



PeaceInsight

Never Again Rwanda Newsletter [May-July 2017]

About Never Again

A peace building and social justice organization that arose in response to the 1994 genocide perpetrated against Tutsis. Guided by a vision of a nation where citizens are agents of positive change and work together towards sustainable peace.

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THE BIG QUESTION

What do elections mean in a Peacebuilding process?



A Rwanda rural woman casts her ballot in one of the previous elections. Photo © Internet

THE BIG QUESTION

What do elections mean in a ‘peacebuilding’ process?



Rwandans peacefully line-up at the polls, to vote their preferred candidate in a previous electoral **Photo © Courtsey**

By **Sonia Tona**

Here is that one question that most peace-actors usually ask whenever post conflict societies hold an election.

“Do elections help in building peace?”

One particular UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights clause, gives the right to any citizen to take part in the government of his/her country directly, by freely choosing a representative.

This clause also states that the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government, and shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be universal, and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Since the early 1990s, “democratization” has become an increasingly prominent feature in post-conflict scenarios, and has often been conceived as the main political framework to Peacebuilding.


In Rwanda, as we go into the August elections, Never Again Rwanda (NAR) experts believe that to vote for a leader and to be elected at genuine periodic elections, guarantees

the free expression of the will of the electors, which eventually is part of the Peacebuilding cycle.

Our experts believe that elections bring about a favorable condition and strong political system, that automatically manages political competitions of diverging opinions non-violently. This is all a part of the Peacebuilding process which we must embrace in our society.

Some with divergent views also submit that elections could play a big role in a peace process if the losers and their supporters peacefully accept electoral results and respect the will of people.

Nonetheless, the acceptance of the results depend on whether people believe that all electoral processes were organized in open, fair and transparent ways.

Therefore, the most crucial point is the fact that the electoral processes has taken into consideration the potential causes of conflicts, if elections are to serve as the foundation for prevention of post-election related violence observed in different parts of the world. 

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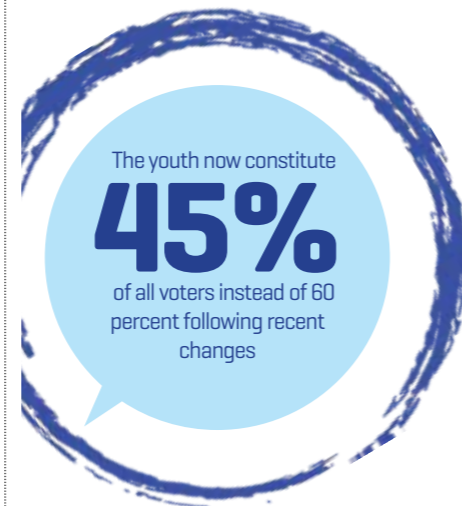
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ELECTIONS & PEACEBUILDING

Never Again Rwanda experts speak out

“Elections make people feel that they have an opportunity to participate in electoral processes of legitimate leaders whom they will hold accountable. In instances where these expectations are met it could also be a means to reinforce a peaceful society. **The question becomes how can elections promote peaceful processes?** Elections are a means of attaining peaceful resolutions among the competing political parties or candidates with different agendas or manifestos. It is however, important to underscore that while elections are a means to promoting stability, they can be easily manipulated by those with access to power because of the competitive nature imbedded in the elections.



Florence Batoni
Peacebuilding Coordinator

Free and fair elections contribute to the state of peace and security in any given country due to the fact that the results of the elections reflect the will of majority of the populace as well as grant legitimacy to the government of the day. Most of the cases of electoral related violence and protests that have been witnessed in countries such as Kenya; Zimbabwe, Gabon and Zambia, can be largely accredited to disputed poll results. It is therefore important for all institutions and individuals mandated to manage the electoral process, to do so with upmost integrity and accountability so as to ensure that peace reigns supreme before, during and after the elections take place.



