

**REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI****PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC  
Secretariat-General of the State****MEDIA RELEASE NO 17 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL 2021**

A Cabinet Meeting was held in Bujumbura on Wednesday 21<sup>th</sup> of April 2021, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi.

After the presentation of the agenda, His Excellency the President of the Republic invited the Prime Minister to present the summary of the observations resulting from the preparatory meeting of the Council of Ministers chaired by the Prime Minister on Friday 16 April 2021 , and which was devoted to the analysis of the same items on the agenda.

After restitution of the Prime Minister to the President of the Republic, the following items were analyzed:

**1. National Program for the Capitalization of Peace, Social Stability and Promotion of Economic Growth “PNCP-SS-PCE”**, presented by the Services of the Presidency of the Republic.

This program is one of the operationalization strategies of the National Development Program.

Its overall objective is to contribute to the economic growth of the country and to the improvement of the living conditions of the population as a whole.

It is based on the Government's priorities which are:

- Good governance
- Public health
- Agriculture and livestock as well as socio-economic infrastructure
- Youth employment in the industrialization of the country
- Social protection for retirees and other vulnerable people
- Peace and reconciliation

The implementation strategy for this program will focus on:

- The participatory approach where the population is effectively involved in development actions with a view to empowerment and sharing initiatives and costs,
- The decentralized approach, through which special attention will be paid to building the capacities of decentralized structures and entities,
- The consultation approach which consists of programming interventions with the stakeholders concerned and which takes into account the time and means factors,
- The inclusive approach which reflects a common vision and a feeling of belonging to a community with which we feel united and we share interests.

In the organization of the implementation of this program, an interministerial steering committee is planned, which is the body for guidance, planning and monitoring-evaluation. It is also the decision-making body.

There will also be a National Implementation Committee which is responsible for planning and developing the projects identified in the Program.

Finally, there will be provincial, communal and village execution cells.

The implementation of this Program requires the intervention of several actors, namely state and non-state actors, the Burundian diaspora and international actors.

To finance this Program, it will be necessary to draw on all possible sources of financing: the public sector, the private sector, technical and financial partners, innovative financing mechanisms, etc.

At the end of the debate, the Program was adopted with, among other recommendations, to the ministries concerned by the main lines of intervention to come together to develop an action plan for the operationalization of this Program.

For better ownership and easy understanding by the population, it was recommended to translate this Program into Kirundi.

## **2. Public Investment Program (PIP) 2021-2024, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning**

Burundi has equipped itself with a planning tool, namely the National Development Plan 2018-2027 as well as its Priority Action Plan 2018-2022.

Its execution requires multisectoral efforts, but also the support of Burundi's development partners.

The Ministry in charge of economic planning has, within its remit, the mission of preparing annually the Public Investment Program which translates the strategic orientations of the National Development Plan into operational programs and projects.

This 2021-2024 Public Investment Program has been aligned with the National Development Plan and is much more interested in sectors than in ministries because, even if the ministries change their name, the sectors or areas of intervention included in the National Development Plan remain intact.

Given the Government's desire to prioritize high impact programs and projects, the 2021-2024 Public Investment Program has placed great emphasis on projects under study and projects in preparation. The idea is to set up a bank of projects per sector, so that it can serve as an advocacy tool with partners.

The projects and programs eligible for the first year are:

- Projects included in the National Development Plan with feasibility studies;
- Projects and programs that have been the subject of agreements and compatible with the Government's priorities;
- Projects of more than 5 years having been the subject of an evaluation justifying their maintenance;
- Projects with well-informed project sheets.

The cost of the 2021-2024 Public Investment Program is estimated at 2.869 billion BIF.

During the debate, the Council made the following observations, among others:

- It is necessary to equip the Department in charge of Planning in the Ministry of Finance so that it is able to build the capacities of the staff in charge of Planning in the ministries;
- The department responsible for planning in a ministry must be stabilized and monitor the preparation of the PIP on a daily basis. The Planning Service should be placed at the level of the Office of the Minister;
- It must be ensured that the projects submitted by the different ministries are found in this PIP if they are eligible;
- It is necessary to show the concrete achievements in the last Public Investment Program;
- Each Ministry must develop its sector investment plan;

- It is necessary to ensure that each ministry is present in each municipality of the country to follow the activities concerning it for an effective decentralization of the Ministries.

The Council asked that the document be brought back to the Council of Ministers after integration of the elements concerning the Ministries which would have been omitted.

**3. Draft decree on the creation, missions, organization and functioning of the institutional framework for the implementation and monitoring-evaluation of the National Development Plan (PND Burundi 2018-2027), presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.**

This draft decree aims to set up the bodies for coordination and monitoring-evaluation of the implementation of the National Development Plan in order to clarify the responsibilities of each other.

