



### Burundi hosts the 5th EAC Civil Aviation Symposium



Burundi has been hosting the 5th East African Community Civil Aviation Symposium in Bujumbura from Tuesday, February 27 to February 28, 2020, held for the first time in Burundi. The Second Vice-President of the Republic, Dr. Joseph Butore, enhanced the opening ceremonies of this symposium with his presence.

Second Vice-President of the Republic Dr Joseph Butore thanked the East African Community Civil Aviation Security and Security Supervision Agency (EAC-CASSOA) for its confidence in Burundi to host this Event.

He said Burundi adheres to all international air transport agreements, with the aim of liaising directly with other countries by air while providing effi-

cient, cost-effective air transport at affordable rates while strengthening the safety and security of global civil aviation.

He added that the modernization, construction and renovation of most airport facilities in Bujumbura are priority projects for Burundi.

Dr Joseph Butore announced that through bilateral cooperation with the Government of the People's Republic of China, the project to extend, rehabilitate and modernize Melchior Ndadaye Airport is underway. The aim is to respond to changes in traffic and to comply with international civil aviation requirements, he added.

The Minister in charge of transport Mr. Jean Bosco Ntunzwenimana an-

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nounced that since Burundi's entry into the East African Community, CASSOA has been a great help to Burundi in harmonizing technical texts and regulations. He said the agency also helped in the sharing of technical resources, particularly during the preparations for international audits of the international civil aviation organization.

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According to the Secretary General of CASSOA, the member countries of the East African community are called upon to address the technical and legal challenges associated with the technological dynamism of civil aviation in the region and to engage stakeholders

in a coordinated collaboration for aviation development in Africa.

As for the Director of the Civil Aviation Authority in Burundi, Mr. Emmanuel Habimana, he said that the holding of this symposium in Burundi is part of the framework of reassuring the world that Burundi is peaceful and it was also an opportunity to confirm that the level achieved is very effective in the results of safety and security audits at Melchior Ndadaye Airport and at the civil aviation level in Burundi.

It should be noted that more than 86 foreigners from the world of civil aviation took part in this 5th symposium, which was held under the theme: **"Evolving in the dynamism of technological transformation: the case of aviation safety and security"**.

(source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

### UNFPA and Minister in of Public Health sign donation agreement



**P**ublic Health and AIDS Minister Dr. Thaddée Ndikumana signed a US\$3.5 million donation agreement with the Resident Representative of the United Nations Population Fund

Mr. Richmond Tiemoko (UNFPA) in Burundi on Monday, February 24, 2020 granted by UNFPA.

Minister Dr. Thaddée Ndikumana said that this funding will be allocated primarily to improving the health of mothers and children, the purchase of birth control contraceptives which is a government concern and welcomed the UNFPA's multifaceted support in various areas of health.

This donation will also be used in the health field through training, said Dr. Thaddée Ndikumana.

( source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

### Young people called upon to take charge of their future

**Y**oung people are called upon to take charge of their future, to develop and to contribute to the development of their surroundings and their respective communities. The call was launched on Monday, February 24, 2020 by the Minister in charge of Youth Honourable Evelyne Butoyi, at the launch of a training workshop on life skills, organized for young leaders of youth centres in Bubanza province.

During the four-day training, young people will be made

aware of self-esteem, health education, patriotism and citizenship education, peaceful conflict resolution and entrepreneurship.

In his opening speech, the Minister of Youth, Posts and Information Technology called on young people to focus first, each on the direction of their future. He reminded them that young people make up 66% of Burundi's population. "It is for this reason that the Government has made a commitment to involve young people in the whole devel-



opment process of the country," said the Minister. Honourable Evelyne Butoyi suggested that in order to join the action, the Government has decided to launch the soon-to-open youth bank. And to recommend that young people organize in cooperatives or associations to develop strong and bankable development projects in order to benefit from the benefits that this bank will offer.

In terms of information and communication technologies, the Minister indicated that this area offers many opportunities if it is used properly. She took the opportunity to ask young people to be aware of the responsibilities that lie ahead and not to waste their time in obscene videos that ultimately lead them into acts of insanity.

