

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
Development Cooperation

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Burundi commemorates the 60th anniversary of assassination of the national Independence Hero



Burundi celebrated, on Wednesday October 13, 2021, the 60th anniversary of the assassination of the Hero of national Independence, Prince Louis Rwagasore. Memorial ceremonies were held throughout the country. In Bujumbura Town Hall, the ceremonies began with a mass in his memory at Regina Mundi Cathedral and were enhanced by the presence of the Head of State HE Evariste Ndayishimiye accompanied by his Spouse and other high authorities of the country.

According to the Parish Priest of Regina Mundi Cathedral, the Abbot Félix Fupi, only courageous and free-spirited men can save the country, like Prince Louis Rwagasore, the Hero of Burundi's Independence.

In his homily, the Parish Priest of the Cathedral of Bujumbura, Abbot Félix Fupi indicated that there are no longer brave and free-spirited men capable of doing good, of speaking the truth and

take the responsibility of it. However, for the Parish Priest of Regina Mundi Cathedral, it is with a free conscience that one arrives at holiness, love of neighbor and truth. Based on the Gospel

of Luke 11: 37-47, the Parish Priest of the Cathedral of Bujumbura demonstrated that many people seek to appear, admiration and their own interests instead of seeking the general interest of the nation as Prince Louis Rwagasore did, the Hero of independence.

He took this opportunity to urge the country's authorities to show humility, to have the courage to speak out against the evil, to recognize and accept the good achievements of others even if they do not share their ideas. He called on the Burundians to perpetuate the legacy of Prince Louis Rwagasore to build a peaceful country.

The Abbot Félix Fupi reminded the Christians present that the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the assassination of the Hero of the independence of Burundi is an opportunity offered to them to examine their conscience in order to see if their actions

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turn out to be honest and are according to God's will instead of shutting himself in and accusing others of wickedness or doing wrong. "We are called to live with honesty in the image of Prince Louis Rwagasore, denounce the evil and praise the merits of others," he stressed.

He pointed out that there are some people in Burundi who cannot positively appreciate the achievements of others. He asked them to have the spirit and the courage to characterize it as it is, saying that this is an important step towards fair justice.

This was an opportunity for the Parish Priest of the Cathedral of Bujumbura to urge the authorities of the country to surround themselves with good advisers and to choose collaborators capable of qualifying the matter at its fair value and who do not turn a blind eye to the evil. "Avoid bad advisers who only clap even though they are sure that they are endangering you. Such people are dangerous because they can endanger the life of an entire nation," insisted the Abbot Félix Fupi.

The Parish Priest of the Cathedral of Bujumbura asked the Christians and Burundian people in general to adopt this spirit of the Hero of Independence by reviving the image of Burundi. He took the opportunity to urge the Christians to pray for Burundi so that it always has valiant men, capable of helping the Burundians to consolidate the Independence of Burundi, an Independence that cost the life of Prince Louis Rwagasore.

He also urged the devotees to avoid wickedness, renounce hypocrisy and to connect words with acts in order to attract divine blessings.

Finally, the Archbishop of Bujumbura asked the Christians not to seek the admiration of the people or their own interests, but rather to seek the general interest as Jesus Christ did, who sought only to please God.

After the mass at Regina Mundi Cathedral, the ceremonies continued at Vugizo Hill in the Kiriri Quarter where the Mausoleum of Prince Louis Rwagasore is located.

The Head of State HE Evariste Ndayishimiye and his

Spouse first laid a wreath of flowers at the Mausoleum of Prince Louis Rwagasore at Vugizo Mount in the town hall of Bujumbura. After the presidential couple, it was the turn of the diplomatic corps who laid a wreath of flowers on the tomb of the Hero of Independence, Prince Louis Rwagasore.

The biological members of the family of Prince Louis Rwagasore were then invited to lay a wreath of flowers at the Mausoleum of Prince Louis Rwagasore, followed lastly by the laying of wreaths by representatives of political parties approved in Burundi.

