



The European Union ready to finance projects in Burundi with an envelope of 194 million euros



on his commitment to fight against poverty, injustice as well as his determination to promote public freedoms and human

During the 6th African Union – European Union Summit, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE met Mrs. Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner in charge of international partnerships.

Their discussions focused on bilateral cooperation between Burundi and the European Union. The President of the Republic Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE briefly spoke about the priorities of the Government of Burundi, particularly in the employability of young people, the fight against poverty through Agriculture and Livestock supported for sustainable development, the fight against corruption and economic embezzlement, etc.

His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE was congratulated by the European Commissioner on the ongoing reforms in Burundi in all sectors of national life and

rights. Mrs. Jutta Urpilainen said that the removal of sanctions opens the way to new opportunities because, she said, everyone has a positive reading of the situation prevailing in Burundi in terms of development and the good image printed by President Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE. She also informed that the European Union is already ready to finance projects in Burundi with an already planned envelope of 194 million Euros over 4 years for job creation, human development, good governance and the right status as well as an envelope of around twenty million euros for biodiversity this year. (www.presidence.gov.bi)

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Burundi and the European Union committed to boosting relations



While speaking to the press on Sunday february 19, 2022 on his return from the Kingdom of Belgium mission on february

17 and 18, 2022 in Brussels, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE declared that Burundi and the European Union are committed to strengthening cooperative relations through the promotion of dialogue: "With the President of the European Council, we have reached a consensus that we will do everything to maintain our relations so that there are no more differences, and to do so, we must strengthen the dialogue".

The Head of State, who was accompanied by the First Lady to participate in the 6th European Union-African Union Summit, welcomes the fact that Burundi, during a round table on agriculture and sustainable development, had an opportunity to present their agricultural experience. "Given that Burundi, like the African Union, has dedicated this year to the agricultural revolution, we presented our strategies which were well appreciated because in less than 2 years we have seen positive results in the fight against hunger", he said, also referring to his satisfaction for the solidarity of countries in the fight against international terrorism with reference to the round table on peace and security organized during this Summit.

His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE also revealed that on the sidelines of this Summit he met with other Heads of State and Government, an opportunity which enabled him to thank President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya and Samia Suluhu for Tanzania for having invested in the fight against the lifting of the sanctions imposed by the European Union in Burundi.

The Burundian Head of State also indicated that his trip gave him the opportunity to exchange with the Burundian diaspora living in Europe. The Head of State welcomes the course of this meeting: "Even the opponents participated actively and positively; I was happy to see that the spirit of Burundians is changing towards the creation of a good environment for the future generation", suggested the President of the Republic.

He nevertheless castigated the behavior of some Burundians who still aspire to the disruption of peace and security, alluding to a handful of Burundians who demonstrated against the lifting of the sanctions which were imposed on Burundi.

"I was ashamed to see that there are still Burundians who do not love their country," lamented the Head of State, inviting the leaders of political parties to inculcate moral values in their militants, given that the mobilizer of these demonstrators was a member of the CNL party.

Note that the latter has joined the terrorists of eastern Congo who have only the aim of disrupting peace and security and killing innocent people. His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE indicated that he awaits the reaction of this political party to the behavior of that member.. (www.presidence.gov.bi)

The First Lady assists the vulnerable of Gatumba and Buyenzi



The First Lady of Burundi HE Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE, President of the "fondation Bonne Action Umugiraneza", granted aid on february 14,

2022 to 200 vulnerable families, in particular the elderly, from Mutimbuzi Commune in Gatumba zone of Bujumbura Province, and from Buyenzi in Mukaza Commune of Bujumbura Town Hall. This aid consisted of rice, beans, sugar, porridge, corn flour, salt and loincloths.

The total cost of this aid granted to Gatumba and Buyenzi is estimated at more than 54 million Burundian francs. HE Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE said that this aid was granted to these vulnerable people in order to wish them a Merry Christmas and the best wishes for the year 2022.

In Gatumba as in Buyenzi, the First Lady and President of the " fondation Bonne Action Umugiraneza" asked the vulnerable people she had just assisted to always show love, mutual help and sharing, everyone around them. (www.rtnb.bi)

Gitega: the President of the Senate joins the christians of the Pentecost Church of Magarama



The President of the Senate the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera and Legal Representative of the United Methodist Church in Burundi joined the Christians of the Pentecostal Church of Magarama in the commune and Gitega Province, during the worship in honor of the Lord, on february 13, 2022.

In his message of greeting to the Christians of this Church, the President of the Senate thanked the Pentecost Church in general for its contribution in the development of the Country.

