

**SPEECH OF PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA DURING THE MRND MEETING
IN RUHENGERI ON NOVEMBER 15, 1992.**

I believe that it remains to thank only and to leave you. I take the floor therefore to thank all of you to have taken part in the festivities of this day (*inaudible ...applause*).

Until today, one told to me that it is a pity that I don't go to the MRMD rallies to see personally the ambience that reigns there ; that it is a real festival (*applause and laughter in the crowd*). Now I realized it effectively. However, I didn't begin to participate at the rallies (*inaudible passage*), the motive of my presence is that I didn't want to pass without greeting you. It is therefore quite normal, because, as you know it, I live in the vicinity and my children expressed the desire to pass to tell hello to their grandmother and, while passing here I saw that there is a big gathering (... *inaudible passage*). And when you pass next to a place where a lot of people are gathered, you deduct that in principle they have a ceremony and you stop to greet them. It is thus the Rwandan culture, no one passes next to a friend's dwelling without saying hello.

And incoming here, I understood something, I finally understood why those people are afraid of the elections. They pretend to have won but refuse to go in the elections. But, now I understand why they don't want to hear speaking about the elections.

I take the floor therefore to thank you, while starting with the persons responsible of the Party here in Ruhengeri prefecture. I thank Doctor Bizimungu who is the representative of the party here in the prefecture of Ruhengeri and all his collaborators members of the Political Bureau, his colleagues within the prefectural bureau of the party, his collaborators members of the prefectural Committee; I also thank you, all of you that sustain the Party MRND, the Party of the Peace, the Party of the Unit and the Development. (*Applause*)

I would like to take advantage of the opportunity to recommend to the leaders of our party in all prefectures to listen to the persons responsible of the basis cells, to listen to the militants of the party at the basis and to converse with them; that they should approach the agriculturist-breeders. I like to say that the tree doesn't amount to the only branches, well on the contrary, these are the good roots that form the main part of the tree, these are the roots that feed the tree. (*Applause*).

Those that constitute these roots, these are the agriculturist-breeders. You must approach them and must discuss with them, to know their preoccupation, their topics of concern; you must share their moments of feast and to be at their sides in the laborious moments; it is to this condition that our party will become even stronger. I ask the persons responsible of our party therefore to all levels to get to the monitoring of the agriculturist-breeders and to work with them. These are the agriculturist-breeders who are the foundation of our party, these are them our militants.

Another topic that I am anxious to land on this occasion consists in asking you, all, militants of the MRND, to sustain the security. The security is a preoccupation of all Rwandans in these moments. I ask you insistently to show that the MRND party sustains

CASE NO. ICIR-98-44-1
EXHIBIT NO. DNZ 47
DATE ADMITTED. 27/10/2005
TENDERED BY. DEFENCE
NAME OF WITNESS. G. (PW 2)
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the Peace, that it sustains the public tranquillity. But, I also ask all agents assigned to discover the malefactors not to hide behind false accusations questioning the Interahamwe or the MRND or the other scapegoats.

That they should track these malefactors seriously! These are them that have the OPJ, this are himself them that have the deputies public prosecutors; like that has been said here, they are them that are charged of the Information. That they look for these individuals! Can they bring the proof that the disturbances that rage in Gitarama prefecture the fact of the Interahamwe are really? (*Laughter and applause in the crowd*)

Did they verify what happened Bugesera region? People have been arrested and have been put in jail then released, after pseudo-investigations! Where are these investigations? That they should make them public! (*Applause*). How many Interahamwe did they find among those that are in jail following the disturbances in Kibuye prefecture? (*None, says someone in the crowd*). And they continue to affirm that they are occupied to make some investigations; that they should make public these investigations.

If they don't want to make they public, it is that they try to abuse people! It is may be that they found among these criminals people that they try to cover.

They do like this thief of livestock of this anecdote: "The thieves of livestock undertook to go to steal some cows overnight. When they began to displace the gates that close the enclosure, the owner of the places woke up, rose and made facing the thieves at the same time as he called his neighbours for help. Having been pent-up and feeling that they were about to be caught, these thieves who were in top of the hill toppled and rolled a big stone in a field of sorghums and shouted strongly while saying: these are them – there are in the field of sorghums, catch them, catch them". (*Laughter in the crowd*). Those that had run to the help rushed to the pursuit of the big stone rolled in the field of sorghums while these thieves had remained quietly hidden against banana trees. It is there that one would like to drag us!