Leila Kayitesi Chibole
Communications Manager
African Democracy Forum

“**When conducted in a fair, transparent and peaceful way, elections positively correlate with peacebuilding.** The election itself stands for a peaceful way to take, maintain or leave power, as opposed to coups, revolutions, etc. Elections gives people/citizens the ability to determine their destiny by choosing the leaders or representatives whose political agenda reflects most of their aspirations, with the possibility to vote them out when they fail to keep their promises. This becomes a powerful tool for managing and addressing people’s frustrations; hence reducing the risks of resorting to violence or unconventional ways to solve problems.



Reverien Interayamahanga
Great Lakes program Coordinator

Elections are an integral part of a democracy where citizens get to exercise their electoral right to vote. As a critical stage of decision making, it is an opportunity to assert their needs and priorities as indicated in the manifesto’s of new leadership. **With the presidential election being a cornerstone of governance and democracy, it sets ground to safeguard the continual process of democratization, and governance in any state.** Youth participation in the upcoming elections is crucial as they are the majority of the population and the most affected by decisions made by politicians. Elections serve as a strong reminder to the youth to take up the mantle of leadership.



Bonny Mukombozi
Governance & Rights Coordinator

INZIRA NZIZA:

How NAR is empowering youth to effectively participate in the election process

By David Kezio-Musoke
NAR Communications Manager

In Rwanda, the youth constitute 39 percent of the population and are therefore a significant force to be recognized.

During the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsis, while politicians were committing heinous crimes, they also manipulated the youth into joining them. This was partly possible because the youth did not have critical thinking skills and did not participate in decision-making.

Never Again Rwanda (NAR)'s 'Inzira Nziza' project recently brought together youth and decision makers (particularly officials from the National Electoral Commission - NEC) who reiterated that the youth constitute 45 percent of the electorate and therefore need to be empowered with leadership and critical thinking skills.

This according to the architects of Inzira Nziza, would help to enable them to play a meaningful role in the democratic process of Rwanda.

Inzira Nziza which is now empowering youth to be active citizens, is a two year project funded by USAID Rwanda and implemented in five districts, with an overarching goal to contribute to the promotion of peaceful dialogue and democratic values through human rights based approaches. It is created to influence the Rwandan youth's understanding on rights.

Inzira Nziza brings youth together with decision makers to deliberate and acquire the right tools. Now that we are in the electoral process, youth come together to express and debate their views on democratic values.

They also take leadership roles in political participation as they effectively promote and protect human rights and celebrate their diversities.

Late June, NAR convened another Inzira Nziza youth dialogue in Rusatira sector in the Huye

district. About 150 youth from the 5 districts including Nyamagabe; Gisagara, Huye (from Southern province), Nyabihu and Ngororero from (the western province) participated in this forum.

The convening youth highlighted challenges hindering them from effectively participating in governance which included unemployment, lack of civic education, low levels of confidence and spaces of inclusion.

Sylvestre Kagabo, the Huye and Gisagara NEC Zone Coordinator said that despite these hindrances youth can play an active role in ensuring there is a peaceful environment in the forthcoming presidential election slated for 4th of August.

It should be noted that young people between the ages of 15 and 35 constitute one-third of Africa's population, and in spite of this, youth's influence on national politics remains limited.

One of the reasons 'Inzira Nziza' was intro-

duced is for the youth to participate in national representative structures, which has recorded low levels of participation even though they form the biggest percentage of the population.

According to Bonny Mukombozi, NAR's Governance and Rights' Programs Coordinator, the youth are critical in bringing social and political transformation not only in Rwanda but globally.

"Elections serve as a strong reminder to the youth to take up the mantle of leadership, to become a source of transformation and ensure that their stake in building the future is clear and engaging," he said.

