

# Press coverage on Democratic Green party of Rwanda, (DGPR).

**2009-08-14 to 2009-10-31**

Please find below a humble effort to gather the most important newsartices and blogs this autumn with regard to the forming of the **Democratic Green party of Rwanda, (DGPR)**. It includes all the articles I have found at the RNA Rwanda News Agency ([www.rnanews.com](http://www.rnanews.com)) where you have to register in order to get the info. I had no difficulties. However others have had considerable difficulties. So Please find below news articles that you perhaps could not reach on the web. The articles are arranged chronologically in inverse order which means that the latest news comes first and the oldest comes last.

Please help to get all this information known to your own local medias, parliamentarians, and websites.

It is very probable that the government of Rwanda is very sensitive to its image in other countries.

Yours sincerely

Jan Fjellander  
local representative for the Green Party at Lidingö  
(a suburb to Stockholm, SWEDEN)

Check:

<http://rwandagreendemocrats.org>



*Frank Habineza, interim President, Rwandan Democratic Green Party*

Welcome to African Greens Mailing list. ([agn-forum@africangreens.org](mailto:agn-forum@africangreens.org))  
fr 2009-10-30 21:19

Dear Greens,

Its indeed been a terrible day, the man who started the shouting and threw chairs, we have established that he is an Ex-Soldier and a former employee of Military Intelligence, the other three people who joined him, one of them had something like a gun-pistol, it was also seen by the US Envoy and Netherlands Envoy and many others.

This was a well planned sabotage done by security operatives. Another guy was also from the Local Defense Forces. The police was not helpful at all. It looked like they were compromising us.

What is surprising though is that the police has released the guys who caused trouble and rather arrested our members one of them a mother. Thankfully our members have been released but made statements at the police. They were asked why they decided to be members of our party.

Several people are injured, one Lady is in intensive care. Her Back is having a problem. Am still finding out how many are injured.

Keep us in prayers

Frank Habineza

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# Mabinogogiblog

<http://greenerblog.blogspot.com/2009/10/police-block-formation-of-rwandan-green.html>

**Saturday, October 31, 2009**

## Police Block formation of Rwandan Green Party Conference

Kigali:

Unexpected turmoil rocked a planned congress of the newly founded Green Party, prompting police to halt the meeting citing insecurity – as a senior Justice Ministry official looked on puzzled,

[http://www.rnanews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=2247&Itemid=1](http://www.rnanews.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2247&Itemid=1)

The party did not have its delegates' signatures verified.

An unidentified police Superintendent backed by dozens of other officers told hundreds of delegates to the congress and anxious onlookers that the meeting would not be allowed to continue because the “situation could get out of hand.”

“Due to security reasons, we are asking the organizers of this meeting to postpone it,” he said through the installed public address system, as people inside the hall and outside shouted back in apparent protest.

The chaos started just before the meeting had gotten underway at around 10:00am local time, when unidentified men forcefully entered the meeting area – penetrating through the packed-to-capacity hall. Like inside, on the outside, hundreds of people were gathered waiting to present their nomination signatures.

The man threw a chair at the seated crowd hitting a woman as he shouted repeatedly “FPR oyeé” – in support of the ruling Rwanda Patriotic Front.

In the confusion, as people fled and others tried to fight-off the assailant, about six police officers came in dispersing those who were trying to restrain the attacker. The man and others were taken away, but it is not clear whether they are in police custody. The injured women kept weeping uncontrollably.

People could be seen falling as they ran out and away from the St. Paul hall premises – owned by the Kigali catholic diocese. Deafening shouting could be heard as people scattered to different directions. Party leaders could be seen running up and down seeming to have lost control of events.

Several injured people could be seen, and a woman is said to have been admitted in the intensive care unit at the high-end King Faisal Hospital. Other injured people are said to have been receiving treatment at the Kigali Central hospital.

In about 10minutes of the start of the chaos, reinforcements of several dozen police appeared – taking position, with some wielding guns and buttons. It is at this point that the police Superintendent entered the hall and briefly spoke on the microphone – saying only that the meeting could not go on.

Some people could be heard bitterly complaining that they had lost property including phones, handbags wallets and money. Others chanted “Kagame protect us please” – supposedly asking the President to come to their rescue, but not in an organised way.

Party officials tell RNA that one of their committee members spent the night at the Remera police station. When contacted, Police said the individual in question was found doing illegal activities. But party officials say he was carrying papers which he was using to sign-up new members.

This is the latest in as many times that the Green Party has failed to conduct this conference. The Party leaders however are not falling short of whom to blame - claiming that security operatives were behind the chaos.

Meanwhile, the four men who caused the stampede were taken away by police. It is not clear if they have been detained. RNA was told by police officials that there was no comment on what transpired as investigations continue.

Frank Habineza, leader of the Rwandan Green Party, comments:

Its indeed been a terrible day. We have established that the man who started the shouting and threw chairs, is an Ex-Soldier and a former employee of Military Intelligence, the other three people who joined him, one of them had something like a pistol, it was also seen by the US Envoy and Netherlands Envoy and many others.

This was a well planned sabotage done by security operatives. Another guy was also from the Local Defense Forces. The police was not helpful at all. It looked like they were compromising us.

What is surprising though is that the police has released the guys who caused trouble and rather arrested our members one of them a mother. Thankfully our members have been released but made statements at the police. They were asked why they decided to be members of our party.

Several people are injured, one lady is in intensive care. She has a back problem. I am still finding out how many are injured.

Keep us in your prayers

**[Here's a BBC audio link of the incident.](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/2009/10/091030_rwanda_opposition.shtml)**

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/2009/10/091030\\_rwanda\\_opposition.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/2009/10/091030_rwanda_opposition.shtml)

# New Rwandan Party Petitions Kagame over Harassment

By 256News Reporter

Saturday, 31 October 2009

<http://256news.com/page.php?aid=54&caid=9>.

**The Leader of the Democratic Green party of Rwanda, (DGPR), Mr. Frank Habineza has been described by many as the “iron man” of Rwanda.**

**Habineza launched a new political party on 14th August 2009 in Kigali-Rwanda, in presence of Rwandans, the national and international media and representatives from different diplomatic missions in Rwanda.**

DGPR main aim is to change the political and social economic history of Rwanda. DGPR is an organization that deeply values and strongly cherishes the noble values of democracy and the international green principles.

However, the fate of, Democratic Green Party of Rwanda seems to be hanging in balance as it seems there are forces lining up against it and would make it difficult for DGPR to reach achieve its objectives.

The sad day for Democratic Green Party of Rwanda (DGPR) was on

02/10/09, when the Kigali authorities refused the party delegates to hold their congress which was attended by more than 900 people.

According to this reporter Green Party delegates moved hundreds of kilometers, some for the first time to the capital, Kigali, Others braved the trouble of having to move with babies. Some abandoned their jobs to be in Kigali for the event that did not happen.

The newly formed party was on Friday told it could not hold a scheduled delegates' conference.

These delegates had come all the way to give their nomination signatures to the new party. It is these signatures which party officials hoped would form part of the registration dossier with the Ministry of Local Government.

Looking at the crowd, many were youths. Notable among the delegates were also a few older men and women. There are about a dozen mothers. Since all have now been informed the conference is taking place anymore, they all stand outside looking like people who have lost their jobs.

