



Burundi celebrates the 60th anniversary of its independence



of Zanzibar accompanied by the First Lady as well as the delegations from Kigali, the Kingdom of Belgium, the European Union, Uganda, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Egypt, Bangladesh, Oman, Qatar, Niger, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, Zimbabwe, Cuba, China and Kenya have made the trip to join the Burundians in this celebration.

Burundians around the world celebrated on Friday, July 1, 2022 the 60th anniversary of the country's independence.

The related ceremonies at the national level were enhanced by the Presidential Couple surrounded by several high personalities of the country. They began with the meditation and laying of wreaths at the Mausoleum of Prince Louis Rwagasore and at Place de l'Indépendance and continued at Boulevard de l'Indépendance in Bujumbura Town Hall.

Two Heads of State from neighboring countries, namely the Central African President H.E Faustin Archange Touadera and H.E Hassan Ali Mwinyi

ed Arab Emirates, Zimbabwe, Cuba, China and Kenya have made the trip to join the Burundians in this celebration.

The festivities counting for the day, celebrated under the theme "Let us dedicate our forces, our hearts and our lives to our country, so that Burundi enjoys its dignity", were marked by a long parade of soldiers and police officers and the numbers of paratroopers, para-commandos and those of the "Bene Ntare" group and majorettes.

In his speech for the occasion, the Head of State, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE revealed that Burundi is still facing the consequences of the presence of settlers,

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60 years after independence: "We inherited a poor country, without good governance and plagued by ethnic discrimination," he said, however, rejoicing at the step already taken and the efforts invested by Burundians to clean up and develop their country.

"We ask the international community to support us by refusing asylum to troublemakers and by facilitating the return of Burundian experts so that they contribute to the development of their country", suggested President NDAYISHIMIYE. He held this opportunity to reward 13 people of mixed nationalities who have contributed in a remarkable way to the development of the country.

Thus, a certificate of honor was awarded to Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, to the Representative of the European Union in Burundi Claude Bochou, to the Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to Burundi and to the Ambassador of the United States in Burundi, all for having supported Burundi during times of

hardship and for having fought to improve Burundi's image with the international community.

In their speeches of greeting to the august assembly, the Heads of State present at these ceremonies as well as the members of the delegations congratulated the Burundians for the celebration of the 60 years of independence while rejoicing that Burundi maintains good relations with their countries.

His Excellency Faustin Touadera, President of the Central African Republic stressed that the Central African Republic is counting on Burundi to help it preserve peace, national reconciliation and stability.

As for Stéphane Doppagne, Special Envoy of the Kingdom of Belgium, he expressed "his country's regrets over the injustices committed during the colonial period, a regime that was based on inequality." (www.presidency.gov.bi)

Investiture of new members of the CNIDH, the CVR and the Council for Unity and Reconciliation



Before the President of the Republic, before the Parliament, I (Name and first name), member of the Council for National

Unity and Reconciliation, I swear to faithfully and impartially fulfill my mandate, never to allow myself to be guided by no partisan interest, and to devote myself entirely to the consolidation of National Unity and the Reconciliation of Burundians, in strict compliance with the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi, the Charter of National Unity and other laws in force".

"Before the President of the Republic, before Parliament, I (Name and surname), Member of the Independent National Commission for Human Rights, I swear to fulfill my mandate faithfully and with complete independence and impartiality, never to allow myself to be guided by any partisan interest, to devote myself entirely to the protection and promotion of human rights. rights in strict compliance with the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi, the Charter of National Unity and other laws in force".

"In front of the President of the Republic, in front of Parliament, me (Name and surname). I swear to ac-

complish my mission with complete independence, impartiality, dignity and without any discrimination whatsoever, with the aim of discovering the truth in order to encourage and promote national reconciliation.

I undertake to respect the obligation of confidentiality prescribed by the law establishing, mandate, composition, and organization and functioning of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

These are the three oaths pronounced at the Kigobe hemicycle, respectively before the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE and the Parliament by the members of the Council for Unity and Reconciliation, the CNIDH and the CVR. These new members have been appointed to replace those who have completed their term of office or are called to other responsibilities.