Isoko performing arts, a drama club affiliated to NAR used creative elements like play's to encourage the youth to contribute to the progress of good governance and leadership in their respective communities. **PI**



ABOUT INZIRA NZIZA

Inzira Nziza is a two year project funded by USAID Rwanda, implemented by Never Again Rwanda in 5 Districts of Rwanda. The overarching project goal is to contribute to the promotion of peaceful dialogue and democratic values, through human rights based approaches and influencing their understanding on the rights of the most vulnerable groups in Rwanda.

The main objective is to support youth to express and debate their views on democratic values, and to take leadership roles in political participation as they effectively promote and protect human rights and celebrate their diversities. This project targets 5 districts (Nyamagabe; Gisagara, Huye from Southern province, Nyabihu and Ngororero from the Western Province).



PHOTOS: Youth from 5 districts including Nyamagabe, Gisagara, Huye from Southern Province, Nyabihu and Ngororero participated in this forum that was hosted by NAR. The forum aimed to increase interaction between youth and decision makers in preparation of the August presidential elections **(PHOTOS © Sonia Tona/PeaceInsight)**

PBI growing into a global influence



This year Never Again Rwanda has already hosted two intakes of PBI students. Since its inception PBI has attracted over 80 students from around the globe and the region as written by Pontian Kabeera.

I sat down [in a popular coffee shop in Kigali] and listened to two young 'bazungu' ladies talking about a certain program that enables visiting students to learn about peacebuilding. For obvious reasons [being affiliated to NAR], and being a peace ambassador myself, I listened attentively.

They went on to discuss how Rwanda has changed over the last 23 years after facing what was regarded as some of the darkest days in human history since the holocaust when over one million people were killed in a period of three months.

One of the two girls noted, "the reason I am in Rwanda is mainly because I want to visit this institution, that hosts a program which gives visiting students knowledge about peacebuilding and the genocide and how it can be prevented. It's called the Peacebuilding Institute [PBI]."

The last sentence prompted me to chip in the conversation, and I asked her how she came to learn about the PBI. "From a friend in Boston," she added.

Peace-Building Institute: An array of hope

The Peacebuilding institute is an initiative of Never Again Rwanda [NAR], that was established in 2011 with its major aim of teaching the youth especially young professionals throughout the world about building

sustainable peace taking into account the lessons learnt from Rwanda.

All institutions in the country including government, private and civil society organizations have since embraced the notion of peacebuilding, and today many countries across the world come to learn from Rwanda.

This year, two editions were hosted by NAR attracting regional and international participants. The architects of this program argue that building peace in a post-conflict society, is not for the faint hearted and requires extraordinary efforts, dedication and patience.

PBI as it is referred to by its acronym has since its inception [in 2011] trained over 260 young professionals from across the world and many of these have turned-out to be champions of peace-building initiatives in their respective countries.



This year the program which was held under the theme 'Empowering a New Generation of Peace ambassadors' engaged the youth on various issues of peacebuilding in their communities and good governance. Through creative elements like art; storytelling, discussions as well as other activities, participants were able to share their experiences.

PBI alumni including a participant from Youth Aid Africa will tell you that PBI has greatly shaped their line of thinking.

"The proponents of this youth centred organization are graduates of the peacebuilding institute. They were inspired by the peacebuilding initiatives in Rwanda and how it has made the youth in Rwanda champions of peace and economic development in their countries", said an alumnus.

With a drive to reach as many peace ambassadors as possible, the institute has also trained many young professionals from Kenya; Tanzania, Democratic republic of Congo, Sudan and South Sudan, as well as Burundi. They are trained towards creating a well informed generation of



ABOVE: Some of the participants of the Summer Peacebuilding Institute including Amanda Solomon, Espoir Rutembeza, with Dr. Elisa Von Forgey[Center] and Rwandan participant Rosette Ngoga. Below NAR Country Director Dr. Nkurunziza shares a light moment with Dr. Elisa. [PHOTOS: @Doline Uwera/ PBI Photographer]

peace makers throughout the region.

According to Debbie Karemera, the Coordinator of PBI, the program has also trained young professional from across Europe with over 34 young professionals from the US, Netherlands, and United Kingdom.