Emmanuel Sinzohagera took this opportunity to ask Christians and all Burundians to thank God the Almighty who allowed the removal of sanctions against Burundi. The Senate President also asked Christians

and all Burundians to support and encourage the Head of State through prayer so that God grants him the wisdom and the ability to lead well the country and to lead good diplomatic relations with other countries. He asked them to support the President of the Republic through development activities.

The President of the Senate was subsequently invited to preach the word of God that day. Referring to the scriptures in the books of Job 42:2; Psalm 135:6; Jeremiah 1:11-12; and John 14:1-3, the preacher of the day reminded Christians that God calls them to holiness, and at the same time invites them to avoid sin.

In his message, the Servant of God urged the Christians to always hope in Jesus Christ. He expressly forbade them from running after the prophets, pointing out that the prophecies for every Christian are found in the scriptures. "Read the Bible and you will know God's plans for you, instead of following the false prophets," insisted Emmanuel Nsinzohagera.

He clarified that nothing can block the promises of God on someone, recalling that God is behind his word to fulfill it.

The Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament and Legal Representative of the United Methodist Church, ended his sermon by inviting the faithful of the Pentecostal Church of Magarama to pray without ceasing, because, he said, "prayer is the key that opens the doors to the impossible and breaks down all blockages". (www.rtnb.bi)

Burundi/Egypt: Adoption of a draft law on visa exemption for officials



The Burundian Senate in its plenary session proceeded on February 14, 2022 in its hemisphere of Gitega, to the analysis of the bill on the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the Agreement relating to the exemption of visas for hold-

ers of diplomatic, special and service passports between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and that of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation His Excellency Albert Shingiro presented the bill to the Senators and gave the necessary clarifications on certain aspects of this text of law.

As Minister Albert Shingiro explained, the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt are eager to promote the relations of friendship existing between them. They are also keen to further encourage cooperation on issues of mutual interest and thus the need to ensure a smooth flow of officials from each of the two Governments, he said.

According to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Burundi is ready to support and defend the interests of Egypt whenever necessary in the

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According to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Burundi is ready to support and defend the interests of Egypt whenever necessary in the logic of strengthening friendship through the use of visa-free passports for certain categories of persons mentioned in the Agreement. The ultimate goal of this bilateral relationship is to promote good relations between the two Governments.

After the explanations provided by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, the Senators unanimously adopted the bill on the ratification by Burundi of the Agreement relating to the exemption of visas for passport holders of diplomatic, special and service agreements between Burundi and Egypt signed on march 24, 2021 in Caro, the capital of Egypt. (www.rtnb.bi)

Towards the establishment of groups to monitor farmers' concerns



The Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock Dr Déo Guide Rurema met on Tuesday february 15, 2022, in a meeting with the Senior Executives of the Central Administration and the Directors of the provincial offices of this sector. They discussed ways and means to respond to the concerns of the population in order to restore the image of the country through the development of the agro-pastoral sector and the environment.

The Minister in charge of Agriculture and Livestock first made the restitution of the evaluation which was made before the President of the Republic on february 9, 2022 on the achievements during the 2022 growing season A and preparations for the 2022 season B.

During this meeting, Dr Déo Guide Rurema declared that the Head of State was satisfied with the level of achievements of this Ministry. This was an opportunity for the Minister to remind these Executives that this year was dedicated to Agriculture, which disposes them to be much more attentive to the concerns of the population.

The Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock also shared with the audience the sources from which the implementation of the Ministry's interventions is based as well as the main axes which guide the development of the agriculture and the environment. He specified that the Ministry is inspired by the Government, the messages to the nation and the advice of the President of the Republic, the document of the Ministry of orientation of the policy of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock which contains the main lines of development in all sectors as well as this year which is dedicated to agriculture. He agreed with these Executives to limit office work to dwell on the concerns of the population in terms of fertilization, in terms of seeds and in terms of close supervision. They also agreed to set up monitoring and working groups. According to the Minister, the first group will concern the services of the SRDI with the Directors and Advisers of the Ministry, the BPAEs of Cibitoke, Bubanza and Bujumbura provinces, to properly monitor the con-

cerns of rice farmers in terms of fertilization and seeds but also in cooperative monitoring terms.

The Minister Dr Déo Guide Rurema has also hinted that the Ministry will set up other working and monitoring groups which will be led by the Provincial Environment, Agriculture and Livestock Office (BPEAE) and which will deal with the grievances of the population throughout the

country. And to add that the meeting ended on a note of satisfaction because, according to him, the Ministry is on the right track and the level of production is satisfactory. He made a point of specifying however that unity and complementarity remain the watchwords which will henceforth characterize the functioning of this Ministry. (www.rtnb.bi)

Towards the development of joint Annual Action Plans between the Ministry of Home Affairs and development partners



The Minister of home Affairs, Community Development and

Public Security Mr. Gervais Ndirakobuca proceeded on february 15, 2022 to the opening of the joint planning meeting of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security with the development partners who finance the programs and projects of this Ministry.

