



NURU PRESENTS

# Main Character

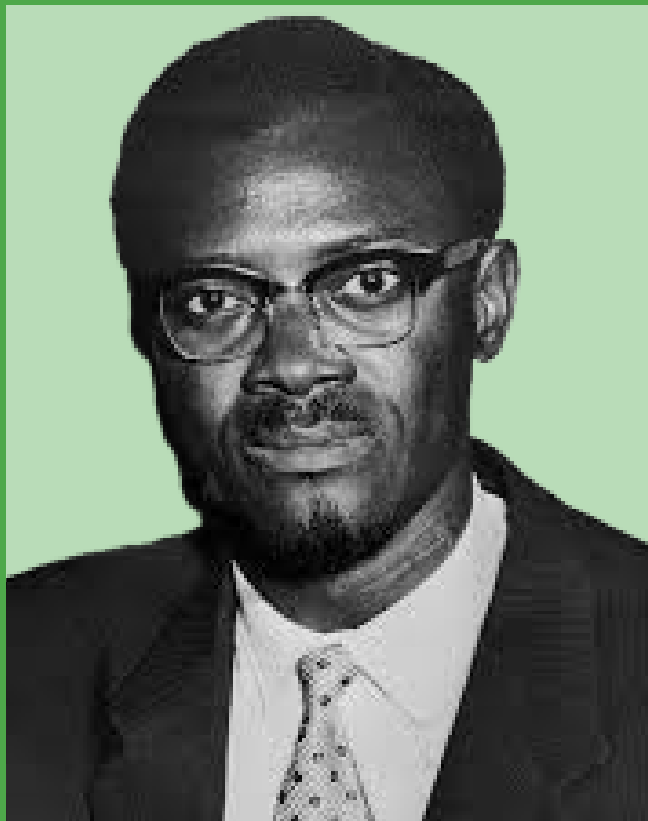
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

# *Patrice Lumumba*





# WHO IS HE ?



## NAME

Patrice Emery  
Lumumba

## DATE OF BIRTH

July 2nd, 1925

## PLACE OF BIRTH

Katakombe, Kasai, Belgian Congo

## OCCUPATION

First Prime Minister of  
Democratic Republic of Congo



**Patrice Lumumba**, the first Prime Minister of the DRC, is a lasting symbol of anti-imperialism and Pan-Africanism through his vision and eloquence. Assassinated in January 1961, less than seven months after DRC's independence from Belgium, his legacy continues to inspire struggles for sovereignty and justice across Africa.





NURU

# HIS CAREER

**1955**

Regional President of the **Congolese Trade Union of government employees.**

**1956**

Got **arrested** (12 months sentence) over the charges of embezzling money from the post office where he worked.

**1958**

Creates the **Congolese National Movement (MNC)**, first nation wide political party in DRC.

**1960**

Becomes **Prime Minister** after the **MNC** wins the **General Elections.**

**1961**

On **January 17**, he was executed by rebels in the **Katanga region.**





# An African leader

While working as a **postal clerk** and contributing to the **Congolese press**, Patrice Lumumba began his **political journey** in **Trade Unions**. After an unfair arrest by the Belgian colonial authority, he decided to create the **Congolese National Movement (MNC) in 1958**.



