

General Aronda Nyakairima

Chief of Defense Forces (CDF)



Born on July 7 1959, in Rukungiri District South West of Uganda, General Aronda began his career as a soldier when he joined the National Resistance Army (NRA) struggle in 1982 at the age of 23. He was commissioned a UPDF officer at the rank of a Lieutenant in 1988; he rose through the ranks of the Army as Captain (1988); Major (1995); Lieutenant Colonel (1996); Colonel (1998); Brigadier (2001); Major General (2003); Lieutenant General (2004); and General 2005. General Aronda is the current Chief of Defense Forces (CDF) of the Uganda Peoples Defense Forces (UPDF) from October 2005 to present date, the highest military rank in the Ugandan Army. The General is an IMET graduate from the U.S Command and General Staff College (USCGSC) from 1992-1993. Prior to his appointment as CDF, he held the rank of Lieutenant General and served as the Army Commander of the UPDF from June 2003-2005.

Previous assignments include Operations Commander-Operation Iron fist against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Northern Uganda, Southern Sudan and Eastern Congo (2002-2003); Commanding Officer-Armored Brigade (1996-2003); Director Directorate of Military Intelligence (1996); Intelligence Officer-Presidential Protection Unit (1989-1995); Deputy and Guerilla Commander National Resistance Army (1982-1986). The General was a participant in the Constitution making process as an Army delegate to the Constituent Assembly in 1996.

General Aronda has a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Political Science from Makerere University, Kampala. (1981); other military trainings received include; International Security Course in UK (1988); Officers Basic Course in Uganda (1989/90); Junior Staff College in Uganda (1991); and Strategic Studies at Nasser High Military Academy in Cairo, Egypt (1999);

Honors and awards (Command and General Staff College Award), Nalubale and Luwero Triangle medals (Uganda), and a recognition award to his contribution to environmental protection of Uganda from the National Environment Authority Management (NEMA).

General Aronda is a hardworking professional soldier. The General speaks five languages: English, Luo, Luganda, Ruyankole/Rukiga/Runkitara and Swahili.

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