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At the end of his mission in Burundi, the Ambassador of France is delighted with the renormalization of bilateral relations



This Thursday, September 30, 2021, the President of the Republic HE Evariste Ndayishimiye received in audience Mr. Stéphane Gruenberg, Ambassador of France in Burundi, who came to bid him farewell after two years of mission which were successful in several aspects.

By briefing his achievements, Amb. Stéphane Gruenberg was particularly pleased to have helped to renew the dialogue with the authorities of Burundi after years of misunderstanding, which has now made it possible to renormalize relations and recreate a climate of confidence, not only with France, but also with the countries of the European Union.

The President H.E. Evariste Ndayishi-

miye indeed praised the efforts made by the Embassy of France in Burundi so that bilateral and multilateral cooperation can restart on a better basis, at a time when Burundi is entering an important phase of its socio-economic development.

Reiterating Burundi's commitment to building mutually beneficial relations with its partners, President H. E. Ndayishimiye pledged to continue the dialogue with the successor of Ambassador Stéphane Gruenberg, whose mission ends with a very positive balance sheet of actions.

The Head of State HE Evariste Ndayishimiye took this opportunity to invite Mr. Stéphane Gruenberg to return to Burundi as much as he wishes "because he will always be welcomed as a friend of the Burundian people"

(MFADC)

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The Prime Minister of the Republic of Burundi receives in audience the Ambassador of Kenya in Burundi



The Prime Minister CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni received in audience on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, the Ambassador of Kenya in Burundi, Daniel W. Wambura. They exchanged views on the implementation of cooperation agreements signed between Burundi and Kenya in various fields including economy, development, trade, investment etc. They also discussed the possibilities of exploring other areas of cooperation and the signing of related agreements. (www.rtnb.bi)

Ambassador Stéphane Gruenberg expresses France's readiness to support Burundi



The Prime Minister CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni received in audience Tuesday, September 28, 2021, the French Ambassador to Burundi Stéphane Gruenberg. Their discussions focused on strengthening historic cooperation between Burundi and France. The French diplomat expressed France's readiness to support Burundi in the fields of education and health through the French Development Agency. (www.rtnb.bi)

Cankuzo: The Ombudsman calls for vigilance to safeguard peace and security

The Burundian Ombudsman Honorable Edouard Nduwimana held a meeting on Wednesday, September 29, 2021 in the capital of Cankuzo province with administrative officials and officials of other services working in this province. The purpose of this meeting was to raise awareness of good governance, the presentation of the new coordinator of the Center East branch and the analysis of development projects in the province.

In his speech, the Governor of Cankuzo Province said that peace and security is a reality in this province and that the production was good during the last harvest. He said his province faces some challenges related to education, including the lack of teachers in primary schools and desks. He also pointed out that there is also a short-



tage of magistrates in almost all the jurisdictions of this province.

Speaking, the Burundian Ombudsman Honorable

Edouard Nduwimana welcomed the step already taken in safeguarding peace and security in this province.

Nevertheless, he asked them to remain vigilant because, he said, malicious people always want to tarnish the image of Burundi by carrying out grenade attacks in different parts of the country.

Honorable Edouard Nduwimana called on justice to deal with the files of the perpetrators of the latest grenade attacks with speed so that they can be identified and tried in accordance with the law.

After Cankuzo, the Burundian Ombudsman visited a butcher's shop belonging to Mr. Manirakiza Edouard from Rusengo zone, Ruyigi commune in Ruyigi province.

On this occasion, Honorable Edouard Nduwimana specified that he got to know this young person thanks to the program Insamiriziiwacu broadcast on the antennas of the national radio, in which Mr.

Edouard Manirakiza participated.

During this program, Mr. Edouard Manirakiza spoke of the difficulties he encountered after completing his studies where he could not find a job. His parents laughed at him saying he has nothing while he was studying. This prompted him to start a butchery project with a small capital of 100,000 francs drunk. And the Burundian Ombudsman gave him support of 500,000 fbu to increase his capital.

