



All Burundian refugees are asked to return back home



On thursday, april 21, 2022, when returning from the Nairobi Summit, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE called on Burundian refugees, criminals or not, to return back to the country.

"I take this opportunity to appeal to Burundians who are in the East of the DR Congo, like those who are outside the country, criminals or not, to return back to their homeland. However criminal they may be, they will be treated like the children of the country," said President NDAYISHIMIYE after recounting the conclusions and concrete actions that will be taken to restore

order in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which very recently became member of EAC.

Given that the DRC is holding local and foreign armed gangs, an inclusive and unconditional political dialogue begins on friday, april 22, 2022, while the others are asked to return back to their respective countries.

According to the Burundian Number One, a regional force will be put in place to defend the region, and apply military mechanisms to all negative forces. The participants of the meeting demanded that the military authorities already begin its planning.

The Summit had seen the participation of the Republic of Burundi, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda, the DRC, but it was finally agreed to engage Tanzania and South Sudan for a stable region. (www.rtnb.bi)

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Easter Celebration at Kibumbu Parish



The President of the Republic, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, together with his family, joined on this Easter day, the Christians of the Kibumbu Parish, in Mwaro province. In his homily, the Bishop Emeritus Mgr. Simon NTAM-

WANA called on Christians to make Christ's Easter their own by fighting for goodness, truth and love.

The President of the Republic, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE told the leaders that they should use the model of Christ to have a better Burundi.

"Jesus loved man to the last drop of his blood; leaders should use this model by fighting against impunity and injustice for a better Burundi," said President NDAYISHIMIYE. He also asked Christians to pray for him so that he can govern well the country.

The Easter festivities in this parish were marked by the songs and praises of choirs, including one from Mwaro Artillery Brigade. Gifts were given to the Burundian Number One and the "Fondation Bonne Action" for their contributions in the rehabilitation of this Church which had been hit by torrential rains. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

The National Assembly adopts two bills



The National Assembly adopted two bills on tuesday, april 20, 2022, all presented by the Minister of Social Affairs, Human Rights, National Solidarity and Gender Madam Imelde Sabushimike.

These are the bills on the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the additional protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights relating to the rights of the elderly and the bill on the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the Additional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of People with disabilities.

Regarding the first bill, Minister Imelde Sabushimike explained to the deputies that the Additional Protocol to the Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights on the

Rights of the Elderly was adopted by the 26th ordinary session of Heads of State of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on january 31, 2016.

The idea of having a legal instrument governing the elderly was born from the observation that people of the third age are becoming socially marginalized, who come up against numerous constraints and are not the object of attention from public authorities. These people are objects of contempt within the communities which perceive them as useless burdens, continued the Minister.

She added that in Burundi the elderly are in great need of social protection from the State but also of community mutual aid which has always characterized Burundians.

After the age of 60, old people are faced with health problems and poverty. By ratifying this protocol, the Government of Burundi will have the means to help the elderly regain their former status which has been completely degraded, said the Minister in charge of Human Rights Madam Imelde Sabushimike.

Regarding the second bill, the Minister in charge of Human Rights told the elected representatives that the Protocol on the Rights of Persons with disabilities was adopted on january 29, 2018 in Addis Ababa. The objective was to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all

human rights and fundamental freedoms inherent in persons with disabilities as well as to promote and protect these rights and freedoms. This protocol therefore revitalizes the commitment of African

States to requalify and reconsider the value of all human beings without distinction. People with disabilities should be accepted as partners and actors in development.(www.rtnb.bi)

Senate unanimously adopts four bills



On thursday, february 21, 2022, the Senate of Burundi met in its hemicycle of Gitega in plenary session, chaired by the President of the Senate the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera. The Senators analyzed and adopted four bills. Three Ministers, namely, the Minister in charge of National Education, that of Public Health and the Minister in charge of National Solidarity respectively explained the reason for these bills.

The first was a bill on the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the agreement in the field of education, between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the Federative

Republic of Brazil. This bill was presented by the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research, Doctor François Havyarimana who represented the Government.

The second bill was presented by the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS Doctor Sylvie Nzeyimana. This is a bill on the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the financing agreement Nr. D9640-BI between the Republic of Burundi and the International Development Association IDA in favor of the Covid-19 preparedness and response project in Burundi, Additional financing signed in Bujumbura, on january 28, 2022.