Speaking of elections, the Minister in charge of Youth advised young people not to accept being manipulated by malicious politicians, but rather to denounce them in order to preserve peace and security.

It should be noted that this type of training will be provided to young leaders in youth centres in all provinces. According to the Minister in charge of Youth, those who have been invited to such trainings will be required to popularize the lessons they have received so that those they have represented can benefit from them. ( source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## Retirement of staff from the Central Administration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



From 07 to 22 February 2020, Burundi's Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised a Staff retreat from the Central Administration, with the aim of strengthening good governance within the institution.

The retreat began with a training session on the activities of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which were officially opened by Mr. Isidore NTIRAMPEBA, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The activities continued with a presentation by Commissioner Aloys BATUNGWANAYO, an expert who had been sent by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, where he said that the initial mission of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CVR) in Burundi, established in May 2014 was to address the inter-ethnic conflicts that have battered the country since independence on 1 July 1962, until a ceasefire with the last rebel group was signed on 4 December 2008.

The Staff retreat continued in Muyinga where the personnel was

divided into three groups who carried out raids in Muyinga respectively from 07 to 08 February 2020, 14-15 February 2020 and 21-22 February 2020.

During the various presentations, staff were made aware of the first aid concepts. For its part, the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs greatly appreciated this kind of retreat because it is an opportunity to recall and strengthen good governance, as well as communication within the institution, which are also objectives included in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' annual action plan.

It should be noted that the staff retirement ended on 22 April 2020 with the return of the 3rd group.

(MFA-Newsroom)

## Workshop/Media: Journalists and the media must be at the service of democracy



Journalists and media officials attended training on the role and social responsibility of journalists and the media during elections on Thursday, 27 February 2020, under the auspices of the Assistant Minister of Communication and Media, Thierry Kitamoya. All speakers called on journalists and the media to serve democracy, truth and the pursuit of the common good for the people and communities.

In his occasional speech, the Assistant Minister of Communication and Media called on journalists to use their expertise and professionalism to create a calm and reassuring electoral environment before the election begins. He also invited them to give the floor to everyone in order to deliver balanced information.

Mr. Thierry Kitamoya declared on this occasion that the training will allow journalists to be sufficiently equipped to prepare the minds of voters so that they go to the elections in complete serenity.

According to Mr. Jacques Bukuru, one of the trainers who gave a presentation on the role and social responsibility of the media and journalists; media and journalists play an important role during the election period because, he explained, media and journalists relay the voice of voters and ensure that the election runs smoothly.

Mr Jacques Bukuru did not fail to recall Article 10 of the electoral code which instructs journalists and the media not to publish or broadcast by any channel, even the internet, the provisional or final results of an election, other than those officially announced by the electoral commission.

Ambassador Pierre Claver Ndayicariye, the 2nd speaker who analysed the behaviour of journalists during elections, recalled that a journalist who plays a political role sacrifices his personality, identity and

security.

He also noted that elections are a battle of large battalions, for big issues, an opportunity to call on journalists to be neutral and to deliver balanced information.

The third speaker, Professor Adolphe Sururu, said in his presentation on the management of speech by journalists during elections that journalists and media must be at the service of democracy, truth and the quest for common good for people and communities.

For Professor Adolphe Sururu, freedom of expression does not mean saying and writing everything that goes through our heads but expressing with responsibility what can contribute to the good of our communities, or even humanity.

He also said that a journalist in search of truth must analyse and denounce before adding that the journalist is the moral conscience of public opinion and civil society. For this, Professor Adolphe Sururu explained that the journalist exposes facts that could help the public to access the truth and thus force the political authorities to be transparent.

Finally, the latter speaker noted that in addition to their role of informing, training and entertaining, the educational mission of the media is also essential especially in societies in the midst of reconstruction.

(source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## The Secretary General of the CNDD-FDD party submits his candidacy for the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) to the 2020 presidential elections



The Secretary General of the CNDD-FDD party was the first to submit his candidacy to the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 for the presidential elections next May. In his capacity as Secretary General of the CNDD-FDD, he also submitted the CNDD-FDD's candidacies for deputies in all constituencies.

