



**The President of the Republic HE Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE visits the Muyaga Parish of Cankuzo, the first Catholic parish in Burundi**



visit to the Holy See in the Vatican.

According to the parish priest of the Muyaga parish, Abbot Cambara Aloys, the first Catholic missionaries, entering from the east of Burundi, first settled in Misugi in Cendajuru commune where they erected the first cross "Cross of Misugi", as a sign of the beginning of Evangelization in Burundi. This is where they celebrated the first Christmas party and baptized this place "Bethlehem of Burundi".

**T**he President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, in his journey of the Cankuzo Province, visited on thursday, april 07, 2022, the Parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus-Christ of Muyaga, the first parish of Burundi which dates from may 23, 1898.

The Muyaga parish, which embodies the birth of the Catholic Church in Burundi, is preparing to celebrate its 125th anniversary in 2023, a celebration that could coincide with the visit of Pope Francis to Burundi, in accordance with the promise made to the President of Burundi His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE during his

As the place was not populated, these white missionaries continued their journey to Muyaga where they founded the first parish in Burundi. It was at this parish that the first Easter celebration in Burundi took place, hence the name "Muyaga, Jerusalem of Burundi". It is also Muyaga who knows the first School in Burundi da-

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ting from 1907, as well as the first Health Center built by these white missionaries.

The President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE also had the opportunity to visit the Sanctuary of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ, a place that is not only sacred but also touristic with splendid

architecture, characterized by all the monuments that help Christians to relive certain biblical places to understand the Holy Scriptures. We could mention in particular the grotto of the prophet Elijah, the Tomb of Jesus Christ, the Temples of Jesus Christ, Moses and Elijah, etc. ([www.presidency.gov.bi](http://www.presidency.gov.bi))

### The Head of State led a moralization session on patriotic awakening to natives, elected officials and administrative, political and religious leaders of Cankuzo



On Thursday, April 7, 2022, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE brought together the natives, elected officials and administrative, political and religious leaders of Cankuzo Province in a moralization session on good governance and patriotic awakening, a session which is part of a campaign initiated by the Father of the Nation himself, with the aim of encouraging all Burundian citizens to a national renaissance

In his welcoming address, the Governor of Cankuzo said that security reigns throughout the province and welcomes the close collaboration between different provincial services and the population. In the development sector, he is delighted with the step taken in the realization of various provincial projects.

Speaking, the Burundian Number One insisted on the socio-economic development of the country and is delighted with the change in behavior and mentality that is currently observed in Burundian society where all citizens are mobilized to develop their dear coun-

try. His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE reminds Burundians that their country is very rich and invites all citizens to show love by cutting short any form of division, to be artisans of fraternity and national cohesion in order to develop their homeland. which has a lot of economic potential.

At a time when Burundi's economy is suffering from the under-exploitation of its natural resources, President Ndayishimiye calls on all citizens to denounce and actively fight corruption and all forms of economic embezzlement.

After the second part of the meeting which was devoted to the collection of grievances where the population of Cankuzo was able to submit to the Father of the Nation their concerns in various fields, in this case that of justice, the Head of State denounced the behavior unworthy of certain actors of justice and reiterated the commitment of the responsible and hard-working government to work to reform this area and punish recalcitrants without mercy.

However, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE reminds the population with regard to legal proceedings that they must first go through all the authorized bodies before seizing the summit, that of the Superior Council of the Judiciary which intervenes as a last resort.

Before concluding the meeting, the President of the Republic returned to the development in unity that all Burundians must experience, where he encourages citizens to get rid of old mentalities which have been at the origin of ethnic divisions and painful in the history of Burundi. ([www.presidency.gov.bi](http://www.presidency.gov.bi))

## The Good Action Foundation assists HIV-positive people cared for by the Yezu Mwiza Service



The First Lady and President of the Fondation Bonne Action Umuguraneza SE Angeline Ndayishimiye gave food assistance to HIV-positive people supervised by the Service Yezu Mwiza, in the Rohero Mairie zone of Bujumbura, led by an association of Jesuit fathers. On the occasion of the delivery of this assistance, Father Védaste Nkenshimana, Executive Director of the Yezu Mwiza Service, indicated that the service currently supervises 1058 HIV-positive people. The service provides them with medical care, psycho-social supervision and socio-economic reinte-

gration.

