

President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

**President of the
Democratic Republic of the Congo**
Presidential Standard

Incumbent

[Félix Tshisekedi](#)

since 25 January 2019

[Residence](#) [Palais de la Nation, Kinshasa](#)

[Term length](#) 5 years, renewable once

[Inaugural holder](#) [Joseph Kasavubu](#)

[Formation](#) 30 June 1960

[Salary](#) 51,500 USD annually^[1]

[Website](#) [Official website of the President of the DRC](#)

The **President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo** (French: *Président de la République démocratique du Congo*, [Swahili](#): *Rais wa Jamhuri ya Kidemokrasia ya Kongo*, [Lingala](#): *Mokonzi wa Republíki ya Kongó Demokratíki*), is the head of state of the [Democratic Republic of the Congo](#) and commander-in-chief of the [armed forces](#).

The constitutional mandate of the current president, [Joseph Kabila](#), was due to expire on 20 December 2016 but was extended by him until the end of 2017.^[2] He was replaced by [Félix Tshisekedi](#) in 2019.

Article 72 of the Congolese constitution states that the President must be a [natural-born citizen](#) – or more accurately: French: *citoyen d'origine* – of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and at least 30 years of age. Additionally, the President must be free of any legal constraints on their civil and political rights.

Heads of state of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (1960–present)

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

(Dates in italics indicate *de facto* continuation of office)

Republic of the Congo (1960–1964)

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

No.	Name	Lifespan	Elected	Took office	Left office	Political party
Presidents						
1	Joseph Kasa-Vubu	1890–1969	—	1 July 1960	1 August 1964	ABAKO
—	Antoine Gizenga ^[a] (disputed)	1916–2019	—	31 March 1961	5 August 1961	Parti Solidaire Africain (Gizenga faction)

Democratic Republic of the Congo (1964–1971)

[\[change\]](#) | [change source](#)

Presidents

(1)	Joseph Kasa-Vubu	1890–1969	—	1 August 1964	24 November 1965 ^[b]	ABAKO
2	Joseph-Désiré Mobutu	1917–1997	1970	24 November 1965	27 October 1971	Military / Popular Movement of the Revolution

Republic of Zaire (1971–1997)

[\[change\]](#) | [change source](#)

President

(2)	Mobutu Sese Seko ^[c]	1931–1997	1977 1984	27 October 1971	16 May 1997 ^[d]	Popular Movement of the Revolution
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Democratic Republic of the Congo (1997–present)

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Presidents

3	Laurent-Désiré Kabila	1927–2001	—	17 May 1997	16 January 2001 (assassinated)	Independent
4	Joseph Kabila	1960–	2006 2011	26 January 2001 Acting since 17 January 2001	24 January 2019	Independent / People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy
5	Félix Tshisekedi	1954–	2018	24 January 2019	Incumbent	Union for Democracy and Social Progress

Timeline

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

Timeline

Notes

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

- a. [↑] [Rebel government](#) at [Stanleyville](#), during the [Congo Crisis](#).
- b. [↑] Deposed in the 1965 coup d'état.
- c. [↑] Previously named Joseph-Désiré Mobutu; changed name on 10 January 1972 due to the policy of [Zairianisation](#).
- d. [↑] Deposed in the [First Congo War](#).

References

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

1. [↑] ["The highest and lowest paid African presidents - Business Daily"](#). Business Daily.
2. [↑] ["20 dead in Congo unrest as Kabila clings on to power"](#). IOL. South Africa. Retrieved 3 March 2017.

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