

**REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI****PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC  
Secretariat-General of the State****MEDIA RELEASE NO 20 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET  
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 09 JUNE 2021**

A Cabinet Meeting was held in Bujumbura on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> of June 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 28 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. Bill on the Status of Officers of the National Police of Burundi**
- 2. Bill on the Status of Brigadiers of the National Police of Burundi**
- 3. Bill on the Status of Agents of the National Police of Burundi**

These three projects were presented by the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security.

The National Police of Burundi is governed by organic law n ° 1/03 of February 20, 2017 on the missions, organization and functioning of the National Police of Burundi. This law provides for a number of implementing texts, in particular the statutes of the personnel of the National Police.

These projects were developed within this framework.

Currently, the Officers, Brigadiers and Agents of the National Police of Burundi are governed by Statutes put in place in December 2010.

These projects are largely inspired by these statutes of December 2010 while adapting to the organic law of 2017, by bringing certain innovations that could allow the Officer, the Brigadier and the Police Officer to work in a socioeconomic, security and political environment of the moment.

Among other innovations, these are the conditions of recruitment where the notion of celibacy is more explicit.

In terms of rights, duties and incompatibilities, innovations are also made with regard to the advantages linked to working conditions, seniority, support for the family of the active police officer who dies as well as support for a worthy reintegration into civilian life for those who retire.

Regarding the ranks, innovations are made in the nomenclature in particular to remove some confusion, facilitate communication and identification by the population and to carry ranks similar to those worn in other countries.

New developments have also been made with regard to bonuses, allowances and other social benefits as encouragement and compensation for the constraints and risks of the police profession.

Innovations can also be observed in career management as well as in the disciplinary system.

It should be noted that these projects had been analyzed and adopted by the Council of Ministers in December 2019 with the establishment of a Commission responsible for finalizing them.

However, in view of the sufficiently long time elapsed, it was necessary for the Government to take cognizance of the content of these draft laws and also to check whether the recommendations issued have been incorporated.

After analysis of these projects finalized by the Commission which was created for this purpose, the Council of Ministers adopted them with the recommendation to the Minister in charge of National Defense to prepare the draft statutes of the Officers, NCOs and Troops of the National Defense Force so that the statutes of these two bodies are analyzed in parallel at the level of Parliament.

Regarding ranks, the Council of Ministers recommended to ensure that they are harmonized with those worn in the East African Community.

Regarding the period of advancement in rank, the Council of Ministers recommended that it be harmonized at the level of the National Police and the National Defense Force.

With regard to the granting of the last grade, it was recommended that the advancement take into account the retirement age of the person concerned.

Finally, it would be necessary to check whether the name of "Brigadier" does not create confusion between the function and the rank and to find a more adequate term.

**4. Bill regulating immigration and emigration in Burundi**, presented by the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security.

The legislation on migration dates from the promulgation of Decree-Law No. 1/007 of March 20, 1989 regulating the access, stay, establishment of foreigners in Burundi and their removal.

More than thirty years later, several social phenomena have appeared and various regulations have been put in place, in particular the ratification of the Treaty of accession of Burundi to the East African Community.

The regulations on migration with regard to refugees have been slightly modified and supplemented twice by law n ° 1/03 of 04 February 2008 and by law n ° 1/32 of 13 November 2008, both relating to asylum and refugee protection.

The development of this project responds to the desire to have a single law that governs all aspects of immigration and emigration.

This project also clarifies the missions which fall to the Migration Police and those which fall to the National Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons because the law n ° 1/32 of November 13, 2008 on asylum and the protection of refugees assigned to this Office missions which are devolved to the Migration Police.

This bill also removes certain contradictions between decree-law n ° 1/007 of March 20, 1989 regulating the access, stay, establishment of foreigners in Burundi and their removal and law n ° 1/32 of November 13, 2008 on asylum and refugee protection in Burundi with regard to the establishment of the Consultative Commission for Refugees and Foreigners.

