

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI**PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat-General of the State****MEDIA RELEASE NO 23 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 JULY 2021**

A Cabinet Meeting was held in Gitega on Wednesday 21st of July 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 Monday 19 July 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. Expenditure commitment ceilings for the first quarter of 2021/2022, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

The commitment ceilings are subject to regulations prescribed in certain texts, in particular the decree on fiscal governance, the decree establishing general regulations for the management of public budgets. They also comply with the law establishing the general budget of the Republic of Burundi for the 2021/2022 financial year which introduced in its article 50, the development of quarterly expenditure commitment ceilings that must be validated by the Council of Ministers.

These commitments are made on the basis of cash receipts. These commitment ceilings, which are in accordance with the State treasury plan, concern all State expenditure, except those which are compulsory and irreducible, such as salary and debt expenditure.

Thus, during the 2021/2022 budget management, the rate of commitments will depend on the rate of revenue collection.

After discussion and debate, these ceilings were adopted with, among other recommendations:

- Properly manage the credits granted while respecting the budget commitment plans of the ministries which must refer to the action plans;
- If the quarterly ceiling of 25% of the annual budget is exceeded, it will be necessary to take this into account during the following quarters to avoid creating an imbalance and budget overruns;
- In this 2021/2022 budget, it will be necessary to grant an operating budget to the General Commissariat of Migration as well as the “Inspection, Finances and Administration” as well as the “Protection of Gender-Based Violence” Departments of the Ministry in charge of National Solidarity;
- For unforeseen situations which will arise suddenly requiring financial resources, a sufficiently motivated request for resources must be sent to the competent authority;
- Regarding unpaid invoices relating to assistance to the indigent, free care and the health insurance card, their payment is not allocated in the 2021/2022 budget allocated to the ministry in charge of health or national solidarity. It is also necessary to study the root causes of these arrears;
- It is necessary to determine who is “indigent” and to update the statistics each year, especially since indigence may not be permanent, and that cheating is observed;
- Statistics must be drawn up each year on those affected by free health care, because births are known;
- We must set deadlines for the purchase of the insurance card to prevent it from being purchased when someone falls ill and apply penalties for latecomers;
- The Ministers in charge of social affairs, the interior and justice are called upon to study strategies to eradicate the “street child” phenomenon.

2. Sector strategy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation 2018-2027, presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

As part of the implementation of the National Development Plan, each ministry must prepare a sectoral strategy document under its jurisdiction.

The development of the sector strategy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation falls within this framework.

This sector strategy aims as a priority at improving diplomatic communication and development cooperation in general, reforming diplomatic careers and acquiring a building housing the central administration services of the ministry in particular.

This strategy reviews the diagnosis of the ministry by showing the state of play of the institutional arrangements of the Ministry, the assets it has to accomplish its mission as well as the challenges to be met.

At the end of the debate, the Strategy was adopted with the following recommendations:

- Ensure that the draft cooperation agreements are no longer waiting to be signed and implemented;
- Set up a diplomatic data archiving system;
- Extend the strategy over the period 2021-2027.

3. **Bill establishing the protocol manual of Burundi**, presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

Good protocol practice as observed in Burundi since its independence is lacking due to the lack of an appropriate legal framework.

The establishment of a protocol manual for Burundi aims to eliminate the hesitations, clumsiness and confusion that lead to dysfunctions in the country's protocol practices.

It aims to adopt a reference relating to the various protocol activities in Burundi and promotes the acquisition of knowledge and capacity building for protocol officers.

This reference document also highlights the procedures and protocol practices relating to diplomatic and consular missions as well as to international organizations accredited to Burundi.

One of the innovations brought by this Manual is to adapt to the multiple evolutions observed in the country since the establishment of the democratic system in 1993, and to certain protocol principles in force in the world.

The other innovation is the establishment of a top-down precedence list.

During the discussion, the following observations and recommendations, among others, emerged:

- It must be ensured that this matter is within the domain of the law with regard to the Constitution;
- The draft should state general principles only and reserve details in other implementing texts;
- It is necessary to ensure that the protocol manual complies with the laws, customs and Burundian culture;
- There is a need to institute mandatory training on protocol uses for persons assigned or appointed to functions relating to the Protocol because the latter reflects the organizational image of a country.