The genesis of the chaos that these people were witnessing first hand started at 8:30am when an official from Nyarugenge district arrived at the event venue with a letter from the Nyarugenge district mayor Rutayisire Origène.

The mayor writes in response to another letter sent September 29 from the Green party which had informed him of the intension to have their meeting on Friday. Party officials were letting him know that they already had a place booked.

“I here by first inform you that you write a letter requesting permission to hold this meeting on this date October 02”, writes mayor Rutayisire, in a four-sentence official letter.

However Green party officials had also informed him in their letter that since the Nyarugenge notary was not available; they would secure another notary – which they indeed effected.

The mayor's response meant that the even with a new notary, the Green party would not be allowed to hold the meeting – only after seeking new permission. This will now be the forth time the conference has been forced to postpone. The party has had to incur expenses to transport the delegates.

“From what I have witnessed today, I do not think there is there democracy in Rwanda,” retorted some delegates. “To me, this means that the government is not yet ready for multiparty democracy. If they say parties do exist, then what is this?” one journalist, Kalisa said.

For interim party president Mr. Frank Habineza: “Someone is sabotaging us”.

“Imagine all the expenses we have incurred. I really cannot explain who is behind all this,” he furiously shouts as he speaks to reporters. “This really is a sad day for democracy in this country.”

## green change

<http://network.greenchange.org/news/10878-arrests-and-broken-bones-at-1st-rwandan-green-party-congress>

# Arrests and broken bones at 1st Rwandan Green Party Congress

**Published: 10.30.2009**

**Source: Annie Garrison**

The Rwandan Democratic Greens tried, for the fourth time, to hold their founding convention in Kigali, but this time the police came instead. Annie Garrison just spoke to Frank Habineza, interim Rwandan Green Party leader, who is in a Kigali hospital trying to arrange an X-ray for a Rwandan Green, a woman with a broken leg.

Posted: Friday

( 1 )



This should tell the world what Rwanda, the U.S.A.’s closest ally in Africa, and its President Paul Kagame, are.

The Rwandan Democratic Greens tried, for the fourth time, to hold their founding convention in Kigali, on 10.30.2009, but the police appeared again, with even worse consequence.

This morning I spoke to Frank Habineza, interim Rwandan Green Party leader, who was in a Kigali hospital trying to arrange an X-ray for another Rwandan Green, a woman with a broken leg.

Another woman, and Rwandan Green, has a broken back.

More are injured, and I believe Frank said some are in jail. He was on a cell in a hospital and I always have to work to understand his sweet French/Kinyarwanda English accent as well.

He wasn’t able to give me any more details because he had to hurry off to help his friend with the broken leg and I had to run too, but he said, “It wasn’t a good day.”

Indeed. Twelve hours later, at 3:00 A.M. in Kigali, 6:10 P.M. in San Francisco, on 10.30.2009, I don’t have any new e-messages Tweets, Facebook posts, or phone calls from Frank yet.

No news on the Web yet. Frank said to watch the BBC and the Rwandan News Agency websites. I told him that the state run Rwandan News Agency won’t let me on their damn

website. He himself had to pay them \$250 to get on and pick up the articles he sends me, which are almost always yanked off as soon as they're posted.

I didn't have a chance to urge Frank to Twitter, but I'm going to try calling again to suggest that. <http://twitter.com/habinef>

We obviously we need to get on the phones to the White House, the Rwandan Embassies, and the press.

Greens of course, should call and I addressed this mostly to Greens, but, obviously, no one from any political party should wind up in a hospital with broken bones, or in jail, for attempting to hold a founding convention.

This is the Rwanda that Bill and Hillary Clinton and Reverend Rick Warren point to as "a shining beacon of hope for Africa." Bill Clinton hung a Global Citizenship Award around Rwandan President Paul Kagame's neck a week before Reverend Rick Warren presented him with the same International Medal of Peace that he hung around George Bush's neck last year.

This is the Rwanda that criminalizes homosexuality and denies them access to U.S.-funded HIV/AIDS services, in keeping with Reverend Rick Warren's abstinence-only-until-heterosexual monogamy HIV prevention proscriptions.

This is the Rwanda where the Rwandan Greens are the only political party with a "sexual diversity" plank in their platform, a plank that Frank Habineza and the Rwandan Greens defended adamantly during their attempts to register the party last week.

This is the Rwanda that the U.S. uses to control the vast oil and gas reserves, and many other natural resources of D.R. Congo.

Most of all, this is the Rwanda that the U.S. uses to control Congo's military industrial minerals. It has long been official U.S. State Department policy that the U.S. must be prepared to go to war in Central Africa to control its cobalt, in the Katanga Copper Belt running through southeastern Congo's Katanga Province into Zambia.

U.S. military industries cannot manufacture for war without cobalt and most of the world's cobalt reserves are there.

## **Ann.ie (Ann Garrison Blog )**

**Friday, October 30, 2009**

[http://2.bp.blogspot.com/\\_2Gm2p6xDm5I/Suw4zOcLfNI/AAAAAAAAAgs/Kpj12QMggq5k/s1600-h/Frank%27nfamjpg.jpg](http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_2Gm2p6xDm5I/Suw4zOcLfNI/AAAAAAAAAgs/Kpj12QMggq5k/s1600-h/Frank%27nfamjpg.jpg)

### **No Green Party banner over Rwanda; broken bones and arrests instead**



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*(Anyone should feel free to post this note to Green Party lists and websites, and wherever*

*else, ASAP.)*

During the past two weeks, as we lobbied to see the Rwandan Democratic Greens emerge with full political rights, Greens posted this to Green Party sites around the U.S. and the world:

**Green Party banner over Rwanda**, <http://www.greenpartywatch.org/2009/10/16/green-party-banner-over-rwanda/>

Now we're all praying for Frank Habineza, his family and other Rwandan Greens.



Rwandan interim Green Party leader Frank Habineza, and his wife Edith and son Godwin.  
Posted by Ann Garrison at [6:04 PM](#)



## Police halts Green Party congress “due to insecurity”



By RNA Reporters

**Friday, 30 October 2009**

Kigali: Unexpected turmoil rocked a planned congress of the newly founded Green Party prompting police to halt the meeting citing insecurity – as a senior Justice Ministry official looked on puzzled, RNA reports. The party did not have its delegates’ signatures verified. Unidentified police Superintendent backed by dozens of other officers told hundreds of delegates to the congress and anxious onlookers that the meeting would not be allowed to

continue because the “situation could get out of hand.”

“Due to security reasons, we are asking the organizers of this meeting to postpone it,” he said through the installed public address system, as people inside the hall and outside shouted back in apparent protest.

The chaos started just before the meeting had gotten underway at around 10:00am local time, when unidentified men forcefully entered the meeting area – penetrating through the packed-to-capacity hall. Like inside, on the outside, hundreds of people were gathered waiting to present their nomination signatures.

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In the confusion, as people fled and others tried to fight-off the assailant, about six police officers came in dispersing those who were trying to restrain the attacker. The man and others were taken away, but it is not clear whether they are in police custody. The injured women kept weeping uncontrollably.

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In about 10minutes of the start of the chaos, reinforcements of several dozen police appeared – taking position, with some wielding guns and buttons. It is at this point that the police Superintendent entered the hall and briefly spoke on the microphone – saying only that the meeting could not go on.

