

SPEECH OF MR LAMBERT MENDE OMALANGA, MINISTER OF
COMMUNICATION AND MEDIAS OF D. R. CONGO AT THE CARTER
CENTER CONFERENCE ON THE INFORMATION RIGHTS

Honourable Ministers,

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

After hearing valuable presentations about the transparency dilemma and critical access of the information, I would share with fellow participants lived experiences of my country the Democratic Republic of the Congo where one should complain instead of some kind of overdose of mass-media enterprises. For some people the big number of medias in the DRC is an evidence of democratic good governance. In fact this overdose yields more heat than light because it did not have significant impact on the information access.

The information access in a country depends largely on the modus operandi of the professionals who must be able to get to the best sources. Sadly, in my country, journalists show very little ability to get physically where events happen due to financial and logistic deficit. The New Technologies of Information and Communication are not sufficiently available for all.

The radio, television and newspapers play a crucial role in building a public opinion within the Nation whose sociological components gathered effectively and conscientiously since less than eighty years. This is why in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, journalists are true opinion leaders. This situation can help to weigh their moral responsibility while reporting or analyzing current affairs. Hardly viewers, listeners and readers would have question the sources veracities, neither the journalists real motivations.

The critical access to State institutions data is a key factor for allowing a democratic participation. Correctly informed, citizens would be able to assess the governance. Such an access is also essential in order to promote more transparency in public management.

In the DR Congo, structures for regulating medias have been institutionalized. They are aimed at monitoring the deontology and rules conducting the profession thus, emphasizing the commitment of professionals to deserve the public trust that will lobby for more openness toward the press from public institutions.

Among the challenges which dilute the right to the information in DRC, one can mention the poor management/technical skills, the