

**REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI****PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC  
Secretariat-General of the State****MEDIA RELEASE NO 18 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET  
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 05 MAY 2021**

A Cabinet Meeting was held in Bujumbura on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> of May 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 30 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. Draft sector strategy for the implementation of the National Development Plan,** presented by the Minister of Communication, Information Technologies and Media.

Burundi has had a National Development Plan since July 2018. It is a reference document for all development actors in Burundi and all ministries are called upon to develop sector strategies for its operationalization.

This sectoral strategy is an instrument of strategic orientation in the planning of activities to be carried out annually in the fields of communication, media, posts and information technologies.

The overall objective of this sector strategy is to make the information, communication, media and postal technologies sector a catalyst for strong, sustained and inclusive growth by 2027.

The sector strategy includes the following strategic objectives:

- Promote information and communication technologies,
- Contribute to modernizing public administration at all levels via information and communication technologies,
- Support the performance of the education system in accordance with national needs and international standards through information and communication technologies,
- Improve the availability and diversification of media and communication services across the country,
- Make the postal sector competitive,
- Rational management of resources, real estate and rolling stock,
- Promote a postal address and coding management system.

The overall cost of this Strategy is Three Hundred and Fifty Six Billion Nine Hundred and Sixty Two Million (356,962,000,000) Burundian Francs.

After discussion and debate, the Council of Ministers adopted the Strategy with, among other things, a recommendation to draw up the timetable for its implementation. It was also recommended to clearly specify the share of internal funding and that expected from other partners. Other fundraising strategies will have to be thought of in case the partners' share is not released as desired.

## **2. Draft national planning guide**, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

Since the colonial era, Burundi has always developed policies and development plans to redress its socioeconomic situation.

But the results remained mixed, due to a gap in the orientation of socioeconomic development as management was marked by the short and medium term.

This is why Burundi has opted for the formulation of a long-term vision for 2025. This vision was the tool that inspired the development of the National Development Plan.

Although Burundi has produced these various planning documents, it does not have a harmonized guide serving as a model in the planning process at the national, sectoral and local levels, which poses a problem in terms of the alignment of all stakeholders in national priorities.

It is within this framework that this Guide has been developed. It is a reference document that shows the process, the steps, the guiding principles of planning, as well as the monitoring and evaluation tools, in order to make a harmonized planning.

It will ensure the coherence and interdependence of planning tools at all levels, guide the actors to define the strategic frameworks and policies for sustainable development, avoid the improvisation of actions for the implementation of public strategies and policies, and break with the diversity of planning processes at all levels.

After analyzing this document, the Council of Ministers recognized the importance of this document as it is a basis even for future generations.

As the document requires contributions from each other to be well enriched, members of the Government were asked to give themselves a little time for a more in-depth reading, so that within a week, they transmitted to the Minister in charge of planning their observations to take them into account in the final document which will be validated.

This was an opportunity to remind members of the Government to always check that in the Communal Community Development Plans the activities of their ministries have been taken into account.

**3. Draft ministerial order laying down rules applicable to the management of supplementary pension funds in Burundi**, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

This draft ordinance applies to supplementary pension schemes, in order to allow members and beneficiaries to benefit from benefits intended to supplement the benefits of statutory social security schemes in the event of retirement, death or disability.

It sets up a legal framework to which insurers will be subject, the observation being that they apply different regimes in this area.

During the debate, the Council of Ministers noted that there is a Bill on pensions which is in preparation and that this draft ordinance should therefore await its implementation.

This ordinance would come as an implementing text of this law.

The Council of Ministers also recommended ensuring that in this Bill, the interests of the insurer and the insured are balanced.

**4. KIRA health system support project**, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

A second additional funding to the KIRA project in the amount of US \$ 50 million for the IDA grant and US \$ 4.6 million for the GAVI grant under the project to support the health system in the Republic of Burundi has just been signed between the World Bank and the Government of Burundi, for a total amount of 54.6 million US dollars.

