

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI-



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
Development Cooperation

MFADC-

Burundi commemorates the 27th anniversary of the assassination of President Cyprien NTARYAMIRA



The President of the Republic, HE Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by his spouse, joined other burundians in the commemoration of the 27th anniversary of the assassination of President Cyprien NTARYAMIRA, which occurred in Rwanda, on April 6, 1994 with his counterpart President of the Republic of Rwanda, the late Juvénal HAVYARIMANA.

The commemorative ceremonies began with a Requiem Mass celebrated at the Regina Mundi Cathedral by Monsignor Gervais BANSHIMIYUBUSA, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Bujumbura. In his homily, Monsignor Gervais BANSHIMIYUBUSA asked all burun-

dians to thank the Almighty God for this gift that he had offered to Burundi, His Excellency Cyprien NTARYAMIRA, who, in his policy of governing the country, followed the footsteps of Jesus Christ, preaching peace and love.

He thanked the burundian authorities for establishing the date of April 6 in memory of the late President Cyprien Ntaryamira, a supporter of peace, development and discipline.

Monsignor Gervais BANSHIMIYUBUSA called on the burundians to be true witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, through the consolidation of peace, justice and love of neighbor.

The Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Bujumbura congratulated the Government of Burundi on taking note of the legacy of the late His Excellency Cyprien NTARYAMIRA in making dialogue a custom, with a view of stabilizing lasting peace.

The ceremonies were closed at the Martyrs of Democracy by the meditation on the tomb of the late President Cyprien NTARYAMIRA which was characterized by the laying of wreaths of flowers and the speech delivered by His Excellency NTARYAMIRA during his investiture, at the Presidency of the

Dans ce numéro:

page

Burundi commemorates 27th anniversary of the assassination of President Cyprien NTARYAMIRA

1

The Head of State opens the activities of the 5th Edition of the National Youth Conference in Gitega

2

President of the National Assembly calls on Christians to couple prayer with forgiveness

3

Solemn opening of information and exchange seminar for newly appointed diplomats

4

Newly appointed diplomats receive recommendations to follow

5

The Ministry in charge of the interior carries out an evaluation of its activities for the 3rd quarter of the current budget year

6

Media Release no 16 consecutive to the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday 07 April 2021

10

The Head of State opens the activities of the 5th Edition of the National Youth Conference in Gitega



Accompanied by Her Excellency the First Lady, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE officially opened the 5th edition of the National Youth Conference organized in Gitega under the theme: "The diversity of talents in the service of our homeland". In his speech on this occasion, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE praised the awareness of burundian youth as to their decisive role in the socio-economic development of Burundi. He reiterated the commitment of the Government of Burundi to better support them in their development initiatives.

In this regard, the burundian number One recalled that in addition to the Investment Bank for Youth, BIJE, the Government of Burundi has set up, by presidential decree No 100/038 of February 18, 2021, a Fund of Impulse, Guarantee and Support for young people.

The 5th Edition of the National Youth Conference saw the participation of nearly 500 young people from all the

Communes of Burundi, and some of the members of the Government of Burundi, the Governors of provinces and several high personalities of the Country who came to support young people.

This first day of the National Youth Conference was marked by a moralization session on patriotism, hosted behind closed doors by the Head of State His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, in front of an audience of young participants from all the provinces.

During this moralization session, the President of the Republic explained to young people the vision and the fundamental principles of the Responsible and Laborious State, encouraging them to shed certain mentalities and unproductive behaviors.

His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE insisted on the importance of involving and raising the awareness of the youth to achieve a truly prosperous and peaceful Burundi. However, he praised the burundian youth's leap in awareness, which is manifested by very encouraging entrepreneurial initiatives.

Returning to the painful past that has grieved Burundi, the Father of the nation urged young people to make up for lost time and to be peacemakers and to put their various talents at the service of their homeland.

