

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE FIFTH NATIONAL DIALOGUE COUNCIL

I. INTRODUCTION

The 5th National Dialogue Conference convened on 27 and 28 December 2007, in Parliament Buildings, and was chaired by His Excellency the President of the Republic, Paul KAGAME.

It brought together 940 participants, including representatives of all district councils, Cabinet members, members of both Chambers of Parliament, Governors and the Mayor of the City of Kigali, Army and Police Chiefs, Secretary Generals in Ministries, representatives of the Judiciary, political parties registered in Rwanda, the Private Sector, religious organisations and other non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Rectors of higher learning institutions, representatives of the Diaspora, other leaders of various institutions invited the President of the Republic.

In particular, Ambassadors and representatives of international bodies working in Rwanda were also invited to this year's National Dialogue Conference.

In his opening remarks, the President of the Republic first presented his best wishes for the New Year to the participants, and sought to know how pleasurable Christmas was.

He indicated that the prime objective for this kind of meeting was to hold a fully democratic « dialogue »— to have open, transparent and inclusive exchanges of ideas – in which participants tell each other the truth, and work out solutions as appropriate to national global challenges.

He commended the culture of solving our own problems that has now taken root in Rwanda, adding that « this year, we have invited our development partners for them to listen to ideas and strategies of the Rwandan people on their development, and whose leaders were gathered from Sector level to the highest, together with representatives of the Rwandan Diaspora, to closely consider the problems facing their country and work out their appropriate solutions together.

The meeting sought out ways and means of enhancing the national economy even further, as a springboard to address other problems facing the country: all debates, on economic revolution or education, fight against genocidal ideology or phasing out the Gacaca process and the role of the Rwandan Diaspora, were centred on the major theme of building national economy.

The Head of State elaborated on national strategies to alleviate poverty:

- Rwandans have to understand and play fully their role in fighting against poverty, by combining their efforts and mutually valuing each other;

- To build the country on this foundation, by protecting their security and by fighting those negative ideas that destroyed the country.

However, this noble purpose will not be attained unless:

- Rwandans form a peaceful nation in which teachers protect their students against destructive ideas;
- Rwandans promote good governance, by fighting corruption and injustices;
- Rwandans change their vision and mentality so that people stop considering Rwanda as a welfare state while the latter stops expecting hand out from donors.

Institutions should get down to work with self-confidence, and with the conviction that nothing could stand in their way to find solutions to national problems relating to housing, land use, group settlement, etc. We learn from history that every time Rwandans have stood up and joined their efforts, they eventually succeeded in achieving their objectives.

The Head of State recalled the new working philosophy for our country as working on the basis of performance contracts, the economic revolution and the young elite: all these initiatives aim at putting Rwandans on the track of a new vision that is actually a pact for speeding up development.

In conclusion, the President urged all Rwandans from both inside the country and the Diaspora to promote the culture of self-sacrifice, working with an eye open to income generation, and above all, making fewer speeches for more concrete actions.

After opening remarks, the Prime Minister read out a report on implementation of the 34 resolutions of the 4th National Dialogue Conference. This report was organised around the 4 pillars of the Government Programme, namely: good governance, economy, justice and social welfare.

The Prime Minister closed his presentation by thanking all institutions which had worked hard, and urged those whose performances were still low to wake up and get back to work.

I. CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The Prime Minister's report was followed by the presentations from:

- The Minister of Local Government, Good Government, Community Development and Social Affairs: On the Country's Economic Revolution ;
- The Minister of State in charge of Primary and Secondary Education in the Ministry of Education: On Education as the Basis for Sustainable Economic Development;

- The Attorney General and Minister of Justice : On the current Programme to Fight Genocidal Ideology and on Phasing out the Gacaca Process;
- The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation: On the Rwandan Diaspora's Contribution to Rwanda's Development.

Each presentation was followed by an exchange of views which eventually served as a basis for the resolutions adopted at the end of the Conference.

After these presentations and exchange of ideas, District Mayors and the Mayor of the City of Kigali presented a summary of their performance contracts for 2007 and disclosed their actions plans for 2008.

The Prime Minister made a presentation on how the District performance assessment was carried out for 2007, and officially declared that Nyagatare and Musanze Districts had come out first out the 10 Districts evaluated.

II. RESOLUTIONS TAKEN

A. Sector of Good Governance

1. Stepping up efforts in all our undertakings will help us change our mentalities so that Rwandans will stop expecting every thing from the State, whereas the latter will stop begging from donors, will make less speeches and instead and focus more on implementing their action plans;
2. To speed up implementation of group settlements in rural areas and promotion of improved housing in urban areas, by focusing on retention of household and rainwater, fighting erosion, enhancing protection of infrastructure and environment in general;
3. To strengthen further the programme for training of young elites so that every Rwandan citizen is enrolled in this structure as the pillar for development, and revive the good practice of finding in themselves the correct solutions to their problems.

B. Sector of Welfare

4. To conclude the programme for building houses to most vulnerable genocide survivors by local authorities in charge of implementing this programme and supervising it;
5. To define criteria for building schools so that private operators with adequate means also invest in education;
6. To negotiate advanced training courses abroad for graduates from Rwanda's higher learning institutions;
7. To submit to Cabinet the UNILAK issue for appropriate decision;
8. To harmonize both school terms and curricula in Rwanda with those of the East-African Community to ease admission of Rwandan students;
9. To speed up implementation of the primary education programme over a 9-year cycle;
10. To encourage parents, teachers and leaders of local administrative structures to collaborate in order to solve education-related problems, eradicate the ideology of genocide in schools, fight drug-taking and other harmful practices;
11. To carry on birth control and accountable parenthood campaigns.

C. Sector of Justice

12. To back up the proposal of sending to Gacaca Courts the cases of first category people suspect of involvement in genocide, and those already referred to ordinary courts, because Gacaca Courts have proven their ability in that matter to the general satisfaction of all and sundry and will therefore help speed up genocide trials;
13. To hasten the process of appointing Commissioners as provided for by the Law establishing the National Commission against Genocide ;
14. Rwandans of the Diaspora: to back up the joint action of tracking down and bringing to book genocide suspects living in the countries of abode.

D. Economic Sector

15. Changing our working methods: employers should check whether working hours are optimally used so that employees are remunerated according to the work actually done; regularly carry out staff evaluation so that every employee's daily performance is registered in their performance contracts and objectives;
16. Central Administration and local governments: to encourage the Rwandan people to like the work well done once again by helping private operators and the population at large to create income generating jobs and by combining their efforts. In this respect, there is need to appoint at the level of all administrative sectors whips as persons in charge of urging other people to get back to work;
17. To use TIG (Community Service) and high manpower intensive works (HIMO) to carry out development works where possible;
18. Public and Private Sectors: to adopt a comprehensive approach for joint collaboration in primary, secondary and tertiary sectors;
19. To provide support to Rwandans in the Diaspora in order to enable them contribute to promoting investment in Rwanda: contact them and give them advice, facilitate investment procedures for them (through the Rwanda Diaspora Investment Fund), quick and least costly money transfer procedures and ease procedures for obtaining visas to Rwanda.

Done in Kigali, on 28 December 2007