After submitting his candidacy for the presidential elections next May, the Secretary General of the CNDD-FDD party General Evariste Ndayishimiye hosted a press conference during which he explored the different sectors of the country's life before answering to the questions of the day.

During this press conference, the Secretary General of the CNDD-FDD announced to national and international opinion that he had just submitted his candidacy to the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) for the presidential elections in May next as a candidate of the CNDD-FDD party, in accordance with the electoral law and calendar. He thanked all the members of his political party who, through their representatives at the congress of 26 January 2020, placed their trust in him to represent the CNDD-FDD party in the 2020 presidential elections.

General Major Evariste Ndayishimiye seized the opportunity to express his gratitude to all those who continue to show their support, especially Burundians and foreigners who sent him messages of congratulations.

For him, the CNDD-FDD party is satisfied with the political climate as members of political parties and independents prepare for elections in harmony, in complete tranquility, a first in our country. "This is an eloquent sign that democracy has taken root in our country and that Burundians are politically mature,"

said General Evariste Ndayishimiye.

The Secretary General of the CNDD-FDD took the opportunity to appeal to all Burundians to come together in cooperatives so that the state could find channels through which it could support their development projects.

General Major Evariste Ndayishimiye congratulated the Government of Burundi for focusing its efforts on promoting the well-being of the population based on the programmes of the CNDD-FDD party. "It is a pride to have met the aspirations of the people. This encourages us and we hope that even during the next seven-year term, once elected, the CNDD-FDD party will do everything in its power to bring the Burundian people to other stages of inclusive development. Together, we will achieve this," said the CNDD-FDD's Secretary General.

General Major Evariste Ndayishimiye thanked the State of Burundi for taking the decision to transfer political capital to Gitega where the departments most sought after by the population will also be transferred. The Secretary General of the CNDD-FDD also thanked the Government of Burundi for taking the decision to grant capital to development cooperatives to increase agropastoral production.

On the eve of the 2020 elections, the CNDD-FDD's candidate calls on the leaders of other political parties and independents to work in accordance with the law and to advocate for harmony in their diversity.

For General Major Evariste Ndayishimiye, the financing of the elections by Burundians themselves has demonstrated their ability to organize their country and has shown that Burundi is truly independent. This is also reflected in the general state budget, 90% of which comes from the taxes of Burundian taxpayers. CNDD-FDD's Secretary General also called on Burundians in exile to return home to help rebuild the country.

The Bagumyabanga, the Bakenyererugamba, the Imbonerakure and the wise men of the CNDD-FDD are called to remain serene, to serve as models by not giving in to provocation and living in accordance with the law. He also invited them to take the lead in promoting the country's socio-economic development.

As a CNDD-FDD candidate, General Major Evariste

Ndayishimiye promised to conform to his party's ideals once elected and to implement the party's programmes.

Responding to the question of whether he is satisfied with the record of the 15 years that the CNDD-FDD has just passed at the head of the country, General Evariste Ndayishimiye indicated that the record of the CNDD-FDD legislature is largely satisfactory. For him, the new leaders will inherit a sufficiently advanced country and it will be possible for them to embrace the step already taken to propel the country on the rails of development.

With regard to the controversial work and statements of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CVR), the Secretary General of the CNDD-FDD said that those who believe that the work of the CVR is likely to arouse ethnic hatred are mistaken. He suggested that the times are over and that the whole truth must be known in order to initiate a process of reconciliation in all truth.

Regarding the question of what he intends to do to address the political intolerance that persists between certain members of the various political parties, General Major Evariste Ndayishimiye said that political intolerance is a history of Past. "There is no more po-

litical intolerance today. Clashes can occur between two individuals from different political parties but in a private setting. These are isolated cases that have nothing to do with political parties," replied General Evariste Ndayishimiye. He also stressed that those who provoke clashes are punished individually.

