



President NDAYISHIMIYE urges the CMC-ORASCOM Group to accelerate the development works of the Jiji and Mulembwe



On march 1, 2022, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE paid a surprise visit to the sites of the Jiji and Mulembwe Hydroelectric Dam Development Project (AHEJIMU) which provides for the implementation of the hydroelectric complex consisting of the hydroelectric development Jiji, with an installed capacity of 32.5MW and the Mulembwe hydroelectric development, with an installed capacity of 17MW. The two plants are 3.75 km apart.

This project also provides for roads and other related infrastructure necessary for the evacuation of energy in the interconnected Burundian electricity network.

The objective of this visit by His Excellency the President of the Republic to this site was to inquire about the progress of these national development works.

Indeed, he has received information reporting substantial delays related to the work.

The Head of State wanted to take stock of the progress of this work to challenge those responsible to take the necessary measures so that the work which seems to be at a standstill resumes and is finalized on time. .

Thus, the observation is that the CMC-ORASCOM constructor Group, which won the contract for the execution of this project, does not respect the clauses of the contract for the execution of this contract, and has claims against the contracting authority, and that categorically denies it, stating that the latter are unfounded. These include, among others, additional costs related to the overrun of deadlines for the implementation of the contract, late payment, disruption of supplies, related works which have not yet started, sub-contractors who do not are not monitored, etc.

In this respect, this contract which was launched in october 2018, should be closed in 2023. At 4 years, the work is progressing at a rate of 42%.

Speaking at a meeting held on the sidelines of this visit, at the operating site, the President of the Republic HE Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE asks the builders to speed up the work to close this project, which is so important for the Burundian population, on time. .

He urges them to collaborate, to work hard and to speak frankly in order to succeed together. "I expect from you a firm commitment and unflinching honesty so that the dam is handed over on time, because the delay in execution is hampering other development works", underlined the Number One Burundian. (www.presidence.gov.bi)

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The Holy Father sends a message of greetings to the Head of State



The President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE received in audience, on thursday march 3, 2022 at the Presidential Palace of Gitega, Mgr Dieudonné Datonou, the Apostolic Nuncio of Burundi.

The latter indicated that he was carrying a message

from His Holiness Pope Francis addressing his best wishes for the year 2022 to the President of the Republic of Burundi.

The Apostolic Nuncio further revealed that his meeting with the Burundian Head of State is with the aim of giving him the invitation of the Holy Father to come and visit the Holy See in the near future.

Burundian Number One welcomed this invitation, which is part of the strengthening of relations with the Holy See and promised to respond to it.

During their meeting, the two high personalities had the opportunity to review the bilateral relations between Burundi and the Apostolic See. (www.presidence.gov.bi)

President NDAYISHIMIYE wants the Women's Investment and Development Bank to participate in the socio-economic development of the country



"We would like this bank to contribute to the employability of young girls so that they are able to initiate projects that will lead to sustainable development," said the Head of State, calling on women and girls to group together in associations and cooperatives to fully benefit from the advantages offered by the BIDE.

"The time of idleness is over in Burundi", hammered the Burundian Number One inviting all Burundian women in general and BIDE leaders in particular to work hard so that this bank brings an important part to the development of the country and that their work serve as an example for future generations.

His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE also recalled that BIDE is the second bank created after the Youth Investment

Bank (BIJE) in the context of supporting categories of the population that have long been neglected, which is why he recommended managers of these banks to support their customers by helping them direct the loans taken out towards the achievement of sustainable development projects.

In order to encourage other women to invest in BIDE, First Lady HE Angeline Ndayishimiye took the lead by opening a current account, thus officially becoming a client of this bank. (www.presidence.gov.bi)

During the inauguration of the Women's Investment and Development Bank (BIDE) on thursday, march 3 2022 in the Province of Gitega, the Head of State Evariste Ndayishimiye urged the officials of this commercial bank to make its capital grow that it participates in the socio-economic development of the country through women.

The President of the Republic, who had made the trip with the First Lady to show his support for the empowerment of Burundian women, wanted to clarify the specificity of this banking institution compared to others.