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Party officials tell RNA that one of their committee members spent the night at the Remera police station. When contacted, Police said the individual in question was found doing illegal activities. But party officials say he was carrying papers which he was using to sign-up new members.

This is the latest in as many times that the Green Party has failed to conduct this conference. The Party leaders however are not falling short of whom to blame - claiming that security operatives were behind the chaos.

Meanwhile, the four men who caused the stampede were taken away by police. It is not clear if they have been detained. RNA was told by police officials that there was no comment on what transpired as investigations continue.

# Chaos at Green Party congress, police arrest suspects



By RNA Reporter

**Friday, 30 October 2009**

Kigali: There was a near stampede at the ongoing party congress of the Green Party after four men started a fight in the fully packed hall. RNA reporters on the scene say the hundreds of delegates look scared amid loud shouting and that the mood is of defiance and pointing fingers.

Witnesses say a man stood up and hit another seated close – which prompted other three men to join the confusion. The fight caused people to start fleeing for the nearest doors in disarray. Some fell to the ground - as other stepped on their backs.

Police has arrested the man who allegedly caused the trouble. RNA reporters say the chaos started just as the verification exercise of the delegates' signatures was underway.

As we report, hundreds of people are camped outside the meeting hall.

## More details emerging on Green Party in-fighting



By RNA Reporter

**Tuesday, 27 October 2009**



Kabanda

Kigali: Mr. Andrew Muganwa who has formed another political organization PDN-Ihumure was “expelled” from the Green Party and replaced by the “first” chairman of the now ruling Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF), party officials say. It is claimed that former secretary general Mr. Muganwa was “very disrespectful” of party structures that he some times made decisions without even consulting other senior members. “He was also very combative which is against our party slogan of peaceful lobbying,” said Green Party leader Frank Habineza.

Mr. Muganwa says he formed another organization because the Green Party was focusing much of its efforts on the environment “forgetting” other issues. He has also said the party which came to light last week has started work immediately, and will not be registered.

Latest information suggests that Mr. Muganwa was dismissed on September 24. The party to which he was founder member accuses him of “his indiscipline, bad approach characterized by his abusive language, non-respect, telling lies contrary to the integrity principle of the Party and as well as his reckless behaviors”.

“Muganwa always brought up [President] Kagame in everything he discussed which derailed our message to the voters,” said Habineza. “We cannot keep on talking about Kagame when there other crucial issues affecting people, because they want solutions not blame game.”

In his place, former RPF strongman Mr. Kabanda Charles stepped in. Mr. Kabanda was the first Chairman of ruling party and among its founding members back in the late 1980s.

The elderly lawyer also headed the Rwandese Refugee Welfare Foundation (RRWF) and the Rwandese Alliance for National Unity (RANU) – from which organizations the RPF was eventually born in 1987 in Uganda, according to available information.

In Rwanda, he served as state Prosecutor based in Nyanza Courts of Appeals for over four years and later as company secretary for Banque Continentale Africaine (BACAR), now FINA Bank.

## Green party blocked from meeting



By Administrator

**Friday, 02 October 2009**

The newly formed Green party has for the forth time postponed its delegate' conference - this time with a new twist to its registration process, RNA reports.

On Friday morning, about a thousand delegates were stunned to be told that Nyarugenge district officials had blocked their meetingtory.

In a letter delivered Friday morning which RNA has seen, Nyarugenge district officials inform the party leader Mr. Frank Habineza that the permission allowing them to meet is withdrawn.

The latest development comes following the party's abrupt decision to abandon the Nyarugegenge Notaire who was to verify the delegates signatures, for another. **Details soon...**

Last Updated ( Monday, 05 October 2009 )

## Rift emerges in Green party, opposition points fingers



By RNA Reporters

**Monday, 26 October 2009**

Kigali: One of the original founders of the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda (DGPR) has formed another political organization which will not be registered because there is “no independent body” to conduct such a function without bias, RNA reports.

The new faction is the National Democratic Party-IHUMURE (PDN-Ihumure) headed by Mr. Andrew Muganwa, who says he is not breaking away, but launching another movement to take care of the a platform which had been left aside by the Green Party of Frank Habineza.

According to Mr. Muganwa, the Green Party was fronting the environment as its major platform - sidelining the promotion of other issues such as democracy and social welfare.

Apparently, when the Green Party was launched, the plan was to ensure that all aspects are promoted – which has not been the case.

And he has not been shot of what to say. In several interviews, he has strongly denounced the ruling Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) - using language such as a “dictatorship” and “lairs”. Since last week when PDN-Ihumure came into light, the leader has not spoken on local media but has given interviews to the BBC and VOA.

He accuses the Ministry of Local Government which registers political organization of being “partial” because the line-Minister Christophe Bazivamo is the Vice chairman of the RPF. For this matter, Mr. Muganwa says he will not register the party until there is a mechanism which is independent.

But already, fingers are being pointed at the ruling RPF. Exiled opposition groups are alleging that the dominant RPF is using Mr. Muganwa to break up the Green Party – which they claim was proving to be a probable challenge. RPF officials have denied any role.

Parties legally accepted as operating in the country includes the six small coalition partners of the RPF; the Liberal Party (PL) of Youth minister Protais Mitali; and Social Democratic Party (PSD) of Senate Speaker Dr. Vincent Biruta. There is also newly registered PS-Imberakuri of Mr. Ntaganda Bernard, who was confirmed as flag bearer in the 2010 presidential polls over the weekend.

There are however, other groups that based in Europe and North America which are yet to return for registration. Dutch-based FDU-Inkingi has already confirmed its presidential candidate as Victoire Ingabire Umuhoza.

Last Updated ( Monday, 26 October 2009 )

## Minister Fazil accuses opposition of “misleading” population



By RNA Reporter

**Tuesday, 20 October 2009**



Kigali: Interior Minister Musa Fazil Harelimana on Tuesday vigorously defended the Political Parties Forum, accusing newly founded political parties that have dismissed the Forum, as “misleading” the population, RNA reports.

All the nine existing political parties operate under the Forum. The constitutionally mandated Political Party Forum vets proposed policies and draft legislation before they are introduced in Parliament. All parties must belong to the Forum, which operates on the principle of consensus.

However, newly founded PS-Imberakuri and other exiled politicians claim the Forum is a platform through which the dominant ruling Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) guides deliberations. PS-Imberakuri has threatened not take part in the Forum.

Minister Fazil, himself head of the Ideal Democratic Party – which is an RPF coalition

member, said the Forum was “voted” by the people of Rwanda because they wanted political parties to agree amongst themselves before consulting with the populace. Mr. Fazil is also the spokesman of the Forum.

“The people of Rwanda massively voted the Constitution which established the Forum as they did not want to be involved in the activities of political parties because of their history,” he said on Radio Rwanda.

“They people voted in that way because they want the parties to operate on consensus in the Forum and only return to them with specific policy programs.”

Opposition critics have also dismissed elections in the country as never free and fair, to which the Interior Minister said, is unfounded. “Elections in Rwanda have been fair, in the open and ballots are cast without any pressure from anyone,” he said.

During the presidential press conference on Friday, President Kagame said whichever party refuses to be part of the Forum will “miss out” on the benefits.

