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The Head of State receives in audience the country Manager of the ADB



The Head of State His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye received in audience, on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, the Country Manager of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Mr. Daniel Ndoye.

Their interview focused on the AfDB's commitment to support the country and the Head of State in his efforts to develop the country.

At the end of the audience, Mr. Daniel Ndoye said that it was a courtesy visit that he made to renew to the burundian Head of State the congratulations of the African Development Bank and its President, for his accession to the high offices of his country. It was also according to Mr. Daniel Ndoye, to thank him for the support that Burundi and his Government have shown to the AfDB.

The Country Representative of the AfDB said on this occasion that this bank welcomed the vision of the Burundian Head of State for development, the relevance of the priorities he defined, in particular,

namely agriculture and youth employment, good governance and social cohesion.

Mr. Daniel Ndoye also indicated that the African Development Bank wel-

comes the very convincing results acquired in the fight against Covid-19 and the control of this pandemic in Burundi, affirming that many countries envy Burundi.

He also underlined that as one of the main partners of Burundi for 45 years, the AfDB intervenes in several fields, in particular transport, energy and agriculture, with a portfolio covering nearly 400 million US dollars.

The AfDB Country Manager reiterated to the Head of State the AfDB's commitment to continue to support Burundi and the Head of State in its development efforts with mobilization of resources up to 150 million US dollars for the next few years. These funds will serve as support in the fields of transport, in the agricultural sector (development of valleys in the provinces of Muyinga, Ngozi and Kirundo) and in the rehabilitation of roads, the port of Bujumbura as well as in the increase of access to energy for the population.

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In conclusion, Mr. Daniel Ndoye said that the AfDB welcomes the leadership of the President of the Republic of Burundi and his commitment to the proper execution of development projects ", assuring that this bank will re-

main attentive to continue supporting further the country to the achievement of its development objectives.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The New Dutch Ambassador in Burundi presents his credentials



The new Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Burundi, His Excellency Ambassador Jeroen Theodurus Maria Gerardus Steeghs, presented on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, his credentials to the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye. On the sidelines, they discussed the themes between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Burundi.

Ambassador Jeroen Theodurus Maria Gerardus Steeghs conveyed wishes of happiness and prosperity from the Queen of the Netherlands to the President of



the Republic of Burundi. According to the Ambassador, the Queen wishes peace and prosperity to the Head of State and to the burundian people.

The two personalities also discussed the themes of cooperation between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Burundi. The Ambassador recalled that the Kingdom of the Netherlands maintains cooperation relations, especially in the field of security with Burundi and seized this opportunity to let it be known that his country wants to move forward and put more efforts in the agricultural sector. The Head of State welcomed this proposal, especially since in the projects and programs of the Government, agriculture and livestock occupy a prominent place.

Ambassador Jeroen Theodurus Maria Gerardus Steeghs also spoke about the upheavals and vicissitudes that have marred relations between the European Union and Burundi and especially the Kingdom of the Netherlands. He recalled that in the relations of nations and peoples, there are always ups and downs, but the most important thing is to strive to improve day to day relations between countries and between organizations.

In this regard, Ambassador Jeroen Theodurus Maria Gerardus Steeghs hinted that his country is now committed to rectifying the situation so that these relations are re-normalized, so that cooperation between the two countries can resume in due form.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

Bujumbura hosts a national retreat for young intellectuals



The President of the Republic His Excellency Mr. Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE enhanced with his presence on Tuesday, October 27, 2020, a national retreat for young graduates of the master's degree and more. This two-day retreat was organized under the theme: "Intellectual Youth, pioneer of sustainable development" and aimed to encourage young intellectuals to undertake.

This retreat brought together more than 600 young people with master's, engineering and doctorate degrees and also saw the participation of the Vice-President of the Republic H.E Prosper Bazombanza, the Prime Minister His Excellency CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni, Members of the Government, Parliamentarians and Senators, investors, Diplomats accredited in Burundi, the intellectual elite and many others.

In his welcome speech, the Mayor of the City of Bujumbura CP Jimmy Hatungimana thanked the Head of State for his presence in this intellectual youth retreat, this demonstrates his concern about the problems that haunt the youth, as he said. He also welcomed this initiative of the Ministry having Youth in its attributions to help intellectual youth to rediscover their capacity to contribute in the development of the country.

In his opening speech of this retreat, the President of the Republic His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye asked young intellectuals to behave like selected seeds that could contribute to the increase of production for the well-being of the burundian population.

He nevertheless deplors the habit of some of the burundian beneficiaries' intellectuals of state scholarships who stay abroad after their studies, to serve developed countries (brain drain) instead of returning to their native country in order to develop it. "Many are those who wonder why the country remains underdeveloped when it has all the resources: human capital and raw materials, to achieve development. Young people must use their capacities to grow natural resources which enrich the country", specifies the Head of State. He invited young people to be leaders in development, to join groups of young people in solidarity for development in order to create businesses where other young people will find work.

