

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
Development Cooperation

MFADC-MAGAZINE
Nr 101 of 27th November
2020

Extradition of the alleged putschists hosted by Rwanda and the liquidation of the Office of the Special Envoy for Burundi on the menu of discussions between President Ndayishimiye and the UN Envoy



Mr. Antonio Guterres.

Mr. Huang Xi brought two messages from the UN Secretary General, namely the formal closure and liquidation of the Office of the Special Envoy for Burundi as well as the extradition of the alleged putschists who are on Rwanda territory.

The Head of State His Excellency Évariste Ndayishimiye received, in audience at Ntare Rushatsi House, Mr. Huang Xia Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the United Nations in the Great Lakes Region.

The President of the Republic welcomed Mr. Huang Xia and his delegation before describing to them the situation of the country, which is calm and secure throughout its territory. He also informed on the country's program which defines the pillars and the axes of intervention to achieve for the fight against poverty and the development of Burundi, so that every mouth has food and every pocket has money.

He further hailed the good collaboration between him and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Mr. Huang Xia in turn conveyed to the President of the Republic of Burundi congratulations and greetings of the UN Secretary General,

Beginning with Rwanda's request to hand over the alleged Burundian coup plotters it is hosting, Mr. Huang Xia informed the President of the Republic that Rwanda has the firm will to hand over the alleged coup plotters to the Burundian authorities but that it would like to do so through a mediation mechanism or country.

The Head of State said that between Burundi and Rwanda there is no need for a foreign mediator because the two peoples are very close and can understand each other regarding their almost similar languages. The only dispute between Burundi and Rwanda, added President Ndayishimiye, lies in the fact that this country hosts these alleged coup plotters, which is the biggest point of contention.

In addition, contacts aimed at normalizing bilateral relations are already

In this Edition:

page

Extradition of the alleged putschists hosted by Rwanda and the liquidation of the Office of the Special Envoy for Burundi on the menu of discussions between President Ndayishimiye and the UN Envoy

1

Head of State goes to Libreville

2

Karusi / Religious denominations: the President of the National Assembly calls for unity and harmony

3

The Ombudsman meets the Governors and Administrators of the South of the country

4

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation in collaboration with the UNFPA is organizing a strategic meeting of the commitments made by Burundi at the Nairobi Summit

4

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation participates in the 37th Ministerial Conference of Francophonie

5

Press Release of the Cabinet meeting of 25th November 2020

10

underway between the Rwandan and Burundian Authorities. After the meeting between the two respective Ministers in charge of Foreign Affairs and the Heads of the intelligence services, President Evariste Ndayishimiye informed that in December a meeting of the respective Ministers in charge of Justice is planned, to talk about practical arrangements in relation to these alleged coup plotters.

President Evariste Ndayishimiye recalled that the United Nations is built on respect for the rule of law, the fight against impunity and the strengthening of accountability. Therefore, it would be asking for one thing and its opposite by taking the way of negotiation and complacency in the case of these people prosecuted by the Burundian justice for crimes committed, recalling that justice cannot be negotiated, the non-respect of the legality inexorably leads to violations of civil and political rights, and this would risk condemning the Burundi people in order to save some individuals who have grieved them.

In addition, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the UN learned that Burundi will guarantee these alleged putschists a fair and equitable trial, as is the case for their co-accused who were judged with the greatest respect of their rights. Some of them have even written to the Head of State asking for a Presidential Pardon.

Concerning the second issue, the Special Envoy informed President Ndayishimiye that the Secretary Ge-

neral of the United Nations has taken note of the desire of the Republic of Burundi to close the Office of the Special Envoy for Burundi with effect from 31 December 2020.

However, he informed him of the request made by Mr. Antonio Guterres to grant the United Nations General Secretariat a period of 9 to 12 months for administrative, logistical and legal formalities related to the closing and the liquidation, including termination of contracts of local and international staff, payment of suppliers and clearing of other financial obligations, etc.

The President of the Republic disclosed that the reasons behind the creation of this office no longer exist, which is why Burundi has taken the decision to close this office.

