

## **DECLARATION OF THE PALIPEHUTU-FNL**

**Bujumbura, 9 January 2009**

The PALIPEHUTU-FNL responded positively to the call of Burundians, the Region and the International Community, to sit for negotiations that led to Agreements signed in Dar-Es-Salaam on 18 June and 7 September 2006, respectively, between the Government of Burundi and the PALIPEHUTU-FNL. According to these Agreements, the PALIPEHUTU-FNL would be transformed into a political party.

The PALIPEHUTU-FNL also signed the Magaliesberg Declaration of 10 June 2008, whose spirit and words enjoined both parties to be more flexible in dealing concurrently with both military and political issues. This spirit was supplemented by the Ngozi Declaration of 29 August 2008, which recommended the Political Directorate to assist parties in reaching a common ground as far as the registration of the PALIPEHUTU-FNL and its integration into national life are concerned. In conformity with the Declaration of 4 December 2008, the PALIPEHUTU-FNL undertook on Sunday 4 January 2009 a campaign to explain to its members the obligations related to the accreditation of the political party and to hold consultations so that a new name could be found for its registration as a political party.

After consultations with our militants and exchange of various views and considerations:

Considering the pressing time factor;

Considering also the high interest for durable peace all Burundians aspire to;

We agree to sacrifice ourselves and cut our identity up by changing the name of our party. **From now on, the PALIPEHUTU-FNL becomes “FNL”: Forces Nationales de Libération (in English *National Forces for the liberation*).**

We would like to request the Government to be also flexible and register this new party with no conditionality, whatsoever. It is for this reason, in this very decisive moment of the history of Burundians, we would like to hold as witnesses, Burundians, the Political Directorate, Member countries of the Regional Initiative, as well as the International Community involved in the Burundi Peace Process, who were looking forward to this big event.

As for any new organizations, we hereby would like also to request the support of the International Community in different areas.

Done in Bujumbura, this 9 January 2009  
Agathon Rwasa, Chairman