

RUD-URUNANA

URUNANA RW'ABAHARANIRA UBUMWE NA DEMOKARASI
RALLIEMENT POUR L'UNITE ET LA DEMOCRATIE
RALLY FOR UNITY AND DEMOCRACY

Tel: 001-201-794-6542 /

001-506-461-3919

Email: urunana@optonline.net

url: www.rud-urunana.org

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UK AMBASSADORS WERE GIVEN A WARM WELCOME BY THE RWANDAN REFUGEES OF KASIKI

On Friday, August 8, 2008, their Excellencies UK Ambassadors to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda respectively visited the new settlement of Kasiki, North-Kivu. This settlement constitutes the first step of the implementation of the road map as agreed upon in Kisangani on May 26, 2008 between the DRC government and the Rally for Unity and Democracy (RUD-Urunana) and the Rassemblement du Peuple Rwandais (RPR). The implementation of such process was officially started on July 31, 2008 in Kasiki, Lubero District in the Province of North-Kivu. It is important to note that their Excellencies were accompanied by the Governor of North-Kivu Province.

This high level visit is welcomed by our organization and constitutes an opportunity to learn first hand the conditions in which the Rwandan refugees have been living in Eastern DRC. Although the wish to return to their homeland was clearly conveyed, the refugees indicated their willingness to do so once the conditions of their security and well being will be guaranteed by the International Community. It is for this reason, they indicated to the Honorable Guests the urgent necessity to organize an Inter-Rwandan Dialogue that would foster a genuine climate of reconciliation and set up new political institutions representing truly the aspirations of all Rwandans.

Our organization is pleased, welcomes such visit, and hopes that it is the first one of many to come. We would like take this opportunity to remind the International Community that the instability in the Great Lakes region has its epicenter in Rwanda. As long as the root causes of the rwandan political problem would not genuinely be addressed, the populations of the region will neither enjoy lasting peace nor sustainable development and prosperity. That is why our organization strongly calls and will continue to call for an Inter-Rwandan Dialogue to be held under the auspices of the International Community.

We remain convinced that only this Dialogue would lead to the establishment of new political and security institutions that would be the reflection of the legitimate aspirations of all the constitutive groups of the Rwandan society. It is only after such process that rwandans and their neighbors will utterly engage in forging common goals that would guarantee stability, peace, and development to all.

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AUGUSTIN DUKUZE, PH.D.

SPOKESPERSON