**Address by HE Pierre Nkurunziza President of the Republic on the Occasion of the Official Launch of the Work of the National Commission on Inter-Burundian Dialogue (CNDI)**

***Gitega, October 23th, 2015***

**Distinguished guests,**

**Dear Compatriots,**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

1. Allow me to start by giving thanks to Almighty God who guided us up to how this important step on the road to consolidating peace, enhancing security and the restoration of dialogue between all Burundians in our country, Burundi, that God gave us and continue to protect for us.
2. As you all know, I have recently set up the National Commission on Inter-Burundian Dialogue made up of 15 members from diverse backgrounds. Today I will officially launch the activities of this Commission and define its missions.
3. I warmly congratulate those who had the honour to be part of this Commission, but I ask them to thoroughly perform their work, taking references to the human rights, the laws and regulations of our country, national reconciliation and the consolidation of peace and security in Burundi.

**Distinguished guests,**

**Dear Compatriots,**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

1. In our country, Burundi, dialogue and consultation have always existed. Once a point of disagreement was noticed, people used to sit down together and talk until they reach an agreement. That is why we want to revitalize and consolidate this kind of dialogue between Burundian citizens so that people can share their views.
2. Therefore, this excellent approach to sit down together to build our country does not start today. It existed even before the arrival of the colonizers in Burundi. Burundians have always put forward the dialogue and consultation under the leadership of the King.
3. After independence, Burundians continued to highlight dialogue and consultation, finding solutions to their problems without any outside pressure. The colonizers came to destroy what Burundians had developed so far to such an extent that the consequences of the assassination of the national hero, Prince Louis Rwagasore, who had fought for the independence of our country, are observable until today.
4. Burundians have always shown a patriotic behaviour. Let us strengthen and live according to this eternal cultural value inherited from our ancestors and the pioneers of Independence and democracy in Burundi. Let us therefore love our country, because it is our cradle to us all. May Prince Louis Rwagasore and the hero of democracy, His Excellency Melchior Ndadaye, show us an example; may their courage serve us as a lesson to increasingly love our country, Burundi.
5. Let us remember, in our history, the determination of King Ntare Rugamba supported by his soldiers and all the people, when they fought the enemy until Burundi gets its fixed borders. They managed to do all these deeds after consultation through dialogue. Let us also remember how King Mwezi Gisabo fought the Human trafficker Rumaliza, how he challenged the Germans, still supported by the army and the people, all working hand in hand, because of their patriotic spirit.
6. Small groups never managed to do what they wanted because the people of Burundi, in union with their leaders, rose quickly to fight the enemy. Therefore, let us come together and discuss, in the footsteps of our fathers, to find solutions to our problems and let nobody abandon his responsibilities, just like our ancestors used to do and left an example as a legacy.
7. We should keep in mind that every time that Burundians sat together, they found lasting solutions to the problems which oppose them. We should also know that the degradation of a nation always comes from the division, which results in the loss of the country’s flavour.
8. It is very painful to see that there are Burundians, our brothers and sisters, who behave like irresponsible people to the point that some of them conduct themselves like true mercenaries in their own country. Let us all return to positive values ​​inherited from our ancestors who used to put forward dialogue and consultation, because God’s blessings rain down on those who agree each other.

**Distinguished guests,**

**Dear Compatriots,**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters**

1. For a long time, Burundians have always made trips to foreign countries, whether going to Africa, Europe, America, Asia or elsewhere. The knowledge they got from these places was used for the construction of their home country, while development was observed through new architectural infrastructures or in other areas.
2. I take this opportunity to also thank so many Burundians among those living abroad who have proven that they carry the development of their country in their heart. They showed that they were concerned by the development of their homeland and supported their brothers and sisters either by participating in community work, or by intervening in the sectors of public health, environment, economy, development of agriculture, science and research, etc. In addition, they constantly come and contribute to the development of their home Province and Commune with their ideas. Let them keep behaving like that, for this is the true love of country. I thank them very much.
3. However, there are other Burundians who are abroad, fleeing justice because of the crimes they have committed; no one chased them. There are others who obviously played a role in the attempted overthrow of democratically elected institutions, and finally there are even those who are singled out and named in various UN reports as people disrupting peace and order in the region.
4. The Government of Burundi would like to recall once again that dialogue, though inclusive, will in no way prevent justice from doing its work or open the way to impunity in our country.
5. Finally, there is a group of Burundians who used the resources of the Government, taxpayers’ money, to travel abroad. Some of them hold a second nationality of the countries they went to, and they joined their families there. Let them stop distracting the international community, as the Government has even pledged to protect and watch over their property remained in Burundi, and this is currently being done. Moreover, there some who still have members of the family living in Burundi and who join the action of their brothers and sisters to build their country.
6. Therefore, it is no longer a secret for anyone, among Burundians living outside, it became clear that some are willing to build their homeland, and they are the greatest number, but unfortunately some others have lost their way and only dream of destroying things.
7. There are many Burundians living abroad who mostly want to build their country, and a minority of other Burundians who have gone astray who want to destroy the country on behalf and for the benefit of those who gave them such mission, and not for the interest of Burundians. I therefore invite these people to re-examine themselves, to "come out of the dead and recover humanness," and come back home to help other Burundians in the reconstruction of the country. Let no Burundian living abroad keep considering himself as superior to the people who stayed in this country, especially since most of them have left their families here. Burundians are equal before the laws governing our country.
8. It is with the aim of prioritizing dialogue and consultation that I established this Commission, so that even these people can change their mind and unite with others in the work of rebuilding our beloved country because the country needs all of us.
9. **Dear fellow Burundians**, and especially you who have had the honour to be appointed to lead this commission, I wish to remind you once again that all Burundians look to you and expect from you to act with impartiality. Your duty and responsibility include organizing exchange seminars across the country for the entire population, whilst not forgetting our fellow citizens in the diaspora.
10. You will also have to address issues relating to politics, social relations, the economy, consolidation of peace and security, the Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation, the Constitution, the Comprehensive Cease-fire Agreement, the Charter of National Unity and other agreements, the patriotic education and training program, etc.
11. This Commission has a renewable six-month term. Every three months, it will submit a report to the Head of State for appropriate decision and implementation. Copies of the reports shall be provided to the National Assembly and the Senate for information.
12. Before concluding, I would also like to thank the friends and partners of Burundi and all those who continue to support us in our research programme of lasting peace in our country. However, we do not need help that comes to divide Burundian people. We need an aid that helps us to build Burundi and the unity of Burundian people, which does not divide us.
13. I invite all Burundians, those residing in Burundi and those in the Diaspora to contribute to this programme according to their possibility to ensure that peace, security, sustainable development and social cohesion, can fully become true, especially by actively participating in all the meetings that will be organized throughout the country. For our part, the Government will spare no effort to make this inter-Burundian dialogue a success, and to ensure that it contribute to find lasting solutions to the problems of our country.
14. To conclude, I would like to thank all Burundians, especially Security Forces for their commitment in safeguarding peace and security of their homeland, and for their sacrifices in peacekeeping mission in other countries.
* Always keep in mind that no foreigner will love Burundi better than his own sons and daughters, and better than God who created him.
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1. It is with these words that I declare solemnly launched the work of the National Commission on Inter-Burundian Dialogue.

**GOD BLESS BURUNDI AND THE BURUNDIAN PEOPLE**

**THANK YOU FOR KIND ATTENTION.**