

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
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The Head of State calls on young people to use their skills to contribute to the development of the country



The Head of State asks Burundian youth to stop targeting public employment but rather to use the knowledge acquired at school to initiate income-generating projects likely to create employment and contribute to development from the country. The President of the Republic of Burundi H.E Mr. Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE launched this appeal this Tuesday, May 04, 2021 during a moralization session for young natives of the Province of Gitega.

During this session, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye called on young people to promote a patriotic spirit in order to work for the development of their country: "You should stop envying the West. Rather, you have to think about developing the country that educated you. The time has come to create a new generation which does not beg, but which wants to be creative and innovative".

The Burundian Number One went on to call on the youth of Gitega Province to fight idleness and stop wasting time

with trivial things like ethnic discrimination, but to work in partnership for a prosperous Burundi.

In addition, he asked them to invest mainly in the business that earns currency. "Development is impossible without peace and security", said the Head of State, urging them to strengthen peace and security, pillars of sustainable development.

This meeting saw the participation of young entrepreneurs who succeeded in creating various jobs thanks to the initiated projects. Through their testimonies, they called on other young people to awaken consciousness and change mentalities to self-develop and then contribute to the development of the country.

These young entrepreneurs also took this opportunity to seek support in the execution of their projects. His Excellency the Head of State promised them that the responsible and laborious Government will spare no effort to support such initiatives and asked other young people to follow suit.

(Source: www.presidence.gov.bi)

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Head of State invites Burundians to get down to work



This May 2, 2021, the President of the Republic, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, accompanied by the First Lady of Burundi, Her Excellency Angéline NDAYISHIMIYE, joined the Christians of Gihanga Parish, Bubanza province, for Sunday prayer on the 5th Sunday Easter.

In his address, just after the celebration of Mass, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, invited the Burundians to love one another and to love work in order to increase production. He particularly thanked them for their spirit of working together. The Head of State gave the example of maize production which has increased considerably, as the population quickly understood the practice of grouping land holdings during plowing and sowing.

The President of the Republic then confided to the people of Gihanga that their problems of shortage of drinking water and irrigation will find a solution within a period not exceeding one year, because his most ardent wish is to see Gihanga become the attic of the country.

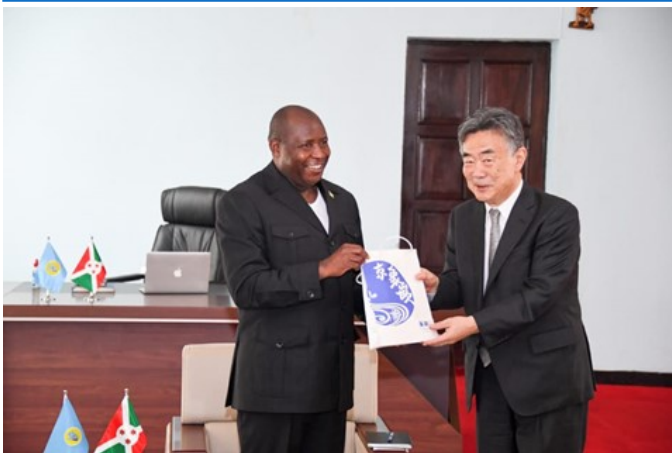
His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE also advised the Burundians not to remain prisoners of the painful past that the country has known. He therefore asked the Burundians to be able to count on the present and the future which according to the Head of State are reassuring and promising.

In addition, the President of the Republic called on the Burundians to further consolidate the love of others, peace, security and justice. It is with this in mind that he called on Burundians to protect themselves against COVID-19 and therefore to warn others against this pandemic.

His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE closed his speech by appealing to the people of Gihanga in particular and the whole country in general, to contribute to the works of the Church. To lead by example, he promised the Gihanga Parish a contribution of 5,000,000 Burundian Francs, as a kick-off to the construction work of the convent for the Priests of the Gihanga Parish.

(Source: www.presidence.gov.bi)

The resumption of Bujumbura Port Extension Project on the menu of discussions between the Head of State and the Japanese Ambassador



The Head of State, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, received in audience this Thursday, May 6, 2021, Mr. Masahiro IMAI, Ambassador of Japan in Burundi with residence in Kigali, in Rwanda.

At the end of this hearing, the Japanese Ambassador revealed that they discussed the restart of the Bujumbura Port Extension Project, funded by Japan, which had stopped due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During their discussions, they also returned to the cooperation relations between Burundi and Japan which are manifested in the sectors of agriculture, infrastructure and energy.

The two high personalities expressed the wish to see these relations strengthened in order to promote the economic development of the country.

