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Our ref: TO2024/05472  
Your ref:

2 April 2024

Michel Kabwe-Muakadi  
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Dear Congolese Community in the UK (CCUK),

Thank you for your letter of 24 February to the Prime Minister about the situation in the DRC. The Central Africa Team has been asked to respond on behalf of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

The UK remains deeply concerned about the conflict in the east and its devastating consequences for the civilian population. We continue to publicly call for all armed groups to cease hostilities and return to regional peace processes. Earlier this month Lord Benyon, Minister for Climate and Deputy Minister for Africa, travelled to Kinshasa where he met with President Tshisekedi, as well as vice Prime Ministers Bemba, Kamerhe and Lutundula. They discussed the strengthening of the UK-DRC partnership and the UK's support for de-escalation of violence through regional peace processes.

We recognise the devastating humanitarian consequences of the conflict. The UK has recently announced a £98 million three-year humanitarian programme for the east of DRC, which will deliver life-saving emergency assistance as part of our humanitarian and resilience programme for crisis affected communities.

The United Kingdom is a committed partner to the people of DRC. We fully support the President's ambition to secure long-term peace and prosperity for both DRC and the region and look forward to strengthening our bilateral relationship even further, particularly in trade and investment. We continue to work with the international community and government of DRC to work with the region to find a peaceful solution to the ongoing conflict and humanitarian challenges.

We refute the statement in your letter about the UK Government's Migration and Economic Development Partnership (MEDP) with Rwanda. The MEDP provides for the relocation to Rwanda of individuals who arrived in the UK through an illegal and dangerous route who do not have a right to stay in the UK. Everyone considered for relocation will be screened. Once individuals are relocated to Rwanda, they will have

their needs looked after while their claims are being considered. This includes safe and clean accommodation, food, healthcare, and amenities.

Yours sincerely,

Central Africa Team  
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office