He indicated that this bank comes to encourage and promote the development of women and girls by granting loans at low interest rates to enable them to carry out development projects.

The First Lady of Burundi receives a delegation of Chinese doctors



The First Lady of the country, His Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye received in audience on wednesday, march 02, 2022 at the headquarters of the Umugiraneza Good Action Foundation located in Kibimba, in Giheta commune of Gitega province, a delegation of Chinese doctors led by the Ambassador of China in Burundi, Mrs. ZHAO Jiangping.

Before the audience, the delegation first made a guided visit with the First Lady of the Country to the clinic of the "Good Action Umugiraneza" Foundation to inquire about the progress of the construction works.

At the end of the hearing, the First Lady of the Country and President of the Good Action Umugiraneza

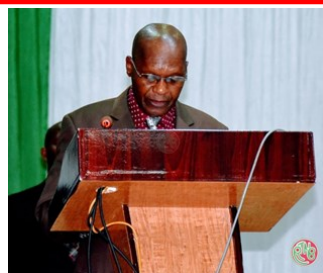
Foundation, indicated that the discussions focused on the project of the cataract operation campaign planned for vulnerable patients in the month of april 2022 at the Foundation's clinic in Kibimba.

On behalf of the delegation of Chinese doctors, the Chinese Ambassador to Burundi positively appreciated the work of the "Bonne Action Umugiraneza" Foundation and the First Lady of the country, His Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, who works to improve the health sector, the well-being of the population and which promotes the development of the country.

The First Lady of the country and President of the "Good Action Umugiraneza" Foundation, expressed her gratitude to the People's Republic of China which continues to support the Government of Burundi and the "Good Action Umugiraneza" Foundation, in particular in its works which aim to support vulnerable people in different sectors.

www.rtnb.bi)

The National Assembly: closing of the ordinary parliamentary session



The National Assembly of Burundi closed on monday, february 28, 2022, the ordinary parliamentary session of december 2021.

In his speech, the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Right Honorable Gélase Daniel Ndadirabe, took stock of the achievements of the past session.

During the ordinary parliamentary session of december 2021, the National Assembly adopted 11 bills.

Among the 11 bills passed are: The bill on the repression of cybercrime in Burundi, the one on the rail transport code and the one on the modification of certain provisions of the social protection code and revaluation of pensions for the public sector.

At the close of the ordinary parliamentary session of december 2021, the Right Honorable Gélase Daniel Ndadirabe declared that the National Assembly con-

gratulates the Head of State and his Government for the dialogue and diplomatic actions undertaken, both bilaterally multilateral, so that the Republic of Burundi regains its place in the concert of nations, in respect of its sovereignty.

The National Assembly joins the Head of State in expressing its sincere gratitude to all those involved in the political dialogue since february 2, 2021 between Burundi and the European Union, which resulted in the lifting of sanctions, said the President of the National Assembly.

Unfortunately, he added, this decision did not please some Burundians residing in Brussels: they demonstrated against the lifting of the sanctions which had been imposed on Burundi and which were suffocating it. the National Assembly urges these Burundians to change their mentality and take as an example the Burundians who return home and who contribute to the development of their homeland.

As the year 2022 was dedicated to agriculture, the President of the National Assembly encouraged the deputies to contribute to the promotion of quality agriculture based on innovation, as desired by the President of the Republic HE Evariste Ndayishimiye. www.rtnb.bi)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi takes part in the 5th Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEP)



The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation HE Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO participated in the 5th Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEP) held in Nairobi from february 28 to march 02, 2022 which makes progress towards a global agreement on plastic pollution a priority.

In his speech, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation H.E. Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO pointed out that the holding of the assembly is under the theme "strengthening the actions of nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals" comes at the right time. This innovative theme once again proves their determination in taking ambitious measures to move the world on a sustainable, resilient path and to re-

think global governance in the service of people and the planet. Climate change is not the only source of all the ills facing human life, but it is clear that it is an aggravating factor.