For political exiles who claim to have been stranded on the way home, General Evariste Ndayishimiye said that these people did not follow the normal repatriation procedure. Instead of going directly to the Burundian Embassy abroad, he said, the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) should instead take care of all the steps they need to do, in collaboration with the host country and with Burundi repatriation of political refugees

(source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## EAC: 20 thousand U.S. dollars for winners in the production of a short film



A regional competition for a short film involving all EAC countries was launched on Friday, 21 February 2020 in Bujumbura as part of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the EAC.

The campaign was launched under the theme "The East African Community I deserve," a theme that was chosen to ensure integration, expand cooperation and create a smooth, friendlier and memorable transition.

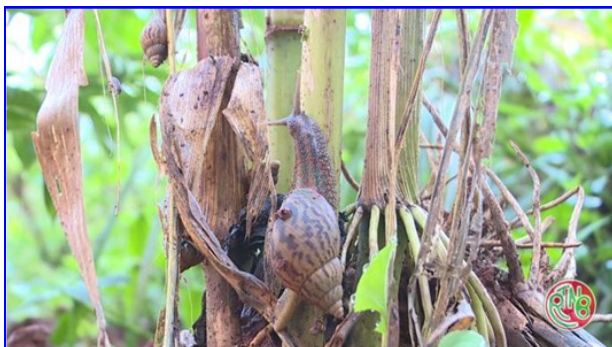
Participants in the competition will produce a short film ranging from 30 to

59 minutes and the age of the participants varies between 18 and 35 years. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for EAC Affairs, Ambassador Jean Rigi, said that the competition will include the leaders of youth associations from different socio-professional backgrounds as well as students from the public and private academic institutions.

EAC Secretary General Mr Liberat Mpfumukeko said the 30 winners will have a prize of US\$20 thousand and asked Burundian youth to work hard to win the competition.

(source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## Gitega: Devastating snails threaten crop fields



**D**ifferent crop fields in some localities in Gitega province have been invaded for some time by snails pests. In the Nyabututsi district, these snails ravage crop leaves such as banana plantations, beans, corn, fruit plantations, etc. Farmers say they have tried to control these snails using methods such as collecting but to no avail.

According to farmers found in their fields, these

snails multiply at an alarming rate and especially during rainy periods. Nevertheless, they ask the officials of the Plant Protection Department to intervene very quickly and find a solution to effectively control these snails pests that threaten their fields of cultivation. They indicated that they are in a situation of desolation because production may not be good.

Officials in the Department of Plant Protection at the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock indicate that they are aware of this situation and ask farmers to continue to collect these snails waiting for adequate solutions.

(source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## Bujumbura hosts a forum on the Economic Freedom Index



**T**he Centre for Development and Enterprises great lakes (CDE) in collaboration with the Burundian Agency for investment promotion (API) organized a MFASHAKUMENYA 2020 forum for National Experts and Representatives of the People, technical working groups on doing business, leading representatives of business and academia, etc. to see together how economic freedom promotes prosperity and Welfare.

The MFASHAKUMENYA forum will enable various stakeholders in the business world to identify both the strengths and weaknesses related to economic



freedom in Burundi, the appropriate strategies for combating poverty and implementation National Development Programme PND 2018-2027.

According to Mr. Aimable Manirakiza Executive Secretary of the CDE, the ultimate goal of this forum is to advance Burundi on an economic trajectory. He explained that this trajectory will ensure a better and brighter future for citizens, by developing and providing important information to development stakeholders on public policies that create prosperity.

Mr Aimable Manirakiza said that it has been shown that economic freedom, extended to all, generates positive

social and economic results including opportunities, economic diversification, increased economic growth and job creation.

He added that economic freedom reflects the ability of individuals and families to make their own economic decisions without interference from the Government or buddy capitalists. The ingenuity and motivation of individuals are more effective, prosperity and other positive outcomes such as government planning or greed are achieved, concluded the Executive Secretary of the CDE.

In his opening speech, the Director of the Promotion and Investment Agency (API) Mr Désiré Musharitse said that the objectives of this forum are in a good way with those of the Government of Burundi as contained in PNB2018-2027. It is with this in mind that the Government of Burundi has initiated a series of reforms, including the creation of the API to facilitate the "business creation" indicator.

