



President NDAYISHIMIYE gives a positive assessment of his visit to Italy



Upon his arrival in Bujumbura on Wednesday, March 30, 2022 after a working visit to Italy, the Head of State, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, who was accompanied by the First Lady, expressed his satisfaction with the progress of his mission in Rome.

The Head of State indicated that his meeting with His Holiness Pope Francis was not only an opportunity to strengthen relations between the State of Burundi and the Holy See, but also an opportunity to discuss the

situation prevailing in Burundi.

“I told him that Burundi is going through a period marked by national reconciliation and the start of socio-economic development. He was satisfied with the good governance and the promotion of inter-religious dialogue and encouraged us in this direction”, he said, adding that he also made him aware that Burundi plans to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the coming of Christianity next year.

“I invited him to come to Burundi to celebrate this event with us, something he accepted spontaneously” revealed the Number One Burundian.

In this édition:

page

President NDAYISHIMIYE gives a positive assessment of his visit to Italy

1

The DRC now a member of the East African Community

2

The public broadcast of Institutional Spokespersons hosted at the Rutana Stadium

3

Vice President Bazombanza takes part in the EAC Summit

4

Professional retraining, an alternative to deal with unemployment

5

The Minister in charge of Public Health visits Rumonge Hospital

6

Resumption of passport production

6

Another subject on the menu of their exchanges is the construction of a basilica on the sacred mountain of Mugera with the support of the Holy See.

During his visit to Rome, the President of the Republic also met the Secretary of State with whom they reviewed the status of the implementation of the Framework Agreement signed in 2012 between the State of Burundi and the Catholic Church. The question relating to truth and reconciliation in relation to the tragic events that have bereaved Burundi was also raised: "He asked me where we are with the investigations; I explained to him that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is working to reveal the truth about all the crimes that have been committed," he said.

The President of the Republic also hinted that, during his stay in Italy, he visited the headquarters of the FAO where he met with the Director General of this organiza-

tion, Mr Qu Dongyu, to talk about the development of agricultural techniques to fight against hunger and improve the nutrition of the population.

His Excellency President NDAYISHIMIYE said he also met with Italian economic operators grouped within Confindustria, an organization representing more than 150,000 Italian companies. Together they explored investment opportunities and facilities in Burundi.

The Head of State finally mentioned his meeting with the Sant'Egidio Community, a community that has played an important role in the consolidation of peace in Burundi. "It was an opportunity to thank them for their efforts in the peace process. They know my ideology in relation to the strengthening of peace and national unity and have promised to continue to support us in the various programs," he concluded. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

The DRC now a member of the East African Community



The Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi HE Prosper Bazombanza represented on tuesday, march 29, 2022, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE at the 19th Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State of the East African Community.

During this Summit, the member countries of the East African Community (EAC) approved the candidacy of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as

a member country of East African Community.

This candidacy was unanimously supported by all the Heads of State and Government of the EAC who participated remotely by videoconference in this summit which was led by Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta.

The Vice-President of the Republic HE Prosper Bazombanza said that Burundi has projects in common with the DRC to defend within the EAC, citing in particular the Uvinza

-Musongati-Kindu railway line passing through Gitega and Bujumbura.

HE Prosper Bazombanza explained that this railway will allow the easy movement of goods and people between the different member countries of the East African community, especially Tanzania, Burundi and the DRC.

The Vice-President of the Republic also indicated that the use of the French language within the East African

Community was now official. In all EAC meetings, there will be simultaneous translation from French to English and vice-versa, he added.

Congolese President HE Félix Tshisekedi said he was very satisfied with this historic decision for the Congolese people.

At the end of the summit, the DRC was asked to ratify the treaty creating the EAC before september 29, 2022, to be an effective member of this community. (

(www.rtnb.bi)

The public broadcast of Institutional Spokespersons hosted at the Rutana Stadium



On the instructions of His Excellency the President of the Republic, the public broadcast of institutional spokespersons, which is organized quarterly, was held for the first time at the Stadium in the Province of Rutana, on Friday, March 25, 2022 giving the opportunity to populations to ask questions on the various subjects that are important to them.