The Council for Unity and Reconciliation currently includes new members who are Anicet Niyonkuru replacing Alphonse Bazonyica, Ambassador Rose Ntawe replacing Zénon Bigirimana, Mediator Bizabishaka, Jean Marie Ndayihereje replacing Alphonse Rukenkanya. The first two being appointed for a term of four years and the other two for three years. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

President Ndayishimiye receives a message of congratulations from his South African counterpart on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the independence of Burundi



The Head of State, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE received in audience, on Thursday, June 30 at his Residence in Kiriri, a delegation led by the Vice-Minister of the Republic of South Africa in charge of External Relations and Cooperation, Ms. KC Mashego-Dlamini.

This South African delegation carried a message of

congratulations from His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, to his Burundian counterpart, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, on the occasion of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Independence of Burundi.

"Burundi and South Africa have historic relations of friendship and cooperation. And we are grateful that South Africa has supported Burundi during the peace process", indicated the Burundian Number One, referring with satisfaction to the relations which unite the two countries.

Ms. Mashego Dlamini, Special Envoy of President Ramaphosa, expressed her appreciation on behalf of the entire delegation for the warm welcome extended to them since their arrival in Burundi. She further hinted that they are delighted to join their Burundian brothers and sisters in celebrating this important event (www.presidency.gov.bi)

Bilateral relations between Burundi and the Kingdom of Belgium are in good shape



On Saturday, July 2, 2022, the Head of State H.E Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE granted an audience with Ambassador Stephane Doppagne, Special Envoy for the Great

Lakes Region who carried a message of congratulations from the Belgian Prime Minister on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Burundi in the presidential palace of Kiriri presidential meeting of Kiriri.

The historical and interpersonal ties that unite our two countries and their populations have always given the relations between the Republic of Burundi and the Kingdom of Belgium a particular depth and intensity." Said Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo through his letter sent to the President of Burundi.

"The colonial regime was based on exploitation and domination. It was that of an unequal relationship, in itself unjustifiable," said Mr. Alexander De Croo, recalling that this system has tarnished the image of his country.

"We must admit it without hesitation or detours if we want to live a sincere relationship and look together towards the future", continued the Prime Minister of Belgium, hoping that the gradually regained confi-

dence and the mutual respect which animate Burundi and Belgium, constitute a solid base on which the two peoples can further consolidate together, on the basis of shared values, the relationship that binds the two countries.

President NDAYISHIMIYE appreciated the Belgian Prime Minister's message, which he described as "very strong and very deep" to mark a fundamental turning point in the common history of two respective countries, Burundi and Belgium.

Ambassador Stéphane Doppagne, bearer of this

message, thanked the President of the Republic of Burundi for granting him the floor of greetings and congratulations to the Burundian people on the occasion of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the independence of Burundi.

The Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region then informed the Burundian Head of State that a Belgian Parliamentary Commission will be in Burundi in September 2022 to revisit the historical past and move together towards the future. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

The First Lady closes the series of awareness-raising workshops for young people in schools on wisdom, leadership, reproductive health and the fight against HIV/AIDS



The First Lady of Burundi and President of OPDD-Burundi Her Excellency Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE recently began a series of awareness-raising sessions for young people in schools on the themes of wisdom, leadership, reproductive health and the fight against HIV/AIDS.

In June 2022 when the students are preparing to start the long summer holidays, Her Excellency the First expresses her concern about the conduct of these young people and adolescents during and after the holidays, and urges them to maintain good discipline for prepare for their future.

For this series of June 2022, Her Excellency the First Lady visited the Lycée de Bubanza on the 23rd, Lycée de l'Annonciation and Lycée du Sourire in Bukeye on the 27th, the Lycée Notre Dame de la Sagesse in Gitega dated 26, and finally the Arthur Chilson School of Kibimba on Thursday 29, 2022.

In Kibimba as in the first three places, health experts have demonstrated that young people, espe-

cially girls, are exposed to drugs, unwanted pregnancies, HIV/AIDS and other diseases, especially STIs. They asked these young people and teenagers to spare themselves from any bad behavior that could lead them into sins that affect their lives and future.

Each session was characterized by testimonies from 3 young people, including a former drug user, a young person living with HIV/AIDS and a young girl who had experienced an unwanted pregnancy.

"These testimonies should serve as a lesson to us as young people to guide our future well," said Her Excellency the First Lady in her message. She added that young people and teenagers need to keep their bodies pure from a young age and work as a team and diligently while being satisfied with what is available to them so as not to be seduced by fleeting hobbies.