The state of health of all its people is satisfactory because of the 1058 people under supervision, 1037 have been examined, and among them, 1019 have a viral load. Among the needs expressed, the executive director said that the Yezu Mwiza service needs to provide a mobile clinic and the extension of its activities because the work to be done is enormous.

The assistance given by the First Lady and President of the Good Action Umuguraneza Foundation consisted of rice, beans, corn flour, flour for porridge, sugar, milk for adults and infants. This aid has a total value of ten million francs bu.

The President of the Good Action Umuguraneza Foundation Angeline Ndayishimiye said that the delivery of this assistance to HIV-positive people supervised by the Yezu Mwiza Service is part of wishing them a happy Easter.

She thanked Service Yezu Mwiza for its support activities for HIV-positive people. These are commendable activities that support the government in the fight against AIDS. ([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## Cataract surgery campaign at Umugiraneza Clinic

The First Lady of the country HE Angeline Ndayishimiye and President of the Fondation Bonne Action Umugiraneza paid a visit to the Umugiraneza Clinic in Kibimba on thursday, february 07, 2022 in the Giheta commune in the Province of Gitega. The purpose of this visit was to see the activities of the surgical operation campaign for vulnerable cataract patients. She was with the Chinese Ambassador to Burundi and the finalists of Miss Burundi, 2022 edition.

The First Lady and President of the Good Action Umugiraneza Foundation Angeline Ndayishimiye thanked China for agreeing to support this foundation by deploying a team of Chinese doctors who will treat patients suffering from cataracts so that they can regain their sight. She indicated that the

actions of the Umugiraneza Foundation fall within the framework of the humanitarian vocation towards the vulnerable population.

The First Lady of the country also indicated that the surgical operation campaign for vulnerable patients suffering from cataract is the initiative of the Fondation Bonne Action Umugiraneza after having noted that cataract threatens several individuals in Burundi, especially those who have limited means.

These cataract operations at the Umugiraneza Clinic in Kibimba are performed by Chinese doctors. 50 patients are scheduled for cataract treatment from february 6 to 8, 2022. These patients receive free treatment while the cost of such cataract surgery varies between 110,000 and 300,000 Burundian francs.

The Chinese Ambassador to Burundi, for her part, tes-



tified to the good relations that exist between the two countries through various supports and reiterated China's commitment to continue to support Burundi.

Following this circumstance with the 1st Lady, the finalists of Miss Burundi 2022 went to the regional

hospital of Gitega where they provided assistance to women suffering from obstetric fistula supported by the Urumuri Center built by the Foundation Good Action Umugiraneza and visited the Investment and Development Bank for Women BIDF, in acronym.(www.rtnb.bi)

### Fraud: two pastors behind bars



**T**he Spokesman of the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security presented Tuesday, April 05,

2022 at the headquarters of the judicial police of Bujumbura, three alleged perpetrators of the scam with a pyramid scheme through an agro cooperative - breeding called Dufashe abakiriho and the social financing group Nduza.

The Spokesman of the Ministry of the Interior OPP1 Pierre Nkurikiye told the press that instead of continuing the extension to implement social activities, the Dufasha abakiriho cooperative has turned towards a social financing group Nduza who has never been approved by the Bank of the Republic of Burundi BRB and the cooperative to start collecting money from the population through the teachings given through these two churches (Faith miracles Church FMC and Good News Mission) led respectively by Audace Ndikumana and Mpebera Vital and Treasurer Bakira Anne Marie. According to OPP1 Pierre Nkurikiye, these pastors sensitized their followers to save, to have tripled savings in a month. One billion is already on the account of this group, underlined the Spokesperson of the Ministry of the Interior.

According to Pierre Nkurikiye, if it was not for the intervention of the police, these pastors would disappear with this amount as has already been observed. Following this situation, the Spokesperson for the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security called on the population to be more vigilant in the face of these cases of pyramid scheme fraud.

