



Japan committed to strengthening its support to Burundi

The President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye received in audience on march 23, 2022 at the Presidential Palace of Bujum-



bura, the Ambassador of Japan in Burundi Masahiro IMAI, with whom they discussed the major sectors of intervention for the development of Burundi.

"We thank Japan for remaining by Burundi's side, even during a period of sanctions imposed on our country," said President Ndayishimiye, who did not fail to congratulate Emperor His Majesty Naruhito on his 62nd Anniversary.

"Burundi has known a history of repetitive crises, but for the moment, we are evolving in terms of good governance and good management of public affairs", said President Ndayishimiye while encouraging Japan's support in the social infrastructure, transport, education, and agriculture sectors.

Ambassador Masahiro IMAI did not fail to appreciate very positively the quality of agricultural products (especially coffee) that Burundi could export and

bring in foreign currency. He encouraged the value chain, from production to marketing.

The Japanese Ambassador informed the President of the Republic about two donation contracts, including the construction of a vocational training center in Kibimba, a donation for the supply of strategic fuel stocks. He also promised that by strengthening their existing relations since independence, his country will erect storage buildings for foodstuffs such as corn, rice, etc. in Gitega province, the political capital.

The Burundian Number One was also invited to the Tokyo International Conference for African Development to be held in Tunisia in August 2022.

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The International Finance Corporation pledges to President Ndayishimiye to support the private sector in Burundi so that it plays its vital role in driving economic growth

On Tuesday, March 22, 2022, the President of the Republic of Burundi HE Evariste Ndayishimiye received in audience a delegation led by Mrs. Jumoke Jagun Dokunmun, Regional Director of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Member of the World Bank Group whose activities are focused on the development of the private sector, the engine of economic growth.

Accompanied by Ms. Veronique Kabongo, Head of Operations for Burundi at the World Bank, Ms. Jumoke J. Dokunmu paid tribute to the efforts of President Evariste Ndayishimiye in creating conditions conducive to the socio-economic development of Burundi, in particular through the promotion of private sector.

The Head of State indicated that Burundi has devoted several years to its political and security stabilization and that it is now entering an important phase of its economic development: "The Burundian people aspire to better living conditions and the support partners is precious to achieve the feat"

Mrs. Jumoke J. Dokunmun confirmed to President Ndayishimiye the willingness of the Institution she represents in East Africa to support the efforts of the Government of Burundi in the development of the private sector by investing in existing companies, raising capital or providing advice to companies and public authorities:

"The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is ready to work at the pace desired by the Government of Burundi. Everything will depend on the will of the Burundian authorities, if you want us to move forward quickly, our teams are ready"

HE Evariste Ndayishimiye, for his part, reaffirmed the commitment of the Burundian Gov-



ernment to improve the investment climate through the initiation of certain reforms

(agricultural, mining, exchange rate regime, etc.) and the acceleration of the digital transformation of public services and businesses.

Among the areas of intervention cited by the IFC are

agribusiness, tourism, financial services and digitalization. However, the lack of reliable data being one of the challenges to be met, the 'private sector diagnosis' in Burundi will provide valuable information and will allow planning solutions adapted to the real difficulties.

President Ndayishimiye then shared with them the priority projects of Burundi, a country which has all the natural assets for its development: "The support of partners and better planning, collection, management of finances would be enough to revive our economy"

It should be noted that during these exchanges, the Head of State HE Evariste Ndayishimiye briefed his interlocutors on the project for the exploitation and development of the Lake Tanganyika coastline, a project which particularly caught the attention of the delegation of the IFC which is committed to offering its advisory services to make Burundi the best tourist destination in East Africa.

President Evariste Ndayishimiye closed the meeting by welcoming the dynamic and fruitful collaboration between the Government of Burundi and the members of the World Bank team established in Bujumbura under the responsibility of Mrs. Véronique Kabongo.

(www.presidence.gov.bi)

The First Lady HE Angeline Ndayishimiye joined convalescent women of the Urumuri Center for the celebration of International Women's Day

On Friday 18/3/2022, the First Lady and President of the UBUGIRANEZA Good Action Foundation, HE Angeline Ndayishimiye, visited the women treated at the URUMURI Center which is located in Gitega with the aim of joyfully celebrating the international day dedicated to the Woman.



This center specializes in the treatment of obstetric fistula, a disease that is still observed in different corners of our country. The center was built with funding from the Fondation Bonne Action UBUGIRANEZA led by First Lady H.E Angeline Ndayishimiye. According to statistics provided by the head of this center, more than 3,100 women suffering from obstetric fistula from different provinces of the country and neighboring countries of Burundi have already been treated. The First Lady and President of the UBUGIRANEZA Good Action Foundation provided them with food and non-food

items to show them love and compassion on these days when all women around the world celebrate the day dedicated to them.

