

COMMUNIQUE NO 25 OF THE CNDD-FDD PARTY OF JULY 07th, 2015

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THE SUMMIT OF THE HEADS OF STATE OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HELD IN DAR-ES-SALAAM WAS A SUCCESS.

1. Despite detractors who affirm that they are disappointed by the outcome of the Summit of the East African Community Heads of States held in Dar-es- Salaam on July 06th, 2015, the **CNDD-FDD** party applauds the efforts of the high personalities who participated in the Summit in general, and particularly the Heads of States of the sub-region who showed high commitment in searching for solutions to put an end to the ongoing Burundian political crisis.

In fact, on July 06th, 2015, the East African Community Heads of State and member countries' Representatives met in a Summit to which also participated Representatives of the United Nations, the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region, the African Union and other high profile participants representing various institutions who were present in order to proficiently support this crucial Summit. Significant outcomes arose from this important Summit. Among other recommendations, they suggested to postpone the presidential elections from July 15th, 2015 to July 30th, 2015 and to carry on the elections from which a Government of National Unity is expected without any amendment to the Constitution and in respect with the constitutional time limits and fundamental principles.

Concerning the postponement of the presidential elections initially scheduled for July 15th, 2015, the **CNDD-FDD** party reminds that the electoral calendar have already been postponed for three times from May 26th, 2015 to June 05th, 2015; from June 05th, 2015 to June 26th, 2015 and from June 26th, 2015 to June 29th, 2015. This electoral calendar postponement concerned the municipal and legislative, the presidential and the senatorial elections. At that particular time, the Independent National Electoral Commission had clearly mentioned that the new dates were set to the extreme margin, taking into accounts the constitutional time limits and the electoral code. It is important to remember that postponing elections involves the use of extra financial means for those in the competition and provokes too much fatigue to citizens as they are obliged to respond to various campaign meetings organized by all competing parties for two months. The first elections held on June 29th, 2015 took them a whole month and the presidential ones are expected to take one more month. The electorates seek indulgency because they realize they are under risk of being forced to violate their Constitution, which becomes too much demanding and unacceptable.

Regarding the Government of National Unity that would follow the constitutional presidential elections, the **CNDD-FDD** party is not against the suggestion because even back in 2005, His Excellency Pierre Nkurunziza had already the idea when he integrated members of political parties that had not met the constitutional and electoral code requirements, but his good initiative was negatively interpreted by opposition political parties, condemning the decision to be unconstitutional. Without any delay, the Cabinet was reshuffled in the strict respect of the Fundamental Law. It is therefore surprising to see the same politicians who were shouting in 2005, denying the Government of National Unity, changing their minds today and requesting for the establishment of an inclusive Government that would integrate the

Civil Society which always pretends not to defend any political interests.

In front of such a complexity, the **CNDD-FDD** party does not understand how the Government of National Unity could be put in place in accordance with the Constitution and the electoral code without prior amendment of these reference laws.

4. From the above points, the CNDD-FDD party:

Requests the understanding from the new Facilitator in the inter-Burundian dialogue designated by the Summit of the East African Community Heads of State on July 06th, 2015, that the postponement of the presidential elections to July 30th, 2015, which is outside the constitutional time limits, will be a high treason of the President of the Republic. Indeed, Article 103, sub-article 2 states that the elections of the President of the Republic take place at least one month and at most two months before the expiration date for the outgoing presidential term”.

Reiterates its availability to collaborate with all stakeholders in the search for the ways to establish the Government of National Unity, but the organisers of the protests that turned into an insurrectional movement should stop their political activism detrimental to peace, security and national reconciliation in order to continue with the elections that started on May 10th, 2015.

In conclusion, the Summit of the East African Community Heads of States held in Dar-es-Salaam on July 06th, 2015 reached important outcomes whose implementation will require being close to Burundian politicians in order to accompany them in this process that will undoubtedly lead to sustainable solutions.

Done in Bujumbura, on July 07th, 2015

Honourable Pascal Nyabenda,

Chairman of the CNDD-FDD party