To close the ceremonies of the 60th anniversary of the assassination of Prince Louis Rwagasore, Senior Dignitaries, members of the Government, representatives of approved political parties, members of the biological family of Prince Louis Rwagasore as well as members of the accredited diplomatic corps in Burundi followed the speech that the hero of the Independence of Burundi delivered after the victory of the Uprona party in the legislative elections of September 18, 1961.

In his speech, Prince Louis Rwagasore said that this victory was not that of the Uprona party, but rather that of all the Burundian people, a victory for democracy. The time had come for the prince to tackle the concerns of the Burundian people to find lasting solutions. Prince Louis Rwagasore also indicated in his speech that the Government would focus on economic issues, land issues, education and many more.

In his speech, Prince Louis Rwagasore also indicated that his Government does not tolerate thieves, bandits and aggressors.

Prince Louis Rwagasore advocated the establishment of responsible leadership, a Government capable of reassuring and protecting all citizens.

(www.presidence.gov.bi)



The First Lady denounces the use of handicapped children in begging



During her visit on Tuesday, October 12 at Isange Center at Gisyo located in the Kanyosha Zone in the Urban Commune of Muha, the First Lady of Burundi Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye denounced the use of children living with disabilities in begging.

"It is very deplorable that some parents instead of working for the survival of their families choose to use their disabled children to beg throughout the Town hall of Bujumbura", suggested the First Lady while urging these parents to get rid of this bad behavior to instead "protect and take care of this gift that God has bestowed upon them which is the child regardless of their condition."

The First Lady had provided herself with assistance consisting of food, medical equipment, notebooks and backpacks worth around 22 million.

The Isange Center is held by the sisters of the Congregation "Famille Notre Dame de la Miséricorde" and takes care of 23 physically and mentally handicapped children.

Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye emphasized that the granting of this assistance to the Isange Center by the "Fondation Bonne Action Umugiraneza" of which she is President, is part of a campaign started in the context of supporting orphans

and other vulnerable people in order to bring them the joy of celebrating the end of the year holidays that are looming on the horizon.

The First Lady of Burundi further informed that the gesture made by the "Fondation Bonne Action Umugiraneza" aims to express her support and gratitude to the managers of this center for this charitable work that they are carrying out: "we have come to show our support and encourage you to move forward. We invite other associations to help those most in need."

Reacting to various challenges facing the Isange Center, in particular the lack of financial resources, the insufficiency of physiotherapy equipment and the absence of specialist doctors for the treatment of various diseases from which some of these children suffer, the First Lady of the country called for the combined efforts of all the Burundian people to ensure the sustainability of these kinds of centers which are so useful to the community.

She finally promised that during this campaign, which will extend to all the provinces of the country, the "Fondation Bonne Action Umugiraneza" will go to the Province of Rumonge to help another orphanage held by the same congregation.

(www.presidence.gov.bi)

Gatumba flood victims receive assistance



sugar and salt and was intended to provide moral support to the victims of the flooding of the water of the Lake Tanganyika and Rusizi River.

These victims of the site of Kinyinya II in Gatumba zone applauded with both hands this charitable gesture made to them by the Director of the sub-Saharan Africa region at the World Islamic League, Sheik Walid Racid El Saad, when they had nothing to eat.

On this occasion, the Burundian Ombudsman Honorable Edouard Nduwimana asked

The World Islamic League is committed alongside the Head of State and the Burundian Ombudsman to find a lasting solution to the precarious situation in which the victims of Gatumba live, victims of the flooding of the water of the Rusizi river and the Lake Tanganyika. This is an announcement that was made on Monday, October 11, 2021 by the Director of the Sub-Saharan Africa region for the World Islamic League, during the delivery of food assistance to the victims of the site of Kinyinya II in the Gatumba zone in the Bujumbura province. This assistance mobilized by the World Islamic League through the institution of the Burundian Om-

the Director of the Sub-Saharan Africa region of the World Islamic League, Sheik Walid Racid El Saad to convey the thanks and greetings of the Burundians to the Secretary General of the World Islamic League who has already promised to support these victims of Gatumba, and to describe their situation to him.

