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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **DALFA UMURINZI CALLS ON THE GOVERNMENT TO TREAT HUMANELY PEOPLE RESIDING IN AREAS WHERE THERE IS RISK OF FLOODING OR LANDSLIDES**

In the last few days, in the capital city of Kigali, people residing in areas where there is a risk of flooding or landslides are being moved away in a manner that is inhumane. Local authorities take people to go and destroy houses of their neighbors. The unexpected destruction of people's houses leaves people morally devastated. At times household property is destroyed when the destruction takes place in the absence of house owners.

Tenants are being given 30,000 Rwandan francs (\$32 US dollars) to look for accommodation elsewhere and house owners are given 90,000 Rwandan francs (96 US dollars) to look for alternative accommodation. There are even those who did not receive even a penny and are now sleeping in open air during this rainy season. Others have been moved into school premises.

What is taking place is a clear demonstration of lack of proper and sustainable planning in the area of housing. This belies the promise made in vision 2020.

To destroy people's houses without proper compensation that allows them to pay rent elsewhere is not right while accommodating families in a school is a very short-term solution. Furthermore, destroying people's houses is pushing them further down into poverty and impacts negatively on their wellbeing.

DALFA would like to remind the authorities that they are servants of the people. One of their key responsibilities is to help them resolve their problems and to engage them constructively in decisions that affect them and in a manner that respect their inalienable human rights.

DALFA considers that the operation of destroying citizens' houses violates their human rights and calls on the government to stop it. While we agree that the government has the duty to ensure the safety of its citizens, the way in which this duty is fulfilled must respect their rights and laws.

Victoire Ingabire Umuhoza

President of DALFA UMURINZI

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