The institutional framework for coordinating the implementation of the National Development Plan provides for two bodies, namely:

- The National Steering and Coordination Committee for development policies and programs under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister.
- Ministries and operational technical structures for sector and local implementation and monitoring-evaluation.

These bodies will carry out their missions in collaboration with the various partners involved in various sectors of national life.

The National Steering Committee will have a technical secretariat that will work with the various existing units in charge of planning, programming and monitoring-evaluation.

The monitoring of the National Development Plan is carried out by the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning through the Technical Secretariat.

The Ministry in charge of Community Development will ensure the execution of the National Development Plan at the local level while the ministries and sectoral structures will implement it while ensuring regular monitoring in their respective sectors.

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted after having undergone some alterations.

**4. Note on the eligibility criteria and procedures for granting the guarantee from the Impulse, Guarantee and Support Fund (FIGA), presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.**

Through Decree No.100 / 038 of February 18, 2021 amending Decree No.100 / 116 of April 21, 2015 creating the Impulse and Guarantee and Support Fund (FIGA), the Government wanted to demonstrate the commitment to support innovative projects submitted by young people and women in growth sectors.

Indeed, one of the main challenges encountered by the project promoter in Burundi is the lack of collateral to be granted a bank loan.

The core of FIGA's activities is the granting of guarantees to bankable projects through the Youth Investment Bank and the Women's Bank.

As the FIGA Board of Directors has not yet been set up to be able to validate the products and services offered by the Fund and that the 2020-2021 budget year is advanced, it is necessary to propose the criteria for eligibility for guarantees from FIGA to the authority for validation so that the Youth Bank can start granting loans to young people who need a guarantee.

There are three types of guarantee, namely:

- The so-called “individual” guarantee model, in which there is a direct relationship between the Guarantee Fund, the beneficiary of the guarantee and the Bank,
- The so-called "portfolio" guarantee model where the Guarantee Fund agrees with the bank to act as guarantor for a global amount and for a specific type of potential borrowers,
- The “mediated” guarantee model of a microfinance organization, in which a microfinance organization obtains the guarantee from the Guarantee Fund and borrows from a bank to lend in the form of micro-loans to micro-borrowers or peasants.

This is the subject of this Note.

After discussions and debate, the Council adopted the portfolio guarantee model. In the same vein, and in order to make all the parties, namely the beneficiaries and the Bank, accountable, and to bring the Bank to more vigilance in the processing of files and to get involved in collection, guarantees will be granted from the following way:

- Projects of one (1) million to 10 million will be covered by the guarantee at 100%.
- Projects of 10 million to 30 million will be covered by the guarantee at 80%, the 20% being borne by the beneficiary and the Bank at a rate of 10% each.
- Projects of 30 million to 50 million will be covered by the guarantee at 50%, the Bank and the beneficiary bearing 25% each.

**5. Draft decree amending decree n ° 100/082 of 12 October 2020 on the missions, organization and functioning of the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security, presented by the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security.**

Decree No. 100/082 on the missions, organization and functioning of the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security establishes the list of institutions attached to or under the supervision of the Ministry.

This decree failed to mention the Rural Micro-Credit Fund (FMCR) among these structures.

This project corrects this shortcoming.

In addition, the decree in force had provided for two Directorates, namely the Directorate for the Mobilization of Communal Resources depending on the Directorate General for Community Development and Decentralization and another Directorate for Municipal Finance within the Directorate General of Administration and Management.

It was noted that these two Departments have the same missions.

In order to avoid overlaps, this project proposes to retain a single Directorate, namely the Municipal Finance Directorate.

After the debate, the draft was adopted with some corrections.

**6. Draft decree amending Decree No. 100/158 of 23 September 2008 on the organization and functioning of the Rural Micro-Credit Fund (FMCR), presented by the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security.**

The financing of production activities in rural areas is an acute problem. The peasants especially experience three kinds of difficulties:

- Very low design capacity for bankable projects
- Lack of collateral that may be of interest to banks and financial institutions
- Inability to cope with the exorbitant interest rates charged by conventional financing systems



However, it is difficult to initiate an increase in rural production without promoting the creation of micro-projects that allow the monetization of the countryside.

To resolve this problem, the Government has set up a credit system that takes these constraints into account, in this case the Rural Microcredit Fund created in 2002, and reorganized in 2008.

The Ministry which supervised the Rural Microcredit Fund no longer exists. To this end, the decree organizing this Fund must be reviewed, specifying that it is placed under the supervision of the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security.

In addition, the project proposes that the departments that make up the Fund be changed to Services in order to reduce costs for rational management, and thus integrate the maximum of the population into the financial circuit.

After analysis, the project was adopted after having undergone some alterations.

**7. Draft decree on the creation, structure, missions, organization and functioning of the Provincial Directorates of Family and Social Development,** presented by the Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender.

The Family and Community Development Centers have undergone, over the last decades, significant changes on the institutional and structural levels which have not allowed them to function in a stable manner.