According to Mr. Desire Musharitse, the Government of Burundi is aware that the participation of the structured and efficient private sector in the country's eco-

nomie development is one of Burundi's fundamentals and not only creates a middle class economic operators, but also to develop the foundations for strong and sustainable economic growth.

The Director of API deploras the fact that some barriers remain in the area of economic freedom. He explained that Burundi's economy is experiencing strong structural constraints including its landlockedness, the small size of its market, high and widespread poverty, low human capital, its energy deficit and its dependence on prices international commodities. The decision to invest in Burundi can also be delayed by a range of obstacles such as corruption, difficult access to the financial market, unfair competition from the informal sector, etc., said Mr. Désiré Musharitse.

He called on all Burundians, in Burundi and the Diaspora, to take initiatives to support the Government of Burundi to lead and succeed in the effective implementation of its PND 2018-2027.

(source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))



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**REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI****PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC  
Secretariat-General of the Government****MEDIA RELEASE CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 AND THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2020**

A Cabinet Meeting was held on Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 February 2020 under the chairmanship of His Excellency Pierre Nkurunziza, President of the Republic of Burundi. The following items have been analyzed:

**1. Bill establishing the comprehensive state budget for the financial year 2020/2021**, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Development Cooperation. This finance bill for the 2020/2021 financial year comes in an environment characterized by international economic recovery.

At the national level, this bill is prepared in a particular context where the country is approaching elections on the one hand, and in a context marked by a moderate recovery in the economy and by the pursuit of prudent fiscal policy and prioritization in the management of the state budget, on the other hand. Fiscal policy will continue to focus on the implementation of the National Development Plan while ensuring alignment of sector budgets with the various programs and projects of this Plan.

It is in this spirit that the preparation of the 2020/2021 Budget was made on the basis of the priorities sent by the various ministries and institutions. To this end, account has been taken of the priorities selected in the 2018-2027 National Development Plan, which puts particular emphasis on growth sectors.

## 2

For the 2020/2021 fiscal year, the policy of prioritization in the execution of the state budget will be maintained in order to properly control and manage any activity or event involving public spending. The budget year will also be marked by a policy aimed at supporting local businesses so that they can be more competitive on foreign markets.

At the social level, certain measures will be implemented during the 2020/2021 financial year. Thus, in order to continue to support its civil servants even during retirement, the government will grant a subsidy representing the expenses linked to user fees for health care paid by state retirees not covered by the Mutual Fund for the Civil Service.

In order to increase revenue, further steps will be taken to broaden the tax base, combat tax evasion and avoidance, strengthen the collection of arrears, and contain tax exemptions. For the 2020/2021 financial year, the total resources of the General State Budget are estimated at 1,415.51 billion Fbu against 1,327.08 billion Fbu for the 2019/2020 financial year, an increase of 6.66%.

As for expenses, they increased from 1,516.4 billion Fbu in 2019/2020 to 1,569.3 billion Fbu for FY 2020/2021, an increase of 3.4%. The overall deficit of the 2020/2021 General Budget thus amounts to 153.8 billion Fbu against 189.3 billion Fbu for the 2019/2020 financial year, a decrease of 35.5 billion francs bu.

After an in-depth debate on this bill, the Council adopted it with a few recommendations to be taken into account.

**2. Bill governing the regulatory authority for capital markets in Burundi,** presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Development Cooperation.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Treaty establishing the East African Community relating to the implementation of financial market development plans, the Republic of Burundi has initiated reforms aimed at improving the business environment in general and modernizing the financial sector in particular. It is in this context that Law No. 05/05 of February 27, 2019 governing the capital market in Burundi was promulgated.

This bill provides in its article 5 that "a specific law creates the authority of regulation of the capital market and defines the missions, the organization and the functioning". This project is proposed within this framework. The capital market regulatory authority is in place to protect investors and ensure a fair, efficient and transparent market.

After the analysis, this bill was adopted with a few corrections. A team has been put in place to take care of its finalization.

