

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI**PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat-General of the State****MEDIA RELEASE NO 28 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2021**

A Cabinet Meeting was held on Wednesday 27th of October 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 which the Prime Minister chaired on Monday 25 October 2021, and which was devoted to the analysis of the same files on the agenda.

After restitution by the Prime Minister to the President of the Republic, the following items were analyzed:

- 1. Expenditure commitment ceilings for the second 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 Fiscal Year which introduces in its article 50, the development of quarterly expenditure commitment ceilings which must be validated by the Council of Ministers.

These commitments are made on the basis of cash receipts. These commitment ceilings, which are in line with the state treasury plan,

concern all state spending, except those that are mandatory and irreducible, such as salary and debt spending.

Thus, during the 2021/2022 budget management, the pace of commitments will depend on the pace of revenue collection. After discussion and debate, these commitment ceilings were adopted with the following recommendations:

- Ensure that the commitments of the 1st and 2nd quarter combined do not exceed 50% of the planned annual budget;
- For commitments related to capital goods, ministries and institutions late in the 1st quarter can commit up to 50% of the planned budget;
- Speed up the preparation of the overall public finance collection strategy;
- Market corn in stock to avoid its deterioration and re-analyze the measure suspending its import to promote the entry of revenue into the Public Treasury (Finance + Agriculture + Trade);
- Control the revenue collected by the autonomous institutions under the supervision of the ministries so that they are counted among the State revenue;
- Avoid intermediaries in the purchase of state equipment because they inflate costs.

2. Strategic documents from the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security:
- General policy letter 2021-2027
- Strategic plan 2021-2027

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

They outline the sectoral orientations and the priorities of the Ministry to contribute in the implementation of the National Development Plan 2018-2027 and strengthen decentralization, so that the municipalities are really poles of sustainable community development.

The general policy letter recalls the institutional evolution, enumerates the challenges and issues, highlights the priorities and gives the vision of the

ministry by 2027 which is "A government institution ensuring with professionalism internal governance, community development and security, for the well-being of the population".

It then provides guidance in the form of strategic axes, as well as the implementation, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

As for the Strategic Plan 2021-2027, it operationalizes the General Policy Letter. It identifies strengths, shows weaknesses, opportunities and threats, and indicates strategic guidelines and their alignment with the National Development Plan.

It develops the strategic axes by specifying the programs, projects and activities by strategic axis, and proposes the budget for its implementation.

The Strategic Plan comprises four areas of intervention, 12 strategic axes, 29 programs subdivided into 102 priority projects for a total budget over seven years, estimated at One Thousand Six Hundred and Thirty Two Billion Five Hundred and Five Million Burundian Francs (1,632,505 billion Fbu).

At the end of the analysis, the two documents were adopted with the following recommendations:

- Ensure that the budget provided for the implementation of this strategy is spread over the entire period;
- Ensure that the planned projects are in line with other planning tools such as the Public Investment Program and the Annual Action Plan;
- Develop a realistic and achievable annual budget according to priorities;
- Speed up the file on administrative restructuring;
- Align funding from partners with Government priorities;
- In the action plan, highlight the following activities:
 - Promotion of dialogue between political parties;
 - Civic and patriotic education;
 - The question of the blocked or open list in local elections;
 - The issue of ethnic quotas at the level of representation in state institutions;
 - The strategy to be put in place to control births;
 - Control of the movement of people;

- Control of the movement of refugees established on Burundian territory;
- Control and maintenance of municipal works;
- Strengthening ethics at the leadership level;
- The issue related to inheritance for women and girls;
- The issue of children of unknown fathers;
- Improving government communication.

3. 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 terms. 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 culture of Burundi".

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

The Council of Ministers analyzed this Strategy on May 19, 2021 and made observations to be taken into account in its finalization.