## Green Party allowed to hold delegates conference



By RNA Reporter

Thursday, 15 October 2009



Delegates at the October 02 cancelled conference in Kigali. (Inset) Interim party leader Frank Habineza speaks to reporters

Kigali: The Nyarugenge district has granted permission to newly founded Democratic Green Party of Rwanda to hold the delegates conference which was at the center of an unexpected controversy on October 02, district officials confirmed to RNA.

“Referring to your letter issued on the 6th October, 2009”, writes Nyarugenge mayor Origène Rutayisire to the Green Party, “I would like to inform you that your request has been considered and your founding congress of the Democratic Green Party is allowed to take place on 30th October, 2009...”

The conference which has been cancelled four times, most recently abruptly halted when it

was in session – will take place in at St. Paul hall here in Kigali.

However, it is not clear if the party has secured the notaire who is supposed to verify the signatures of the delegates who nominated the party. It is these verified signatures which will be submitted to the Ministry of Local Government. The party needs at least 600 signatures from nominations spread across the country.

**12-10-2009 11:10:55**

**Rwanda-Green Democrats**

## **Rwanda president petitioned over registration of opposition party**

**APA-Kigali (Rwanda)**

[http://www.apanews.net/apa.php/images\\_dir/common\\_img/images\\_dir/spip.php?article108738](http://www.apanews.net/apa.php/images_dir/common_img/images_dir/spip.php?article108738)

Green Movement democrats from all over the world are petitioning Rwanda President Paul Kagame for the continued sabotage of the establishment of Green Democratic Party of Rwanda, APA learnt here Monday.

In their petition, the Green Movement asks Kagame and his government to observe and respect all legal provisions relating to the formation and establishment of political parties in Rwanda.

The petition seeks the removal of all forms of obstacles, legal and extra legal, physical and political so that the party can be registered.

The petition says relevant officials should be instructed “to do what is required so that the registration process is completed without undue delay.”

The Democratic Green Party of Rwanda was launched on 14 August 2009 in Kigali and its main goal is to bring about a real “genuine and authentic” political opposition in the country.

It plans to win broad support through “democratically ‘greening’ of the country”.

**BB/pm/APA**

# GREENPARTY WATCH

## *Rwandan Green Party blocked from meeting by officials*

<http://www.greenpartywatch.org/2009/10/12/rwandan-green-party-blocked-from-meeting-by-officials/>

**October 12th, 2009** by Dave Schwab ·

This article was originally posted last week on the Rwanda News Agency website, but it quickly became unavailable. Thankfully, [Save Rwanda](#) had already reposted the story. Rwandan Green Party blocked from meeting: “Sad Day for Democracy in Rwanda” (10/5/09) Kigali: They moved hundreds of kilometers – some for the first time to the capital. Others braved the trouble of having to move with babies. Some abandoned their jobs to be in Kigali for the event that did not happen. Up to 900 supposed delegates of the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda (DGPR) found themselves at the center of an unexpected controversy, RNA reports.

The newly formed party was on Friday told it could not hold a scheduled delegates’ conference. Interim party officials had booked St. Famille CANA hall – owned by the Kigali catholic diocese. The large number of delegates meant some had to stand outside anxiously waiting for the grand event to start.

These delegates had come all the way to give their nomination signatures to the new party. It is these signatures which party officials hoped would form part of the registration dossier with the Ministry of Local Government.

“I don’t know how I will get back to Rusizi district [in western province](#) – a five hour journey, moreover without accomplishing what had brought me here,” said Annonciata Nyirakanyana, while breast feeding her son.

Looking at the crowd, many were youths. Notable among the delegates were also a few older men and women. There are about a dozen mothers. Since all have now been informed the conference is taking place anymore, they all stand outside looking like people who have lost their jobs.

The genesis of the chaos that these people were witnessing first hand started at 8:30am when an official from Nyarugenge district arrived at the event venue with a letter from the Nyarugenge district mayor Rutayisire Origène.

The mayor writes in response to another letter sent September 29 from the Green party which had informed him of the intension to have their meeting on Friday. Party officials were letting him know that they already had a place booked.

“I here by first inform you that you write [a](#) letter requesting permission to hold this meeting on this date [October 02](#)”, writes mayor Rutayisire, in a four-sentence official letter.

However, Green party officials had also informed him in their letter that since the Nyarugenge notary was not available, they would secure another notary – which they indeed effected.

The mayor’s response meant that the even with a new notary, the Green party would not be allowed to hold the meeting – only after seeking new permission. This will now be the forth time the conference has been forced to postpone. The party has had to incur expenses to transport the delegates.

“From what I have witnessed today, I do not think there is there democracy in Rwanda,” retorts Munyankumburwa Innocent. “To me, this means that the government is not yet ready for multiparty democracy. If they say parties do exist, then what is this?”

For interim party president Mr. Frank Habineza: “Someone is sabotaging us”.

“Imagine all the expenses we have incurred. I really cannot explain who is behind all this,” he furiously shouts as he speaks to reporters. “This really is a sad day for democracy in this country.”

The smartly dressed female party officials keep loitering around to calm their seemingly frustrated sympathizers. In a corner, one official – looking disturbed slams a bunch of books on a table, when RNA put to her that the party should write another letter for permission as requested by the mayor.

“We are tired of this kind of way of doing things in this country,” she dismissively says. “No one seems to be able to tell you the truth. This one says the other is responsible, the other says the next one is responsible.”

Source: RNA

## ***OPEDNEWS***

<http://www.opednews.com/articles/Rwandan-Green-Party-cries-by-Ann-Garrison-091007-846.html>

# **Rwandan Green Party cries foul over sabotage**

**October 10, 2009 at 02:23:19**

By Ann Garrison ([about the author](#)) Page 1 of 1 page(s)  
[opednews.com](#) [Permalink](#)

For OpEdNews: Ann Garrison - Writer



*Frank Habineza, interim President, Rwandan Democratic Green Party*

As of 2:25 P.M., PST, on 10.06.2009, "[New Green Party cries foul over possible sabotage](#)," seemed to be the only story about Rwandan state suppression of the Rwandan Democratic Green Party still accessible on the website of the state run Rwandan News Agency (RNA). I reported on state suppression of the Rwandan Democratic Greens and state media suppression of the news, on both [Colored Opinions](#) and the [OpEdNews](#).