In recent days, there have been many cases of fraud with a pyramid scheme or with several maneuvers. There are Circus games, games like Ibirimba or Kumena amaso. These are practices that hide this form of pyramid scheme scam criminality.

It is a pity that the police continue to receive many complaints from people who have been victims of these acts while the latter continues to alert the population to these new forms of crime.

The other unfortunate observation according to OPP1 Pierre Nkurikiye is the profile or the quality of the perpetrators of these criminal acts, they are the pastors of the Churches. A few months ago, the Minister of the Interior met the leaders of religious denominations. The Spokesperson for the Ministry of the Interior stressed that the Minister asked them to play their role in the development of the country and their respective localities by participating or by sensitizing their faithful to take part in community work, especially in hill cooperatives. According to OPP1 Pierre Nkurikiye, it seems that these pastors have heard the minister's message, unfortunately they have done the opposite, they wanted to practice the disguised pyramid scheme scam through this cooperative.

If they want to contribute in the development of the country, they can participate in community cooperatives which work and act in accordance with the law and which do not hide their unhealthy institutions like these, underlined the Spokesman of the ministry in charge of public safety.

The victims of this scam pyramid scheme, they can go to justice, to the Mukaza prosecutor's office to be able to ask for their money. The police have already noted this on the account of the Nduza social financing group, concluded Pierre Nkurikiye. (www.rtnb.bi)

## The OBDA examines the challenges of the copyright sector in Burundi



The Assistant to the Minister of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture, Mr. J.Claude Kanene urges artists to register their works with the Burundian Office of Copyright and Rights neighbors (OBDA). It was in an awareness workshop on the socio-economic contribution of the copyright sector, held in Gitega on tuesday april 5, 2022 for stakeholders.

During this workshop, the assistant to the Minister of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture, called on the users of artistic works to sign agreements with the Burundian Human Rights Office. author before using a literary or artistic work.

He also recalled that artists have no resources other than their works of art or literature and calls for the respect and protection of copyrights so that these works are innovative at the level of regional and international competitions.

For her part, the Director of the OBDA deplors the absence of accompanying measures for the texts governing this sector of copyright, the weak collaboration between the institutions involved in this sector and the OBDA and the inadequacy of means to ac-

complish the missions assigned to this office. She called on artists to register their works with the OBDA and to educate their comrades about their rights and duties.

The participants in this workshop took this opportunity to make recommendations in the direction of promoting the copyright and neighboring rights sector. The main recommendations include the need to tighten sanctions against copyright infringers; set up a school of fine arts which will teach musical ethics. They also suggested rehabilitating the national ballet and setting up a national council of artists. They also stressed the need to set up a state recording studio where the songs will first be examined before being released in concerts or on the channels of the various media.

This workshop saw the participation of artists and administrative officials of the provinces of Gitega, Muramvya, Mwaro and Karusi, representatives of the senate and the police force as well as representatives of justice and the Ministry in charge of finance.

(www.rtnb.bi)

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REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC  
Secretariat-General of the StateMEDIA RELEASE N°06 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY 05 APRIL 2022

A Cabinet meeting was held in Bujumbura on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Monday 04 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. Sectoral policy document of the Ministry of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture, presented by the Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism in lieu of the Minister of the East African Community, Youth, Sports and Culture, unable to attend.

With a vision to have in the long term, a prosperous Burundi, well integrated within the East African Community, with a flourishing Youth, competitive Sportsmen and safeguarding its Culture, the mission of the Ministry of the Affairs of the East African Community, Youth, Sports and Culture is to ensure the effective integration of Burundi within the EAC, to design and



implement national policies in the area of Youth, Sports and Culture.

It is within this framework that this policy is proposed in order to define its strategic orientations with a view to achieving medium and long-term objectives and to adopt strategies and consider actions to be taken, with a view to achieving its Mission.

This Sector Policy is inspired, in addition to the PND 2018-2027, by other reference documents at the international and regional levels.

This Sectoral Policy of the Ministry takes up the challenges in terms of the integration of Burundi within the East African Community, Youth, Sports and Culture, establishes the inventory of fixtures of each sub-sector, highlights the orientations, the strategic objectives to be achieved, as well as the actions to be taken to achieve its Mission.

