



The President of the Republic Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE received the credential letters of four new Ambassadors



On tuesday, february 1, 2022 at Ntare Rushatsi Palace, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE received in audience four new Ambassadors who came to present to him their credential letters.

These are Mr. Aleli Admaso, Ambassador of the State of Israel; Ms. Isatu Aminata Bundu, Ambassador of the Republic of Sierra Leone; Ms. Sasirit Tangulrat, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand; as well as Mgr Dieudonné Datonou, Ambassador of the "Saint Siège".

The presentations of the Credential Letters were followed by fruitful exchanges during which the new diplomats pledged to work to strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation that their respective countries maintain with Burundi.

In this regard, the Apostolic Nuncio was delighted that Burundi is one of the few diplomacies that are based not only on

interests but above all on values.

Indeed, President Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE reaffirmed his attachment to the values of Ubuntu, which translate into diplomacy through mutually advantageous and respectful cooperation between the Nations of the

world. It was also an opportunity for the Head of State to recall that "Burundi has just begun a decisive phase of its socio-economic development" and that "cooperation must imperatively take into account the priorities set in the National Development Plan.

He reiterated the readiness of the Government of Burundi to agree, through permanent dialogue, on the best ways and means to consolidate bilateral relations.

(www.presidency.gov.bi)

In this Edition	page
The President of the Republic Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE received the credential letters of four new Ambassadors	1
Burundi officially becomes a member of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)	2
President Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE took part in the 35th Conference of Heads of Member States of the African Union	2
Burundi elected member of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union	3
The First Lady grants an aid to Bubanza high school	4
Israel promises to support OPDD-Burundi mission	5
Media release no1 consecutive to the Cabinet meeting held on wensday 02 february 2022	8

Burundi officially becomes a member of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)



The President of Burundi His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE officially announced the accession of the Republic of Burundi as the 42nd Member State of the APRM, during the vision conference of the 31st Forum of Heads of State and Government on february 4, 2022 at the presidential palace Ntare Rushatsi in Bujumbura.

"By voluntarily adhering to the APRM, Burundi is therefore making its contribution to the construction of an Africa char-

acterized by good, political and democratic governance with a view to sustainable socio-economic development", said the President NDAYISHIMIYE convinced that this mechanism will enable the Government to improve the effectiveness of its action.

As the APRM celebrates its 20th Anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, President Cyril Ramaphosa, at the same time Chairman of the 31st Forum of Heads of State and Government, did not fail to congratulate his counterpart Burundian His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE on this good news of Burundi's membership which, according to him, marks a momentum towards the inclusive and sustainable development of Africa.

"Unfortunately this good news coincides with the decline of democracy with putsches in Africa," said Ambassador Ombeni Ohana Sefue, Chairman of the Panel of Eminent Persons of the APRM who is ending his term.

The Burundian Head of State ended his address by reiterating his thanks to all APRM Member States and renewing his commitment to cooperate fully with the APRM and to participate actively in all its activities. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

President Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE took part in the 35th Conference of Heads of Member States of the African Union



The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE took part in the 35th Ordinary Conference of Heads of State

and Government which was organized from february 05 to 06, 2022 at the headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa, in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The theme adopted for this year is "Building resilience in nutrition and food security on the African continent: Strengthening agro-food systems, health, social protection system for the acceleration of economic, social and human capital".

During the opening ceremonies, in addition to the speeches presented by various speakers, the President of the Democratic Republic of Congo His Excellency Félix Antoine Tshisekedi passed a baton to President Macky Sall of Senegal, new President of the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union for one year. The opening

session was followed by a closed session during which several reports were presented by the designated Champions on various themes that concern the life of Africa, such as peace and security, the impact of COVID -19 on African economies, the granting of Observer Status to the State of Israel at the African Union, the reform of the African Union and the UN Security Council, etc. and Member States provided comments, advice and suggestions.

During this session, in his report on peace and security in Africa, the President of the Republic of Kenya His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta praised the remarkable efforts made by Burundi in the maintenance of peace and security, which led to its removal from the agenda of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. President Kenyatta encouraged other African leaders to draw inspiration from this Burundian model, so that in the long term Africa succeeds in silencing guns and putting out of action all the terrorist groups which daily mourn the continent.