In her Speech for the occasion, the First Lady first reassured these women that this disease is curable if treated in time.

The disease of obstetric fistula is still observed in different localities of our country and because of ignorance those who suffer from it are stigmatized in their living environment; which hinders their self-development. Her Excellency the First Lady calls on all those concerned to be well informed and break the taboo of this disease. It urges administrative officials to facilitate the transfer of proven cases to specialized health structures for their medical care.

During this visit, the First Lady also assisted malnourished children who are being treated at the Gitega Regional Hospital. She asked the parents of these children to always remember to balance the foods they give their children. (www.presidence.gov.bi)

Signature and exchange of Notes on economic and social assistance between Burundi and Japan

Within the framework of strengthening the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Republic of Burundi and Japan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation HE. Albert SHINGIRO and the Ambassador of Japan in Burundi HE Masahiro IMAI proceeded to the signing and exchange of Notes on eco-



nomical and social assistance between these two countries on Thursday 03/24/2022. This donation granted by Japan to the Government of Burundi consisted of fuel (about 3.2 million liters of oil) for an amount of 400 million yen (about 3.45 million US dollars).

Minister Albert SHINGIRO greatly welcomed Japan's initiative to support Burundi in its development process. He recalled that development cooperation between Japan and Burundi has begun since 1970. Since then, Japan has implemented a series of aid projects amounting to more than 300 million US dollars by putting emphasis on the three priority areas: transport infrastructure, agriculture and social development.

Minister HE Albert SHINGIRO said that the Government of the Republic of Burundi is required to deposit the revenue from the sale of this oil in a designated bank account opened at the Bank of the Republic of Burundi (BRB), so that other development projects will be implemented in

the future in accordance with the National Development Plan (PND Burundi 2018-2027) through this bank account called "counterpart funds".

In his turn, the Ambassador of Japan in Burundi indicated that the Government of Japan always feels proud to support Burundi in its development process. He also said that it was the third time that Japan gave a donation to Burundi and affirmed that Japan will continue to support Burundi.

The two Parties welcomed the existence of the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation and pledged to strengthen and cement them further more through a mutually beneficial and fruitful partnership.

(MFADC-Home News)

The opening of the 3rd Ministerial Session of the Burundi-Uganda Mixed Commission



The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO opened the 3rd Ministerial Session of the Burundi-Uganda Mixed Commission jointly with a Ugandan delegation led by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in charge of regional affairs Mr. John Mulimba, on March 25, 2022, at the Kiriri Garden Hotel.

In his speech, Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO said that the said session was preceded by the meeting of experts during which several areas of cooperation were explored with enthusiasm and shared

interest. These include Memoranda of Understanding on diplomatic consultations, defense and security as well as in the field of sport. He added that the session is in line with the recommendations of the Heads of State of Burundi and Uganda, on the sidelines of the long-standing cooperation between the two countries to strengthen, further cement the ties of friendship, fraternity and to diversify the areas of cooperation with particular emphasis on economic diplomacy.

Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO pointed out that this 3rd Ministerial Session of the Mixed Commission for Cooperation between Burundi-Uganda was parallel to the forum of economic operators of the two countries is an eloquent sign that the people of Burundi and Uganda are now looking in the same direction and want to strengthen the links not only between the two governments, but also and above all the direct links from people to people. He recalled that Burundi and Uganda are the first two countries in number of troops within AMISOM, in Somalia. The two countries are proud to participate in the fight against terrorism in this brotherly country and



in the consolidation of peace and security that the Somali people need and they will remain there until the liberation of the Somali people from terrorism and the violent extremism of terrorist group Al Shabab.

As for the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in charge of regional affairs of the Republic of Uganda, he also recalled that Burundi and Uganda have long-standing historical and cordial bilateral relations. He then reiterated Uganda's commitment to

continue working with Burundi with the aim of consolidating the existing relations between the two countries. Thus, Mr. John Mulimba added that Burundi and Uganda must ensure the maintenance of internal peace and security in order to increase trade relations, which until now remain minimal. According to him, this session is a framework for Burundi and Uganda to deliberate on the development of infrastructures that can connect them due to their geographical situations and can facilitate the access of two countries to the world market.

On the sidelines of this 3rd Ministerial Session of the Burundi-Uganda Mixed Commission, the two Ministers signed four Memoranda between the two countries, these are: Memorandum on political and diplomatic consultations; Memorandum on hydrocarbons; Energy Memorandum and Sports Memorandum. **(MFADC-Home News)**

Inauguration of a new building of the Embassy of Uganda in Burundi



having constructed and solemnly inaugurated a building which will serve as the Embassy of Uganda in Burundi. This inaugurated building bears witness to Uganda's commitment to strengthening relations of friendship and cooperation between Burundi and Uganda. It also

On March 21, 2022, the Ugandan Embassy in Burundi solemnly inaugurated its new building working in Miroir quarter of Ntakangwa commune in the town hall of Bujumbura. The ceremonies were graced by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation His Excellency Albert SHINGIRO and Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, Special Envoy of the President of Uganda.

