



PRESS RELEASE

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Re-organisation of elections in Kanyosha, Nyabiraba, Muhuta and Isale communes, Bujumbura Rural and Bubanza Provinces

Bujumbura, Burundi – Following the incidents that characterized the *commune* elections of 3 June 2005 in six of the country's 129 communes, Mrs. Carolyn McAskie, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, met the press on the afternoon of Sunday, 5 June, to provide it with a vital piece of information: the organisation of new elections in the polling centres that were most affected by the violence and which are concentrated in Bujumbura Rural and Bubanza Provinces.

Indeed, after noticing that voters who were frightened by gunshots and other acts of intimidation perpetrated by unidentified armed elements had deserted polling stations, the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) announced that elections will be re-organised in the affected provinces on Tuesday, 7 June 2005. The *communes* concerned are Kanyosha, Nyabiraba, Muhuta and Isale in Bujumbura Rural Province as well as Rugazi and Mpanda in Bubanza Province. In all, the re-election will involve 31 polling centres broken up into 133 polling stations.


“Please confirm to the people in the affected centres that everybody must go back and vote again. The ballots of all those who voted on Friday will be cancelled. All such voters must return to their polling stations and vote again,” Mrs. McAskie emphasized. The Force Commander, General Derick Ngwebi, said a security mechanism of 2,000 soldiers of the UN Operation in Burundi (ONUB) will be in place for these elections. On the civilian side, ONUB will deploy 31 teams to monitor the vote in the polling stations.

The final results of all the elections will be announced officially after polling in all the provinces, that is, after Tuesday, 7 June 2005 following the re-organised elections in Bujumbura Rural and Bubanza Provinces. However, lest people be misled, especially as the minor difference in dates will not affect the electoral time-table, Mrs. McAskie cautioned: **“I can certify that, although elections will be re-organised on Tuesday, the electoral time-table will not be affected. The electoral time-table still stands and the electoral process will continue to move forward.”**

With regard to the general conduct of the elections on Friday, the Head of the UN Mission in Burundi said she was very satisfied. **“According to CENI, the rate of participation is 72% country-wide. This is wonderful. The people of Burundi must really be congratulated on this,”** she added, before concluding with these words directed at Burundian men and women: **“You have sent a signal to the world that you are ready to embrace democracy and peace. Congratulations!”**

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