The Ombudsman suggested that he work diligently so that he can support other unemployed young people in the future. Honorable Edouard Nduwimana appealed to other Burundians who have the means to support young people in small development projects. For Edouard Manirakiza it was a feeling of joy: "I am happy to be supported by the Burundian Ombudsman in my project." Indicated Mr. Manirakiza Edouard [.\(www.rtnb.bi\)](http://www.rtnb.bi)

The Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation receives the new Resident Coordinator of operational activities of the United Nations development system in the Republic of Burundi



This October 1, 2021, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation HE Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO received in audience the new Resident Coordinator of operational activities of the United Nations development system in the Republic of Burundi Mr. Damien Mama who came to present his letters of appointment, by the Secretary General of the United Nations.

In their exchanges, Mr. Daniel Mama was very pleased to be mandated by the Secretary General of the United Nations for a mission in Burundi, a country in which he had carried out a mission 16 years ago, as Regional Electoral Coordinator in within the

United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB). He thus expressed his firm will to collaborate well with the Government of Burundi.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation HE Ambassador Albert Shingiro, in turn congratulated Mr. Daniel Mama on his appointment, a mandate which is translated as a recognition by the Secretary General of the United Nations of what Mr. Mama has already done for the organization. He also reiter-



ated his support and full cooperation.

The Minister Albert Shingiro took this opportunity to let the Resident Coordinator, Mr. Mama, know that Burundi

is now in a phase of capitalizing on peace which is also a phase of the socio-economic development of Burundi. He also said that today, the President of the Republic of Burundi H.E Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE is focusing in his policy on socio-economic development. He also expressed the wish that the United Nations System continue to support the Government in its development program. He indeed underlined that the President of the Republic of Burundi prioritizes concrete actions and the results of what is achieved.

It should be noted that Mr. Daniel Mama has more than 20 years of experience in the fields of sustainable development, humanitarian affairs and peace-building. In his most recent United Nations assignments, he served as Resident Coordinator and Resi-

dent Representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Togo, after having assumed other high level functions, in particular that of the Head of the Office of the "Operations and Rule of Law" pillar of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). He also served as Director of the Stabilization and Recovery Section within the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSCA).

In accordance with various provisions of the United Nations, he will assume overall responsibility for the coordination of operational activities for development, carried out in Burundi, and will play, in this context, the role of team leader. (MFADC)

Celebration of the 72nd Anniversary of the Founding of the Republic of China

On October 1, 2021, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation HE Ambassador Albert Shingiro participated in the online reception to celebrate the 72nd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

In the speech that HE Ambassador Albert Shingiro delivered, on behalf of the Government of Burundi and on his own behalf, he sent warm congratulations to HE Madam Ambassador of China in Bujumbura and to the Government of the People's Republic of China.

He said that it is because of the covid-19 pandemic which has hit hard all Nations of the world that this celebration is being organized online.

HE Albert Shingiro said the Chinese people have good reason to celebrate this 72-year anniversary with joy. He went on to say that the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 breathed new life into the Chinese people, heir to a millennial civilization, in their legitimate aspiration to build a politically stable, economically prosperous and culturally rich country in its diversity. He explained that since the opening of China to the outside, it has taken a presti-



gious path of development, with bold reforms initiated under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and the foresight of its senior leaders, especially with enlightened leadership of His Excellency Xi Jinping, and which have been crowned with great success.

He suggested that as proof of this success, China, which was a few decades ago in the grip of poverty, has become one of the most powerful economies in the world. Determined to continue its policy of win-win cooperation, China is working with other countries around the world to promote inclusive growth for common sustainable development. It is in this perspective that China has set up a policy of "one Belt and one road" to promote international cooperation which aims to promote a balanced global industrial development chain, continued Minister Albert SHINGIRO.

The Head of Burundian Diplomacy indicated that African countries, including Burundi, welcome the initiatives and commitments made during the Sino-African Cooperation Forum (FOCAC) during the 2018 meeting in Beijing in the People's Republic of China.

HE Ambassador Albert Shingiro praised the excellent

and historic relations of friendship and cooperation between the Republic of Burundi and the People's Republic of China. He added that these relations have withstood the multifaceted vagaries of time and season because they are built on solid foundations of solidarity, sovereignty, mutual respect, win-win cooperation.