During the closing session of this series of teachings in Kibimba, H.E Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE challenged all the young people and adolescents who have benefited from these teachings, to share them with others in order to reach a large number of students throughout the National territory. She also called on parents to establish a permanent dialogue with their children to prepare for their future.

The WHO Representative in Burundi Mr Xavier Crespin thanked the First Lady H.E Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE for her courage and dedication in raising awareness among young people on health issues. He reiterated his commitment to work closely with the First Lady to properly guide the future of our

young generations. It should be noted that these activities were organized with the support of the WHO. For each school visited, the First Lady granted the students a donation of at least 150 mattresses, balls and sports shirts. At the Lycée Notre Dame de la Sagesse, which is a pilot school for inclusive education, Her Excellency Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE added to the donation of mattresses, 50 wheelchairs for students with physical disabilities. On the same occasion, another donation of mattresses was also given to selected hospitals and health centers in the locality of the schools visited. In Buzanza, Musigati Communal Hospital received a donation of 50 mattresses.

In Bukeye, Bukeye and Mbuye hospitals each received a donation of 50 mattresses. In Gitega, Gasunu Hospital in Giheta Commune was chosen and in Mwaro, the health districts of Kibumbu and Fota each received a donation of 50 mattresses. Her Excellency the First Lady of Burundi and President of OPDD-Burundi, like the beneficiaries and the WHO partner, is very satisfied with the results of these workshops and intends to continue with other similar visits after the next school year. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

The Prime Minister receives in audience the Resident Coordinator of UN agencies in Burundi



rundi, Ambassador Damien MAMA. The two authorities discussed the new approach proposed by the Secretary General of the United Nations, which consists of moving from the concept of development aid to development cooperation or partnership.

Ambassador Damien Mama also came to seek guidance from the Government of Burundi to align the actions of the agencies of the United Nations system with those proposed by the Government of Burundi. The Prime Minister clarified to him the objectives and ambitions of the Government through the National Development Plan (PND2018-2027).

Ambassador Damien Mama promised that the agencies of the United Nations system will ensure that their plans and programs can be better aligned with Burundi's sustainable development ambitions, so that the efforts of the Government and partners complement each other, so that they can benefit Burundians. . (www.rtnb.bi)

Primier Minister His Excellency Alain Guillaume Bunyoni received in audience on Thursday, June 30, 2022, the Resident Coordinator of United Nations system agencies in Bu-

The Prime Minister receives in audience the Apostolic Nuncio to Burundi



The Prime Minister, His Excellency Alain Guillaume Bunyoni receives in audience, on Thursday, June 30, 2022, the Apostolic Nuncio of Burundi, Bishop Dieudonné DATANOU. The two personalities discussed the common interests between the Government of Burundi and the Holy See relating to the historical involvement of the Holy See in spirituality, through the Catholic Church. They also discussed the contribution of the Catholic Church in other areas such as education, health, promotion of peace and reconciliation, social stability and integral human development in Burundi. (www.rtnb.bi)

Gahombo: The Ombudsman assists victims of bad weather



Honorable Edouard NDUWIMANA took this opportunity to call on the inhabitants of the Businde and Rukaho hills for solidarity and mutual assistance when there are problems, particularly in the event of natural disasters. He asked the population and the administration at the base to provide timely information on all the problems that arise on the hills so that they find solutions.

The Ombudsman of Burundi Honorable Edouard NDUWIMANA delivered on Monday, June 28, 2022 food assistance consisting of rice and beans to the victims of the bad weather that occurred in April 2022 on the Rukago and Businde hills, in Gahombo commune of Kayanza province.

The beneficiaries of the ombudsman's assistance were two hundred people chosen from among the most needy, each person received 5kg of rice and 5kg of beans.

"That there is no child who does not go to school for lack of school materials" he insisted. The Ombudsman also invited the population to obey the authorities, to implement the programs of the Government and particularly the protection of the environment.

For his part, the governor of Kayanza province Colonel Rémy Cishhayo thanked the Ombudsman for his multiple interventions whenever the population is in difficulty. (www.rtnb.bi)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation opened the activities of the Diplomatic Week Edition 2022



On Monday, June 27, 2022, His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, launched the activities dedicated to the Diplomatic Week Edition 2022, scheduled from June 27 to 30, 2022 under the theme: "A active diplomacy in the service of agricultural development and the strengthening of national sovereignty".

