

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
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"It is through reconciliation that the province of Bururi will achieve the long-awaited socio-economic development"



The President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye made his remarks during a moralization session on good governance that he animated this Tuesday, May 18, 2021 for the elected and political Officials, religious and administrative Officials from Bururi province, located in southern Burundi.

After the welcoming speech by the Governor of Bururi province, this moralization session offered the President of the Republic the opportunity to return to the fundamentals of a Responsible and Laborious State. He insisted on the urgency of developing and thoroughly reforming Burundi through the promotion of good governance in the sectors of national life. His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, in several cases, urged political leaders to be true servants of the people:

"Good governance is our priority because it will depend on the socio-

economic development of Burundi. Let public leaders know that the time for laxity is over".

President Ndayishimiye warned the leaders who "serve themselves" instead of serving the people: "I will not rest until the day when every Burundian will be respected in all his rights. I demand exemplarity and humility of all public leaders, as good servants of the people. I will never tolerate corruption and injustice".

The Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye deplored the selfish and irresponsible behavior of certain political and administrative Officials and urged the Burundians to denounce all cases of injustice and embezzlement. He asked the competent authorities to crack down on the proven culprits.

Before closing the meeting, the Head of State heard the grievances of the natives of Bururi province who all indicated that only true reconciliation will allow the socio-economic development of the province. He pledged to support all their efforts "to break with the old divisionist mentalities inherited from our painful past".

(Source: www.presidence.gov.bi)

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The Head of State leads a moralization session in the capital of Bururi province



The Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye brought together in the capital of Bururi province, on Tuesday May 18, 2021, the administrative and political Officials, elected Officials and religious leaders of the province in a moralization session. Lea-



dership and the problem of corruption that plagues the justice sector dominated the debates. The President of the Republic has announced that all pending cases will have to be emptied before the end of the year.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The new Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism has sworn in before the Head of State



The new Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism, Madam Capitoline Niyonizigiye was sworn in on Friday, May 21, 2021, before the Head of State, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, and Parliament.

The Minister Niyonizigiye, among other things, swore loyalty to the Charter of National Unity and to the Constitution of Burundi.

The new Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism replaces Madam Immaculée Ndabaneze, deposed by the Presidential Decree of May 1, 2021.

After the swearing-in, all members of the Government posed for a photo of the new Government family.

(Source: www.presidence.gov.bi)

Two Special Envoys received by the President of Tanzania



On May 21, 2021, two Special Envoys carrying a Special Message from His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi, were received by His Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania. It was His Excellency Ambassador Ezéchiel Nibigira, Minister in charge of East African Community Affairs, accompanied by Colonel Aloys Sindayihebura, Senior Executive at the Presidency of the Republic of Burundi.



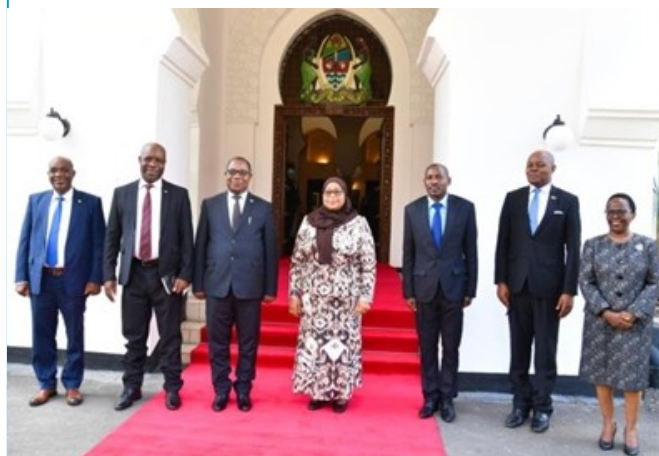
At the start of the audience, Minister Nibigira presented the Tanzanian Head of State with a message of condolences from his Burundian counterpart, after the recent unexpected disappearance of the former President, His Excellency John Pombe Magufu-li, as well as the congratulations to the new President who took over immediately after the announcement of this tragic event.

The Special Envoys welcomed the excellent bilateral relations and cooperation between Burundi and Tanzania which date back to pre-colonial years,

stressing the need to further strengthen them.

According to President Samia Suluhu Hassan, strengthening these relations requires consolidating trade between our two countries. She therefore underlined the urgency of implementing our common infrastructures, especially in the areas of road, air, maritime and rail transport, as recommended during the state visit held in Kigoma in September 2020.