Minister Albert SHINGIRO stressed that it is with this in mind that the Government of Burundi is committed to the protection of the environment and the climate resilience of communities. This desire is manifested through the key priorities of the National Development Plan of Burundi (PND 2018-2027), as well as the Orientation Document for the Environmental, Agricultural and Livestock Policy and above all, the National Plan of Agricultural Investment (PNIA 2021-2027). Burundi has put in place the following planning and monitoring tools: the 2018 decree banning the import, manufacture, trade and use of waste and other plastic packaging; the National Action Plan for adaptation to climate change; the national strategy on climate change and its action plan and the implementation of a vast reforestation program "EWE BURUNDI URAMBAYE", green Burundi.

This is why Burundi would like to take this opportunity to seek support from development partners for the implementation of existing community resilience tools in the face of climate change, pollution and soil degradation. This is an opportunity for Burundi to appeal to polluting countries to take the lead in accelerating the reduction of GHGs but also to keep their promises in order to finance climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. The promise to provide \$100 billion in climate finance per year to developing countries must be kept. He added.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation closed his speech by affirming Burundi's firm commitment to global environmental governance and multilateralism based on the rule of international law to protect Mother Earth together in the unification of vision and approach and in generational equity.

(MFADC-Home News)

The National Committee responsible for monitoring the activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Issues in Central Africa (UNSAC) is organizing a feedback session from the meetings



responding effectively to these conflicts, the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC), he added. It should be noted that the said committee meets every six months with the aim of monitoring and evaluating the socio-political and institutional evolution of the member countries, and encouraging them to promote arms limitation,

The National Committee responsible for monitoring the activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Issues in Central Africa (UNSAC) organized a feedback session from the meetings on tuesday, march 1, 2022. These activities were enhanced by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation Mr. Ferdinand BASHIKAKO.



In his speech, the Permanent Secretary recalled that everyone is aware that Africa in general and Central Africa in particular faces major challenges to peace and security, which threaten regional stability. For the Permanent Secretary, these challenges are generally due to tensions related to electoral processes and the circulation of small arms and light weapons. Thus, the activism of negative forces in some countries undermines stability, affects inter-state relations and maintains a climate of mistrust within the region. The insecurity created by these forces also has negative consequences on civilian populations and hinders the socio-economic development of countries. At the request of the Economic Community of Central Africa, the Secretary General of the United Nations created in 1992 a mechanism capable of re-

disarmament and development in the sub-region. region. Burundi participates regularly. With regard to negative forces and arms proliferation, the military and police component is of significant importance. The Permanent Secretary stressed the importance of non-military avenues that can contribute to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of these armed groups. He mentioned that everyone is concerned by the struggle for peace, security and tranquility in his country. This restitution session will help participants in the appropriation of the measures and recommendations taken by the Member States in order to regulate the various challenges.

(MFADC-Home News)

Celebration of World Civil Defense Day, 2022 edition



Burundi joined the world on tuesday, march 1, 2022 to celebrate World Civil Protection Day, 2022 edition.

The Minister of Interior, Community Development and Public Security CPC Gervais Ndirakobuca raised his presence the activities of this day which took place in Sororezo in Bujumbura Town Hall. The theme chosen is: "Civil protection and management of internally displaced populations: Role of volunteers and the fight against pandemics".

In his welcome speech, the Director General of Civil Protection CP Anicet Nibaruta indicated that this activity is an opportunity to raise public awareness on the rescue of people, the protection of their property and the safeguarding of the environment in the event of natural disasters.

He pointed out that the Government of Burundi has put in place a national system responsible for preventing risks, preserving human lives and significantly reducing losses due to disasters. This is the establishment of the General Directorate of Civil Protection and Disaster Management which coordinates all actions, preparations and responses to emergencies that are components and integrals of the national security policy, valuable tools for sustainable development, announced the Director General of Civil Protection CP Anicet Nibaruta.

Thanks to the various support from development partners, the director general of the disaster management platform indicated that this institution has made quite significant progress, particularly in terms of disaster risk reduction, the establishment of a legal institutional framework, the development of multi-risk mapping, the monitoring and assessment of risks related to disasters, the seasonal weather forecast, the development and implementation of projects aimed at improving community resilience to disasters, etc.