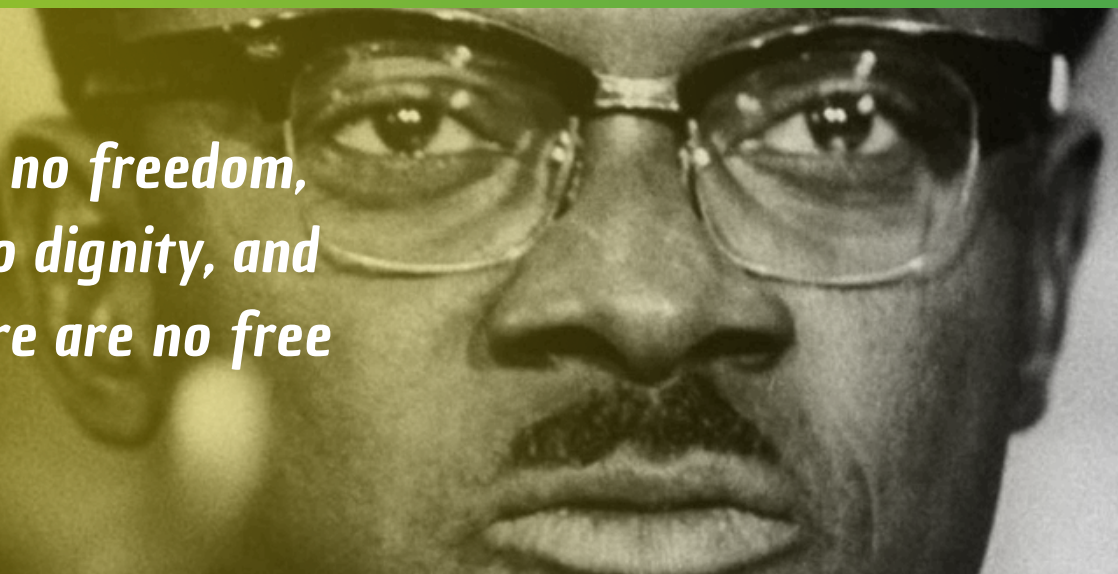
*MNC's Flag*

*Conference of Independent African States*



The same year he was invited in **Accra, Ghana**, by fellow african nationalists like **Kwame Nkrumah**, for the **first Conference of Independent African States**. His speech caught the attention of the entire world over the **nationalist fervour on the rise across Africa**.

*"Without dignity there is no freedom,  
without justice there is no dignity, and  
without independence there are no free  
men."*







# General Elections

The Belgian government announced **General Elections** in 1960. Lumumba's **MNC** wanted to **boycott** the election deeming it an **illegitimate Belgian attempt** at **installing a puppet government**. Many Congolese boycotted in protest and the Belgian authorities responded with **repression**. **Lumumba was arrested** on charges of **inciting a riot**.



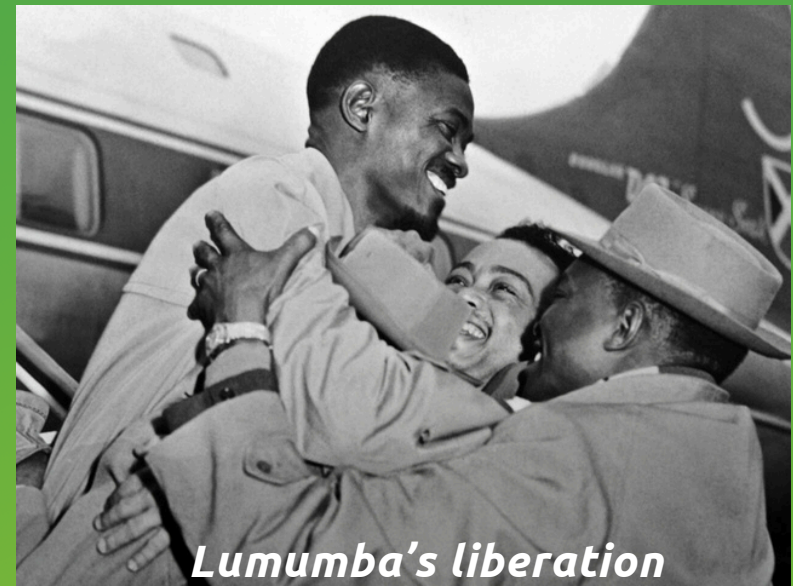
The **MNC** decided to **change its tactics** and participated in the elections. They finally **won** them with **90 percent of the vote**. Their first action was to demand the release of Lumumba in order to discuss the formation of a government and national independence.





# General Elections

The MNC's demands were met and Lumumba became the first Prime Minister of the DRC in 1960.



*Lumumba's liberation*



*Independence Day*



On Independence day (June 30) and in front of the King of Belgium, Lumumba delivered a **powerful speech** that would live on as a benchmark for the anti-imperial struggle in Africa and the world.