The Head of State also called on young intellectuals to set up growth-promoting projects eligible for financing from funds allocated to them via the Youth Investment Bank (BIJE), with the backing of the Guarantee Impulse Fund and Support (FIGA). With the government's new policy of supporting, accompanying and promoting burundian youth, 40 billion burundian francs are available to young people, as job creation capital, he said.

After presentations, discussions and panels led by experts in entrepreneurship, the Head of State expressed the wish that this retreat, which is very beneficial for the country in general and for young people in particular, will serve as an impetus for them to successful entrepreneurship.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The Head of State calls on all Officials to join agricultural cooperatives



The Head of State His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye calls on Officials and traders to meet after hours to practice rural activities in order to increase production and allow every mouth to have food. This call was launched on Monday, October 26, 2020 after the launch of the sowing of maize in the VASO cooperatives on the Mpehe hill in the Bugarama zone of the province of Muramvya and in the Gasenyi district in the Gihosha zone, Ntahangwa commune in the Bujumbura town hall.

According to the Head of State, the VASO cooperatives were created in 2017 when it was said that every mouth should have something to eat. We had to lead as example, continued His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye. He explained that it was the civil

servants and the traders who got together and took advantage of the time after working hours to devote themselves to the field work.

The President of the Republic said that before, Officials rushed to bistros after working hours. He said officials are rushing to work in the fields today to increase production.

For the Head of State, everyone has an interest in doing this kind of activity because rural activities after hours of service generate added value at the family level, as long as the foodstuffs that would be bought at the market are produced by households.

The President of the Republic also hinted that the VASO cooperatives have increased the production of agricultural products to such an extent that market prices have fallen, a sign that after-hours fieldwork is of undeniable importance. .

The Head of State further noted that officials and traders from other provinces have been motivated, that the establishment of VASO cooperatives is increasingly observed in different provinces.

He seized this opportunity to appeal to all those who have not yet joined the VASO cooperatives to do so quickly and to practice agriculture and breeding intensively to ensure the well-being of their families.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

Analysis and adoption, by the National Assembly, of the draft law for the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the revised treaty establishing ECCAS



This Tuesday, October 27, 2020, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation His Excellency Albert SHINGIRO was invited to the National Assembly of Burundi to present the bill on

the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the revised Treaty establishing the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

In his Statement of Reason, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation indicated that the Treaty establishing the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) was signed on October 18, 1983, in Libreville in the Gabonese Republic and entered into force in December 1984. The latter was revised and signed on December 18, 2019, in Libreville, Gabon, and entered into force on August 28, 2020.

He said that the Community now has eleven countries and the main objective of the Community set at the creation was to ensure "effective economic integration

in order to improve the well-being of the population of Central Africa". He pointed out that this objective having not been achieved for years due to political, financial and human reasons, it was necessary to think about revitalizing the Community through an institutional reform.

He indicated that on the occasion of the XVI Ordinary Session of the Conference of the Heads of State and Government of ECCAS held on May 25, 2015 at N'Djamena in Chad, the Heads of State and Government decided to launch an institutional reform of ECCAS. HE Mr. Ali Bongo ONDIMBA, President of the Gabonese Republic and President in office of ECCAS was entrusted to lead this process to its conclusion.

He added that this institutional reform initiated since 2015 had the objective of "Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of ECCAS with the aim of achieving a major qualitative step in the governance of the Organization to make it a viable and strong Regional Economic Community, with an Executive having a renovated architecture adapted to the challenges of the present".



His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO thus presented the innovations made to the new revised ECCAS Treaty compared to the old one, which are in particular:

- The transformation of the General Secretariat of EC-CAS into a Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) endowed with enhanced skills and comprising seven Commissioners including a President, a Vice-President and five Commissioners Head of Departments.
- Creation of a Community Parliament, a Court of Auditors and a Court of Justice.
- Complete and definitive insertion of the peace and security architecture of Central Africa, including the Peace and Security Council (COPAX), within the institutional framework of ECCAS and its linkage to the peace architecture and security of the African Union.
- The establishment of a Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREP) composed of Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives or other plenipotentiaries of Member States, responsible for studying or instructing during the intersession under the responsibility of the Council of Ministers, questions and projects submitted to it by the Council of Ministers or any other institution of the Community.
- The modernization of the fundamental principles of the Community, and in particular the introduction of the principle of variable geometry with a view to accelerate the implementation of the regional integration agenda with the Member States which are ready and the possibility for those who are not to join later.