On the request for a deadline for formalities, HE Evariste Ndayishimiye said he agreed, as long as the two parties understand in the same way that this Office must be closed and liquidated. He said, however, that these are technical questions that should not cause a problem, the Burundian technicians being called upon to work with those of the UN to determine the necessary deadlines for these formalities as well as the timetable.

The meeting ended with the expression of the will of the two parties to maintain contact and to continue fruitful cooperation between Burundi and the United Nations.

(Source: www.presidence.gov.bi)

Head of State goes to Libreville



The Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye accompanied by the First Lady, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, took a flight to Libreville, the capital of Gabon, on Thursday November 27, 2020.

President Ndayishimiye went to take part in the 18th

summit of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of the Central African States, ECCAS in acronym.

This 18th ordinary session of ECCAS is a first organized since the outbreak of COVID-19 and has been held face-to-face and not by videoconference.

Let's recall that the Economic Community of Central African States was created in 1983 in order to promote the economic, social and cultural development of Africa with a view to create regional structures that can gradually lead to a common Market.

(Source: www.presidence.gov.bi)

Karusi / Religious denominations: the President of the National Assembly calls for unity and harmony



On parliamentary recess and in the company of Deputies and Senators elected in the constituency of Karusi Province, the President of the National Assembly, the Right Honorable Daniel Gélase Ndirakobuca paid on Monday, November 23, 2020, a working visit to the Municipalities of Bugenyuzi and Gihogazi in Karusi Province.

In the Capital of the municipality of Bugenyuzi, the President of the National Assembly met the Administrators and Leaders of religious denominations of all the municipalities of the Karusi province, in a meeting to assess the security state within the Churches. In the municipality of Gihogazi, the Right Honorable Daniel Gélase Ndirakobuca joined the population of this Commune in the extension works of the Lycée des Amis de Gasongati on Ruyaga Hill.

In the municipality of Gihogazi, the President of the National Assembly laid the foundation stone for the extension of the Lycée des Amis de Gasongati on Ruyaga Hill in the Munanira area. On the occasion of these works to extend the Lycée des Amis en Commune Gihogazi, the President of the National Assembly called on the administrative staff to increase the number of schools to ensure the education of all children of school age.

He took this opportunity to recommend to the population of Karusi Province to set up a committee on each hill to ensure that all children are in school and to monitor the behavior of students and teachers. The President of the National Assembly also asked parents to closely monitor the education of their children and especially to strengthen home education. In the municipalities of Gihogazi and Bugenyuzi, the President of the National Assembly invited the Ad-

ministrators to collaborate with the Provincial Bureau of Agriculture and Livestock to bring farmers to pool their land in order to have large scope and help them specialize in such and such other production.

He also recommended that they join together in cooperatives, letting it be known that the State has undertaken to buy all the production of large farms.



Finally, the President of the National Assembly recommended to the population of the two municipalities, the tracing of the contour lines on all the hills and the planting of tripsaccum and cetaria around these contour lines to protect the arable land.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The Ombudsman meets the Governors and Administrators of the South of the country



The institution of the Ombudsman organized, on Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 November 2020 in Rumonge province, an exchange workshop with the Governors of the provinces and the municipal Administrators of the Southern region on their contribution to the consolidation of peace.

After congratulating the newly appointed Governors and Administrators of Rumonge, Makamba, Rutana and Bururi, the Burundian Ombudsman, Honorable Edouard Nduwimana informed them that they are the eye and the ear of the Government Leta Mvyeyi, Leta Nkozi. He asked them to be good leaders, impartial in their decision-making to be servants of the people. We ask you to fight against the corruption which plagues some municipalities in the southern region. Honorable Edouard Nduwimana indicated that his institution has set up the project to support the sustain-

nability of local mechanisms for dialogue, mediation and reconciliation for the strengthening of social cohesion in Burundi.

"We have launched the activities of community mediation and conflict prevention networks, which will help in settling these at the level of the hills in order to facilitate the work of the courts", underlined Honorable Edouard Nduwimana.

