

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI**PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat-General of the State****COMMUNIQUE N ° 1 FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
BURUNDI IN CONNECTION WITH THE FIGHT AGAINST THE COVID-
19 PANDEMIC**

➤ The COVID-19 pandemic began in China in December 2019. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared it as a pandemic in March 2020. Regarding Burundi, the first cases were recorded on March 31, 2020.

As part of the prevention and fight against COVID-19, the Government of the Republic of Burundi has taken, like other countries in the world, measures to prevent and fight COVID-19. As a reminder, we would mention in particular:

- Individual and collective prevention measures announced by the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS;
- Measures of decentralization of screening centers and free care throughout the country;
- Quarantine measures for people coming from outside the country;
- Measures to suspend the granting of visas;
- Measures to suspend official missions abroad;
- Measures to close certain land and sea borders;
- Measures to suspend commercial flights at the Melchior NDADAYE International Airport in Bujumbura.

➤ In addition to these measures already taken to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, His Excellency the President of the Republic, Major General Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE in Person, solemnly launched the “Ndakira, Sinandura kandi Sinandukiza Coronavirus” Campaign in his Message to the Nation, during the Commemoration of the 58th anniversary of Burundi's Independence, which consisted, among other things, in a mass screening of anyone presenting the symptoms of COVID-19.

The Campaign was warmly welcomed by the population who were able to have easy and close access to testing centers and to conduct voluntary tests, which made it possible to defy the fear of being stigmatized.

➤ As many know, in light of the results of the Three-Month Campaign, the COVID-19 pandemic has been brought under control internally. This success stems from the combination of political will, the spirit of sacrifice and the full commitment of all those who should take the lead in organizing the response plan against this pandemic. Therefore, we must not lower our guard: it is a battle won but the war continues. The pandemic can reappear at any time, if we do not stay watchful.

➤ When evaluating the results of the “Ndakira, Sinandura kandi Sinandukiza Coronavirus” Campaign, His Excellency the President of the Republic had promised to do everything to prevent the economic recession from taking hold in the country and to secure all development activities underway throughout the territory of Burundi.

In addition, there are Burundians stranded abroad who would like to return to their country and others who would like to leave the country for various reasons, on the one hand; and on the other hand, foreigners who would like to come and invest in Burundi or return to their countries. Both

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are waiting for the suspension of commercial flights to be lifted so that they can travel.

- Responding to this call from the President of the Republic, the Government set to work to find a solution to all these cases, while ensuring the protection of Burundian citizens and foreigners residing and coming to Burundi, by putting in place the necessary sanitary measures to prevent COVID-19 or to care for those who are affected before they infect others.

Therefore, the establishment of these infrastructures to allow the free movement of goods and people is being done gradually. This is why the measures that the Government is taking towards the reopening of air, land or sea borders will be phased in.

6. From the above mentioned, the current state of affairs allows the Government of the Republic of Burundi to take the following measures:

➤ **For air borders:**

The Melchior NDADAYE International Airport in Bujumbura will be reopened from Sunday, November 8, 2020;

However, the following measures accompanying this reopening must be strictly observed:

- Travelers entering or leaving Burundian territory must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test carried out before 72 hours of boarding;
 - Upon arrival at Melchior NDADAYE International Airport in Bujumbura, all travelers must be screened and comply with a strict 72-hour confinement measure in one of the hotel establishments provided for this purpose.
 - The screening test and hotel costs are the responsibility of the traveler; *BNT*
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- If a positive case for COVID-19 is detected in a vehicle or on an airplane, a second test will be required for all passengers. They will have to wait for the results. Those who test negative for COVID-19 will be allowed to leave;
- Cases declared positive will be immediately referred to an appropriate care center;
- For foreign travelers positive for COVID-19, they will pay for medical care themselves.
- Travelers will have to book hotels in advance online through the platform managed by Médiabox.

➤ **For certain land and sea borders,**

The installation of the health infrastructure necessary to deal with the pandemic is underway. The reopening of these borders will be gradual depending on the situation case by case and the operability of these infrastructures. The related measures taken will be communicated to the public whenever necessary.

7. The Government of the Republic of Burundi is closely monitoring the evolution of the Coronavirus in the country and in the world. It takes into account the best interests of the people and the country like a good father (Reta Mvyeyi, Reta Nkozi). This is why these measures taken or to be taken will be regularly evaluated and adapted according to the evolution of the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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8. The Government of the Republic of Burundi recalls that the fight against the Coronavirus continues, and urges all stakeholders to ensure multisectoral monitoring and finally to counter the slackening observed in recent days.

9. Finally, the Government of the Republic of Burundi asks the population to remain calm, to go about their daily routines while scrupulously respecting the individual and collective prevention measures already taken against COVID-19.

Done at Bujumbura, November 3rd, 2020

Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE

Secretary-General and Spokesman.-