He ended his teaching by calling on young people to strictly respect protective measures against Covid 19, on the eve of the start of the school year after the Easter holidays. (www.presidence.gov.bi)

Swearing-in of the new Minister of National Education and Scientific Research



The new Minister of National Education and Scientific Research, Dr François HAVYARIMANA, swore in on Monday april 5 at the "Palais des Congrès" in Kigobe, before the President of the Republic of Burundi, in accordance with article 138 of the constitution of Burundi. Those who were present in the ceremonies were parliamentarians, members of the Government, the President of the Supreme Court, the President of the Constitutional Court, representatives of Diplomatic and Consular Corps

accredited in Bujumbura, representatives of specialized committees, representatives of local NGOs and International Organizations, as well as representatives of Civil Society and others.

The new Minister of National Education and Scientific Research swore in loyalty to the Charter of National Unity, the Constitution and the Law. He is committed to devote all his strength to defend the supe-

rior interests of the nation, to promote the unity and social cohesion of the burundian people, peace and social justice, in the performance of the functions entrusted to him. He also pledged to fight against any ideology and practice of genocide and exclusion, to promote and defend the rights and freedom of a person and of a citizen.

(www.abpinfos.com)

The Speaker of the National Assembly calls on Christians to associate prayer with forgiveness



The Speaker of the National Assembly the Right Honorable Daniel Gélase NDABIRABE and his spouse joined the others on Sunday, April 04, 2021, with the Christians of the Church of Israel Church in Jabe in Mukaza commune in the Town Hall of Bujumbura in the celebration of the feast of Easter. The deputies elected in the constituency of the Municipality of Bujumbura and the Mayor of the city of Bujumbura.

In his preaching, Apostle Vital NZUBAHIMANA, Legal Representative of the Church of Israel Church called on the Christians of this Church to associate

prayer with development work. He also asked the Christians of this Church to work diligently and to love their homeland.

To better celebrate Easter, the President of the National Assembly the Right Honorable Daniel Gélase NDABIRABE invited Christians to make commitments to God and to renounce all forms of sin.

The Spoker of the Lower House of Parliament reminded the Christians of this Church that spiritual combat on earth continues, according to him, definitive victory does not exist, we must continue to pray, to confess and to forgive one another.

In his greetings, the Mayor of the city Jimmy HATUNGIMANA called on the Christians of the of Israel Church to safeguard peace and security, participate in development work and continue to strictly enforce the barrier measures against Covid19, especially since in these days, many visitors from abroad come to Burundi.

(www.rtnb.bi)

The Government of Burundi continues political dialogue with the European Union



This Friday, April 09, 2021, the Government of Burundi represented by HE Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation and the European Union in Burundi represented by HE Mr. Claude BOCHU, Ambassador of the European Union, and the Ambassadors of member States of the European Union resident in Burundi, namely Germany, Belgium, France and the Netherlands, have resumed the dialogue as provided for by Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement bin-

ding on the one hand, the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific and, on the other hand, the European Union and its member states.



In a press release made public after the discussions, the two parties indicated that the roadmap established by the burundian side emerged enriched. This discussion also allowed an exchange on the business

climate as well as on other subjects of common interest and mutual commitments as part of the process of normalizing their relations.

According to this press release, this second meeting, at the invitation of the European side, took place in a constructive climate and the two sides agreed to continue the exchanges in order to lead to concrete results. In an interview with the Press, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation said that with regard to the progress political dialogue between Burundi and the European Union, the two parties left this session with the hope to achieve concrete results as quickly as possible. (MFADC-Newsroom)

Solemn opening of information and exchange seminar for newly appointed diplomats



On Thursday April 8th, 2021, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO officially opened an information and exchange seminar for the newly appointed diplomats.

In his opening remarks, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO said that this seminar was organized in order to provide these diplomats with the tools and knowledge necessary to better control the diplomatic function, which nowadays wants to be more offensive, proactive, dynamic, efficient and active.

In fact, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation recalled some expectations of Bu-

rundian taxpayers who pay the salaries of these diplomats. He informed them that they are going to represent Burundi, a sovereign State, which has proven to the world its dignity and which has been able to overcome many challenges, including the attempts of foreign interference in the internal affairs of our country. The people of Burundi are dignified, resilient, patient, hard-working, and very attached to their sovereignty. His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO therefore asked these diplomats to be proactive in their mission to serve Burundi and burundians through the defense of the sovereignty and vital interests of



Burundi in their countries of accreditation.