The presentation by Master Paul Ndayiziga related to the accountability of administrative Officials and the impact of their actions in the management of public affairs, a presentation that highlighted recourse action where an administrative accused of bad governance must answer for his actions.

The presentation raised many questions and worried the Administrators who even demanded that this recursive law be translated into Kirundi and popularized. Master Paul Ndayiziga reassured these Administrators by asking them to always advocate good governance while specifying that the mistakes that were recorded before this legislature will be attributable to the former managers.

The other presentations that took place relate to the achievements of the Institution of the Ombudsman and the discussion on the establishment of a regular framework for consultation and discussion of citizens' complaints.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation in collaboration with the UNFPA is organizing a strategic meeting of the commitments made by Burundi at the Nairobi Summit



On Thursday November 26, 2020, at the Royal Palace Hotel, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation opened a strategic meeting on the implementation of the commitments made by Burundi at the Nairobi Summit on the International Conference on Population and Development -ICPD25 on November 12 to 14, 2019.

During his speech, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation said that it is the moment to share and follow up on the commitments made by Burundi at the Nairobi

Summit, as part of the celebration of the 1st anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

During this Summit, in fact, the participating countries noted the unmet needs that persisted despite multiple efforts to achieve the objectives of the ICPD. The Nairobi Summit was thus an assessment of the ICPD for future commitments.



Like other delegations, the Burundian delegation made a statement which outlines the commitments of the Government of Burundi aimed at supporting the objectives of the International Conference on Population and Development and at leading transformative action for the empowerment of girls and women, and gender equality.

At the end of the Nairobi Summit, stakeholders

agreed to closely monitor progress in meeting commitments and their integration into existing global and national monitoring mechanisms.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya in Burundi and the Representative of the United Nations Population Fund all said that, thanks to the Nairobi summit, countries including Burundi have made commitments to achieve a world of rights and choices for all by 2030 and they now know what needs to be done. For this, they congratulated Burundi on the commitments made: 15 commitments in total including 7 for the Government, 1 for the National Assembly and 7 for civil society. They also made it known that their implementation now remains. They urged the sector Ministries to get to work to develop a costed action plan with roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, indicators and timelines. They once again expressed their heartfelt thanks to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation for its commitment to coordinate the monitoring of the implementation of the commitments made in Nairobi.

This multi-stakeholder global coalition adopted the Nairobi Declaration, a transformative agenda to achieve the “three zeros”, zero unmet need for family planning, zero preventable maternal deaths, and zero gender-based violence and practices that harm girls up to 2030.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation participates in the 37th Ministerial Conference of Francophonie



On Tuesday November 24, 2020, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation Mr. Isidore NTIRAMPEBA, represented the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation at the 37th Session of the two-day Ministerial Conference of Francophonie was held by videoconference for the presentation of the Report of the Permanent Coun-

cil of Francophonie (CPF) of its Sessions held this year. At the start of the Conference, the Ministers followed the Report of the 112th session of the Permanent Council of Francophonie held on November 4 and 5, 2020 and the reports of previous sessions held in 2020. The report was presented by the Secretary General of Francophonie, the President of the CPF, and was related to political and economic issues, as well as cooperation, administrative and financial issues dealt with during the sessions of the CPF for the year 2020.

The Ministers also followed the presentation of the 7th follow-up document of the Vade-mecum on the use of the French language in international organizations. It was an opportunity to discuss the issue of respect for multilingualism within international organizations in the particular context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Four resolutions were presented by the President of the

CPF to the Ministers for adoption, namely the draft resolution on Living together during the Covid-19 pandemic and in the post-Covid world; the draft Economic Strategy for Francophonie 2020-2025; the revised draft budget of the OIF for the year 2021 and the draft resolution opening appropriations and approving the estimate of the OIF's income for the year 2021.

The Ministers also had the opportunity to analyze and to adopt the draft report of the 36th session of the Ministerial Conference of Francophonie (MCF), the Report of the External Auditor of the OIF and the Unified Multilateral Fund.