Opening this meeting, Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca indicated that this meeting was part of the consultation, collaboration and synergy promoted by the Head of State Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE and the Burundian Government guided by the guiding principle "together everything is possible".

He further indicated that the purpose of this meeting was to establish contact between the steering and technical committees and the development partners. It was also an opportunity to discuss the financing of the Annual Action Plans, fiscal year 2022-2023 that the Ministry has prepared as part of the Government's program budget.

Mr. Gervais Ndirakobuca recalled that during the government retreat of july 23, 2021, the Head of State gave an instruction that during the 2022-2023 financial year, program budgets and program contracts must be drawn up. According to him, the program budget reflects the Government's desire to focus on the progress of initial investments. It was then recommended to the members of the Government to draw up joint Annual Action Plans and to integrate the Action Plans of the development partners into the Government Action Plans.

For Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca, the Government policy expects development partners to make an investment that leaves a positive visible impact in the communities.

He pointed out that the activities relating to workshops and meetings which are organized on several occasions and which even distract the population and the administrative staff and which generally benefit the beneficiaries should be reduced significantly. He added that the sum of the annual budget used to organize workshops and meetings, there is a way to use these funds in sustainable investment, more useful to the population, in particular the construction of socio-economic infrastructure or school equipment without desks, said the Minister in charge of community development.

To face these challenges, the Minister indicated that the Government will accelerate the integrated national program of electronic governance so that these meetings are organized virtually where they are compulsory and essential, the Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca recommended the limitation of their frequency and above all the reduction to the strict minimum of their budget. During interventions, the development partners requested sufficient time to take ownership of the Action Plan of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security, fiscal year 2022-2023 and identify projects and programs on which they will focus.

Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca invited the development partners to take charge of this Action Plan so that on Monday, february 21, 2022, it will be transmitted to the Highest Authority for validation and integrate it into the Government Action Plan. Among the major projects and programs of the Ministry of Home affairs, Community Development and Public Security are the digitization of civil status services, the villagization program for Community Development, the digitization of municipal revenue collection and expenditure, the reception and integration of returnees, the construction of classrooms and accommodation at the higher institute of the national police, the networking of border posts, the acquisition of fire-fighting machinery and equipment, etc.

Development partners, members of the steering committee and technical committee of the 2021-2027 strategic plan as well as the focal points of ongoing programs and projects took part in this meeting. (www.rtnb.bi)

The CNIDH presents the 2021 annual report to the National Assembly



The President of the Independent National Commission for

Human Rights CNIDH Sixte Vigny Nimuraba, presented on february 17, 2022 the 2021 annual report of this commission to the National Assembly. The presentation of the report was followed by exchanges between the Deputies and the President of the CNIDH.

In his report, the President of the CNIDH Sixte Vigny Nimuraba mentioned certain cases of human rights violations, including people who remain detained despite having been acquitted by the courts or having served their sentences, in particular at the central prison of Mpimba.

During the year 2021, the CNIDH carried out 271 visits to the cells of the communal police, police stations and prosecutors' offices, said Sixte Vigny Nimuraba. And to add that the CNIDH has found that some detainees spend several days without being questioned or invited to countersign the police custody reports. Some are even released without being informed of the reasons for their arrest, he continued.

Sixte Vigny Nimuraba also said that the CNIDH has recorded cases of detainees who are mistreated and beaten during or after their arrest. The most

recent case is that of a detainee K.M. who, on december 22, 2021, succumbed to the effects of beatings administered to him by his fellow detainees in the cell of the PJ Ngozi police station. And to specify that the authors of these packages are often the OPJ, the fellow prisoners and the people who replace the judicial authorities.

As part of the fight against torture, the CNIDH recorded 7 cases of allegations of torture. It has conducted investigations to verify these allegations and has already submitted three cases to the Public Ministry for prosecution. Regarding the right to life, the CNIDH has recorded 42 cases of violation of the right to life, including 35 related to allegations of enforced disappearance, said Sixte Vigny Nimuraba.

He indicated that during the year 2021, the CNIDH also carried out various activities to promote human rights and others related to its advisory role in the field of human rights.

