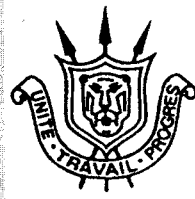


REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

SPEECH DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY PETER
NKURUNZIZA, NEW DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, ON THE OCCASION
OF HIS INVESTITURE.

Bujumbura, 26/8/2005.

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SPEECH DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY PETER NKURUNZIZA, NEW DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INVESTITURE.

Ladies, Gentlemen, distinguished guests, friends of Burundi, and international community.

First and foremost, we highly thank our Saviour, God the Almighty, for protecting Burundi and its citizens up to now.

We highly consider all preachers of the Word of God from different churches for their vital role in praying for Burundi and Burundians during hard times of the nation.

We extend our warmth regards to the outgoing leaders of the country, mainly the President of the Republic, the Government, Members of Parliament, Senators as well as other officials for the courage and enthousiam they put forth for the country to reach this historical stage.

Also, we anticipate our truly recognition to neighbouring countries, the African Union (AU), the European Union (EU), the United Nations Organisation UNO), and in general , the International Community for their unparalleled interest they have shown in favour of the Burundi Peace process. We express our gratitude to and highly compliment the San Egidio Community for its early displayed initiative to reconcile Burundians.

We salute security forces for the decisive professionalism they displayed in maintaining security and peace in all the country.

We also forward our warmest consideration to journalists for the unprecedented role they played in providing the people with unbiased information about peace process, elections, and other activities as they were taking places in the country.

Finally, we express our highly considerations to the people for its maturity, patience, courage and enthousiasm, which led the country to this historical time of our country.

Ladies , gentlemen citizens and friends of Burundi.

Our victory is not only for members of the CNDD-FDD party, but also for all Burundians indistinctly. It is the victory for real Democracy.

We therefore request all Burundi citizens to enjoy it , and make it theirs.

Ladies and gentlemen Burundi citizens, let's unite and work hard so as to find solution for our country, to make it prosperous and renew its image in front of the International Community. Whatever its size, Burundi can accommodate all its citizens, and help entire African continent make a step forward.

Have a look on the map of Burundi in its geographical location; you can see that it is the heart of Africa. The country irrigates and gives energy to all other african countries as the heart fills all organs of a human body with lifeblood.

The heart of a human person is not a so big part of the body as its size is similar to the size of a fist, but plays a pivotal role since its failure results into death. Likewise, Burundi is not a so big country as its surface area is 27,834 square kilometers, but has to irrigate and strengthen the entire African continent.

As Nile river has its source in Burundi and irrigates most countries of Africa, Burundi will serve as example for all african countries in sustaining Good Governance founded on democracy, justice of law, and integral development for every one. As a result, the African continent will acquire a great opportunity to position in a competitive place around the world.

Ladies , gentlemen Burundi citizens, and all of you who are listenning to us,

Development will not come overnight, as an adage goes saying:
“He who sows the wind shall reap the wirlwind”.

1. We will play our part so that political programme delivered to people during electoral campaigns can be implemented. We will base on respect and make respect of laws and regulations for all citizens' well-being.
2. We request elected Members of Parliament and Senators to accomplish their assigned tasks based in their respective constituencies, not in Bujumbura as it was the case for the outgoing teams, so as to live the daily life and sympathise with their represented people.
3. We highly request all those who will be nominated to posts in public institutions to ensure respect of law and cooperate with their subordinates and co-workers.
4. We urge all Burundians to work hard, and engage in all activities that are likely to sustain visual development of the country. Traders, self-employed persons, farmers and stock breeders are asked to drive further in courage and enthousiasm for work. On our part, we will take appropriate measures to ensure the growth of national economy. **No time to let lie fallow; idle time is over.**

5. We invite defense and security forces to behave in such a new way that allows security to improve over the country. On our side, we will closely collaborate with them and take all necessary measures favourable for peace in our country.
6. We take advantage of this opportunity to request PALIPEHUTU-FNL to stop fighting so as to start negotiations with government and hence give a piece of mind to the population.
7. The more than years civil war in Burundi left behind a large number of orphans and widows. There are also demobilised combattants who experience much life problems to integrate and reinstate in their socio-economic activities. All of them will be attended accordingly. We request them to meanwhile hold themselves back from discouraging as patience has characterised them for years.

Ladies,gentlemen Burundi citizens, friends of Burundi,

It is ashame to see that today the image of Burundi, in the minds of the International community, is as a country having internal problems between Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups. Further, the country is well discribed by corruption, impunity, downright lie, and other evil actions.

Likewise, social ties between Burundians have loosened, and the economy of the country enormously declined over the years until the nation falls on the bottom of the list of developing countries.

As far as we are concerned,

- We will duly engage in fighting embezzlers of public funds. Shall be punished as example to others, and following the law, persons who will be surprised dealing with corruption, misuse and embezzlement of state's resources.
- We will take necessary measures to repress deviance behaviour observed on some individuals, i.e. theft, rape, and other dehumanising actions.
- Necessary measures aimed at protecting citizens, mainly disarmament of armed population will be taken.
- Necessary steps to stop grievances that are crippling some institutional sectors of the country will be undertaken.
- We are committed to strengthening cooperation, particularly with neighbouring countries and generally with countries of the Region. An adage goes on “: **Togetherness is force, loneliness is weakness**”.

- We will visit all institutional areas of the country so that we can make contact with local people and get to know what is happening there and how to intervene.
- Full implementation of the integrated programme to fight against HIV/AIDS and malaria will benefit our sustained efforts.

In order to fulfill the targets above, all Burundi citizens must be loyal to our mother land and join together to work with enthusiasm and energy, without suspicion. No citizen should be left behind development oriented works.

Also, we request preachers of the Word of God to continue praying for our country to fill it with divine blessings and benedictions.

In concluding, we communicate to Burundians that considering hunger disaster haunting Burundi, and with the intention to alleviate parents' burden, there will be no payment for school fees for children undergoing primary school education. Primary school education in Burundi is free of charge from September 2005.

Thank you very much! May God protect Burundi and Burundians.