After discussion and debate on the new document presented, the Council of Ministers noted that the recommendations of the Council of Ministers have been taken into account and adopted the Strategy with the following recommendations:

- Ensure that the budget provided for the implementation of this strategy is spread over the entire period;
- Ensure that the planned projects are in line with other planning tools such as the Public Investment Program and the Annual Action Plan;
- Develop a realistic and achievable annual budget according to priorities;
- Align funding from partners with Government priorities;
- Establish criteria for assessing the degree of vulnerability;
- Adjust the implementation of the MERANKABANDI project so that in the future there is contributory assistance to prevent people from getting used to charity;
- Clearly define the criteria for choosing project intervention areas as well as beneficiaries;
- In the action plan, add the following activities:
 - The effective decentralization of the services of the ministry;
 - Improving the living conditions of retirees, including retirement pensions;
 - The question of the stratification of the cost of the health insurance card according to the beneficiaries;
 - The census of the truly destitute;
 - The management of orphanages;
 - The question of polygamy;
 - Improving government communication.

4. Sector strategy of the Ministry of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing, presented by the Minister of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing.

This sectoral strategy is in line with the logic of the operationalization of the National Development Plan 2018-2027, within the limits of the aspects that fall under the missions of this ministry.

As for the decade covered by this strategy, it should be noted that the project implementation process has already been initiated three years ago. This strategy comes as a response to the challenges encountered, with a view to strengthening the achievements already accomplished.

The main priorities provided for by this strategy are mainly aimed at opening up the interior and exterior, through the rehabilitation and extension of the bituminous network, the maintenance of the existing coated network, as well as the newly developed network.

With regard to equipment, it is planned to acquire appropriate building and public works machinery to facilitate the execution of the work underway

As for housing, priority will be given to the construction of apartments accessible to officials and other low-income buyers.

This strategy comprises seventeen (17) programs and forty two (42) projects.

To ensure the effective implementation of this strategy, an institutional framework will be put in place, consisting of a sectoral steering and monitoring-evaluation committee, which will be supported by a technical committee.

The overall amount of financing for the strategy is Five Thousand Six Hundred Eleven Billion, Seven Hundred and Seventy Million Burundian Francs (5,611,770,000,000 Fbu).

Following the analysis, the Strategy was adopted with recommendations to:

- Rearrange the document starting with the strategy, and follow it up with the implementation plan;

- Emphasize in the document the development of capacities, all the more so the ministry must have specialized human resources in various fields;
- Accelerate the housing and urbanization policy under development;
- Ensure that the budget provided for the implementation of this strategy is spread over the entire period;
- Ensure that the planned projects are in line with other planning tools such as the Public Investment Program and the Annual Action Plan;
- Develop a realistic and achievable annual budget according to priorities;
- Identify the texts that need to be revised to have an up-to-date legal and regulatory framework;
- Develop planning for the development of the Lake Tanganyika coastline, in collaboration with the Ministry in charge of the environment;
- Develop a road infrastructure maintenance and rehabilitation plan;
- Ensure that the feasibility studies of the various projects are always available to be presented to partners whenever they are required;
- Plan the acquisition of the means and equipment of the technical services of the ministry;
- Update the implementation period of the Strategy;
- Add the following activities to be carried out in the action plan:
 - Proceed with the effective decentralization of the services of the ministry;
 - Rehabilitate the roads according to a precise schedule, and in priority Bujumbura-Gitega and Bugarama-Kobero;
 - Build roundabouts embellished with monuments that symbolize Burundian culture;
 - Provide each municipality with a multi-storey building housing all the decentralized services working in the Municipality;
 - Look for a state cart intended only for service activities;
 - Put in place a strategy to repair government vehicles at a lower cost;
 - Take an inventory of all state-owned buildings across the country;
 - Carry out the necessary investigations to know the true legal status of the Presidential Palace of Kiriri;
 - Identify in all the provinces the places where the turnkey social housing districts will be developed according to the standings;
 - Promote the villagization policy;
 - Develop green spaces, games and entertainment;
 - Plan the procurement of equipment for state buildings by the state itself;

