

**From:** [Craig Stevens](#)  
**Subject:** KATUMBI UPDATE: Gov. Moise Katumbi Returns to Huge Crowds in DRC  
**Date:** Thursday, May 23, 2019 9:57:06 AM  
**Attachments:** [Lubumbashi 1 May 20 2019.JPG](#)  
[Lubumbashi 2 May 20 2019.JPG](#)

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Good morning -

Earlier this week, Moise Katumbi returned in triumph to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, [nearly three years to the day](#) after he left the country for life-saving medical treatment and was ultimately forced into exile.

The former Katanga governor and businessman [was greeted by tens of thousands of his countrymen](#) as he landed in his hometown of Lubumbashi on May 20. Katumbi plans to visit much of the Democratic Republic of Congo over the next two weeks, talking with civic leaders and citizens.

At Katumbi's request, many in the jubilant crowd wore white to express their commitment to peace. Katumbi vowed to play his part in the restoration of democracy under the country's constitution.

"Everyone is in white, it's simply to show that we want peace and not war. [Katumbi is a man of peace, he had even forgave those who offended him.](#)" one supporter told Radio France International.

The popular Katumbi was regarded as among the viable successors to President Joseph Kabila after he severed political ties with Kabila in 2015 and sharply criticized Kabila for engineering a series of delays of elections that were supposed to take place in 2016 and cracking down on democracy supporters with lethal force.

Gov. Katumbi left the DRC after he was almost killed by police forces as he and thousands of supporters walked to a courthouse where Katumbi was being questioned on trumped up charges.

Ultimately, Kabila's court convicted Katumbi on an unrelated charge and sentenced him to a prison sentence handed down in absentia. [Courts fully exonerated Katumbi this spring.](#)

["Truth is like oil you want to drown. It always ends up triumphing."](#) Katumbi told the crowds waiting for him..

President Félix Tshisekedi, who took office in January, has offered broad amnesty to those oppressed during the Kabila era. However, the new prime minister, [Dr. Sylvestre Ilunga Ilunkamba](#), whose appointment was announced just a day after Katumbi's return, is a veteran stalwart of Kabila's party which remains dominant in the DRC's government.

In advance of his return, Katumbi wrote to U.S. Congressional leaders who have been watching developments in the DRC. Mindful of the fragile state of democracy in the DRC, Katumbi wrote, "I am hopeful that President Tshisekedi's efforts to open the political space to opposition exiles such as myself will be respected by others such as the former President, Joseph Kabila, and that my return will be without event and that I will be secure and safe during my visit. Regardless, I must return and help lead my people in their constitutional efforts to make our country become the beacon of democracy and prosperity that I know it can be."

I've attached two photos of Gov. Katumbi's return to Lubumbashi. They can be used and credited to Moise Katumbi. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Craig

**NOTE:** *These materials are distributed by DCI Group AZ, L.L.C. for Akin Gump Straus Hauer and Feld LLP on behalf of Moise Katumbi, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.*