In his speech, the Minister of Interior, Community Development and Public Security CPG Gervais Ndirakobuca indicated that Burundi has recorded in the last ten years the effects of natural disasters such as flooding, torrential rains mixed with winds violent events, landslides, hail, water deficit which cause loss of human life, material loss, massive displace-

ment of populations, etc.

According to the Minister, the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika caused the displacement of 44,222 people in 2020 and 35,727 people in 2021, not to mention a large number of destroyed houses, hammered the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public security.

Currently, CPG Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca has announced that the Government of Burundi has initiated a local solidarity approach through the mobilization of resources and by coordinating interventions for humanitarian assistance intended to alleviate the suffering of communities affected by the effects of climate change.

Regarding the displaced due to the rise of Lake Tanganyika and the overflow of the Rusizi River, the Government of Burundi in collaboration with development partners is working to relocate affected households to safer areas. "This is an activity that must be done with more attention so that development partners help the most needy," said Minister CPG Gervais Ndirakobuca.

As for the role of partners in disaster management, Minister CPG Gervais Ndirakobuca positively appreciated the role played by partners and especially the volunteers of the Burundi Cross in disaster risk management and encouraged other organizations working in the area of emergencies to set up prevention and personal rescue teams. This will allow Burundi to be well prepared to deal with the occurrence of natural disasters and their management in good time, announced the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security.

As part of the strengthening of the institutional framework in the preparation of rapid responses to humanitarian emergencies, the Government has requested support from development partners with the aim of operationalizing the national school of civil protection, operationalizing the national center and 4 regional emergency operations centers, operationalize the disaster risk reduction fund, operationalize civil protection works engineering, set up a national multi-risk early warning mechanism with a functional watch room, etc. .

This world day was adopted by the International Organization for Civil Defense (OIPC) on march 1, 1972, Burundi celebrated the 13th edition of this day, it joined the OIPC on february 19, 2009 and began the celebration of this day on March 1, 2009. This year, the activities began with the visit of the participants to the various stands of equipment used in civil protection. (www.rtnb.bi)

Agriculture in Bujumbura City Hall is possible



On wednesday, march 2, 2022, the Bujumbura Town Hall launched the rice harvesting works in the model fields located in the Buterere zone, Ntahangwa commune in the Bujumbura Town Hall. These model fields are on an area of 4.5 hectares and the expected production is estimated at 20 tons of paddy rice.

On the sidelines of harvesting work, the Chief of Staff in Bujumbura Town Hall Ambassador Jean Bosco Barege indicated that the exploitation of these arable lands in Bujumbura Town Hall is part of responding to the call of the Head of State His Excellency Evariste NDATISHIMIYE who urged the Governors of provinces including the Mayor of the city of Bujumbura to prepare model fields in their respective provinces.

To implement this call from the Head of State, the Chief of Staff at the Bujumbura Town Hall said that they have prepared the model fields located on an area of 4.5 hectares. He also suggests that they have increased the area of arable land because this year is dedicated to agriculture in Burundi. Last year, they exploited an area of 2 hectares where they harvested 10 tons of paddy

rice. This year, we expect a production of around 20 tons of unhusked rice, underlined Ambassador Jean Bosco Barege.

Ambassador Jean Bosco Barege also stressed that the Town Hall is satisfied with this production. He affirmed that the lands of the plain are very fertile even if people think that in the town hall of Bujumbura we do not practice agriculture, he underlined that they are proving the opposite.

This expected production is intended to help vulnerable people including orphans, widowers and the elderly etc. (www.rtnb.bi)

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REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat-General of the State**MEDIA RELEASE N°03 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 02 MARCH 2022**

The Cabinet meeting was held on Wednesday 02nd of March 2022, in Gitega, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Major General Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, President of the Republic of Burundi.

Before presenting the agenda, His Excellency the President of the Republic rejoiced the fact that the sanctions that had been imposed to Burundi by the European Union have been lifted, which is a victory for the Government and for all the Burundian People.

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 Thursday 24 February 2022, and which was devoted to the analysis of the same files on the agenda.