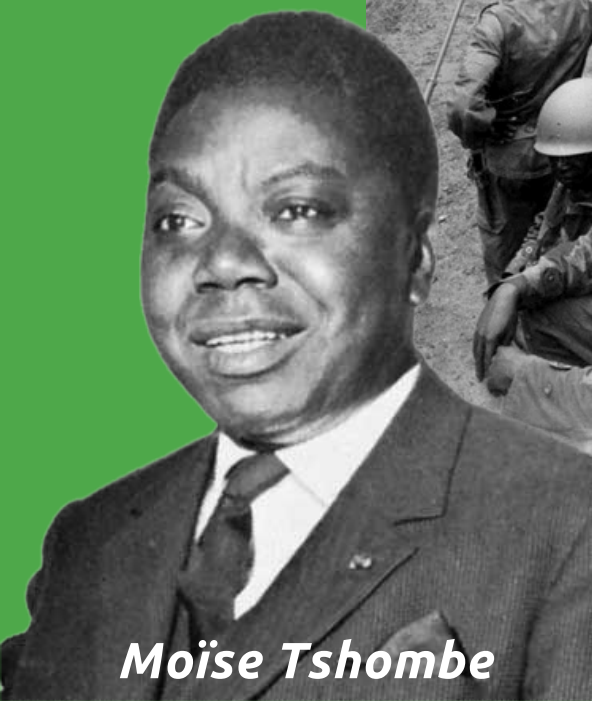
**« The Congolese republic has been declared. Our land now belongs to its rightful children. We will institute social justice and ensure that our soil truly benefits its children. »**





# Katanga secession 1

The day after the independence was proclaimed, **units of the army rebelled**, largely because of objections of their Belgian commander. Belgium sent **6000 troops** announcing that they were in place for the protection of Belgian nationals in DRC but a day later, **Moïse Tshombe** (Congolese politician and business man) took advantage of the power struggle and **proclaimed the secession of the mineral rich province of Katanga**, with support from the **Belgian government and mining companies**.



*Moïse Tshombe*



*Tshombe and Belgian Mining company leaders*



# Katanga secession 2

In reality it was a treacherous move. The Belgian troops **protected** and **supported** Tchombe's **rebellion**. They had moved in to **secure** its **Colonial cash cow**, and **undermine** Lumumba's rule.

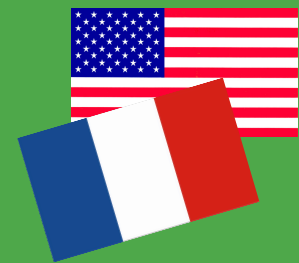
*Lumumba and Dag Hammarskjöld,  
Secretary General of the UN*



To **overcome** the **secession**, Lumumba reached out to the **United Nations** to **expel** **Belgian** **forces** and **help** **restore** **internal** **order** by **suppressing** the **rebellion** in **Katanga**.

Although, **UN** **forces** **were** **not** **authorised** to do so because the United State of America and France refused.

In the context of the **Cold War**, Lumumba, being frustrated with the West, decided to reach out to the **Soviet Union**, notably requesting planes to fly his army to Katanga.

