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MEDIA RELEASE

Eurasian Resources Group and the University of Kolwezi develop curriculum to meet mining skills demand in the DRC

The collaboration, culminating in the ERG Mining Academy, will enhance engineering degrees through a unique post-graduate programme to build critical mining-related competencies

Eurasian Resources Group (ERG) and the University of Kolwezi (UNIKOL) have partnered to launch the ERG Mining Academy, with its first student intake in January 2023. The collaboration will see UNIKOL partnering with global teaching institutions, such as the University of Mons, and ERG as an industry partner, to develop a post-graduate engineering curriculum with a focus on exploration, geology, metallurgy, mining and cross-cutting subjects, including ESG.

Benedikt Sobotka, ERG's Chief Executive Officer said: "In addition to producing the critical resources needed for a sustainable future, mining plays a vital role in the social and economic upliftment of its host communities. As an established and growing operator in the DRC, we want to ensure that the communities near us benefit from our operations and evolve alongside our business. We are honoured to work with UNIKOL to equip local engineers with industry-relevant skills that will help them seize opportunities within the sector as it continues to scale."

200 Congolese nationals holding a civil engineering, or a geology and mines degree from UNIKOL, will be eligible to apply for the programme. This study path will culminate in a recognised Professional Master's degree, endorsed by the Ministry of Higher and University Education, providing graduates the opportunity to secure highly sought-after positions within the rapidly-growing mining industry in the DRC.

The DRC has some of the largest reserves of critical minerals required to power the green energy transition. With most major economies across the globe committed to this shift, the demand for these materials continues to rise. The DRC currently accounts for 73% of the world's cobalt supply and 9% of globally mined copper – both essential to the production of EV batteries and renewable energy systems.

"The DRC is home to many great resources – one of which is our bright and talented youth. When the programme starts next year, as educators, and community members – we will be proud knowing that we are creating future-ready professionals that can enter the workforce and contribute to the overall economic upliftment of our country," said Professor Yvon Mwengwe Muhongo, Rector of UNIKOL.

Under the collaboration, colloquially referred to as Project *Kesho* (meaning *future*), UNIKOL will ensure the delivery of the programme, whereas ERG will provide the resources for its implementation including securing staff, guest lecturers, lecture rooms, multimedia equipment and training opportunities, as well as supporting the development of the programme's curriculum content and materials. Furthermore, ERG is developing the online learning and management platform where students can re-watch lessons, download course and reference materials, view videos, submit assignments, and communicate with lecturers.

"The ERG-UNIKOL collaboration is an exemplar of an innovative partnership that allow us to invest in Congolese people and position ourselves in regard to the issues of the day, including actively contributing to the global energy transition. The ERG Mining Academy in Lualaba will enable young Congolese to take ownership of the production chain of critical minerals through exploration, production, processing and distribution of raw materials," said the Minister of Higher and University Education, His Excellency, Mr. Muhindo Nzangi Butondo

Prospective students can apply for this two-year programme until 10 December via www.academie-des-mines-erg.unikol.ac.

For additional information please contact:

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About Eurasian Resources Group Africa:

Eurasian Resources Group (ERG) is a leading diversified natural resources group with integrated mining, processing, energy, logistics, and marketing operations. The Group operates in 15 countries and is a major employer in the industry.

ERG Africa combines the Group's assets on the African continent and forms a key part of the Group's long-term international growth strategy.

ERG Africa is a principal producer of cobalt and copper in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and has further assets and development projects in manganese, fluorspar, bauxite, platinum and thermal coal in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mali, Zambia and Mozambique. SABOT, a leading cross-border road haulier in the Southern and Central African region, also forms part of its operations.

About the University of Kolwezi:

The University of Kolwezi is a public university located in Kolwezi, capital of the mining province Lualaba located in the southeast of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

UNIKOL currently has eleven faculties (Law, Agricultural Sciences, Sciences, Economic and Management Sciences, Polytechnic, Humanities, Information and Communication Sciences, Medicine, Political and Administrative Sciences, Psychology and Education Sciences) and one school (Public Health). These faculties are spread over two campuses: Bebyati in the city centre and Musompo in the eastern part of the city.

At the regional level, it is the largest public university in the province of Lualaba in terms of infrastructure, staff and student population.