



Rwanda: Demobilisation Report to Be Presented in France

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The government has finalised plans to present her report on the demobilization and re-integration progress during the upcoming conference in France. According to John Sayinzoga (pictured), the Chairman of the Rwanda Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (RDRC), the Country Report to be presented indicates the national status in demobilisation process of ex-combatants, including Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF) soldiers, ex-FAR and ex-armed groups (ex-AGs). "I am going to present the Rwanda report myself," Sayinzoga told The New Times in a telephone interview Saturday, adding that the key issues contained in the report include the progress of RDRC's numerous projects countrywide and the respective expenditures,"

The World Bank will host the Multi-Country Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme (MDRP), Advisory Committee (AC) and Trust Fund Committee (TFC) meetings, starting November 20 to 22, in Paris, France.

And, Sayinzoga said he was confident about issues of accountability, saying most of the RDRC projects were audited and evaluated by the World Bank and other donors last month.

"They (donors) were very pleased with our progress," he said and noted that Rwanda had not experienced financial deficits and constraining deadlines in the demobilisation process.

"We are not going to ask for any money because our fixed substantive budget of \$53m is enough based on the deadlines we have (about Frw29.6b). We want to present our successes for other countries to emulate," he said.

He said the monies available are enough to facilitate the RDRC up to the 2007 deadline but expressed optimism that the programme could be renewed depending on the achievements registered.

The government's rally for the France conference comes at a time when the country has registered numerous successes in the demobilisation and re-integration of ex-combatants and RDF soldiers.

According to RDRC, out of the 25,000 targeted ex-AGs, about 6,123, or 25 per cent, have been demobilised, while 20,034 ex-RDF have been demobilised. The set target for the RDF was 20,000, while for the ex-FAR, about 13,000 of the targeted 15,000 have been demobilised and their registration closed.

Meanwhile, the forthcoming AC and TFC meetings are part of the regular review of management of MDRP. The Advisory Committee will discuss programme progress and challenges with the MDRP Secretariat and the Technical Coordination Group.

According to a WB statement from Washington, participants will include representatives of governments, donors, the UN, regional bodies and international financial institutions.

"The Trust Fund Committee of contributing donors will then gather to make decisions concerning MDRP Trust Fund issues and to review programme progress." The Technical Coordination Group, comprised of representatives from beneficiary governments and programmes, will also meet to discuss shared issues, challenges and approaches," reads the statement in part.

Launched in 2002, MDRP supports a regional planning and financing framework for the demobilisation and reintegration of a currently estimated 400,000 combatants in Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda.

The programme is financed by the World Bank and 11 donors that include Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands. Others are Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the European Commission.