In his opening speech, His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO welcomed all diplomats and guests. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation indicated that the diplomatic week was organized with the aim of better understanding the realities of Burundi to find ways of international cooperation. He indicated that the Government of Burundi wanted Burundi's partners to support the efforts of the Burundian President, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE in the country's development project so that Burundi sees its sovereignty established and stable. According to the Minister, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE is committed to developing the agricultural sector to exploit the natural resources of our dear country, Burundi. To this end, the Minister called on the partners to visit strategic places in Burundi in order to inquire about its wealth in natural resources.

His Excellency Albert SHINGIRO declared that the organization of the diplomatic week is a usual exchange session between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation and the Heads of Diplomatic and Consular Missions and the Representatives of International Organizations and Regional Organizations. It is also an opportunity to make trips and excursions in relaxation.

During the exchanges for this year's edition, the Min-

ister briefed the participants on the six priorities of the Government of Burundi, which are: good governance, development of the agriculture and livestock sector, public health, employment of young people, care of pensioners and repatriation of refugees.

The Minister's speech was followed by a presentation session on the fight for the recovery of the national sovereignty of Burundi carried out by Ambassador Laurent KAVAKURE, the former Minister of Foreign Relations and International Cooperation, currently Commissioner for Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

In his presentation, Ambassador Laurent KAVAKURE spoke of the major dates that marked the history of Burundi. He said that from 1885 to 1962, Burundi went through bad situations. Burundi received its Independence in 1962 but a trapped independence.

That is to say that this independence was not celebrated because massacres followed. Ambassador Laurent KAVAKURE indicated that we only lowered the Flag of the German colonizers and raised the Flag of Burundi. This period was marked by ethnic divisions, regionalism and Belgium's opposition to the recovery of Burundi's national sovereignty.

Former Minister Ambassador Laurent KAVAKURE stressed that there was promulgation of the new constitution to adapt to the Arusha agreement which says ethnic equality.

Ambassador Laurent KAVAKURE announced that the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE is doing his best to defend and establish national sovereignty through the economic development of the country. This is localized on the development of agriculture, the basis of the life of the

Burundian population. The Head of State wants every mouth to have something to eat and every pocket to have money. Ambassador Laurent KAVAKURE explained to the Diplomats that the objective of presenting the history of Burundi from colonization to national sovereignty is to make them understand

in depth the realities of Burundi, which has delayed the development of the country. It was also to open up avenues of cooperation by inviting them to support the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE on the path to national development. (FADC)

Presentation of figured copies of credentials



gary, Tri Yogo Jatmiko of the Republic of Indonesia, Marie Charlotte G.Tang of the Republic of the Philippines and Andrew Zumbe Kumwenda of the Republic of Malawi respectively presented to the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation Mr. Férdinand BASHIKAKO, the figured copies of their credentials to represent their countries as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassadors.

The Permanent Secretary wished them a fruitful mission in Burundi. He hoped that cooperation between Burundi and their respective countries would be further strengthened. Overall, the Ambassadors also reported that they were happy to be received as Ambassadors of



In June 27, 2022, Ambassadors Dragoş Viorel Radu Tigău of the Republic of Romania, Zsolt Mészáros of the Republic of Hun-

their countries in Burundi. They, too, wanted the existing relations between Burundi and their country to be deepened. (FADC)

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REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat-General of the State**MEDIA RELEASE N° 12 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE 2022**

A Cabinet meeting was held in Bujumbura on Wednesday 29th of June 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 Wednesday 22 June 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 items were analyzed:

- 1. Bill regulating medically assisted procreation in Burundi**, presented by the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS.

The Government of Burundi has found that infertility becomes a real public health problem if nothing is done immediately.

This public health problem is compounded by social stigma that has serious effects on the mental and social well-being of couples.

To deal with this problem and given the development of technologies used in medically assisted procreation, it is necessary to set up fertility centers and regulations governing practices related to medically assisted reproduction, hence the proposal of this bill.

After discussion and debate, the Council of Ministers recognized the importance of this regulation because it is a new area in Burundi.