This interview ended in a style with an exchange of gifts.

(Source: www.presidence.gov.bi)

Cibitoke: The Senate Speaker proceeds to the rice harvest



The President of the Senate the Right Honorable Emmanuel SINZOHAGERA accompanied by his wife proceeded this Monday, May 3, 2021 to the rice harvest on the Kansega hill, Ndava zone, Buganda Commune of Cibitoke Province.

While he sowed 30 kg on this rice field of over two hectares, the Right Honorable Emmanuel SINZOHAGERA expects a harvest of 15 tons of rice. The President of the Senate the Right Honorable Emma-

nuel SINZOHAGERA said that a portion of the harvest will be used for family consumption, another will be sold at the market. As he is a servant of God, the Right Honorable Emmanuel SINZOHAGERA affirms that part of the harvest will be intended for the assistance of the poor or vulnerable.

By cultivating rice, the Right Honorable Emmanuel SINZOHAGERA, President of the Senate sets a good example to other leaders, and he calls on them to carry out activities to increase production. He is delighted to see that some authorities are already investing in agropastoral activities. As the rice harvest is abundant in the country, the President of the Senate the Right Honorable Emmanuel SINZOHAGERA wants the Government to fix the price of rice as it did for corn.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation ends his tour in Europe, in Switzerland



As part of the political consultations, with a view to the normalization of bilateral relations between Burundi and the European Union on the one hand, and between Burundi and the European States, on the other hand, as well as the warming of relations between friendship and cooperation between Burundi and France and between Burundi and Switzerland, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO made a working tour to Brus-

sels, Paris, Geneva and Bern, from April 24 to May 04, 2021.

During this tour which began in Brussels, capital of the European Union, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation met the Secretary General of the European Service for External Action at the European Union Commission, Mr. Stefano Sannino. They had a very fruitful meeting, and exchanged views on topics of common interest, including the cancellation of sanctions taken by the European Union against Burundi in March 2016.

This visit comes at a time when, for five years, there had not been a working visit by a high-level Burundian authority to this institution.

On the sidelines of this visit, the Minister Ambassador Albert Shingiro met, in Brussels, Mr. André Flahaut, Minister of State, Honorary President of the Belgian

Chamber of Representatives in the Belgian Federal Parliament and former Minister of Defense.

Their meeting was dominated by the situation in Burundi with a particular emphasis on new positive

developments in the country, the regional situation, as well as the state of bilateral relations with the Kingdom of Belgium and Burundi.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation meets the new Secretary General of the Organization of ACP States



Mr. Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, the new Secretary General of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OEACP).

Their discussions focused on various subjects including the post-Cotonou Agreement, recently initialed by the chief negotiators of the OEACP and the European Union, the revised Georgetown Agreement, the reform of the Organization of ACP States, as well as the cancellation of sanctions taken by the EU against Burundi.

The Secretary General of OEACP reassured Burundi of its firm and constant support for the legitimate request of the Burundian authorities to lift the sanctions imposed on Burundi.

During his visit to Brussels, His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation met

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

Burundian Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs goes to Paris



In Paris, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO met Mr. Franck Paris, Special Advisor to President Emmanuel Macron, for Africa. They discussed various topics, bilateral cooperation between Burundi and France, regional and global

cooperation in general as well as the cancellation of sanctions against Burundi by the European Union. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation also met Mr. Jean Baptiste Lemoyne, Secretary of State in charge of Tourism, French people living abroad and Francophonie. They exchanged views on strengthening cooperation through a mutually beneficial partnership.

This visit was also a good opportunity for the Head of Burundian diplomacy to hold some talks with European businessmen, in the context of promoting economic diplomacy, as he committed himself when he took office.

In an interview he conducted with Mr. Steve Gentilli, President of the Francophone Business Forum (FFA),

the two interlocutors discussed foreign investment opportunities in Burundi, in particular the exploitation of Lake Tanganyika, which is the 2nd deepest Lake in the world after Lake Baikal, the development of infrastructure, the development of the financial sector which would result in the opening of European banks, the exploitation of mines by signing mutually beneficial cooperation agreements, etc. The Minister did not forget to stress the gran-

ting of jobs to Burundian citizens and especially young people who represent more than 65% of the total population, and most of whom are unemployed.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation and the President of the Francophone Business Forum (FFA) have agreed to organize a business forum in Burundi when the health context will allow it.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation ends his tour in Europe, in Switzerland



Burundi and its European partners through mutually beneficial cooperation, for the benefit of their respective peoples.