Before presenting the summary of the observations of this meeting, the Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government, congratulated the President of the Republic on the trips he has just made abroad in the last few days, particularly on the results that have been achieved.

After restitution by the Prime Minister to the President of the Republic, the following issues were analyzed:

1. Draft Salary Policy, presented by the Minister of Public Service, Labor and Employment.

The diagnosis carried out in terms of the remuneration of public civil servants and agents shows that it includes numerous disparities caused by:

- A multiplicity of premiums and allowances granted in a categorical manner and which are often not in conformity with those provided for by the Statute of Civil Servants;
- The existence of indexed benefits granted to certain categories of civil servants upon recruitment;
- The case of personalized public administrations which, in the name of their autonomy, are free to set the remuneration of their agents.

This situation has created frustrations for certain categories of civil servants which have led to repeated demands for salary harmonization.

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It is within this framework that a salary policy re-establishing the basis for a fair and sustainable remuneration has been developed in order to definitively address the issue.

The concern is, on the one hand, to rebuild a dynamic equity system for the remuneration of civil servants and, on the other hand, to accompany the reforms already undertaken.

This policy is based on the policy of performance management in the public sector adopted by the Government in 2014 as well as on the classification of jobs, functions and professions in the public administration provided for by the National Program for the Reform of the Administration, which constitutes the basis for the innovations that the Policy proposes.

It should be noted that this policy has been implemented since 2016.

This document had been analyzed in the Cabinet meeting of 07th July 2021 and the following observations had been made:

- The note does not show the number of those who benefited from the salary adjustment allowance and to what extent;
- The value of the "job-point" 45 has not been fixed on any basis and has not been the subject of consensus;
- Index 28 should be used because Index 45 would allow those with high salaries to move up further;
- This policy must be implemented according to the budget that has been provided for this purpose, namely 34 billion to raise the salaries of civil servants which are still low;
- The document should show the salaries at the level of all ministries instead of limiting itself to certain sectors only.

The new document presented responds to these concerns that were raised by the Council of Ministers.

During the discussions, the Council of Ministers appreciated the content of this draft and adopted it with the following recommendations:

1. In the calculations to be made, it is necessary to consider the value of the index point "45" because the application of the value 28 would cause a decrease in the salaries of some civil servants;
2. The amount of BIF 125 billion projected to implement this salary policy will be spread over 10 years and not over 5 years. For this purpose, an amount of BIF 12.5 billion will be made available each year for 9 years, with the possibility of increasing it halfway through if resources permit;
3. As regards the amount of BIF 34 billion that was planned to be used this year, only BIF 25 billion will be used, and the remaining BIF 9 billion will constitute a base that will be supplemented for next year;
4. Wide information on this policy is needed to show its impact for those who have already benefited from its positive effects.

2. Sectoral strategy of the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research, presented by the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research.

Burundi has had a National Development Plan since 2018. This Plan places the education sector among the national priorities.

As part of the implementation of this reference document, the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research wants to develop a sectoral strategy for National Education and Scientific Research.

This strategy has been designed to respond to the difficulties and challenges encountered in this sector, while placing particular emphasis on the strengths of the Burundian education system.

It is based on a diagnosis of the National Education and Scientific Research system, with a view to setting priorities for its implementation.

The prioritization for the implementation of actions is ensured within the framework of the implementation plan, developed period by period, and to be updated annually or biannually in some cases.

It has the advantage of proposing a plan for mobilizing the resources necessary for its implementation.

The implementation of this sectoral strategy will require an overall budget of Burundian Francs one thousand seven hundred and fifty-nine billion, eighty-seven million (BIF 1,759.87 billion).

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

- The Ministry has for a long time evolved in separate domains without continuity of programs at the different levels: Primary, Secondary, Higher Education, which has created some inconsistencies;
- In the design of training programs, it is necessary to ensure their coherence and continuity at the level of basic education, post basic education and higher education;
- An effort must be made to improve the situation of certain schools: equipment of desks, maintenance and rehabilitation;
- The popularization of information and communication technologies down to the Communal Directorate of Education is a necessity;
- The Government's objective is to develop technical and vocational education, so it is necessary to develop sustainable and stable programs and not to have to change them often;
- In the training to be offered, priority must be given to the practical aspect in order to train competitive technicians on the labor market;
- Research must be developed by building research centers in various parts of the country;
- It is necessary to make the University become a consulting institution that supports the ministries in various fields
- Recovering and capitalizing on the old programs that have proven to be positive and harmonizing them with the new programs.