"One can't doubt that PBI will continue to be the pillar of sustainable peace and development throughout the world," she said. **P**

The writer is formerly a trainee 'Peacebuilding intern' with Never Again Rwanda.



You can read full version of this article on www.neveragainrwanda.org



DIFFERENT ACCOUNTS FROM OUR ALUMNI

What I learnt from the Peacebuilding Institute

By Jayden Bott

This summer I was given the amazing opportunity to attend the Peacebuilding Institute (PBI). Going into it, I did not know much about the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, the only thing that I could recall learning about the genocide was clear back in Junior High school. We only talked about it briefly before moving onto another topic.

What I learnt from PBI

PBI taught me the importance of peacebuilding, the stages of genocide and warnings, the aftermath, the effects of genocide, and what Rwanda implements and teaches the world from it's dark past.

Overall, I felt that the program was absolutely extraordinary and the resourceful instructors provided me with a clear understanding of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

standing of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.

The two week program

During the lectures, having discussions in groups enabled everyone to give their views. Having people from Rwanda and the US showed the differences of the two countries and how we can learn from these differences to better our own countries.

What I loved the most was traveling to many different sites throughout Rwanda. Learning about the genocide in classroom sessions was excellent, but going to the memorials gives you a completely different experience of the traumatic events that occurred. Going to the sites and respecting the lives of all those who perished was very touching and a feeling that I will never forget.

Seeing the aftermath of the exploded grenades, bullet holes, to the mass graves exposes you to somewhat understand all the pain and destruction genocide creates.

What I take back home from Rwanda

I have learned so much and hope to implement all the knowledge I have gained into my future career. After attending the PBI, I learnt that the United States really doesn't teach about the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. Talking with my cousin's back home none of them even knew that it had even occurred. I hope that the United States will do a better job in the education system in teaching about the genocide. **PI**

Samah Mohamed from Sudan

In February 2017, I was fortunate to be selected to participate in a training program carried by the Peace Building Institute in Kigali, Rwanda.

I and twenty East-African young participants from Kenya, Tanzania, South Sudan, Burundi, DRC, Uganda, Sudan and Rwanda were hosted by Never Again Rwanda for two weeks.

It was my first time to Rwanda, the country of the genocide and victims in my childhood memory. Genocide against the Tutsi is a big dark spot on the face of the international community!

Rwanda witnessed one of the most horrible crimes in the twentieth century with very late and meaningless support from the international community. This country had lost almost everything by 1994, they lost people lives and moreover lost the trust in each other and in the international community. The reality was a big trauma, but they - together - decided not to let that happens again.. and [not surprisingly] they have succeeded.

Rwanda's experience taught us that it's never too late to start from zero; it has taught us that peoples' willingness can change the darkness into a brightening morning. They

planned for a better future and worked for it. They invented new methodologies and led initiatives to reconcile their traumatized and damaged community. They worked to stop discrimination / stereotyping and share mutual national identity, for justice, psychological support, income generation and poverty eradication; they worked for peace and security as a right for every Rwandan woman and man.

I graduated from the Peace Building Institute as a 'Young African Peace Ambassador'. Rwanda gave us this honor, hope and responsibility to promote and build peace in our homes and in every African country. My unique colleagues got the time to interact, realize major facts and collectively answer some key questions such as; **Where are we and why? How similar are we and how diversified? What do we lack and need?.**

We agreed that we need peace to go forward, peace for stability and productivity. We need national identities, love, trust, justice, transparency, dedication, and we strongly need to be involved as youth and to work for our people's future. It is time to be heard. Africa we are coming! **PI**

“ We agreed that we need peace to go forward, peace for stability and productivity. We need national identities, love, trust, justice, transparency, dedication, and we strongly need to be involved as youth and to work for our people future.. it is time to be heard.. Africa; we are coming. ”