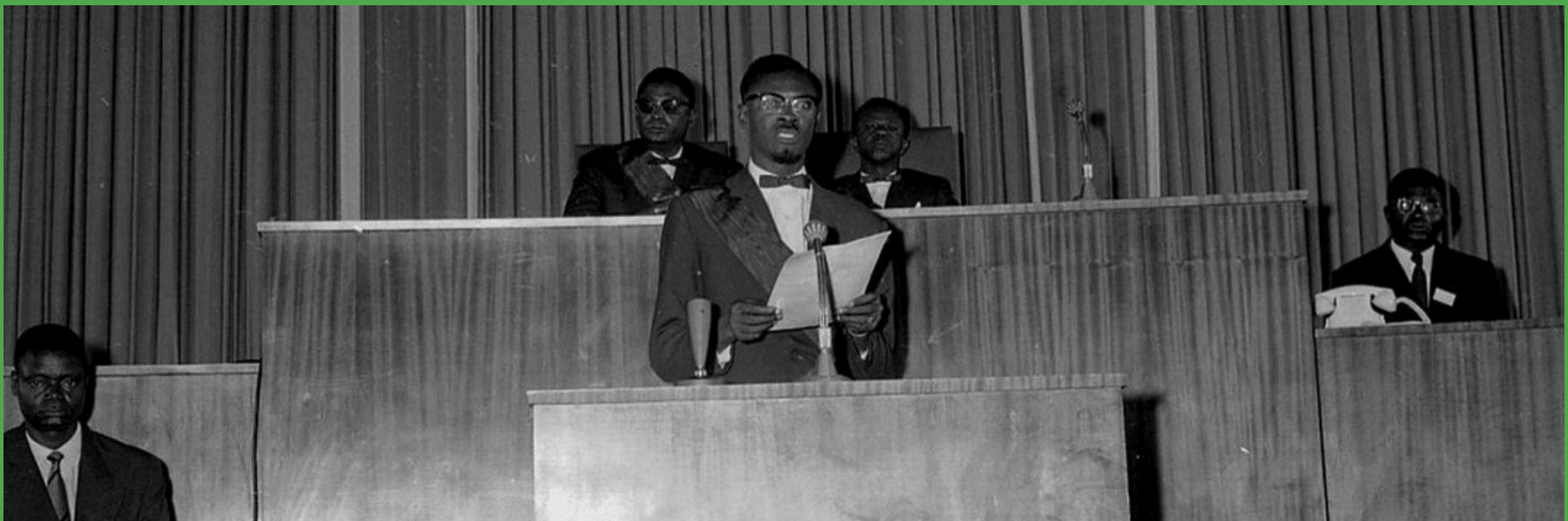






# Positive Neutralism

He also assembled **African heads of state in Leopoldville** (Kinshasa), asking for their **full support** (Egypt, Ghana, Guinea) in his efforts to quell the rebellion and unify the DRC. He argued that the **unity of DRC was a symbol of freedom for DRC and Africa of foreign colonial influence.**

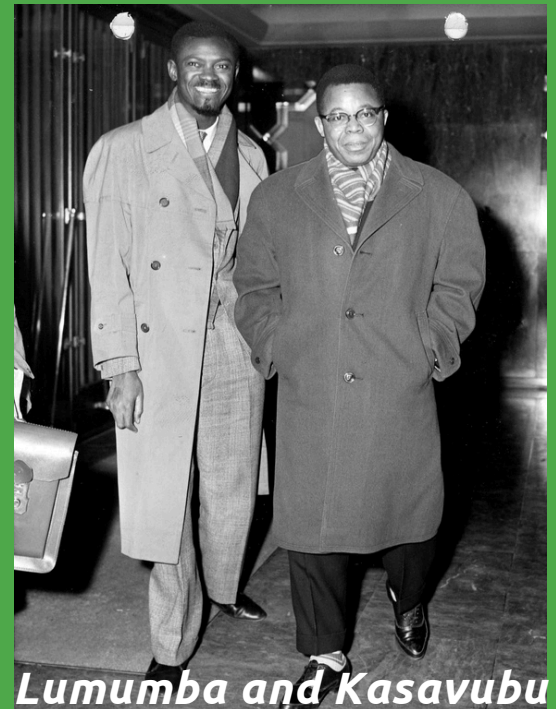


He advocated a **theory of « positive neutralism »** meaning that his administration would focus on returning to **African values** rather than using any **imported ideology from the East nor the West**. But by turning to the Soviet Union, it was too late, he had crossed the **Cold War red line** and the presence of the Soviet military in the heart of Africa gaining influence in a **resource-rich country** made Western powers very uncomfortable. Plus congolese minerals were actually already used by these countries (Uranium for atomic bomb).