- Promote transport on Lake Tanganyika;
- Seek, in collaboration with the ministry in charge of finance, financing for the construction of the railway;
- Rehabilitate the Melchior NDANDAYE International Airport;
- Build administrative buildings in Gitega;
- In collaboration with the Ministry in charge of solidarity and the interior, set the goal of "0 Nyakatsi House";
- Clarify and address the issue of plots around the NTARE RUSHATSI Presidential Palace;
- Build an Multisport stadium to international standards;
- Develop a diplomatic quarter;
- Build an international conference facility;
- Decide on the issue of constructions erected in green spaces but for which titles have been issued;
- Improve government communication.

5. Sector strategy of the Ministry of Public Service, Labor and Employment, presented by the Minister of Public Service, Labor and Employment.

Burundi has adopted a National Development Plan which is currently the national reference document for development planning.

This Strategy constitutes a sectoral instrument of strategic orientation in the planning of activities to be carried out in the fields of the civil service, public administration reform, decent work and employment, professional development and training during employment.

The overall objective of this sector strategy is to "Build an efficient public administration and promote decent work for all".

This Strategy comprises 9 strategic objectives, 33 lines of intervention, 47 programs and 100 projects.

The strategy provides for an institutional implementation framework made up of a steering committee, as well as a technical committee made up of experts.

The overall cost of this strategy is One Hundred and Six Billion, Eight Hundred and Sixteen Million Seven Hundred and Sixty Eight Thousand Burundian Francs (106,816,768,000Fbu).

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

- Ensure that the budget provided for the implementation of this strategy is spread over the entire period;
- Ensure that the planned projects are in line with other planning tools such as the Public Investment Program and the Annual Action Plan to facilitate budgeting;
- Develop a realistic and achievable annual budget according to priorities;
- Develop efficient planning for mobilizing funding;
- Prepare as quickly as possible the ordinances that formalize the entry of the informal sector into the formal sector;
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to have a database of foreign companies authorized to recruit labor and which collaborate with organizations operating in the country;
- Speed up the establishment of agreements with foreign countries that welcome the Burundian workforce so that everything takes place legally;
- Study strategies so as not to lose our experts by leaving in search of work abroad, to avoid the brain drain.
- Integrate the following actions into the action plan:
 - Proceed with the effective decentralization of the services of the ministry;
 - Complete the census of civil servants;
 - Prepare the necessary statistics to plan the replacements of civil servants who are going to retire;
 - Follow up on the careers of civil servants called to public office;
 - Increase in-service training;
 - Clear the issue of wage harmonization;
 - Establish social protection mechanisms for informal workers;
 - Put in place measures that encourage civil servants to take early retirement;
 - Improve government communication.

6. Sector strategy of the Ministry of Water, Energy and Mining,
presented by the Ministry of Water, Energy and Mining.

This sectoral strategy is in line with the logic of the operationalization of the National Development Plan 2018-2027 within the limits of the aspects that fall under the missions of this ministry.

It was developed with a view to accelerating the growth of the development support sectors such as the drinking water and basic sanitation sector, the energy sector, and the hydrocarbons and mining sectors and careers.

It is built on the following vision: "The Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mining, engine of sustainable development through a developed extractive sector, accessibility to drinking water and clean energy, contributing in a sustained way to socio-economic growth for the improvement of the living conditions of the population".

Among the five strategic guidelines included in the National Development Plan, the Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines is concerned with that relating to "the revitalization of growth sectors".

This guideline constitutes the reference in the implementation of the actions of the ministry. The overall cost of the strategy is 3,547.66 billion of Fbu.