The Rwandan News Agency has made all other stories about this unavailable, consequent to "big pressure" on the agency's editor, according to Green Party co-founder Frank Habineza, so I'm saving the story here, as I did another, now unavailable, story, "[Sad day for democracy in Rwanda](#)":

### ***"New Green Party cries foul over possible sabotage***

*By RNA Reporter Thursday, 01 October 2009 Kigali:*

*Officials of the newly formed Democratic Green Party of Rwanda (DGPR) were in disbelief Thursday evening after government officials informed them they will not be available Friday to notify some of their registration documents, RNA can reveal.*

*Interim party leader Frank Habineza told RNA the development means the delegates conference scheduled Friday may not take place because that is when the signatures of the 1000-plus delegates expected in Kigali were to be verified.*

*"The 'Notaire' rang me at 5pm informing me that he will not be available because he has not been granted permission to verify our signatures by the minister of Justice," said a visibly angry Habineza. "When I called the minister of Justice, he told me the Notaire does not need his permission to conduct such a function. Now I don't know who to believe and what to do."*

*According to Mr. Habineza, he has already postponed the delegates conference "three times", with every of the previous timetables, the Notaire claiming he is not in position to notify the party's nomination signatures.*

*However, Mr. Habineza declined to name the Notaire in question, but the minister is Tharcisse Karugarama. "We have made a lot of losses financially because for example we called the delegates and diplomats last Sunday for the same function but we had to cancel it because there was no one to verify our documents," he said.*

*The new political party law requires that a government Notaire is present to verify all the signatures of those nominating a given party for registration before they are submitted to the Ministry of Local. The party needs at least 600 "verifiable signatures" from across the country to be able to register.*

*RNA was not able to get official response by press time.*

*Interim President Mr. Frank Habineza said last month that the party will "call for a delegates Congress in September, after which we shall deposit our dossier to [the Ministry of Local Government]". "Right now, we are recruiting members from all districts of Rwanda.*

*Last Updated (Monday, 05 October 2009 )"*

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## **Green Party of CANADA**

<http://www.greenparty.ca/blogs/103/2009-10-10/rwandan-green-party-struggles-receives-help-global-greens>

# Rwandan Green Party struggles but receives help from Global

By Stephen LaFrenie on

10 October 2009 - 8:49am

Frank Habineza the President of the newly formed Democratic Green Party of Rwanda and the President of the African Green Movement has consistently run into road blocks at the local level to register the party. All paper work has been in order and the legal framework in place yet officials are still reluctant to follow through. This caused the Rwandan Greens to cancel a major conference for a third time. This time on the eve of the conference itself. Rwanda has been progressing toward a more open democracy. The Rwandan Greens have wisely been upfront all along and worked with members of the government in order to assure them that this was not a dissident group but a legitimate political party.

In this last frustrating chapter Frank Habineza put out an appeal to the Global Greens and received a tremendous response from all over the world, including Canada. My thanks to Silvaine Zimmermann who is our International Representative to the Global Greens and delegate to the Federation of Green Parties of the Americas (FPVA), for getting our response on track in a very time sensitive situation. Frank had wanted to be able to get some of the petitions into the Rwandan News which had been following the story. Although news agencies are not totally free from government interference they too are progressing. Below is the Canadian statement presented to His Excellency President Paul Kagame of Rwanda and his government. We will be presenting this statement to the Embassy in Ottawa and have already sent it by email and fax although the fax number given us did not seem to work. This is one of many statements and petitions sent from various Green Party representatives from around the world.

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

## **PETITION TO THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT TO REGISTER DEMOCRATIC GREEN PARTY OF RWANDA**

To His Excellency, The President of the Republic of Rwanda, H.E. Paul KAGAME  
The Green Party of Canada wishes to convey our unequivocal support for founding President Mr. Frank Habineza of the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda and the President of the African Greens Movement. The Green Party of Canada also stands in solidarity with the aspirations of the peoples of the continent of Africa to have their nations and communities embrace and build democratic societies which can live free from violence and environmental degradation. We encourage the government of

Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda and all other government officials to continue its progression towards a fully democratic, inclusive and peaceful society. We recognize that Rwandan society can and should be among the leading societies on the African continent in the efforts to combat climate change and environmental degradation which remains the greater overall threat to the future of all Africans.

We are disturbed by the recent news that Mr. Habineza and the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda have been unable for a third time to officiate at the inaugural congress which had been scheduled on 2nd of October 2009 in Kigali. We remain aware that that the legal provisions of the Rwandan Law clearly provide for formation, establishment and registration of political parties;

We remain assured by the interim president that the members of the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda [in formation] have complied with all legal requirements and will continue to do so as law abiding citizens,

The Green Party of Canada respectfully petition His Excellency Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda and all other government officials concerned to do the following;

- [a] To observe and respect all legal provisions relating to the formation and establishment of political parties;
- [b] To remove all forms of obstacles, which may be legal, extra—legal, physical, political, institutional, infrastructural or otherwise so that the party is registered.
- [c] To facilitate the party in formation by instructing and or advising the relevant officials concerned to do whatever they are required to do, so that the registration process is completed without undue delay;
- [d] To do or perform any other act that is politically and legally conducive to the successful registration of the party;
- [e] To continue to adhere to internationally accepted democratic principles so that the culture of multiparty democracy is entrenched in Rwandan society.

Respectfully

Elizabeth May, Leader

Silvaine Zimmermann, M.Sc.

International Representative to the Global Greens for the Green Party of Canada, Delegate to the Federation of Green Parties of the Americas (FPVA), Co-founder of the Green Party of Canada (1983)

Eric Walton, International Affairs portfolio, Stephen LaFrenie, International Cooperation/CIDA portfolio, Ellen Michelson, Peace and Security portfolio, Joe Foster, Human Rights portfolio.  
Green Party of Canada

# Global parties petition President Kagame over Green party



By RNA Reporters

**Friday, 09 October 2009**

Kigali: Green parties from Europe, North America and Africa have petitioned President Paul Kagame “to remove all obstacles” that they say are hindering the registration of the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda, RNA reports.

The newly founded party is in the midst of a looming controversy surrounding its quest to register. Party officials accuse Nyarugenge district of trying to block the party from finally getting registered – a claim the district has dismissed furiously.

However, from the five petition letters sent directly to RNA from the different countries, the petitioners seem to indicate that Nyarugenge district is not to blame alone. Instead they believe the obstacles are coming from high up the country’s governance structures.

In separate written petitions, green movements in Canada, the European Union, Mauritius, Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso – express their concerns over last week’s developments.

For example, the ‘Vertes-Fraternels’ party of Mauritius is demanding that President Kagame use his powers to “facilitate the party in formation by instructing and or advising the relevant officials” who are dealing with the registration process “to do whatever they are required to do”.

Just last week, Mauritius was named the best governed country in Africa by the Index, published by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation. A week earlier, Harvard University also named Mauritius along with Seychelles – as the top governed nations on the continent.

Mr. Sylvio Michel, President of the Mauritius green party wants Rwanda to “continue to adhere to internationally accepted democratic principles so that multi-party democracy is entrenched in Rwandan society.”

The Green Party of Canada links the registration of the Rwandan Green party to Rwanda’s increasing role in global efforts on climate change. President Kagame last month told the top UN summit including the biggest green-house gas emitters that time for blame game was out, that an agreement on global warming is the only way forward.

“We recognize that Rwandan society can and should be among the leading societies on the African continent in the efforts to combat climate change and environmental degradation which remains the greater overall threat to the future of all Africans,” writes Elizabeth May of the Canadian greens.

For the ‘Parti Ecologique Ivoirien’, from troubled and war-ton Ivory Coast is also not holding its breath.

“Aware that this is not the first time such tactics are being used to delay and or deny true and long lasting evolvement of democracy in Rwanda,” Edmond Edouard GOUAN of the Ivorian greens says, Rwanda needs to “observe and respect all legal provisions relating to the formation and establishment of political parties.”

The United Green Parties of Europe (Los Verdes) – which brings together European Union greens also backed the five demands that each of the other parties from the different countries have signed up to.

“I as member of the International Secretary General of the Green Party of Spain,” Ms. Pura Peris says, asking Rwanda to “do or perform any other act that is politically and legally conducive to the successful registration of the party”.