The mission of the ministry is "A prosperous Burundi, well integrated into the East African Community, with a flourishing Youth, competitive Sportsmen and safeguarding Culture".

At the end of the analysis, the Council of Ministers adopted this project with the following recommendations:

- In the actions to be carried out, retain only those that are concrete;
- Educate Burundians to work like other citizens of the East African Community and be competitive;
- Accelerate the development of the strategy for implementing this Policy;
- Prepare a national sports policy;
- Accelerate the establishment of the Maison de la Culture;
- Recover objects looted during colonization.
- In the Implementation Strategy for this policy:
  - show how sport and culture will participate in the development of the





country;

- show how cinema will be promoted;
- show how to fight against rural exodus and juvenile delinquency.

2. Draft decree on the creation, missions, organization and functioning of the Burundian Authority for the Regulation of Veterinary Products, Pesticides and Foods, "ABREVPA" in acronyms, presented by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and of Livestock.

In Burundi, the agricultural sector is the growth engine of the national economy. It is the guarantor of the food security of the populations.

The National Development Plan PND 2018-2027 reveals that agriculture contributes 39.6% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and provides 84% of jobs. It provides 95% of the food supply and is the main supplier of raw materials to the agro-industry.

Since agriculture is inseparable from livestock farming, the Government and its partners have undertaken to modernize the agricultural sector with a view to increasing production by introducing improved breeds and selected seeds. With the same objective, the Government encourages agro-pastoralists to group together in cooperatives in order to acquire new knowledge enabling them to increase their skills in the proper management of agricultural production.

Although the Government continues to make efforts, it can be seen that the agricultural sector faces constraints, particularly sanitary and phytosanitary, which hinder productivity.

Livestock animals are very susceptible to disease and need substantial veterinary care. To deal with this, the availability and accessibility of quality veterinary products throughout the country is essential. Furthermore, antimicrobial resistance remains a major challenge for human and animal health in the world in general and in our country in particular. Both food and cash crops are also confronted with attacks by harmful organisms which considerably reduce production and impair the quality of harvests.





Faced with its sanitary and phytosanitary constraints and also in order to comply with the prescriptions of the East African Community which recommends that the Partner Countries set up regulatory authorities in various sectors, it is proposed the creation of the Burundian authority for the regulation of products veterinarians, pesticides and food, "ABREVPA" in acronyms, through this draft decree.

Its implementation will contribute to the proper management of veterinary products, pesticides, foods of animal and plant origin.

At the end of the analysis, the project was adopted with the following recommendations:

- The aspects related to the autonomy of management are to be redacted from the text because the ABREVPA will operate mainly on state subsidies;
- All provisions relating to the Board of Directors should be redacted because it is not a structure that generates revenue;
- Ensure that the three structures in charge of quality standardization, i.e. BBN, ABREMA and ABREVPA, are housed in the same building to facilitate service to those who come to seek them;
- As part of the establishment of the National Agency for Quality Assurance of Medicines and Food Safety "ANAMSSA", set up a team responsible for ensuring that there is no interference between ABREVPA, BBN and ABREMA;
- Ensure that ABREVPA's missions are in line with regional and international standards;
- Ensure that certification is carried out by a single structure;
- Carry out a study tour to one of the countries of the sub-region which has a similar regulatory authority to benefit from its experience.

3. Report on the management of the Maramvya Zone, Mutimbuzi Commune, Bujumbura Province, presented by the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock.

With a view to better managing state lands and resolving the various conflicts currently observed in the MARAMYA Zone, the Ministry of the Environment,



Agriculture and Livestock with that of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security jointly organized a work of identification and demarcation of state lands located in Maramvya.

These two ministries subsequently continued to identify the occupants and tried to find lasting solutions to any conflicts between them. A joint team has been set up by these two Ministries to identify legal, illegal and irregular occupants.

As a reminder, the MARAMVYA site includes land and plots located between Transversals 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16.

