

# REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and  
Development Cooperation

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## The President of the Republic returns from the Central African Republic



dian troops of MINUSCA are carrying out this UN mission of maintaining peace and security in this country, and the way in which the Central African population salutes the commendable work of the Burundian soldiers in their

The Burundian Number One, His Excellency Mr. Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE returned, on Wednesday, March 31, 2021, from an official mission to the Central African Republic where he went to participate in the investiture ceremonies of the Head of State of the said country, His Excellency Mr. Faustin Archange Touadéra reelected for the second legislature.

In a lively press briefing on his arrival at Melchior Ndadaye International Airport in Bujumbura, the Head of State indicated that on the sidelines of the investiture ceremonies of his Central African counterpart, he had the opportunity to meet with the troops of the sixth Burundian contingent of MINUSCA in order to boost their morale. The Supreme Commander of the Defense and Security Forces, His Excellency General Major Evariste Ndayishimiye, is satisfied with the conditions under which the Burun-

country, especially since they have contributed enormously to the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in this country.

His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye also met the Burundian community living in the Central African Republic, and the latter welcomes the current development of their country, Burundi, in all areas. His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye informs that this Burundian diaspora of the Central African Republic wishes there could be trade especially in terms of food between Burundi and the Central African Republic, in order to be able to open up the channels of commercialization of Burundian products in this country.

(Source: [www.presidency.gov.bi](http://www.presidency.gov.bi))

### Dans ce numéro:

### page

The President of the Republic returns from the Central African Republic

1

The Prime Minister visits the National Road nr 16 under construction

2

Senate / opening of the parliamentary season: 10 bills will be analyzed

3

Burundi Ambassador in Lusaka presents his Credentials to the President of Zimbabwe

3

Taxes collected in March are satisfactory, according to the Minister in charge of Home Affairs

4

Reduced quarantine times for travelers coming from abroad

5

Approval of the governing bodies at Burundi Airlines

5

Spokespersons from different institutions host a public program from Kirundo province

6

OBR has the advantages of being an authorized economic operator

9

## The Prime Minister visits the National Road nr 16 under construction



company responsible for the works to update the schedule of activities which shows how the 70% of the remaining works will be carried out on time, and to show it to the Prime Minister in a week so that he can follow up.

CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni also

The Prime Minister CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni visited, on Tuesday March 30, 2021, the National Road (RN) nr 16 to assess the progress of the construction works of Lot1 of this road, which goes from Bururi to the locality of Ndava in Ryansoro commune, Gitega province. This section covers a linear length of 34.7 km.

The deadline for the works has been set at 24 months from December 16, 2019. In interviews with all stakeholders, the Prime Minister noted that this work has experienced a remarkable delay: the rate of execution of the works is 30 % while the elapsed time is 60%.

This delay was due to several factors in particular, the covid19 pandemic, misunderstandings between the FHEC company responsible for the works and the Control Mission, the problems of disbursement at the level of donors, but the company carrying out the works has also a share of individual responsibility in the lack of speed of execution of the works, noted CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni.

After an interview with those responsible for the project, the Prime Minister was nevertheless reassured that the company will be able to complete the work on time. This hope is based on the fact that during the last three months the rate of execution of the works has fallen from 13% to 30%. The Prime Minister recommended to the

recommended that the company show how it will resolve the technical concerns raised by the Burundi Road Agency and other stakeholders on the aspects of solidity and durability of the works. "We no longer want to see roads that deteriorate three or five years after the work, when feasibility studies have been carried out". The minimum is that the road can spend 20 years in impeccable condition.

The Prime Minister also recommended compliance with environmental standards. The section of the RN16 under construction crosses marshy areas, all water must be channeled to rivers without causing damage. As conflicts are among the causes of the delay, the Prime Minister recommended improving collaboration between those concerned.