## Rwanda's Democratic Greens shut down, for the third time



<http://www.opednews.com/author/author15604.html>

October 6, 2009 at 04:45:10

By Ann Garrison for OPEDNEWS

*On October 2nd, 2009, over 900 delegates from every district in Rwanda came to Kigali for a conference of the new Rwandan Democratic Green Party, formed on August 14, 2009. The meeting was abruptly stopped by the Mayor of*

*Nyarugenge District, as party delegates looked on in disbelief. (Inset)  
Party leader Frank Habineza.*

It's hardly surprising that, on October 2nd, 2009, 900 delegates to the new Rwandan Democratic Green Party weren't allowed to meet in Kigali, Rwanda. The Kagame government, which Clinton, Warren, and the Obama/Clinton State Department all point to as the triumph and future of Africa, shut them down, again, for the third time.

How much longer will so much of the world accept the U.S. State Department's official lies about the Rwandan police state, U.S. puppet Rwandan President Paul Kagame, and the Rwandan Defense Force, the U.S.A.'s African proxy army in D.R. Congo, Sudan, and elsewhere in Africa, as needed?

During the previous week, on September 29, 2009, former President [Bill Clinton presented Rwandan President Paul Kagame with a Global Citizenship Award](#). On Friday, Reverend Rick Warren hung his [International Medal of Peace around Kagame's neck](#) at a "Saddleback Civil Forum on Peace and Reconciliation," at Warren's evangelical Saddleback Church in Orange County, California. ([Warren hung his first "International Medal of Peace" around George Bush's neck last year.](#))

Alphonse Rutazigwa, reports "[A Sad Day for Democracy in Rwanda](#)," for the Rwanda News Agency:

*Friday, 02 October 2009*

*Kigali: They moved hundreds of kilometers – some for the first time to the capital. Others braved the trouble of having to move with babies. Some abandoned their jobs to be in Kigali for the event that did not happen. Up to 900 supposed delegates of the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda (DGPR) found themselves at the center of an unexpected controversy, RNA reports.*

*The newly formed party was on Friday told it could not hold a scheduled delegates' conference. Interim party officials had booked St. Famille CANA hall – owned by the Kigali catholic diocese. The large number of delegates meant some had to stand outside anxiously waiting for the grand event to start.*

*These delegates had come all the way to give their nomination signatures to the new party. It is these signatures which party officials hoped would form part of the registration dossier with the Ministry of Local Government.*

*"I don't know how I will get back to Rusizi district [in western province] - a five hour journey, moreover without accomplishing what had brought me here," said Annonciata Nyirakanyana, while breast feeding her son.*

*Looking at the crowd, many were youths. Notable among the delegates were also a few older men and women. There are about a dozen mothers. Since all have now been informed the conference is taking place anymore, they all stand outside looking like people who have lost their jobs.*

*The genesis of the chaos that these people were witnessing first hand started at 8:30 am when an official from Nyarugenge district arrived at the event venue with a letter from the Nyarugenge district mayor Rutayisire Origène.*

*The mayor writes in response to another letter sent September 29 from the Green party which had informed him of the intention to have their meeting on Friday. Party officials were letting him know that they already had a place booked.*

*"I hereby first inform you that you write [a] letter requesting permission to hold this meeting on this date [October 02]", writes mayor Rutayisire, in a four-sentence official letter.*

*However, Green party officials had also informed him in their letter that since the Nyarugenge notary was not available, they would secure another notary – which they indeed effected.*

*The mayor's response meant that even with a new notary, the Green party would not be allowed to hold the meeting – only after seeking new permission. This will now be the fourth time the conference has been forced to postpone. The party has had to incur expenses to transport the delegates.*

*"From what I have witnessed today, I do not think there is democracy in Rwanda," retorts Munyankumburwa Innocent. "To me, this means that the government is not yet ready for multiparty democracy. If they say parties do exist, then what is this?"*

*For Interim party president Mr. Frank Habineza: "Someone is sabotaging us."*

*"Imagine all the expenses we have incurred. I really cannot explain who is behind all this," he furiously shouts as he speaks to reporters. "This really is a sad day for democracy in this country."*

*The smartly dressed female party officials keep loitering around to calm their seemingly frustrated sympathizers. In a corner, one official – looking disturbed slams a bunch of books on a table, when RNA put to her that the party should write another letter for permission as requested by the mayor.*

*"We are tired of this kind of way of doing things in this country," she dismissively says. "No one seems to be able to tell you the truth. This one says the other is responsible, the other says the next one is responsible."*

*(Last updated, by the RNA, Tuesday, 10.02.2009.)*

Two days after publication, "A sad day for democracy in Rwanda," became inaccessible on the state run Rwandan News Agency (RNA), as did other stories about suppression of the Rwandan Democratic Greens. At 8:00 A.M. PST, on 10.06.2009, the web page where the story had been still read: "You are not authorized to view this resource,"

[http://www.rnanews.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=2073&Itemid=1](http://www.rnanews.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2073&Itemid=1). In a SKYPE conversation, from California to Rwanda, party co-founder and leader Frank Habineza told me that the RNA's editor was under "big pressure."

Neither I nor others received the e-mail verification promised after attempting to register on the RNA website to gain access. In an e-mail response to a subsequent inquiry, sent to [rna@rwanda1.com](mailto:rna@rwanda1.com), the RNA said that I would have to subscribe, but offered me no form for doing so, despite my request for one. Other, officially approved RNA content remains readily accessible at <http://www.rnanews.com/>.

Last Updated ( Tuesday, 06, October 2009 )

*Take action -- click here to contact your local newspaper or congress people:  
[Call Rwandan Embassy in D.C.: \(202\) 232-2882. Object.to the repression of the  
Rwandan Green Party.](#)*

*[Click here to see the most recent messages sent to congressional reps and local  
newspapers](#)*

## Green party calls for international support



By RNA Reporter

**Saturday, 03 October 2009**

Kigali: Following the abrupt cancellation of its founding conference Friday, the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda is now seeking international backing, RNA reports.

“We encourage and request for regional and International cooperation from all Green Parties and Movements in the world to continually stand with us in this struggle for genuine democracy in Rwanda,” party officials said in a statement.

The document is also signed by Mr. Toussaint HINVI – of the Green Party of Benin and also the Coordinator for West African Greens Network, and Board member of Burundi Green Movement, Ms. Anne Marie BIHIRABAKE, who had come to take part at cancelled congress.

Mr. HINVI and Ms. BIHIRABAKE, were present at what was to be the opening ceremony Friday morning where some 900 delegates coming from all the 30 districts of Rwanda, had gathered.

“Suddenly and regrettably”, party interim president Mr. Frank Habineza says, somebody from the district called him to “come and pick” a letter signed by the Mayor of Nyarugenge District stopping the meeting, which prior permission to hold the meeting was in possession.

“This permission is evidenced by the Letter he signed on 25th Sept 2009 Ref.No.4073/01.01 and the denial is reference number is 4155/01.01 of 01/10/2009 which realistically was received on 2nd October 2009 in the morning hours,” Habineza claims.

“This was the third congress being cancelled, using legal pretext”.

