



### The Head of State organizes a fundraising for the rehabilitation of the Kamenge market



The Head of State His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye paid a support visit to traders in the burnt market of Kamenge on Monday, October 05, 2020. He was in the company of businessmen, insurers, bankers. They made a surge of solidarity, going up to 2 billion Burundian Francs for the rehabilitation of the market.

In his welcome address, the Mayor of the City of Bujumbura CP Jimmy Hatungimana welcomed the presence of the Head of State at this market according to the Mayor of the City, the presence of the President of the Republic at this market during these moments of distress comforted all the townspeople".

In his compassionate speech, the Head of State His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye said that all Burundians are in commiseration in the face of this misfortune which befell their compatriots traders in this burnt market. He asked them to hold on in these times of great loss.

Based on the story of Job who was

tempted by Satan but to no avail, he advised them not to despair in the face of this situation, explaining that the responsible and hard-working Government is not going to abandon them. The Head of State took this opportunity to ask any charitable soul



to show a gesture of support for the rehabilitation of this market.

During this visit, businessmen, insurers, company bosses, companies and individuals pledged to support the traders victims of the fire that ravaged the Kamenge market. They have shown their desire for solidarity up to 2 billion FBU.

The Head of State asked the bankers who granted loans to these traders' victims of the fire to review their interests as they did in 2013 during the fire in the central market and to refinance them in order to be able to pay debts.

The Head of State has promised to set up a management and rehabilita-

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tion committee for the Kamenge market and to open a solidarity account to help these traders who have lost their property in this market. The association of banks

has promised to review the employment contracts with their customers who were victims of this fire.

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

### The Head of State receives in audience the Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the DRC



The Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye received in audience on Monday, October 5, 2020, a high-level delegation from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is led by the Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs of this country, His Excellency Madame Marie Tumba Nzeza. Their talks focused on the issues related to peace and security. They also discussed the development of trade relations between the two countries.

According to the Congolese Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs, bilateral relations between the two countries are excellent. Nevertheless, H.E Madam Marie

Tumba Nzeza expressed her country's desire to further strengthen these relations with Burundi.

During this hearing, the Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Congo expressed to the Head of State and the Burundian people a message of comfort following the disappearance of former Head of State, H.E Pierre Nkurunziza .

Her Excellency Marie Tumba Nzeza took the opportunity to reiterate to the Burundian Head of State the invitation of his country to the meeting of the Great Lakes countries that the Democratic Republic of Congo is organizing.

In this regard, the Burundian Head of State thanked his Congolese counterpart for all these initiatives and recognized the importance of a meeting of the countries of the sub-region.

However, for the Head of State, the strengthening of bilateral relations between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo takes precedence over such a meeting because, according to him, the two countries have common concerns of their own and that they do not share with the rest of the countries of the sub-region.

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

### Judicial start 2020-2021: " fair justice is the mission of the new Government "



The Ministry of Justice proceeded, at the Kigobe Convention Center on Friday, October 2, 2020, to the re-entry into the judiciary, fiscal year 2020-2021, under the theme "fair justice is the mission of the responsible Government". The ceremonies were enhanced by the presence of the President of the Republic His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye.

In his opening speech for the 2020-2021 judicial year, the Head of State congratulated the judiciary sector for the work it accomplished during the 2019-2020 fiscal year. He urged magistrates to work impartially, to avoid corrup-

tion and other behaviors that reflect a bad image of this judiciary.

His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye also recalled the important role that the council of notables played at the time. And to specify that the council of notables will have its role to play in social cohesion and in the settlement of certain disputes at hill level. The Head of State called on judges to behave like good fathers of families because no one is above the law. He has also reassured the people that the responsible and hard-working Government will work for everyone's benefit. According to him, if justice fully plays its role, peace and democracy will be guaranteed.

The Head of State also warned the administrative Authorities who make mistakes in thinking that the Government will answer for their actions. The President of the Republic also asked people who do justice themselves, to break with this bad behavior and called on the judiciary to improve its image because, according to him, most cases are done when justice does not fully play its role.