On the sidelines of these meetings, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE exchanged with several of these African counterparts on subjects of common interest. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

Burundi elected member of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union



During the same meeting, former President Domitien Ndayizeye, proposed by the Government of the Republic of Burundi, was appointed Member of the Group of the Wise of the African Union, for a term of three years, on the proposal of the Government of Burundi. This Group, fifth, is composed of five members. In addition to the Former President of Burundi who represents the Central Africa Region, there is the Kenyan Effie Owuor for the East Africa Region, the Egyptian Amr Mahmoud Abu Zaid Moussa for the Africa as well as Mr. Babacar Kante, Senegalese, for the Southern Africa Region.

On the sidelines of the work of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, met various African leaders.

The 35th Conference of Heads of State and Government of the African Union has just approved the 15 members of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union who were elected by the 40th Session of the Executive Council of the Union African on february 3, 2022. These are Burundi, Congo, Tanzania, Uganda, Tunisia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Senegal and Gambia for a two-year term and Cameroon, Djibouti, Morocco, Namibia and Nigeria for a term of three years.

Burundi was completing another three-year term at the PSC and applied for another two-year term, representing the Central Africa Region. His candidacy was motivated by his contribution in various peacekeeping missions and his sacrifice in the stabilization of Africa.

We could mention in particular the meeting he had with Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairman of the African Union Commission, Akinwumi A. Adesina, President of the African Development Bank and Hon Henry Okello Oryem, Ugandan Minister of State in charge of Foreign. They exchanged mainly on the development of the different sectors of the socio-economic life of Burundi, the Vision of His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE and the respective contributions in order to be able to achieve the objectives of Agenda 2063, for an integrated, prosperous and in peace, governed by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena. It should be noted that this conference was closed on February 6, 2022. . (www.presidency.gov.bi)

Young Entrepreneurs Forum: The President of the Republic Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE pleads for the promotion of private sector professions that bring growth.



Under the High Patronage of His Excellency General Major Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, President of the Republic of Burundi, the Ministry of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism, in

collaboration with the Economic Empowerment Program and Youth Employment organized, on february 03, 2020, a National Forum of Young Entrepreneurs, at the INTWARI Stadium.

This Forum was placed under the central theme: "Successful young entrepreneurs: locomotive of endogenous development in Burundi" and had as objectives to bring young Burundian entrepreneurs to learn, to form networks, to share experiences and good practices , to motivate each other and therefore to be a source of inspiration for each of the participants.

This one-day meeting will have been a great showcase for the exchange and sharing of information; a framework that has enabled young entrepreneurs in activity to listen to practical advice or to better communicate around their

projects.

The work of the Forum under examination was also a favorable opportunity for His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE to give advice and practical instructions to young people in general and to Young Entrepreneurs in particular so that they can promote their self-development and therefore the development of the country:

“We are delighted with the contribution and mobilization of young entrepreneurs for the development of Burundi. This augurs better days for Burundi because the economic recovery will go through the promotion of private sector professions which are carriers of growth”.

All the participants in the work of the Forum have noted that it is essential to accompany and support young Burundian entrepreneurs. This is all the more true since they are the ones who have already created and will create future jobs, they who will provide solutions to today's problems tomorrow.

During the work of the Forum of Young Burundian Entrepreneurs, four themes were the subject of presentations with a view to emulating the reflection of the Participants in the said work and therefore formulating rec-

ommendations.

Through edifying testimonies on themes relating to the state of youth entrepreneurship, challenges and opportunities, young entrepreneurs show that economic exploits are achievable, while pleading for administrative facilitation of business.

The informal discussions that directly followed these presentations resulted in the formulation of useful recommendations for the promotion of entrepreneurship in Burundi, in particular the popularization of vocational training, the promotion of tax incentives, the simplification of administrative procedures and the gradual lifting of the measure suspending artistic gatherings, ...

After collecting their grievances, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE undertook to allocate funds for the construction and equipment of a large incubation center and to set up a commission responsible for reviewing the eligibility criteria for exemptions. .

Note that during this work, the President of the Republic Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE also conducted a guided tour of the stands of young Burundian creators and innovators in the agro-food, mechanical, ecological and technological fields. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

The First Lady grants an aid to Bubanza high school



The First Lady and President of the “Fondation Bonne Action Umugiraneza” made a series of visits to the province of Bubanza on tuesday, february 1, 2022. It granted food and non-food assistance to the needy.

