

# Concerns Regarding Speculated Meeting Between Elon Musk and Former DRC President Joseph Kabila

*Concern arises over a speculated meeting between Elon Musk and ex-DRC President Kabila, which could complicate the Trump administration's agenda*

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The proposed meeting between Elon Musk and former President Kabila must not be allowed to occur; it jeopardizes the integrity of U.S.-DRC relations and undermines our commitment to democratic values”

*Dr. Karl Von Batten, Managing Partner of Von Batten-Montague-York, L.C.*

Montague-York is raising the alarm over news from the Democratic Republic of Congo about a potential meeting between Elon Musk and former DRC President Joseph Kabila during the upcoming inauguration of President Trump. This is despite inaccurate claims that former president Kabila was invited by President Trump to attend the inauguration.

In the context of the U.S. foreign relations landscape, the prospect of such a meeting carries significant implications. Former President Kabila, who ruled the DRC from 2001 to 2019, remains a polarizing figure. His associated governance has faced scrutiny regarding issues of democracy, human rights, and governance. As concerns mount over the impact of a meeting with Musk—an

influential figure in global technology and business—senior officials in the DRC government worry it could undermine the fragile diplomatic rapport currently being established with the incoming Trump administration.

U.S. law, particularly the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998, emphasizes the importance of supporting democratic institutions and promoting accountability in foreign governments. Engaging with former leaders who have controversial records could complicate these aims and provoke backlash from civil society in the DRC and the broader international community.

“This meeting could send a detrimental signal about the U.S. commitment to supporting democratic principles in the DRC,” stated Dr. Karl Von Batten. “The current DRC administration is

striving to stabilize relations with the United States, and such a high-profile meeting risks eroding the trust that has been painstakingly built.”

Furthermore, the implications of this meeting extend beyond foreign relations; they could also harm the incoming Trump administration itself. Elon Musk’s close friendship with President Trump places him in a unique position to influence public perception and policy direction. Should Musk engage with Kabila, it may create the appearance of tacit support for an administration that many view with skepticism.



Congolese President Joseph Kabila at the Palais de la Nation in Kinshasa on Dec. 9

The DRC plays a crucial role in the geopolitics of Central Africa and is rich in resources essential for modern technologies, including cobalt and rare earth metals. Maintaining a constructive partnership is vital for both nations, especially as the U.S. looks to strengthen its influence in the region in the wake of China’s growing economic presence.

As this situation unfolds, it is imperative for all parties involved to consider the long-term ramifications for U.S.-DRC relations. Von Batten-Montague-York has urged Elon Musk’s team to carefully evaluate the political landscape before proceeding with any meetings that could inadvertently harm the fragile diplomatic ties with the DRC government and complicate the path for the incoming Trump administration.

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