Regarding the Dry Port located in Kwala-Ruvu in the coastal region of Pwani which was granted to Burundi by the Tanzanian Government, the Tanzanian Head of State recalled the need for a meeting between the experts of the two countries in the perspective of advancing the implementation of this project of vital importance for our country. According to forecasts, this meeting should be held in mid-June 2021.



Finally, the Special Envoys, on behalf of the Burundian Head of State, expressed their gratitude to President Samia Suluhu Hassan who, during his recent State visit to Kenya, through the United Nations, called for the lifting of unjust sanctions imposed by the European Union against Burundi.

(Source: Embassy of Burundi in Dar-Es-Salaam)

National Assembly: adoption of the bill ratifying the donation agreements in support of the KIRA health project



The National Assembly analyzed and adopted, on Monday, May 17, 2020, a bill on the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the Donation agreements n ° D7900-BI ETTF0B5105-BI between the Republic of Burundi and the International Development Association IDA, relating to the second additional financing of the Burundi health system support project "KIRA".

The bill was presented by the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, Dr Thaddée NDIKUMANA.

In his explanatory memorandum, Minister Thaddée Ndikumana indicated that the objective of the development of the initial project was to increase the use of quality services in matters of reproductive health, maternal health, neonatal health, health children and adolescents and to provide an immediate and effective response in the event of a crisis or emergency.

According to the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, this additional funding is intended to support the continued implementation of the program of free health care and payment based on performance, in order to strengthen performance and health system outcomes.

According to the Minister, this funding will also support the extension of the performance-based payment strategy to strengthen key components of the health system, as well as the provision of gender-based violence (GBV) and laboratory services, established under recently closed regional projects.

Dr Thaddée Ndikumana clarified that this additional funding will support health centers, hospitals, laboratories, nursing schools and community health workers

throughout the country, before adding that the direct beneficiaries are children under five years old, women who are pregnant and who are giving birth.

Finally, the Minister in charge of Public Health indicated that this additional funding also complements Burundi's preparation and response to the Covid-19 pandemic, while reducing its impact on essential health services.



Based on the observation that the low-income population faces the problems of paying me-

medical expert fees within 72 hours, the Deputies wanted to know what this additional funding recommends in relation to this situation. In this regard, the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS replied that this additional funding "KIRA" will support the holistic care of victims of sexual violence based on gender, including medical expertise.

Since the parent project and the additional funding project cover 13 intervention provinces, MEPs asked if there would be other donors who would finance a similar project in the rest of the country. And the Minister in charge of Public Health replied that the process of negotiating "Global Fund" financing for the period 2021-2023 is underway, specifying that the question of financing the five remaining provinces (Bujumbura, Bujumbura-Mairie, Bururi, Rutana, and Rumonge) are among the talking points. After a few amendments, the bill was passed 100% by 118 Deputies present.

It should be mentioned that this second additional funding to the "KIRA" project is US \$ 54.6 million including US \$ 50 million for the IDA grant and US \$ 4.6 million for the GAVI donation to the title of the Burundi health system support project.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The Institution of the Ombudsman popularizes community mediation networks



The Institution of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Burundi organized on Wednesday May 19, 2021 in Gitega with the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), an information and exchange workshop with the territorial Administrators from the provinces of central-eastern Burundi (Gitega, Muramvya, Mwaro, Karusi, Cankuzo and Ruyigi) on the establishment and role of community mediation and conflict prevention mechanisms.

The Honorable Ombudsman Edouard Nduwimana recalled that the Provincial Governors are the eye and the ear of the hard-working and responsible Government. He asked them to be good leaders, impartial in their decision-making to be servants of the people.

Honorable Edouard Nduwimana also indicated that

his institution set up the project to support the sustainability of local mechanisms for dialogue, mediation and reconciliation to strengthen social cohesion in Burundi. The Ombudsman institution has launched activities of community networks for mediation and conflict prevention, which will help in settling these conflicts at the local level in order to facilitate the work of courts and administration, as specified Honorable Edouard Nduwimana.