In his address for the occasion, Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO congratulated the Ugandan Government and its people for



shows that Uganda is determined to be a good politico-economic partner of Burundi, he added Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO.

In addition, Minister Albert SHINGIRO added that Burundi and Uganda have worked together in strengthening peace and security, good governance and the fight against terrorism in Burundi and abroad. According to Albert SHINGIRO, the two countries are proud of their contribution in maintaining peace and security and stability in Somalia, Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO took this opportunity to invite other countries who have already obtained plots from Burundi to do the same by building their Embassies.

Burundi will soon assume the presidency of the East African Community and Uganda that of the non-aligned movement (NAM). It will indeed be a good opportunity for the two countries to strengthen collaboration and cooperation within these very important platforms. It goes without saying that the promotion of development and prosperity are two other key aspects of their cooperation. This is why investments and trade are among the



main priorities for the leaders His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, President of the Republic of Burundi and His Excellency Yoweri KAGUTA MUSEVENI, President of the Republic of Uganda, Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO pointed out.

According to Dr. Ruhakana Ruganda, Special Envoy of the President of Uganda, this event marks another step in the consolidation of relations between Burundi and Uganda and he thanked the Government of Burundi for facilitating the process of acquiring this plot of land about 3.5 acres. Mr. Ruganda pointed out that Burundi is a peaceful country and is a reliable partner in the sub-region. **(MFADC-Home News)**

Commemoration of the 62nd Anniversary of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan

On March 24, 2022, the Japanese Embassy in Burundi commemorated the 62nd Anniversary of His Majesty NARUHITO the Emperor of Japan at the Lake Tanganyika club hotel. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Co-

operation was represented by the Permanent Secretary of the said Ministry Mr. Ferdinand BASHIKAKO.

In his word to open the ceremonies, the Ambassador of Japan in Burundi Mr. Masahiro IMAI said that it was the first time that the Japanese Embassy organized a national party in Burundi. He also indicated that he was very honored to mark an important step



in the history of Japanese-Burundian relations since the year 2022 marks the 60th Anniversary of friendship between Burundi and Japan.

HE. Masahiro IMAI recalled that cooperation

between Burundi and Japan began in 1970 and was especially marked by the rehabilitation of roads and infrastructure for the city of Bujumbura. Ambassador Masahiro IMAI added that cooperation is expected to be accelerated through the TICAD process whose 8th edition will be held on August this year. During this edition, there will be in-depth exchanges on three main topics



such as sustainable and inclusive growth, resilient society based on human security and peace and stability.

He also added that the long cooperation in the field of human security, particularly through health, can be presented as a good example in the sense that human security remains the cornerstone for achieving economic growth and also for ensuring peace and stability.

HE Masahiro IMAI also indicated that Japan will continue to work with Burundi in two main guidelines, namely the transition to sustainable economic growth and contributing to social development. To act under these guidelines, HE Masahiro IMAI clarified that Japan will accelerate its cooperation in three areas such as improving transport infrastructure and customs capacity, and improving basic social services.

Regarding the agricultural development plan, the Ambassador of Japan in Burundi said that cooperation for rice cultivation undoubtedly occupies a central place. Given that Burundi has a great potential in this area, Japan will consolidate its commitments, particularly to improve the quality of rice. This will make it possible to strengthen the competitiveness of domestic rice growing and improve the balance of payment.

Regarding transport infrastructure and customs capacity, the Ambassador Japan in Burundi also indicated that Japan will intensify its existing commitments represented by the Bujumbura port project.



Therefore, Japan will be more committed to improving the infrastructure but also to building the capacity of the personnel concerned.

In his turn, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation Mr. Ferdinand BASHIKAKO took the opportunity to express the sincere satisfaction, on behalf of the Government of Burundi, of the win-win cooperation between Burundi

and Japan which dates back a long time. He recalled that Burundian-Japanese cooperation is essentially based on the priority areas

of health, education, agriculture as well as transport and infrastructure.

In this context, Mr. Ferdinand BASHIKAKO underlined the development of tomato production, the rehabilitation of the Laboratory of the National Center for Food Technologies, support for the fight against food insecurity in favor of disadvantaged farmers in particular, aimed at supporting self-development community initiatives, construction of modern markets, electrification of secondary centers, improvement of swamps for agricultural extension, construction of an asphalt road in the city of Bujumbura, the ongoing construction of the port of Bujumbura. The Permanent Secretary did not fail to recall that in the morning of the same day, the Embassy of Japan in Burundi had granted a donation of 3.45 million dollars to the Government of Burundi for the supply of fuel to Burundi.