He also took this opportunity to call on the inhabitants of the Imbo plain and especially those of Gatumba to strengthen environmental protection work to deal with the vagaries of the weather which often lead to disasters during the rainy season.

Honorable Edouard Nduwimana urged the inhabitants

of Gatumba to remain united and to ensure peace and security by denouncing the detractors who seek to tarnish the image of Burundi.

Speaking, Cheikh Walid Rachid EL Saad visiting Burundi to strengthen relations between Burundi and the Secretariat of the World Islamic League, announced that this League will engage alongside the Head of State and the Burundian Ombudsman to find a lasting solution to this uncomfortable situation in which the displaced people of Gatumba live.



budsman was composed of rice, corn flour, beans,

ple of Gatumba live. (www.rtnb.bi)

The handover and the takeover in the General Direction of Protocol and Consular Affairs



On October 14, 2021, the handover and the takeover ceremonies took place in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation between Ambassador Emmanuel MPFAYOKURERA and Mr. Evariste NGENDANKENGERA, respectively outgoing Director General and incoming Director General of Protocol and Consular Affairs.

gratulated the incoming Director General for these new functions. He then presented all the staff of the Direction to the incoming Director General. He took this opportunity to express his sincere thanks to all the staff of the General Direction for their frank collaboration and tireless efforts for the success of the activities of the General Direction.



For his part, the incoming Director General Mr. Evariste NGENDANKENGERA warmly thanked His Excellency the President of the Republic of Burundi and the Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Albert SHINGIRO for the honor they have shown him by entrusting him with the coordination of the activities of the General Direction of Protocol and Consular Affairs.

He thanked his predecessor for the work already accomplished and in turn wished him every success in the life to follow.

These ceremonies were chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the said Ministry, Mr. Ferdinand Bashikako, in the presence of some of the Senior Officials of the Ministry and the staff of the General Direction. During his speech, the Permanent Secretary congratulated the new Director General and wished him every success in these new functions. As for the outgoing Director General, he warmly con-

He indicated that he will spare no effort, being together with all the staff of the General Direction, to have a good performance. (MFADC)

The Director General in charge of multilateral relations participates in the celebration of the day of resilience



The delegation of the European Union in Burundi organized this October 15, 2021 at the Hotel

Club du Lac Tan-

ganyika, the celebration of the day of resilience. The Burundi population resilience support program (Resilience Program) aims to strengthen the capacities of beneficiaries and communities to cope with adapting and recovering quickly after a shock or stress.

After welcoming the Chief of the staff of the Mayor of Bujumbura, Ambassador Jean Bosco Barege, the Delegate of the European Union in Burundi Ambassador Claude BAUCHU announced that the day of discussions was organized within the framework of the program "Support for the resilience of the populations of Burundi."



The Ambassador Claude BAUCHU said that he was pleased to recognize the participation that day of 40 implementing partners, who play a key role in the deployment of the resilience program on the ground. Their proximity to beneficiaries at the local level is an essential factor in effectively implementing European Union interventions aimed at improving the living conditions of the population, he added.

The Ambassador Claude BAUCHU indicated that since 2018, the resilience program has mobilized an envelope of more than 278 billion Burundian Francs (121 million EUROS) to support 3 main sectors namely rural development and nutrition, health and

energy. These three themes are clearly identified in the National Development Plan 2018-2027.

The Delegate of the European Union in Burundi said that the European Union contributes to creating the conditions for the sustainable development of the country and its citizens. Three components make up the resilience program; the "TUBEHONEZA" compo-



nent, which targets more than 2.4 million Burundians, with the objective of reducing malnutrition and food insecurity, better managing and adapting to the consequences of natural disasters and strengthening intra-community links; the "TWITEHO AMAGARA" component, which targets the entire Burundian population because it is dedicated to improving the accessibility and quality of health care in all of the country's health districts; the "UMUCO WITERAMBERE" component, aimed at promoting access to a sustainable energy service (electricity and clean cooking) for around 500,000 Burundians.