Speaking, the Minister of Justice Madam Jeanine Nibizi affirmed that the development of the country is not possible without a healthy and effective jus-

tice. She also recalled some of the achievements of the Ministry of Justice during the 2019-2020 financial year and the prospects during 2020-2021. Among the achievements, she mentioned in particular the rehabilitation and extension of prison houses, the translation of certain laws into Kirundi, the capacity building of personnel working in the judicial sector, to name but a few.

And in relation to future prospects, the Ministry of Justice intends to build in Gitega, the political capital of the country, the infrastructure that will house this Ministry of Justice, do everything possible to reduce the number of detainees in prisons, replace the sentence of imprisonment for public service and the training of prisoners in various professions, the organization of awareness-raising sessions for the personnel of the judicial system in the fight against impunity, economic embezzlement and corruption etc., explained the Minister in charge of Justice.

The Minister of Justice closed her speech by specifying that she is aware that all this will only be possible if all the judicial staff, without exception, are firmly involved in the implementation of the tasks assigned to them.

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

## The First Lady receives in audience the Resident Representative of the World Bank in Burundi



The First Lady Her Excellency Madam Angéline Ndayishimiye received in audience on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, the Resident Representative of the World Bank in Burundi, Madam Véronique Kabongo. The two personalities discussed the work and the objectives of the First Lady and analyzed to what extent the World Bank can come in support.

The Resident Representative of the World Bank in Burundi indicated that they have found common ground: the objective of the empowerment of women which is a



central element of the World Bank's program in Burundi and which is at the

heart of the interests of the First Lady.

The two personalities agreed to work soon on this agenda which constitutes an important development theme for Burundi and which concerns more than half of the Burundian population.

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

## Joint review of the performance of the World Bank portfolio in Burundi



The Burundian Prime Minister His Excellency CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni proceeded on Friday October 2, 2020 to the opening of a workshop on the joint review of the performance of the portfolio of the World Bank in Burundi.

According to the Resident Representative of the World Bank in Burundi, Mrs. Véronique Kabongo, indicated that this Bank has been in Burundi since 1957 and finances Government projects and that an evaluation of these projects is an integral part of the mechanisms for implementing these projects. .

She also indicated that the objective of the joint review is to improve the performance of the portfolio in close collaboration with the project management units to meet the challenges of financial management of procurement, disbursement and absorption encountered by projects during implementation.

According to the Resident Representative, evaluating the overall performance of the portfolio of projects financed by the World Bank is an opportunity for the two partners to discuss the implementation of projects, to congratulate themselves on the progress made, and also to identify ways of improvement solutions to the challenges encountered.

The active portfolio of the World Bank in Burundi comprises 15 projects including 12 national and 3 regional with funding of 795.30 million US dollars over a period of 4.5 years. According to Mrs. Véronique Kabongo, the sectoral distribution of funds is fairly balanced and affects the sectors of health, agriculture, education, energy, governance, job creation, social protection and the environment. .

All these projects align with the National Development Program of Burundi PND 2018-2027 in accordance with the strategic partnership framework FY19 / 23 and focus on human development and the strengthe-

ning of economic and social resilience while focusing on good governance and institution building.

The Resident Representative of the World Bank in Burundi Mrs. Véronique Kabongo concluded her remarks by recalling that the IDA allocation will experience significant growth of 300 million US dollars in IDA 18 and could potentially increase to nearly 600 million US dollars for the next 3 years. "Together with the Government of Burundi, we will be able to convince the Board of Directors of the merits of this allocation to obtain this allocation", said Mrs. Véronique Kabongo.

The Prime Minister His Excellency CPG Alain-Guillaume Bunyoni who opened this work on behalf of the Government of Burundi is delighted that the World Bank is a reliable partner which, thanks to this financing, has contributed to reducing social inequalities by improving the living conditions of the populations, which has strengthened human capital.

His Excellency CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni indicated that Burundi is in a period of socio-economic development and invites technical and financial partners to participate. He informed them that from now on, the approach with the partners will be a win-win approach. For the main objectives of the partnership with the World Bank to be fully achieved, the inclusion of human capital and economic resilience requires the contribution of everyone to achieve positive results, continued the Prime Minister His Excellency CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni.

His Excellency CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni asked the coordinators of the projects financed by the World Bank to manage well the funds so that they serve their ultimate goal by emphasizing the sustainability of the projects with a view to credibility with the World Bank to increase allocations.

The Prime Minister His Excellency CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni concluded his remarks by reiterating the Government's commitment to cooperation with these technical and financial partners and indicated that the holding of the review was inspired by the manifest desire of the Government to follow up near, the achievements of the various stakeholders in the socio-economic development of the country for the benefit of the Burundian population. (Source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## The Vice-President of the Republic receives in audience the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Burundi



The Vice-President of the Republic Ir Prosper Bazombanza received in audience on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, His Excellency Dieter Reinl Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany who came for a courtesy visit.

Their exchanges focused on bilateral cooperation between the two countries and international cooperation as indicated by the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Burundi His Excellency Dieter Reinl at the exit of the audience.

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

## The President of the Burundian Senate receives in audience the Ambassador of Kenya to Burundi



The President of the Burundian Senate, the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, received in audience on Wednesday, October 7,

the Ambassador of Kenya to Burundi, His Excellency Mr. Keneth Vitisia.

In his interview with the press, the Ambassador of Kenya to Burundi indicated that he came to present, on behalf of the President of the Kenyan Senate, congratulations to the President of the Burundian Senate for his new functions of chairing this prestigious institution.

He added that he was the bearer of an invitation from the President of the Kenyan Senate to his counterpart from Burundi, to visit Kenya as part of strengthening cooperation relations between the two countries.

(Source: [www.abpinfos.com](http://www.abpinfos.com))

## Visit to Burundi of the Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Congo



On Monday October 5, 2020, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi H.E Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO received in audience a high-level delegation led by the Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Congo H.E Mrs. Marie TUMBA NZEZA.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi H.E Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO first welcomed the delegation of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Speaking in turn, the Minister of State, Minister of

Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Congo H.E Mrs. Marie TUMBA NZEZA welcomed the holding of this session which is the realization of the will of “our two Heads of State, their Excellencies Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE and Félix-Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO”.

Afterwards, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO praised the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries while wishing their strengthening.



The two delegations exchanged views on the points relating to the management of security issues at the common border between the Republic of Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the promotion of trade between the two countries, the management of the pandemic Covid-19, as well as other issues of common interest.

After identifying the challenges that are facing the Republic of Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and after fruitful discussions, the two delegations made some recommendations. These include, among others:

- the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding on the strengthening and maintenance of peace and security on the common border between the Republic of Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo;
- the establishment of a framework for the exchange of information between the administrative Authorities of the two countries at all levels;
- the initiation of regular meetings of military, police and administrative Authorities of the provinces' borders of the Republic of Burundi and those of the Democratic Republic of Congo;
- the establishment of joint stabilization mechanisms for the Rusizi / Ruzizi plain which take into account

sustainable development, with the objective of making Lake Tanganyika our "mare nostrum", our common heritage, and securing the space all around the borders;

- the rehabilitation of the National Road No 5 Bukavu-Uvira, 10 km of which have already been paved to facilitate the flow of goods and people between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo;
- the request to the two countries to speed up the procedures for the rehabilitation of the bridge which connects the province of Cibitoke in Burundi and the province of South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo;
- regulating and increasing cross-border trade in the best interests of the economies of both countries;
- the establishment of a joint operational plan to neutralize negative forces and other armed groups destabilizing our two countries, in particular by organizing coordinated patrols on both sides of our common border;
- the establishment of a pedestrian bridge linking Gihanga to Kagina in South Kivu;
- the combined efforts to fight against cross-border fraud and smuggling as well as illicit trafficking of natural resources;
- the establishment of a joint mechanism for the protection of the environment along the common border, in this case the coast of Lake Tanganyika and the plain of Rusizi / Ruzizi;
- the reactivation of the activities of the Mixed Technical Commission in charge of the Demarcation and Materialization of the common border between the two countries;
- encouraging the exchange of information and intelligence between the Defense Forces and the Security Services, in particular on cross-border security;
- the involvement of the Navy forces of our two countries in the control of Lake Tanganyika through coordinated patrols, to prevent any activity of the negative forces operating along Lake Tanganyika;
- the signing of a specific Bilateral Agreement for the management of the stay and establishment of nationals of the two countries in the territory of one or the other;
- the reactivation of the Burundi-Democratic Republic of Congo-High tripartite Commissioner for Refugees to, among other things, relocate Burundian refugee camps in accordance with the standards required by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and encourage their voluntary return to their respec-

tive countries;

-the instruction to the migration services of the two countries to study the issue of juxtaposed border posts;

-the establishment of a Permanent Mixed Commission in charge of Political, Defense and Security issues;



-the harmonization and standardization of tools and practices that help reduce the consequences of the cross-border circulation of diseases through the movements of populations of the two countries.

During her visit, Mrs. Marie TUMBA NZEZA, Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Congo was received in audience by His Excellency Mr. Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, President of the Republic of Burundi to convey a message of his Congolese counterpart, His Excellency Mr. Félix-Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO.

This delegation from the Democratic Republic of Congo stayed in Bujumbura from 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020 in the framework of the second session of the Bilateral Ministerial Consultation on Peace and Security between the Republic of Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

### International Day for Disaster Reduction: "Disaster Risk Governance"



niversary of the assassination of the hero of National Independence Prince Louis Rwagasore, as well as the activities marking this day that has been organized on October 09, 2020, in Nyeshenza in Mugina commune of Cibitoke Province.

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

The whole world celebrates the International Day for Disaster Reduction on October 13, of each year. In order to celebrate this day, the Minister of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security, CPC Gervais Ndirakobuca, released on Thursday October 08, 2020 a statement where he indicated that the celebration of this day is focused on the 5th target: "significantly increase by 2020 the number of countries with national and local disaster risk management strategies".

And the theme chosen for this year is: "disaster risk governance".

The Minister in charge of Public Security further recalled that in Burundi, the celebration of this day coincides with the commemoration of the 59th an-

## Recruitment of new police Officers



The Ministry of the Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security organized a press conference on Wednesday October 7, 2020 to communicate that this Ministry will proceed with the registration of police candidates from October 21 to November 3, 2020, every categories combined. It concerns candidate officers who will return to the ISP Superior Police Institute, the candidate brigadiers who will undergo their training at

the School of Police Brigadiers (EBPO). Registrations will be made at the provincial police stations of the native province and for agent's candidates, every working day, in the morning from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and in the afternoon from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

According to the Deputy Spokesperson of the Ministry of the Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security OPP2 Moïse Nkurunziza, the intellectual and physical tests will be organized from 01<sup>st</sup> to 02<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 for candidate officers and brigadiers and from 03<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 for agent's candidates. Candidates registered and fulfilling the conditions will report to the provincial police stations where they have registered, provided with the identity card, the receipt received at registration, a blue pen and sportswear. These details were given by the Deputy Spokesperson of the Ministry in charge of Security, OPP2 Moïse Nkurunziza.

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

## The Minister in charge of National Solidarity visits 4 orphanages in Bujumbura



The Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender Madam Imelde Sabushimike visited on Tuesday October 06, 2020 four orphanages of Bujumbura namely the residential center Maison Cana of Buterere, the Official Orphanage of Bujumbura located in Jabe, the Residential Center of the Bene Bernadette Sisters located on University Avenue and the Residential Center Sacred Heart of Jesus and Ma-

ry. These orphanages house between 40 and 70 children of varying ages.

Minister Imelde Sabushimike had brought food and none food items where each orphanage received 1 ton of rice, 500 kg of beans, 20 loincloths and soaps. The Minister salutes the work accomplished by these orphanages which recover children orphans or abandoned by their parents. Some of these orphanage have even married children, others who attend university, secondary schools, primary schools and kindergarten.

The Representatives of these orphanages thank the Government for the subsidies and multifaceted support granted to them. They nevertheless raise problems of monitoring children who are reintegrated into families, for their integral development.

The Director of the Orphanage of the Bene Bernadette Sisters is asking the Government for land for buildings that can accommodate more children. She also asked for employment for children housed in orphanages who are



finishing their studies.  
The Maison Cana of Buterere orphanage has branches in Gahombo and Rukago in Kayanza and

that of the Bene Bernadette Sisters has branches in Gitega, Musinzira, Mugeru and Cankuzo.  
(Source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## Gitega: the Special Anti-Corruption Brigade hands over seized goods to the OBR



The CP Roger Ndikumana called on the fraudsters to give up this behavior which harms the economy of the country, and he precised that the perpetrators risk severe sanctions.

The Special Anti-Corruption Brigade handed over the fraudulent goods seized in the province of Gitega to the Office Burundais des Recettes (OBR) on Tuesday, October 6, 2020. These goods consist of 571 loincloths and 11 boxes of different kinds of wine and others.



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

As indicated by the Commissioner General of the Special Anti-Corruption Brigade, Police Commissioner Roger Ndikumana, these goods were seized from a household in the Shatanya district of Gitega town by the Gitega regional anti-corruption police station. The Commissioner General of the Special Anti-Corruption Brigade has said that these goods are of great value although it is not better to determine their real value.

The Commissioner General of the Special Anti-Corruption Brigade, CP Roger Ndikumana said that the loincloths seized are from the DRC and go through the provinces of Cibitoke and Bujumbura while the wines seized come from Tanzania.

## Media professionals called on to popularize human rights instruments



The Association for Progressive African Youth (AJAP) organized from 06<sup>th</sup> to 08<sup>th</sup> October 2020 in Bujumbura, a training workshop for journalists on the protection of human rights.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communication, Information and Media indicated that respect for human rights is a stone in the preservation of the achievements of peace, security and democracy.

In his opening speech, the President of AJAP Mr. Eric Nsengimana, indicated that the objective of this training workshop is to exchange with media professionals on their role in the protection of Human Rights and strengthen their capacity in terms of the link between their journalistic profession and Human Rights.

He also pointed out that the exchanges will focus on international, regional and national human rights instruments, the link between the profession of journalism and the protection of human rights, monitoring and reporting of cases of human rights violations and collaboration and advocacy with the competent Authorities.

Mr. Eric Nsengimana also affirmed that the role of journalists remains essential in the development of the country in general and in the promotion of Human Rights in particular. "You are intermediaries between the Government and the citizens, positive or negative catalysts", reminded the President of AJAP, to his interlocutors.

By welcoming the good behavior that media professionals displayed during the 2020 general elections, the AJAP President called on journalists to

always live in neutrality by deviating from anything likely to sow hatred and discord within the population.

As for the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communication, Information Technologies and Media, said that he finds the choice of this topic very relevant to discuss international, regional and national human rights instruments.

He also recalled that this workshop takes place during the post-election period and the establishment of democratic institutions, it is, according to him, an opportunity to do an introspection in relation to the exercise of the profession of journalism. Freedom of expression takes many forms and takes on various connotations, namely freedom of the press, freedom of performances, freedom of education, freedom to disseminate opinions, etc., indicated the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry in charge of Communication.

He then suggested that when the media, as a means of education and a vector of social values, are used for subversive ends or harmful to others, the consequences can be destructive for social cohesion; tolerance and stability. This behavior is also contrary to the principles of Human Rights, based on equality, non-discrimination and respect for the inherent dignity of the human person, specified the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communication, Technologies of Information and Media.

He then thanked AJAP for its dynamism in mobilizing the population in general and youth in particular. He encouraged them to progress in this path of innovation and by showing ingenuity with a view to achieving the expected results in the maintenance of peace and security as well as the promotion of human rights.

Note that this training workshop was funded by the United Nations Center for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa.

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

## REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



### PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC Secretariat-General of the State

#### **MEDIA RELEASE CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7th October 2020**

A Cabinet Meeting was held on Wednesday 7th October 2020 at Bujumbura, under the chairmanship of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Burundi, General Major Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE. The following issues were analyzed:

**1. Draft law revising organic law nr 1/13 of 12th June 2019 on the organization and functioning of the Superior Council of the Magistrature**, presented by the Minister of Justice.

In any society, justice plays a very important role. Aware of its place in building and consolidating the rule of law, the Government of the Republic of Burundi has placed justice at the center of its concerns. This is why it occupies a good place in the National Development Plan.

The Superior Council of the Magistracy is one of the essential tools to face the challenges which arise in order to satisfy the aspirations of the population in matters of justice. It is this powerful lever that the state needs.

It must live up to its main mission, namely to be the true protector of the rights of litigants and magistrates.

Organic Law Nr. 1 / 13 of June 12, 2019 on the organization and functioning of the Superior Council of the Magistrature needs to be revised to have a legal framework adapted to the importance of the issue.

This is the subject of this project.

Among other innovations it brings, it clarifies the place of the President of the Republic, Supreme Magistrate within this Council, highlights the powers of the Council and specifies the status of Members.

At the end of the debate, the draft was adopted after having undergone some corrections.

**2. Bill supplementing the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure relating to the reinstatement of the Notables of the Hill**, presented by the Minister of Justice.

In all human societies, social life is always punctuated by various conflicts. To resolve these conflicts, each people develops appropriate mechanisms for resolving misunderstandings according to its traditions.

Burundi has not escaped this rule.

Conscious of the importance of the traditional mode of conflict resolution, the legislator had, through law nr 1/004 of January 15, 1987 on the Code of organization and judicial competence, instituted the Council of Notables of the hill in order to promote reconciliation rather than the strict application of the rules of law. This procedure was abandoned by Law nr 1/08 of March 17, 2005 on the Code of Organization and Judicial Competence.

Currently, the need to return to this traditional institution is felt, in particular because of the importance of the volume of disputes experienced by courts and tribunals, the cost and slowness of proceedings as well as the geographical distance.

As conciliation is also a means of improving access to justice for all, the place of the Council of Notables of the Hill in the Burundian procedural system is undeniable.

It is necessary to reorganize this institution so that it deserves the trust of citizens and contributes to the challenges of access to justice, as well as to the consolidation of social peace and the development of the country. This is the subject of this project.

It specifies the powers of this Board, its composition and the criteria for being part of it, as well as its functioning.

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted after having undergone some alterations.

**3. Draft decree on the method of electing the members of the Council of Hill Notables**, presented by the Minister of Justice.

In order to establish local justice as a response to the concerns of the litigant, the Government initiated the law reinstating the Council of Notables of the hill. This advice will help to establish social peace through the amicable settlement of disputes.

This law provides that the mode of election of the Members of the Council of Notables is fixed by decree.

This is how this draft decree specifies the conditions of eligibility of Members of the Council of Notables, the way in which the ballot is prepared, the voting method and voting procedures, as well as the way in which the results are announced.

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

**4. Draft decree establishing the general census of the population, housing, agriculture and livestock 2022**, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning

In any country, the population census serves to collect, aggregate, analyze, publish demographic, economic and social data at a given time.

According to the United Nations recommendation, the intercensal period is ten years.

In Burundi, the last census was organized in 2008.

The data resulting from this operation has become obsolete and no longer meets the needs of users. Burundi should have carried out another census in 2018, had it not been for the postponement adopted by the countries of the East African community to carry out their census in 2022 in order to harmonize the database on the census in the latter as well as the data of other indicators of the community.

In order to meet the 2020 deadline, the National Council for Statistical Information recommended that preparations for this operation begin as soon as possible and to couple this operation with the first census of agriculture and livestock.

This general census of the population, habitat, agriculture and livestock aims to take stock of the demographic, determine the characteristics of the habitat, and take stock of the agricultural and pastoral potential.

All of this data will be needed for development planning.

Preparations for this census must begin as soon as possible.

It is for this reason that this project is proposed. It defines the legal bases of the operation and defines its organizational structures.

At the end of the exchanges and debate, the Council adopted it after having made certain improvements.

**5. Draft decree revising decree nr 100/19 of October 7, 2010 on the creation, organization and functioning of the Permanent National Commission for the Fight against the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons, presented by the Minister of Home Affairs , Community Development and Public Security.**

The fight against the proliferation of arms is a major national security imperative. To do this, a legal and institutional framework adapted to the evolution and to the socio-security environment is essential.

It is within this framework that the law on the regime of small arms and light weapons was promulgated in August 2009.

In the same vein, the Permanent National Commission for the Fight against the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons was set up in October 2010.

Ten years after the implementation of the policy to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons by the Commission, an assessment of the operational framework of the Commission calls for a review. Hence the need for this project.

Among other changes, the draft decree takes into account the fact that the Ministry responsible for the Commission has seen its missions extended to other areas and its name changed, hence the need for adaptation.

To avoid confusion with the Permanent Secretariat at ministerial level, the project proposes to change the Permanent Secretariat at Commission level to a Permanent National Coordination.

After analysis, the project was adopted with some corrections.

**6. Draft decree granting the second renewal of the exploration permit for colombo-tantalite and associated minerals on the Runyankezi perimeter in favor of the company N.T.E.G.A HOLDING BURUNDI.**

**7. Draft decree granting the first renewal of the exploration permit for gold and associated minerals on the Muhwazi perimeter in favor of the company African Mining Limited.**

These two projects were presented by the Minister of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines.

The company N.T.E.G.A Holding Burundi S.A obtained the Colombo-tantalite exploration permit and its accompanying elements on the perimeter called "Runyankezi" in May 2015.

After three years of research, this company applied for the renewal of its permit, in accordance with the provisions of the Burundi Mining Code, and obtained it in August 2018 for a period of two years.

The company continued its research work during the validity period of the renewal of the research permit. In the meantime, this company has applied for an exploitation permit for these minerals and obtained it on part of this perimeter.

In February 2020, the company submitted a request for the second renewal for a period of two non-renewable years according to the provisions of the Burundi Mining Code, on the remaining perimeter.

Regarding the company African Mining Limited, it obtained its exploration license for gold and associated minerals on the Muhwazi perimeter in August 2017 for a period of three years.

In the meantime, it too has applied for an operating permit on part of its perimeter.

After three years of research, this company submitted an application to renew its permit on the remaining perimeter, in accordance with the provisions of the Burundi Mining Code.

After discussion and debate on these projects, the Board noted that:

-Before requesting any renewal, these companies must first justify the reasons why the research was not completed on time.

-These companies must also show the results of the exploitation of the minerals on the parts of the perimeters for which they have obtained the exploitation permits.

-They must also produce reports on the results of research they have already carried out so that the State knows the quantity and quality of minerals they have found to properly assess their value.

The operating conditions will be discussed with these companies in a win-win partnership.

These renewal requests have not been accepted until these elements are clarified.

**8. Draft amendment to the management contract n ° 760/01 / DG / 2017 of February 15, 2017 for invoicing operations, payment of drinking water and electricity products and payment of invoices, signed between the State of Burundi and the company PAYWAY BURUNDI.**

**9. Draft amendment to the interested Régie contract n ° 760/01 / CRI / 2017 for the supply of equipment and the package of intelligent solutions for the analysis, collection, storage and sharing of reliable data in the system invoicing of the priority income center for efficient management and monitoring of the hydraulic sectors of Bujumbura, signed between the State of Burundi and the company ITRON GLOBAL TRADING.**

The two projects were also presented by the Minister of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines.

The State of Burundi signed contracts with these two companies in March 2017.

These contracts had a three-year term and ended on March 04, 2020 for PAYWAY Burundi, and April 04, 2020 for ITRON GLOBAL TRADING.

These companies are currently working illegally as they refer to the terms of expired contracts, hence the need to rectify the situation.

According to article 46 of the law of July 2019 on the general regime of public-private partnership contracts "Contracts concluded before the date of the promulgation of this law remain valid for their duration. They remain governed by the laws and regulations under which they were established. These contracts are subject to evaluation and monitoring by the Support Agency for the implementation of Public-Private Partnership contracts (ARCP).

A report is transmitted to the Council of Ministers by the authorized bodies for assessment and decision".

The Public-Private Partnership Contracts Support Agency carried out an assessment mission and found that the level of contract implementation is relatively satisfactory by these companies.

For the moment, there is a constructive dialogue underway to find an alternative solution to the management of expired contracts by way of amendment, with reciprocal commitment to negotiate new contracts in accordance with the law of July 2019 on the general regime for public-private partnership contracts.

Thus, PAYWAY Burundi and ITRON GLOBAL TRADING on the one hand and REGIDESO on the other side have agreed on amendments to contracts for a period of nine months, with retroactive effect to the expiration date of the contract.

The purpose of these amendments is to give the parties sufficient time to negotiate and conclude new contracts in accordance with the law of July 2019 on the general regime for public-private partnership contracts.

This is why these draft amendments are proposed.

After discussion and debate, these amendments were accepted. However :

-The Council recalled that the State has given a mission to REGIDESO to sell energy and drinking water on behalf of the State. The contracts awarded to these two companies constitute, for this purpose, a subcontracting and this shows that REGIDESO is not in a position to do its job correctly.

- REGIDESO has also been asked to show what it produces, what it sells and what it earns before considering signing new contracts, within a time limit not exceeding two months.

- Within this same two-month period, REGIDESO must have generalized the use of meters with a modern pre-payment system, and for electricity (cash-power), and for water (cash-water) to avoid stealing.

-Finally, the Minister in charge of Energy was asked to propose comprehensive and individual measures necessary to redress REGIDESO so that it can accomplish the mission entrusted to it.

#### **10. Note on the main mission of the Youth Investment Bank, presented by the Minister of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture.**

The Youth Investment Bank was created with the aim of contributing to the financing of development projects initiated by young people which are organized in groups or companies.

Its mandate is to grant loans to youth groups at preferential rates not exceeding 7% without the conventional mortgages required by commercial banks.

While this bank has not yet started to implement its initial mission, during a General Assembly of the Board of Directors of the Bank, a decision was taken on September 2, 2020, to grant commercial loans to economic operators.

This decision henceforth gives the Bank the status of a commercial bank and relegates the main mandate for which it was created to the background.

The Note shows a series of proposals for the Bank to operate within the framework of its mandate, in particular the revision of certain texts which govern it, especially at the level of the Board of Directors to comply with the Government's vision in favor of investment for the young.

After discussion and debate, the Board noted that the Youth Investment Bank needs to have a commercial component in order to develop and meet the objective assigned to it.

For this purpose, it must be open to anyone who would like to open an account.

The difference will be made at the time of the granting of the credits because the credits to the projects of the young people will be granted at preferential interest rates and others at the ordinary rates charged by other banks.

It was also recommended to find regular funding mechanisms for the Impulse, Guarantee and Support Fund (FIGA) which guarantees the repayment of these credits granted to young people.

## 11. Other information

The Council of Ministers was informed by the Coordinator of the Office of Strategic and Development Studies at the Presidency of the Republic on the National Program for the economic empowerment and employment of young unemployed graduates in Burundi and on the digitization of the national campaign of census of these young people.

This Program is at an advanced stage because all over the Burundian territory, all the young unemployed have been identified thanks to software developed by young Burundian engineers.

Currently all the data regarding their workforce, level and qualification, and social situation are available.

Very soon, the bodies for implementing this Program will be set up.

The Council of Ministers appreciated this Program and took the opportunity to congratulate these young Burundian engineers for the work accomplished thanks to their know-how.

He called on all state structures that need their skills to use their expertise.

**Bujumbura, October 08, 2020**

**The Secretary General of the State and Spokesperson**

**Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE**



# Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

## Department of Communication

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