The following observations were therefore made:

- The matter is not within the domain of the law;
- Given the importance of the area to be regulated and which affects human life, the project must be submitted to the Ethics Committee for an opinion;
- It is necessary to carry out a survey to collect the opinion of the population on this system of procreation.

The project will be brought back to the Council of Ministers.

2. Draft decree revising decree 100/171 of September 30, 2009 fixing the levels of recruitment and salary index scales for civil servants, presented by the Minister of Public Service, Labor and Employment.

The General Staff Regulations introduce changes in the management of recruitment and careers of civil servants.

However, it was decided not to immediately modify the organization of the index grid and the level of the recruitment levels which were set by Decree No. 100/171 of September 30, 2009.

However, this decree, even if it organizes the index grid of civil servants, also includes other provisions, which are not compatible with those of the new statute. This proposed project revises the current decree by:

- Retaining the index grid and the levels of recruitment, but eliminating the distinction between teachers and non-teaching staff.
- Removing the special provisions applicable to teachers.

At the end of the debate, the project was adopted with some formal aspects to be edited.

3. Draft joint ordinance on the administrative release and fictitious career advancement of civil servants and civil servants of the State for the period 2016-2022, presented by the Minister of Public Service, Labor and Employment.

With a view to the implementation of a fair wage policy in the Burundian public sector, the Government has granted compensation for the adjustment of wage disparities in the public sector and freezing of annals, bonuses and short-term allowances since January 1, 2016 until today.

Since then, civil servants and civil servants of the State in the public sector have continued to be rated without benefiting from the related step and grade advancements.

In application of this salary policy adopted by the Government on March 2, 2022, this ordinance proposes the administrative release of the careers of civil servants and civil servants of the State before switching to the new remuneration system proposed by said policy.

At the end of the debate, the project was adopted subject to a few formal aspects to be corrected.

4. Draft joint ministerial order granting a new salary adjustment allowance to civil servants and civil servants of the State, presented by the Minister of the Public Service, Labor and Employment.

On March 2, 2022, the Government of Burundi adopted a fair wage policy in the Burundian public sector.

From the point of view of its implementation, it was recommended to spread it over ten years, at the rate of 12.5 billion Burundian francs for nine years with the possibility of

increasing this sum mid-term depending on the availability of resources. For the 2021-2022 financial year, a budget of 25 billion Burundian francs has been reserved.

This joint ministerial ordinance therefore proposes the terms and conditions for the breakdown of this budget for the granting of a new salary adjustment allowance to civil servants and civil servants of the State, in accordance with the prescriptions of the salary policy.

At the end of the debate, the project was adopted subject to a few formal aspects to be corrected.

5. Strategic orientation document for watershed management and erosion control and watershed management project, presented by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock

The formulation of the Strategic Orientation Document for Watershed Management and Erosion Control was motivated by the following elements:

- The multiplicity of Development Partners in the sector with a real lack of visibility on the ground.
- The new dynamic of the Government of Burundi to put development partners on the same guideline to follow through the joint Annual Action Plan (AAP).
- The vision according to which “Agriculture does not kill the Environment but agriculture and the environment are complementary”.
- Harmonization of watershed management and erosion control on all the hills of the country so that all watercourses are clear.
- Concern for the contribution of watershed management and erosion control to improving agricultural intensification through hillside and marsh irrigation.

Thus, for the successful implementation of this strategy, it is necessary to accompany it with a National Program for the Development of Watersheds and the Fight against Erosion for the operationalization of this strategy aimed at the sustainable and effective management of soils and waters.

The overall objective is to promote integral and integrated management of watersheds and sub-watersheds for the restoration and sustainable management of degraded lands and soil fertility with a view to significantly improving the living conditions of households.

Following the analysis of this document, the Council of Ministers adopted it with, among other things, the following recommendations:

- This project should be implemented as soon as possible;
- Environmental protection should be everyone's concern;
- The proof that such projects have been useful will be the cleanliness of the waters of the rivers;
- Contour lines should be drawn during this dry season on all hills in the country regardless of ownership;
- The territorial administration should be involved in the implementation of this Project;
- The rivers that flow into Lake Tanganyika should be protected, in particular by planting bamboo along their edges.

6. Strategy for the modernization and operationalization of the Burundian Bureau of Standardization and Quality Control (BBN), presented by the Minister of Commerce, Transport, Industry and Tourism.

