

# **COMMUNIQUE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES ON THE TERRORIST ATTACK OF WHICH THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO WAS VICTIMATED ON DECEMBER 25, 2021**

**December 27, 2021**

**Libreville, December 26, 2021:** The President of the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), His Excellency Ambassador Gilberto da Piedade VERISSIMO, learned with great amazement and emotion of the terrorist attack whose Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) suffered in its eastern part, particularly in the city of Beni, North Kivu province, on the evening of December 25, 2021, which resulted in at least eight deaths and twenty injuries. .

While condemning with the greatest reprobation this totally unjustified attack against innocent civilian populations, the President of the Commission expresses his deep condolences to the bereaved families, his support for the wounded and the solidarity of the whole Community, in these difficult circumstances, both both to the Government and to the Congolese people as a whole.

It also encourages the Government of the DRC not to allow itself to be intimidated by acts initiated, most certainly in retaliation for the hunt conducted jointly for some time by the Congolese and Ugandan Security and Defense Forces against the rebels of the Democratic Forces. Allies (ADF) in the eastern part of its national territory. It strongly urges it to make available to the competent services of the Security and Defense Forces the necessary means likely to enable them to search for, identify and arrest, if possible with the cooperation of neighboring States, those responsible for this unjustified terror against civilian populations to bring them before the courts.

The President of the ECCAS Commission seizes this opportunity to remind the Member States of the Community of the need to remain vigilant in the face of the extension of the terrorist threat and violent extremism, as well as the need to appropriate the collective commitments relating to the implementation of Community measures and mechanisms in this area. It undertakes to remobilize them around these during the next meeting of the Peace and Security Council for Central Africa (COPAX) to be held in January 2022 in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, in order to adapt them to the extension and transformation of the terrorist threat and violent extremism in the community space.