Ombudsman Edouard Nduwimana welcomed the recent decision to withdraw Burundi from the agenda of the African Union Commission on Affairs, Peace and Security. He took this opportunity to ask the European Union to follow suit with this Commission of the European Union to lift the sanctions taken against the Government of Burundi. The establishment of community mediation networks by the institution of the Ombudsman aims to establish a close system for monitoring citizens' grievances and for the operational management of complaints with a view to preventing possible conflicts. In their presentations, the experts focused on the achievements of the Ombudsman institution and the discussion on establishing a regular framework for consultation and discussion of citizens' complaints. Participants expressed concerns about possible overlaps between these community mediation and conflict prevention networks and other such mechanisms.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation receives new Chinese Ambassador to Burundi



Bujumbura, May 20, 2021

The Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Burundi Mrs. Zhao Jiangping, new Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Burundi. She came to present the figurative copies of the credentials accrediting her as Ambassador.

After thanking the Foreign Minister for his warm welcome, the Chinese Ambassador expressed her determination to strengthen bilateral Sino-Burundian cooperation. That cooperation is based on mutual support in international forums between China and Burundi, as well as the implementation of certain pro-

jects transmitted for support to the Chinese Government by the Burundian Government.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO first congratulated the Ambassador of China for her appointment and let her know that Burundi is very honored to have a Lady, as Ambassador. He then informed the new Chinese Ambassador that bilateral relations between China and Burundi are excellent but that there is always a window for improvement. He took this opportunity to reassure the Chinese Ambassador of his availability as well as that of the technical teams of the Ministry for which he is responsible, at all levels. His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO expressed the wish for enhanced cooperation through the implementation of various projects already submitted to the Chinese Party, including among others: the Construction of the building of the Ministry in charge of Foreign Affairs, the Melchior NDADAYE International Airport extension project, Bujumbura Port

renewal project, National road number 1 contentment project, etc. The Minister proposed the implementation of the minimum possible, despite the covid-19 pandemic.

The Chinese Ambassador said economic cooperation between Burundi and China is proving dynamic, despite the obstacle of COVID-19. She promised to do her best to start the work with this year, despite the obstacle of this covid-19 pandemic which has crippled the work. She took this opportunity to thank the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation for the warm welcome extended to her by the Government of Burundi.

Note that this Ambassador was received by the President of the Republic, at the Ntare Rushatsi Palace, during the presentation of her Credentials, on May 21, 2021.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

Nigeria's new Ambassador to Burundi presents figurative copies of his Credentials



Bujumbura, May 20, 2021

This Thursday, May 20, 2021, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO received in audience His Excellency Mr. Elijah Onyeagba, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Burundi. He came to present the figurative copies of his credentials accrediting him as Ambassador.

After wishing him a warm welcome, the Minister in-

formed him that he was the key person to ensure the strengthening of bilateral cooperation between our two countries. This cooperation focuses mainly on business.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation said that in his vision to revitalize economic diplomacy, he would like, in the context of strengthening the field of foreign investments, to develop the exchange of technologies, trade, and the development of tourism. And to invite Nigerians to invest in these areas.

The Nigerian Ambassador said he was delighted with the welcome he received. He also said he would do his utmost to revitalize bilateral cooperation in the economic field.

Note that this Ambassador is expected at the Ntare Rushatsi Palace, for the presentation of his Letters of Credence, this May 21, 2021.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

Kenya's new Ambassador to Burundi presents figurative copies of his Credentials



Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO. The ceremony took place in one of the Ministry's courtrooms.

During his audience with the Minister, the Ambassador underlined the quality of bilateral relations between Kenya and Burundi and discussed the opportunities to strengthen ties between the two countries, especially in the economic field.

Note that this Ambassador was received by the President of the Republic, at the Ntare Rushatsi Palace, during the presentation of his Credentials, on May 21, 2021.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

Bujumbura, May 20, 2021

The new Kenyan Ambassador to Burundi His Excellency Daniel Wambura presented on May 20, 2021 the figurative copies of his credentials to the

The New Ambassador of Burundi in Berlin presents the figurative copies of his credentials



The New Ambassador of Burundi in Berlin H.E Madam Appolonie NIBONA presented, on Friday May 21, 2021, the copies of her credentials to Madam Ambassador Karin Marshall, Deputy Chief of Protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

Awareness-raising workshop on sub-regional and regional commitments made by Burundi within the framework of regional integration



On May 18 to 19, 2021, at the Kiriri Garden hotel, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Mr. Isidore NTIRAMPEBA, further opened an awareness workshop on the sub-regional and regional commitments made by Burundi within the framework of regional integration which took place over two days in order to sensitize the public sector and the private sector on the issues and challenges of the African Continental Free Trade Zone (ZLECAF).