Minister Albert Shingiro said that the Government of the Republic of Burundi fully appreciates the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation that have existed between the two countries for more than half a century. Through its multifaceted support, China remains a reliable and sincere partner of Burundi. It has become a partner full of attention and concerned with Burundian development, said HE Ambassador Albert Shingiro.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation of Burundi indicated that the good relations

between our two countries have made it possible to initiate and carry out development projects and programs in several sectors of national life, thus falling within the respect and implementation of the National Development Plan (PND) of Burundi, 2018-2027.

HE Ambassador Albert Shingiro took the opportunity to reiterate the thanks of the Government of the Republic of Burundi to the Government of the People's Republic of China for its multifaceted and multidimensional support to the country. He paid a deserved tribute to Madam Ambassador, as well as to the entire team of the Chinese Embassy in Burundi for their commendable work accomplished in the country in such a short time, in the framework of strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and the two respective peoples.

(MFADC)

General assembly for all the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation



As part of strengthening a good governance at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, the Permanent Secretary Mr. Ferdinand BASHIKAKO chaired, on September 23, 2021, a general assembly for all the staff of the Central Administration of the Ministry.

The Permanent Secretary began by welcoming the new staff in the Ministry including the Minister's Assistant, Mr. Sylodie MANIREREKANA.

The agenda was centered on strengthening a good governance. Therefore, the Permanent Secretary reminded the participants of punctuality, assiduity and regularity at work. Regarding punctuality, the Permanent Secretary underlined the bad habit of being often late for some of the staff of the Ministry and asked

them to do everything possible to adopt the right behavior of being at work on time.

Concerning diligence at work, the Permanent Secretary encouraged the staff who work hard and diligently even after service hours. He seized this opportunity to call those who are still reluctant to follow their brothers, in order to work without considering service hours much.

During the meeting, the Permanent Secretary announced that soon the Ministry will organize community activities within the framework of the program "EWE BURUNDI URAMBAYE" and invited the staff of the Ministry to participate in it. He also informed that within the framework of the development of ethics and professional deontology, a training for Executives of

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation with less than 5 years at the service is planned from October 2021.

Before closing, the Permanent Secretary gave the opportunity to the audience to comment or ask questions. Some participants presented their comments and some others asked questions to which the Permanent Secretary responded. Among the questions asked, the most essential ones were relating to the

replacement of computer machines already worn-out to facilitate a rapid processing of files and the availability of buses which could bring the Executives of the Ministry to the service in order to avoid delays caused by the lack of travel buses, in their residential areas.

After comments and questions, the Permanent Secretary closed the meeting by wishing all participants good continuation of their activities. (MFADC)

Cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations and Foreign Associations (NGOs): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation is organizing a training workshop for monitoring and evaluation for interministerial committee members.



On Tuesday September 27, 2021, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation Mr. Ferdinand BASHIKAKO, officially opened at the Hotel La Détente, the activities of a training workshop for capacity building in the place of the members of the interministerial committee for monitoring and evaluation of the activities of Non-Governmental Organizations and Foreign Non-Profit Associations. This workshop will last 5 days.

In his speech, Mr. Ferdinand BASHIKAKO declared that the Interministerial Committee was set up by Decree-Law Nr. 100/066 of May 08, 2020 and it is made up of Executives from the Vice-Presidency of the Republic, those of various sectoral ministries involved in the day-to-day management of foreign Non-Governmental Organizations as well as those of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

This workshop comes to increase the skills of the said committee in order to better carry out actions leading to the success of their mission. During these 5 days of training, they will discuss the concept of project /

program, its definition and project partners, concepts and considerations related to monitoring and evaluation, especially the management based on results, as well as application exercises, definition of concepts, monitoring, evaluation and the project cycle, comparison between monitoring and evaluation, exam and audit, monitoring and evaluation stages, planning, collection and management of data on necessary human resources, capacity building and development of monitoring and evaluation tools.