Burundi adopted a National Development Plan in 2018. It constitutes the frame of reference for the economic policy of the State. As part of the contribution of its implementation in its axis which aims to support the private and public sector for the promotion of exports, the rationalization of imports and the protection of consumers, a strategy for the modernization and operationalization of the Burundi Bureau for Standardization and Quality Control, accreditation of its laboratories and certification of its services must be set up. It aims to improve analyzes and quality control.

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It is in this perspective that this strategy has been developed, based mainly on the current inventory as well as the analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. It is from these data that the objectives, priority strategic activities and expected results for the revitalization of the Burundian Office for Standardization and Quality Control were identified. The immediate needs in human resources, material and equipment have been inventoried.

The vision of this strategy is "By 2027, the Burundian Office for Standardization and Quality Control has certified services and accredited laboratories to ensure the credibility and competitiveness of certified products on national markets, regionally and internationally and enable consumer protection".

The overall objective is to contribute to the socio-economic development of Burundi by increasing the competitiveness of local products and consumer protection through the strengthening of BBN services.

The strategic action plan developed for the modernization and operationalization of the Burundian Office for Standardization and Quality Control will be implemented over three (03) years, with an estimated budget of six million US dollars (6,000,000).

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

- Work in synergy with the other entities concerned by certification and, if necessary, set up a single multifunctional national laboratory;
- Establish standards at the sanitary, phytosanitary, plant and animal levels and ensure their implementation;
- Provide the Burundian Office for Standardization and Quality Control with sufficient and competent staff as well as the necessary equipment required;
- Carry out budgeting by fiscal year and express the budget in Burundian francs;

7. Draft decree canceling an exclusive license in favor of the company PROCERV as management authority in accordance with the contract on the establishment, operation and management of the Warubondo Special Economic Zone, signed on 05/16/2018 , between the Government of Burundi and the company PROCERV, presented by the Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism.

On May 16, 2016, the Government of Burundi signed a contract with the company ProCerv relating to the establishment, operation and management of the Special Economic Zone of WARUBONDO.

Since the signing of this contract, it is clear that the company ProCerv has not honored its contractual obligations so that the Special Economic Zone is not yet operational until today.

However, under the terms of this contract, ProCerv had undertaken to begin the activities for setting up the zone within a period not exceeding 3 months, after the signing of the contract.

On March 23, 2021, a formal notice was sent to ProCerv to remind it to meet its obligations.

On 08/09/2021, the Council of Ministers analyzed a note on the urgent measures to be taken to prevent a possible dysfunction of the Special Economic Zone of WARUBONDO, and the following decisions were taken:

- The Ministry in charge of trade in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice will terminate the contract between ProCerv and the Government of Burundi for non-compliance with the terms of the contract by the company ProCerv;
- Whoever built the market in the area will sign another agreement with the new buyer
- It is necessary to prepare the legal framework governing the special economic zones;
- It is necessary to carry out the servicing of the site
- The Ministry in charge of trade in collaboration with that of infrastructures and that of hydraulics will draw up a plan for the development and occupation of the WARUBONDO site according to the sectors of activity.

In order to implement these recommendations, this contract was terminated on April 18, 2022 in order to entrust this project to a new buyer who would have the technical and financial capacities.

To materialize this termination, it is necessary to cancel the concession of the WARUBONDO site which had been granted to the company ProCerv and by the withdrawal of the exclusive license conferring management authority on the company ProCerv.

It is in this perspective that the draft decree was drawn up.

After discussion and debate, the Council of Ministers recommended revisiting the contract to analyze in depth the commitments of each party and systematically verify the shortcomings of each of the two parties.

It is only at the end of this work that the file will be brought back to the Council of Ministers for a decision.

8. Note on the status of implementation of the concession contract signed between the State of Burundi and the project company "SARAKO Sprl", presented by the Minister of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines.

9. The Government of Burundi has entered into a public-private partnership contract for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of two solar power plants of BUBANZA (10 MW) and Gitega (10 MW) with the Tauber Solar Holding GmbH group in joint venture with SARAKO PVP Co. Ltd, dated September 14, 2014.

Subsequently, this group submitted amendments to the signed contract, in particular the transfer of the concession contract to the group TS Mauritius GmbH and Sarako management (Africa) Ltd, shareholder in the project company "SARAKO Burundi Sprl" which will be the new concessionaire, as well only on certain provisions of the concession contract.