The Ministers in charge of Foreign Affairs, East African Community Affairs, Interior Affairs and Justice will finalize the text by synthesizing it and reviewing the protocol list, with reference to the Constitution, customs and Burundian culture as well as the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic and Consular Relations.

The project will be brought back to the Council of Ministers for adoption.

4. Bill revising organic law n ° 1/03 of February 20, 2017 on the missions, organization, composition and functioning of the National Police of Burundi, presented by the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public security.

The National Police of Burundi is currently governed by organic law n ° 1/03 of February 20, 2017.

Since the promulgation of this law, certain omissions and errors have been observed in the body of the text, as well as confusion in the name of certain services having the same equivalence. In addition, some structures are not located in the appropriate place, with regard to their missions.

In order to make the National Police of Burundi more operational and avoid certain overlaps, it is necessary to correct all these imperfections.

Thus, the following are corrections and innovations brought by this project:

- The abolition of the General Training Commission for the benefit of a Technical Office in charge of Training at the level of the General Inspectorate of the National Police of Burundi;
- The replacement of the Interpol Central Police Station by the Interpol Central National Office in order to harmonize with the practices of the Region;
- The introduction of a structure called Haute Hierarchy of the National Police similar to the General Staff of the National Defense Force of Burundi;
- The creation of a service in charge of refugees within the Central Commission for Foreigners;
- The creation of an IT Office and a General Chaplaincy Office;

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted after having undergone some alterations.

5. Bill on the prevention and repression of cybercrime in Burundi, presented by the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security.

In recent decades, the development of information and communication technologies has reached a considerable level and has brought users closer together. The internet is an illustration of the opportunities offered by information and communication technologies.

Despite the advantages offered by these information and communication technologies, the economy, privacy and social interactions are threatened by a new form of crime that specialists have agreed to call “cybercrime” which is “any illegal behavior involving electronic operations aimed at security and the data they process”.

Currently, only Burundi does not have a specific law on the fight against cybercrime at the level of the East African Community.

The Burundian Penal Code has only four articles on computer crime. This is a loophole that is detrimental to the administration of justice in the area of cyber crime. This situation places Burundi among the preferred targets for this form of crime which can originate from abroad or from within the country.

It is therefore necessary for Burundi to adopt a law that will allow the fight against this type of crime to supplement the existing penal system.

Given that cybercrime is currently classified among transnational organized crimes, the related sanctions included in this project must be very severe and have been raised to the model of those provided for in the laws of the member countries of the East African Community which already have their specific laws on cybercrime.

During discussions, the Council made the following observations, among others:

- This law is necessary and urgent;

- It must be ensured that the project is in line with the Global Strategy for Cyber Security and Cybercrime under development;
- It is necessary to verify whether the penalties provided for are proportional to the offense committed and to include them in the Penal Code when it is revised;
- Once this law is in place, put in place strategies to apprehend criminals.

The Ministers in charge of Information and Communication Technologies, Justice and National Education will support the finalization of this project which will be brought back to the Council of Ministers for adoption.

6. Draft decree on the missions, organization and functioning of the National Center for Emergency Operations, presented by the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security.

Since 2011, Burundi has had an emergency organization plan, which has become the Civil Security Response Organization Plan “ORSEC” intended to set up emergency response bodies, including the National Center for Emergency Operations (CNOU).

The National Emergency Operations Center is a physical location in which emergency management activities take place. It is, for the moment, being created with the technical and financial support of the Russian Federation.

The Center could be called upon to intervene at the sub-regional level if necessary, given that Burundi was chosen to host the Regional Center of Excellence in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction.

In order to make this Center operational and strengthen the existing emergency response coordination mechanisms, the latter must be supported by a legal text.

This is the subject of this draft decree.

At the end of the debate, the draft was adopted.

7. Draft decree regulating the manufacture and reproduction of keys in Burundi,
presented by the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public
Security.

For some time now, there has been a crime related to the forgery and falsification of documents resulting in various crimes committed.