The official launch of ZLECAF took place on March 21, 2021 in Kigali in the Republic of RWANDA, and Burundi was represented by the President of CFCIB, Mr. Audace NDAYIZEYE.

This workshop came at the right time so that the public sector and the private sector can sit side by side in the framework of a Public-Private Dialogue in order to prepare Burundi, especially the Private Sector to respond to this great Historic Continental meeting.

In the speeches of the Vice-President of the Federal Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Burundi (CFCIB) and the Country Representative of Trade Mark East Africa, respectively Madam Jeannette KARIREKINYANA and Mr. Christian NIBASUMBA, the speakers all welcomed the creation of ZLECAF because it is the first flagship project registered on the 2063 agenda of the African Union. This is an important initiative for the industrialization and economic development of the African continent.

The inclusion of Burundi in ZLECAF will strengthen the economic and industrial objectives of the country, allow the promotion of trade and investment and better exploitation of the prospects of the private sector. Among the advantages of Burundi's integration, also counts the removal of tariff restrictions on intra-African trade, the elimination of some of the non-tariff barriers

which have restricted trade between the Member States of the African Union, access to cheaper raw materials and intermediate inputs; improving the conditions of regional value chains and strengthening the potential for integration with global value chains; catalyze the transformation of technology in African economies towards greater use of technology and knowledge; and facilitate intra-African and external direct capital flows to African countries harmonization of legal and regulatory policies on trade and investment.

As for the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Burundi is a member of several regional economic organizations including CEPGL, COMESA, ECCAS and EAC. This multiple membership was dictated by the will of the Government of the Republic of Burundi to increase its competitiveness on the regional and international scene, to diversify the economic base and to create sufficient jobs for young people. However, Burundi's achievements in regional integration do not match its ambitions and unfortunately, it remains a flow market instead of participating in this intra-community trade.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation strengthens the implementation of the National Development Plan through sustained Regional Integration



In order to implement the National Development Plan (PND 2018-2027), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation is committed to working in a concerted manner to stabilize international economic and financial relations. In this regard, Burundian diplomacy pays particular attention to the mobilization of public, parapublic and private actors, under the aegis of public authorities, both at national and regional level to defend national economic inte-

rests by supporting commercial and financial expansion of national companies on the foreign market and by proving the attractiveness of the national territory to foreign investors. He invited the technical and financial partners to support Burundi in carrying out its integrative projects.

This workshop came as Burundi is preparing to enter this African Continental Market which presents enormous opportunities for Burundi, in case it is prepared for this competition.

On the side of the Government of the Republic of Burundi, a series of activities were carried out: the development of the Burundi National Regional Integration Strategy 2018-2027; the development of a National Industrialization Strategy; the development of Burundi's trade policy and many others requiring public and private sector interventions to position Burundi well in this African market.

The Permanent Secretary Mr. Isidore NTIRAMPEBA who represented the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, has in his speech, invited the participants on the basis of their skills and experiences that they possess, to enlighten the authority in its regional integration policy, as well as at the end of the discussions, that they can formulate recommendations to the place for stakeholders to overcome the challenges identified because, as far as the Government is concerned, its will is expressed, through the National Strategy for Regional Integration (SNIR 2018-2027), which is a global Instrument for Regional Integration allowing Burundi to take advantage of opportunities in order to seize them for the benefit of the Burundian economy. Support to national companies in their strategy of internationalization and establishment abroad will also be part of the objectives of Burundi's economic diplomacy. Burundi will never agree to remain a market for foreign products, hence a change is needed.

The Permanent Secretary Mr. Isidore NTIRAMPEBA

ended his speech by thanking even more the Technical and Financial Partners of Burundi for their multifaceted contributions that they continue to grant to Burundi and the Burundian people. He also thanked the Trade Mark East Africa Representative Office in Bujumbura for the considerable support in the preparation and organization of this workshop.

