

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI**PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat-General of the State****MEDIA RELEASE CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2020**

A Cabinet Meeting was held in Gitega on Friday 13th of November 2020, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Major-General Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi. The following items were analyzed:

1. Strategy document for the implementation of the National Industrialization Policy, presented by the Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism.

In 2018, Burundi adopted a National Development Plan which develops Burundi's vision for 2027.

This National Development Plan constitutes a reference framework for Burundi's economic policy.

It is based on levers reflected in the structural transformation of the economy, moving from traditional activities to the development of new, more productive activities to boost the economy. This transformation of the economy will be achieved through the National Industrialization Policy which was adopted in July 2019.

The industrial sector is indeed a very important factor in the development of a country through its contribution to the Gross Domestic Product.

It is high time that Burundi endowed itself with such a tool for structural transformation of the economy through its modernization.

The implementation strategy of the National Industrialization Policy with a detailed strategic action plan was drawn up in order to give new impetus to the industrial sector. It shows concrete actions to be taken to provide concrete responses to the challenges identified in the National Development Plan in terms of industrialization.

The main mission of this strategy is to provide the Government and its development partners with a tool for operationalizing the National Industrialization Policy, with a view to building by 2027 a dynamic, competitive and diversified industrial sector, an important element in the structural transformation of the economy.

This mission will be carried out through the implementation of actions broken down into seven political orientations, namely:

1. Develop infrastructure to support industrialization
2. Industrialize agriculture
3. Industrialize the mining sector
4. Industrialize the processing of agricultural products
5. Industrialize manufacturing
6. Develop the hotel and tourism industry
7. Set up legal and institutional mechanisms for industrialization

This strategy defines industrial priorities on the basis of the resources available in Burundi.

After exchange and debate, the document was adopted with certain contributions from members of the Government to be taken into consideration in order to improve the Strategy Document.

2. Draft decree on the status of the chaplaincy and military chaplains of the Burundi National Defense Force, presented by the Minister of National Defense and Veterans Affairs.

Organic law n ° 1/04 of February 20, 2017 on the creation, organization, missions, composition and functioning of the National Defense Force of Burundi places the Chaplaincy Service among the services of the General Staff

of the National Defense Force.

Decree No. 100/011 of February 6, 2018 on the mission, organization, composition and functioning of the National Defense Force Staff defines the structure of the chaplaincy and further determines the duties of the chaplains at each level of responsibility.

Despite this taking into account of the military chaplain service by the essential texts governing the National Defense Force of Burundi, the particular character of its personnel and its mission remain elements which militate in favour of a status of chaplains different from that of the Officers of the National Defense Force of Burundi.

Decree n ° 100/133 of May 13, 2011 relating to the status of chaplaincy and the situation of military chaplains is no longer in harmony with the new texts governing the National Defense Force of Burundi, it is necessary to proceed with its revision in order to take into account the current context and integrate the necessary innovations into it.

This project adapts to the existing legal framework in order to maintain legal and administrative harmony and consistency.

After analysis, the Council of Ministers adopted this project after having made some adjustments.

3. Draft ministerial order establishing a framework for collaboration between the Burundian Office for Town Planning, Housing and Construction (OBUHA), the Burundi Road Agency (ARB) and the Military Construction Authority (RMC), presented by the Minister of National Defense and Veterans Affairs

This project will implement decree n ° 100/040 of March 03, 2020 reorganizing the Military Construction Authority.

This decree provides, in its article 7, that the Military Construction Authority benefits from the collaboration of other public structures in the field of town

planning, housing and construction, in this case the Burundian Office. of Town Planning, Housing and Construction (OBUHA) and the Burundi Road Agency (ARB).

This project clarifies the framework of this collaboration.

After discussion, the Council noted that the project does not meet the Government's concern which was to see the Military Construction Authority be able to carry out, like other private companies, major works on behalf of the State.

It was therefore recommended that the Ministries in charge of National Defense and Infrastructures identify what is preventing the Régie Militaire de Construcion from competing like other private companies and proposing solutions and also showing, in a concrete way, how the three structures, namely: OBUHA, the Military Construction Authority and the Burundi Road Agency can collaborate.

This project will be brought back to the Council of Ministers after completing this work.

4. Draft decree on the management of agricultural, animal and fishery production, presented by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock

On October 22, 2020, the Council of Ministers analyzed and adopted a Strategic Guidance Note on the management of agricultural production intended for marketing.