The census was done avenue by avenue, plot by plot. At the end of the field visits, the commission's analysis results on the various cross-sections are as follows:

- Between Transversals 12 and 13, a total of 378 plots have been identified, all of which have been despoiled;
- Between Transversals 13 and 14, 208 plots have been identified, including 7 legally granted and 201 despoiled;
- Between Transversals 14 and 15, a total of 2049 plots have been identified, of which 1607 legally granted, 432 despoiled, 10 doubly granted on the serviced part, and on the non-serviced part of 965 plots all despoiled;
- On the Buterere borough, 583 plots identified including 16 legally allocated and 567 despoiled;
- In the Buffer Zone/Trading Centre, 29 parcels identified, including 3 legally allocated and 26 despoiled.

After analyzing the results of the investigation and the documents consulted, the commission formulated proposals for solutions to the various situations.

At the end of the analysis of this file as well as the Commission's proposals, the Council of Ministers appreciated the work drawn up by the Commission set up because the report sheds light on the situation of these plots, and formulated the following observations and recommendations:

- Inform all concerned about the situation of these plots;
- Halt the continuation of all construction activities on the disputed plots;
- Take the necessary measures on buildings that present a public hazard, in particular houses built under high voltage power lines.
- Bring the file back to the Council of Ministers after sensitization so that the State



takes a definitive direction.

4. Draft ministerial ordinance setting the minimum level of compensation rates for buildings by nature and by incorporation in the event of expropriation for reasons of public utility, presented by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and breeding

Burundi is engaged in a vast program of investment and economic and social development included in the major national strategic planning documents, in particular Vision 2025, the National Development Plan as well as other sectoral planning documents.

The implementation of these projects and programs requires that the State from time to time make use of state land or private land containing either crops or buildings. In the event that the State has to resort to the immovable property of individuals to carry out major projects of general interest, it proceeds by the prior compensation of the owners of the land.

Expropriation/compensation may take the form of either monetary compensation or an exchange accompanied, where appropriate, by partial compensation intended for the resettlement of the expropriated party; the principle being that this indemnity must fully compensate the damage suffered by the expropriated party.

The Land Code provides that a joint ordinance sets the minimum level of compensation rates for buildings by nature, and by incorporation, after consulting the National Land Commission, and these rates must be regularly updated. For the moment, the compensation rates are set by an ordinance of 2008.

It has been noted in recent days that the payment of the compensation for public utility is sometimes disputed by the expropriated persons or that the negotiations of the amount of the compensation last longer than necessary, which delays the implementation of projects and causes damage to the public treasury.

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In view of the time that has elapsed and the changes that have occurred since the





entry into force of this ordinance, it is high time to update it because the basis for calculating and negotiating compensation on expropriation for public utility is increasingly becoming obsolete.

At the end of the analysis, the Council of Ministers adopted it with the following recommendations and observations:

- The updating of compensation rates should take into consideration the current cost of living;
- It is necessary to be realistic and precise and to consider the property subject to compensation in terms of feet;
- A comparative table of tariffs currently applied and those proposed should be drawn up;
- Rents should be regulated by setting ceilings that take into account the location and quality of the house to be rented.
- The ordinance will be signed by the Minister in charge of Agriculture and the Minister in charge of Finance.

5. Draft joint ordinance regulating the employment of foreigners and citizens of Member States of the East African Community in Burundi, presented by the Minister of Public Service, Labor and Employment.

The ministerial order regulating the employment of foreigners deserves to be updated by harmonizing it with the similar laws of the countries of the East African Community, but especially with the Treaty establishing the East African Community African.

Indeed, the Protocol establishing the Common Market of the East African Community ratified by Burundi obliges Member States to harmonize their national laws as well as their rules and procedures in order to facilitate the free movement of labor.

This draft therefore modifies certain provisions of the old ordinance which are no longer relevant, while integrating others favoring workers from East African countries, since they are in the same community. After discussion and debate, the



project was adopted.

6. Draft Ministerial Ordinance revising Ordinance No. 630/1 of January 5, 1980 regulating child labor, presented by the Minister of Public Service, Labor and Employment.

As part of the proper application of the new labor code and for the proper regulation of the world of work, an ordinance regulating child labor deserves an update.

Indeed, the ministerial ordinance regulating child labor deserves to be updated to be in harmony with current laws and conventions that have been ratified by Burundi in relation to child labor.

