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Democratic Republic of Congo: Gov. Moise Katumbi Expresses Intention to Return to DRC

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Good afternoon –

Gov. Moise Katumbi was in Washington, DC, earlier this week to talk with U.S. State Department officials, Congressional leaders, and give remarks at The Atlantic Council expressing his intention to return to the Democratic Republic of Congo in an effort to press Pres. Kabila to stick to the CENCO agreement so that the DRC can have its first peaceful, democratic transition of power in the country's history.

“I look forward to returning to my country and working toward our first democratic transition and the establishment of enduring democracy, prosperity and peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo,” Gov. Katumbi said.

In his remarks (available [here in English](#) and [here en francais](#)), Gov. Katumbi praised the life of President Tshisekedi:

Again and again, the Congolese people have bravely declared their determination to have fair and free elections, consistent with our country's Constitution. Too many people have lost their lives so that democracy will live.

A few weeks ago, we lost a big brother in this honorable struggle. Etienne Tshisekedi put his heart and soul into the fight for democracy and the rule of law. We mourn his passing and extend our condolences to his family. However, to truly honor his memory, we must continue the unfinished work to which he dedicated his life.

Discussed the anticipated ruling from CENCO on his conviction:

Under the 2016 Agreement, in the coming week, representatives from CENCO will render a judgement about my conviction in the Congo on fraud charges and the accompanying sentence of three years in prison.

I fully expect I will be exonerated. The charges were bogus. The evidence was fabricated. The conviction was a miscarriage of justice - the pollution of our court system by politics.

If CENCO affirms my innocence - as I am confident it will - then I will be a free man – a man eager to work with all Congolese people of good will to ensure the 2016 Agreement is implemented and elections take place at the end of the year.

In the unlikely case that CENCO affirms the conviction then I will accept that decision and relinquish my freedom. The agreement must be honored.

Either way I am returning. With the date approaching for CENCO to render its decision, now is the time for my return – a day I have long looked forward to.

And called on President Kabila to honor the CENCO ruling and the 2016 Agreement: