

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
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Commemoration of the 27th anniversary of the assassination of President Melchior Ndadaye



Burundi commemorated on Wednesday October 21, 2020, the 27th anniversary of the assassination of President Melchior Ndadaye. The ceremonies began with a mass in his memory celebrated at the Saint Michel Parish of Bujumbura, in the presence of the high Authorities of the country including the Presidential Couple, the Presidents of the two Chambers of Parliament, the Vice-President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, the Burundian Ombudsman, the Spouse of the late President Melchior Ndadaye, the Spouse of the late President Pierre Nkurunziza.

Also present at these ceremonies were Members of the Government, Senior Officials of the State, Senior Officials of the Defense and Security Corps, Members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps accredited to Burundi, etc.

In his homily, the Archbishop of Bujumbura, Monsignor Gervais Banshimiyubusa, has focused on the gospel of Luke 12: 39-48, he recalled the vision, dreams and democratic principles of the late Melchior Ndadaye. He indicated that

the late Melchior Ndadaye advocated a new Burundi, characterized by freedom, respect for human rights for everyone, a Burundi characterized by the sharing of resources without discrimination of ethnicity or region of origin, in short integrated development from all layers of society.

Monsignor Gervais Banshimiyubusa clarified that President Melchior Ndadaye, even if he could not implement his project of society for the interest of the Nation, he blazed a new path for Burundi: Democracy.

Monsignor Gervais Banshimiyubusa also invited Burundians to give thanks to God, he who has never ceased to show his love for Burundi by placing at the head of the country, heroic leaders who have even agreed to lose their lives for the general interest of the nation. He ended his homily by asking everyone to think about the step already taken in consolidating democracy in Burundi. And to wonder, if the hero of democracy returned, would he be satisfied with this step already taken or not? It's up to everyone to answer, he concluded.

The ceremonies marking the 27th anniversary of the assassination of the hero of Democracy, the late President Melchior Ndadaye continued at the "Place des Martyrs de la Démocratie" where this illustrious disap-

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peared is buried. After reading the biography of the late President Melchior Ndadaye, the President of the Republic His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by his wife, laid a wreath in tribute to President Melchior Ndadaye and his companions.

The same act was then taken respectively by the Representatives of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps accredited to Burundi, the family of the late President Melchior Ndadaye including his spouse Madam Laurence Ndadaye, the families of his companions who disap-

peared with him, as well as the Representatives of the political parties and civil society.

To close, the participants in these ceremonies listened to the speech that the late President Melchior Ndadaye gave on the occasion of the victory of his political party SAHWANYA-FRODEBU in 1993.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

Religious denominations: the Head of State calls for respect of law



The President of the Republic His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye met on Monday, October 19, 2020, in a closed meeting, Representatives of religious organizations working in Burundi. The meeting was held at the Presidency of the Republic.

At the end of the meeting, the Deputy Spokesperson of the Head of State Mr. Alain Diomède Nzeyimana informed that the exchanges between the President of the Republic and these religious leaders focused on order and respect for the law in level of the Churches and their contribution to socio-economic development.

According to Mr. Diomède Nzeyimana, the Head of State pointed out that conflicts within churches have become commonplace. The President of the Republic has also castigated the noise that some churches maintain in the neighborhoods, causing unprecedented disorder. The President of the Republic took this opportunity to invite the Representatives of religious organizations to do everything in their power to put an end to the disorder that reigns in churches and called them to respect the law.

The President of the Republic further reminded the Representatives of Religious Organizations that Churches have a great role to play in the development of the country. He thus recommended to the Representatives of Religious Organizations to set up, at the level of Churches, programs to fight against poverty and to do

everything related to the socio-economic development of Burundi.

The Representatives of Religious organizations also had the opportunity to congratulate the Head of State for having been elected at the head of the country but also for the large-scale projects that he is putting in place especially for young educated but unemployed.

Representatives of Religious Organizations in turn expressed their concerns to the Head of State. The President of the Republic reassured them, promising that his collaborators at the level of the Ministries and at the level of the Presidency, will find a solution to their concerns.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The Head of State receives in audience Her Highness Sarah Zeid, Princess of Jordan



The Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye received in audience on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, His Highness Sarah Zeid, Princess of Jordan, Goodwill Ambassador of the World Food Program (WFP). Their interview focused on food security and nutrition. The Princess of Jordan announced to the Head of State that the number of students fed in schools, will be increased. Her Highness the Princess of Jordan, Sarah Zeid informed the Head of State of her visit to several provinces of Burundi including the provinces of Ruyigi, Ngozi, Kirundo and Bujumbura, to support the activities of the World Food Program. She also told him that she is satisfied not only with Burundi's nutrition policy but also with other projects and programs initiated by the Government such as environmental protection and the Mother-Child Health program. She said she also deals with these issues in her daily activities.

She encouraged the President of the Republic and praised the Government's efforts in the fight against the Coronavirus, hoping that the measures initiated in the response against this pandemic could inspire other countries in the world.



The President of the Republic His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye praised the work of WFP in Burundi. However, he asked the Princess to contribute to increasing the number of

schools benefiting from the school canteen program since Burundi no longer receives WFP subsidies in secondary schools.

In this regard, the Princess announced to the Head of State that she will work with WFP to increase the number of pupils fed in schools.

Finally, the Head of State asked the Princess of Jordan to support Burundi, especially in terms of agricultural policy to increase production.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The Head of State urges the administrative Authorities to be solutions to the problems of the population



The President of the Republic, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye met behind closed doors on Friday, October 23, 2020 with all the Provincial Governors and Communal Administrators in the province of Gitega.

At the end of the meeting, the Spokesperson of the President of the Republic, Mr Jean Claude Karerwa told the press that the Head of State urged the Provincial Governors and the Communal Administrators to be solutions to the problems of the population and not obstacles to its development.

Mr Jean Claude Karerwa also indicated that this meeting was in line with the reinforcement of the teachings that the Head of State delivered to his audience, during the tours he made in their respective provincial entities. He specified that the tours in question were focused on the projects and programs of the responsible and hard-working Government initiated by the Head of State.

To this end, the Head of State reminded them to engage the population on the path of development, said his spokesperson. He added that the President of the Republic asks them

to submit for processing the surplus harvest or redis-



tribution where there is scarcity or deficiency.

At the end of the activities of this meeting, the President of the Republic His Excellency Mr Évariste Ndayishimiye officially proceeded to the granting of service vehicles to all the Communal Administrators of the country.

To the beneficiaries of these vehicles, the Head of State asked to manage them as a good father, using them exclusively for purposes beneficial to the development of the Municipality.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

Food Day: The Head of State solemnly launches the growing season A



Burundi joined the world on Friday October 23, 2020 to celebrate the World Food Day, which is normally celebrated on October 16 of each year. In Burundi the theme of this year is: "Together for production and sustainable food", the ceremonies took place in Mutaho Commune in the Province of Gitega under the high patronage of the President of the Republic His Excellency Mr Evariste Ndayishimiye. These ceremonies also saw the participation of Mr. Asaias ANGUE OBAMA, Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The ceremonies of this day began with the sowing of corn at the seed center of Nyabisaka in Mutaho Commune, a modern field serving as a provincial peasant school field for the surrounding population to increase production.

At the same time the President of the Republic solemnly launched the cultivation season A of the year 2020. According to the

Representative of the FAO in Burundi, Mr. Asaias ANGUE OBAMA indicated that the celebration of this day is done in an exceptional context where the Covid_19 pandemic has wreaked havoc not only on health but also threatens the livelihoods of millions around the world.

FAO's mission is to help the world develop agriculture, and end hunger forever. This organization is involved in increasing agricultural production and yields and supports irrigation systems, processing of agricultural products, supply chains and the structuring of the rural world.

According to Mr. Asaias ANGUE OBAMA, this organization provides technical assistance, advises member governments on agricultural policies and constitutes a forum for reflection on agricultural and food security issues. It provides technical support through farmer field schools for the production of vegetable seeds for the establishment of vegetable gardens.

It supports agroforestry techniques, the establishment of anti-erosion devices for the conservation of soil water and the stabilization of river banks to limit soil losses, water pollution and safeguard the environment biodiversity.

The FAO Representative in Burundi also indicated that the actions undertaken by the Government in coordination with the FAO to fight against hunger and climate change have made it possible to record encouraging results in food and nutritional security.

He said that, from 2019 to 2023, FAO is acting in 3 priority areas: the sustainable improvement of food and nutritional security, the strengthening of resilience in the face of climate change and the strengthening of institutional and organizational capacities of the rural sector. .

These 3 axes are in line with the objectives of the National Development Plan (PND 2018-2027), those of the national agricultural strategy, the United Nations framework for Development Assistance (UNDAF) as well as the Sustainable Deve-

lopment Goals (SDGs), continued the FAO Representative in Burundi.

FAO makes its contribution each season in terms of certified seeds and small agricultural tools and support in traditional and emerging sectors such as myciculture (mushroom cultivation).

It also intervenes in the restoration of degraded landscapes and the increase in the productivity of agricultural land through its approach of integrated and participatory development of watersheds through the reforestation of land unsuitable for agriculture.

In his speech for the occasion, the Head of State His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye indicated that sustainable development is based on the satisfaction of basic needs including good food for all, healthy population, inclusive education, a dignified housing and environmental protection.

The Head of State reiterated the commitment of his hard-working and responsible Government "that every mouth has something to eat and every pocket has money" and at the same time called on all stakeholders in this food sector to make this bet their cornerstone.

He said that the Government of Burundi has made the fight against poverty its priority, it is in this perspective that it calls for collective awareness

and the gathering of all Burundians to lead a merciless fight to all poverty indicators.

In this perspective, the Government of Burundi has assigned itself to make more efforts in agriculture and livestock to increase production in order to satisfy the diet of the population to have good health and have the surplus for the market.

For this, the Head of State His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye called on Businessmen to invest in the food industry for the processing of agricultural products, good conservation and commercial profitability.

The President of the Republic greeted the part of the international community which initiated this day, a sign that it made food a priority and thanked the contribution of the International Organizations which intervene in this field in Burundi for their technical and financial support.

His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye said to satisfied that this World Food Day is celebrated at a time when production has increased significantly over the past three years thanks to the combined efforts of all stakeholders in this sector.

The Head of State awarded the provincial cooperatives of Gitega which stood out in their agro-pastoral work to increase production.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The Senate adopts two bills



In a plenary session under the aegis of the President of the Senate, the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, Senators analyzed and adopted on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 in Gitega, two bills including the bill amending the law Nr 1 / 02 of January 24, 2013 relating to income taxes and the bill amending law Nr 1/12 of July 29, 2013 revising law Nr 1/02 of February 17, 2009 establishing the tax on added value.

For the bill on income taxes, the Minister in charge

of Finance Dr Domitien Ndiokubwayo who was the guest of the Senate indicated that this bill aims to improve the performance of tax revenue collection. This bill resolves the problem of dysfunction and legal vacuum encountered during the application of Law Nr 1/02 of January 24, 2013 and will facilitate the task of taxpayers who pay their taxes during the application of the law.

The Senators recommended the establishment of law governing the profession of a commission agent in Burundi.

After the adoption of the bill on income taxes, the Senators analyzed and adopted the bill amending law Nr 1/12 of July 29, 2013 revising law Nr 1/02 of 17th February 2009 establishing the value added tax.

The Minister Domitien Ndiokubwayo indicated that this modification is of a technical, administrative and substantial nature and that it aims to strengthen the legal framework of the Value Added Tax (VAT) in order to make the VAT law more effective, more equitable and easier to apply by taxpayers and to manage. He specified that this bill is in line with the Government to broaden the tax

base, to harmonize the applicable taxes with those of other member countries of the East African Community (ECA) and improve the capacity of VAT to reach the informal sector.

After analysis, the Senators unanimously adopted these two bills, with the proposed amendments and recommendations.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The population of Rumonge called to work for the development of this province



The Senate President, the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, joined the people of Rumonge on Saturday October 17, 2020 in community development work to build a building that will house the offices of the Province.

The work consisted of mixing sand, cement and rubble to finalize the lower chaining of the building and clear the ditch that will serve as a septic tank.

The President of the Senate asked the popula-

tion of Rumonge to come together to develop their hard-won Province. The province is not lacking in assets like agriculture and Lake Tanganyika which generate a lot of income, the Senate Speaker said.

In order to develop, he asked them to have love for each other, to have a common vision so that after 10 years the Province would have made real progress. He regrets that after 6 years of existence, the Province cannot accommodate 200 people due to a lack of hotels.

As the province of Rumonge is ranked last in the national tests, the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera asks the 5 elected officials to ensure that the teachers carry out their work properly, otherwise report to whom it may concern.

He called on the Administration, Police and Intelligence Services to tackle the very frequent fraud in the Lake. And to sensitize the population to pay the taxes which contribute to the realization of the various programs of the Government.

The Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera subsequently joined the people of Nyambuye, his native hill, to celebrate the victory of the CNDD-FDD which led him to the Presidency of the Senate.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

Official launch of the "zero malnutrition" campaign by the First Lady



The First Lady of Burundi Her Excellency Madam Angéline Ndayishimiye officially launched on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, the "Zero malnutrition in Burundi" campaign. The ceremonies

took place at the Calcutta Sisters center in the Town hall of Bujumbura, under the theme: "Let us mobilize against malnutrition in children under 5, pregnant / breastfeeding women and other categories of the most vulnerable".

The Minister in charge of Public Health, the Minister in charge of Solidarity, the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Burundi and the Mayor of the city of Bujumbura participated in these ceremonies.

The First Lady of Burundi said that according to surveys made by ISTEERBU in Ngozi, Kirundo, Ruyigi and Karusi provinces, the figures showed that these provinces are among the most affected by malnutrition. These provinces will be a priority in the fight against malnutrition, she said.

The Representative of the Calcutta Sisters thanked the First Lady for this commendable act she does every day by flying to the aid

of vulnerable people. The Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System, one of the partners in this project, for his part indicated that this "zero malnutrition" campaign, which is a first in Burundi, will make it possible to work together to achieve the United Nations' target objectives in the fight against malnutrition.

The Minister in charge of Public Health Doctor Thaddée Ndikumana asked the farmers not to sell the whole harvest, to consume it while balancing their diet. Doctor Thaddée Ndikumana has indi-

cated that he will set up a team that will collaborate with the OPDAD (Organization of African First Ladies for Development) in its activities.

On the sidelines of these ceremonies, the First Lady of Burundi Her Excellency Madam Angeline Ndayishimiye granted aid to the vulnerable consisting of 9 tons of rice, 96 cartons of therapeutic milk, 1200 sachets of melk milk, 120 sachets of porridge, tools for cleanliness and other goods.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The Burundian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation pays a working visit to Rwanda



On Tuesday October 20, 2020, at the initiative of the Government of Burundi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO paid a working visit to Rwanda and was welcomed by His Rwandan counterpart His Excellency Vincent BIRUTA.



The meeting was held at the Nembagasyeni joint border.

This meeting was part of the shared desire to assess the state of bilateral relations between the two neighboring countries and to agree on the modalities of their normalization.

The two Ministers noted the existence of historic relations between Rwanda and Burundi as well as the challenges they have faced from 2015 until these days. The two authorities agreed on the

need to continue contacts in order to normalize relations between the two neighboring countries linked by history and geography.

At the end of the closed session, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi handed to His Rwandan counterpart a written message from the Government of the Republic of Burundi, to the Government of the Republic of Rwanda.

Likewise, the Rwandan Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation handed to His Burundian counterpart a written message from the Government of the Republic of Rwanda, to the Government of the Republic of Burundi.



His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO, Minister of Foreign Affairs and

Development Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi, invited His Rwandan counterpart, His Excellency Vincent BIRUTA, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda, to pay a reciprocal visit to Burundi. The invitation was accepted on a date to be agreed between the parties through diplomatic channels.

(Source: MFA-Newsroom)

The Ministry of Justice launches a campaign to process applications for review or cancellation



According to the same press release, this campaign will take place in the capitals of all the provinces of the country and will last one month. The Ministry of Justice has asked the teams in charge of this mission to accomplish it with dedication for its success. He appealed to all applicants to respond to this campaign and facilitate its smooth running.

Administrative officials in the provinces where this campaign will take place were also asked to offer their collaboration to the various teams in charge of the campaign.

(Source: MFA-Newsroom)

On October 24, 2020, the Ministry of Justice released a press release announcing that it has been organizing, since Wednesday October 28, 2020, a campaign to process applications for review or cancellation.

Official launch of activities dedicated to Food Week



The Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock organized a raid on Monday October

19, 2020 in the provinces of Kayanza and Ngozi. The purpose of this descent is part of the official launch of the week dedicated to food.

A delegation from the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock along with the Provincial Directors in charge of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock as well as partners working in the environment, agriculture and livestock sector have raided the land respectively in the marshes of Inamvumu, Mandasi in Kayanza province and the marshes of Nyamugera. In these marshes the delegation visited the modern fields of hybrid corn.

In his speech, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock Mr. Emmanuel Ndorimana indicated that on October 16 of each year, the world celebrates World Food Day. He said that for Burundi, this day will be celebrated on October 23, 2020 in Gitega in Commune Mutaho under the theme: "Together for the production of sustainable food".

However, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry having Agriculture in his attributions suggests that before celebrating this day in Mutaho, the said Ministry organized this descent to show the national and international community the current state of production in Burundi.

Mr. Emmanuel Ndorimana is delighted with the good behavior of the farmers of these localities visited because having put forward the promotion of the cultivation of hybrid corn. According to him, these farmers have understood the government's policy of regionalization and intensification of crops and production is very good, added the Permanent Secretary.

Mr. Emmanuel Ndorimana also indicated that if the increase in production via the policy of regionalization and intensification of crops is effectively implemented throughout the country, the increase in production will be real, the population will have enough to eat in sufficient quality and quantity and will have surplus to sell, he added.

Mr. Emmanuel Ndorimana then invited the population to extend this policy of regionalization and intensification of crops on the hills, as they did in the marshes. He also sensitized the population to consume its production for the improvement of health and to think of selling the surplus afterwards. In order to support and motivate the population for development activities as the Head of State H.E Evariste Ndayishimiye wished,

the Permanent Secretary granted watering cans and fertilizers respectively to the members of cooperatives working in the marshlands high cities and the Sangwe cooperative working on Buye hill. This delegation led by the Permanent Secretary at

the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock Mr. Emmanuel Ndorimana also paid a visit to the modern poultry breeding center of 8,000 chickens of the Manovu cooperative". (Source:www.rtnb.bi)

Census of Government officials



On Tuesday, October 20, 2020, the Minister of Public Service, Labor and Employment, Mrs. Domine BANYANKIMBONA announced in a press release the census of State officials. She called on all officials to participate in this census work which will be done at the workplace of the respective public institutions. This census will be carried out by agents from these institutions from October 26 to 27, 2020.

She said that for those who will be absent for health reasons, or on secondment for studies or in prison, will be able to do so at their return. Those who will be on annual, maternity or circumstance leave, will have to interrupt their leave to be counted.

It will thus be a question of verifying whether the civil servants listed are actually in function in the Ministries and services to which they have been assigned. The Minister in charge of the Public Service Mrs. Domine BANYANKIMBONA called on the agents in charge of the census, not to hesitate to denounce the people who could come to be enumerated when they are not really civil servants. The questions will focus, among other things, on the identity of the civil servant, his level of training and his professional development within the public institution to which he is assigned.

(Source: MFA-Newsroom)

International Conference of Women Leaders 3rd edition



The activities of the International Conference of Women Leaders (CIFL) 3rd edition has been officially opened on Thursday, October 22, 2020 by the President of the CIFL Mrs. Denise Nkurunziza.

The activities took place at the Hotel Club du lac

Tanganyika. The Theme chosen for this year is "Woman of destiny, arise, act because the consolidation of peace concerns you". Took part in these activities, the Spouses of the former Presidents of Burundi, the Spouses of the various authorities of Burundi, the Ladies representing the various associations, the Ladies who came from foreign countries and many others.

In her presentation on "peace and family development", the President of the CIFL Madam Denise Nkurunziza indicated that peace is the pillar of development in all sectors of life. Families must live easily, in transparency and honesty by giving up sin, said Mrs. Denise Nkurunziza.

The UN Women Representative in Burundi Mrs. Jennekem made her presentation on Peace, Unity and National Prosperity which, according to her, are values that everyone is looking for at all times. Mrs. Denise Nku-

runziza indicated that we must reserve the first place in our hearts and in our actions to the Lord Jesus Christ. In this way God gives us lasting peace, has

specified Mrs. Denise Nkurunziza.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

API is organizing a Packaging Fair

Agence burundaise de Promotion des Investissements

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The Investment Promotion Agency (API) is organizing a Packaging Fair, from October 27 to 28, 2020, at the Palais of Arts and Culture. It will be under the patronage of the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, with the theme: "Adequate packaging: business opportunity, compliance with export standards and environmental protection".

In the announcement made by API, various activities are planned, namely the official opening of that Fair, the visit of the stands, the exhibition of packaging products, and a workshop around the following themes : the issues of non-biodegradable packaging, the measures taken by the Government to face the challenges related to the use of non-biodegradable plastic packaging, sensitization on the packaging industry, investment opportunities and benefits of this sector, normative aspects of packaging, packaging manufacturing companies, capacities, perspectives and challenges.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

Celebration of the United Nations Day



United Nations

The United Nations Day was established on October 24, 1945 following the ratification of the Charter by China, the United States, France, the United Kingdom, the USSR and the majority of other signatory countries which have signed it on June 26, 1945.

In his message, the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that the 75th anniversary of the United Nations falls in the midst of a global pandemic. He recalled that the founding mission of the United Nations "to promote human dignity, protect human rights, ensure respect for international law and save humanity from war" is now more important than ever.

He made it known that when the pandemic struck, he called for a global ceasefire because the whole world today has a common enemy: Covid-19. Therefore, the time has come to intensify the peace efforts to achieve a global ceasefire, and time is running out.

He also noted that we must also make peace with our planet. For the Secretary General of the United Nations, the climate emergency threatens life itself. He said that we must mobilize the whole world to achieve carbon neutrality, that is to say achieve zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. To this end, a growing number of countries and companies have already committed to this goal.

Mr. Antonio Guterres also returned to the fact that all over the world, we must do more to end human suffering caused by poverty, inequality, hunger and hatred and to fight discrimination based on skin color, religion, sex or any other distinction. The Secretary General of the United Nations has said that in the months of the pandemic we have seen a frightening increase in violence against women and girls.

He also indicated that we must continue the progress made so far. Remarkable global collaborative work is underway to develop a vaccine against Covid-19 that is safe, affordable and accessible to all.

He did not fail to recall that we are facing challenges of colossal magnitude. We can overcome them, if we cooperate and show solidarity. This is the very "raison d'être" of the United Nations. In conclusion, the Secretary General of the United

Nations called on women and men around the world to unite. He urged them to act to make our shared vision of a better world for all a reality.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

**REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI
PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
General Secretariat of the State**

PRESS RELEASE Nr 07 OF THE CABINET MEETING OF THURSDAY 22nd OCTOBER 2020

The Council of Ministers met this Thursday, October 22, 2020, in Gitega, under the chairmanship of His Excellency the President of the Republic, Major General Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE.

The following files were analyzed:

1. The Document of the environmental, agricultural and livestock orientation policy, presented by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock.

In recent years, the Government of Burundi has made a lot of efforts in putting the environment, agriculture and livestock among the priority sectors.

As a result of these efforts, agricultural and livestock production has generally increased across the country, and this has resulted in food stability during the past two years.

The increase in production is also due to the increase in cultivable areas for rice and maize due to the development programs of the marshes that have been implemented. Added to this is the profitability of the agricultural seasons where, currently, all seasons are almost exploited.

Based on the lessons learned from all these achievements, the Government wants not only to perpetuate these achievements, but also to go further to generate a production surplus, in order to supply the industrial sector.

To this end, an environmental, agricultural and livestock policy must be put in place to allow the balance between agricultural production and the food needs of the population.

It is within this framework that this environmental, agricultural and livestock orientation policy document was developed.

The overall objective of this policy is to contribute to the protection of the environment, the rational management of state lands, the improvement of sustainable food and nutritional security for all, the increase in household income and foreign exchange for the State, the supply of raw materials for the industrial sector, as well as the creation of jobs in the processing sector and related services to agriculture.

At the end of the discussions and debate, the Council of Ministers adopted this policy after having made some adjustments.

2. Strategic orientation note on the management of agricultural production intended for marketing, presented by the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock.

In the agricultural sector, the Government's objective is to ensure food security for all Burundians. To achieve this, several programs have been put in place. These programs have enabled production to increase significantly. This has resulted in visible impacts on the living conditions of households where food security is already stable throughout the country.

However, in responding to the Government's call, producers have put a lot of effort into increasing production but are demotivated by market prices which do not cover production costs. These non-remunerative prices only benefit speculative traders who buy at low prices but return the same products to the market after some time at high prices, sometimes inaccessible to the consumer.

Another problem is linked to the fraudulent trade of these agricultural products which creates the shortage in the production region.