First Lady Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE began her visit to Musigati commune in Bubanza province. On behalf of the “Fondation Bonne Action Umugiraneza”, she granted assistance to 50 female ex-combatants and widows of ex-combatants. This aid consisted of porridge flour, cooking oil, sugar, maize flour, beans, powdered milk, rice and loincloths.

After Musigati, the First Lady headed to Bubanza High School, a boarding school. She first took a guided tour

where she noticed that this school is facing a lot of challenges, especially the glaring lack of mattresses and the wear and tear of the dormitories and other premises.

Her Excellency Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE granted to Bubanza high school 100 mattresses and 100 beds and promised, on behalf of the “Fondation Bonne Action Umugiraneza”, 100 bags of cement as a contribution to plug the holes in the dormitories.

In her speech, the First Lady urged the natives of Bubanza, the local administrators, the businessmen of Bubanza to combine their efforts to restore the image of this school, to enhance the life of the students at the boarding school and to rehabilitate the dormitories of this high school. She pointed out that if the living conditions of the students remain precarious, it is difficult for them to achieve the expected results.

The First Lady also urged parents to help change the image of Bubanza High School. She laments that the children can lead a miserable life in boarding school while their parents lead a comfortable life.

Despite these challenges that haunt Bubanza High School, she encouraged students to discipline and put in a lot of effort to succeed in their studies in order to prepare for their future.

Note that Bubanza High School hosts 521 students with 297 boarding students. (www.rtnb.bi)

Israel promises to support OPDD-Burundi mission



The First Lady HE Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE received in audience on Wednesday February 02, 2022 the Israeli Ambassador to Burundi Aleli Admasu, with residence in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. They discussed cooperation between Israel and Burundi and in particular between the two platforms of OPDD-Burundi, including the “Fondation Bonne Action Umugiraneza” and the Office of the First Ladies for the Development of Africa.

After the audience, the Executive Secretary of OPDD-Burundi, Jean Bosco Girukwishaka indicated that Ambassador Aleli Admasu paid a courtesy visit to OPDD-

Burundi to discuss with the First Lady the projects and programs of the OPDD-Burundi in order to support them. Aleli Admasu first praised the actions of the two platforms of the first lady which aims to promote public health, assistance to the vulnerable and the education sector.

He also stressed that Israel is committed to establishing good relations with Burundi, especially in the areas of agriculture, health, innovation, solar energy and to attract Israeli investors to come and invest in Burundi, etc.

In order to support the two platforms of the OPDD-Burundi, Ambassador Aleli Admasu indicated that Israel intends to send trainers to promote the empowerment of women through the training provided either in Burundi or in Israel. In the health sector, the Israeli Ambassador to Burundi indicated that in Israel there is a "save a child heart" project which treats heart defects for which he promised that Burundian children will have the fully covered including free travel expenses. He also indicated that at the level of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, OPDD-Burundi can take advantage of opportunities through the Mashav agency project.

Alongside this courtesy visit, the Israel Ambassador to Burundi granted to OPDD-Burundi a donation of medical equipment, inputs to fight against Covid19, food and soap to assist the vulnerable. (www.rtnb.bi)

The Vice-President of the Republic enhances the National Unity Day ceremonies in Gitega



On behalf of the President of the Republic of Burundi, Vice-President

HE Ir Prosper BAZOMBANZA enhanced with his presence the ceremonies marking the celebration of the 31st anniversary of the adoption of the Charter of National Unity organized in the political capital in Gitega on Saturday 05 February 2022.

They began the day with the laying of wreaths at the monument of National Unity located in downtown Gitega, followed by various speeches. The provincial governor said that security is good in this province thanks to the unity that has become established within the population.

In his speech, the Vice-President of the Republic recalled that the Unity that had long characterized our ancestors was put to the test by the settlers using the

policy of divide and rule. He also paid tribute to the men who contributed to the consolidation of this national unity including Prince Louis RWAGASORE, the hero of independence and Melchior NDADAYE the hero of democracy in our country.

He added that national unity was the path that led us to the establishment of the Arusha agreements for peace and reconciliation in Burundi and the current constitution was inspired by this charter of national unity.

Returning to this year's theme, HE Ir Prosper BAZOMBANZA pointed out that there is still a spirit of rebellion in the country in some people, and to specify that the Burundian population does not tolerate anyone who dares to create disorder in the countries, and that it is therefore necessary to favor the path of dialogue to resolve any disputes.

