

Rwanda Domestic Media, August 4 (covering July 30 – August 4)

By Siena Anstis, MIGS Reporter for Rwanda

State-owned media

(Radio Rwanda, Kigali, in English 0515 gmt 4 Aug 10)

- Poll body issues warning against all those extorting money from voters claiming fund needed to prepare 9 August elections.

Privately-owned media

(The New Times website, in English 4 Aug 10)

- Kagame warned against politicians playing ethnic cards. He said that anyone attempting to jeopardize the peace and security of Rwandan people would “be dealt with seriously.”

(The New Times website, Kigali, in English 3 Aug 10)

- During campaigning in Gicumbi District, Kagame emphasized that Rwandans have the right to exercise their democratic choice to vote for who they want. He also stated that those “who don’t want to see that happen “should go and hang.””

(AFP news agency, Paris, in French 3 Aug 10)

- Due to the closure of some 30 media houses, the French government is watching preparations for the elections “very closely.”

(Reporters Sans Frontieres press release, Paris, in English 2 Aug 10)

- Reporters Sans Frontieres says that Rwandan authorities are “openly flaunting the rules of the democratic game. Press freedom violations, including the jailing of journalists, the closure of news media and the murder of a newspaper editor a month ago, have intensified in the run-

up to the election.”

- The government has suspended some 30 news outlets through the High Media Council.

**(The New Times website, Kigali, in English 1 Aug 10)**

- New Times editorial says that the hosting of presidential debates demonstrates maturity in Rwandan politics and “a culmination of a sustained process of deliberate and progressive policies since 1994.” Rwandans “have sent a clear message to the cynics and the rest of the world.”

**(The New Times website, Kigali, in English 30 Jul 10)**

- The Media High Council has vowed to crack down on media houses that do not abide by Rwandan media law. Media houses needed to submit documents to the Media High Council for accreditation. Notable absentees include: Voice of America, Deutsche Welle, Rwanda Dispatch, Business Daily, Rushyashya and Voice of Africa among others. The Media High Council has contacted law enforcement authorities to ensure non-registered media houses do not continue publishing.

**(RNA news agency, Kigali, in English 30 Jul 10)**

- Owners of banned opposition tabloid Umesoso and two other publications have moved their operations to Uganda. They plan on distributing their publications to Rwanda with other major publications entering the country such as the Ugandan Daily Monitor.

- Opposition politician Bernard Ntaganda will spend the coming 30 days in the Kigali Central Prison following a high court ruling.

**(The New Times website, Kigali, in English 28 Jul 10)**

- Kagame “castigated” foreign critics and some sections of the media

saying that big turn-outs at political rallies show what “people want.” Furthermore, he said “those who criticize what is happening in the country know nothing about Rwanda.”

- Opposition candidate Prosper Higiro campaigned in Nyundo. He dismissed rumours that he is about to quit the party or that the Liberal Party will simply hand over votes to Kagame’s Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF).

(RNA news agency, Kigali, in English 28 Jul 10)

- The High Media Council has released a list of approved media houses. The list qualifies 19 radio stations and 22 newspapers. The list does not include controversial papers Umuseso and Umuvugizi.