As for the Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender Imelde Sabushimike, she presented two bills. The first was a bill on the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the additional protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights relating to the rights of persons with disabilities. The other bill concerns the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights relating to the rights of the elderly.

After the explanations provided before the Senate by these various Ministers, the Plenary Assembly of the Senate unanimously adopted all four bills. (www.rtnb.bi)

Ngozi: the President of the Senate calls on Christians to promote Charity



The President of the Senate the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera was in the province of Ngozi on sunday, april 17, 2022 where he shared the Easter feast with the Christians of the Church of the Rock in the capital of the province of Ngozi in the Rubuye district. In his message of greetings to the Christians of the

Church of Rock of Ngozi, the President of the Senate the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera wished a happy Easter to all Burundian Christians who believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He indicated that Easter is a reminder of God's love for his people. The President of the Senate urged all Christians to share their meals in their families with the poor in the joy of the Easter holiday.

On the occasion of the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ at the Church of Rock of Ngozi, the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, President of the Senate reminded Christians that the covid-19 pandemic still exists and that we must observe barrier

measures by favoring hand washing practices. To students on vacation, he appealed to get tested before returning to boarding schools. The Christians of the Church of Rock of Ngozi

offered the President of the Senate gifts consisting of agricultural and livestock products to thank him for having shared with them the joy of Easter. (www.rtnb.bi)

Easter: the Prime Minister preaches faith in God



The Prime Minister Alain Guillaume Bunyoni and his spouse shared the prayer and the joy of Easter with the Christians of the Emmanuel Nyabaranda Church, in Kanyosha zone,

Bujumbura town hall. In greeting the Christians, Mr. Alain Guillaume wished them a happy Easter, the feast of the resurrection of Christ. He told them that Easter is victory. He returned to the love of God manifested through his only son Jesus Christ who died so that we may be saved from sin. In response to this love Prime Minister Alain Guillaume told the Christians of the Emmanuel Nyabaranda Church that believing in God then becomes an obligation, moreover he said, without faith, one cannot go anywhere in the life, faith in God the key to success in all things. In his sermon, Prime Minister Alain Guillaume Bunyoni urged the faithful of the Emmanuel Nyabaranda Church to always do good, flee and fight against evil, respect the commandments of God. (www.rtnb.bi)

Ministry of National Education: Quarterly report of achievements for the year 2022



The Minister of National Education and Scientific Research Mr. François Havyarimana presented on Tuesday, april 19, 2022 the quarterly report on the achievements of the year 2021-2022 during a press briefing. Among these achievements, François Havyarimana indicated that concerning the en-

trance examination in the university poles of excellence, 4361 candidates had **been registered for this competition. The poles concerned** by this competition are medicine, engineering sciences, agronomics and engineering, biology and statistics, specified the minister in charge of national education. Minister François Havyarimana indicated that the minimum mark retained at the faculty of medicine is 64.22%. However for the faculty of medicine at UB, the minimum score is 73.11% for the winners of the schools of excellence while it is 75.89% for the winners of the other schools, added the Minister in in charge of National Education. The Minister in charge of National Education clarified that the bar has been set very low for the grades of graduates in medicine from schools of excellence because they come from all the provinces of the country. And to add that it is so that soon there will be doctors who come from all the provinces and who will have no problem going to work inside, underlined François Havyarimana.

He specified that if this was not done in this way, we would end up with doctors who, for the majority, are citizens of the Bujumbura Town Hall and it would be difficult to find doctors who would agree to work in provincial hospitals and communes of Burundi.

Asked why in the second quarter of the year, the same exam was given to students from schools that did not study in the same way, the Minister in charge of Education said that the evaluation in the network only concerned schools which provide lessons according to the national curriculum and that those which follow foreign curricula were not concerned by this ordinance.

The Minister in charge of National Education calls on those who have ignored the ordinance to recover because, he says, ministry officials will soon

start visiting all schools to see if the measure has been respected.

The Minister in charge of National Education specified that the purpose of these network exams is that there is mutual assistance between the schools that take the same exams, in order to be able to detect the strengths and weaknesses of a given school.