The new Labor Code has been drawn up to find harmony with national, regional and international laws. The new Labor Code has placed significant emphasis on child labor.

This ordinance aims to ensure that all the rights of children are respected in terms of work in relation to the minimum age for admission to work as well as the quality of the work that the child can perform.

This project therefore improves certain provisions of the old ordinance which are no longer relevant, while integrating other provisions promoting the protection of children and adapted to the realities of the country.

This project specifies that no child may be occupied with work that exceeds his strength, exposes him to high professional risks or which, by its nature or the conditions in which it is carried out, is likely to injure his morals. It also talks about the age for admission to employment, which is 16, except in well-defined cases in terms of education and domestic or rural work. Finally, it regulates the working hours of children by prohibiting the subjecting of a child to night work or work requiring the use of excessive force as well as other work which presents risks or which could harm their health.

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

- Educate parents on the work that children are not allowed to do;



- Translate this ordinance into Kirundi to facilitate its dissemination.

7. Draft ministerial ordinance on the conditions for authorizing the opening or operation and renewal of a private employment agency, presented by the Minister of the Public Service, Labor and Employment.

In recent years, cries of alarm from Burundian migrant workers have been heard, particularly from the Gulf countries.

After analyzing the cycle of migration and placement of Burundian labor abroad, a major challenge of regulation of this sector was noted. It is within this framework that it was recommended to the ministries involved in the management of labor migration, to undertake the necessary actions internally and then towards the countries of destination of these Burundian migrant workers with a view to defuse tensions and effectively and sustainably regulate this sector of activity.

Consequently, in January 2021, the Ministry of Public Service, Labor and Employment suspended the activities of private agencies operating in this sector until further notice.

With the promulgation of the new Labor Code, the ministerial ordinance on the procedures for opening and operating private employment agencies needs to be updated so that it can complete the Labor Code in terms of regulating these agencies because the old ordinance is obsolete and no longer compatible with the new labor code.

This ordinance clarifies certain points concerning private employment agencies that place personnel, particularly abroad. At the end of the analysis, the project was adopted with the following recommendations:

- Dissociate the provisions relating to the placement of personnel at the local level and abroad;
- Place the cost of the license for the placement of personnel abroad at 100 million Burundian francs;
- Highlight the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;





- The methods of remuneration of migrant workers must take into account the fact that these staff must pay income tax;
- Require these private agencies to provide proof that they are collaborating with an approved placement house established in the country of destination of the workers;
- Require the training of migrant workers to be placed;
- The ordinance will be signed jointly with the Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs.

8. Memorandum of understanding on the implementation of a rural electrification program in the provinces and villages of Burundi between the Government of Burundi and the company VIRUNGA POWER, presented by the Minister of Hydraulics, Energy and Mining.

About 90% of the Burundian population does not have access to modern energy services, including electricity.

The Government has become aware of this situation and has included in the National Development Plan programs aimed at increasing access to reliable and modern energy services, at an affordable cost, through the increase in the production units of electricity, rehabilitation and construction of new electricity transmission and distribution lines.

To achieve this objective, the Government of Burundi has confirmed its interest in private sector participation, in order to accelerate the complete rural electrification of all the villages and hills of Burundi within the framework of a Public-Private Partnership. Virunga Power and its partners have expressed interest in mobilizing grant capital or similar to carry out feasibility studies for a large-scale rural electrification program for provinces and villages in Burundi;

Virunga Power has already identified potential funding for this program and plans to engage with the Government of Burundi in in-depth discussions following the execution of this Memorandum of Understanding.

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to define the terms of collaboration between the Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mining and the company Virunga Power in order to develop and conclude a Partnership



agreement relating to a program of large-scale rural electrification.

After exchange and debate, the Council of Ministers adopted this Memorandum with the recommendation to specify that the Memorandum will have duration of twelve months.

9. Report of the Commission responsible for drawing up the roadmap for the implementation of the recommendations of the Council of Ministers of September 29, 2021 on ONATEL's recovery measures, presented by the Minister of Communication, Information and Media.