After analysis, the Strategy was adopted with the following recommendations:

- Ensure that the budget provided for the implementation of this strategy is spread over the entire period;
- Ensure that the planned projects are in line with other planning tools such as the Public Investment Program and the Annual Action Plan to facilitate budgeting;
- Develop a realistic and achievable annual budget according to priorities;
- Study the ways and means so that the State itself finances the search for minerals, proceeds to their qualification, their quantification and their valuation to facilitate their exploitation;

- Establish a clear strategy in relation to the supply and storage of fuel;
- Provide strategic fuel stocks.
- Integrate the following activities into the action plan:
 - Proceed with the effective decentralization of the services of the ministry;
 - Make clean water available on all the hills by 2025;
 - Increase the number of hydroelectric dams;
 - Promote the use of biogas in households in the interior of the country;
 - Promote the use of gas in urban households;
 - Establish a clear mining policy with the objective of exporting ore under the Burundian label;
 - Put in place a strategy so that the State has fuel, even if the private sector is supplied with it;
 - Promote the use of peat instead of wood;
 - Improve government communication.

7. Draft decree revoking the license to mine nickel and associated minerals in the Musongati perimeter in favour of the company Burundi Mining Metallurgy International (BMM International), presented by the Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mining.

In May 2014, a mining agreement on the Musongati nickel deposit was signed between BMM International and the Government of Burundi.

The exploitation permit was granted by decree in June 2014 and the official launch of the mining and processing activities for nickel and associated minerals from the Musongati deposit was made in October 2014.

Despite several reminders to BMM to respect its commitments and start the actual work, no action has been taken by this company.

In addition to the unjustified delay in the start or progress of the works, this company refused to communicate the technical information required under the Mining Code and the agreement it signed.

This is the reason why this project proposes the revocation of the operating license that was given to this company.

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted with the recommendation to draw up a legal opinion, which shows the ins and outs of this dossier.

It was also recommended to require this company to return to the Burundian state what it took away as a sample.

8. Draft decree on the status of veterans, presented by the Minister of National Defense and Veterans Affairs.

The decree on the missions and organization of the Ministry of National Defense and Veterans Affairs assigns to this ministry specific missions relating to veterans.

In order to carry out these missions, the Ministry has set up a General Directorate of Veterans Affairs.

Although this Ministry has been managing ex-combatants since the integration process, no legal framework governing them has been developed to date.

This project responds to this concern.

It defines the veteran, who is "any member of the ex-Burundian Armed Forces (FAB) or ex-Parties and Armed Political Movements (PMPA) who have regularly ceased to serve and or have been demobilized", and specifies its rights and obligations.

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

- Enrich the Presentation Note with the inventory of former combatants;
- Review the definition of veteran.

9. Draft memorandum of understanding between the Egyptian company EL SEWEDY ELECTRONIC and Burundi, presented by the Minister of Communication, Information Technologies and Media.

The Information and Communication Technologies sector plays an accelerating role in the socio-economic development of countries.

It is within this framework that the National Development Plan 2018-2027, in its axes, places particular emphasis on the promotion of this sector.

Aligning with the projects included in the sector strategy for the implementation of the National Development Plan, and in view of the importance of the private sector in the development of information and communication technologies, and of international expertise recognized by the Egyptian company ELSEWEDY ELECTRONIC, the Ministry of Communication, Information Technologies and Media wishes to establish a framework for negotiations with this company.

This is the subject of this Memorandum. It contains the preliminary terms and conditions under which the parties plan to establish cooperative relations, in order to analyze, plan and execute the projects covered by this Memorandum, namely:

- The establishment of an Integrated National Data Center;
- The Project for the Extension of Metropolitan Networks (MAN) with optical fibre in the cities of Bujumbura, Gitega and Ngozi;
- Modernization of landline telephony.

At the end of the debate, the draft memorandum was adopted with the recommendation that when setting up projects, they be submitted to the Government to ensure their feasibility.

10. Any Other Business

- His Excellency the President of the Republic informed the Council on a government retreat which will soon be organized for them and which will be extended to Directors General and Inspectors General of Ministries, thereafter.
- He also informed them that the prayer of thanksgiving which closes the year 2021 will take place in Bujumbura and will last 5 days.

Done at Bujumbura, October 28th, 2021

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