Faced with this situation, the Ministry in charge of agriculture is proposing, through this Note, a new incentive system for the management of agricultural production, making it possible to encourage investment in the agricultural sector by guaranteeing it a market of sale at the remunerative price. This will make it possible to produce more and free up agricultural products to be processed and sold locally or exported.

After analysis, the Note was adopted with some corrections.

3. Bill on the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the Protocol for the establishment of financial assistance between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of the Republic of Burundi, presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

Based on the ties of friendship, cooperation and solidarity that exist between our two countries, the Republic of Burundi and the Republic of Turkey wish to strengthen them, develop them and extend their framework of cooperation.

To this end, a Protocol for the establishment of financial assistance was signed between the two countries on April 30, 2019.

This financial assistance includes the costs of support as well as the costs of short-term training provided or coordinated by the training centers available in the structure of the Turkish Armed Forces, as well as the transport costs of the personnel of the National Defense Force from Burundi to Turkey. The Burundian side will have a period of five years for its use.

This Protocol will enter into force after an exchange of notes through diplomatic channels, confirming that the internal legal formalities have been completed.

Upon analysis, the draft was adopted.

4. Bill revising the Code of the organization and competence of military jurisdictions, presented by the Minister of National Defense and Veterans Affairs.

The organization and jurisdiction of the Burundian military courts are governed by Decree-Law No. 1/5 of February 27, 1980.

Almost forty years after its entry into force, this text deserves to be revised mainly for two reasons, namely:

- Fill in the gaps linked in particular to the absence of the role and place of the General Auditor as well as of the administrative organization in general on the one hand, and harmonize it with the organic law of 2017 which governs the Force of National Defense of Burundi, on the other hand.

- The original competences of military judicial bodies have been drastically modified by other legal instruments, namely the Constitution of 2018, the law of 2005 governing the Supreme Court as well as the law of 2005 establishing the Code of judicial organization and competence.

The bill under analysis proposes to correct the shortcomings currently observed and to harmonize with all these legal instruments.

The Council of Ministers had analyzed this project and returned it for rework. He made the following observations:

- We must interpret the constitutional provisions in this area;
- The principle of the territoriality of criminal law must be respected;
- The project needs to comply with the Code of Criminal Procedure;
- It is necessary to clarify and distinguish the offenses which fall under the competence of the military courts and those which fall under the civil courts.

During the debate, the Council was informed that the Code of Judicial Organization and Jurisdiction is currently being revised, and this revision will certainly have an impact on this project under analysis.

To this end, the Council decided to delay this project so that both are analyzed in parallel at the same time to avoid possible contradictions.

5. Ministerial order draft setting the expenditure commitment ceilings for the second quarter of 2020/2021, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning

The expenditure commitment ceilings are subject to regulations prescribed in certain texts, in particular the decree on fiscal governance, the decree establishing general regulations for the management of public budgets, etc.

They also comply with the law establishing the general budget of the Republic of Burundi for the 2020/2021 of the fiscal year which introduces in its article 38, the development of quarterly expenditure commitment ceilings which must be validated by the Cabinet meeting.

These commitments are made on the basis of collections. These commitment ceilings, which are in line with the state treasury plan, concern all state spending, except those that are mandatory and irreducible, such as salary and debt spending.

Thus, during the 2020/2021 budget management, the pace of commitments will depend on the pace of revenue collection.

This draft ordinance determines these expenditure commitment ceilings for the second quarter of 2020/2021. After discussion and debate, the project was adopted.

6. Ministerial order draft establishing a benchmark for public procurement prices in Burundi, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

As part of its mission of producing and centralizing statistical data for better monitoring and effective management of the country's economic and social policy, the Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of Burundi (ISTEEBU) has set up a system for monitoring the prices of goods and services intended for household consumption since 1964.

Since 1991, the collection of consumer prices has been accompanied by the collection of prices of new housing construction materials. Since 2018, the new housing construction cost index includes the price of construction materials, the price of labor, the price of management resources and the rental price of construction equipment.

This year 2020, at the request of the Ministry in charge of Finance, ISTEEBU has just implemented the first version of the price benchmark for goods and services consumed by the Government in the exercise of its missions.

This benchmark will make it possible to properly manage the expenditure devoted to the purchase of goods and services that require recourse to public contracts. It plays an important role as an indicator in the evaluation of prices offered by bidders in public procurement at the national level.

Both regional and international institutions can also make good use of it when awarding contracts for the supply of products, if these are carried out on national territory.