Concerning the improvement of the efficiency of the Education system by strengthening the management of the education system, coordination and management tools have been developed, including legal texts produced, validated and signed, among others, the decree relating to the national framework of qualification and certification, the ministerial ordinance on the conditions for advancing the grades of teachers and researchers in higher education institutions. (www.rtnb.bi)

Towards community reintegration of street children



The Ministry in charge of National Solidarity organized on Wednesday, February 19, 2022 in Gitega, a workshop to reflect on the process of withdrawal of street children and adult beggars as well as the strategy for their sustainable community reintegration.

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry in charge of Solidarity, Mr. Félix Ngendabanyikwa, who opened the activities of this workshop, indicated that the phenomenon of street children and beg-

ging are a reality in the country. And to advocate for concrete actions that must be taken to eradicate this phenomenon in the various urban centers of Burundi. "The place of the child is not the street, his place is and must be in the family and at school, a family where he obtains love and affection, a framework which gives him the protection he needs so much," said Mr. Félix Ngendabanyikwa.

Even the participants in these meetings through their interventions returned to what is at the origin of the situation of street children and begging. They deplored the behavior of some parents who do not fulfill their duties properly.

Participants proposed various solutions to significantly improve the lives of thousands of street children and adult beggars across the country.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry in charge of National Solidarity indicated that the Government has put in place a National Strategy for the prevention of the phenomenon of street children and adult beggars as well as their community reintegration.

This workshop saw the participation of Governors, socio-cultural advisers, members of the security corps, executives of the Ministry of Justice and other executives of the various Ministries. (www.rtnb.bi)

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REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat-General of the State**MEDIA RELEASE N°07 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL 2022**

A Cabinet meeting was held in Bujumbura on Wednesday 20th of April 2022, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Major General 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 Friday 15 April 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 issues were analyzed:

1. Draft Memorandum of Understanding between Kenya Investment Authority and the Burundi Development Agency, presented by the Services of the Presidency of the Republic.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is concluded between Kenya Investment Authority and the Burundi Development Agency in accordance with the principles of equality, voluntary participation, honesty, reliability and mutual benefit.

The purpose of this memorandum is to establish closer cooperation for mutual benefit and to strengthen economic, technological and investment relations between the two institutions.

It also aims to define the mechanisms and modalities of cooperation in the promotion and facilitation of investments in Kenya and Burundi.

The signing of this memorandum of understanding and its effective implementation will therefore allow the two countries to:

- Strengthen economic cooperation between Burundi and Kenya;
- Create favorable conditions for making investments between the two parties;
- Exchange information on investment opportunities;
- Mutually inspire best practices in attracting and facilitating investors;
- Stimulate exchanges and economic initiatives and strengthen confidence in the field of investments;
- Strengthen bilateral investment relations between Burundi and Kenya;

At the end of the discussions, the Memorandum was adopted with the following recommendations:

- Prepare a French version of this Memorandum;
- Develop the field of foresight for good planning in order to anticipate the needs of the country.

2. Draft decree revising decree n°100/045 of March 05, 2019 on the creation, mission, organization and functioning of a national steering committee responsible for managing the implementation of development projects financed by partners in the framework of bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

3. Draft order revising joint order no. 120/121/VP1/VP2/04 of 20 May 2019 on the creation, missions, organization and functioning of a technical commission

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responsible for monitoring development projects financed in the framework of cooperation between the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Burundi.

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

The revision of these two texts is proposed in order to take into account the current structure of the Government resulting from the 2018 Constitution.

Indeed, as regards to the National Steering Committee in charge of implementing development projects financed by the partners within the framework of multilateral and multilateral cooperation, its coordination was ensured by the Second Vice-President of the Republic, a position which no longer currently exists according to the current Constitution. The draft proposes that the coordination be ensured by the Prime Minister.

Concerning the technical commission responsible for monitoring development projects financed within the framework of cooperation between the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Burundi, it was set up by Joint Order of the First Vice-President of the Republic and the Second Vice-President -President of the Republic. It is a question of updating this Order so that it is signed by the Prime Minister.

Finally, for the two texts, it is a question of adapting them because certain ministries have changed their name.

After discussion and debate, the Council of Ministers reached the following conclusions:

- At the level of the draft decree, it is necessary to reformulate article 1, because the Committee already exists;

- The Committee will ensure, through the Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs and the Minister in charge of Finance, the vice-presidency so that coordination and steering are carried out at the sectoral level;
- As the steering falls to the sectoral ministries, the Order setting up the technical committee is not necessary because sub-committees at the ministerial level can be formed if necessary.