In general, the compensation process is going well but CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni recommended to follow this process closely so that if there is one or the other hill where the compensation has not been made, or if there are people who have not been compensated, so that everything is back to normal. Note that the total cost of the work is 42,779,798,824 FBU.

(Source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## Senate / opening of the parliamentary season: 10 bills will be analyzed



The Burundian Senate proceeded on Thursday, April 1, 2021, to the opening of the ordinary parliamentary session of April in its hemicycle, located in Gitega. The Opening Ceremonies were enhanced by the presence of the Speaker of the Senate the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohage-ra and his second Deputy Speaker Honorable Cyriaque Nshimirimana. These ceremonies also saw

the participation of members of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps accredited to Burundi, members of the Judicial Corps, Senior Officials of the State and others.

In his opening speech, the Speaker of the Senate specified that the parliamentary recess was an opportunity to visit the population, to work with them and to hear their complaints.

The bill establishing the General State Budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year is among the 10 bills that the Government sent to the Burundian Senate for analysis, said the Speaker of the Senate.

The Speaker of the Senate indicated that the Senators will continue the visits in all the Communes with the objective of sensitizing the population to get down to development work so that every mouth has to eat and that every pocket has money.

(Source: [www.presidence.gov.bi](http://www.presidence.gov.bi))

## Burundi Ambassador in Lusaka presents his Credentials to the President of Zimbabwe



The Ambassador of Burundi in Lusaka H.E.M Pascal RUHOMVYUMWORO presented on Friday April 2, 2021, his Credentials to H.E. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe. He seized the opportunity to convey the fraternal greetings of H.E.M Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi to his Zimbabwean counterpart.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

## Taxes collected in March are satisfactory, according to the Minister in charge of Home Affairs



The Minister of the Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security, CPC Gervais Ndirakobuca, accompanied by the Mayor of the City of Bujumbura, raided on Wednesday March 31, 2021, various commercial places of commerce in the Mukaza Commune.

This descent took place at the Jabe board market and the Jabe public market, as well as at Le Parisien, the Village Market and the ideal galleries.

The objective was to take stock of the state of play of revenue collection in the Town hall of Bujumbura, said Minister Ndirakobuca, who said the results are satisfactory.

According to Minister Ndirakobuca, the provisional figures that the Ministry has recorded encourage further work. He also underlined that all the Communes are able to develop from the revenues collected at the local level. To this end, he encouraged the administration, the Police Corps and the population who supported the Ministry and facilitated the collection of municipal revenues. He seized the opportunity to inform all of the Ministry's partners such as the administration, the population and the security corps that the revenue collection campaign that has started is not going to stop. "We will continue until the

municipal revenues are collected from modern means so that they go to the municipal coffers", he said.

Regarding the complaints of traders who say that the collection of taxes is not the same in all municipalities, Minister Ndirakobuca said that the law on municipal taxation in force is silent on tariffs and taxable products so that all municipalities

can have the same tax prices. He promised to put in place a regulation so that all products are taxed in the same way.

Regarding taxes on products at the entrance of each municipality, the Minister having Community Development in his attributions indicated that it will be commanded that the products be taxed where they are loaded to avoid multi tax for the same products.

The Minister Ndirakobuca also warned those who have not yet paid the taxes or those who are cheating, that is to say who trade in double plots and pay the tax for a single plot. He called on the latter to rectify the situation as soon as possible, at the risk of incurring sanctions. He also warned the commission agents in all the places of commerce where he passed. He urged them to look for work instead of waiting for crumbs from buyers. "It is these commissionaires who raise prices and it is these who become bandits", he said.

(Source: [www.abpinfos.com](http://www.abpinfos.com))

## Reduced quarantine times for travelers coming from abroad



The Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS Dr Thaddée Ndikumana visited this Thursday, March 31, 2021, the new COVID19 screening site. The site "Bon accueil" is located in the Bwiza area in the Town hall of Bujumbura. The Minister Thaddée Ndikumana thanks the Government which agreed to make these former offices of the Town Hall available to the Ministry of Public Health and the fight against AIDS for mass screening operations for COVID19.