Samah Mohamed

IN THE NEWS:

April

Great Lakes Program



Delegates of the greatlakes trans-border dialogue workshop that aimed to revisit the main challenges to social cohesion in the region (PHOTOS: Courtesy)

By Ernest Dukuzumuremyi

In the framework of the program, “Trans-Border Dialogue for Peace in the Great lakes Region”, Interpeace in collaboration with its local partner organisations from Rwanda (Never Again Rwanda), Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, organized a 3 day workshop on ‘Resilience for Reconciliation’ at Gorilla Hotel in Rubavu District [Rwanda] from 25th to 27th April 2017.

The workshop brought together around 30 participants from these three countries, including researchers from partner organizations; teams, academicians, reconciliation practitioners, and decision makers, as well as selected Interpeace staff.

The 3 day workshop aimed to revisit the main challenges identified by participants in phase 1 of the program (2013-2016), and identify persisting impediments to social cohesion in the region, as well as to understand the resilience concept, its approach, and its relation to reconciliation.

Participants were able to reflect on the implementation of a resilience approach in the Great Lakes’ context. The discussions mainly focused on four major points that include; A Review of Phase 1 and Introduction to Phase 2 of the regional program, approaches to reconciliation, resilience approach for peace and its link to reconciliation. **PI**

NAR hosts a community dialogue in Bugesera

By Sonia Tona

On May 25, 2017, Never Again Rwanda (NAR) in partnership with Panos Institute of Great Lakes and the Rwanda Community Radios Network organized a community dialogue in the Mayange sector of Bugesera District. The main objective was to help both the citizens and decision-makers better understand their roles and responsibilities in the promotion of participatory governance through elections.

During this dialogue, NAR together with Radio Izuba and other media stakeholders brought together district and sector officials and citizen forum members, alongside approximately over 200 men, women and youth from local communities of Mayange sector. They discussed a wide range of citizen’s roles and responsibilities in the upcoming presidential elections.

Community members were able to openly discuss and point out their concerns within their communities. This dialogue enabled citizens to understand how and why their participation matters during elections, allowing them to respond proactively and constructively to the electoral priorities raised.

Our Director of Programs at Never Again Rwanda, Eric Mahoro, noted that through the election process citizens are able to decide their future and the country’s future by voting for leaders of their choice which is why they need to understand their responsibilities in this process.

This dialogue was aired on 4 community radios namely; Radio Izuba, Ishingiro, Isangano and Huguka. Community dialogue is one of the best approaches to bridge the gap between citizens and decision-makers due to the avenues provided by media. This community dialogue saw the participation of the Mayor of Bugesera District.

May

Amb .J.Ohlsson visits Mukamira citizens forum in Nyabihu.

Governance Program

By Sonia Tona

On the 18th May 2017, Amb.Jenny Ohlsson the Swedish ambassador to Rwanda, NAR Country Director Dr. Joseph.R. Nkurunziza, and officials from Interpeace, visited a citizens forum in Mukamira sector in Nyabihu district. The reason for this visit was to assess how much progress this forum has recorded, and how it has influenced change within this community.

Citizen fora were introduced in order to build the capacity of the citizens to better assess their needs and priorities, while strengthening their link with policy makers. This minimizes the vertical space between the beneficiaries of public policies and decision-makers, thus strengthening the accountability of local authorities.

During the discussion, members of the citizen forum in this sector highlighted that they were able to identify and advocate for the reduction of property tax rates [from 30 Rwf per square meter to 10Rwf/sqm], as well as increase the confidence in the citizens’ ability to understand governance issues and decision-



making processes.

NAR’s work bridges the gap between decision-makers and citizens through encouraging government accountability, responsiveness, transparency and supporting citizen participation in the governing processes. NAR currently has 13 citizens fora established in ten different districts, selected from the four provinces of the city of Kigali, covering both rural and urban areas. The ten districts include; Karongi, Nyabihu,

Gicumbi, Musanze, Rwamagana, Bugesera, Huye, Nyaruguru, Nyarugenge and Gasabo.