The draft resolutions and draft reports have previously been adopted by the Permanent Council of Francophonie in which the personal Representatives of Heads of State and Government sit. For Burundi, this is the Ambassador of Burundi in France.

During his speech, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi congratulated the President of the Ministerial Conference of Francophonie and the entire Office for the professional conduct of the work and praised the work remarkable shot by Madam Secretary General since the last summit of this Organization.

According to the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation Mr. Isidore NTIRAMPEBA, health, social and economic challenges generated by the Covid-19 pandemic, of an essentially global nature came as a powerful reminder that the world is interconnected. Since these challenges know no borders, States must cooperate more to face them. The Member states of the OIF should lay the foundations to reach a configuration in which they can join forces. On this point, he encouraged the participants in this Conference to adopt without reservation the "draft resolution on Living together during the Covid-19 pandemic and in the post-Covid world".

On the front of the fight against Covid-19, Burundi has succeeded in stopping the spread of the virus thanks to the campaign initiated by His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, President of the Republic of Burundi. This campaign revolves around a high-level multisectoral synergy, massive screening, the adoption of barrier measures, uninterrupted sensitization of the population, the subsidy of soap for washing hands, the quarantine of any person from countries with COVID-19 cases, etc.

Regarding political and diplomatic issues, the Government of Burundi welcomed the recent lifting of unjust sanctions against Burundi and thanked the Permanent Council which approached this issue with a spirit of openness and good faith. Through this decision, the OIF sent a strong signal to certain countries and international organizations which have imposed unjust and unilateral sanctions on Burundi in order to be part of the trajectory of reality and sincerity and to reconsider their positions accordingly.

With regard to Mali, the Government of Burundi welcomes the progress made in the establishment of transitional institutions and welcomes the lifting of sanctions against it. Burundi urges the Malian Authorities to move forward towards restoring constitutional order.

Burundi is also concerned about the events taking place in Haiti, Lebanon and Cameroon and supports the action taken by Madam Secretary General to restore the situation in these countries.

When it comes to terrorism and violent extremism, the Permanent Secretary has made it known that no country is immune. He added that Burundi vigorously condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and recalls the need to strengthen international cooperation for a comprehensive fight against this scourge.

With regard to the administrative and financial reforms of the OIF, the Permanent Secretary declared that Burundi supports the efforts and the direction given by the Secretary General aimed at making the organization more efficient and more visible. In the same vein, it supports the ongoing work of the Reflection group on the orientations and governance of Francophonie.

In terms of French-speaking diplomacy, Mr. Isidore NTIRAMPEBA said that Burundi places the promotion of multilingualism and cultural diversity at heart and thus participates in the implementation of the Integrated Policy for the Promotion of the French Language adopted at the Kinshasa summit in 2012.

To this end, Burundi's diplomacy fought a victorious battle to have French recognized as a working language within the Community of East African States, which is largely English-speaking.

The Permanent Secretary continued by announcing that other initiatives were planned within the framework of the Linguistic Pact signed between Burundi and the OIF, which unfortunately could not be implemented due to the sanctions weighing on Burundi. With the lifting of these sanctions, we hope for the

relaunch of this Pact. To this end, Burundi will be happy to host an OIF mission to discuss this issue and other prospects for cooperation between Burundi and the OIF.

Domestically, Burundi is stable. Peace and security reign throughout the country, that is witnessed by the massive and voluntary return of Burundian refugees who fled the country following the repeated crises that have rocked the country.

Today, the major concern of the Burundian people is the socio-economic development of the country. It is within this framework that the Government of Burundi has put in place the National Development Plan for the period 2018-2027 which constitutes a

guide, a reference document for the national authorities and the various partners in their actions in favor of social and economic development.

With regard to international relations, the Permanent Secretary declared that the Government of Burundi would like to reiterate its determination to work together with all its partners, especially with those whose ties of friendship and cooperation are facing major challenges, for the promotion of an advantageous mutual partnership while respecting the sovereignty, dignity and rights of everyone.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

Contribution of the Diaspora in the realization of the PND 2018-2027



On November 26, 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation organized through the Directorate General of the Diaspora, Promotion of the Employment of Migrants, Foreign NGOs and Foreign Non-profit Organizations and the Department of Communication, an exchange with the press on the contribution of the Burundian Diaspora in the implementation of the National Development Program (PND) 2018-2027.

