



UNPOLICE

Flash

UNPOL CELESTINE DOMBWA: SYMBOL OF PROFESSIONALISM AND RIGOUR

UNPOL Celestine DOMBWA is a Police Commissioner of Malian nationality with a 29 year longevity that she puts at the disposal of the United Nations to "contribute in the restoration of peace in the world, to bring her modest contribution in building a better world for the civilian population suffering for decades from all sorts of pain, poverty and insecurity in the DRC and other countries affected by conflict". Her colleagues laud her commitment, professionalism, rigour and open-mindedness. She became the Goma Chief of Sector a few days ago.

PIO/UNPOL: Can you tell us something about yourself?



UNPOL Celestine DOMBWA: As Deputy Chief of Sector in charge of Training from 19th November 2013 to 06 November 2015, UNPOL DOMBWA Celestine, Police Commissioner of the Malian Police has been coordinating training implementation activities with various partners. I initiated the necessary contacts for revamping of training activities at the Mugunga Police School in Goma. I assume several responsibilities such as the elaboration and implementation of several training projects for Congolese National Police Officers of the North and South Kivu Provinces, the ex-Orientale Province and the Maniema Province. Rigorous, determined and passionate for team work, this is not my first Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo. During my first experience from November 2010 to May 2013, I served for one year as trainer and tandem for the Deputy in charge of training in the Bunia Sector. I equally worked for one year and a half at the Training Coordination Cell as head of the Sub-cell for follow up and evaluation of training projects. I was often the interim head of Cell during this period. My multidisciplinary training added to my high adaptation capacity have always enabled a quick integration into any position that I have held.

I am a graduate from the "Ecole Nationale d'Administration" de Bamako and I was Inspector then, Superintendent of Police. I was first in my batch and started my career in the General Directorate of the Malian Police where I held several positions. This

nine –year experience enabled me to work in sensitive areas demanding a lot of rigour. Presently, I am the Goma Chief of Sector since November 7th 2015.

PIO/UNPOL: Why did you choose to serve as a Police Officer in peacekeeping operations and particularly in the DRC?

UNPOL Celestine DOMBWA: I chose to serve as Police Officer in peacekeeping operations and particularly in the Democratic Republic of Congo for two reasons: Firstly, before the crisis in my country that led to the United Nations deploying a Peace Keeping Mission there, I was longing to share my experience with Police Officers in countries affected by armed conflict. I wanted to share my expertise and knowledge acquired in the Police domain. With a long and rich career, my ambition was to contribute in the restoration of peace in the world, to bring my modest contribution to the building of a better world for the civilian population that has been suffering for decades from all sorts of pain, poverty and insecurity in the DRC and in other countries affected by conflict. Secondly, when I followed world news back in my country, I was touched by the phenomenon of violence against vulnerable persons brought about by the armed conflict in the DRC. I felt challenged by the impunity in the face of this phenomenon that had lasted too long.

PIO/UNPOL: You are the Deputy Chief of Goma Sector in charge of Training, what is your contribution in this domain that the leadership of the Police Component holds at heart?

UNPOL Celestine DOMBWA: Yes, the leadership of the Police Component pays a particular attention to training. We have to initiate and implement training programs for about ¼ of Congolese National Police Officers in North Kivu who have never undergone any training worth the name. These Police Officers have to receive both basic and specialized training, but as you know, with upcoming elections we have to lay emphasis on elections security. It is also our responsibility to initiate Quick Impact Projects in the domain of training to obtain funds for their implementation. We also have to appeal for funds from international donors for the capacity building of PNC officers and finally support the reform spirit with our PNC Partners and international partners in the implementation of training projects.

In this respect, I think that since taking office in Goma Sector in November 2013, I have contributed positively towards the accomplishment of these missions. If I were to draw a balance sheet, I would say that I have played a key role in training of several PNC Officers in Mines Police, Community Policing and Sexual and Gender Based Violence. These trainings included the two Kivu Provinces. Beyond the town of Goma where I reside, Rutshuru and Nyiragongo have benefited from my contribution in terms of training. From November 2014 to February 2015, I coordinated the training of 60 Officers in Judicial Police specialized in SGBV at Mugunga Police School.

I have also initiated and implemented QIPs for the accelerated basic training of 400 Officers of the PNC in Goma and in the Masisi, Rutshuru and Walikale Islands of Stability. With regard to elections security, a priority for the hierarchy of the Police Component, nearly 500 Officers in Goma have received refresher training under my supervision. I have equally finalised a basic training QIP for 200 PNC Officers in Nymilima, Tongo and Nianzale. This project already approved by the Project Review Committee is awaiting funding for its implementation.

PIO/UNPOL: Are there any things you would like to do within the framework of the mandate and which are yet unaccomplished?

UNPOL Celestine DOMBWA: Of course. The concretization and implementation of the PNC reform for instance. I would equally love to see the success of my appeal to international donors for necessary funds for the operational capacity building of the PNC, training in elections security, the provision of infrastructure and public order management equipment.

PIO/UNPOL: What has impressed you most in this Mission?