The Vice-President of the Republic urged the Burundians who fled the country to return to combine efforts with their brothers and sisters in order to develop Burundi because peace and security are a reality throughout the national territory, and also appealed to the countries which have unjustly imposed sanctions on Burundi, to be able to lift them like the United States of America. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

Gitega: official handover of 50 heifers offered by the President of the Republic of Kenya



On behalf of the President of the Republic of Burundi General Major Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock Deo Guide Rurema received on February 03, 2022, fifty heifers offered by the Republic of Kenya. These heifers were handed over by the Kenyan Minister in charge of Agriculture Mr. Peter Munya. The cere-

monies took place at the cattle breeding center of Bitare in Bugendana commune of Gitega province. The donation of 50 cows offered by Kenya had been promised last year (in 2021) during the visit of the President of the Republic Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE to Kenya. This gesture shows the degree of friendship and cooperation that exists between the two countries, Burundi and Kenya, said Minister Deo Guide Rurema.

Minister Deo Guide Rurema said that this donation of 50 cows by Kenya to Burundi was accompanied by feed for livestock, animal seeds for artificial insemination, milk, traps to fight against fly disease tsetse and vaccines.

The 2 Kenyan and Burundian Ministers agreed on capacity building in the field of agriculture and livestock breeding between the 2 countries because Kenya has a lot of expertise in the field, indicated the Burundian Minister in charge of agriculture and livestock in Burundi. (www.rtnb.bi)

INSS: Prime Minister asks employers to contribute regularly for their employees



Prime Minister Alain Guillaume Bunyoni enhanced with his presence on Monday February 1, 2022 the information and validation meeting of the report of the technical commission responsible for proposing concrete measures for the implementation of social security reforms, pension component of retirement. The meeting was organized by the ministry in charge of national solidarity.

In his speech, Prime Minister Alain Guillaume Bunyoni said that this meeting was organized to improve the living conditions of a retiree who sacrificed all his efforts at work. He added that this meeting will contribute to enriching the report of the technical commission in order

to implement the reforms of the social security sector envisaged by the government of Burundi.

The will of the Head of State to grant a retirement pension at least equal to the net salary of the last month to the civil servant in activity is very well achievable, underlined the Prime Minister. And to specify that the technical commission found that over the period of 2010-2020, the back of unpaid contributions are estimated at 119,915,347,302 BIF.

The Prime Minister recommended to all public, parastatal and private employers to contribute regularly for their employees in order to improve the living conditions of pensioners because, he said, more than half of employers do not contribute for their employees.

Alain Guillaume Bunyoni urged employees to monitor and check whether their employers contribute regularly to avoid surprises at the end of their career.

The Prime Minister invited INSS officials to organize a census in the near future to identify contributing and non-contributing public, private and parastatal employers, their geographical location in the country and to encourage non-contributing employers to regularize their contributions as soon as possible to prepare for the implementation of the reforms envisaged by the Government.

Regarding the debts that the Government of Burundi owes to the INSS, Prime Minister Alain Guillaume Bunyoni has indicated that the State will soon regularize its situation with this institution . (www.rtnb.bi)

The Director General of Self-Development Mobilization and Agricultural and Environmental Extension at the Ministry in charge of Agriculture, Mr. Clément Ndikumasabo, on wednesday february 02, 2022, visited Rutana province to assess the progress of payment by the farmers



The Director General of Self-Development Mobilization and Agricultural and Environmental Extension at the Ministry in charge of Agriculture, Mr. Clément Ndikumasabo, on wednesday february 02, 2022, visited Rutana province to assess the progress of payment by the farmers advances in various micro finances, in order to obtain chemical ferti-

lizers.

Farmers of Rutana province report that paying the advances for chemical fertilizers takes them a long time because of the queues in front of the various local micro-finances.

Those in charge of these micro finances explain that the queues are caused by the staff insufficient.

Director General Clément Ndikumasabo reassures and promises to approach various stakeholders so that chemical fertilizers reach farmers on time. (www.rtnb.bi)

1

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI**PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat-General of the State****MEDIA RELEASE NO 01 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 02 FEBRUARY 2022**

A Cabinet Meeting was held on Wednesday 2nd of February 2022, 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 Wednesday 26 January 2022, 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 National Quality Policy of Burundi, presented by the Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism

The National Quality Policy is a basic instrument for the government in establishing and supervising the quality infrastructure system. It sets the objectives of this system, a roadmap and a timetable for putting it in place.