**3. Multisectoral Strategic Plan for Food Security and Nutrition, second generation (PSAM II),** presented by the Services of the Second Vice-Presidency of the Republic.

The nutritional status of children under the age of 5 is a good indicator of the nutritional and dietary status of a country's population. Without adequate nutrition, children cannot grow properly or develop to their full potential. Malnourished children are generally weak or unhealthy to attend school and will be less productive as adults.

Malnutrition is a multifactorial problem that requires a multisectoral, multi-actor and multi-level response. Hence the need for effective coordination so that the interventions complement each other and converge towards reversing the trend and make it possible to break the vicious circle where malnutrition perpetuates poverty which, in turn, perpetuates malnutrition. It is therefore essential to bring all stakeholders together around a common framework of actions which is the Multisectoral Strategic Plan.

With the end of the implementation of the Multisectoral Food Security and Nutrition Strategic Plan 2014-2017, it became necessary and urgent to develop a second plan, to not only ensure the continuity of the first plan, but also to put new strategies that can help improve the nutritional situation in Burundi.

The cost of this Plan is 810,943,482,412 Fbu for the period from 2013 to 2023.

After discussion and debate, the Council noted that certain indicators needed to be corrected and set up a team which will rework the document. The reworked document will be brought back to the Council of Ministers within two weeks.

**4. Draft decree establishing and operating a toponymic standardization steering committee**, presented by the Services of the Second Vice-Presidency of the Republic.

Toponymy is the study of place names in general and geographic names in particular. To name a place is to distinguish it from the others by a precise name to recognize it. Toponymy provides the expected services only if it is precise and exact and if the names are actually those of the designated entities, identifiable and recognizable in the field.

However, there is often more than one known name for a given place. For various reasons, this can produce different spellings that confuse databases. Conferences and seminars under the aegis of the United Nations on the standardization of geographical names have taken place with the aim of inventorying the problems facing African countries for the collection and processing of toponyms, to compare the experiences of and each other in this area and to benefit from each other.

For Burundi, it is time to think about the normalization of its different geographical names because although toponymy exists, there is no lack of ambiguity among users of the latter.

The purpose of this project is to comply with the various UN resolutions relating to geographical names by setting up a toponymic standardization steering committee which will define the strategic guidelines in terms of toponymy.

After analyzing this project, the Council adopted it but appointed a team that will support it in its finalization. The text will also be written in Kirundi.

**5. Bill revising Law No. 1/22 of December 30, 2011 reorganizing higher education in Burundi**, presented by the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research

Higher education in Burundi is today organized by Law No. 1/22 of December 30, 2011. Although not very old, this law needs to be revised for various reasons. This revision integrates the relevant elements related to the national qualification and certification framework. The latter is indeed a tool intended to show the relations which exist between the various qualifications at various levels of basic education, post-basic education, higher education as well as

technical and professional training. This project also regulates, without distinguishing them, the public sector and the private sector as regards to the organization of higher education. This project also refers to the norms and standards of the East African Community in the matter.

This project also fits with the National Development Plan in its axis 5 which relates to the strengthening of the educational system and the improvement of the training offer with the objective of developing an efficient system in accordance with national needs and international standards. It is in this context that the national qualification and certification framework is part of the innovations of this bill in order to associate all training sectors, from the bottom to the top. This project also organizes the orientation of the winners of the schools of excellence who will soon be accepted in higher education.

After fruitful discussion, the project was adopted with a few recommendations to be taken into account.

**6. Draft national qualification and certification framework in Burundi,** presented by the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

The national qualification and certification framework in Burundi is a reference and orientation tool allowing to describe and define the levels of training of the education system, the conditions of admission as well as the titles delivered at the end of a training. It shows the relationships between the different levels of basic education, post-basic education, higher education as well as technical and vocational training. It also makes it possible to identify diversified training programs allowing career choice or lasting integration into the job market.

Designed on the basis of regional and international references, the national qualification and certification framework encourages lifelong learning. It aims to promote education and training adapted to the requirements of the labor and employment market.