According to Mr. Ferdinand BASHIKAKO, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, he has no doubt that after this workshop, participants will have acquired skills in monitoring and evaluation and will also be with data collection methods and development of monitoring and evaluation tools. Mr. Ferdinand BASHIKAKO ended his speech by promising that a descent will be organized as part of the application of different techniques and methods acquired during this workshop. That is why he invited the participants to carefully follow the progress of this workshop, to ask questions and give possible suggestions to contribute to the success of this training. (MFADC)

Gitega hosts the 9th General Assembly of PALPGL



The 9th General Assembly of the Platform of Local Authorities of the Great Lakes Countries (PALPGL) was held on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 in Gitega under the theme: "cities, entrepreneurship and innovations". This activity was enhanced by the presence of the Minister having Home Affairs in his attributions CPC Gervais Ndirakobuca and delegations from Burundi, Tanzania, Rwanda and the DRC.

At the opening of this platform, the Burundian Minister in charge of the Interior indicated that the 9th General Assembly takes place at a time when the Government of Burundi, called Responsible and Laborious Government, spares no effort for the maintenance of peace and security, respect for human rights and improvement of good governance.

CPC Gervais Ndirakobuca said that the overall objective of the chosen theme is to strengthen and increase the participation of the community of entrepreneurs

and innovations in governance.

The Minister in charge of Home Affairs indicates that the theme chosen for the 9th General Assembly of the PALPGL coincides with the national policy on community development which prioritizes the growth of resources in general.

Speaking, the current President of the Platform of Local Authorities of the Great Lakes Countries, Mr. Darius Sumuni, Interim Mayor of Bukavu, informed that since its creation in 2012, this platform has encountered some challenges that have arisen over time, in its quest for the well-being of the population grouped together in the cities of the Great Lakes region, in particular the closure of borders, the language barrier, etc.

The Burundian Ombudsman Honorable Edouard Nduwimana, meanwhile, praised the contribution made by PALGL in the consolidation of peace in Burundi, a priority of his institution.

The Mayors who intervened in this General Assembly recounted the investment possibilities in their cities and indicated that they are all prepared to collaborate with young entrepreneurs.

On the sidelines of the 9th General Assembly of the platform of the local authorities of the Great Lakes Countries, the participants made visits to various tourist sites to discover the beauty of Burundi. They visited the source of the Nile in Rutovu, in Bururi province and the Drummer Sanctuary of Gishora in Giheta commune in Gitega. (www.rtnb.bi)

Restoring land productivity, a project initiated by the Government of Burundi

A validation workshop of the feasibility study report for the establishment of progressive and radical terraces on the last hills of the Burundi Landscape Restoration and Resilience Project area was organized on Monday, September 27, 2021 by the Ministry of the Environment,



Agriculture and Livestock. The objective of this workshop is to restore land productivity in the targeted degraded landscapes and in the event of a crisis or emergency, provide an immediate response to the said crisis or emergency. The project coordinator, Ir Odette Kayitesi said that

within the framework of the project, the restoration of the landscape will be implemented in 22 hills in Isare and Buhinyuza commune with progressive terraces and radical terraces, agro-forestry, organic -soil engineering and water distribution.

According to Madam Ir. Odette Kayitesi, the project was initiated by the Government of Burundi with funding from the World Bank to contribute to the 2025 vision which serves as an orientation to the policy of a national strategy for the sustainable management of natural resources and the implementation of the national development plan.

Speaking, the representative of the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock indicated that Burundi and one of the countries that took ownership of the 2015 Paris initiative for the resilience of landscape in Africa.

However, according to the representative of the Minister in charge of the environment, despite the efforts made by the Government of Burundi in terms of

environmental protection, environmental problems already exist through erosion, floods and their multiple consequences, including land degradation, destruction of forests, gradual decline in soil fertility, degradation of natural resources having an impact on biodiversity and human populations.

"Particular attention is therefore required in the objective of restoring these landscapes which constitute an entity with various land uses such as agriculture, forestry activities, the supply and distribution of water and the conservation of biodiversity", concluded the representative of the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock.