On September 29, 2021, the Council of Ministers analyzed the note on the situation and the proposals on ONATEL's recovery measures. It formulated a series of recommendations and instructed the line Ministry, in collaboration with the services of the Prime Minister, to draw up a roadmap for the implementation of these recommendations.

These recommendations were as follows:

- Restore the leadership of Onatel so that it is able to steer the reforms to be considered;
- Authorize Onatel to recruit technically competent human resources within the limits of the available budget and retrain those who can;
- Identify, among Onatel's securities and shares in financial institutions, those that are less profitable and sell them to clear part of its debts. Onatel must also assess its debts and collect them;
- Seek an external audit firm to carry out the general diagnosis of Onatel and propose corrective measures; the same audit will show how the credit contracted by the State of Burundi was used by the company HUAWEI;
- Check whether the credit that the State has contracted with China for the revitalization of Onamob is not guaranteed;
- Seek ways to modernize fixed telephony, in particular through the introduction of triple play where the telephone, the Internet and television channels are on the same line;
- For products of the same quality from Onatel and private operators, public



institutions should favor Onatel products;

- Identify, enhance and make profitable the heritage of Onatel;

A Commission has been set up for this purpose and has produced this Note which is the subject of analysis.

It shows the concrete actions to be taken in relation to these recommendations, the necessary means, the deadlines and the person responsible for implementing each action.

In this same perspective of improving the situation of ONATEL, the Commission proposes that the other actions already included in the sectoral strategy of the Ministry in charge as well as in the five-year plan of ONATEL, be implemented in support of this roadmap.

Its implementation requires internal and external funding which would amount to one hundred fifty-six billion Eighty-eight million seven hundred twenty-nine thousand two hundred and forty-four Burundian francs (156,088,729,244 BIF) for the roadmap on the one hand, and ninety-five billion four hundred seventy-seven million four hundred forty-five thousand nine hundred Burundian francs (95,477,445,900BIF), for the other actions not included in the roadmap on the other hand.

After analyzing the Note, the Council of Ministers noted that the sought by the Government in formulating these recommendations had not been achieved because the Commission worked outside the established framework.

The following was therefore recommended:

- Set up a team made up of representatives of the Presidency of the Republic, the Office of the Prime Minister and certain other ministries responsible for developing the terms of reference for an audit of Onatel;
- Set up a team of local independent experts who will draw up a recovery plan for Onatel (its business plan) based on Onatel's assets;
- In terms of personnel management, identify the elements that can remain, those that can be reassigned elsewhere and those that must be disinterested;

#### 10. Any Other Business.



- The Minister of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing informed the Council on the issue of the purchase of the materials and equipment necessary to carry out the work on force account, the approach being to buy the equipment and materials in the factories or at least considerably reduce the commission agents so that in the end, the products reach the country at a very reduced price. The problem lies in the fact that some refuse payment terms in the form of documentary credit.

The Council of Ministers has requested that the Prime Minister, the Ministry in charge of Infrastructures and the Ministry in charge of Finance to come together to analyze ways of solving this question.

- The Minister of Interior, Community Development and Public Security informed the Council of Ministers on the project to build decent housing and social infrastructure in community development villages. The overall objective is to provide local communities with decent housing with improved access to basic social services for inclusive community development.

Initially, the project will be financed by the Government of Burundi from municipal grants. This first phase will aim to show potential partners the model of houses that the Government would like to build in the villages.

The Council of Ministers appreciated this project which comes to implement the policy of the Government.

These pilot villages will in fact encourage the partners in their support plans for the Government of Burundi in this vast program of villagisation.

- The Minister of Communication, Information Technologies and the Media informed the Council of Ministers on the "e-Nama" platform integrating the interconnection of members of the Government. This is an aspect of the implementation of the National Policy for the Development of Information and Communication Technologies which provides for the digitalization of public institutions.

The desired objective is to optimize government work through the use of ICTs,



which constitute a powerful lever for socio-economic development.  
The Council of Ministers asked her to draw up a Note relating thereto.

Done at Bujumbura, 06 April 2022

Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE

Secretary-General and Spokesman.-



**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development  
Cooperation**

**Department of Communication**

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