



"WE ARE NOT ALONE. AFRICA, ASIA AND FREE AND LIBERATED PEOPLE FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD WILL ALWAYS BE FOUND AT THE SIDE OF THE CONGOLESE."

PATRICE EMERY LUMUMBA

TALKING POINTS

1. The source of the conflict in the Congo is a result of the scramble for the Congo's natural wealth, which began in its latest expression in 1885 and continues to this day.
2. Local elites, neighboring countries, multilateral institutions (IMF, World Bank) foreign governments and foreign corporations have established an alliance to pilfer the Congo's wealth at the expense of the Congolese people.
3. Nearly 6 million Congolese have died due to conflict and its affects since 1996. This is the largest number of deaths due to conflict since World War II.
4. In spite of trillions of dollars worth of wealth in Congo's soil, some estimates are as high as \$24 trillion, the average Congolese lives on only \$100 per year.
5. A leadership and organizational crisis exists in the Congo mainly as a result of decades of personal rule by King Leopold II, Belgian Colonization and Mobutu's brutal dictatorship.
6. Congo is endowed with enormous wealth. The Congo River alone has enough hydropower to provide electricity for the entire African continent. Congo's fertile soil has the capacity to feed the entire world through 2050 when the world's population is estimated to reach 9 billion.
7. Congo has the largest reserves of untapped minerals in the world. The country boasts two thirds of the worlds reserves of coltan, ten percent of the world's copper, 30 percent of cobalt, vast fresh water reserves, a part of the second largest rainforest behind the Amazon, and is blessed with gold, silver, tin, uranium, timber, oil, gas and many other resources to compliment the country's human potential.
8. Congo is strategically placed in the center of the African continent, bordered by nine countries and is as large as Western Europe with a population of 60 million people, hence the common saying as the Congo goes so does Africa.
9. The Challenge of the Congo is to produce a leadership that will work on behalf of and in the interest of the masses of the Congolese people as opposed to working for personal gain and foreign interests.
10. The proper usage and management of Congo's wealth can serve as an engine for the development of the entire African continent and make Congo a major player among nations in the global arena.