3. **Draft law on the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the financing agreement n°D9640-BI between the Republic of Burundi and the International Development Association in favor of the project of preparation and response to COVID-19 in Burundi - Additional financing signed in Bujumbura on 28 January 2022**, presented by the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS.

The Government of Burundi received funding in the amount of USD 5,000,000 for a period of 12 months (July 2020 to 30th June 2021) and extended until 30th September 2021. Many achievements have been made including the acquisition of drugs and equipment for respiratory assistance, reagents, personal protective equipment against COVID-19, etc...

Given the fact that certain activities in the initial financing had not been carried out because of the insufficient budget due to the high cost of acquiring equipment and materials for the care of patients, and following the updating of a new response plan validated in September 2021, which included a component on vaccination against Covid 19, the Government of Burundi requested an additional financing grant from the World Bank to contribute to the financing of other activities in the new response plan.

Thus, an additional financing of the Covid-19 project for an amount of USD sixty (60) million was approved and signed on 28th January 2022.

This additional financing agreement will be used to finance the new Covid-19 response plan by purchasing vaccines and supporting the acquisition of inputs for the diagnosis and management of Covid-19. This agreement will also allow the acquisition of 50 ambulances, 30 X-ray machines for communal hospitals and 10 beds per communal hospital, etc.

At the end of the analysis, the project was **adopted** with the recommendation to always develop projects ready to be presented to partners who are willing to support.

4. **Draft decree on the establishment of a Single Social Register in Burundi**, presented by the Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender.

After the promulgation of the law n°1/12 of 12 May 2020 on the Social Protection Code in Burundi, a vast project of drafting its application texts has been started in order to make its provisions effective. In this case, it is a question of putting in place a regulatory text relating to the Single Social Register.

The Single Social Register is a dynamic database obtained through a process of identification and selection of poor and/or vulnerable households to enable them to access social programs in an equitable and transparent manner.

Social programs are defined as all programs and projects of the Government, its development partners and non-governmental organizations aimed at improving the living conditions of poor and/or vulnerable households in all sectors.

The establishment of the Social Register in Burundi has several advantages, including:

- Enabling the centralization of data on poor and/or vulnerable households, which will promote their inclusion in social programs and the consideration of their specific needs;
- Strengthen the links between the different social programs and thus avoid duplication and overlap;
- Ensure proper planning of social programs and projects based on the needs and priorities of registered households;
- Enable better coordination of the different interventions through the harmonized use of tools such as the unified questionnaire, the database, ...;
- To allow an evaluation of the degree of vulnerability of households and a better design of social policies;
- To allow a quick response especially in case of emergency humanitarian situation.

After discussion and debate, the draft was **adopted** with, among other things, recommendations

- To reformulate the title so that there is coherence between the content of the text and the title;
- To specify in the text that the Headquarters of the National Office of the Single Social Register will be established in Gitega;
- Delete the details concerning the Office and reserve them for the text that will organize it;
- Revise the decree organizing the Ministry to include the Office among the structures under its supervision;
- To proceed with the computerization of the Single Social Register;
- To specify that the Single Social Register will concern all the population living on the national territory while ensuring their categorization according to their standard of living;
- To show who is part of the Management Body and the Monitoring Committee
- To take advantage of the data of the general census of the population that is being prepared.

5. Additional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

6. Additional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons

These two protocols were presented by the Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender.

The African Union has long been concerned about the lack of effective measures to ensure the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. In particular, it has been concerned about discrimination and violence against persons with disabilities, as well as the effects of harmful practices, and wanted to provide greater protection for this category of persons. These concerns led the AU to develop this Protocol.

The Additional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recognizes that a person with a disability is a person affected by impairment of physical, mental, intellectual or sensory abilities whose interaction with various barriers may hinder his or her full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with other individuals.