Mr. Philbert MUREKAMBANZE said that the contribution of the Diaspora in the development of the country is multifaceted. He indicated that the Diaspora contributes to supportive actions of families by transferring funds. The Diaspora also contributes to economic and social investment in the native country by building hospitals, health centers, schools and other institutions. He gave the example of the Kigutu Hospital in Vyanda com-

mune, UBUNTU Hospital in Cibitoke, schools and university institutions such as the Polytechnic University in the Province of Cibitoke, the "Beau Soleil" Basic School in the GISYO district in Bujumbura townhall etc., which were built by members of the Diaspora.

The Director General Mr. Philbert MUREKAMBANZE continued by indicating that in most of the country's provinces, several agro-livestock initiatives are undertaken by members of the Diaspora. He indicated that the Diaspora also helps in the transfer of knowledge by providing expertise in the fields of health, higher education and elsewhere. This is the case of the MIDA (Migration for Development in Africa) project which brought in the Burundians especially those from Europe to teach at the National Public Health Institute (INSP) in the field of Mental Health. The Diaspora also intervenes in the field of sport, especially football.

When asked how the Burundian Diaspora is organized, he said that it is organized in associations according to the host countries and chooses a Country Representative who, with other Representatives choose a representation of the entire Burundian Diaspora in the country worldwide within the framework of a general assembly dedicated to this purpose. It has its own rules and its own mode of operation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation is not part of its mode of operation, he added.

As for the question of knowing the relations that exist between the Diaspora and the Ministry, the Director General in charge of the Diaspora indicated that relations are made first through the diplomatic missions of Burundi abroad and especially during the week dedicated to

them, organized by the Ministry each year. It is also through the Department of the Diaspora which deals with Diaspora issues on a daily basis.

The journalists wanted to know where the Ministry is with the steps to put in place a draft law regulating Burundian workers wishing to immigrate to the countries providing work, especially with the countries of the Arabian Gulf and those of southern Africa. The Director General explained that the Government took this issue seriously. The National Migration and Workforce Policy is currently being drafted and it was expected that the latter would be completed before the end of this year 2020 had it not been for some technical problems. He indicated that the bilateral labor migration agreements with the major countries of destination of Burundians for the search for work are in progress, that they would have sufficiently advanced had it not been for the Covid -19 (in particular Qatar). He said that the Government has created the

Department in charge of the Promotion of the Employment of Migrants with concrete missions.

The Director General Mr. Philbert MUREKAMBANZE finally showed the added value of this bill on the National Policy on Migration and Labor. He cited in particular: the promotion of legal channels for labor migration, the protection of these workers (against exploitation and other harmful practices), the facilitation of labor mobility and the contribution to their respective families and to the country in general.

In conclusion, the Director General of the Diaspora, the promotion of the Employment of Migrants, Foreign NGOs and Foreign ASBLs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Mr. Philbert MUREKAMBANZE said that the Burundian Diaspora's role is essential in the implementation of the PND 2018-2021.

(Source : MFADC-Newsroom)

IRRI submits its research results to the Ministry in charge of Agriculture



The rice research Institute (IRRI: International Rice Research Institute) through the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research offered on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 to the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock 3.5 tons of pre-basic seeds and 35 tons of consumable rice. These 35 tons of rice for consumption were returned to the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender in order to assist the vulnerable.

Mr. Joseph Bigirimana at the head of IRRI who is piloting the research of these pre-basic rice seeds indicated that these 3.5 tons are composed of 7 different varieties and each variety has a different point

depending on the preference of the rice growers. He added that these pre-basic seeds will be multiplied by the Ministry having agriculture in its attributions in order to distribute them to rice farmers.