UNPOL Celestine DOMBWA: The leadership of the Police Component. Since 2010 I have followed the evolution of the Component till today and thanks to the perseverance, open mindedness and commitment of the hierarchy for positive change, UNPOL has become unavoidable in all actions carried out within the framework of mandate execution. As a result of its pertinent views on security issues, significant participation in various joint missions with other substantive Sections of the Mission, UNPOL is more and more solicited by all partners. Also, as a woman, I cannot fail mentioning the fact that the promotion of women to positions of responsibility is a reality in the Police Component where they bring in efficient contributions.

PIO/UNPOL: Any final word?

UNPOL Celestine DOMBWA: My sincere thanks go to the leadership for choosing me and call on my colleagues to do their best to meet the expectations of the leadership of the Police Component. We have chosen a just and noble cause and should stop at nothing to see this mission succeed. Each of us can be the UNPOL of the month, it suffices to have the will and persevere in our efforts and quest for excellence. To my UNPOL and FPU sisters I say women are also “fighters” and can succeed better in areas where our male colleagues excel. I encourage them to be courageous and apply for positions of responsibility. Positions are deserved and not given out of favour. Therefore, be ambitious, my brave sisters. The UNPOL of the month is proof of this as two female officers have been selected in just a few months.

WHAT DO OTHERS SAY ABOUT HER?

Abdoulaye Balde :

I am the coordinator of the Security and Judicial Governance Component of UNDP in Eastern DRC, based in Goma.

I knew UNPOL Celestine since 2012 during her first deployment in the mission. At the time I was working with the Security Sector Reform Section of MONUSCO as chief of projects for the fight against sexual violence. We worked together within the scope of a joint project aimed at building the capacity of the PNC in the fight against sexual violence. She was in charge of the training aspect of investigators.

Throughout the implementation of this project we saw her professionalism, commitment and determination to achieve expected goals. She also has proven expertise on



sexual violence issues and training. The second experience shared with her was last year during the training of PNC investigators at the Mugunga Police School, with the support of UNDP. Here also, she showed proof of high professionalism in the supervision of this training.

During her two missions in the DRC as UNPOL, she has contributed immensely in the capacity building of the PNC and visibility of the United Nations Police through the quality of her work. She is discrete but very efficient.

Women of her caliber in MONUSCO Police bring honour not only to their country Mali, but also to the United Nations. She deserves to be quoted as a model for young female Police Officers in order to perpetuate the actions of the police within the population.

Commissaire Divisionnaire Adjoint (General) Awachango Umiya Vital, PNC Provincial Commissioner for North Kivu :

I think it is the right choice that comes at the right time to crown the work she has done. UNPOL Celestine distinguished herself through her commitment, open mindedness, quest for standards in her work, availability and team spirit. Her appointment as Chief of Sector is the culmination of several factors. I pray that this assiduity continue to accompany Mrs. Celestine DOMBWA throughout the rest of her career.

UNPOL FAKOUA Zakarie (ex-Chief of Goma Sector) :

I first knew Celestine DOMBWA in 2012/2013 when she was serving with the Training Coordination in Kinshasa. I was then the Chief of Goma Sector. Though our contact was limited to the exchange of working documents related to training, I could already take note of her level of professionalism. Subsequently, destiny brought us together in October 2014 when I was redeployed to Goma Sector as Chief and I met her as Deputy in charge of Operations where I discovered her fully.

At all times in the accomplishment of assigned tasks, DOMBWA Celestine showed proof of rigour, professionalism, and the love for a job well done. This earned her the admiration of partners, colleagues and the leadership, resulting in an exceptional extension during her two duty tours in MONUSCO Police. As her supervisor, these achievements brought about by her qualities caused me to nick-name her "Iron Lady".

Commissaire Supérieur Principal, KEKAMBEZI BYEKA Freddy, Commandant of the Mugunga Police School :

From our first meeting I quickly noticed that she was a professional who would be a valuable collaborator. She has always worked for the good of the Congolese National Police in general and the Mugunga Police School in particular. Her contribution has enabled the School not only to ensure efficient training but also to possess professional and competent trainers whose reputation is well known. In a nut shell, UNPOL Celestine DOMBWA, through her straightforward character, has considerably contributed in the valourisation of the Mugunga Police School and its personnel. In the course of our interactions, I noticed that she is not just a professional, but also a mother. Thanks very much, mama Celestine!

UNPOL Doina-Luminita POPESCU, (President of the UNPOL/FPU Women' Committee) :

I knew Celestine through her work. While working at the Training Coordination in Kinshasa last year, I noticed that she was the first to respect deadlines and her work was highly professional.

More importantly, she has a character with complex dimensions. She is an exceptional mother and this can be testified through the smile of her children (seen in her photo album). She a sincere and faithful friend as evidenced from the number of friends she has. She is a hardworking and serious woman whose thirst to excel serves an example for her friends and colleagues.

She represents THE WOMAN in all her complexity, grandeur, gentleness and sensitivity. By the stroke of luck, I have not only had the occasion to be her colleague in the Mission, but also to enjoy her warm and tender friendship by God's grace.

She will remain a role model in several aspects. The recognition she is receiving today as UNPOL of the month is well deserved and proof that the leadership of the MONUSCO Police Component integrates gender and rewards honourably.