Given that there are no personnel specialized in the processing of files relating to foreigners in the diplomatic representations of Burundi abroad, the bill proposes the creation of a post reserved for the migration officer duly qualified to process the files of Burundians in accreditation countries or foreigners who want to go to Burundi.

Finally, as there was no legal framework that differentiates nationals of the East African Community from other foreigners, the bill makes this distinction to differentiate them from citizens from other states.

After discussion and debate, the bill was adopted with the recommendation to ensure that the penalties provided for in this bill do not contradict those provided for in the Penal Code.

It was also recommended to modify the title to adopt a general term and speak of the regulation of migration in Burundi.

The Council of Ministers further recommended using the term "citizens of the East African Community" like the other countries of the community instead of "nationals of the East African Community".

Regarding the post reserved for the migration officer in the diplomatic representations of Burundi abroad, the appointing authority will assess, if necessary, the advisability, depending on the volume of files to be processed in each country where Burundi is represented.

**5. Draft decree revising decree n ° 100/181 of 11 August 2014 on the missions, reorganization and operation of the Insurance Regulation and Control Agency (ARCA), presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.**

After the promulgation of Law n ° 1/06 of July 17, 2020 on the Insurance Code, it is imperative to revise the decree on the missions, reorganization and operation of the Insurance Regulatory and Control Agency to adapt it to the new legal framework.

In addition to this concern for adaptation, the new project brings other innovations, among others:

- The project proposes that the entire insurance sector be represented in the Insurance Supervision and Regulation Commission by a single person who has no interest to protect in this sector, to avoid conflicts of interest, in order to facilitate the work of the Commission;
- The project proposes to increase the term of office of members of the Insurance Supervision and Regulation Commission to four years instead of three years, to comply with the legal framework in force;
- The project specifies the reasons for the revocation and termination of the mandate of the members of the Insurance Supervision and Regulation Commission;
- The project strengthens the powers of the General Secretariat of the Insurance Regulatory and Control Agency;
- The Agency's missions have been extended to the investigation of disputes arising between insurers and insurance intermediaries, insurers and reinsurers and those arising between insurance intermediaries;
- The project grants the status of police officer with limited competence to the Secretary General and to the technical staff of the Insurance Regulation and Control Agency.

At the end of the debate, the project was adopted with, among other recommendations:

- Avoid details regarding the functioning of the Insurance Supervision and Regulation Commission and put them in another text;
- Specify in the text that the Insurance Supervision and Regulation Commission plays the role of a Board of Directors;
- Ensure that contributions from insurance companies to the operation of ARCA are paid to the Treasury, even if the State gives it sufficient subsidies for its operation;
- ARCA should get more involved in ensuring that policyholder compensation cases are processed quickly and fairly;
- ARCA should get involved to ensure that public infrastructure destroyed by insured vehicles is repaired as quickly as possible.

The Council of Ministers recommended that insurance companies also participate in development projects, like banks.

**6. Draft decree on the missions, organization and functioning of the National Commission for Basic and Post Basic Education**, presented by the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research.

This project is proposed as part of the implementation of decree n ° 100/090 of October 28, 2020 on the missions, organization and functioning of the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research which provides for the establishment of a National Commission for Fundamental and Post Fundamental Education.

The main mission of the Commission is to face the challenges of the Burundian education system at the fundamental and post-fundamental cycles.

In addition, with the abolition of the General Inspectorate of Education, Technical and Vocational Training, the innovation is to transfer the various missions devolved to it to this Commission.

Thus, this project defines the missions of the Commission, its composition and its functioning.

Following the analysis, the project was adopted with, among other recommendations:

- Highlight the "creation of the Commission" aspect in the title as well as a related provision which begins the text;
- Remove conditionalities for appointments by decree;
- Integrate a representative of the Ministry in charge of the Public Service in the Commission;
- Specify the origin of the President of the Commission;
- Place the headquarters of the Commission in Gitega.