Around research productions of pre-basic seeds, the Institute also produces rice not suitable for seeds but consumable, it is this rice that was offered to the Government via the Ministry in charge of Solidarity, so that it reaches the vulnerable.

As for the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Gaspard Banyankimbona, he said that this production of IRRI, which is an international research center led by a Burundian international, has just served as an example for other 16 research centers already present in Burundi, which are operational and also equipped with the skills required to carry out research.

Dr. Gaspard Banyankimbona called on Burundian researchers to come out of their laboratories to finally serve the population and demonstrate their ingenuity in order to make their contribution to the development of the country.

For Minister Banyankimbona, there is no doubt that the current dynamism of cooperatives will resolve the long-raised pretext of funding to undertake research so that there is job creation. Other research centers are also expected to follow in IRRI's footsteps.

The Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Dr. Déo Guide Rurema salutes the ingenuity of this center which has just offered the Ministry of pre-basic seeds which in turn will supply the private and the cooperatives for the multiplication of seeds which will be transformed into basic seeds, then into commercial seeds which will finally be distributed to farmers in order to increase production.

Dr. Deo Guide Rurema finally welcomes the collaboration, complementarity and popularization of interministerial ingenuity for the common objective of increasing production in order to respond to the Government's call "that each mouth has something to eat and each pocket has money".

Mrs. Imelde Sabushimike, Minister in charge of Solidarity present on the spot to receive these 35 tons of consumable rice says she is satisfied with this gesture because she says, that Ministry always needs food to assist the neediest.

She salutes the bravery of the researchers and affirms to be confident that the research will lead to the elimination of poverty from which the Ministry she is leading, will no longer have many vulnerable to assist and it will be a success for the responsible and hard-working Government, has she concluded.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

Launch of the 16-day activism campaign against GBV



The Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender made a statement on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 on the occasion of the launch of the 16 days of activism campaign against violence against women and girls, 2020 edition.

According to the Minister in charge of gender, Madame Imelde Sabushimike, Burundi joins other countries of the world on November 25 of each year to officially launch the 16 days of activism campaign against violence against women and girls. This period begins on November 25 and ends on December 10. The national theme chosen this year is: "let's orange Burundi: together to end violence against women and girls".

Minister Imelde Sabushimike indicated that the theme of this campaign was chosen in order to challenge everyone's conscience to become more

involved in the fight against this phenomenon which undermines all humanity, in order to build a Burundi that shines. This campaign is still organized according to the Minister, in order to join the many women and victims of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and who, therefore, no longer contribute properly to the development of their families. This campaign is also an opportunity for self-assessment for stakeholders in the fight against GBV in order to sustain the gains and adopt the best strategies to overcome the constraints and persistent challenges, continued Mrs. Imelde Sabushimike.

The Minister in charge of Human Rights announced that this day comes at a time when the Government of Burundi continues to strengthen its interventions in favor of the fight against violence against women and girls through the promotion of their empowerment, effective prevention against this scourge and support for victims by strengthening integrated support centers for victims.

She further announced that during this campaign, several activities will be organized around the theme across the country; more particularly the popularization of the specific law on Prevention, Protection of victims and Repression of Gender-Based Violence towards the various leaders, especially community leaders.

She called on the entire population to respond massively to the launching ceremonies of this campaign as well as to the activities that will be organized. And to invite everyone to become more involved in the promotion of women's rights in order to enable them to participate effectively in the development of their families and their dear homeland.

The official launch of the 16 Days of activism campaign against violence against Women, 2020 edition,

has taken place on November 27, 2020 at the capital of Muramvya province.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

1

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC Secretariat-General of the State

MEDIA RELEASE NO 9 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2020

A Cabinet Meeting was held on Wednesday 25th of November 2020, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi. The following items were analyzed:

- 1. Bill on the Environment Code of the Republic of Burundi**, presented by the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock.

The Environmental Code currently in force dates from 2000 and was promulgated just as the country was beginning to put in place the first elements of a national environmental conservation policy.

Today, it is necessary to update it to adapt to new environmental requirements as reflected in international conventions and in the guidelines of policies and strategies developed in the field of the environment.