In his opening remarks, the Spokesperson of the President of the Republic, Honorable Evelyne Butoyi first presented the wishes of peace and prosperity on behalf of His Excellency the President of the Republic to the Burundian population. She also returned to the measure recently taken by the government of Burundi to prohibit access to certain places in Bujumbura City Hall for bicycles, motorcycles and so-called Tuk Tuk tricycles. She meant that this measure was taken to prevent road accidents, and reassures the population, in the name of His Excellency President Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, that its effects will be

very positive and will meet the general interest.

Still through his message read by His Spokesperson, His Excellency the President of the Republic urges farmers to save production by keeping it in storage sheds to avoid possible damage and shortages at a time when the country is observing an increased agricultural production.

With regard to good governance, the Honorable Evelyne Butoyi informs Burundians that President Evariste

NDAYISHIMIYE is determined to fight against corruption and mismanagement by setting up a single account of the Public Treasury to facilitate the monitoring and execution of projects.

Given that the grievances of Burundians mainly concern the justice sector, the Head of State reminds the Magistrates of their duty to set an example and to be fair. His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE specifies that the Highest Authority only intervenes if all remedies have been exhausted, said Honorable Butoyi.

Questions that were raised by journalists and the population concern in particular the suspension by the Government of Burundi of the mining contract, the salary policy, the application of the measure granting a pension equivalent to the last salary, the report of the TRC on the Hutu genocide, the availability of chemical fertilizers, the shortage of sugar, to name a few.

Concerning the suspended mining companies, the State Spokesperson affirms that deficiencies in the

contracts and irregularities in their execution are at the origin of their suspension. Financial guarantees are now required by the State to attest to credibility. As for the concerns related to the implementation of the salary policy, the State Spokesperson Mr. Prosper Ntahorwamiye reassures the civil servants that the harmonization of salaries is a priority of the Government and that studies are already underway.

After the progress report presented by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CVR) qualifying the 1972 genocide perpetrated against the Hutus under the Michel Micombero regime, it is indicated that the Government is currently analyzing all the data to propose a Project of law relating thereto.

On the unavailability of chemical fertilizers, the Spokesman of the Ministry of Agriculture indicates

that the distribution will be accelerated in the provinces so that the population can go about their agricultural activities normally in accordance with the call launched by the Chief of State.

According to the Spokesman of the Ministry of National Solidarity, the Law governing pension systems has been revised to adapt to the measure of the Government of Burundi to give a pension equivalent to the salary and the revision of the texts governing the institutions in charge pensions will soon follow.

In order to cut short the shortage of sugar which is often observed in the country, the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Industry urges entrepreneurs to invest and create other industries to increase the production of sugar and cement in order to manage to export these products and thus bring in foreign currencies. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

Vice President Bazombanza takes part in the EAC Summit



On behalf of the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, the Vice-President of the Republic HE Prosper BAZOMBANZA participated, by videoconference, in the summit of Heads of State of the EAC to analyze the accession of the Democratic Republic of Congo to the East African Community on Tuesday, March 29, 2022

The Vice-President of the Republic HE Prosper BAZOMBANZA said that all countries have unanimously accepted the full integration of the Demo-

cratic Republic of Congo into the East African Community. He also recalled that the Democratic Republic of Burundi maintains good relations with Burundi as well as with the other countries of the Community, as evidenced by the various regional projects which have been carried out, among other things, the railway project which will soon connect the United Republic of Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo via the Republic of Burundi.

The Vice-President of the Republic took the opportunity to present his deep condolences to the Republic and the people of Uganda, following the death of the Speaker of the National Assembly. And to add that the Republic and the people of Burundi join forces with the Ugandan people during these times of hardship.