In his speech, the Director General in charge of Multilateral Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation Ambassador Isaïe Kubwayo, who represented the Government in these ceremonies, recalled that the Government launched the National Development Plan 2018-2027, "a reference document for all development actors in Burundi at the national, regional and international levels a framework for planning, programming, coordination and monitoring of national and international interventions. Through its implementation, the government seeks the effectiveness and efficiency of public interventions and attaches value to the achievement of results that should contribute to improving the living and working condi-

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212th Session of the Executive Board of UNESCO



UNESCO held its 212th Session of the Executive Board in Paris on October 11, 2021. Burundi was represented by the Permanent Delegate of Burundi in UNESCO HE Ambassador Ernest NIYOKINDI.

In his speech, HE Ambassador Ernest NIYOKINDI said that he was pleased to express his deep gratitude to the UNESCO Secretary and the President of the Board for his professionalism in the conduct of activities of this session despite the conditions made extremely difficult by the COVID-19 pandemic.

HE Ambassador Ernest NIYOKINDI said that Burundi is currently stable, calm and that the security situation is fully under control, from North to South and from East to West, and that significant progress is being observed on the national, regional and international scene as evidenced by the number of Burundian refugees coming back home from exile, by indicating that for example, from 2017 until the end of September 2021, 178,124 refugees came back home from exile.

On human rights issues, the Ambassador Ernest NIYOKINDI said Burundi firmly believes that human rights must be protected by clear mechanisms of a good governance, security and fair justice. As part of monitoring the state of implementation of the princi-

ples of human rights protection, the international community should adhere to the fundamental principles of universality, transparency, impartiality, non-selectivity, non-politicization and objectivity as well as the rejection of the practice of not considering the same matter alike. It is for this reason that HE the President of the Republic of Burundi, in his speech at the 76th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, insisted on the fact that any tendency to single out Burundi by attaching mechanisms to it special human rights issues are simply counterproductive.

Regarding freedom of expression, Ambassador Ernest NIYOKINDI recalled that HE Mr. Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, President of the Republic of Burundi reaffirmed his commitment to a free and responsible press by urging media professionals to ensure strict compliance with the deontology. The National Communication Council in Burundi, a media regulatory body, registers until October 5, 2021, 51 local radio stations, 15 TV channels, 111 newspapers, 32 press agencies and 7 associations of media professionals. The Embassy of Burundi took this opportunity to salute the role of UNESCO in Burundi in the training of Burundian journalists.

As for education, Ambassador Ernest NIYOKINDI announced that the Government of Burundi provides free basic education to allow every child to go to

school regardless of their social situation. It is with this in mind that the Government has increased the number of school infrastructures throughout Burundian territory in order to reduce the distance traveled by learners.

Regarding the Covid-19 pandemic which threatens all of humanity, since the appearance of the first cases, Ambassador Ernest NIYOKINDI indicated that Burundi has taken prevention and response measures to this pandemic and all the strategies have made it possible to maintain the positivity of the tests at a rate less than 3% and to avoid large incidences of the serious forms. HE Ambassador Ernest NIYOKINDI also informed that this 212th session of the Executive Council was held at the time when Burundi will celebrate the 60th anniversary of its independence and of its membership in the UNESCO family. It will therefore be a moment to remember that UNESCO played a great role in Burundi in the promotion of education, science and culture without forgetting its role during the period of the socio-political crisis that Burundi had known.