However, experience has shown that the success of the ministry's programs and activities largely depends on the action of these centers.

Considered as promoters of community initiatives and called upon to constantly ensure the promotion of community and social development, it is necessary that the missions, role and responsibilities of these centers be redefined to make them more effective.

It is within this framework that decree n ° 100/084 of October 12, 2020 on the missions, organization and functioning of the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender has set up these centers into Directorates. Provincial of Family and Social Development as decentralized structures of the Ministry. This project determines their organization and functioning.

The Council of Ministers had analyzed this project and returned it with, among other things, recommendations to comply with the organizational chart of the Ministry and to ensure that this structure does not induce additional budgetary impact.

At the end of the debate, the project was adopted with certain alterations with, among other things, the recommendation to strengthen the Provincial Directorate with units which deal with the areas covered by the Ministry, namely: national solidarity, social affairs, human rights and Gender, under the coordination of the Provincial Director. There will be no recruitment of staff as redeployment will be carried out at the Ministry level, or such staff will be sought in other ministries, if necessary.

**8. Draft decree on the reorganization and functioning of the Central Purchase of Generic Essential Medicines, Medical Devices and Laboratory Materials of Burundi "CAMEBU", presented by the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS.**

Created in 2000, the main mission of CAMEBU was "to ensure a good supply of essential generic drugs, medical devices, products and laboratory materials necessary for the proper functioning of public and private health facilities and pharmacies".

Today, several reasons militate in favor of changing the decree creating CAMEBU:

- Its name, which only entrusts it with the supply of generic drugs, whereas now it is called upon to import other non-generic products
- Several changes that have taken place since 2000 in the pharmaceutical sector in which CAMEBU operates, in particular the establishment of the pharmaceutical law, the creation of ABREMA, etc.
- The concern to align with the standards of other purchasing centers that are members of the Association of Central Purchasing Centers for Essential Medicines (ACAME), of which CAMEBU is also a member. Thus, the Technical Department was split into two Departments, namely: the Pharmaceutical Supply Department and the Stock Management Department.

This project takes all these elements into account to reorganize CAMEBU.

After the analysis, the project was adopted after having undergone some alterations.

It was recommended, among other things, that the drugs obtained in the form of donations be used mainly for free healthcare.

## 9. Any Other Business

▪ Council members discussed the issue of decentralization of the administration of public services.

After having toured the Ministries on the state of play of this decentralization, it is observed that the situation is as follows:

- There are ministries where decentralization has already reached the level of the Communes, and where they only need strengthening in terms of staff and resources.

- There are Ministries where decentralization is conditioned by the nature of the activities that take place in the Province or in the Municipality.

- There are Ministries where decentralization is necessary but where it has not yet started. In this case, these ministries would have to mobilize the necessary resources and give themselves a timetable to make this decentralization effective.

To this end, the members of the Council were informed that a study is underway at the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security to see how to make the decentralization of the administration effective, so that each ministry is found in the Commune.

This was an opportunity to recall that parastatal companies or personalized state administrations are assimilated to decentralized state services, and that Ministers must ensure that they carry out their missions correctly.

▪ The Council of Ministers has taken cognizance of the accusations of certain organizations tending to involve state structures in acts of trafficking in human

beings, starting from cases of women and girls intercepted in the direction of the Gulf countries.

After analyzing the situation, the Council of Ministers noted that there is no trafficking in human beings in Burundi. However, as the right to freedom of movement (coming and going) is recognized in Burundi, the Council of Ministers recognizes that there are people who go to the Gulf countries in search of work. They are of three categories:

- Those who go there in due form with regular documents;
- Those who go there without documents or with false documents;
- Those who benefit either from the complicity or the lightness of certain State agents in the processing of cases, to obtain documents when they are not entitled to them.

The Council of Ministers recalled that there are no state structures involved in such acts. If one or the other agent of the state is guilty of such or such breach, he is strictly punished on an individual basis, according to the law.

The Council of Ministers urged the Ministry of Justice to be careful and vigilant in characterizing this kind of offense.

The Council of Ministers also reiterated its commitment to respect for human rights in general, and in the fight against trafficking in human beings in particular. This is evidenced by the related international instruments that it has ratified, as well as the implementation of Law No. 1/28 of 29 October 2014 on the prevention and repression of trafficking in persons and the protection of victims of human trafficking.

▪ Finally, the Council of Ministers was informed about an underground campaign orchestrated by certain organizations to discourage the population

from being tested for the coronavirus so that it spreads so that, in the end, the Government is forced to proceed with the vaccination campaign.

The Council of Ministers reiterated its conviction that the only way to prevent yourself against the coronavirus is screening as well as compliance with barrier measures. Vaccination can only be considered when the World Health Organization has officially confirmed its effectiveness. Indeed, until now, even in countries where vaccination has been carried out, vaccinated people are still confined in the same way as others.

**Done at Bujumbura, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**

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