The Permanent Secretary Mr. Isidore NTIRAMPEBA reiterated Burundi's commitment to do everything possible to complete the ratification process of the Agreement establishing the ZLECAF as soon as possible and to participate fully alongside its peers in its effective implementation. The Government's concern is to strengthen the sub-regional and regional integration of Burundi, while improving the country's internal competitiveness. This commitment also applies to the joint efforts with other countries to fight against COVID-19, which has so slowed down development efforts.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation leads a press conference on the 51st meeting of the United Nations Permanent Advisory Committee in charge of Security Issues in Central Africa



On 21/5/2021, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Mr. Isidore NTIRAMPEBA hosted a press conference on the 51st meeting of the United Nations Permanent Advisory Committee in charge of Security Issues in Central Africa (UNSAC), scheduled at Bujumbura from May 24 to 28, 2021.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation informed that

UNSAC has several achievements to its credit, including mechanisms and instruments that have been adopted.

Mr. Isidore NTIRAMPEBA also recalled that Burundi has already hosted the 34th and the 39th ministerial meeting respectively in 2012 and 2014. In this context, UNSAC adopted at the 39th meeting a declaration called the "Bujumbura Declaration" on the threat linked to the terrorist activities of the Boko Haram group to peace, security and stability in Africa because of the risk of destabilization of our sub-region and by which the member States have asked the Security Council to seize it.

In addition, the 51st meeting of the United Nations Permanent Advisory Committee in charge of Security Issues in Central Africa will review the geopolitical and security situation in the Member States and, will make an update on the strategy to fight against the COVID-pandemic 19 as part of the Declaration of the World Health Organization (WHO) from May 18 to 19, 2020 setting the course to combat this scourge

as recalled in the Malabo Declaration on the impact of COVID-19 on peace and support for the implementation of the regional strategy to fight this pandemic in Central Africa.

The meeting will evoke and discuss the state of play on various subjects such as disarmament and security reform in Central Africa, the management of elections in Central Africa, the implementation of Women, Peace and Security agenda in the framework Security Council Resolution 1325 and other matters of common interest to member States.

Mr. Isidore NTIRAMPEBA announced that apart from the Heads of ministerial delegations, senior Officials of the United Nations will take part in the meeting in Bujumbura, including the Special Representatives of the General Secretariat of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, the African Union, the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the United Nations Office for the Great Lakes, etc.

Regarding measures to combat COVID-19, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

and Development Cooperation reassured about the measures taken by the Government to ensure the



health of participants, including preventive measures and fight against COVID-19 before, during and after the meeting in Bujumbura.

Note that UNSAC has 11 member States: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe and Chad.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

The Minister in charge of Public Health inaugurates the Cibitoke health district Office



The Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS Dr Thaddée Ndikumana inaugurated on Tuesday May 18, 2021 the Office of the health district of Cibitoke. This building is divided into two parts including the pharmaceutical depots and the offices.

Dr Thaddée Ndikumana said that the inauguration of this building is part of the concrete actions of the Go-

vernment in relation to sustainable development.

Dr Thaddée Ndikumana indicated that this building will allow the population of Cibitoke to have drugs in real time, especially since this province is very large. This building will also allow the executives of the province of Cibitoke to work in good conditions under the leadership of the Governor of the province.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The Minister in charge of Public Health meets a team of experts from his Ministry



The Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS Dr Thaddée Ndikumana met on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 a team of experts from the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS

which is working to prepare documents relating to the Kira project financed by the World Bank.

These experts are on a week-long retreat in the province of Cibitoke and must complete the preparation of these documents before the end of May, said the Minister in charge of Public Health.

Dr Thaddée Ndikumana has indicated that he is confident that these documents will be validated by the World Bank. The Minister in charge of Public Health clarified: "We hope that with the beginning of June we will have the first disbursement".

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

Towards the end of the grace period for breeders to prepare for permanent housing



The Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock organized on Monday, May 17, 2021 in the province of Makamba, an awareness-raising and evaluation meeting on the status of the implementation of Law N° 1/21 of 04 October 2018 on permanent housing and prohibition of the straying of domestic animals and poultry in Burundi.

The meeting saw the participation of the Governors and communal Administrators, the breeders as well as the technical services of the provinces of Makamba, Rutana, Rumonge and Bururi.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry in charge of livestock Emmanuel Ndorimana who opened the acti-

vities said that the objective of this meeting was to take stock of the current state of play on the ground and to sensitize all stakeholders on the respect clauses of this law on permanent housing and prohibition of the straying of domestic animals and poultry in Burundi.