It is the only mass screening site remaining in the city of Bujumbura. It was fitted out after the destruction of the tents installed at the ETS Kamenge

site and at the Sebatusi site by bad weather a few weeks ago. The site "Bon accueil" receives all people who want to be tested for free and who have not been able to go to district hospitals, such as those of Ruziba and Kamenge and national hospitals such as the Military Hospital, the Prince Louis Clinic, Roi Khaled Hospital, which also screen for COVID19.

In a press briefing the Minister in charge of Public Health Dr Thaddée Ndikumana announced that the quarantine period for travelers coming from abroad has just been reduced from 7 to 4 days. The measure comes into force from this Friday, April 02, 2021.

The Minister of Public Health Dr Thaddée Ndikumana made it clear that the treatment administered in Burundi, Zinc, Vitamin C, Azitromicine, Chloroquine, is effective. The Minister Dr Thaddée Ndikumana advises people to continue to respect the barrier rules but also to consult the health services as soon as the first similar signs appear.

According to the Minister, late consultations complicate medical care, especially for people who suffer from other diseases such as diabetes, cancer, hypertension, tuberculosis and others.

(Source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## Approval of the governing bodies at Burundi Airlines



The Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism chaired on Monday, March 29, 2021 in Bujumbura, the Extraordinary General Assembly whose order was the approval of the Representatives of the shareholders on the Board of Directors, the constitution of the office of the Board of Direc-

tors and the handover and takeover between the Ad Hoc committee of the AIR BURUNDI-SOBUGEA merger and the Board of Directors of BURUNDI AIRLINES.

After presenting at length the achievements under the coordination of the Ad Hoc committee in charge of the AIR BURUNDI and Ex SOBUGEA merger, the Minister Immaculée Ndabaneze appreciated the work already accomplished by the Ad Hoc committee of the Air Burundi and SOBUGEA merger.

After verifying the statutory provisions regarding the composition of the Board and after exchanges, the shareholders including the Government of Burundi, SOGABU and SABENA in bankruptcy took various resolutions including the approval of the Directors of the company

where Mrs Marie Salomé Ndabahariye, representing the State of Burundi at the company Burundi Airlines SM was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company Burundi Airlines. Mr. Fabrice Bangemu, Representative of SOCABU, was Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors and Colonel Prime Yamuremye, Representative of the State of Burundi was elected Secretary of the Board of Directors of Burundi Airlines. The Burundi Airlines General Assembly appointed Colonel Prime Yamuremye as the Managing Director of Burundi Airlines.

In addition, the General Meeting of Shareholders approved the Directors of Burundi Airlines, namely Mrs Marie Salomé Ndabahariye, Representative of the

State of Burundi, Colonel Prime Yamuremye, Representative of the State of Burundi, Major Gervais Harerimana, Representative of the State from Burundi, Mr. Claver Sabushimike Representative of the State of Burundi, Mr. Channel Sabimbona Representative of the State of Burundi, Mr. Fabrice Bangemu, Representative of SOCABU and Mr. Pierre Claver Rwasasa, Representative of "SABENA in bankruptcy".

The General Assembly closed the activities by submitting the working documents prepared by the Air BURUNDI-SOBUGEA Ad Hoc Merger Committee to the new Board of Directors of Burundi Airlines.

(Source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## Spokespersons from different institutions host a public program from Kirundo province



The Spokespersons of the various public institutions of Burundi hosted on Friday April 2, 2021, from Kirundo province, a live public broadcast on all radio stations, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. They answered questions from journalists and public, questions affecting all sectors of the life of the country.

Addressing the greetings of the Head of State H.E Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye to the population, the Spokesperson of the Head of State Honorable Evelyne Butoyi indicated that the Head of State is delighted that Peace and Security reign over all territory of the country. He is also delighted with the good production that the country has experienced during the growing season A.

