

Arusha [Ngulinzira: "Let us build a new nation of peace, democracy and tranquility"]

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"The war is unfair and murderous, we must open a new chapter ... let us build a new nation of peace, democracy and tranquility," Ngulinzira said. "Let us forge a new culture of unity," he added.

RPF chairman, Alex Kanyarengwe told the meeting peace was only possible if a democratic atmosphere was created and ethnic hostilities buried.

"We are convinced that the total absence of democracy was and remains the cause of Rwanda's problems," he said adding, "Our strategy is all about introducing democracy".

The war began when the RPF, composed largely of Rwandan-origin refugees, launched an invasion from Uganda in October 1990 in a bid to topple the 19-year-old government of President Juvenal Habyarimana.

Rwanda's majority Hutu tribe had in 1959 risen up against the minority Tutsi feudal rulers. At least 100,000 people were killed in a mas-

sacre and thousands of others, mostly Tutsis, forced to flee.

Tanzanian foreign minister Ahmed Hassan Diria, who is chairing the talks, urged the two sides to approach their negotiations with a sense of maturity and determination to give the people of Rwanda a chance to live in peace.

The latest round of talks is aimed at seeking agreement on establishment of a democratic government of national unity respectful of human rights of Tutsis and Hutus.

Also to be discussed is the integration of RPF forces within the national army if a peace agreement is finally reached, as well as the plight of refugees of the long-running conflict.

The negotiations are being attended by officials from Zaire, Burundi, Tanzania, Uganda, Belgium, France, the United States and the OAU.

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