According to Mr. Emmanuel Ndorimana, the observation is that some breeders already practice permanent stabling while others continue to make their cattle wander when there is barely 4 months left for everyone to comply with the provisions of the law.

Presenting the law on permanent housing and prohibition of cattle straying to the participants, the Director General of Livestock Mr. Serges Nkurunziza indicated that this law will allow the improvement of animal health for a large production of meat and in organic manure.

The Director General of Livestock also explained that the implementation of permanent stabling and prohibition of straying of domestic animals will avoid conflicts related to pastures between breeders and farmers as well as road accidents caused by livestock which circulates in the streets.

Responding to the concerns of breeders in the pro-

vinces of Makamba, Rumonge, Bururi and Rutana, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock Mr. Emmanuel Ndorimana reassures them that the responsible and hard-working State is at the work in the search for cattle of improved breeds. He also asked Burundian businessmen to build large farms to help the State in the multiplication of cattle of improved breeds and to build centers for collecting and processing milk.

After this sensitization and evaluation meeting, the Permanent Secretary together with the Director General of Livestock at the Ministry of the Environment,

Agriculture and Livestock visited an agro-pastoralist from Nyankara hill in the municipality and province of Makamba which already practices the permanent stabling of domestic animals.

This breeder said that permanent stabling is beneficial for him because his herds provide him with a lot of organic manure and milk. He claimed that as agricultural production has increased, his animals are protected against diseases caused by encountering other animals in free circulation, he concluded.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

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REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI**PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC**
Secretariat-General of the State**MEDIA RELEASE NO 19 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 MAY 2021**

A Cabinet Meeting was held in Bujumbura on Wednesday 19th 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 14 May 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. Support Project for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Livestock Value Chains in Burundi (PADCAE-B)**
- 2. Supporting note for the approval and ratification of OFID (International Development Fund) loan agreement No. 1360P relating to the Project for the Intensification of Agricultural Production and the Reduction of Vulnerability in Burundi (PIPARV-B)**

These two projects were presented by the Minister of Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock.

In Burundi, agriculture and livestock are among the priority sectors defined by the National Development Plan. The latter aims to promote intensive and modernized agriculture to ensure food security and promote market agriculture and, consequently, economic growth. It is within this framework that these two projects were prepared.

The Support Project for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Livestock Value Chains in Burundi financed by the African Development Bank Group will intervene in the provinces of Ngozi, Kirundo and Muyinga.

Its general objective is to make a lasting contribution to improving food and nutritional security and increasing the income of the populations.

Project interventions will be mainly concentrated on a limited number of value chains (rice, maize, goats, pigs and fish) identified by the beneficiaries.

Project funding is equivalent to twenty million US dollars.

This project has four components namely:

- (i) Integrated land development and management, restoration and land security,
- (ii) Improving productivity resilient to climate change and supporting nutrition,
- (iii) Institutional support, capacity building and agricultural entrepreneurship,
- (iv) Project coordination and management.

As for the Project to Intensify Agricultural Production and Reduce Vulnerability in Burundi (PIPARV-B), it was launched in December 2019 in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

The OFID (International Development Fund) loan, in the amount of twenty million US dollars (20 million) complements the resources required for the execution of this project.

The overall objective of the Project is to contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of the rural populations of the Provinces in which the Project operates, namely Gitega, Karusi, Kayanza, Ngozi and Muyinga.

The activities that will be covered by this funding are the protection of watersheds, the development of marshes, hill irrigation; the construction of storage sheds and the rehabilitation of access roads.

The Program has three components, namely:

- (i) Integrated land use planning,
- (ii) Community structuring, improvement of productivity, agricultural development and diversification,
- (iii) The coordination, management and monitoring-evaluation of the project.

After exchange and debate, the Council of Ministers adopted the two projects with the recommendation to accelerate their finalization to allow their rapid implementation.

It was also recommended to develop a national map indicating the intervention areas of the various projects to allow a good geographical distribution.

This mapping should be available before the start of the 2021-2022 budget execution.

The Council of Ministers also recalled that each project financing must be considered as a capital which must, in the end, be evaluated.

The Ministry in which the project is carried out will have to indicate what the project has produced in terms of added value.

Finally, it will be necessary to prevent projects from being concentrated in the same entity.