To close, HE Ambassador Ernest NIYOKINDI indicated that his delegation supports the transformation project of UNESCO and the global priority of Africa, while insisting on the strengthening of financial and human resources to concretize the presence of the organization on ground. **(MFADC).**

1

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat-General of the State**MEDIA RELEASE NO 27 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER 2021**

A Cabinet Meeting was held on Thursday 14th 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 11 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. Draft decree amending Decree No. 100/107 of April 7, 2021 on the creation, management and coordination of the Economic Empowerment and Youth Employment Program "PAEEJ", presented by the Prime Minister's Services.**

The Economic Empowerment and Youth Employment Program "PAEEJ" was set up by decree n ° 100/107 of April 07, 2021.

This decree provides for a steering committee responsible for giving strategic and political guidance on the implementation of the Program as well as a technical committee.

It was noted, however, that the smooth running of the activities of this Program was hampered by certain challenges, in particular the delay in setting up this technical committee as well as the excessive number of members of this committee, which, according to the same decree, counts 37 members.

The proposed modification is made in order to have a reduced number of staff of the technical committee and to facilitate its operation.

This draft decree proposes a downward revision of members by province, to choose one representative per region instead of one representative per province.

Representatives of the most involved sectoral ministries will be added to the composition.

At the end of the analysis, the project was adopted with the following recommendations:

- Consider five regions like those of the National Police;
- The Committee will be composed of 9 members as follows:
- A representative of the Prime Minister's Office;
- Five representatives from the five regions;
- A representative of the Ministry in charge of youth;
- A representative of the Ministry in charge of finance;
- A representative of young entrepreneurs

2. Draft National Planning Guide, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

Since the colonial era, Burundi has always developed policies and development plans to address its socioeconomic situation.

But the results remained mixed, due to a gap in the orientation of socioeconomic development as management was marked by the short and medium terms.

This is why Burundi has opted for the formulation of a long-term vision for 2025. This vision was the tool that inspired the development of the National Development Plan.

Although Burundi has produced these various planning documents, it does not have a harmonized guide serving as a model in the planning process at the national, sectoral and local levels, which poses a problem in terms of the alignment of all stakeholders in national priorities.

3

It is within this framework that this Guide has been developed. It is a reference document that shows the process, the steps, the guiding principles of planning, as well as the monitoring and evaluation tools, in order to make a harmonized planning.

The Council of Ministers had analyzed this document and returned it for further study and enrichment by the various ministries.

This new document takes into account the comments made by the various ministries.

After analysis, the project was adopted with the recommendation to replace the terminology “Community development plans” by “Communal community development plans”.

3. Note on the ex-EPB / GPSB file, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

On March 03, 2021, the Council of Ministers analyzed a Note on the report of the Commission for the analysis and validation of the value of the assets of the former EPB and determination of the contributions of the State in the company Global Port Services Burundi.

On this occasion, the Council of Ministers recommended to:

- Gather all that is related to the disputes of the former EPB so that they are emptied as quickly as possible in order to facilitate its liquidation;
- Separate what should be considered as a contribution of the State as capital and what Global Port Services Burundi should rent.
- Recover state property held by the former EPB as soon as possible, including by duress if necessary;
- Review all contracts where the interests of the state have not been properly taken into account;
- Study the file further and produce a more detailed note to facilitate the decision of the Council of Ministers;

This Note provides answers to the concerns expressed by the Council of Ministers.

After analyzing the content of the Note, the Council of Ministers reached the following conclusions:

- Carry out the necessary checks to find out the circumstances which made the 18 boats that the Kingdom of Belgium ceded to the State of Burundi find themselves in the hands of the company ARNOLAC and take the appropriate measures;
- Check whether other existing boats belonging to individuals have not been generated by vessels belonging to the State of Burundi;
- Properly value state assets in order to accurately define state actions in Global Port Services Burundi;
- Monitor the progress of disputes involving the State of Burundi and carry out the execution of those who have been tried;
- Check the account through which the rents for buildings and other goods pass;
- To the Ministries in charge of Transport and Infrastructures, to check in their archives whether there are any elements that can shed light on the buildings and other property belonging to the State but now in the hands of individuals;
- Proceed with the seizure of property illegally held by private individuals;
- To the Ministry in charge of Justice and that in charge of Finance, to collaborate to value the assets and identify other assets belonging to the State;
- To the Ministry in charge of transport, to properly calculate the updated capital held by the State in Global Ports Services Burundi as well as that of this company and thus know what the State must claim from this company;
- The Prime Minister will steer a committee made up of representatives of the General State Inspectorate and the Presidency of the Republic which will liquidate the EPB and hand over to the State the property it held.