He ended his remarks by also specifying that this summit was an opportunity to officially establish the use of the French language in the various meetings of the East African Community to allow all participants to express themselves easily and without difficulty. . (www.presidency.gov.bi)

Professional retraining, an alternative to deal with unemployment



From now on, political and public officials at the end of their term of office will no longer be able to return to their original institutions. Reason, they are replaced as soon as they leave and their return would lead to an increase in the payroll. This statement is from the Minister of Public Service, Labor and Employment, Dr Thaddée Ndikumana, during a two-day workshop on professional retraining, a workshop organized in Gitega from march 28 to 29, 2022 by the said Ministry , for young unemployed graduates and political and public officials.

During this workshop, the Minister Dr. Thaddée Ndikumana indicated that this measure is provided for in the new Government policy in relation to the labor market, which advocates socio-professional retraining.

The Minister of the Public Service, Labor and Employment explained that professional retraining provides that political and public officials at the end of their term of office will no longer resort to reintegration into their original institutions, provided that they have already been replaced. According to Dr. Thaddée Ndikumana, these political and public officials will rather have the duty to create their own jobs with capital from their supplementary pensions, employers' shares and their own savings.

Young people were called upon to create bankable projects to be submitted for financing to the Youth

Investment Bank (BIJE) or the Economic Empowerment and Youth Employment Program (PAEJE). Young people have indicated that their projects take time to be analyzed and that funding is slow to come even when these projects have been accepted by funding institutions. On this subject, the Minister specified that, for these young people to be able to access funding from the PAEJE or the BIJE, they must be in cooperatives or associations and their projects must be developed in accordance with the requirements of these funds that the Government created.

For the Minister in charge of the Public Service, the socio-professional retraining policy aims to instil in the two categories of job seekers the spirit and the need to develop bankable projects to submit them for financing to financial institutions, in order to that they can create their own jobs and hire others.

He also said that these projects must also be carefully studied to ensure that they will not work at a loss and that these funds will be profitable.

Nevertheless, the Minister Thaddée Ndikumana reassured, specifying that the PAEJE began to sign contracts with the cooperatives of the young people who do not have guarantees to help them to start their projects, and especially the projects related to agriculture and breeding. (www.rtnb.bi)

The Minister in charge of Public Health visits Rumonge Hospital



The Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, Dr Sylvie Nzeyimana carried out a field visit to Rumonge hospital on Wednesday, march 30, 2022. The purpose of this descent was to see the climate in which the staff of this hospital is working, to inquire about the situation prevailing in the hospital and to note the reception reserved for the patients who frequent this hospital. The Minister in charge of Public Health, accompanied by other executives from his Ministry, met with the heads of various departments of this

hospital." During the interviews, they told us that they are not very easy in their functions, that sometimes they lack equipment to be able to work well, indicated the Minister in charge of public health.

Certain materials, including drugs that are often missing and laboratory reagents that are not always available, are among the causes preventing the staff of this hospital from performing their duties well.

"They told us that there are officials of this hospital who do not perform their duties well to manage the hospital well, specified the Minister in charge of Public Health."

Dr. Sylvie Nzeyimana recommended to the management of this hospital to perform their duties well by facilitating the hospital staff by all available means of the hospital so that the staff can work properly. She encouraged the staff of the Rumonge hospital, explaining that despite the problems encountered, to continue to work well to meet the needs of the patients who attend this hospital because, she said, caring is a vocation and even a sacrifice. (www.rtnb.bi)

Resumption of passport production



This is good news for applicants for travel documents, the Commissioner General of Migration Major General of Police Maurice Mbonimpa announced Monday, march 28, 2022, in a press briefing, that the production and issuance of passports has since resumed. Friday, march 25, 2022. He reassured that by the end of April all passport

applicants who have already paid will be served.

According to the General Commissioner for Migration, passports have been produced following the order of registration since last October. And the new machines have a production capacity of 1,000 passports per day, he added.

He said that to counter the risk of stock shortages, the General Commissioner for Migration has ordered fifty thousand passports. And to specify that the General Commissioner for Migration has already received a first batch of five thousand passports.

Other batches will arrive in the coming days so that there will be no interruption in the production and granting of this travel document, concluded Police Major Maurice Mbonimpa, Commissioner General for Migration. (www.rtnb.bi)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and

Development Cooperation

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