The National Quality Policy is part of the national strategy for economic and social development and aims to establish a culture of quality, both within the public administration and at the level of civil society and the private sector.

One of the main expected results of the National Quality Policy is the improvement of the country's ability to participate in regional and international trade through the promotion of our products and services and the competitiveness of Burundian companies.

The vision of this policy is “effective and efficient quality national infrastructure, in line with international standards for inclusive and sustainable development in Burundi, by 2027”.

At the end of the discussions, this policy was adopted with, among other recommendations, the following:

- Structure the text into chapters for better reading;
- Remove from the action plan the activities that can be carried out without the need for a specific budget;
- Show the source of the budget for each activity to be carried out;
- Ensure that this policy is financed from the State's own funds;
- Prioritize the following activities with the goal of BBN being an accredited laboratory as soon as possible;
- Provide the BBN with the necessary means and powers to enable it to accomplish its mission;
- Accelerate the establishment of the Burundian Regulatory Authority for Veterinary Products, Pesticides and Food (ABREVPA) as well as the National Agency for Quality Assurance of Medicines and Food Safety (ANAMSSA).

2. Sectoral strategy of the Ministry of National Defense and Veterans Affairs, presented by the Ministry of National Defense and Veterans Affairs

This sectoral strategy is a roadmap given by the Ministry for progress towards its vision, which is "To have a professional, modern National Defense Force capable of responding effectively to any form of threat to defence, in collaboration with other security actors.

3

It is a tool for operationalizing the National Development Plan in its areas relating to sustainable management of the environment, governance, security and national defence.

In addition to the National Development Plan, it is inspired by the national defense policy, takes into account the recommendations issued during the evaluation of the 2016-2020 strategic plan, and other forums.

Based on the major challenges identified, this Strategy essentially identifies three areas of intervention, namely: sustainable management of the environment, governance as well as security and national defense.

In order to concretize this strategy, the priorities and the phases to be followed have been determined to achieve the objectives set through the execution of the programs as they have been defined.

This strategy provides for a monitoring and evaluation framework to ensure the smooth running of activities, as well as a mechanism for mobilizing funding.

After discussion and debate, the strategy was adopted with a few corrections.

3. National strategy for the prevention of the phenomenon of street children and adult beggars as well as their community reintegration, presented by the Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender.

This strategy is part of the multisectoral dynamic of the Government to eradicate the phenomenon of children in street situations, by providing all stakeholders in the protection of children in Burundi with an adapted tool of strategic orientations.

It also includes cases of street children who have since become adult beggars, as well as other adult beggars.

Built on the vision of seeing a Burundi without children in street situations, this strategy responds to a double challenge: the protection of children and the consideration of public security imperatives.

The strategy initially proposes a process for managing the phenomenon, based on preventive actions which offer those concerned the alternative of remaining in the community (within the family) where they receive the necessary support in order to prepare their future.

Secondly, it provides support from their withdrawal from the street to follow-up, once integrated into the community or family of origin, passing through temporary transit centres where they prepare to return into their families and their communities to contribute to development.

In terms of implementation, the strategy defines a systemic approach where all stakeholders, everyone plays their role: families, community, administration, development partners, etc.

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

- Structure the document into chapters to make it easy to read;
- Rehabilitate existing transit centres;
- Set up a special reception centre for recalcitrant or repeat offenders and provide specific training and work for them;
- Enforce the law for adult beggars;
- Discourage certain associations that encourage and use street children in begging;
- For those who use babies in their begging who often are not their own, retrieve these babies until their mothers are found.

4. Note on the calculation of contributions and late payment increases for the careers of former PMPAs and career supplements for demobilized or early retired, presented by the Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs and Human Rights Human and Gender.

The creation of the National Defense Force of Burundi and the National Police of Burundi in 2004, by the integration within these two bodies of

5

elements which were not previously covered by social security had, as a consequence, a difference in treatment with regard to old-age pensions between the different components according to their origins.

In order to eliminate these disparities, commissions have been created to make the necessary calculations, taking as a reference as a contribution base, the salaries of personnel of equivalent rank in the former Burundian Armed Forces.

To do this, a sample by rank, age, year of recruitment (officers, NCOs and enlisted men) was drawn up.