This practice has become commonplace in recent days when robberies are committed on parked vehicles, when criminals use fake keys or master keys.

Some managers of hardware stores are singled out for combining this activity with duplicating keys.

Individuals also intervene in the reproduction of keys without an address and without any guarantee of security.

In order to strengthen the security of the keys through the professionalization of the houses that do this work, and to follow this activity well, it is necessary to put it in order.

The purpose of this draft decree is to fight against related crime through the monitoring and control of the activities of those involved in this field.

It concerns keys used in households such as those for door locks, safes, letter boxes, gates, vehicles, etc.

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

- Specify the documents required for the approval request;
- Specify the penalties applied for someone who manufactures the keys without having been approved;

- Decentralize the issuance of loss certificates by the provincial police stations;
- Make this text a joint ordinance of the Minister in charge of the Interior and the Minister in charge of Trade;
- To the Minister in charge of Justice to prepare the text in connection with the manufacture of bags.

8. Draft decree institutionalizing a national greenhouse gas inventory system, presented by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock.

Burundi has been a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change since 1997, and initiated its implementation in 1999 through the development of the first national communication on climate change.

The Convention provides that States Parties communicate to the Conference of the Parties through the Convention Secretariat the following information:

- A national inventory of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions;
- A general description of the measures that the State Party is taking or intends to take to implement the convention;
- Any other information that the State Party considers useful to achieve the objective of the Convention.

In this context, the Government of Burundi has already prepared and submitted to the Secretariat of the Convention three communications, the most recent of which is that of 2019.

As part of this third communication, in terms of the greenhouse gas inventory, the establishment of institutional and legal procedures to improve the existing inventory system was planned.

The establishment of institutional and regulatory procedures to improve the existing inventory system, through a decree which institutionalizes a national greenhouse gas inventory system and which determines the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders is a necessity.

Thus Burundi:

- Respond to the commitment of parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which it has ratified;
- May be eligible for funding sources available to implement this Convention;
- Will know the level of its greenhouse gas emissions and will be eligible for clean technologies with less pollution or without pollution;

After analysis, the project was adopted with, among other things, a recommendation to ensure that the efforts made by Burundi in the protection of the environment have the counterpart through the obtaining of financing by the most industrialized countries which are the on the top to produce greenhouse gases that destroy the ozone layer.

9. Any Other Business

- The Minister of Civil Service and Employment presented a Note on the activities of private employment agencies.

She indicated that the activities of these agencies were suspended after the finding that some of them were engaged in illegal activities by sending Burundian migrant workers abroad in violation of the regulations in force.

Pending the regulatory process in this sector, and taking into account the importance of the intermediation by these labor placement agencies at the

level of the local labor market, the note proposes the revision of Ordinance no. ° 660/351/91 of November 9, 1991 which regulates this activity, to allow these agencies to resume labor placement operations only on the local market.

The Council of Ministers asked the Minister in charge of the Civil Service to prepare a text relating thereto for the the Council of Ministers in order to bring it into line with the other texts currently in force.

- The Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning spoke about the progress of preparations for the general census of population, housing, agriculture and livestock 2022. He indicated that with regard to the steering bodies and operational structures of the Census, it remains to set up the Central Bureau of the Census as well as the provincial committees and the municipal census committees.

In terms of preparation, the National Census Orientation Committee and the Census Technical Committee have already held meetings to discuss the whole process, the challenges and the prospects of this operation.

As perspectives, he indicated, among other things, the mobilization of financial and material resources, the development of census mapping and the conduct of the pilot census.

The Council of Ministers asked the Minister in charge of Finance to draw up the schedule of activities so that everyone can organize themselves as far as they are concerned.

- The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation presented a Note on the management of Burundian labor migration.

This note is produced following the observation of illegal migration in certain Gulf countries for the purpose of finding employment, notably through neighbouring countries.

He indicated that Burundi has established cooperation mechanisms with neighbouring countries to fight against this phenomenon and that it has bore fruits. He also indicated that draft bilateral agreements between Burundi and certain Gulf countries and other countries of destination of this Burundian workforce are in preparation in order to ensure regular and orderly migration.

Done at Gitega, July 22nd, 2021

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