Mukamira citizen forum was established in August 2016 in Mukamira sector, Nyabihu district. The forum is comprised of 30 members of the community from various backgrounds, including 9 youth; 11 males, and 10 female citizen representatives of all cells of Mukamira sector. **PI**



NAR Awards 9 Youth Initiatives

NAR organized a youth innovation competition with the aim of encouraging youth to develop projects that respond to the needs of their communities. This competition also aimed at developing sustainable income generating projects and fostering peacebuilding among youth within their communities. 9 youth associations walked away with the cash prize of 500,000Rwf each as startup capital.

IN THE NEWS:

June

Peacebuilding

NAR, Riviera High School in commemoration drive



▼
ABOVE: Students of Riviera High School participate in a drama piece which was one of the tools used in the commemoration activities (PHOTOS: Sonia Tona/ Peacelnsight)

By Sonia Tona

The Never Again Club at Riviera High School (RHS) organized a commemoration event on Saturday 24th June, 2017 to remember and honor victims of the 1994 Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi. This event brought together RHS Staff, RHS Student, District officials, NAR Staff and a representative from MINADEF.

The event commenced with the lighting of the flame and also a minute of silence to remember and honor victims of the 1994 Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi.


In his opening remarks, RHS' Principal acknowledged the presence of distinguished guests, and also mentioned how the RHS NEV-

ER AGAIN Club is one of the most active clubs in this school; he encouraged students to always take the lead in fighting against Genocide ideology and promote the spirit of Peacebuilding in everything they do.

Students affiliated to the Never Again Club reiterated the importance of unity to fight against Genocide ideology through creative elements such as; songs, plays and poems.

Participants watched NAR's documentary titled "Stages of Genocide" where different scholars, experts and activists shared their views regarding stages of genocide and their advice to the young generation on genocide prevention.

Mr. Albert Nzamukwereka, NAR Board Chairperson while speaking at the event, urged students to fight against genocide ideology in their respective communities because during the 1994 Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi, youth were manipulated into committing crimes against humanity. It is in this regard that the youth today should challenge themselves to build a peaceful country.