It responds to the regional need for harmonization of the education systems of the East African community in accordance with the Common Market protocol for East Africa which establishes the mobility of students and workers. It should be noted that Burundi remained the only country in the East African Community that did not have this reference tool.

At the end of the analysis of this project, the Council adopted it.

**7. Draft memorandum of understanding between the State of Burundi and AFRITEXTILE for the revitalization of cotton production in Burundi by the modernization of COGERCO**, presented by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Breeding.

Summits of Heads of State of EAC and ECCAS of which Burundi is a member have already ruled that the development of the cotton-textile-clothing sector constitutes a strategic objective for the development of their countries. With regard to Burundi, the National Development Plan includes in its strategic objectives the increase in cotton production.

The national strategy for the development of the cotton-textile-clothing sector aims, as its objective, to increase national production up to 5000 tonnes.

However, the Compagnie de Gérance du Coton (COGERCO), which is the only cotton production unit in our country, experienced difficulties which led to a

drop in its production, going from 3400 tonnes in 1971 to less than 500 tonnes today.

AFRITEXTILE has already expressed interest in partnering with the government to increase cotton production by making the necessary investments. The main thrust of this draft Memorandum is for the Government to authorize AFRITEXTILE to make financial investments in the cotton production sector through public-private partnership in accordance with the legislation in force.

After analyzing this project, the Council adopted it with a few corrections to be taken into account and a team was put in place to assist in its finalization.

**8. Bill pertaining to the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the additional loan agreement between the Republic of Burundi and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa relating to the rehabilitation project of the multinational Burundi-Rwanda road, section 1 Bujumbura - Nyamitanga: "Duplication of the Chanic roundabout section at Melchior NDADAYE International Airport" from Bujumbura signed in Washington in April 2019, presented by the Minister of Transport, Public Works, Equipment and Regional Planning**

The \$ 7 million in funding is in addition to another loan already made by BADEA for the construction of the Bujumbura-Nyamitanga road. It will mainly be used for the rehabilitation and extension of the section from the "Chanic" roundabout to the level of the Melchior NDADAYE International Airport.

This section of road is approximately 6 km long and will be in four lanes.

The construction of this road is part of the national strategy for the development of the transport sector, which aims to strengthen the national road network, in particular the corridors to open up the country.



After discussion, the project was adopted subject to finalization of the formal aspects by a team designated for this purpose.

**9. Note relating to the exploitation of rubble and laterite on the Nyabibuye site in Isare Municipality for the implementation of the modernization project of the Port of Bujumbura,** presented by the Minister of Transport, Public Works, Equipment and spatial planning.

This note had been analyzed in the Council of Ministers on December 19, 2019. During this meeting, it was recalled that the Government had already taken the measure to prohibit the exploitation of construction materials on the hills overlooking the City of Bujumbura in view of the dangers that this presented.

It was then recommended in particular to identify another site not far away where the company which won the market for the modernization of the Port of Bujumbura could exploit the materials it needs and in case this site is not identified and that we would be obliged to allocate the Nyabibuye site, to propose measures to be taken to protect the City of Bujumbura.

After analysis of the issue by the team that was put in place, it identified two other sites, namely: the Gakungwe site in Kabezi commune and the Kididaguzo site in Rugazi commune. It was this proposal that was brought to the attention of the Council of Ministers.

After analyzing this proposal, the Council took note of it and asked that the company which won the contract be officially informed, from an authorized source, of this measure to change the site for the exploitation of rubble and

laterite taken by the Government of Burundi so that urgent adaptation measures can be taken for a happy outcome for both parties.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

- The Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS informed the Council on the health measures taken for people entering Burundi from countries where the epidemic of Coronavirus is already reported.

- The Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism spoke of a COMESA delegation visiting Burundi.

He also spoke of the shortage of BRARUDI products that is currently observed.

- The Minister of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender informed the Council that given that the International Women's Day celebrated on March 8 will coincide with Sunday, it will be celebrated on Monday 9 March 2020.

**Done at Bujumbura, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE  
Secretary-General and Spokesman  
of the Government. -**

# Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## Department of Communication

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