4. Note on Burundi's application for membership of the East African Development Bank, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

On April 10, 2015, the Board of Governors of the East African Development Bank met in Arusha, Tanzania to consider the Republic of Burundi's membership application.

This Council unanimously resolved to admit the accession of Burundi as a class A shareholder, subject to compliance with the share subscription requirement set out in the Bank's treaty.

The total number of shares to be subscribed is 22,800, made up of 3,800 shares to be paid up and 19,000 callable.

The cost of a share is US \$ 17,300.

The Director General of the Bank requests confirmation of Burundi's intention to subscribe to the capital of the Bank, confirmation of the number of shares to which Burundi will subscribe as well as the subscription deadline.

After discussion and debate, the Council of Ministers gave its consent for Burundi to join this Bank and instructed the Minister in charge of finance to study ways and means of finding the necessary financing.

5. Draft decree establishing the protocol guide for 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 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.

6

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

The other innovation is the establishment of a top-down precedence list, taking care to include locally elected officials.

The Council of Ministers had analyzed this text which had been presented in the form of a bill, and among other observations and recommendations had emerged:

- Ensure that the matter is within the domain of the law with regard to the Constitution;
- State general principles only and reserve details in other application texts;
- Ensure that the protocol manual complies with laws, customs and Burundian culture;
- Establish compulsory training on protocol uses for persons assigned or appointed to functions relating to the Protocol;
- For some functions that may change name at any time, find a rather general name;

A team had been appointed to finalize the text by referring to the Burundian constitution, customs and culture and the Vienna Convention on diplomatic and consular relations.

It is this reworked draft which is proposed for second reading.

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

- For the use of the Halls of Honour, add the spouses of the personalities who have access to them;
- Check the numbering of the chapters:
- On the list of precedence:
- The President of the Constitutional Court comes directly after the President of the Supreme Court, followed in turn by the Leader of the Party in power;

- The Directors of Cabinet of the Vice-President of the Republic and of the Prime Minister come directly after the Heads of Cabinet of the President of the Republic;
- The general officers and the Police Commissioners come directly after the Heads of the Defense and Security Corps;
- The OBR Commissioner General comes directly after the Governor of the Bank of the Republic;
- The heads of academic and university establishments come directly after the Directors General and the Directors of Ministries and parastatal organizations;
- The Bishops come after the Leader of the Political Opposition
- Check repetitions;

6. Proposal for the method of financing the UVINZA-MUSONGATI railway project, presented by the Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism.

The Note includes proposals as well as observations made by the Ministries concerned by the file for the implementation of the Uvinza-Musongati railway project. Several financing options are possible:

- 1 ° the bank loan at 100% of the cost of the project;
- 2 ° the bank loan for a part and own funds up to 20 to 40% of the cost of the project;
- 3 ° the joint Burundi-Tanzania request to donors for 60% to 80% of the cost remaining to be mobilized;
- 4 ° the financing of the project by a mining concessionaire (Musongati nickel);

After analysis of the various options proposed, the combination of options, namely the mobilization of internal financing, the request for reorientation of certain grants and projects, as well as bank loans, was chosen as the mode of financing.