In his comment on the 2021 CNIDH report, the President of the National Assembly, the Right Honorable Gélase Daniel Ndabirabe, considered that it is an unbalanced, incomplete report in which only one party appears, the State.

The president of the CNIDH replied that we speak of a violation of human rights when there are agents or institutions of the public sector who are involved. Considering that this report is the first draft, Gélase Daniel Ndabirabe recommended to the president of the CNIDH, to enrich it, taking into account the observations made by the Deputies. Nevertheless there will be no other presentation before the Deputies, once completed, the report will only be deposited at the office of the National Assembly. (www.rtnb.bi)

The Governor of Bujumbura holds a public conference



Land disputes are the major concern of the inhabitants of Maramvya and

Rukaramu zones, in Mutimbuzi commune of Bujumbura Province.

This is what emerges from the public conference held on february 15, 2022 by the Governor of Bujumbura Province Mr. Désiré Nsengiyumva. The objective of the conference was precisely to listen to the

inhabitants of these administrative entities.

These land conflicts are exacerbated by deceitful practices, fraud, the use of false documents, physical threats, people who assume the right to despoil state and individual lands, the absence of neutrality at the judicial level, etc.

The inhabitants of the peace village of Maramvya wish to have the documents of their plots, drinking water, a public health center because the plot reserved for the health center has been sold and they ask for the building of the district market.

After the questions of the population, the Governor of the Bujumbura Province Désiré Nsengiyumva asked the heads of certain services to shed light on certain con-

cerns expressed.

To the question of the documents of the plots in the village of Maramvya, the answer was that the law prohibits giving documents before 15 years, the speaker also specified that it is strictly forbidden to sell the plots acquired in the villages.

Regarding drinking water, the problem is related to low flow and people who use water without meters, but the population was called not to despair, because there is another water catchment which will bring slight better. But on the one hand, households connected to the water network must use meters and pay for their consumption, and on the other hand, there must be people who take responsibility for managing the public taps that the Regideso has closed, continued the speaker.

These answers given by the person in charge of water were supported by the provincial Governor, because water consumption must be paid for.

As for people who have land disputes dealt with by the

CNTB, they were asked not to delay withdrawing the decisions taken by this commission, to make other appeals in the event of non-satisfaction.

For those who complain about the judgments rendered by the courts, the President of the High Court (TGI) of Bujumbura replied that soon the Minister of Justice will visit the province and will have the opportunity to listen to them. But the concerned will have to be registered with the TGI. When asked about the market which has not yet been built in Maramvya when people had already paid certain fees to have places, the population was reassured and asked to wait because it is the State which is going to build this market in through the FONIC.

To close, the Governor of Bujumbura Province promised to take in hand all the questions asked in order to find answers for the interest of the population and that justice should be done. (www.rtnb.bi)

Civil society welcomes the removal of sanctions against Burundi



Burundian civil society organizations organized demonstration walks

on february 13, 2022 to express their gratitude to the leaders and especially to the Burundian Head of State HE Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, for their enlightened leadership which led to the removal of the sanctions imposed on Burundi by some partners.

In Bujumbura Town Hall, the demonstration march was led by Mr. Aimé Pascal Nduwimana, legal Representative of MAC and was supported by the Mayor of Bujumbura Town Mr. Jimmy Hatungimana.

Parliamentarians and administrative officials joined the population in this march of demonstration of joy.

The facilitators returned to various programs of the Head of State, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, which aim to improve the well-being of the Burundian population, including cooperatives, the development of the agricultural sector, programs aimed at empowering young people and women, the consolidation of peace and reconciliation, the normalization of relations with the international community, etc.

They did not forget to highlight the wisdom of the Head of State in leading the country. Participants in the march

started from United Nations Square near COTEBU Market, took the "Boulevard du Peuple Murundi" and headed towards the Old East building where the EU Ambassador's office is located.

But before getting there, they paused during which they implored the divine blessings on the Head of State Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE and the Mayor of the Town.

In front of the office of the EU Ambassador, they declared that they are satisfied with the removal of sanctions against Burundi.

Hamza Burikukuye, representing the civil society organizer of the demonstration walk, in his word for the occasion, welcomed the decision recently taken by the United States of America to remove the sanctions against Burundi. He also expressed his gratitude to the European Union which has just handed over to the Burundian Head of State the document removing the sanctions.

Burundian civil society organizations also thank the Burundian authorities, starting with the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE and his Government because the step taken is the fruit of their patriotism.

Civil society took the opportunity to remind citizens of their duties, including maintaining peace and security, respecting the law and the institutions of the country, participating in development work, joining the cooperative program and other development associations. (www.rtnb.bi)

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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.

2

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

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;

6

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.-**

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