Note that at the end of his tour at the headquarters of the European Union at Brussels in Belgium, Paris in France, Geneva and Bern in Switzerland, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation invited his interlocutors to visit Burundi, on a date to be communicated through diplomatic channels. This invitation was accepted with pleasure.

In the city of Bern, in Switzerland, the burundian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation H.E Albert SHINGIRO met his counterpart from the Swiss Confederation, HE Mr. Ignazio Cassis. The strengthening of friendly relations and bilateral cooperation as well as other matters of mutual interest were on the menu. At the end of their discussions, there was a convergence of views on these subjects and a shared desire to further warm up bilateral ties between the two countries.

On the sidelines of this visit, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO met other personalities and friends of Burundi, in order to promote the image of the country.

The mission led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation in Europe resulted in a convergence of points of view with Burundi's partners on the cancellation of the sanctions taken against Burundi, as well as the warming of relations between friendship and cooperation between



The Burundian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation has wrapped up his tour by expressing his deep thanks to the authorities of the European Union, as well as the French and Swiss authorities for the warm welcome for the marks of attention to his delegation throughout its successful stay in Brussels, Paris, Geneva and Bern.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation signs the amendment of the Exchange of Notes related to the modernization and extension project of the Port of Bujumbura



On 7th May 2021, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO proceeded, with the Ambassador of Japan to Burundi with residence in Kigali His Excellency Imai MASAHIRO, to the signing of the amendment of the Exchange of Notes related to the modernization and extension project of the Port of Bujumbura.

In his remarks for the occasion, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO first of all, thanked the Japanese Government for the financing of this project and recalled that the port of Bujumbura plays an important role in the economy of Burundi. In fact, the role of the Burundian Government will consist in setting up adequate strategies to maximize the exploitation of Lake Tanganyika which is a very important Lake for the economy of the country.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO also indicated that the Republic of Burundi in collaboration with the United Republic of Tanzania is in the process of setting up a dry port in Kigoma which will receive commercial products from Dar-Es-Salaam. Some of these products will go through the road, other products will go through the Lake. Consequently, the traffic on Lake Tanganyika will be intense as far as trade is concerned.

For the Director General of the Maritime, Port and Rail

Authority Mr. Jacques BIGIRIMANA, the implementation of this project will reduce the cost of transport in order to promote maritime transport which is cheaper compared to the road, it will maintain the Burundian fleet regularly by setting up a shipyard to repair boats, protect the port basin against alluvial deposits from the sewage canal of Buyenzi district and modernize the port for economic growth in Burundi and the region.

The Ambassador of Japan to Burundi with residence in Kigali, His Excellency Imai MASAHIRO recalled that the modernization and extension project of the Port of Bujumbura has four components, namely the construction of the container terminal, the construction of the naval site for the construction and repair of boats, the diversion of Buyenzi canal as well as the dredging of the harbor basin.

Subsequently, there followed the signing of the amendment to the financing agreement for the mo-

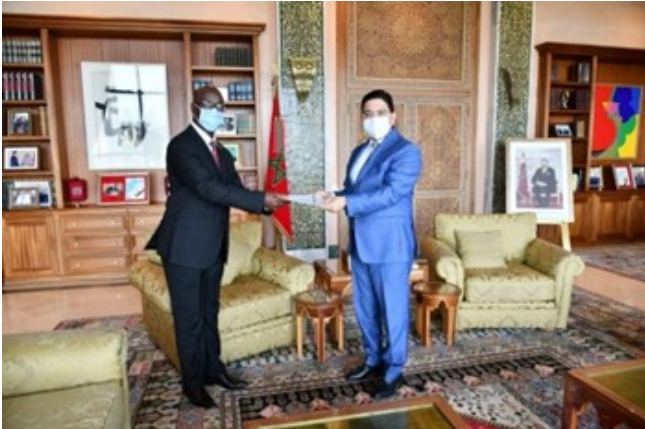


dernization and extension project of the port of Bujumbura between His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO and JICA Office Representative Mr. Shin MARUO.

The budget for the said project has increased from twenty-six million to thirty-one million US dollars. These additional costs will cover any unforeseen events, especially caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to avoid anything that could hinder the good continuity of the project.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

Ambassador Nestor BANKUMUKUNZI presents the Figured Copies to the Head of Moroccan Diplomacy



The Figured Copies presentation was followed by an audience granted by the Head of Moroccan Diplomacy to the Ambassador Nestor BANKUMUKUNZI.