4. Bill on the peaceful use, safety and security of nuclear energy and ionizing radiation, presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

Burundi joined the International Atomic Energy Agency in 2009. But it was not until 2016 that regional and national projects using nuclear techniques and sciences began to be developed and presented to the Agency on behalf of Burundi.

Even before it joined the Agency, radioactive sources were sometimes used in Burundi in total ignorance and without control of their harmful effects on their users, the population and the environment.

The majority of these sources has been used since colonial times and are scattered throughout our territory. They deserve to be collected and kept in a safe place designed for this purpose, in order to protect the population from its harmful effects.

Unfortunately, until today, there are no specific regulations regarding the use of ionizing radiation or radiological devices. It is time to have this law.

For Burundi, the establishment of such a law is also justified by the following reasons:

- Burundi must adopt a nuclear law in the same way as the other member countries of the East African Community;
- Burundi is currently a member of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the period from 2021 to 2023;
- This law will allow the effective and efficient implementation of the National Framework Program (PCN 2021-2026) which was jointly signed by the International Atomic Energy Agency and Burundi in September 2021;
- Burundi has acceded to the new Regional Cooperation Agreement for Africa on Research, Development and Training in the Field of Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA). Once adopted, the said law will allow the implementation of this Agreement in all areas, namely health, agriculture | livestock, energy and others;

• The national project relating to the establishment of a Center for the Fight against Cancer will benefit from assistance from the International Atomic Energy Agency in terms of staff training and equipment;

The Council of Ministers had analyzed this project and had returned it to be reworked by a Commission which had been set up for this purpose.

After analyzing the reworked project, the Council of Ministers found it consistent with the guidelines that had been given and adopted it.

5. Settlement bill and budget report, 2020-2021 financial year, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

The budget review and reporting bill has its origins in Organic Law No. 1/35 of December 4, 2008 relating to public finances which stipulates that “the draft budget review and reporting law is submitted to Parliament within 8 months of the end of the financial year”.

This is why the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning has prepared this bill

The observation is that the budget was executed both in revenue and in expenditure in accordance with the prescriptions of Law No. 1/13 of May 15, 2020 fixing the General Budget of the Republic of Burundi.

Overall, at the level of resources as well as at the level of expenditure, the achievements have exceeded the forecasts.

During the 2020-2021 financial year, the amount of exemptions is 157,908,716,138 Bif compared to the planned budget of 18,000,000,000 Bif.

These achievements of excess exemptions are mainly due to the fact that it is difficult to make forecasts at the level of:

- Benefits given by the API to investors at the beginning of the financial year;
- Benefits granted to diplomatic representations at the beginning of the year;
- Construction and supply contracts for State services which are awarded during the financial year;
- Medication orders during exercise difficult to assess;
- Humanitarian actions of NGOs to be carried out during the year.

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At the end of the analysis, the project was adopted with the recommendation that during the budgetary frameworks, the ministries make a realistic planning of their Work Plan and Annual Budget (PTBA) in order to minimize the overrun of the budgetary forecasts.

6. Trade Facilitation and Integration Project in the Great Lakes Region, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

The National Development Plan defines the country's national development program and makes the revitalization of growth sectors one of its main priorities.

It is in this context that the Government has undertaken to develop lake transport and other waterways, and to revitalize the trade sector.

Thus, in order to promote this sector, which is so useful for the recovery of the country's economy, Burundi and its development partners must analyze the substantial financial means. The Trade and Integration Facilitation Project in the Great Lakes Region is one of the responses to this concern.

This project, which will be financed by the World Bank and coordinated at the COMESA level, concerns Burundi and the DRC.

The total amount for Burundi is US\$90 million.

After analysis, the project was adopted with the following recommendations:

- Write "Gender dimension" instead of "sex";
- Delete the "political reform" component that appears in the project;
- Activate the diplomatic channel to claim reimbursement by COMESA of the funds that Burundi has committed in the preparations for the COMESA Summit which was to be held in Burundi but which was held elsewhere.
- Ensure that project managers respect the pre-registered deadlines for their execution and carry out their mid-term evaluation for proper follow-up.
- Be attentive in the choice of project managers and identify competent people;
- Avoid automatic renewals of project managers.