3. Bill revising law n ° 1/11 of July 14, 2009 on the creation, organization and functioning of the Office Burundais des Recettes (OBR), presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning .

This project is proposed in order to correct certain imperfections in the law in force, in order to make it clearer.

Thus, among other innovations, the skills of the Minister in charge of finance who has OBR under his supervision are well specified in this project.

The project also introduces another innovation with the notion of a performance contract fixed at the start of each fiscal year on the basis of which the assessment of the Commissioner General of the Burundi Revenue Authority will be made.

The draft also specifies that the term of office of a member of the Board of Directors is four years, renewable only once.

Finally, the project clarifies the missions of the internal auditor of the Burundi Revenue Authority.

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted with, among other recommendations:

- Make it clear that a member of the staff or bodies of the OBR is responsible for the acts he/she takes in the performance of his/her duties and that the OBR does not have to answer them;
- Decentralize the OBR to the Municipality so that its agents collect revenue on behalf of the Municipality. This will make it possible to know all the revenue collected in the country;
- Ensure that the Board of Directors and the Management of OBR do not end the term at the same time;

- Put in place a text that harmonizes and gives guidelines on the powers of the Boards of Directors of personalized Administrations and companies with public participation because they tend to manage the funds of the companies for which they are responsible as the capital of the personnel by granting exorbitant advantages.

4. Draft sector strategy of the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, aligned with the National Development Plan, presented by the Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender.

Burundi has adopted a National Development Plan which is currently the national reference document for development planning. In order to involve all sectors in the implementation of this Plan, it was recommended that sector strategies be drawn up, together with action plans.

It is within this framework that the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender has developed its sector strategy.

This strategy is a reference strategic orientation document for the medium and long term. It was developed through the three sectors of intervention of the Ministry, namely:

- The human rights protection sector with the vision of "Making Burundi a society that guarantees full respect for human rights",
- The social protection sector with the vision of "Adequate social protection coverage for all",
- The sector for the advancement of women and gender equality with the vision: "To build a society where women and men enjoy the same rights and are

subject to the same duties within the framework of political and economic development, social and cultural situation of Burundi”.

Thus, all sectoral investment programs should align with these objectives, in the consistent implementation of all activities under these three sectors.

During the debate, the Council of Ministers recognized the need for such a strategy as it is a way of solving many challenges. The Council recommended, among other things:

- Take into account the orientations of the State with regard to social security, in particular the improvement of the retirement pension;
- Set up an implementation plan for improving the retirement pension so that this file is closed as quickly as possible;
- Integrate the "youth" aspect in the advancement of women because until a certain youthful age, it is difficult to conceive of the problems of women and those of young people separately because they are all solved by the mother;
- Redact from the text certain ambiguous terms such as “gender equality”;
- Evaluate the Gender Strategy to update it, if necessary;
- Study a clear strategy to put an end to the situation of street children in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice;
- Decentralize the care of the indigent and assist only those cases which emerge by having previously defined the indigence criteria.
- Assist poor but strong people to help them get out of this state of poverty;
- Ensure the follow-up of the MERANKABANDI Project and carry out its evaluation to rectify where it has not succeeded and extend it throughout the national territory.
- Consider establishing a single social security system for everyone.

The reworked Strategy will be brought back to the Council of Ministers in two weeks.

5. Strategic plan of the Ministry of National Defense and Veterans Affairs 2020-2025, presented by the Minister of National Defense and Veterans Affairs.

The development of the 2020-2025 strategic plan took into account the recommendations made following the evaluation of the 2016-2020 strategic plan.

The objective of the evaluation of the 2016-2020 strategic plan was to take a critical look at the objectives that the ministry has set for itself as well as the difficulties encountered in its implementation, with a view to developing the 2020- 2025 strategic plan.

This strategic plan is aligned with national guidance documents, in this case the National Development Plan 2018-2027, the Priority Action Plan 2018-2022. The ministry's vision is "to have a professional, modern national defense force capable of responding effectively to any form of defense threat in collaboration with other security actors".

At the end of the debate, the Council of Ministers recommended instead to develop a sectoral policy based on the missions of the Ministry only. This sectoral policy should focus on two components, namely "national defense" and "ex-combatants". Also, the production army will have to be one of the axes of this policy.

Finally, it will be necessary to extend this policy for the period 2021-2027.