This additional funding will support in:

- The continuation of the free health care and results-based payment program;
- Extending the performance-based financing strategy to strengthen key components of the health system;
- Provision of GBV services and laboratories established under recently closed regional projects;

This additional funding also complements Burundi's preparedness and response to the covid-19 pandemic while mitigating its impact on essential health services.

After exchange and debate, the project was adopted with the recommendation to speed up the process of its ratification.

The Council of Ministers recommended an inspection of all hospitals to verify how the funds intended for free health care were used.

**5. National Strategy for Regional Integration of Burundi (SNIR 2021-2027),**  
presented by the Minister of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports  
and Culture.

Currently, Burundi is a member of several international, regional and sub-regional organizations. It has always placed regional integration at the heart of its political and economic vision, as a landlocked country.

Burundi's membership in several organizations is based on a concern for complementarity.

Despite the efforts made to translate the national vision of regional integration into reality, progress has not always lived up to expectations.

This Strategy is proposed in order to face the multiple challenges that hamper the effective integration of Burundi into these organizations. Its overall objective is to face the challenges which prevent Burundi from taking full advantage of the advantages of regional integration and thus contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the National Development Plan in terms of economic growth, employment and poverty reduction.

This Strategy is built around four objectives, namely:

- Consolidate peace and security;
- Strengthen national governance of regional integration;
- Improve economic infrastructure (transport; energy, water, etc.);
- Continue the integration process in its different phases;

This Strategy will allow Burundi to benefit from it in terms of:

- Reduction of isolation,
- Diversification and economic growth,
- Multiplication of employment,
- Poverty reduction,
- Sustainability of peace and security

During the discussions, members of the Government made the following observations;

- Among the more than one hundred and eighty organizations to which Burundi is a member, it is necessary to show the organizations that Burundi wishes to leave, the major reasons as well as the conditions of withdrawal to help the Government to decide;
- For the organizations selected, it would be necessary to show the amount of Burundi contributions as well as the arrears;
- Sector ministries should analyze the impact of Burundi's withdrawal from a particular organization;
- You do not have to be a member of an organization in order to benefit from its expertise.

The file will come back to the Council of Ministers after having been reworked taking these observations into account.

**6. Integrated Coastal Management Plan for Lake Tanganyika**, presented by the Minister of Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock.

Lake Tanganyika plays an important role in the economy of the country, in addition to being a reservoir of fresh water; it harbors enormous biodiversity and contributes to maritime transport.

In order to ensure good management of the "water" sector and of Lake Tanganyika, several policies, strategies and texts have been put in place.

Thus, the 2012 Water Code provides for a strip 150 meters wide from the waters of the Lake, which is part of the public domain.

Despite all these efforts, the coastline of Lake Tanganyika is managed in an anarchic and irrational manner.

To remedy this, the Ministry in charge of the environment has produced an integrated development plan for the Lake Tanganyika coastline which takes into account environmental, tourist and economic aspects.

The mission of this document is to guide decision-makers and investors so that the coast of Lake Tanganyika is valued and protected.

This plan shows the inventory of the Lake Tanganyika coastline over a distance of thirty-five (35) kilometers from the Kagera I river to the Kirasa river as well as schematic proposals for various occupations.

After exchange and debate on this document, the Council of Ministers observed that:

- The document needs further study with the support of experts from various fields;



- Endangered areas need to be well monitored so that there is no new infrastructure erected there;
- The victims of the flooded areas need support and the sector ministries are called upon to intervene within the limits of the Government's support framework;
- The Ministry in charge of infrastructure should draw the consequences of the current behavior of Lake Tanganyika so that the infrastructure under study or under construction aligns with standards that take into account the current situation;
- Studies to clean up the rivers flowing into Lake Tanganyika are needed to protect it against pollution and protect the residents of these rivers.

The more in-depth document will be brought to the Council of Ministers for validation.