It was an opportunity to discuss certain axes of the Cooperation Agreement concluded between the Republic of Burundi and the Kingdom of Morocco.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

In the afternoon of Monday May 03, 2021, the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Burundi to the Kingdom of Morocco Mr. Nestor BANKUMUKUNZI presented the Figured Copies of credentials to the Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccans residing abroad Mr. Nasser Boruta.

A friendly football match between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation and the European Union



the opening of the match.



As part of the warming of bilateral relations between Burundi and the European Union and in the framework of the celebration of Europe Day, a friendly match was organized between a team from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in Development, and a team from the European Union, at the Kabondo Football Center field, on Saturday May 08, 2021.

The 1st pass was launched by H.E Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation to H.E Claude BOCHU, Ambassador of the European Union Delegation, as a sign of

This match was held in a very friendly atmosphere with each other's efforts to win more goals, but it ended with a score of two goals everywhere. The match was closed by a cocktail, in a relaxed atmosphere.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

Gatumba border post on the way to becoming operational again



The National Committee against COVID-19 chaired by the Minister in charge of Public Security CPC Gervais NDIRAKOBUCA met on Monday, May 03, 2021 to assess the progress of the response against COVID-19, the current situation, the screening campaign for boarding school students, the approval of the urgent submission to the global fund to increase the supply of rapid tests and sufficient drugs as well as the prerequisites for the reopening of the Gatumba border post between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

According to the Minister in charge of Health Dr Thaddée NDIKUMANA, the COVID-19 screening campaign for students in boarding schools went well. Over 52,000 students, 3,000 teachers and other employees were screened. Of these, around 2.2% were tested positive. Fortunately, these positive cases were cured, during this week all the students under treatment returned to school, explained the Minister.

Regarding the progress of the activities of the response against COVID-19, 356 active people are under treatment on an outpatient basis, most of the cases under treatment recover after 7 or 10 days, said Minister Thaddée NDIKUMANA.

The National Response Committee against COVID-19 nevertheless deplors that there is a certain slackening in the strict implementation of the barrier measures against this pandemic, especially during the holidays and this always complicates the fight against the coronavirus, the best protection being prevention, specified the Minister having Public Health in his attributions.

As Burundi expects 100,000 rapid tests from Tuesday 04th May 2021 and the supply of rapid tests and drugs

worth over 17 million US dollars through the donation of the global fund, Minister Thaddée NDIKUMANA announced that the Government is soon planning a massive screening campaign for students in day school, state officials and traders especially in Bujumbura City Hall, starting with officials from the Ministry of Public Health and Control against AIDS. At the same time, voluntary screening throughout the country continues, underlined Minister Thaddée NDIKUMANA.

It is also with this in mind that the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, at the same time Deputy President of the National Committee in charge of the response against COVID-19, announced that the Gatumba border post between Burundi and DRC will soon be reopened. According to him, the committee suggested that a screening site should be erected in the buffer zone at Gatumba.



Minister Dr Thaddée NDIKUMANA also answered some questions from journalists. Regarding the request of the United Nations system in Burundi to vaccinate its employees, the Minister recalled that Burundi is waiting for the vaccine approved by the WHO, because, according to him, the vaccines in progress are still under analysis. The employee of the United Nations system who wants to be vaccinated has the right to do so, provided that he does it outside the country, as in neighboring countries for example, said the Minister in charge of Public Health. Regarding the long waiting period for the results of the COVID-19 test which went on from 24 hours to 3 days, the Minister said that in recent days, it has been observed a large number of people who are being tested, in addition to the screening campaign

for students in boarding schools, which led to a shortage of stocks of rapid tests. And to add that from Tuesday 04th May 2021, 100,000 rapid tests will be available to the Ministry in charge of Public Health to facilitate massive screening, said Minister Thaddée NDIKUMANA.

He took this opportunity to ask the entire population to remain united in order to fight the Coronavirus pande-

mic, while promoting mutual understanding, because the Committee is in the process of doing everything in the general interest of the Burundian population, concluded Minister Dr Thaddée NDIKUMANA.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

A round table for the revitalization of ITCs cells within public and private institutions



The Ministry of Communication, Information Technologies and Media organized in Bujumbura, a two-day workshop from May 3 to 4, 2021, for the Representatives of the different institutions, on the revitalization of ITCs cells within of all Ministries.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry in charge of information technologies and media Mr. Anicet Niyonkuru indicated that the objective of this workshop was based on making contact in order to put in place a roadmap to establish a framework for collaboration between different institutions. He also said that it was an opportunity to challenge and strengthen the ITCs cells of all institutions in order to allow better coordination of Tics within all the Ministries.

