



PRESS RELEASE

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On Thursday, March 10, 2016, the Deputy Speaker in charge of legal affairs and control of government action, who is also responsible for petitions from the population, received Mr. Frank HABINEZA, the Chairperson of the Democratic Green Party in Rwanda. He was accompanied by other top officials of the party including the Secretary General and the Treasurer. These Green Party officials had come to be given a response to their letter in which they had requested the Parliament/Chamber of Deputies to amend the Law relating to elections, the Law governing political organizations and politicians as well as the Law governing the National Electoral Commission.

The Honorable Deputy Speaker explained to them about the legal provisions and the procedure to be followed with regard to initiating laws or amending them as well as about those in whom the power to do so is vested. They were explained that the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda of 2003 revised in 2015, in Article 88, paragraph One provides that the initiation and amendment of Laws is the right of every Deputy or the Government acting through Cabinet. They were also explained that Article 108 of the Organic Law no 06/2006 of 15/2/2006 establishing Internal Rules of Procedures of the Chamber of Deputies as modified and complemented to date stipulates that any Deputy or group of Deputies has the right to initiate bills and amendments.

It was indicated to the Leadership of this party that neither the Constitution nor the Organic Law establishing the Internal Rules of Procedures of the Chamber of Deputies provides for the possibility for the Authorities of the Parliament/ Chamber of Deputies to instruct a Deputy or a group of Deputies to initiate bills or amendments. As a result, the Democratic Green Party was advised to abide the procedure laid down by the law.

The Leadership of Green Party was given thorough explanations as to the ways and procedure for laws initiation and amendment in the hopes that this will help the party meet their expectations.

Despite the fact that Mr. Frank HABINEZA expressed his concerns that his party has no seat in Parliament and, as a result, he cannot find any Deputy who can voice his request regarding the amendment of the abovementioned laws, he was reminded about Article 65 of the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda of 2003 revised in 2015 which provides that every member of Parliament represents the Nation as a whole and not only those who elected or the political organization which seconded his or her candidacy during elections; and as a matter of fact, members of this party are also, as Rwandans, represented in the Parliament.