Last Updated ( Monday, 05 October 2009 )

## “Sad day for democracy in



# Rwanda''

By Alphonse Rutazigwa

Friday, 02 October 2009



Party delegates look on in disbelief after the conference was halted. (Inset) Party leader Mr. Frank Habineza

Kigali: They moved hundreds of kilometers – some for the first time to the capital. Others braved the trouble of having to move with babies. Some abandoned their jobs to be in Kigali for the event that did not happen. Up to 900 supposed delegates of the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda (DGPR) found themselves at the center of an unexpected controversy, RNA reports.

The newly formed party was on Friday told it could not hold a scheduled delegates' conference. Interim party officials had booked St. Famille CANA hall – owned by the Kigali catholic diocese. The large number of delegates meant some had to stand outside anxiously waiting for the grand event to start.

These delegates had come all the way to give their nomination signatures to the new party. It is these signatures which party officials hoped would form part of the registration dossier with the Ministry of Local Government.

“I don't know how I will get back to Rusizi district [in western province] - a five hour journey, moreover without accomplishing what had brought me here,” said Annonciata Nyirakanyana, while breast feeding her son.

Looking at the crowd, many were youths. Notable among the delegates were also a few older men and women. There are about a dozen mothers. Since all have now been informed the conference is taking place anymore, they all stand outside looking like people who have lost their jobs.

The genesis of the chaos that these people were witnessing first hand started at 8:30am when an official from Nyarugenge district arrived at the event venue with a letter from the Nyarugenge district mayor Rutayisire Origène.

The mayor writes in response to another letter sent September 29 from the Green party which had informed him of the intension to have their meeting on Friday. Party officials were letting him know that they already had a place booked.

“I here by first inform you that you write [a] letter requesting permission to hold this meeting on this date [October 02]”, writes mayor Rutayisire, in a four-sentence official letter.

However, Green party officials had also informed him in their letter that since the Nyarugenge notary was not available, they would secure another notary – which they indeed effected.

The mayor’s response meant that the even with a new notary, the Green party would not be allowed to hold the meeting – only after seeking new permission. This will now be the forth time the conference has been forced to postpone. The party has had to incur expenses to transport the delegates.

“From what I have witnessed today, I do not think there is there democracy in Rwanda,” retorts Munyankumburwa Innocent. “To me, this means that the government is not yet ready for multiparty democracy. If they say parties do exist, then what is this?”

For interim party president Mr. Frank Habineza: “Someone is sabotaging us”.

“Imagine all the expenses we have incurred. I really cannot explain who is behind all this,” he furiously shouts as he speaks to reporters. “This really is a sad day for democracy in this country.”

The smartly dressed female party officials keep loitering around to calm their seemingly frustrated sympathizers. In a corner, one official – looking disturbed slams a bunch of books on a table, when RNA put to her that the party should write another letter for permission as requested by the mayor.

“We are tired of this kind of way of doing things in this country,” she dismissively says. “No one seems to be able to tell you the truth. This one says the other is responsible, the other says the next one is responsible.”

Last Updated ( Wednesday, 07 October 2009 )

## Green party blocked from meeting



By Administrator

**Friday, 02 October 2009**

The newly formed Green party has for the forth time postponed its delegate’ conference - this time with a new twist to its registration process, RNA reports.

On Friday morning, about a thousand delegates were stunned to be told that Nyarugenge district officials had blocked their meetingtory.

In a letter delivered Friday morning which RNA has seen, Nyarugenge district officials inform the party leader Mr. Frank Habineza that the permission allowing them to meet is withdrawn.

The latest development comes following the party’s abrupt decision to abandon the Nyarugeenge Notaire who was to verify the delegates signatures, for another. **Details soon...**

Last Updated ( Monday, 05 October 2009 )

## New Green party cries fowl over possible sabotage



By RNA Reporter

**Thursday, 01 October 2009**

Kigali: Officials of the newly formed Democratic Green Party of Rwanda (DGPR) were in disbelief Thursday evening after government officials informed them they will not be available Friday to notify some of their registration documents, RNA can reveal. Interim party leader Frank Habineza told RNA the development means the delegates conference scheduled Friday may not take place because that is when the signatures of the 1000-plus delegates expected in Kigali were to be verified.

"The 'Notaire' rang me at 5pm informing me that he will not be available because he has not been granted permission to verify our signatures by the minister of Justice," said a visibly angry Habineza.

"When I called the minister of Justice, he told me the Notaire does not need his permission to conduct such a function. Now I dont know who to believe and what to do."

According to Mr. Habineza, he has already postponed the delegates conference for "three times", with every of the previous timetables, the Notaire claiming he is not in position to notify the party's nomination signatures. However, Mr. Habineza declined to name the Notaire in question, but the minister is Tharcisse Karugarama.

"We have made alot of losses financially because for example we called the delegates and diplomats last Sunday for the same function but we had to cancel it because there was no one to verify our documents," he said.

The new political party law requires that a government Notaire is present to verify all the signatures of those nominating a given party for registration before they are submitted to the Ministry of Local. The party needs at least 600 "verifiable signatures" from across the country to be able to register.

RNA was not able to get official response by press time.

Interim president Mr. Frank Habineza said last month that the party will "call for a delegates Congress in September, after which we shall deposit our dossier to [the Ministry of Local Government]". "Right now, we are recruiting members from all districts of Rwanda."

Last Updated ( Monday, 05 October 2009 )

## New party planning 'delegates Congress' in September



By RNA Reporter

**Tuesday, 18 August 2009**

Kigali: The Democratic Green Party of Rwanda (DGPR) launched on Friday is trip-trotting in all districts looking for at least 6000 “verifiable signatures” from across the country to be able to register in September, RNA reports.

Interim president Mr. Frank Habineza said the party will “call for a delegates Congress in September, after which we shall deposit our dossier to [the Ministry of Local Government]”. “Right now, we are recruiting members from all districts of Rwanda.”

For a party to be registered, it must collect at least 500 signatures of people nominating the party from at least 12 of the thirty districts.

However, the law also requires that the signatures are reflective of the five provinces of the country. Electoral officials say this is meant to avoid a situation where a party could solicit membership from one or two provinces – because some have as many as eight districts.

Mr. Habineza said the dates of the September delegates meet have “not yet been decided but will be communicated soon”.

#### **Clarifications:**

In the article “*Exclusiv: New political party born “to counter RPF”*”, we reported Friday that Mr. Habineza was the Principal Secretary to former State Minister of Lands, Patricia Hajabakiga. He was actually the Principal Secretary to the former Minister of Lands, Environment, Forestry, Water and Mines (MINITERE), Mrs. Drocella MUGOREWERA, who fled the country recently.

The story also said Mr. Habineza started Wildlife Clubs at the National University of Rwanda in 2003. Instead it association started in 1999. In 2007, it changed the name to Rwanda Environmental Conservation Organization, and is now based in Kigali.

**Last Updated ( Monday, 24 August 2009 )**

## **Save Rwanda**

[http://www.saverwanda.org/index.php?id=74&tx\\_ttnews\[tt\\_news\]=975&cHash=2aab6509e5](http://www.saverwanda.org/index.php?id=74&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=975&cHash=2aab6509e5)

## **New "political party" in Rwanda**



**(17.08.09)**

Kigali: At the University, he single-handedly started a student association campaigning for environment protection. Barely six years out of school, Mr. Frank Habineza has formed a new political party apparently to ‘introduce

consultative politics', RNA reports.

