that of green energies;
- Improve water and electricity supply rate.

Pillar 13: Fight against poverty and social marginalization

- Overcome poverty and decreeing the implementation of this "national cause";
- Promote and facilitate the micro-credit policy especially for women, farmers, craftsmen
- Initiate a series of technical and vocational training programs for young people without a degree;
- Implement a policy for the accompaniment and social assistance of people with disabilities.

Pillar 14: Empowerment of women and promotion of youth

- Increase women's participation in political and economic decision-making ;
- Invest in girls' education and women's economic empowerment, especially rural women, as a safe route to gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive and sustainable growth;
- Convert all our youth without qualification into a trained workforce;
- Establish a funding mechanism for youth projects;

Pillar 15: Promotion of culture, arts, sports and recreation centers

- Promote Congolese culture and arts. A bill will be anticipated regulating cultural and artistic activities.
- Organize sports and leisure activities according to the principle of "a healthy mind in a healthy body", as a social outlet capable of ensuring the development of the human being throughout the Republic;
- Promote the creation of sports training centers throughout the Republic in order to professionalize sport.

Kinshasa, August 30th, 2019

ILUNGA ILUNKAMBA

PRIME MINISTER