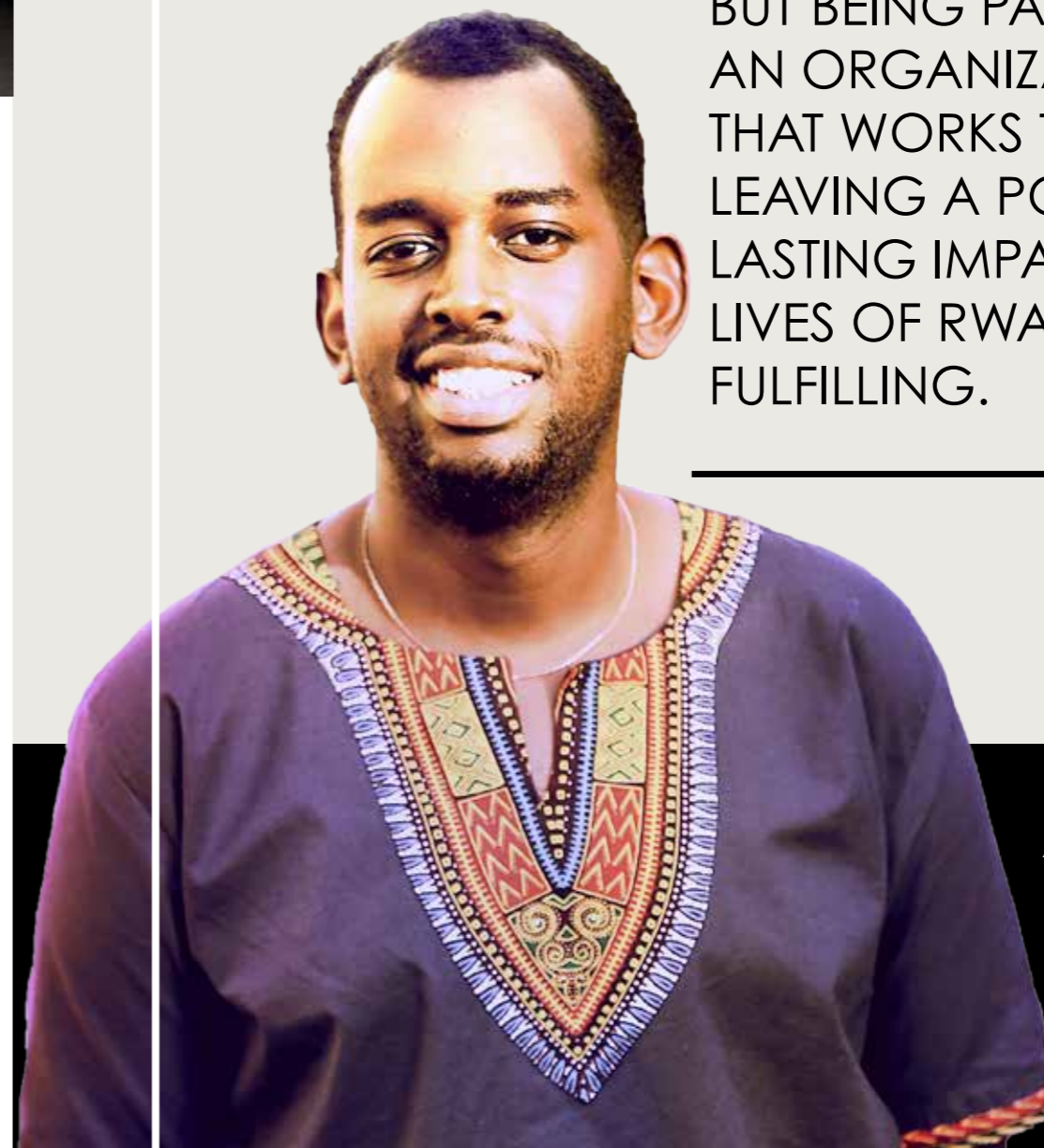
"Through commemoration events students learn more about Rwandan history. By understanding the country's history the youth will be able to make informed decisions in the near future." said Lt. Col. Ndore Ruhinda, Head of History at MINADEF (Guest of Honor). 

“

IT'S A GOOD FEELING THAT I AM NOT WORKING FOR MONEY OR EXPERIENCES.

BUT BEING PART OF AN ORGANIZATION THAT WORKS TOWARDS LEAVING A POSITIVE/ LASTING IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF RWANDANS IS FULFILLING.

”



PETER NDAHIRO
AV Technician
(Never Again Rwanda)





CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

NAR's intervention in pursuit of participatory governance



By **Bonny Mukombozi**

The writer is a Governance and Rights Program Coordinator with Never Again Rwanda. For feedback, please reach us at: info@neveragainrwanda.org

Some of the core values of a post conflict governance model, are participation; collaboration, and ultimately empowerment of citizens. None of these is a one-size fits all, but rather a careful blend or an imposed formula which will provide better results. Never Again Rwanda's intervention has been tailored around a participatory approach, where through dialogue we are able to reach a consensus where everybody's views are respected. It is one way to own what we do but also to see that in building our future, we leave none behind.

I refer to the statement by President Paul Kagame, speaking at the European Parliament in 1998, "If we are talking about participatory de-

mocracy we must ensure that the entire population is not only involved in the articulation of, and belief in, [democratic] principles, but is also capable of periodically refining the institutions that are meant to safeguard those principles".