Through his greetings, the Head of State HEM Evariste Ndayishimiye called on the population to continue observing the barrier measures against Covid19. Concerning education, parents are called upon to closely monitor the education of their children. In this message, the President of the Republic also called on the

population to come together in cooperatives or associations to increase production.

To young people and women, he recommends that they set up good projects in order to have loans from the Youth Investment Bank (BIJE) and the Investment and Development Bank for Women in Burundi (BIDF) already in place.

The Head of State also urged the population and users of new communication and information technologies to make good use of them and not to pay attention to rumors disseminated on social networks.

During the question-and-answer session, media professionals wanted to know the meaning of the Head of State's message dated on February 05, 2021 during the celebration of the feast of the charter of unity to have under his orders lazy officials. The Spokesman of the Head of State Honorable Evelyne Butoyi indicated that this message was part of the logic of inviting employees to work diligently in order to increase production.

Regarding the dismissal of the Director General of Programming and Budget at the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Planning for Economic Development, the Spokesperson of the Head of State underlined that the Head of State has full power to appoint or remove any person from his post. Honorable Evelyne then invites the population to let the authorized authorities do their work.

Regarding the closure of media broadcasting from Rwanda, Government Spokesperson Mr. Prosper Ntahorwamiye stressed that this decision is salutary,

and it is one of the signs that testifies to Rwanda's desire to normalize its relations with Burundi.

According to the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, this Ministry welcomed this decision which comes after the meeting of the two Ministers in charge of Foreign Affairs of Rwanda and Burundi at the Nemba-Gasenyei post-border, the recommendations resulting from this meeting are being implemented, also evidenced by the massive return of Burundian refugees from Rwanda.

Regarding the presidential pardon which has not yet been implemented three months after being decreed, the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Justice indicated that the Ministry is at work to prepare the lists of beneficiaries who fill out the criteria for leaving prison houses.

The Spokesperson of the Ministry of Justice is delighted that the implementation of the presidential pardon will help relieve the congestion in the prisons and indicated that before their release, the beneficiaries will have to undergo reintegration training in the community in order not to reoffend.

Regarding farmers who have obtained a large production of corn and who risk not finding markets, the Spokesperson of the Ministry having agriculture in his attributions calls on the population to respect the price set by the Government and to dry these seeds of corn well for good conservation.

From a health point of view, concerning access to the vaccine against COVID-19, within the framework of the Covax mechanism, the Government Spokesperson specifies that Burundi still reserves the administration of emergency vaccines. He indicated that Burundi is first awaiting the final certification of the anti-covid19 vaccine that meets all the conditions and approved by the WHO.

Nevertheless, Burundi is not an island, it complies with international standards from which we continue to observe the barrier measures while waiting for the real anti-covid19 vaccine, underlined the Government Spokesperson Mr. Prosper Ntahorwamiye. Regarding the current situation of Covid19, Burundi has recorded since March 31, 2020; 2,882 cases of Covid19, 2,634 cases cured, 242 cases under treatment and 6 cases of death.

The Spokesperson of the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS stressed that the supervisory Ministry is delighted with the control of the upsurge in new cases of Covid19 during the second

campaign "Ndakira, Sinandura kandi Sinandukiza Coronavirus".

Currently, the Ministry in charge of Public Health is delighted that some provinces do not register any new cases of Covid19, except the City of Bujumbura which registers new cases imported from abroad, specified the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS.

Regarding the Head of State's program to transform certain Health Centers into Communal Hospitals, the Spokesperson of the Ministry having Public Health in his attributions indicated that the Ministry has already assigned, in 116 communes, a doctor to each hospital communal and that the process will continue to implement the recommendation of the Head of State.

Regarding the issue of subsidizing medical expertise in cases of gender-based violence, costing 30,000 Fbu when these victims are children or vulnerable people, the Government Spokesperson said that the authorized bodies will study this issue and take the necessary decisions in favor of these victims.