**7. Draft ministerial order on implementing measures for the general statute of civil servants in terms of regularization of diplomas and certificates, presented by the Minister of Public Service, Labor and Employment.**

The General Staff Regulations provide that an official can move up to the higher category by means of training or further training leading to a diploma at a level corresponding to one of those required for recruitment in the higher category.

Diploma training and continuing education or professional development are encouraged by the public service, because the objective of training is the development of human resources to make the civil servant more competent.

With the increase of universities, many civil servants have pursued training and obtained diplomas. They keep asking for regularizations on presentation of new diplomas.

Faced with this situation and with a view to controlling the wage bill, the draft ordinance proposes that:

- The regularization of the diploma is decided by the Minister of Public Service on the proposal of the employing minister of the requesting official, while indicating the date of his new assignment as well as the identification of the person to be replaced;
- The bonus values linked to professional development are granted by decision of the Minister of Public Service upon proposition by the employing Minister of the requesting civil servant, while indicating the added value caused by the certificate received;
- The request for regularization of diplomas and certificates is made within a period which does not exceed six months from the date of the official's reassignment to the new post or of the recognition of the added value.

After discussion and debate, the Council of Ministers adopted the project with, among other things, a recommendation to change the title by saying "Draft ministerial ordinance on implementing measures for the general statute of civil servants in terms of regularization of holders of diplomas and certificates obtained in the course of employment" and to distinguish between the one who followed a training being sent by the employer and the one who did it in a personal capacity.

The one who has been sent by the employer is entitled to move up to the higher category if there is a vacant position, while the one who has followed the training in a personal capacity cannot claim it as of right.

On the other hand, his situation can be taken into account in the event of a need for recruitment.

The Council of Ministers recommended a serious verification of the diplomas presented because cheatings are possible. The example was given for people who present college degrees obtained after following the regular course (not evening classes) when they were supposed to be in the service.

For the specific case of the Ministry of National Education, teachers who have obtained higher diplomas than those for which they were hired and who were assigned accordingly by the Provincial Directors of Education (DPE) will be recruited as a priority but will not be regularized for the period prior to this recruitment. However, to avoid cheating, a test will be organized for them. The Provincial Directors of Teaching were asked to stop engaging in this practice.

**8. & 9. Memoranda of understanding between the Ministry of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism and the Central Corridor Transit Transport Facilitation Agency**

**- for technical assistance with a view to setting up a national observatory for transport and international trade**

**- for the supply of surgical masks and disinfectants in order to limit the spread of covid-19 among international carriers**

These two files were presented by the Services of the Prime Minister.

During a meeting between the Executive Secretary of the Central Corridor in January 2021 with the authorities of the Ministry in charge of transport, it was concluded that assistance for Burundi in terms of control of the international commercial logistics chain to import / export was necessary and that a related envelope intended for projects was necessary.

A retreat organized for the various stakeholders in this sector concluded on the need for the development of memoranda of understanding.

It is within this framework that these two memoranda were prepared.

The Memorandum of Understanding for technical assistance for the establishment of a national transport and international trade observatory will enable Burundi to control the international trade logistics chain.

As for the Memorandum of Understanding for the supply of surgical masks and disinfectants, it will limit the spread of covid-19 among international carriers along the route of the Central Corridor.

After analysis, the Council of Ministers adopted these two memoranda, but given their technical nature, a representative of the technical services of the Ministry in charge of Transport will co-sign the memoranda with the Central Corridor Transit Transport Facilitation Agency.

But according to the Memorandum of Understanding for the supply of surgical masks and disinfectants, the corresponding amount would ideally be used to purchase coronavirus testing kits.

## **10. Any Other Business**

His Excellency the President of the Republic reminded the members of the Government of their sense of responsibility, but that one should not hesitate to seek the advice or opinions of colleagues or of the Highest Authorities in the event of hesitation on a specific file.

He also asked members of the Government to make the officials under their responsibilities understand that at any time, they may be called upon to work in any province or municipality in the country as part of the decentralization of public services.

**Done at Bujumbura, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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