The two Parties welcomed the existence of the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation and pointed out that 62 years of cooperation is a respectable age where intelligence, experience and wisdom constitute solid characteristics for the bearer, especially when he is in charge of being at the direct service of his people. **(MFADC-Home News)**

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REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat-General of the State**MEDIA RELEASE N°05 CONSECUTIVE TO THE EXTRAORDINARY
CABINET MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22 MARCH 2022**

An extraordinary Cabinet meeting was held on Tuesday 22nd of March 2022, in Bujumbura, 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 Monday 21 March 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. Support for the foundations of the digital economy in Burundi, 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 make it possible to increase access to high-speed Internet, in particular for the populations from rural areas, the higher education sector and improve the Government's ability 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 in the region of Eleven million US dollars, intended for the subsidy of the private sector operating in the information and communication technology sector.

To ensure the effective implementation of the project, there are prerequisites that must be met, in particular:

- The establishment of the legal framework on data protection, given that the project will generate numerous and large-scale data;
- The restructuring of BBS towards the Public-Private Partnership model so that during the implementation of the project, the public and private sector can surf.

After discussion and debate, the following observations and recommendations were made:

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- There was initially a public administration computerization project called "Digital Burundi" which was changed without consultation with the Government to become "Support Project for the Foundations of the Digital Economy in Burundi";
- Some project components are not aligned with the National Development Plan and the priorities of the sector ministry. They must be aligned with government programs and priorities;
- Burundi already has the foundations of the digital economy, in particular optical fiber throughout the national territory, as well as other tools. It is necessary to develop an operationalization plan of the existing;
- Reading the document shows that it was written or influenced by people who have a direct interest in it;
- It is necessary to redact from the document all the pejorative terms which give an incorrect image of the country, as well as false data which display through there.

- All the conditionalities imposed on the Government must be removed from the text;
- The Project coordinator must be remunerated by the project, as usual.

The Minister in charge of Information Technology has been asked to send a request for an explanation to the executives who participated in the preparation of this document and who allowed terms that were denigrating to the country to appear across the project.

A Commission composed of technicians from the Presidency, the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministries having ICT, Finance, Education and the Public Service in their attributions will be set up to rework the document which will be brought back to the Council of Ministers for reanalysis. It is this reworked document that will be discussed with the above mentioned development partner.

Ministries were reminded to always get projects ready waiting for funding and not to rush their preparation when funding is announced.

2. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Burundi and East African Region Projects in relation to the investment project for the exploitation of Musongati nickel and associated minerals, presented by the Minister of Hydraulics, Energy and mining

The East African Region Project Group has expressed an interest to invest in the mining sector to exploit Musongati nickel and associated minerals.

In 2018, the Government of Burundi agreed to sign a mandate with this company to mobilize financing for this project aimed at exploiting these deposits.

Currently, this company confirms that the necessary funds are available and it is ready to allocate a package of 1.5 billion US dollars per year as a financial subsidy for a period of ten years, i.e. 15 billion US dollars. These funds will be distributed as follows:

- East African Regional Group will pay annually for ten years an amount of 500 million US dollars, i.e. 33.3% to the State of Burundi, which must be accounted for as budgetary revenue of the State as a royalty on nickel from Musongati
- 15% of these funds will be used for public interest projects initiated by the parties;
- 51.7% will be used for nickel mining.

This memorandum of understanding relates to the implementation of the project. It specifies, among other things, the methods of financing the project and operating the deposit, as well as the commitments of the parties.

This memorandum of understanding will have duration of two (2) months. Exceeding this deadline, without transfer of the funds of the first tranche to the Central Bank, this memorandum will become null and void.

It should be noted that during the analysis of this file in the preparatory meeting of the Council of Ministers held on Monday, March 21, 2022, the following recommendations were made:

- Simplify the Memorandum by redacting all unnecessary details;
 - Add a provision specifying that the financing guarantee will be materialized by depositing funds in cash with the Central Bank;
 - Mention that disputes or claims will be settled amicably or in accordance with national laws;
- The Minister of Hydraulics, Energy and Mining had been asked to quickly finalize the project, with a view to its presentation at the meeting of the Council of Ministers on Tuesday March 22, 2022.

After analyzing this reworked project, the Council of Ministers adopted it.

3. Any Other Business

His Excellency the President of the Republic reminded the members of the Government that the period for the preparation of the State budget for the 2022/2023 financial year has arrived. To request the budget, it will first be necessary to show what the current budget has produced.

He also asked to detect all the nooks and crannies of the wealth so that the public treasury is filled.

He also advised Burundians to abandon the bad habit of hiding wealth because this is what makes Burundi ranked among the poorest countries, while the lifestyle of the population shows the opposite.

Done at Bujumbura, 23 March 2022

Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE

Secretary-General and Spokesman.-

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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