The Director General of ITCs Mrs. Rosine Guilaine GATONI, specified during her presentation, that among the strategic development axes of the National Development Plan as far as ITC is concerned, which goes from 2010 to 2025, education constitutes a fundamental basis, it must be as such the main beneficiary of technological innovations in the field of ICTs. Mrs. Rosine Guilaine GATONI also indicated that the various institutions must ensure that the digital aspect is integrated into the projects or into the services to be offered to citizens. And to add that in the future, an

awareness session is planned for the highest authorities of the country, so that digital technology can be integrated into everyday work.

The Executive Secretary of ICTs (SETIC) Mr. Bienvenu IRAKOZE, for his part, indicated that the vision of SETIC is to ensure that digital technology is at the center of Burundi's development by ensuring availability, excellence and innovation which are values of SETIC.

Mr. Bienvenu IRAKOZE specified that the SETIC's mission is to coordinate and monitor all projects and programs aimed at the implementation of the national ICT policy in Burundi.

During the interventions, the participants asked for the capacity building in the field of ICTs, within all the Ministries.

On the 2nd day of the workshop on the revitalization of ICT cells and the platform of the Government's communication system (COMGOV) organized for the Representatives of public institutions, the presenter Mr. Evariste MINANI indicated that there is a system. Government communication system which allows the various public institutions to exchange and store data through the COMGOV.bi intranet.

The COMGOV.bi plans in the future perspectives to inventory the real needs of public institutions for at least 5 years, find another funding to guarantee the sustainability of the achievements of COMGOV after the expiration of a current contract from 2023.

Mr. Evariste MINANI who made a presentation on the functioning of "COMGOV" indicated that among the challenges of COMGOV are, among other things, insufficient internet capacity, insufficient resources for monitoring activities, lack of legal system and regulatory (electronic signature, protection of personal data, cyber security) etc.

At the end of the workshop, recommendations were formulated, among other things, to organize awareness-raising sessions for decision-makers on the mobilization of funds for ICT projects, encourage the Government to finance the continuity of COMGOV

services on all its extension, sensitize decision-makers on data hosting at SETIC, etc.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

Geomatics, an essential tool in decision-making



The Permanent Executive Secretary of the Geomatics Centralization Office, Mr. Frédéric NGENDABAKANA called on public and private decision-makers to consult the data produced by this office in order to make informed decisions before launching their projects and programs. This call was launched on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 during a conference-debate on Geomatics in Burundi, organized for the media as part of the promotion and popularization of good practices through the use of Geomatics.

Geomatics being the computer processing of geographic data obtained by topometry, cartography, geodesy, photogrammetry, remote sensing etc., it helps decision-makers and the population, according to Mr. Frédéric NGENDABAKANA, to make good decisions based on reliable data.

During this conference-debate on Geomatics, the Permanent Executive Secretary of the Geomatics Centralization Office specified that this office produces data in all fields related to geolocation, with a technology based on scientific and reliable data, which allows you to properly frame and identify, without or with less risk, the places where you have to put projects without speculating on either side.

Speaking of geomatics applications with supporting examples, the Permanent Executive Secretary of the geomatics centralization office explained that the capabilities of the geomatics information system tools make it possible to objectively choose a field of va-

rious interventions in any sector, whether in agriculture, roads, forests, urban planning, land use planning, commerce, health, education etc.

It was also an opportunity for him to clarify that Geomatics is an essential tool for disaster management and early warning. Mr. Frédéric NGENDABAKANA said that Geomatics provides the appropriate tools to understand and communicate the social and physical complexities of disasters, before specifying that disaster management in Burundi requires basic geospatial data for early warning, planning and emergency response. For this geomatics expert, modeling phenomena in geographic information systems leads to better understanding and serves as a basis for early warning systems.

He cited the example of the damage observed in recent days on the infrastructure erected along Lake Tanganyika, specifying that these losses were not going to occur if the decision-makers and the owners of the houses and plots located near Lake Tanganyika had consulted the services of this Office. He explained that thanks to this technology, geomatics experts can calculate how many houses or how many victims are going to be affected by the rising waters to a certain level.

For him, Lake Tanganyika tends to regain the level it had reached in 1964. The person in charge of the said Office specifies that on April 30, the level was already at 776.50m, barely 50cm to reach the level of 1964 which destroyed over 8 thousand houses during this time, a phenomenon which is repeated at a certain period. And to urge decision-makers, economic operators and the entire population to always check with the Geomatics Centralization Office before undertaking development projects to avoid paying attention in the event of disasters.

It should be mentioned that the Geomatics Centralization Office, which is now the responsibility of the Prime Minister, was created in 2013.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

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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 5th 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 5th, 2021

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

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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