That they should publish these investigations; in this way, everybody will know who the criminals are; we will know that are the criminals who killed people in Nyabikenke commune; we will know who demolished the houses in Kibuye prefecture and those that put the mines in Cyangugu prefecture. But in fact, since the criminals have been caught, that they confessed and revealed to what political parties they belong, why one does want to hide it? (*Applause*).

We firmly sustain the security. That the agents in charge of the information should do their job correctly; that those that must punish, that they should do it; that the courts should do their work; it is to this price that Rwanda is going to recover the peace.

We heard those that speak in the name of the displaced war to describe their misery. Besides, I paid a visit to them and personally I know their situation. We wish firmly that the peace comes back in our country.

It is the reason for which we sustain the negotiations in progress in Arusha. People pass their time to declare falsely that the MRND doesn't sustain the negotiations. What must

the MRND do to show that it sustains the negotiations? I, personally, in the name of the MRND, I declare the every time that the MRND party sustains the negotiations. (*Applause*).

Myself I sustain the negotiations so that they should help us to renew with the lasting peace. But the peace doesn't confound itself with the papers, the peace it is in your heart. The peace will come back when the Rwandans will have felt effectively that the one that went to Arusha to negotiate in their name respected their mandate, that he didn't defend the interests of such or such party. That he defended that on what the Government had agreed. It is all for which we ask him. That he gives up telling histories while pretending that because he comes back with a signed paper, he brings back the peace. The peace doesn't confound itself with a paper. (*Applause*).

We ask those that are going to Arusha, to go there as proxies of the Rwandans; we ask those that are going to Arusha to go there to defend the position decided by the Government; to defend there what the Ministers agreed in Council of the Government .

Being about the displaced war that has been hunted of their goods by the war, I ask all Rwandans to continue to help them; to sustain them. This recommendation has been made by the MRND and I wish briskly that you can support it, that you put it in execution. I wish that all these children who are in the welcome centers of the refugees or in these camps of refugees, that these orphan children find people to help them. I am convinced that so each Rwandan capable who has the means took in charge a child's education until the end of this war, I think that these children could be saved of these inclemencies because, you realize well that we are in full rain season and that they must not remain under rain.

I followed the broadcast recently on the situation of these children being in these centers: the pupils of the primary school in these centers don't have any benches where to sit down nor of notebooks where to write. It is very laborious. I wish that we can continue to help them. I ask the population of the prefecture of Ruhengeri, I ask all Rwandans, everywhere in all prefectures, that every Rwandan takes in charge a child. It is very laborious. Let's continue to help them. And myself, I ask today the prefect of Ruhengeri and to the prefect of Byumba to count all pupils of the primary schools being in these centers so that I buy them on my personal account the school notebooks. (*Applause*).

I repeat it, my intervention was a message of thanks; I took the floor to tell you goodbye. I didn't want to pass nearby without greeting you. Otherwise the rallies didn't start again in what concerns me. When they are going to begin, I am going to let the Interahamwe know it and we will make a real coming down. (*Applause*).

It is why I ask the National Secretariat, I ask our Secretary National to get along with the tradesmen so that we found cloths for the Interahamwe (*applause*), because the Interahamwe are chic in their clothes. One told to me that this cloth risks to be expensive, but it is not more expensive than the other dresses that we buy. That one should look therefore for the clothes of the Interahamwe so that they put it and appear in public.

It was there the object of my intervention, I was anxious to thank you all for the cordial welcome that you reserved for me, for the impeccable organization of these festivities, for the games to which we have just attended and the pronounced speeches. I was anxious to congratulate the persons responsible on the Party MRND here in Ruhengeri prefecture, to thank the militants of the MRND party here present while telling them to resist because the important thing is to win the elections; and, undoubtedly we are going to win them because you are organized well everywhere in the prefectures. (*applause*)

To the appropriate moment, I will send all of you the invitations, (*come back regularly, exclaim someone in the crowd*), I will invite the Interahamwe to accompany me. One told to me that during the election campaign I will be accompanied by my soldiers so that it is them that run campaign for me; if they ran campaign for me, where the problem is? (*Laughter in the crowd*). But, I know that those that are going to run campaign for me pleased that the other are the Interahamwe because we are in phase.
(*Applause, animation*)