This Note proposed an incentive system for the management of agricultural production, making it possible to encourage investment in the agricultural sector by guaranteeing it a sales market at a remunerative price. This will make it possible to produce more and free up agricultural products to be processed and sold locally or for export.

The Council of Ministers had recommended that the Note be converted into a regulatory text.

This draft decree is proposed within this framework.

It specifies the terms of incentive to increase production, the role of the National Agency for Food Security Stock Management (ANAGESSA) as well as the terms of marketing of production.

Following the discussions, the project was adopted with some adjustments.

5. Note on the bill on specific provisions for the trade in petroleum products, presented by the Deputy Cabinet Director of the Prime Minister's Office.

During its session of November 8 and 9, 2017, the Council of Ministers analyzed and adopted the bill on specific provisions for trade in petroleum products, with, among other things, a recommendation to verify the legal form that this text should take (decree or law).

The commission which had been appointed looked into this matter and confirmed that the text should be taken into law.

The text was then transmitted to the Parliament.

On September 18, 2020, the National Assembly requested the withdrawal of the draft from the agenda of the National Assembly by showing that the matter concerned in this bill is not within the domain of the law with regard to article 164 of the Constitution.

This Note is proposed for the analysis of the arguments of the National Assembly motivating the withdrawal of this text.

At the end of the analysis of the Note and of the arguments of the National Assembly, the Council noted that indeed, even if the legislative matter falls within the domain of the law with regard to the Constitution, the title as worded suggests that the matter is a regulatory domain.

It was therefore recommended that this project be withdrawn so that it can be reworked.

6. Note requesting the cession of land for the extension of the Nyanza-Lac District Hospital, presented by the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS.

Nyanza-Lac District Hospital was initially a nursing station since 1992 and evolved into a district hospital in 2008, with a capacity of 121 beds.

This hospital would like to increase its reception capacity by 100 beds, given the ever-increasing demand for care.

It is within this framework that the hospital, in agreement with the administration, planned its expansion.

In order to carry out the projects that the hospital has planned, and in view of the fact that the space available to the hospital is insufficient, the administration was requested to avail a plot of land for three houses of the Nyanza-Lac Rural Development Project. The requested property is vacant and adjoins the Hospital.

As access to the operation and change of use of such land must be authorized by the Council of Ministers upon presentation of a motivated report by the Minister on whom the activity to be carried out depends, the purpose of the Note is to request the transfer of the above-mentioned plot to the Nyanza-Lac Hospital.

After analysis and debate, the Council of Ministers gave its agreement in principle to the granting of this land, but recommended that the required procedures in this matter be respected.

7. Note on the progress report of the digital census of civil servants, executives and agents of ministries and state institutions, presented by the Minister of Public Service, Labor and Employment.

In order to have reliable data in relation to all the human resources of the State for a rational management, the Ministry of the Public Service, Labor and Employment was asked to organize a general census of civil servants, executives and civil servants remunerated from the general State budget.

This census, initially scheduled for October 26 and 27, 2020, had to be extended until November 6, 2020 following the entry into play of new institutions that were unable to participate in the training organized for this purpose.

As a result, the gross number of civil servants is 129,287, before reprocessing, civil servants in detention, hospitalized or located outside the country have not yet been identified. The Note shows the workforce by department and by province of residence.

The note indicates the difficulties encountered, among other things resistance to change with, for example, attempts to block the census by the unions.

As future prospects, the Note proposes in particular the establishment of a Data Center which would house all the data collected by the Government, as well as the extension of the census to joint-stock companies and the private sector.

Following the analysis of the Note, the Council appreciated the work that has been done and made certain recommendations, in particular the development of a proposal for the implementation of future perspectives.

8. Any other Business

- The Minister of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing spoke about the progress of rehabilitation works on the Rumonge-Gitaza and Kabingo –Kasulu-Manyovu multinational road. He indicated the progress of procurement activities as well as the actual work. He indicated that the status of the project is so far satisfactory in view of the activities already carried out and those underway for the preparation of contracts.

The Project in fact comprises five components of works and twelve types of services, each of which requires its procurement cycle.

- Finally, His Excellency the President of the Republic made a positive assessment of the State Visit he paid to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea as well as that carried out by the Prime Minister in the United Republic of Tanzania on the occasion of the Inauguration of the President of the Republic, His Excellency John Pombe Magufuli.

Done at Gitega, November 14th, 2020

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