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7. Project to Support the Foundations of the Digital Economy "PAFEN", presented by the Minister of Communication, Information Technologies and the Media.

The importance of information and communication technologies is undeniable today in all sectors of life in the country.

Currently, the objective set by the Government is to allow Burundi to benefit from a real technological leap likely to improve its economic growth, by allowing the development of activities in a secure legal framework, using information technologies and communication.

It is within this framework that the World Bank has just initiated a project which aims to lay the foundations of the digital economy in Burundi.

This project is of major importance insofar as it will increase access to high-speed Internet, in particular for the unconnected rural populations, the higher education sector and improve the capacity of the Government to provide public services through the use of digital technology.

Indeed, the digitization of public services would not be possible as long as all the municipalities of the country are not connected to broadband and have easy access to terminals. Likewise, since education is a fundamental basis on which the peoples of the whole world rely for socio-economic development, it is essential to provide university circles in general and those in the rural world in particular with high internet connectivity.

The source of financing for this Project is a donation from the World Bank in the amount of eighty million US dollars with the possibility of mobilization of private capital by the World Bank up to Eleven million US dollars, intended for the subsidy of the private sector operating in the information and communication technology sector.

The Council of Ministers analyzed this project and made, among other recommendations, the following:

- Align project components with government programs and priorities;
- Capitalize on the foundations of the digital economy that already exist in Burundi;

- Remove from the document all pejorative terms that give an incorrect image of the country as well as the false data that appears there;
- Remove from the text all the conditions imposed on the Government

A Commission was set up for this purpose and corrected the document taking into account the observations of the Council of Ministers.

It is this reworked document that was analyzed by the Council of Ministers.

After analyzing the corrected document, the Council of Ministers appreciated the work done by the Commission set up and adopted it.

8. Draft decree on the organization and functioning of the National Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons, presented by the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security.

The National Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons is rooted in Law No. 1/32 of November 13, 2008 on asylum and the protection of refugees.

This law did not specify the legal form of the text governing this Office. It was nevertheless set up by Ordinance No. 530/101 of September 29, 2008.

With the promulgation of Law No. 1/25 of November 5, 2021 regulating migration, the text organizing this Office was raised to the level of a decree.

This project is proposed to implement the law governing migration in Burundi.

Given the particularity of the Office, whose operation depends on the influx of refugees, which determines the level of UNHCR funding, staff employment contracts will be signed for a fixed period and according to needs, as well as availability funds from the budget.

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted.

9. Draft decree on the missions, composition, organization and functioning of the Advisory Commission for Foreigners and Refugees and the Appeals Committee, presented by the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security.

The Consultative Commission for Foreigners was established for the first time by Decree-Law No. 1/007 of March 20, 1989 regulating the access, stay, establishment of foreigners on the territory of Burundi and their estrangement.

This Commission was set up by Ministerial Ordinance No. 540/443 of April 07, 2009 on measures for the application of Law No. 1/32 of November 13, 2008 on asylum and the protection of refugees in Burundi.

Contradictions have appeared between Decree-Law No. 1/007 of March 20, 1989 regulating the access, stay, establishment of foreigners in Burundi and their removal and Law No. 1/32 of November 13 2008 on asylum and the protection of refugees in Burundi, with regard to the establishment of the Consultative Commission for Refugees and Foreigners.

The new migration law has removed these contradictions because it manages all issues relating to refugees, stateless persons and cross-border movements.

This law specifies that the organization, missions, composition and functioning of the Consultative Commission for Foreigners and Refugees and the Appeals Committee are determined by decree.

This draft decree determines the procedures for granting and forfeiture of the status of permanent resident, refugee or stateless person, the non-renewal of the establishment visa and the cases of expulsion, as well as the admissibility of applications for asylum.

At the end of the analysis, the Council of Ministers adopted this project.

10. Any Other Business.

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His Excellency the President of the Republic has asked the members of the Government to prepare well for the new budget system (Budget-Programme) which will be implemented from the 2022-2023 financial year.

A team from the Ministry of Finance as well as other experts will provide training up to the level of the Communes to help all budget managers to assimilate this system.

Done at Bujumbura, 21 April 2022

Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE

Secretary-General and Spokesman.-

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
Development Cooperation
Department of Communication**

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