Thus, after nearly twenty years of implementation, this Code has shown certain shortcomings in the face of emerging environmental problems such as the prevention and management of natural disasters, the issue of climate change, etc.

While the country has to face traditional environmental problems, it now has to face new environmental risks including the management of chemicals, hazardous waste such as waste from electrical and electronic equipment, etc.

This revision of the Environmental Code is proposed in order to comply with new environmental challenges and to introduce into the Burundian internal legal order the requirements concerned in the various international conventions that Burundi has ratified.

It should be remembered that this project had been analyzed by the Council of Ministers and returned for finalization.

After being reassured that the recommendations previously made have been taken into account, the Council of Ministers adopted it with certain contributions to be taken into consideration.

2. Bill on the chemical management code, presented by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock.

Burundi uses various chemicals, the large quantity of which is imported. Socio-economic development means that the needs for these products increase and diversify.

Although the consumption of chemicals continues to grow, Burundi does not have specific legislation for their sound management.

The importation, marketing and fraudulent use of chemicals, the quantities of which are not even known, pose a serious threat to health and the environment.

Inventories of obsolete or inappropriately altered chemicals can also endanger human health and the environment.

This project is a significant step forward in the protection of human health and the environment against the dangers of these products.

In addition, the implementation of the national policy for the protection of the environment against pollution caused by chemicals requires specific legislation governing the management of chemicals.

At the end of the debate, the Council of Ministers adopted this project with, among other recommendations, to extend it to other dangerous products such as electronic products, organic products and prohibited drinks.

3. Bill revising Law No. 1/08 of May 11, 2018 on the management of pesticides in Burundi, presented by the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock.

In the world of modern technology and commerce, protecting plants, plant products and animals from insects, disease, weeds, pests and other pests requires concerted and sustained efforts on the part of all stakeholders, so as not to endanger humans, animals and the environment.

In addition, national, regional and international legal instruments governing the trade and use of pesticides have undergone significant changes in recent years.

It is within this framework that the international code of conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides was designed to provide universal standards of conduct for all actors involved in the management of pesticides.

Thus, it is important to have a law that regulates the management of pesticides because they are products that can be dangerous for the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment.

The establishment of such a legal instrument will also make it possible to introduce the relevant provisions of the Treaty establishing the East African Community, in particular by setting up the Pesticides Regulatory Authority.

Following the analysis of this project, the Council of Ministers adopted it with, among other things, the recommendation to strengthen administrative sanctions and refer criminal sanctions to the Criminal Code.

4. Draft organic law on the missions, composition, organization and functioning of the National Security Council, presented by the Minister of Justice.

The National Security Council is one of the national councils provided for by the Constitution. It is currently governed by law n ° 1/23 of August 31, 2008. Its composition, organization and operation refer to the 2005 Constitution which was replaced by the 2018 Constitution. It is therefore necessary to adapt it to this fundamental law.

In addition, some members have finished their mandate and the appointment of new members can only be done after amendment of certain provisions of this law, in order to adapt them to the new structure of the Government.

Finally, there is an obvious need to provide the National Security Council with a Permanent Secretariat for the preparation of files and the monitoring and evaluation of decisions taken.

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

5. Bill amending Law n ° 1/06 of March 10, 2020 establishing and granting the status of Supreme Guide of Patriotism in Burundi to President Pierre NKURUNZIZA, presented by the Minister of Justice.

Law n ° 1/06 of March 10, 2020 establishing and granting the status of Supreme Guide of Patriotism in Burundi to President Pierre NKURUNZIZA provides, in its article 4, for the institution of a national day dedicated to patriotism, organized in the month of July of each year and chaired by the Supreme Guide of Patriotism.

The same provision provides for a decree which specifies the modalities of celebration of this day.

The Government would like to implement this decree and the concern is that the day be celebrated on June 8 of each year.

So that the decree to be put in place does not conflict with this law, it is necessary to modify article 4 by specifying that the national day of patriotism will be celebrated on June 8 of each year instead of July of each year.

