

VISIT BY SECRETARY OF STATE ANTHONY BLINKEN TO SILIKIN VILLAGE

August 12th, 2022

US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken has devoted some time out his two-day visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo to come to **SILIKIN VILLAGE** and meet with young people enrolled in a USAID supported program. This program, managed by Internews and **TEXAF**'s partner KINSHASA DIGITAL, is a hackathon ¹ with the objective of developing a technology solution to counter disinformation and increase transparency in the electoral process. Denis Kadima, chairman of the National Independent Electoral Commission, joined Secretary Blinken during this visit that took place on August 10th.

SILIKIN VILLAGE is an initiative by TEXAF to create a digital ecosystem in Kinshasa. It hosts flexible offices for start-up's, co-working spaces, a coding academy, conference rooms and organizes, with partners, long term training, seminars, incubation etc... With the construction of its 3rd phase, due in 2023, it will cover 15,000 m², be the largest digital hub in Africa and will be able to house 1,600 digital players (corporates, start-ups, supporting services, etc.). In 2023, it will also include the first carrier-neutral data centre in DRC.



Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and chairman of CENI Denis Kadima in the Silikin Village

¹ A hackathon is an event, typically lasting a few days, where groups of computer programmers compete on a specific software project, with the goal of having a functioning development by the end of the event.



After TM King Philippe and Queen Mathilde of the Belgians, together with the Congolese and Belgian prime ministers in June, Secretary Blinken's visit shows that **SILIKIN VILLAGE** has become a reference point for the development of entrepreneurial youth in the DRC.

TEXAF (www.texaf.be), established in 1925, is the only listed company with all its activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Currently, these are concentrated on property and quarries. More recently, TEXAF has decided to develop a new activity in the digital domain. TEXAF aims to become a major player in this sector.

This listing on the stock exchange and the resulting obligations in terms of good governance and transparency constitute a major asset of the Group for its development and for the promotion of the formal sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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