

Rwanda**Radio Reports Implementation of New Constitution**

*EA1106212391 Kigali Radiodiffusion Nationale
de la Republique Rwandaise in English
1448 GMT 10 Jun 91*

[Text] We have just been listening to the president's speech in French after he just signed the new Constitution. The new Constitution, of course, was debated here in the House of Parliament and as I said earlier, some of the major things about this new Constitution is the (fact that) it actually allows multiparty politics from today. Actually, that means Rwanda has [words indistinct] multiparty politics. It also, of course, allows for the position of a prime minister [words indistinct].

The speech was a very, very serious call to the Rwandans that [words indistinct] going to multiparty system does not mean carelessness, does not mean that people should do all sorts of things that they want, but they should all strive for the best for the nation. He actually made, you know, traced the historical aspect of it, and among three aspects that he really traced, one is that he stressed was that the media should [words indistinct] this matter very seriously and be free to print whatever they want to print. But being free to print whatever they want to print does not mean printing slander, printing all sorts of things that would bring [words indistinct] among the people, or that the news should be truthful. Instead, they should report what is very true so that the people going to vote know what is really [word indistinct].

He also called on other party leaders to meet as soon as the parties have been established so that they can discuss the timetable for political changes. He also, I think he also asked members of the people who are here that they should really remember that the power is given by the people. Also, as we are moving to multiparty politics, we should remember that the people are paramount. We should not forget the youth and we should strive for the best and in the most peaceful way.

[Kigali Radiodiffusion Nationale de la Republique Rwandaise in French at 1451 GMT on 10 June, in a summary of the above report, added: "Consultations are going to be held with the political parties to establish the schedule for the elections. So it is with the political parties that they are going to hold consultations on how to organize the legislative elections."]

President Habyarimana on Revised Constitution

*EA1206101691 Kigali Radiodiffusion Nationale
de la Republique Rwandaise in French
1800 GMT 10 Jun 91*

[Speech by Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana in Kigali on June 10 after signing the revised Rwandan Constitution—recorded]

[Excerpts] Rwandans, my dear compatriots: The adoption by parliament—the National Development Council [CND]—of the draft revised Rwandan Constitution is an

event of very great importance for our country. My signing—in my capacity as president of the Republic elected by you via universal suffrage—of the revised Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda, as provided by law, is largely justified by the fact that our society has entered the multiparty era.

I address all Rwandans to inform them that I am extremely happy today to see Rwanda involving itself in a new political achievement that constitutes the ardent wish of all of us. I also wish to express to my compatriots my thoughts about this exalting promise of a substantial strengthening of our democratic achievements. [passage omitted]

Finally, political pluralism means that weapons are replaced by ballot boxes. It means the peaceful acceptance of differences of opinion. It means the defense of other people's right to air their views freely, with dignity, even though they may not share the same ideas. Political pluralism is, therefore, the very essence of the Republic. [passage omitted]

Convinced that it is important to strengthen an authentically liberal information system, and to promote, as a priority, a professional print media, I propose to invite future political parties, in the reasonably near future, to a consultation aimed at identifying the best formula for providing the national press with the means of enabling it to play its expected role in developing an interdependent multiparty system based on democracy.

I would like to concentrate my final thoughts on some of the immediate and concrete implications resulting from our country's accession to a multiparty era, which will be the case very soon, as soon as the law on political parties is adopted and parties have had time to register themselves. Even though Article 101 of the revised Constitution includes transitional provisions allowing the CND deputies and the president of the Republic to continue carrying out their duties until the next elections, I believe that presidential and legislative elections should not be delayed too much, as the question now is to legitimize the new structures within the best possible time limit which, for obvious reasons, is in our country's known interest.

That is why, once the new parties are born and have had enough time to become known to the public, I propose, in my capacity as president of the Republic, to whoever will befall the duty of fixing the dates of presidential and legislative elections in accordance with the same Article 101 of the Constitution, to convene consultations between the parties aimed at defining together, in common agreement, the elections timetable which will become necessary due to the revision of the Constitution. [passage omitted]

Zaire**National Conference's Sovereignty Reaffirmed**

*AB1506182691 Dakar PANA in French 1138 GMT
15 Jun 91*

[Text] Kinshasa, 15 Jun (PANA)—At a meeting held yesterday at Nsele and chaired by Prime Minister