



*UNIS's lens on governance, corruption, public finance
and financial flows in the Democratic Republic of Congo.*

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT · COUNCIL OF STATE · DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY

Vehicle licence plates in the DRC — English summary

From a promised reform to unexplained prices: \$128 reported at the counter, up to \$900 reported by motorists. Kanyaka traces the contract, the money and the digital platform behind the DRC's new vehicle registration system. This English summary covers the key findings and the sixteen recommendations; the full edition is available in French.



The new Congolese vehicle licence plate, at the heart of the contract and the dispute documented in this issue.



The essentials in 90 seconds

The new Congolese licence plate was meant to symbolise modernisation: QR code, traceability, secure public revenue. Nine months after its launch, a simpler question arises: **how much does a plate really cost a Congolese motorist — and how was the contract to produce it awarded?**

\$128

Reported fee for a new registration: \$115 + a \$9 RTNC levy + bank charges that sources put at different amounts (\$4 to \$12).

STATED

Up to \$900

Highest amount reported by motorists at the 7th Street issuing centre in Limete, according to an investigation by Top Congo FM (23.09.2026).

STATED

\$7.4M

Value of the contract signed in July 2025 with Castillo Valere BV for the first 100,000 pairs of plates, according to Africa Intelligence.

STATED

**\$3M**

Advance payment demanded by Castillo Valere from its local intermediary, according to a letter dated 17 March 2026 cited by the CNPAV coalition.

STATED**3 of 6**

Companies selected for the contract in 2024, out of the six prequalified in 2022 — including Ray Group, which was not on the original list.

STATED**THE KANYAKA QUESTION**

Of every dollar a Congolese motorist pays for a plate, how much actually reaches the Treasury — and how did a contract designed in 2022 for six operators end up, three years later, being carried out by just one? That is what this issue documents.

Kanyaka does not allege that any organised embezzlement took place. Estimates and accusations attributed to third parties are presented as such, and the parties cited were asked to respond before publication. Every statement carries a level of certainty: established, stated, announced, analysis or not available.



Recommendations

This issue does not conclude that organised embezzlement took place: it documents an unexplained price gap, a tender whose award departed from its own terms of reference, and strategic digital infrastructure whose effective transfer to direct State control Kanyaka could not publicly confirm. **Sixteen recommendations**, addressed to four groups of actors.

*Unless otherwise stated, these recommendations are made by UNIS on the basis of the analysis in this issue. The **CNPAV** label marks a measure previously requested by the coalition and relayed here as such.*

TO THE CONGOLESE STATE — FINANCE MINISTRY, DGI, DGCMP

- 1** Publish the full Castillo Valere BV contract and compare it with the March 2022 PPP project.
- 2** Publish a monthly statement of plates produced, delivered and sold, and of the revenue actually collected by the Treasury.
- 3** Order an administrative inquiry into the payments of \$350 to \$900 reported in Limete, and publish the findings.
- 4** Clarify what happened to Ray Group and Immo Serkas & Mühlbauer, provisional awardees set aside in 2024.
- 5** Publish the legal basis and a single fee schedule — bank charges included — for the \$100 levy (order no. 073/CAB/MIN/FINANCES/2025).

**ON THE DIGITAL PLATFORM AND DATA SOVEREIGNTY**

- 1** Have the dispute with Valornet swiftly decided by the Kinshasa-Gombe court, and publish the ruling.
- 2** Publish the membership of the Monitoring Committee (order no. 074/2025) and how the insurance premiums paid to it are used.
- 3** Launch a plan for the sovereign transfer of the vehicle fleet database (≈ 3 million vehicles) to State-controlled infrastructure.
- 4** Clarify Valornet's legal form and ownership, and announce the outcome of the PPP contract that expired in August 2026.

TO OVERSIGHT BODIES AND THE JUDICIARY

- 1** Verify whether Ray Group's inclusion among the 2024 awardees was lawful, given that it was not prequalified.
- 2** Audit the origin and traceability of the \$3 million advance demanded by Castillo Valere from its local intermediary.
- 3** Verify the alleged links between Castillo Service RDC and political figures, including George Batuleji.



- 4** **CNPAV** Consider a precautionary suspension of the mandatory plate replacement until these grey areas are cleared up — a request made by the coalition on 07.01.2026, relayed by UNIS without taking a position on its merits.

TO CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE MEDIA

- 1** CNPAV, ODEP and LICOCO should document, city by city, the gap between official fees and amounts actually paid.
- 2** Congolese and pan-African media should follow up the investigation opened by Africa Intelligence, in particular on the fate of the excluded bidders.
- 3** UNIS and its partners will follow this case through the Kanyaka Tracker until the full contract is published and the financial flows are clarified.

Kanyaka — La Quinzaine is a publication of UNIS — Pan-African Network Against Corruption. This English summary is translated from the French edition, which is the reference version and includes the full analysis, sources and case tracker: unis-afrique.org/kanyaka-la-quinzaine.



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