

FOREWORD FOR ARTICLES OF THE FIRST SEMINAR FOR THE FACULTY OF LAW OF UNIVERSITY OF KOLWEZI

In its support to the efforts of young researchers in law, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung opened the first seminar at the Faculty of Law of the University of Kolwezi held from 6th to 7th March 2014.

We were delighted by the number of participants and especially by the interest shown towards this seminar, and the quality of responses in relation to the issues proposed.

The specifics of the administrative entity constituting the former urban-rural district of Kolwezi ensured that all the issues discussed were practically on mining vis-à-vis other sectors of the socio-economic life of the entity : relationship between mining and environmental protection, mining and agriculture, mining and socio-economic impact, mining and labour used in the mines, etc.

This volume comprises of fourteen articles. As aforementioned, they touch on different issues relating to the most important activity in this part of the Democratic Republic of Congo on matters of development. It pertains to mining vis-à-vis other sectors of life and human activity in this political-administrative entity.

In trying to bring them together, there is a special characteristic in the manner in which the players tackled the issues before them by seeking to be as practical as possible, i.e. reconcile the law with the societal reality. Consequently, the following articles were developed one after the other: artisanal mining and its environmental impact in Kolwezi Town. Case of Kapata area; Contribution and impact of the mining sector on the agricultural sector in Kolwezi Town: Case of KCC Company¹; water and forest management in the face exploitation of mining corridors in Musompo²; partnership between Gécamines³ and Kamoto Copper Company. Analysis of environmental and socio-economic impacts; mining, decentralization and development of Kolwezi Town; artisanal mining and its cultural and socio-economic impact : Case of Kawama artisanal mining site⁴; the issue of industrial and artisanal mining in the urban-rural district of Kilowezi; the issue of granting and management of land and mining concessions through division of land affairs and mining registry in the urban-rural district of Kolwezi; mining and protection of local labor in Kolwezi.

Of all the issues discussed by the authors of these articles, it appears that there is lack of care and responsibility on the ground by all mining projects in this part of the DRC : thus mining does not sufficiently consider the environment, has less significant impact of this activity on the socio-economic life of the population, destruction of urban infrastructure by

1 Kamoto Copper Company.

2 A village in the region.

3 Générale des Carrières et des Mines, a sem-state company for mining in the DRC.

4 A Village in the region.

heavy machinery transporting mineral ores without any compensation, abusive expropriation of lands subdivided for human settlement without compensation, etc.

We would like to thank Konrad Adenauer Stiftung for its continuous support to young people in promoting their scientific and academic endeavours. Those in the Faculty of Law of the University of Kolwezi are at the moment part of this initiative. The views and opinions expressed in this articles are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung or the undersigned. Our sincere thanks go to KALALA ILUNGA Matthiesen and SANGO MUKALAY Adalbert, lecturers who were available to support our young Faculty in these first scientific steps. We also express our gratitude to the authorities of the University of Kolwezi for their kindness and interest shown in this project.

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