6. Bill on the organization of the Diplomatic Service, presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

The Constitution of the Republic of Burundi provides, in article 164, paragraph 3, that the organization of the diplomatic and consular service is a matter of law.

It should be noted, however, that the Diplomatic Service has so far been governed by scattered and incomplete decrees, orders and memoranda. This situation does not favor a clear management of the Diplomatic Service and the careers of civil servants in the Diplomatic Service.

This project complies with the Constitution and addresses these gaps.

It guarantees the development of a diplomatic career in accordance with the principles of efficiency, stability, transparency, continuity and mobility.

This project had been analyzed in the Council of Ministers and had been returned to adopt beforehand the Foreign Policy Document of Burundi.

This project is brought back following the adoption of Burundi's foreign policy by the Government.

During the discussions on this project, the Council of Ministers made the following observations:

- The text seems to organize a ministry which designs general policy but which has operational structures such as the Army, the Police or the Magistracy;
- It is necessary to develop a general text which does not concern only the personnel coming from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs because other coming from other ministries can serve in the diplomatic service;

- Special envoys can be appointed by the President of the Republic and are, as such, punctual diplomats;
- The Minister of Foreign Affairs does not necessarily have to be a career diplomat;
- An ambassador need not necessarily be chosen from among diplomatic staff;
- A distinction must be made between the political posts for which the President of the Republic appoints and the technical posts of the ministry;
- It is necessary to avoid setting conditionalities for positions where appointment is made by decree;
- Certain details should be avoided in this bill (example: art 40,4 °, art 80);
- It is necessary to redact from the text what is related to the equivalence of ranks or advantages to other positions;
- It is necessary to specify that a person appointed Ambassador returns to his original cadre at the end of the mission, but that he retains the honorary title of Ambassador;

The reworked text will be brought back to the Council of Ministers within two weeks.

7. Draft ministerial order on the missions, composition and functioning of the Joint Security Committees, presented by the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security.

The Constitution of the Republic of Burundi provides in its article 73 that "Every individual has the duty to contribute to the safeguard of peace, democracy and social justice". However, peace and justice can only be conceived when security is guaranteed.

Currently, security is no longer understood in the classic sense of physical protection, but has given way to human security in its multidimensional character understood in the sense of security at the same time personal, social, political, economic, food, health and environmental safety.

In this new conception, the guarantee of security requires the participation of all the actors of national life and at all levels.

It is within this framework that this draft ministerial order expands the joint safety committees to include many stakeholders in road safety, transport and local elected officials. It takes into account the gender dimension, the fight against corruption and economic malpractice, economic actors, religious denominations, environmental actors, the fight against prohibited drinks, etc...

At the end of the analysis, the project was adopted with some modifications with, among other things, the recommendation to make it an Order of the Prime Minister, especially since the members of the joint committees come from many sectors.

8. Any Other Business

- The Minister of Hydraulics, Energy and Mining spoke about the public-private partnership contract between the State of Burundi and the company Gigawatt Global Burundi for the construction, operation and maintenance of a power plant of 7.5 MW photovoltaic solar power in Mubuga of Gitega Province.

He spoke of a few elements that deserve special attention, including the land on which this plant is built, the exemptions, the indexation of the kilowatt-hour

tariff, the depreciation of the Burundian franc against the US dollar and the equipment sinking fund.

These elements contain imperfections and the Department proposes that there be an amendment to the contract to correct them.

The Council of Ministers asked him to bring this amendment to the Council of Ministers as quickly as possible.

-The Minister of National Education and Scientific Research informed the Council of Ministers on the organization of the award of the national certification and orientation competition for post-basic education, Edition 2021. He informed the Council that the competition will take place from May 25 to 27, 2021 and that the number of applicants is 91,497, of which 710 are in refugee camps in Tanzania.

There are 955 testing centers, including 3 in Tanzania.

Preparations are progressing normally and the necessary equipment is available. However, the floods that occurred in Gatumba are likely to disrupt 3 procurement centers, and some roads leading to some procurement centers cut off due to torrential rains (Rumonge, Bujumbura, Bubanza, Rutana, Makamba) will require detours to access at these centers.

-His Excellency the President of the Republic asked the members of the Government to closely follow the staff under their responsibility because many administrative delays have been observed in recent days.

Done at Bujumbura, May 20th, 2021

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

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

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