Bringing to a total of eleven parties in the country, newly born Democratic Green Party wants among its policies to reduce defense spending to put more money into agriculture. The party also plans to put more of the country's resources into protecting the environment, which it says is at the core of its founding.

"Our policies will be people-centered", Mr. Habineza explains. "In Rwanda today, decisions are taken by a few people and often made without broad consultations with the population. That is why decisions are taken today and reversed tomorrow."

Mr. Habineza and his delegation met diplomats on Friday in what sources within the party say is to give the envoys a better understanding of its operations. Critics accuse the long existing parties of having no political ideologies and rubber-stamping ruling party policy.

People familiar with Mr. Habineza's days at the National University of Rwanda say it is not surprising that he has come to launch a political party. Around 2003, he mobilized students to start the Rwanda Wildlife Club (RWC) that went around university and Huye town planting trees. It is not clear if the association remained at the University after he left or whether he did extend it to other parts of the country.

When Huye administrators started chopping branches from trees along the small streets of Huye town – then called Butare, Mr. Habineza's - commonly known as 'Frank', was up in arms. He lobbied unsuccessfully with whoever accepted to listen.

Available information suggests that he recently left the Nile Basin Initiative – a regional platform on the Nile River bringing together countries which share the river. It has a secretariat in Kigali. Previously, he had been Principal Secretary to the former State Minister for Lands and Environment, Ms. Patricia Hjabakiga.

Mr. Habineza also worked for the defunct Rwanda Herald newspaper whose publisher Asuman Bikika was declared 'persona non grata' in mid-2002. The expulsion was after the unusually critical paper at the time had published an editorial calling for the release of former President Pasteur Bizimungu. With Mr. Bisiika ousted, the newspaper went off the market completely.

At the time, the British Department for International Development (DFID), Rwanda's largest bilateral donor, was funding the newspaper as part of its efforts to promote civil society. The Police's action and DFID's muted public response sent a powerful message to journalists: international donors would not defend Rwanda's independent media, critics say.

Mr. Habineza is also not new with trouble. Brigadier General Richard Rutatina at some point around the year 2000 told Mr. Habineza that he could be incarcerated after he posed a controversial question during the General's visit to the university. The situation occurred amidst hundreds of students in the University auditorium.

The new party is reported to have already been registered, joining the dominant Rwanda Patriotic Front and its small six coalition partners – which are in the Lower Chamber of Parliament. Others are the Liberal Party (PL) aligned to Youth Minister Mr. Protais Mitali, and Social Democratic Party (PSD) of Senate Speaker Dr. Vincent Biruta.

Another party which struggled to even get registered is controversial PS-Imberakuri of hard

talking lawyer Mr. Bernard Ntaganda who initially named it PSI. He was denied registration by government until he changed the name because it sounded similar to the NGO Population Service International (PSI).

People that have had closer relations with Mr. Habineza say he speaks Kinyarwanda which sounds more like it has been influenced by the fact the he originated from Uganda. He also speaks fluent Luganda language – commonly used in central Uganda. It is this Luganda that is said to influence how he pronounces Kinyarwanda words.

He however maintains that he has been a ‘prominent member’ of the RPF which he accuses of ‘derailing from the party’s original ideology’, ‘forgetting to implement some necessary policies’, or ‘just ignoring to listen to other voices in the country’.

He claims his party is just coming to introduce an alternative to the RPF.

## Exclusiv: New political party born “to counter RPF”



By RNA Reporter

**Friday, 14 August 2009**



Kigali: At the University, he single-handedly started a student association campaigning for environment protection. Barely six years out of school, Mr. Frank Habineza has formed a new political party apparently to ‘introduce consultative politics’, RNA reports. Bringing to a total of eleven parties in the country, newly born Democratic Green Party wants among its policies to reduce defense spending to put more money into agriculture. The party also plans to put more of the country’s resources into protecting the environment, which it says is at the core of its founding.

“Our policies will be people-centered”, Mr. Habineza explains. “In Rwanda today, decisions are taken by a few people and often made without broad consultations with the population. That is why decisions are taken today and reversed tomorrow.”

Mr. Habineza and his delegation met diplomats on Friday in what sources within the party say is to give the envoys a better understanding of its operations. Critics accuse the long existing parties of having no political ideologies and rubber-stamping ruling party policy.

People familiar with Mr. Habineza’s days at the National University of Rwanda say it is not surprising that he has come to launch a political party. Around 2003, he mobilized students to start the Rwanda Wildlife Club (RWC) that went around university and Huye town planting trees. It is not clear if the association remained at the University after he left or whether he did extend it to other parts of the country.

When Huye administrators started chopping branches from trees along the small streets of Huye town – then called Butare, Mr. Habineza's - commonly known as 'Frank', was up in arms. He lobbied unsuccessfully with whoever accepted to listen.

Available information suggests that he recently left the Nile Basin Initiative – a regional platform on the Nile River bringing together countries which share the river. It has a secretariat in Kigali. Previously, he had been Principal Secretary to the former State Minister for Lands and Environment, Ms. Patricia Hajabakiga.

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**APA African Press Agency**

**2009-08-14**

# New political party formed to challenge Rwanda's democracy

APA-Kigali (Rwanda) The newly formed Democratic Green Party of Rwanda is threatening to challenge Rwanda's democracy which describes as not allowing political pluralism but operating a directed political activity.

The interim President of the DGPR Frank Habineza flanked by the party's Secretary General told APA in Kigali on Friday that there had been lack of democracy in Rwanda since monarchical time and the ruling Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) was only blind-folding the world with imaginary multi-party politics when in reality it was a single party taking decisions and others follow.

"RPF wants all the 10 million Rwandans to be members but if that is the trend then we are living a worse political situation than we found. Everything in Rwanda needs to change for the sake of democracy, the institutions need to work independent of the government and political parties need to have sound voices like other democracies," said Muganwa.

He said Rwanda's political parties were silent not because they agreed with all that the government does but that they were working under fear created by the government, noting that the constitution and electoral laws have been manipulated to serve RPF's interests which were not necessarily in the public interest.

"RPF has manipulated all the laws to its advantage, the constitution is changed without any consultations, there is no functioning civil society, no press freedom not even freedom of association. Why would the world be blind-folded to believe the country is democratic ?" they wondered.

The party whose activities were launched on Friday seeks reforms in the constitution, and electoral law without which the members threaten to boycott the 2010 presidential elections. They believe the party will rid Rwandans of the blanket of fear which they attribute to 'the historical rule of terror'.

They said the party would field a candidate for the presidential race if only the constitution and electoral laws were changed, adding that the electoral process was all faulty from registration to vote counting which provided room for vote rigging.

"Why hold expensive electoral processes when the winner is known before elections ? Its only months to the presidential elections but no one has declared their candidature, no one is allowed to campaign because the constitution was manipulated. Our party would not be involved in such an exercise that deprives our members of their democratic rights," Habineza noted.

They however appreciated some achievements by the ruling party, noting the ending of the genocide, improved security and some orderliness in the country which they however say are over-shadowed by bad politics and a failing democracy.

"Without democracy, no economic development can be attained," they said.

Rwanda has about ten political parties, six of them recently formed a coalition with the ruling RPF. Therefore, only two can be regarded as real opposition and another two are not yet allowed to operate.

BB/daj/APA

Source [APA](#)