As I reflect on NAR's intervention in pursuit of participatory governance in Rwanda, I feel a strong sense of happiness and desire to do more to support citizen's understanding of their rights and to help them define their own destiny. Our work informs us on what should be done at every level, we learn as we assist in shaping Rwanda's future in partnership with others, both government and other partners as well. At this moment, we feel as if we have awakened

the need to challenge our thinking on how to promote a participatory trend which helps the healing journey, our scope of work has widened, which arises out of the citizens' demand for more answers from their leaders, but also because a realization of one's rights is a beginning towards the cycle of accountability.

Niyonshuti Josephine, 44, a member of Bwishyura Karongi Citizens' Forum says, "I am now a link between the population and the leaders - especially when it comes to vulnerable people, and while linking these two we don't issue commands but we use the "convince to change" speech. In Gasuta cell, they sometimes call me for counsel. NAR shook me up and gave me many different responsibilities, which I never thought I would carry out. Now whenever someone speaks about his or her problem, I just want to help even if he or she cannot approach me". It is also important to understand that beyond the change in attitude of the members, they also act as a voice of the citizens'.

Niyitanga Darius, the newly appointed Executive Secretary of Fumbwe sector says, "I am happy to be with the citizens' opinion leaders in the Fumbwe sector [Citizen Forum]. Although I am recently appointed to the office, I have the recommendations of the Citizen Forum advocacy sub-committee, brought to my office. I always examine them, and refer to them for further information before undertaking the sector's meeting plans. I appreciate your work and your willingness to discuss and advocate for emerging issues in the community. As the E.S of the sector I promise to give quick feedback to every

5 Pillars of Good Governance

1. **Democracy**
2. **Transparency**
3. **Participation and inclusiveness**
4. **Accountability**
5. **Rule of Law**

request of the citizen forum discussion recommendations".

With such interventions, we believe that citizens' empowerment should be viewed as a mode of governance that surrenders full powers to citizens', and where central involvement in decision-making is reduced if not inexistent.

Mukamudenge Alphonsine from Bugesera Citizen Forum said "This group has made me change, because now I talk with people and advise them with confidence, to the extent that citizens' are calling me a leader due to the way they succeed whenever they use my advice. I helped six people get out of their difficulties, I feel more confident because the leaders today listen to me and heed my advice". **PI**



“ I feel a strong sense of happiness and desire to do more to support citizen's understanding of their rights and to help them define their own destiny. ”

INTERVIEW:

Enabling youth to think critically – Anitha Umutoniwase

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One of NAR's purposes is to enable the youth to develop critical thinking in order to advocate for human rights, socio-economic development and peacebuilding mainly through empowering and encouraging Rwanda's youth to take charge.

Currently NAR has established 69 youth clubs and associations which are located in over 12 districts across the country. These clubs are a platform for the Rwandan youth to air their issues, such as peer-pressure; poverty, leadership, unemployment, and many more.

NAR's Youth Program coordinator spoke to PeaceInsight's **Sonia Tona** and below is the excerpt.

What happens in the youth clubs?

NAR youth clubs are categorized into two parts, schooling and non-schooling.

We work with six schooling and twelve that are non-schooling, they participate in different activities such as debates, participatory theater, raising awareness of different causes and prevention of genocide, and other peace building activities.



Who is involved in these clubs?

These clubs are comprised of both schooling and non-schooling youth mainly those in secondary schools and universities. We also reach out to the non-schooling youth in their different communities.

How does a young person get involved in these clubs?

When you are in secondary school or university and you feel the need to join these clubs you are free to join. There are no specific criteria.

How often do these clubs meet?

It depends on their schedule, non-schooling youth meet once a month and for the schooling youth they meet once a week. While those in the schooling NAR youth clubs meet at least once a week.

Do you have any other innovative ways of engaging the youth other than the youth clubs?

We give them different opportunities through trainings, and involve them in conferences that we host. We invite them for most of the activities that NAR conducts from which they benefit from. We have innovation competitions that are mainly focused on non-schooling youth, so we can be able to empower them with the support they need to start up small income generating activities and this way we are able to foster development in their communities. **PI**