From this sample, the INSS services took pay statements from the pay lists, with a view to finding the basis of contributions applicable to each case.

These remunerations are based on a ceiling of remunerations which has evolved over time.

The pension contributions have been calculated up to 31/12/2004, which corresponds to the last date before they are covered by the social security scheme managed by the INSS.

For former PMPAs from the FNL Movement, their pension coverage began on January 1, 2009, the date of their integration into the Defense and Security Forces.

The calculations made resulted in a total of pension contributions for the FDNB and the PNB equivalent to Thirteen Billion Seven Hundred Sixty Four Million Eight Hundred Twenty Thousand Four Hundred and Two Burundian Francs (13,764,820,402 Burundian Francs).

Following the discussion, the Council recommended the following:

- You have to make the necessary calculations so that the file follows the necessary process;
- The State must ensure that these amounts are paid quickly so that the rightful claimants are treated fairly;

5. Draft decree on the reorganization of a personalized State administration called the Directorate of Land Titles and the National Cadastre, presented by the Minister of Justice.

Since 2005, Burundi has embarked on a policy of decentralization of public administration and land reforms.

As part of these land reforms, many projects aimed at securing land rights and modernizing the land administration and management system have been undertaken.

However, all these efforts have come up against the problem of the dispersal of services in charge of land issues.

This situation has resulted in particular in the slowness of the registration system, the multiplication of procedures, costs and delays which discourage the population wishing to register their properties and their land transactions.

The application of the provisions of the Land Code has come up against the problem of coordination and separation of the services of Land Titles, the National Cadastre and the Municipal Land Services.

Decree No. 100/119 of December 18, 2020 on the organization and functioning of the Ministry of Justice resolved this problem by setting up a personalized administration of the Land Titles Department and the national cadastre.

It is currently a question of putting in place a text governing this new structure.

After discussion and debate, the Council of Ministers found that this Directorate, like other similar structures, has no capital to grow and therefore a Board of Directors is not necessary. He recommended that this project be reworked.

Pending the implementation of the texts, the Council of Ministers recommended that the staff of the Directorate of Land Titles and that of

the National Cadastre be remunerated according to their old scales with disbursement of arrears.

6. Draft decree on the creation, missions, organization and functioning of the Burundian Office of Buildings, Roads and Urban Planning (OBBARU), presented by the Minister of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing.

The Burundian Office of Urban Planning, Housing and Construction "OBUHA" and the Road Agency of Burundi "ARB" are Public Administrative Establishments all created in May 2019 by merging other structures. These are very young structures.

They are placed under the supervision of the Ministry of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing.

In terms of their missions, the OBUHA and the ARB have in common the construction and maintenance of roads, the ARB intervening on the classified network while the OBUHA deals with the unclassified urban network.

This separation of areas of intervention creates confusion as to whom to address grievances.

At the staff level, the two structures have staff with similar qualifications.

This project proposes the merger of these two entities to create a new structure called "Office Burundais des Bâtiments, des Routes et de l'Urbanisme" (OBBARU in acronym), which will provide the following advantages:

- The removal of the confusion that was created among grassroots administrators and individuals for services and grievances;
- The complementarity of intervention for the improvement of performance;
- The elimination of overlapping missions and interventions;
- Leveraging the seniority of current ARB units to initiate newly recruited OBUHA units;

- The elimination of redundant positions and the redistribution of roles and responsibilities.

After discussion and debate, the Council of Ministers made the following observations:

- The decentralization of this structure at the provincial level does not appear;
- The decree organizing the Ministry needs to be reviewed to incorporate the new structure;
- Some articles are redundant;
- A name other than “Office” must be found to avoid similarities with existing offices;
- As it is a State structure which carries out the work entrusted to it by it and with government’s funds;
- It is necessary to specify the control body of this structure;

7. Draft ministerial ordinance determining measures to safeguard road infrastructures and their rights of way, presented by the Minister of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing.

The national road network is a heritage whose preservation is a major concern of the State, given the preponderant role it plays in the development of the country.

Despite significant investments granted by the State, the road supply remains insufficient and does not yet offer a satisfactory level of service, due to the lack of maintenance of the road network, the non-observance of the admissible load at the axle, and urban sanitation problems.

With a view to improving the volume and quality of road transport supply, the State has created the Burundi Road Agency, which is responsible for the management and maintenance of the road network.

