



December 20, 2022.

**STATEMENT ON THE CONTINUING DESTABILISATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC) BY M23 AND OTHER REBEL GROUPS**

The Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) is deeply worried by the destabilisation of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by the M23 and other rebel groups with the apparent support of some governments in the Great Lakes region.

We note that on November 29, this year more than 120 civilians were massacred in an incursion into the village of Kishishe, in the Rutshuru territory in the North Kivu province. This information has already been confirmed by the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in the DRC, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Congolese government and numerous Human Rights Organisations, including Amnesty International.

Thousands of Congolese have already lost their lives in the last three years of insurgency and vital trade and industry including mining has been disrupted as a result of the mindless violence blatantly supported by capital and some neo-colonial regimes. It is also estimated that over 6 million Congolese have lost their lives since the beginning of the conflict in 1996, making it the deadliest conflict since World War II, according to the United Nations.

A recent UN report indicates that rebel activities in the Kivu territory especially at the strategic border post with Uganda have disrupted trade flow of around US \$ 5 million a month. This area is also reportedly under M23 control.

The SMG sees the continuing effort to destabilise the DRC as a resource-grab manoeuvre by giant corporations of the West in concert with neo-colonial regimes in the region. This unwarranted interference in the Congo has its roots in the assassination of the democratically elected leader of the Congo, Patrice Lumumba in 1961 by Belgian Intelligence Agencies acting in concert with the western powers.

Today, we know that the brutal murder of Patrice Lumumba, a committed Pan-Africanist whose commitment to the liberation of the Congolese people from the shackles of poverty and underdevelopment was motivated solely by a desire to deny the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics access to the country's uranium deposit.



SOCIALIST MOVEMENT OF GHANA (SMG)

The SMG joins progressive and anti-imperialist forces throughout the world in denouncing the aggression against the DRC and calls for an immediate halt to all the attacks on the country. To this end, we call for the strict enforcement of recent agreements reached by East African leaders in Luanda and Nairobi.

We insist on;

- 1) The immediate disarming of all rebel groups that are holding the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri and its people hostage.
- 2) An investigation into war crimes committed by the rebel groups and their backers.
- 3) The implementation of the recommendations from the United Nation Mapping Exercise Report for transitional justice to halt the culture of impunity for crimes committed in the DRC.
- 4) The engagement by the African Union, the Southern African Development Community and the East African Community in holding its member states implicated in the conflict in DRC accountable by urging them to respect DRC sovereignty and cease all financial and military support for rebel groups destabilising the DRC as documented by the United Nations Group of Experts.
- 5) The support of all revolutionary and progressive forces in bringing about justice and peace to the people of the Congo fighting to realize the dream of Lumumba of a free and liberated Congo that will play its vital role in the transformation of the African continent.

Kwesi Pratt Jnr.

General Secretary