This repository is a tool that will be used to control public spending because it will allow in particular:

- To reduce and / or prevent overcharging in public procurement;
- Refine the estimate of contract costs the following year;
- Facilitate the budgeting of the various public programs;
- To carry out statistical studies on price fluctuations and inflation and to derive the various indices related to the cost of materials.

This price reference will be updated every year.

After analysis and debate, the project was adopted with some adjustments.

7. Ministerial order draft on the harmonization of the remuneration and operating costs of managers and staff of projects financed by technical and financial partners (PTFs), presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

The Ministry in charge of Finance, in its capacity as principal authorizing officer for all State expenditure, whether it is expenditure from internal resources or from external resources, has decided to set up a salary scale harmonizing the remuneration of managers and staff as well as operating costs within projects financed by Burundi's technical and financial partners for a series of reasons:

1 ° Funding from technical and financial partners in the form of grants and loans becomes public funds that deserve to be managed efficiently by aligning with the laws and regulations in force in Burundi. For loans, the State is required to reimburse via tax deductions from taxpayers.

2 ° The funding received from technical and financial partners is intended for investment projects in harmony with the priorities retained in the National Development Policy and not for management costs. The current situation shows the opposite because the operating costs occupy a good part of the financing.

3 ° With regard to the specifications within the externally financed projects, the volume of work is similar to that found at the level of the public administration and Burundian public establishments. The excessively high level of remuneration within these projects is not justified.

4 ° The performance in projects financed by technical and financial partners is questionable in view of the delays in the execution of projects, with requests for extension of deadlines, disputes observed, as well as ineligible expenses that the State is called to bear in some cases.

5 ° The wage disparities within projects financed by technical and financial partners cannot be justified in a national context of research to restore pay equity by the establishment of an equitable wage policy in the Burundian public administration. .

6 ° All Burundian consumers who go to the same market require fair treatment which should take into account the cost of living.

In view of all these reasons, the proposed grid refers to the salary levels in force within the better paid Burundian Public Establishments.

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

8. Note on the commitment of the Government of Burundi for a public-private partnership between the Province of Gitega and a consortium of Dutch private sector companies for the implementation of the "Implementing Measurable Productive Agri Cooperation Trade (IMPACT)" Project , presented by the Minister of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security.

In 2018, the Government of Burundi established Gitega as the Political Capital of Burundi.

This Province has just expressed its interest in working with Dutch industrialists from the private sector, to contribute to the socio-economic development of rural areas, to the development of infrastructure in rural areas, to job creation and income generation.

Since April 2019, some Dutch companies have started a feasibility study of the "Implementing Measurable Productive Agri Cooperation Trade (IMPACT)" project.

In May 2019, a delegation of these companies came to Burundi to discuss this partnership.

In November and December 2019, these companies conducted field surveys on how to establish collection points for the storage and distribution of food, especially fruits and vegetables, with appropriate technology.

This public-private partnership project plans to lead to the installation of a food processing plant in Gitega called "Organic Burundi Food" where the Government would hold 49% of the shares.

Processing is indeed the only alternative to increase the value of these products in Burundi, to mitigate the deterioration of surplus production and to increase the shelf life of these products.

The beneficiaries of this Project will be mainly farmers from Gitega, Karusi, Kayanza, Mwaro, Muramvya, Ngozi and Rutana provinces organized in agricultural cooperatives.

The Cabinet meeting analyzed this Note and reiterated its support for the policy of processing Burundian agricultural products.

He nevertheless indicated that everything must be done within the framework already drawn by the Government. A team had been appointed to finalize the file before bringing it back to the Cabinet meeting for adoption.

Upon completion of the analysis, the Council noted that the concerns raised were addressed and adopted.

9. Other information

- The Minister of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture briefed the Council on the organization of a Youth Retreat planned in Bujumbura from October 27 to 28, 2020.

This Retreat will bring together 700 young Burundian intellectuals and will be placed under the theme "Intellectual youth, pioneer of sustainable development in Burundi".

The aim is to encourage young people to be entrepreneurs.

-His Excellency the Prime Minister has promised to prepare a Reminder Note on certain points of the Government's flagship policy so that the members of the Government can exploit each one as far as he is concerned and / or collegially as the case may be.

Gitega, 23rd October 2020

**The Secretary General of State and Spokesperson
Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE**

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