The last ten hills of the intervention zone of this project are Nyambuye, Caranka, Rushubi, Bibare, Rutegama, of the commune of Isare and Bugungu, Muramba, Karongwe, Kisimba and Nyaruhengeri of the commune of Buhinyuza, indicated the Coordinator of the project, Madam Ir.Odette Kayitesi. (www.rtnb.bi)

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REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI**PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat-General of the State****MEDIA RELEASE NO 26 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2021**

A Cabinet Meeting was held on Wednesday 29th of September 2021, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi.

Before presenting the agenda, His Excellency the President of the Republic appreciated the trip he made to New York in the United States of America within the United Nations General Assembly framework which proved to be a success for the country.

He then sent a message of support to the victims of terrorist acts that occurred in recent days in the country. Everyone, including the international community, has condemned these acts and the wish is that the perpetrators and sponsors of these acts are identified and punished in accordance with the law.

He also demanded that measures to combat the spread of the coronavirus continue to be observed, because it is still there, even though there is a noticeable decrease in cases that test positive.

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 he himself chaired on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, and which was devoted to the analysis of the same files on the agenda.

Before presenting the summary of the observations resulting from this meeting, the Prime Minister thanked the Almighty, because the trip made by the Head of State to New York went well, while also stressing that the speech that the Head

of State delivered at the United Nations General Assembly was followed and much appreciated by the Burundians.

Following the restitution by the Prime Minister to the President of the Republic, the following files were analyzed:

1. Draft Annual Government Action Plan 2021-2022, presented by the Services of the Presidency of the Republic.

In order to organize the annual planning in accordance with the budget year which begins on July 1 of each year, also complying with decree n ° 100/007 of June 28, 2020 revising decree n ° 100/037 of 19 April 2018 on the structure, functioning and missions of the Government of the Republic of Burundi, an Action Plan for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year has been drawn up.

Like the previous ones, this Action Plan is the summary of the actions that the ministries have planned as flagship activities of the year, adjusted according to the 2021/2022 budget law.

The actions retained in this Plan have a national scope and ensure the implementation of sectoral policies and strategies, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals. They also pursue the objectives set out in the Vision Burundi 2025 and are inspired by the main thrusts of the National Development Plan of Burundi 2018-2027.

This Action Plan also includes actions resulting from the National Strategy for Good Governance and the Fight against Corruption and those resulting from the National Program "EWE BURUNDI URAMBAYE".

This Plan shows the objectives to be achieved, the concrete actions to be carried out, the expected results, the objectively verifiable indicators, the areas of action, the deadlines, the budget and the sources of funding.

This Action Plan constitutes, moreover, in each of its sectoral components, a commitment of the ministry concerned.

It must provide concrete solutions to the expectations of the population and it is on the basis of the results on the ground that the ministries will be evaluated.

After discussion and debate, the Action Plan was adopted with, among other things, the recommendation to integrate the flagship and priority actions suggested by the Highest Authority in the field of Education.

It was also recommended that the adjustments proposed by different ministries be incorporated into the document within a period not exceeding three days. Sector ministries were also recommended to ensure that the deadlines for the various actions were well defined.

Considering that the action plan must be in line with the state budget, it was recommended that in the future the document be ready in the first month that begins the budget year.

It was further recommended that members of the Government bring together partners who support projects carried out in the ministries to ensure that these projects are in line with this Action Plan.

The Action Plan must be developed according to a Vision. This way, it becomes easy to see where you are and what remains to be done. Even without available budgets, the necessary actions must be included in the program.

2. Draft decree on the missions, organization and functioning of the Burundi Development Agency, presented by the Services of the Presidency of the Republic.

In order to put in place a legal framework on investments that is more competitive and aligned with international practices, the Burundi Investment Code has been amended.

Among the innovations brought by this new Code, there is the creation of the Burundi Development Agency to replace the Investment Promotion Agency, as well as the structuring of the Board of Directors.

This Code also broadens the missions of the Burundi Development Agency to go beyond the simple promotion of investments.

This project is proposed to adapt to this new Code.

As a structure of the Agency, it is proposed that it be headed by a Director General to allow it to interact with other institutions responsible for investments in the world. He would be assisted by four Directors.