Regarding the salary adjustment allowances that civil servants have received for 5 years while those of personalized administrations have received them for only 3 years, the Spokesperson of the Ministry of the Public Service and Employment indicated that the Ministries concerned must send a letter of complaint to the commission in charge of adjustments for verification and regularization

As for the implementation of the salary policy, the Spokesperson of the Ministry in charge of the Public Service has indicated that this policy will apply to civil servants under general status, those of public administrations will adjust afterwards.

Regarding the resumption of the annals which had been frozen since 2015, the Spokesperson of the Ministry in charge of the Public Service specified that the annals will resume with the new more equitable salary policy in another form, taking into account performance management.

Regarding education, the spokesperson of the Ministry in charge of Education indicated that the technical commission is at work in Muramvya to correct certain errors in the textbooks of the basic and post-basic schools.

Regarding the complaints of some students who complain that there has been segregation to access the faculty of medicine in favor of laureates of schools of excellence, the spokesperson stresses that this is not true. Of the 278 students enrolled in the faculty of me-

dicine, 202, or 72% come from public and private schools, he said.

Regarding the theft of exams which was declared to the Communal Direction of Education of Ntahangwa in Bujumbura Town Hall, despite the advantages of the establishment of the school network program, leaks of exams linked to the long circuit of the routing of examinations to the competent bodies were observed. However, the stolen exams were canceled and resumed, the spokesperson of the Ministry in charge of Education said.

Regarding the deficiency and the rise in the price of BUCECO cement, the local administration is called upon to enforce the legal price of BUCECO Cement.

Regarding the relocation of the BUCECO Company because it threatens the health of the surrounding population, the relocation process is underway, said the spokesperson of the Ministry in charge of Trade.

Regarding the reconstruction work of the former central market attributed to the Association of Financial Institutions, the Prime Minister's spokesperson informs that a team of experts is at work to produce a report to be submitted to the Government and rest assured that the reconstruction will begin shortly.

Regarding the issue of children in street situations which causes insecurity, the Spokesperson of the Mi-

nistry in charge of Human Rights indicated that in collaboration with the Ministry of the Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security, they will carry out family reintegration and they will be allocated financial support to carry out income-generating activities.

Speaking of the rehabilitation of the RN3 (Bujumbura-Rumonge); the Spokesperson of the Ministry in charge of Transport indicated that soon the works will begin on the Rumonge-Gitaza section and on the Nyanza-Lac-Mutambara section, the procedures for awarding the contract are underway with the donors, especially that the analyzes of the offers have already been completed.

Regarding the rehabilitation of the Chanic-Melchior Ndadaye Airport section where construction work has stopped, the spokesperson of the Ministry in charge of Infrastructures underlines that the technicians are in the process of re-analyzing the construction system so that this road can be the mirror of the city of Bujumbura.

(Source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## Rutana: ABEJ works for the training of young graduates in entrepreneurship



**T**he Ministry of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sport and Culture via the Youth Employment Agency (ABEJ), organized on March 25-27, 2021, in the Province of Rutana, a training workshop entitled "Keys to achieving financial freedom" for young graduates during their first job internship from the provinces of Mwaro, Bururi, Rutana, Makamba and Rumonge.

The Assistant to the Minister of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sport and Culture, Mr. Jean Claude Kanene invites young graduates during internships to follow the modules prepared for them during the entrepreneurship training in order to " be able to develop development projects that will be used to provide jobs to other young people.

Mr. Jean Claude Kanene indicated that the Government has put the supervision of young people among its six main priorities to alleviate the problems which haunt this category of young people. He then asked these young people to come together and work in development cooperatives. He then congratulated the ABEJ for the step taken in the supervision of young people by seeking them first job internships. More than 4,000 young people have already benefited from these internships in the various services, 41% of which have already found employment.