However, the regulations relating to road rights-of-way are incomplete, especially in terms of their conservation and management, which has negative consequences for the local populations and road users.

This draft decree aims to safeguard the road heritage by providing for measures for the determination, conservation and occupation of the rights-of-way of the road network.

At the end of the exchanges, the Council of Ministers adopted the project and recommended the following:

- Check the consistency between the titles of chapters and articles;
- Check whether the distances mentioned in this ordinance, are consistent with those contained in the texts that this ordinance comes to apply;
- Use the rights-of-way by planting trees there;
- Translate this ordinance into Kirundi and popularize it.

8. Bill for the settlement of the budget report of the Republic of Burundi for the 2020-2021 financial year, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

This budget review and report bill has its origins in Organic Law No. 1/35 of December 4, 2008 on Public Finances, which stipulates that these projects must be submitted to Parliament within 8 months of the end of the budget year.

An overall overview has been made of the previous fiscal years from 2015 to 2020, because it is the adoption of this type of project that allows the preparation and adoption of the State budget for the following year.

This is why the Ministry in charge of Finance has prepared this project to be transmitted to the Government for deliberation and to the National Assembly and the Senate for adoption.

The budget was executed both in revenue and in expenditure in accordance with the prescriptions of the law fixing the general budget of the Republic of Burundi for this Fiscal Year.

At the end of the discussions, the Council of Ministers adopted this project and recommended the following:

- Prepare the settlement bill and budget report for 2021-2022 on time;

- Specify the phases of budget preparation;
- Ensure that the OBR accounts for funds entering all state entities including those with autonomous management;
- Interconnect all OBR services;
- Inventory and value all State assets to consider it as capital;
- Computerize all public services.

9. Expenditure commitment ceilings for the third quarter of 2021/2022, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

Expenditure commitment ceilings are subject to regulations prescribed in certain texts, in particular the decree on budgetary governance, the decree on general regulations for the management of public budgets, etc.

They also comply with the law establishing the general budget of the Republic of Burundi for the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 which introduces in its article 50, the development of quarterly commitment ceilings for expenditure which must be validated by the Council of Ministers.

These commitments are made on the basis of receipts and therefore constitute an essential tool for regulating expenditure. They are in accordance with the State cash flow plan; concern all State expenditure, except those which are compulsory and incompressible, such as salary and debt expenditure.

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

After analyzing these expenditure commitment ceilings for the third quarter of 2021/2022, the Council of Ministers adopted them with, among other recommendations, to speed up the procurement process during this third quarter in order to facilitate their payment to the during this exercise.

10. Note on the request for approval for the subscription to the capital of the Development Bank of Central African States "BDEAC", presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

The Central African States Development Bank (BDEAC) was created in December 1975 and became operational in January 1977.

Although in accordance with its statutes, its area of intervention is made up of member countries of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) and shareholder member countries, it can intervene in other non-member countries.

It is in this context that in September 2021, the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning sent a letter to the President of the Bank to request the entry of Burundi into the share capital of BDEAC. The General Assembly of the Bank approved the entry of Burundi into the capital of this Bank.

The purpose of the note is to request the approval of the Government for the subscription to the capital of this bank.

Burundi's cooperation with BDEAC will bring many benefits to our country, in particular:

- Access to financing for its development projects;
- Burundian economic operators will have an additional opportunity to access financing on favourable terms.

The Council of Ministers gave its approval to the subscription to the capital of this bank.

11. Any Other Business

The Minister of National Education and Scientific Research presented a Note on the retraining of teachers.

He indicated that the Ministry had planned a skills assessment test for teachers in order to organize retraining for those who would need it the most, in view of the points obtained.

This is not a test to dismiss the weak or to devalue anyone, because the points obtained will not be made public, and will not even be disclosed to the teacher.

Despite these assurances, the teachers refused this test, and instead raised other issues that have nothing to do with this test such as the organization of network exams and salary policy, going so far as to threaten to engage in a strike.

The Council of Ministers was surprised by this attitude of refusal to be retrained because it is the only way to increase skills in teachers.

It was recommended to organize this retraining, and to have the teachers sign a performance contract which will serve as the basis for the annual evaluation.

Done at Bujumbura, February 3rd, 2022

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

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
Development Cooperation**

Department of Communication

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