Regarding the **Additional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Old Persons**, it was adopted by the twenty-sixth ordinary session of the Conference of Heads of State of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 31 January 2016.

The idea of having a legal instrument governing the rights of old persons arose from the observation that the elderly people are becoming socially marginalized and facing many constraints, and are not given attention by public authorities.

This Protocol represents a significant step forward in the measures taken by the international community to eliminate the discrimination faced by old persons.

The ratification of this protocol by our country will allow a better management of the care of the elderly people from the economic, health and social point of view.

After analysis, the two protocols were **adopted** with, among other things, the recommendation to revise the explanatory statements by reformulating certain paragraphs that would make people believe that old persons and persons with disabilities are rejected or discriminated against by society in Burundi. Burundi is rather ratifying these protocols in order to prevent difficulties that may befall these categories of people because, in Burundi, these people are generally respected;

7. Draft National Insurance Policy and its implementation strategy, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

During the year 2017, the Insurance Regulation and Control Agency (ARCA) adopted a Strategic Plan to guide actions to achieve its objectives by 2022.

It is in this context that the need to develop a national insurance policy was raised.

The National Development Plan of Burundi contains macroeconomic guidelines including the development of the insurance sector, the implementation of which requires a clear policy specific to the Burundian insurance sector.

The National Insurance Policy has been developed within this framework.

This policy aims to promote a modern insurance sector that meets international standards and contributes to economic growth and poverty reduction.

It includes proposed solutions to the problems identified, based on the following strategic orientations:

- 1) Promote and develop the insurance sector;
- 2) Improve and modernize insurance companies;
- 3) To make control and regulation effective;
- 4) Converge towards an East African Community insurance market.

These strategic orientations set out the areas of intervention which, in turn, are broken down into objectives to be achieved as well as the priority actions to be taken to achieve each objective.

After discussion and debate, the draft was **adopted** after undergoing certain changes.

The Council of Ministers took the opportunity to deplore the behavior of insurance companies which, instead of compensating victims of claims, take them to court instead of going after those responsible for these claims. These are practices that must be discouraged at all costs.

It was also recommended that the insurance sector in Burundi should be inspired by the practices of other countries in order to bring about innovations.

8. Draft decree on the creation, missions, organization and functioning of a Joint Appeals Commission "CPA", presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

The law on tax procedures creates a Joint Appeals Commission and provides that an order of the Minister in charge of Finance gives each member a renewable two-year mandate and a monthly premium.

This commission is in charge of investigating all appeals related to tax litigation concerning internal taxes and non-tax revenues.

As for the law n°1/20 of 25/6/2021 establishing the general budget of the Republic of Burundi for the financial year 2021/2022, in its article 49, it freezes the monthly premium of the members of the Joint Appeals Commission with the risk of paralyzing the activities of the Commission.

This article states that "For the 2021/2022 budgetary management, the attendance fees of the technical committees created for an event whose work duration does not exceed two months are abolished except for the committees set up by orders or decrees".

However, this commission was created for an indefinite period of time, which leads us to conclude that this provision does not concern the premium given to the members of the Joint Appeals Commission.

Faced with the freezing of this premium, the members of the Joint Appeals Board in general and those from the private sector in particular complain that the absence of this

premium makes it difficult, if not impossible, for them to participate in the Commission's activities.

After analyzing this problem, the Council of Ministers made the following observations:

- The Commission is to be set up by an order of the Minister in charge of Finance as provided for by the law on tax procedures;
- If it appears that these premiums are frozen due to the application of the law establishing the general budget of the Republic of Burundi for the fiscal year 2021/2022 which abolishes the fees of technical commissions, except for the commissions established by order or by decree, these fees will be established by Order.

9. Note on disparities in the granting of end-of-career allowances, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

The Government of Burundi has initiated a policy of harmonizing salaries in the public administration as of January 2016. To this effect:

- All annuities, premiums and cyclical allowances including end-of-career allowances have been frozen financially;
- The Joint Ministerial Order n°570/540/60 of 20th January 2020 on the granting of an adjustment allowance for salary disparities in the public sector and the freezing of annuities, premiums and short-term allowances also freezes the end-of-career allowance;

Thus, this note follows the request for an authorization to regularize the end-of-career allowances in favor of the staff units that were retired from ISABU and the staff members of the former institutions including SIP, ECOSAT, the National Laboratory of Buildings and Public Works, and SETEMU that gave birth to OBUHA and whose careers ended in December 2020.