After analysis and debate, the bill on ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the revised Treaty establishing the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) was unanimously adopted by the National Assembly.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

The United Nations System in Burundi celebrates the 75th anniversary of the United Nations



On 29/10/2020, the Director General in charge of Multilateral Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation Ambassador Rémy Barampama represented the Government of Burundi in the activities to celebrate the United Nations' Day.

In his speech, Ambassador Rémy Barampama returned to the relations between Burundi and the United Nations, where he indicated that Burundi joined the UN in 1962. He also spoke of the elections of 2020 in Burundi. He said they

were calm and transparent. In addition, the Director General in charge of Multilateral Relations spoke about the implementation of the National Development Plan of Burundi 2018-2027, the strengthening of respect for the Charter of the United Nations.



He reiterated the Government's request to remove Burundi from the agenda of the United Nations Security Council. The Director General in charge of Multilateral Relations Ambassador Rémy Barampama also spoke about the issues of concern to the United Nations as a whole including climate change, migration, etc.

The Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Burundi, Mr. Niels Scott, presented ten major recommendations resulting from the UN 75 campaign as well as the United Nations' perceptions relating to these recommendations. Note that the 75th anniversary of the United Nations was celebrated at the Royal Palace Hotel, under the theme: "Let's shape the future we want together".

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

Cross-border trade: the Minister in charge of Trade calls on traders to work legally



The Minister in charge of Trade, Madam Immaculée Ndabaneze, in the company of stakeholders in

cross-border trade, carried out on Thursday October 29, 2020, a working raid at the Mugina border post in Makamba province. The purpose of this visit was to take stock of the achievements of the "Menyesha Nterimbere" project and to see together the opportunities and challenges faced by women in cross-border trade at the Mugina border post.

In his welcome speech, the Governor of Makamba indicated that the business climate is good. To facilitate cross-border trade in this province, he indicated that the road connecting this province to Tanzania (Mugina-Kigoma) had recently been rehabilitated. He nevertheless deplored the decline in migratory movement caused by the COVID19 pandemic.

According to the Representative of the association of women who exercise cross-border trade, the implementation of the "Menyesha Nterimbere" project supported by Belgian Cooperation in collaboration with Trade Mark East Africa has produced good results. This project, which aims to facilitate access to information for 2,000 women traders who operate at the

Gatumba, Ruhwa, Rumonge and Mugina borders, has raised awareness among the husbands of beneficiaries women of this project to better understand the added value of this project within households.

The women beneficiaries testify that they encounter a lot of challenges in this profession. These include misunderstandings within couples. Men consider this kind of activity to be a risky job for women who do it, some women traders said.

The Representative of women in cross-border trade did not fail to ask the Minister in charge of Trade to reduce the fees required to have various travel documents including the yellow card, the individual pass used by the living population in border areas. She also deplored the multitude of barriers all along the Mugina road and various exorbitant and illegal taxes demanded on these barriers.

She thus requested the establishment of the commercial information office in Mugina and the payment of taxes by electronic means to deal with the spread of the COVID19 pandemic.

The Country Representative of Trade Mark East Africa, Mr. Christian Nibasumba, for his part, indicated that this organization offers multifaceted support in different sectors including the Burundian Office of Recipes (OBR) and other associations in the right line of facilitating cross-border trade between the 11 member countries and in particular the 6 member countries of East Africa. Mr. Christian Nibasumba also promised that he will work with the OBR in order to be able to display the taxes required for each product entering or

leaving the Mugina border.

Taking the floor, Minister Immaculée Ndabaneze called on the population of Makamba, in particular women doing business at the Mugina border post to cut short the informal trade and fraud.

Madam Immaculée Ndabaneze continued her advice, urging them to exercise this cross-border trade through the channels recognized by the administration and to comply with the various laws governing cross-border trade.

To the usual partners who support women in cross-border trade, Minister Immaculée Ndabaneze asked them to set up a fund to grant small loans to them to increase their small capital. This is for the self-development of the family in general and of the woman in particular.

Regarding exorbitant taxes and which differ for the same product, Mrs. Immaculée Ndabaneze promised that she will launch investigations to better inquire into this situation at the Mugina border post. She also promised that she will coordinate with the authorities of the Central Bank to set up in Mugina an exchange office for Tanzanian Shillings in Burundian Francs.

On the sidelines of this visit to the Burundian-Tanzanian border post, Minister Immaculée Ndabaneze together with the one who represented the Ambassador of England in Burundi, the Representative of Trade Mark East Africa and other authorities present distributed to the operating agents from day to day at the Mugina border post, personal protective equipment against COVID19.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

Police have dismantled several criminal gangs

Police recently dismantled several gangs of thieves in various locations across the country, according to the spokesperson of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security.