As the objective of the government is to train people who are able to take charge at the end of their studies with the putting into practice of what they have learned, the Council recommended to the Ministry in charge of Education to prepare a vocational education policy with a view to its adoption by the Government.

**7. Draft decree revising Decree No. 100/06 of 12 January 2015 establishing and organizing the Doctoral School in Burundi**, presented by the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research



The implementation of Decree No. 100/06 of January 12, 2015 establishing and organizing the Doctoral School in Burundi is faced with several challenges that hamper the functioning of the Doctoral School.

This mainly concerns the dysfunction of the Educational and Scientific Council and the insufficiency of high-level human resources to participate in the management of the Doctoral School.

Indeed, the Educational and Scientific Council is unable to carry out its mission because, in view of the decree that organizes this school, this Council should include 219 members, a workforce that is difficult to assemble and manage correctly.

The draft decree proposes that this Council be composed of 11 members representing stakeholders directly interested in the activities of the Doctoral School.

Regarding human resources, the decree in force provides for a single post for the management of the Doctoral School, and this responsibility is enormous for a lecturer who gives courses, who does research and who takes care of others activities in the service of the community.

The project proposes that there be one or more assistants to assist the Director.

Taking into account the operational requirements of a Doctoral School ready to welcome any student who wishes and who fulfills the conditions, the project proposes the payment of training costs by nationals and foreigners.

At the end of the debate, the project was adopted with the recommendation to prioritize the profiles that the state needs much more than others.

Planning will also need to be carried out in order to allow the State to support this Doctoral School by providing it with the means for its operation as and when they become available.

8. Roadmap for the implementation of the Rehabilitation, Modernization and Extension Project of the Moso Sugar Company (SOSUMO), presented by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock.

This roadmap was drawn up following the adoption, by the Council of Ministers, of the Business Plan for the Rehabilitation, Modernization-Extension Project of SOSUMO.

It emphasizes the process to be carried out in the action plan and shows the implementation schedule of the action plan in order to allow the Government to plan the investment and monitor its implementation.

The roadmap has two parts over a three-year period, namely:

- irrigation, procurement of agricultural machinery and equipment as well as agronomic laboratory equipment;
- The rehabilitation and modernization of the factory;

The investments to be made over the three years concern:

- The installation of an irrigation system;
- The acquisition of agricultural machinery and equipment;
- Modernization of the laboratory;
- The revitalization of agricultural research;

The overall cost of the investment amounts to 105,993,995,058 BIF.

For a good implementation of the Project, the roadmap indicates the chronogram of the activities to be carried out, the deadlines and the related budgets.

Following the analysis of the roadmap, the Council of Ministers assessed the status of the Project as well as the schedule of activities. It nevertheless recommended to the Ministers in charge of Agriculture and Finance to work with the BRB to separate the activities that can be financed in local currency as well as the foreign exchange needs that can be supported by the BRB.

With a view to increasing sugar production in Burundi, it was recommended to encourage the population to cultivate sugar cane by providing them with seeds, in order to sell the harvest to SOSUMO.

Regarding the extension of the factory by the acquisition of new machines, SOSUMO was asked to first prove that it has sufficient raw materials that the current factory is not able to process, because the observation is that the machines are at rest for a long period of the year.

The Council of Ministers also recommended considering opening up SOSUMO's shareholding to private parties in order to increase its capital.

The Minister in charge of Finance was requested to continue contacts for obtaining financing for the Project with regard to the aspects which require foreign exchange.

A Note enriched by taking these elements into account will be brought back to the Council of Ministers.

## **9. Any Other Business**

His Excellency the President of the Republic asked members of the Government to be active on the ground in order to closely monitor and supervise the activities under their ministries that take place there.

He also asked members of the Government to proceed with the declaration of their property as the relevant forms are now available at the Supreme Court.

Finally, he announced that it will soon be the first year of the current legislature that will end. It will be crowned with a three-day prayer crusade to end it well and start the other with a new twist, while keeping in mind the goal of increasing revenue and decreasing public spending.

**Done at Bujumbura, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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