The following conclusions and observations were also made:

- The railway is one of the engines of development which will allow Burundi to revive its economy;

- It is necessary to finalize the road map for the construction of this railway and transmit it to the Tanzanian part, thus signifying the commitment of Burundi in this Project. In the meantime, the Minister of Foreign Affairs will send a Note Verbale to his Tanzanian counterpart confirming Burundi's commitment to this Project;
- The Ministers in charge of finance of the two countries will jointly analyze the financing modalities proposed by banks such as DTB and CRDB which are ready to finance this project;

7. Bill governing betting and gambling, presented by the Minister of Commerce, Transport, Industry and Tourism.

The Burundi National Lottery was created in 1985. Until 2000, only the instant scratch card game was offered to the public. It was during this year that another partner in the field of gambling started its activities with an exclusive concession contract to operate slot machines and other betting games.

In 2018, the Ministry in charge of finance lifted the exclusive operating rights of slot machines.

Today, the gambling industry is experiencing increased demand for licenses to operate various games.

The texts governing the national lottery and the contracts signed between it and the partner do not respond to all the concerns of the field of gambling, in particular the regulation and control of games, the settlement of disputes, administrative and penal sanctions, regulations games, etc...

This bill fills this legal void.

At the end of the analysis of this project, the Council of Ministers noted at first glance that certain games of chance are prohibited in Burundi. By creating the Burundi National Lottery, the objective of the Government was to collect money which will be redirected in development projects. Before putting in place a law governing these games of chance, it is necessary to clearly define what the Government wants to achieve.

It was therefore recommended to first develop a policy that shows the vision and objective of the Government in terms of games of chance as well as the ways and means to achieve them.

8. Draft decree revising Decree No. 100/090 of May 30, 1991 reorganizing the National Institute of Public Health "INSP", presented by the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS.

Since its creation in 1991, the National Institute of Public Health has continued to grow and expand its activities. The internal and external legal environment has continued to evolve.

The laws and regulations governing higher education in Burundi in general, and those governing higher medical and paramedical education, the provision of health care and services in particular, have changed a lot.

This draft decree is adapted to this new legal framework. This project also modernizes the internal administrative organization of the Institute as a higher education institution with related services.

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

- The presence of the Director of Academic Services alongside the Director General on the Board of Directors is not justified;
- The Scientific and Educational Council must be chaired by someone who is appointed by decree;
- Deadlines should not be set for the responsible minister to react to the decisions of the Board of Directors;
- Correct formal errors.

9. Bill on the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the grant agreement for the financing of the Support Project for the Improvement of Skills and the Employability of Women and Youth (PACEJ), presented by the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research.

This project involves a financing agreement of a grant of 80 million US dollars granted by the International Development Association.

It will be implemented over a period of five years and carried out throughout the national territory. It is structured in three components, namely:

- Improve the development of skills relating to the labor market;
- Promote youth entrepreneurship;
- Strengthen data systems for market-oriented skills development, project management and monitoring and evaluation.

The objective of the project is to improve access to supported opportunities in entrepreneurship skills development training for young people, especially women and refugees and to improve their skills in the labor market.

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

- Ensure that this funding does not disrupt the existing education system;
- Check that this program is in line with other on-going training programs for young people, in particular the Economic Empowerment and Youth Employment Program "PAEEJ";
- Prepare an implementation plan for this project for the Council of Ministers to ensure that it is compatible with the priorities of the Government;
- In the future, ensure that important projects funded by partners are first validated by the Council of Ministers;
- Get more involved in monitoring the implementation of projects executed in different ministries.

10. Any Other Business

The Council of Ministers reiterated the need to sensitize the population to compliance with barrier measures against corona virus, and to be screened regularly, because it is the only effective means against its spread compared to vaccination, the effectiveness of which being not yet been proven.

On this occasion, the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS informed the Council that doses of vaccine, donated by the People's

Republic of China are now available, while the first batch on a donation promised by the World Bank is expected between the dates of October 25 and November 15, 2021.

He said the vaccine will only be given to whoever wants it after registering.

It was also recommended that strategies be put in place to do routine screening for someone traveling from one province to another.

Before closing the meeting, His Excellency the President of the Republic reminded members of the Government to be more present on the ground to ensure that their services are meeting the expectations of the population.

Done at Bujumbura, October 15th, 2021

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

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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