The first band, described as "transnational" and which raged for some time in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), was dismantled on Tuesday, October 27, 2020, at 3 a.m., according to the spokesperson of the Ministry in charge of Public Security OPP1 Pierre Nkurikiye. This gang was committing crimes on the burundian side, in Gatumba, where they stole 460 US dollars and 500,000 burundian francs, shooting and injuring a member of the household. They also raged in Mubimbi where she stole four goats and 240,000 Burundian Francs, injuring a maid.

In Isare in the Rushubi zone, the same band fired and threw a grenade, without causing any victims. The gang of suspected criminals has been identified, said OPP1 Pierre Nkurikiye of the Ministry in charge of Public Security, noting that six of its members were apprehended, with a used Kalashnikov rifle, five chargers loaded with 195 car-

tridges. After their capture, the latter would have tried to disarm the person in charge of this operation who was wounded, continued OPP1 Pierre Nkurikiye, adding that this incident caused the death of four people among the suspects. The other two have taken off, according to the spokesperson of the Ministry in charge of Public Security, who said investigations are underway to arrest them with their accomplices.

A second gang of suspected criminals is made up of five armed thieves who, according to the spokesperson of the Ministry in charge of Public Security, were rampant around the "COTEBU" market, where they snatched mobile phones and handbags from the hands of passers-by. This gang was apprehended on the night of October 26-27. Two of these criminals died, hit by bullets as they tried to disarm the police who were taking them to a police station, said the spokesperson of the Ministry in charge of Public Security.

A 3rd gang was made up of two groups of car thieves. According to our source, the first group consists of a thief who was apprehended on October 24 while trying to steal a car in the grounds of the Military Hospital of Kamenge. He had torn some parts from the car. The second group is made up of three people who stole a car on October 25 in the Mirango II district, in the urban area of Kamenge. According to OPP1 Pierre Nkurikiye, the latter were apprehended in the Buterere zone, on the road which leads to Bujumbura International Airport.

The spokesperson of the Ministry in charge of Public Security, OPP1 Pierre Nkurikiye, reported on a 5th band of counterfeiters who had been dismantled in the Kinama

zone, Ngozi district, at 5th avenue. This group, made up of five people, engaged in "forgery and use of forgery". Police seized several used items, including false stamps and stamps and forged administrative documents.

To service seekers, OPP1 Pierre Nkurikiye is appealing to denounce these counterfeiters. A gang of drug users was presented to the press. The latter were in possession of hemp and hemp balls. A final tape presented to the media consists of three suspected crooks who, according to OPP1 Pierre Nkurikiye, swindled the population by using the name of His Excellency the Prime Minister. The spokesperson of the Ministry in charge of Public Security regretted that the latter had already been apprehended in such cases of fraud using other names of personalities.

OPP1 Pierre Nkurikiye wished to draw the attention of the population to another form of scam, regretting

that there is an organization which defrauded the population. This is, he said, the organization called "Action for the Promotion of Entrepreneurship through Crowdfunding (APFP)". He said that this organization has collected a sum of 569,660,000 Burundian Francs, contributed by 8,764 "victims" people. He made known that quarrels have already broken out at the level of this organization, specifying that the Police will continue the investigations in order to apprehend the president and the vice-president of this organization, as well as the person who would have designed the software used, from the moment that "people complained that they were victims of fraud on their part". He calls on the population to denounce such scams and to beware of falling into the trap.

(Source: www.abpinfos.com)

Bujumbura province is safe despite rumors



For the moment, Bujumbura Province is completely safe, despite rumors that have circulated recently, after the passage of criminals in certain Communes, the Principal Advisor to the Governor of Bujumbura, Mr. Dieudonné Bizimana and the Communal Administrators said on Tuesday during a security meeting organized at the capital of Nyabiraba Commune.

However, cases of theft from households, shops and fields are reported in all municipalities, while the consumption of prohibited drinks, Kanyanga and umungazi is reported in Kanyosha, Kabezi, Mubimbi and Mutimbuzi. Illegal marriages are also a sad reality in Kanyosha, Kabezi and Mutimbuzi Communes. But municipal Administrators say they are holding awareness meetings, in order to cut short these practices.

Mr. Dieudonné Bizimana asked the municipal Administrators, the Heads of zones and hills to ensure the safeguard of peace and security, by the proper functioning of the joint security committees. He invited the municipal Administrators to mobilize

the population around community development work, to protect the environment, to fight against theft in households, in the fields and in the shops and especially to fight against prohibited drinks and illegal weddings within a period not exceeding three months.

The Provincial Police Commissioner seized this opportunity to ask these Administrators to sensitize young people, so that they respond to the current registration, for the recruitment of officers, national brigadiers and police officers, because they come in small quantities.

(Source: www.abpinfos.bi)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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