After analyzing these amendments, the Government of Burundi authorized the transfer of the concession contract to the new concessionaire, as well as the modification of certain provisions of the concession contract.

Unfortunately, the observation is that there is an excessive and unjustified delay in the effective implementation of the concession contract, because the commissioning of these two power plants was twelve months, a period counted from the date of approval of the concession contract.

Furthermore, the operation of this concession contract would pose problems for the following reasons:

- The tariff of 0.25 USD per KWh is too high if we refer to other energy contracts in progress;
- REGIDESO cannot support this tariff;
- Exemption from taxes to the concessionaire violates the law on the general regime of public-private partnership contracts;
- The contract does not provide for the transfer mechanism of the plant at the end of the contract.

The purpose of the note is to request the approval of the Council of Ministers to proceed with the termination of this concession contract to release the sites to other partners justifying the technical and financial means for the construction of these two power plants.

At the end of the analysis, the Council of Ministers recommended ensuring that all the steps and legal mechanisms necessary to terminate the contract have been respected and asked that the file be brought back to the Council of Ministers.

10. Note on the project to set up a legal framework for the EAC dialogue committee, Burundi chapter, presented by the Minister of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture.

The Treaty establishing the East African Community stipulates that the partner countries of the East African Community undertake to promote Permanent Dialogue with the Private Sector and Civil Society at the national and regional levels, to contribute to the implementation of the decisions agreed within the framework of the execution of the projects and programs of the East African Community.

This Dialogue is part of the multi-stakeholder partnership, and aims to ensure that the process of integration of the East African Community takes place with the participation of the citizens of the Partner Countries of the East African Community.

The creation of a Framework for Permanent Dialogue with the private sector and civil society is in accordance with the directive of the nineteenth meeting of the Council of Ministers of the East African Community which recommends to the General Secretariat of the East African Community to application of the Treaty establishing the East African Community.

The 26th meeting of the Council of Ministers of the East African Community adopted the creation of a Consultative Dialogue Framework which is a framework for exchange between state actors, the private sector, civil society and other Interest Groups on the East African Community integration process.

The structure for the Dialogue provides for national Dialogue committees, coordinated by the ministries responsible for East African Community affairs, on the one hand, and a regional Dialogue committee coordinated at the level of the General Secretariat of the East African Community, on the other hand.

The note proposes the composition of this Committee and also proposes that the legal framework be put in place by decree or Order of the Prime Minister.

At the end of the analysis, the Council of Ministers approved the establishment of this legal framework by Order of the Prime Minister with some modifications and adjustments in terms of the composition of the committee.

11. Concept Note on the Support Project for Agro-pastoral Entrepreneurship and Professional Development of Youth and Women (PAEPPPJF), presented by the Minister of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture.

The Government has placed employment issues, improving the skills of young people for better employability and professional integration among its top priorities. It is in this context that several initiatives have already been undertaken.

The Support Project for Agro-pastoral Entrepreneurship and Professional Development of Youth and Women, which will be financed by the African Development Bank, was designed in this context.

The objective of the Project is to improve the professional, technical and entrepreneurial capacities of young people and women in the agro-pastoral sectors, leading to an increase in their contribution to the economy and job creation.

It will serve in:

- Support for improving the technical and professional skills of young people and women for better employability;
- Support for the improvement of the entrepreneurial ecosystem for the creation of employment and export opportunities for young people and women
- Strengthening the digitalization and digital skills of young people/women
- Institutional support and capacity building of actors.

At the end of the exchanges, the Council of Ministers approved this Project and asked to ensure that it starts in September of this year.

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12. Any Other Business

His Excellency the President of the Republic has observed that many processing units in the country are not functioning due to a lack of raw materials. He asked the Ministers in charge of Agriculture and Finance to study the methods of importing maize so that these processing units find raw material to continue to operate.

He also asked to prepare well for the A-B cropping season so that the harvest is good, especially by raising awareness among the population to make the most of rainwater in irrigation.

Finally, he wished the population a happy anniversary of the independence of Burundi and informed that the government holiday will begin on July 04, 2022 and that the resumption of activities is set for July 18, 2022.

Done at Bujumbura, 30 June 2022
Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE

Secretary-General and Spokesman.-

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
Development Cooperation
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