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

- In terms of compensation and other benefits to be granted to the directors of the Agency, reference should be made to existing texts;
- Registration of cooperative societies will be done at ANACOOOP and related statistics will be provided to the Agency;
- It is necessary to determine the number of extraordinary meetings of the Board of Directors not to be exceeded;
- The Director General of ANACOOOP will be part of the Board of Directors replacing the staff representative of the Agency;
- The mandate of the Chief Executive Officer is renewable once;
- The Board of Directors will be headed by the representative of the private sector;
- Provisions relating to the role of the internal auditor should be included in the draft;
- 2/3 of the members of the Board of Directors, as well as the Hierarchy, may request the holding of a meeting of the Board of Directors;
- We must not give the political authority time limits to react to the decisions of the Board of Directors;
- Directors are appointed for a term renewable once and not recruited by competition;
- Agency staff are recruited by competitive examination; It is not necessary to specify that this is for an indefinite contract.

3. Bill ratifying the cooperation agreement for the execution of the Burundi Water Resources Management Project between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt signed on March 24, 2021 in Cairo, Egypt;

4. Bill ratifying the agreement on visa exemption for holders of diplomatic, special and service passports between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt signed on 24 March 2021 in Cairo, Egypt;

These two projects were presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

From March 23 to 26, 2021, His Excellency the President of the Republic paid a state visit to Egypt, on the sidelines of which these two agreements were signed. The cooperation agreement for the implementation of the Water Resources Management Project is part of the Egyptian Initiative for the Development of the Nile Basin Countries, adopted by the Egyptian Partnership for Development Agency.

By ratifying this agreement, Burundi will have contributed to support the bonds of friendship and fraternity with Egypt, and to strengthen technical cooperation in the field of water resources for their efficient management according to equitable and cooperative use.

With regard to the agreement relating to the exemption of visas for holders of diplomatic, special and service passports, its ratification by Burundi will contribute to the implementation of the Protocol relating to the free movement of persons, labor, services, and on the right of establishment and residence of nationals of COMESA member countries, as well as of the 1991 Treaty establishing the East African Economic Community of which Burundi and Egypt are members. Burundi will also have facilitated the mobility of populations from both countries on the one hand, and the mobility of populations from the African continent, on the other hand.

After discussion and debate, the Council of Ministers adopted the two projects recommending that, with regard to water resources, Burundi place particular emphasis on their conservation, as well as support from the Republic of Egypt in respect of water resources concerning the fight against desertification

5. Draft deviation agreement for National Road No. 1 (RN1) between the Republic of Burundi and the People's Republic of China, presented by the Minister of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing.

This draft agreement refers to the economic and technical cooperation agreement signed between the Burundian and Chinese governments on September 28, 2018.

It concerns in particular the construction of a road with a length of 5.458 km, a pavement width of 7 m and a shoulder width of 2.25 m on each side.

This road will be built with a donation from China equivalent to 185,920,000 yuan.

After analysis, the Council of Ministers adopted the project and requested that this Project be implemented as quickly as possible according to the route proposed by the party which will provide the funding.

6. Draft decree allocating land to the University of Mwaro, presented by the Minister of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing

The University of Mwaro was approved by Ministerial Order No. 530/101 of February 21, 2001 and opened its doors on December 1, 2001.

To be at the service of the community effectively, the University submitted a request to the ministry in charge of town planning through which it requested land to house this University.

This land was granted to it and part of its premises is built into the land.

However, the final allocation can only be made by decree in accordance with the Land Code.

It is within this framework that this project is proposed.

After analyzing this project, the Council of Ministers reached the following observations and conclusions:

- The University of Mwaro was built in 2001 and it is in 2020 that the documents relating to this land are requested, which means that the required construction procedures were not followed;
- There were irregularities with the applicant and with the state services;
- It is necessary to prepare a note for the Council of Ministers containing the elements on the process of the granting of this land since 2001, and to establish the responsibilities;
- The draft decree was initially to be submitted to the National Land Commission;
- You have to visit the texts that govern the field of town planning to see what they provide in such irregular situations;

- State land holdings must be demarcated and registered;
- State property transferred for community use such as the construction of a school remains the property of the State. No title deed should be issued for this purpose;
- The Ministry in charge of Lands in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice will develop a national land policy;
- It is necessary to update the costs of servicing the land;

7. Note on the situation of Onatel and proposal for remedial measures, presented by the Minister of Communication, Information Technologies and Media.