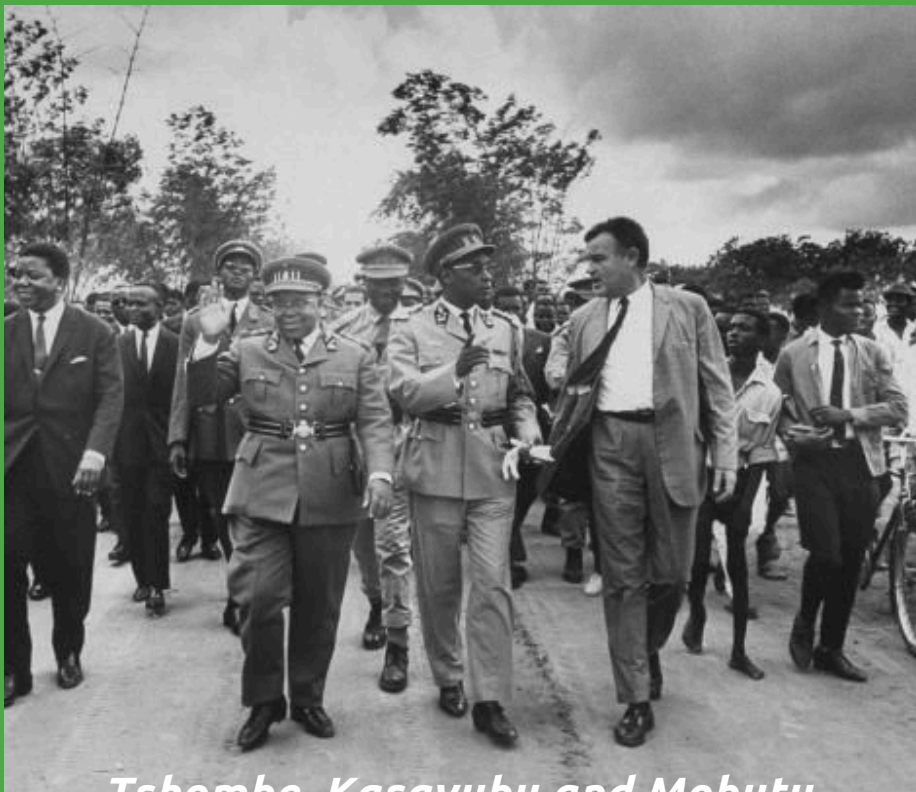


# Kasavubu - Mobutu

Internally, Lumumba was up **against President Kasavubu** who did not approve of Lumumba's actions and was willing to lean towards a **moderate pro-western approach in policy**. He then **fired Lumumba** only **three months** after his accession to power (September 5, 1960), and placed him under **house arrest**.



*Lumumba and Kasavubu*



*Tshombe, Kasavubu and Mobutu*

**Mobutu and Kasavubu** reached a working agreement and their government was recognised by the UN.

A few days later, a **military coup** was engaged by **Army General Mobutu Sese Seko**, backed by **Belgium** and the **USA**, who took control of the government.



*Mobutu and Kasavubu*





# His assassination

**Lumumba got arrested again** by Mobutu after escaping his house, and was **sent to Kantanga's secessionist forces**. While captive, he was **tortured**.



On **January 17, 1961**, he was **executed** by a firing squad with the full knowledge and collaboration of the **Belgians**. If he was initially thrown in shallow graves, later, Belgian officers dug his body up, hacked it into pieces and dissolved it in acid.

His death was **first hidden** providing a **fake version of events** but always **questioned** since his death was a **shock** for **Africa** and the **global anti-colonial movement**, it took decades to know the truth.



# The mourning of DRC

In 2002, Belgium apologised to the Congolese people for its role in Lumumba's assassination.

In 2013, the US State Department admitted that President Eisenhower (1953-1961) had authorised Lumumba's murder.

Records also show that French diplomats in Africa were calling directly for Lumumba's elimination.



On June 20, 2022, Belgian authorities formally **restituted Patrice Lumumba's tooth**, the only remaining part of his body, during a ceremony in Brussels. The relic was handed over to his family in the presence of Congolese officials.

This gesture was part of **Belgium's acknowledgment** of its role in his assassination. Following the ceremony, the tooth was transported to the DRC, where it was honored through national tributes before being **placed in a mausoleum in Kinshasa on June 30, the anniversary of the country's independence.**

