

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI**PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat-General of the State****MEDIA RELEASE CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 02 SEPTEMBER 2020**

A Cabinet Meeting was held on Wednesday 2nd of September 2020 in Gitega, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi. The following items were analyzed:

1. Draft decree on the missions, organization and functioning of the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research, presented by the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research.

Decree No. 100/007 of June 28, 2020 on the structure, operation and missions of the Government of the Republic of Burundi brought together the national education sector and that of scientific research.

Through the structure proposed to organize this ministry, the major concern is to allow the operation of services in a fluid and coordinated manner in the execution of actions leading to the achievement of the objectives pursued in these sectors.

For more operationality and efficiency of services and to better take into account the progress of the Burundian education system on the one hand, and the orientations of the Government on the other hand, it is judicious to bring innovations and some changes in the organization of this ministry in order to better respond to these imperatives and above all to guarantee sectoral uniqueness and consistency from the grassroots to the top.

Among other innovations, it is worth mentioning:

- the abolition of the Directorate of Literacy to focus efforts on basic school;

- the establishment of a General Directorate in charge of National Education with the aim of controlling the education sector from the grassroots to the top;
- the establishment of a General Directorate responsible for technical, vocational and trades training;
- the establishment of a Ministerial General Inspection,
Etc...

After discussions, the project was adopted with a few alterations.

2. Draft decree on the missions, organization and functioning of the Ministry of the East African Community, Youth, Sports and Culture, presented by the Minister of the East African Community, Youth, Sports and Culture.

Decree No. 100/007 of June 28, 2020 on the structure, operation and missions of the Government of the Republic of Burundi merged two ministries, namely the former Ministry at the Presidency in charge of East African Community Affairs, and the former Ministry of Sports and Culture as well as part of the former Ministry of Youth, Posts and Information Technologies.

The main objective of this draft decree is to provide the Ministry with an institutional working framework allowing operational and efficient functioning, in order to facilitate the implementation of Burundi's commitments to the East African Community. It will bring the benefits of integration to Burundi so that it really brings added value to national efforts for political, economic and social development.

This project clearly shows the mission assigned to each Department, the targeted objective and its added value for the Burundian people.

After the debate, the draft was adopted with some corrections.

3. Draft decree on the missions, organization and functioning of the Ministry of Communication, Information Technologies and Media, presented by the Minister of Communication, Information Technologies and Media.

This draft decree complies with decree n ° 100/007 of June 28, 2020 on the structure, functioning and missions of the Government of the Republic of Burundi.

At the level of the missions of the Ministry, these are not very different from those contained in decree n ° 100/082 of July 20, 2018 on the missions and functioning of the Ministry of Youth, Posts and Information Technologies, apart from the Youth sector which was attached to another Ministry.

Nevertheless, this project brings innovations in the structure and organization of the Ministry in order to strengthen its capacities to accomplish the missions assigned to it in compliance with the standards of good management of public affairs. This is notably the introduction into the structure of the Ministry of an Inspectorate General which did not exist before.

After the analysis, the project was adopted with some tweaking.

4. Draft decree on the missions, organization and functioning of the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, presented by the Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender.

This project is adapted to decree n ° 100/007 of June 28, 2020 on the structure, operation and missions of the Government of the Republic of Burundi.

Among other innovations, this project adapts the old name of the General Inspection of the Ministry to the current one and suggests that it includes three Technical Inspections.

The project also proposes the creation of a General Directorate for the Resettlement and Sustainable Reintegration of Victims.

This project also proposes the introduction of a new Department called "Department of prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and holistic care of victims".

Finally, the project proposes a reform of the Family and Community Development Centers into Provincial Directorates of Family and Social Development.

Following the analysis of this project, the Council adopted it with some modifications.

5. Draft decree on the missions, organization and functioning of the Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mining, presented by the Minister of Hydraulics, Energy and Mining.

Decree No. 100/007 of June 28, 2020 on the structure, operation and missions of the Government of the Republic of Burundi added a new mission to the Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mining, namely “Designing the policy of the Ministry in the field of good governance”.

The project entrusts this mission to the General Inspectorate of the Ministry and has no impact on the structure and organization of the Ministry which remains unchanged.

However, this project clarifies certain missions at the level of the General Directorates and the Directorates without altering the content.

After analysis, the Council of Ministers adopted this project with slight corrections.

6. Draft decree on the missions, organization and operation of the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, presented by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock

In order to comply with Decree ° 100/007 of June 28, 2020 on the structure, functioning and missions of the Government of the Republic of Burundi, and to implement the guidelines of the highest authorities in agricultural matters, it is proposed to reorganize otherwise the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock.

This reorganization proposes a structure that will achieve the main objective assigned to the Ministry which is to increase production, ensure food security for all and generate marketable surpluses while protecting the environment. The transfer of the General Directorate of Land Use Planning to this ministry as well as the creation of a Directorate of Rural Engineering and Irrigation is in line with this and will allow rational land management.