The National Telecommunications Office (Onatel) was created in 1979 and the State of Burundi is the sole shareholder.

Onatel has operated three production lines, namely the landline telephone network since 1979, the mobile network since 2005, as well as the internet network and data transmission since 2003.

Initially, Onatel enjoyed a monopoly and it was not until 1997 that the sector was liberalized. Since then, it has faced competition from other operators in the field of telecommunications.

Onatel holds securities and shares in local and international companies and / or financial institutions valued at more than BIF 47 billion.

But currently, Onatel is facing challenges related to its legal framework, its management, technical challenges, challenges related to funding as well as those related to project management (ONAMOB, Metropolitan Fiber Optic Network)

This Note makes proposals to improve the situation of Onatel.

a) As a public company, Onatel must lead its development over the next 5 years along the following lines:

- The revaluation of fixed telephony through in particular the introduction of triple play where, in the same line, the telephone, the Internet and the television channels are found, and also introduce modern telephone devices allowing to

remain reachable to a radius of at least 200 meters from the place where the landline telephone is installed;

- The deployment of a metropolitan loop network through the extension of optical fiber in the towns of Gitega and Ngozi;
- Optimization of the Onamob network through national mobile telephone network coverage.

b) Administrative and financial recovery by, in particular, the establishment of modern and computerized management and control tools, as well as the gradual turnover of staff according to the skills required while controlling the payroll, on a three-year recruitment plan based on departures;

c) The revision of the credit agreement for the financing of the Onamob Project between the State of Burundi and the company HUAWEI.

During the discussions on the Note's proposals, the Council of Ministers made the following observations:

- It is necessary to redress the leadership of Onatel so that it is able to steer the reforms to be considered;
- Onatel must be authorized to recruit technically competent human resources but within the limits of the available budget and retrain those who can be;
- It is necessary to identify, among the securities and shares of Onatel in financial institutions, those that are less profitable and sell them to purge part of its debts. Onatel must also assess its debts and collect them;
- We must look for an external audit firm to make the general diagnosis of Onatel and propose remedial measures; the same audit will show how the credit contracted by the State of Burundi was used by the HUAWEI Company;
- We must check whether the credit that the State has contracted with China for the revitalization of Onamob is not assured;
- It is necessary to look for means to modernize landline telephony, in particular through the introduction of triple play where in the same line are the telephone, the Internet and the television channels;
- For products of the same quality from Onatel and private operators, public institutions should be encouraged to give priority to Onatel products;
- The assets of Onatel must be identified, valued and made profitable;
- The Onatel and BBS companies must not compete with each other. Each must be brought back to operate within the framework of its missions;

- The supervisory Ministry in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Services will develop a roadmap for the implementation of these recommendations.

8. Any Other Business

- The Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security briefed the Council over the security situation in the country.

He indicated that acts of terrorism have been observed in recent days in the country, but that cases of grenade throwing are also observed following disputes between individuals, pointing to the cases of Ruziba and Gatumba.

He said that this shows despite everything that there are still weapons in the possession of the population and that supervision of the population by the administrative staff is necessary.

- His Excellency the President of the Republic informed the Council of Ministers that on the sidelines of the session of the United National General Assembly in which he participated, he met an organization which is ready to support so that the Burundians obtain the Biometric Identity Card at a lower cost.

As this project coincides with the preparation of the general census scheduled for 2022, the Ministers in charge of the Interior and of Finance have been invited to contact this organization so that the two activities complement each other.

He also indicated that a National Forum for the Development of Burundi is in preparation. A site will be created for this purpose so that Burundian intellectuals can be registered, in order to target experts who can, through their ideas and proposals for solutions to the problems facing the country, so as to contribute to the development of the country according to their areas of intervention.

Done at Gitega, September 30th, 2021

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

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

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