

Rwanda's main parties agree on coalition government posts

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KIGALI, April 8 (AFP) - Rwanda's five main political parties have agreed on a share-out of posts in a coalition government to be headed by an opposition prime minister, officials said here Wednesday.

President Juvenal Habyarimana's formerly sole, ruling MRND will take nine portfolios, including defence, the interior and planning, while 11 others will go to the opposition.

Major-General Habyarimana appointed Dismas Nsengiyaremye, a leader of the opposition Republican Democratic Movement (MDR), premier last Thursday, in place of the MRND's unpopular Sylvestre Nsanzimana.

Though an agreement on the allocation of portfolios was signed late Tuesday, none of the new ministers have been named.

The National Republican Movement for Development and Democracy (MRND) will be responsible for defence, the interior and communal development, planning, youth, the civil service, health, transport and communications, higher education and scientific research and culture, and the new ministry of the family and women's affairs.

Apart from the prime ministerial post, the MDR was given the ministries of foreign affairs and cooperation, information, and primary and secondary education.

The Social Democrat Party (PSD) will handle agriculture and stockbreeding, finance, energy, and public works.

The Liberal Party was given charge of the justice, labour and social affairs, and industry, trade, mining and crafts portfolios.

A new environment and tourism ministry was allocated to the Christian Democrat Party (PDC).

The small, densely populated mountain nation in east central Africa has been riven with strife between the majority Hutus and Tutsi people throughout its history.

The Rwandan Red Cross reported Wednesday that almost 7,000 Tutsis have still not returned to their homes in the southeastern Bugesera region after massacres carried out by Hutus in the Kanzenze, Gashora and Ngenda districts early in March.

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