After analysis of the Note, the observations and recommendations made were as follows:

- Given the salary policy being implemented and the promulgation of the law that will govern retirements since 2020, this regularization is not justified;
- This suspension measure should be applicable to other institutions that continue to give end-of-career allowances even though the current texts prohibit it.

10. Budget orientation note for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

This note is presented as a complement to the note on the budgetary framework presented to the Cabinet meeting of 16th February 2022.

It provides clarification on the Government's main priorities that will be financed and implemented during the 2022/2023 budget year, taking into account the objectives of the National Development Plan and the six priority areas of the current legislature, namely:

- Agriculture and livestock,
- Public health,
- Industrialization,
- Youth employment and social promotion of the vulnerable,
- Social and economic infrastructure,
- Peace and national reconciliation.

The budgetary envelopes to be allocated to the various Ministries and Institutions for the 2022/2023 fiscal year will remain compatible with the Government's main priorities. Most envelopes will be renewed or even reduced in order to concentrate the bulk of the budget on investment in priority sectors.

The additional revenues projected to finance the government's main priorities will come essentially from two sources, namely:

- The additional revenue from the OBR of BIF 504.5 billion resulting from the digitization of public finances;
- The rationalization of expenditures, which will generate savings of an estimated BIF 14 billion as a result of the reduction to a strict minimum of expenditures on workshops and seminars.

At the end of the analysis of this Note, the following observations were made:

- Revenue from state structures that bring in income is difficult to budget for the moment, since the results of the past year will be ready after 31st March 2022, after the adoption of the balance sheets. These revenues will be reflected in the 2022-2023 budget law;
- For the interests generated by State owned companies, the State participates in the distribution of dividends;
- The budgets of parastatals and public companies must now appear in the Government budget because the capital was donated by the State. The supervisory ministries must do the necessary follow-up;
- The head of an institution who tries to hide the budget will be sanctioned.
- At the beginning of the budget year, each Ministry must show the starting point in order to be able to show what it has produced at the end of the budget year;
- Parastatal institutions and public companies must adjust to align with the Government budget year which begins on 01st July and ends on 30th June;
- The issue of income tax must be well understood because there is a lot of income that is not accounted for;
- It is necessary to make sure that no more budgets are cancelled. If necessary, the person responsible will be sanctioned;
- The Ministers must be involved in the follow-up of the projects carried out in their Ministries.

Concerning the issue of the construction of infrastructures whose execution is entrusted to OBUHA or to the Burundi Road Agency, the Minister in charge of Infrastructures was asked to prepare a note on the matter to be presented to the Cabinet meeting.

11. Any Other Business

- His Excellency the President of the Republic spoke about the Retreat that will take place on 04 and 05 March 2022, to which all executives appointed by decree will be invited.
Issues related to decentralization, good governance as well as the shortcomings observed in the administration will be addressed. This is a prelude to the Code of Ethics that will be developed because everyone must know what they are committing to.
- He also spoke about the issue of compensation for land declared to be of the public use and taken away from people but later given to other people. He asked that this issue be well monitored because the current regulations are outdated and risk creating unnecessary tensions.
- He finally spoke about diplomatic relations with other countries or international institutions, where surprisingly, there are Burundians who did not want the sanctions that were taken against Burundi by the European Union to be lifted.

He stressed that currently, there is a determination on the part of the international community to work with Burundi. He asked everyone to make additional efforts to capitalize on this achievement.

In this context, he recalled that Burundi will assume the chairmanship of the East African Community and also informed that the 10th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the signatory countries of the Addis Ababa Agreement decided that the next Summit will be held in Burundi. He called on everyone, each of them, to prepare accordingly.

Done at Gitega, 03 March 2022

Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE

Secretary-General and Spokesman

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

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