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted with, among other recommendations, a strict ban on the sale or purchase of properties or plots granted by the State to individuals. The Council took this opportunity to warn anyone who is going to sell and / or buy land or a parcel allocated by the State to another person, that both expose themselves to the rigors of the law because, they are all thieves.

He further requested that an inventory be made of all lands or plots that have not been developed or have been improperly allocated to put them back in the hands of the state.

7. Draft decree on the missions, organization and functioning of the Ministry of Public Service, Labor and Employment, presented by the Minister of Public Service, Labor and Employment

Decree No. 100/007 of June 28, 2020 on the structure, operation and missions of the Government of the Republic of Burundi added two new missions to the Ministry, namely:

- Design the Ministry's policy on good governance
- Develop standards for better management of state services and goods and monitor their effective application.

As another novelty, like the National School of Administration, the Higher Institute of Business Management was attached to this Ministry, with the recommendation to bring it back to its original missions which is the enhancement of professional capacities on the job with certifying and non-diploma training.

Even if these new missions do not have an impact on the structure and organization of the Ministry, it is necessary to review the decree in force to integrate them. This is the purpose of this draft decree.

At the end of the debate, the project was adopted with some corrections with the recommendation to speed up the inventory work of all civil servants and their specifications because it is very urgent.

8. Bill amending Law No. 1/08 of April 28, 2011 on the organization of public administration, presented by the Minister of Public Service, Labor and Employment.

The Constitution of the Republic of Burundi of 2018 provides for the composition of the superstructure which includes the President of the Republic, the Vice-President of the Republic as well as the Prime Minister.

The services of this superstructure, like other public services, are governed by the law on the organization of public administration which determines the general rules for the organization of public services.

Since the promulgation of the current Constitution in 2018, Law n ° 1/08 of April 28, 2011 on the organization of the public administration has become unconstitutional on these aspects, since it regulates the services of the Vice-Presidencies at the time, when there is only one Vice-Presidency currently, and that it does not provide for the services of the Prime Minister, which exists in the new Constitution.

In addition, decree n ° 100/037 of June 28, 2020 on the structure, functioning and missions of the Government of the Republic of Burundi merged certain Ministries in order to form a strong and dynamic Government. As a result, certain central services of the Ministries such as the Permanent Secretariat find themselves with varied tasks requiring varied expertise. This project provides for the possibility for a single ministry to have more than one Permanent Secretary depending on its scope and the areas it covers.

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted with some modifications.

9. Draft decree on the organization of the Communal Administration, presented by the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security.

Provincial administration services are governed by Decree No. 100/146 of 12 October 1995 regulating provincial services. This decree has become obsolete and needs updating.

Indeed, the 2018 Constitution specifies that "Executive power is delegated, at the provincial level, to a Province Governor responsible for coordinating the administrative services working in the Province".

This draft decree complies with the Constitution by highlighting the role of the Province Governor in coordinating all the activities undertaken in his Province, including that of the provincial technical services and those of the municipal administrators.

In addition, the project grants the Provincial Governor the exercise of political, administrative and financial supervision over the municipalities under his jurisdiction in accordance with the law of February 2020 on the organization of municipal administration.

After the analysis, the project was adopted with minor adjustments.

10. Any Other Business

- The Minister of Hydraulics, Energy and Mining spoke about the issue of compensation for people expropriated for public utility in the case of development of energy projects or mining projects.

Indeed, people tend to set the basis for negotiating compensation rates by region. He called for the 2008 ordinance setting the tariffs for compaction in the event of public utility expropriation to be reviewed so that there is a common basis for calculating compensation.

It was asked to prepare the related project for a subsequent analysis by the Council of Ministers.

- The Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS informed the Council that the “NDAKIRA-SINANDURA-SINANDUZA” prevention and fight campaign against COVID-19 is leading to very satisfactory results.

However, he spoke of some challenges including insufficient funding and the delay in ordering reagents and other inputs for the Covid-19 response. He informed the Council, in addition to the measures already taken to strengthen this campaign, other measures, such as facilitating the disbursement of funds already available dedicated to the response to Covid-19 because it is an emergency.

- The Minister of National Education and Scientific Research spoke about the problem of managing failure cases in 9th grade. Indeed, he informed that the vocational schools which should normally accommodate those who could not pass the 9th year are not equipped or quite simply lack teachers.

The Minister was granted a special dispensation to give the same clear and precise guidelines for all schools on the practical modalities of granting repetition places in an equitable manner.

- Before wrapping up the meeting, His Excellency the President of the Republic recalled the interest and importance for members of the Government and other dignitaries to declare their property upon taking office.

He also informed that the document related to the development of projects to promote young people is being finalized and that it will soon be validated.

Finally, he asked that the files to be analyzed in the Council of Ministers be prepared in time at the level of the ministries so that at each level there is sufficient time for possible enrichment or observations.

Done at Gitega, September 2nd, 2020

**Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE
Secretary-General and Spokesman.-**