As for the Director of ABEJ Mr. Vital Niyungeko thanked the Burundian Government which spares no



effort to ensure the proper functioning of this agency which deals with the supervision of young unemployed graduates. He called on young people to group together in cooperatives and to properly initiate development projects and to present them to the BIJE youth investment bank in order to benefit from the credits that will be used to finance their auto-development projects.

The beneficiaries of this entrepreneurship training

workshop followed different modules presented by the experts on entrepreneurial opportunities and project development.

At the end of this workshop, the participants received certificates attesting that they had completed the entrepreneurship training.

(Source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## OBR has the advantages of being an authorized economic operator



The Burundian Revenue Office (OBR) organized in Bujumbura on Thursday, April 1, 2021, a lunch-debate on the program of authorized economic operators in Burundi. The aim is to present the benefits of this program to economic operators who have not yet joined in order to boost the number of members.

During this lunch-debate, the Deputy Commissioner General of the OBR, Mr. Léopold Kabura specified that this program, which is part of the modernization of customs, has brought added value to the daily activities of taxpayers by facilitating customs clearance operations by granting advantages, including priority treatment of their declarations and counters which are physically reserved for them, have been set up for this purpose.

According to Mr. Léopold Kabura, an authorized economic operator is any person involved in the international movement of goods and whose compliance with the standards of the World Trade Organization in terms of supply chain security has been recognized by the Customs Administration.

In a presentation on the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) program, the speaker demonstrated the advantages of being an authorized economic operator. These include speeding up the processing of declara-

tions, waiving the requirements of the electronic cargo tracking system, accelerated payment in the event of a refund request, reduced customs guarantee, priority customs clearance at entry and exit points, priority participation in customs initiatives, etc. These advantages are offered both in Burundi and throughout the East African Community.

The Deputy Commissioner General of the OBR took this opportunity to ask all government regulatory agencies at border crossings to work to facilitate trade and invited the taxpayers present to join this program, the impact of which on their business can only be positive.

While welcoming the advantages linked to the AEO status, the participants in the lunch-debate organized by the OBR recommended improving the quality of the case processing service. They also called for better coordination with other structures involved in the movement of goods, in particular government regulatory agencies at border posts. The participants underlined in fact that the OBR agents do not take their status into account in the processing of files and ask this office to make its staff aware of granting a processing privilege to this category of operators.

Representatives of some companies working in Burundi gave testimony on the benefits they received thanks to the status of authorized economic operators and encouraged economic operators not yet approved to enter this program.

It should be noted that the approved economic operators program is a regional trade facilitation program which has started since 2012 at the level of the East African Community and in Burundi since 2014.

(Source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## A local company pledges to promote industrialization in Burundi



A local company called Freeland (Free Land) is committed to promoting industrialization in Burundi, it was learned on Monday March 29 from the Legal Representative of this company, Mr. Venant Harerimana. To achieve this goal, said Mr. Harerimana, this company will go through the acquisition of equipment, including machinery of all kinds and the granting of loans for the realization of real estate construction projects. The company is also involved in imports and exports.

For example, Mr. Harerimana said, if anyone needs a product that is not on the Burundian market, Freeland helps him find it abroad at a suitable price. Much more, he added, if anyone wants to sell a locally made product, the company helps them find a market overseas.

The company plans to help bring high-value products made in Burundi by Burundians to the international market. These include, among others, coffee, tea and handicrafts. The company also provides facilities in the payment of fruit and vegetable processing machines, he said.

This company, which enjoys a very solid partnership with foreign companies, in this case the International

Business Opportunity Center (CIOA), has already received some requests for financing of important projects, in particular real estate projects.

To benefit from any assistance from this company, the applicant must have a well-located land area with a title deed for real estate projects, said Mr. Harerimana, meaning that anyone with a well located land can seek the support of this company. In addition, the applicant sends the company a letter of expression of interest, specifying his project with a feasibility study where possible. The principle for this company is that the properties built with its support can generate income that can cover the loan granted.

(Source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

# Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

## Department of Communication

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