Moreover, as the Supreme Guide is no longer alive and the same law stipulates that he is the one who presides over this day, a modification is necessary to indicate that the day will be presided over by the President of the Republic.

At the end of the discussions, the Council of Ministers adopted this project.

6. National action plan for the management and fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, presented by the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security.

The proliferation and circulation of small arms and light weapons is one of the most serious security challenges the world faces today.

To address this issue, the international community has resolved to tackle it in an effective and concrete manner.

The states of the sub-region, including Burundi, have embarked on this process in order to deal with the devastating effects of these weapons.

To implement the various initiatives in terms of management and the fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, Burundi developed and adopted in 2011, a 2011-2015 Action Plan. This offered a series of detailed measures to combat the proliferation of these weapons.

Its evaluation has shown that very good results have been achieved.

It was this assessment that made it possible to identify elements that contributed to the development of the 2020-2022 Action Plan.

After discussion and debate, the Council of Ministers adopted the document with the recommendation to make it rather a National Strategy for the management and the fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons 2021-2023, especially since the year 2020 is almost at its end. An action plan to operationalize this strategy will be developed.

7. Draft ministerial order relating to fees for services rendered under the industrial fee, presented by the Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism.

Industrial property is one of the two branches of intellectual property law. It aims to protect trademarks, patents, industrial designs, trade names, geographical indications, layout designs of integrated circuits and thus prevent counterfeiting. Applications for the related titles are filed with the Department of Industrial Property.

The services rendered by the Industrial Property Department are paid in accordance with Ordinance No. 540/750/1582 of September 14, 2012, relating to fees for services in respect of industrial property.

The pricing carried by this ordinance does not take into account all the services rendered by this Department and has omitted certain operations that it is capable of performing, which represents a great loss for the public treasury.

This project includes more than one hundred (100) new services which will be chargeable once requested. It also takes into account the tariffs applied in the countries of the East African Community.

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted with the recommendation to quickly set up a system for marking and securing products made in Burundi to avoid piracy.

Clear mechanisms are needed to deal with conflicts between people who dispute the paternity and exercise of a given activity, the certificate or patent for a particular product.

Laboratories available in the country, research centers as well as experts in various disciplines should be involved in this work.

The Burundian Bureau of Standardization and Quality Control, for its part, must be equipped from all points of view for it to carry out its mission properly.

The Ministers in charge of Finance and Trade have been appointed to prepare a note which indicates what can be done so that Burundian products are certified and protected according to universally recognized standards. The note will be presented during the next meeting of the Council of Ministers

8. Any Other Business

His Excellency the President of the Republic pointed out to members of the Government that administrative delays are still being observed in public services. He asked them to follow the officials under their responsibility closely and to call them to order.

He also indicated that economic malfeasance and embezzlement of public funds remain. He asked them to hold awareness meetings so that any civil servant or agent of the State who will be found guilty of such an offense knows that he will lose his job, that he will henceforth be on file and will no longer be able to find work on Burundian territory.

He also called on members of the Government to be on the ground to ensure that the commitments made to meet the needs of the population are being fulfilled.

His Excellency the President of the Republic talked about the projects financed by technical and financial partners. He recalled that these projects are for the Burundian state and the ministers must follow them closely.

The funds granted to these projects must be used for their realization and not as operating costs. This is why for future projects, their design and implementation must be a matter for the state.

The managers of these projects should know that they are at the service of the State and not at the service of the partner who financed the project.

In the future, delays in the execution of projects must be avoided, as is observed in certain ongoing projects. Ideally, the budget would even be executed prematurely and properly used to easily qualify for other funding.

Ultimately, each minister was asked to prepare a table showing the projects under his supervision, the area of intervention, the budget allocated to the project, its duration and the level of achievement.

Finally, His Excellency the President of the Republic informed the Council about his trip to Libreville this Friday, November 26, 2020 to participate in the Summit of Heads of State of ECCAS

Done at Bujumbura, November 26th, 2020

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

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

www.mae.gov.bi

Twitter:
@MAEBurundi