In addition to this, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO indicated that representing the country also supposes knowing its socio-economic development projects, its vision and its ambitions. In this perspective, diplomats are asked to mobilize foreign investors in order to present them with many business opportunities as

well as the business climate in Burundi. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation reminded them that he has placed mutually beneficial economic diplomacy at the center of his priorities. In the unique case of Burundi, this economic diplomacy will focus on promoting trade, attracting foreign investment, technology transfer, promoting industrialization and tourism. (MFADC-Newsroom)

Newly appointed diplomats receive recommendations to follow



During the seminar organized for newly appointed diplomats, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO recommended that diplomats promote the National Development Plan (2018-2027). To do this, diplomats must know the objectives, the main axes and the strategic orientations that compose it.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO has also indicated that he calls on the technical and financial partners to increase their support for national efforts to implement the National Development Plan and the six priorities of the President of the Republic, through mutually beneficial cooperation that respects our intrinsic principles and values in which Burundians believe.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation also recalled that the development policy in Burundi could not succeed without peace, security, stability as well as the reconciliation of burundian people. He seized the opportunity to invite diplomats to interact with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as well as other commis-



sions and specialized institutions to be able to answer questions from their fellow diplomats and avoid being caught by the clutches of cunning and manipulation that are commonplace in international relations.

Regarding cooperation with countries or organizations under the jurisdiction of each, His Excellency the Minister told them that it is a question of strengthening the existing good relations, but also the rapprochement of traditional partners whose relations have grown cold in recent years. Therefore, as His Excellency the President of the Republic said so well, Burundi aims to build diplomatic relations based on mutual respect where certain States do not substitute for the international community to oppress other sovereign States. It is in this capacity that Burundians remain open to countries and organizations that wish for a rapprochement with Burundi, to forge and maintain complementary relations on issues of common interest.

However, His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO recalled that some files are perplexed and require collaboration with many partners: these include, among others, global challenges such as climate change, the

issue of international migration, the fight against terrorism, issues of peace and security, reform of the United Nations Security Council, protection of human rights, the fight against trafficking in human beings, sustainable development goals, etc. To do this, he asked them to be constructive in examining these international issues while obviously paying attention to the intrinsic principles and values of Burundi which are the very foundation of our existence as a nation.

Regarding the management of the Burundian diaspora as an important actor in development, His Excellency the Minister informed them that they are called to develop a strategic partnership with the burundian diaspora in a spirit of dialogue, of understanding and inclusiveness. Thereupon, diplomats must mobilize the diaspora to encourage them to contribute more to the building of their homeland and to cultivate the feeling of belonging to the great Burundian nation. For those who spend their time tarnishing the brand image of Burundi, there should be an attempt to straighten

them out.

Internally, His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO said that a diplomatic mission requires good management with due diligence. To do this, diplomats must promote dialogue, mutual respect, good governance and the management of public affairs in strict compliance with the law in this area and within the limits of the resources at their disposal.

Afterwards, diplomats were invited to follow the main topics of the discussions. These themes are inspired by the government's desire to make more efficient and more productive all state services in general and its diplomatic representations abroad in particular.

The activities of the second and third day were marked by presentations on various themes.

In their various interventions, the newly appointed diplomats and other speakers generally appreciated this seminar.

This seminar ended with a cocktail offered to these newly appointed diplomats. **(MFADC-Newsroom)**

The Ministry in charge of the Home Affairs out an evaluation of its activities for the 3rd quarter of the current budget year



On Friday April 9, 2021 in Kayanza, the Minister of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security, CPC Gervais NDIRAKOBUCA met the Provincial Governors, the Communal Administrators, the Presidents of the Communal Councils, the Regional and Provincial Commissioners of police and its senior executives to assess its activities for the first quarter of 2021.

According to information published on the Twitter account of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Community



Development and Public Security, the participants first followed the presentations on the work of the Truth Reconciliation Commission (CVR), that of the Purchase of maize population and that of Professor Elias Sentamba on Local Governance for Community Development.

Then, they followed together the presentation of the report of the test period for the collection of municipal

revenues. For this report, the observation was that the municipal revenues collected for the Sample Month (March 2021) had a surplus of BIF 1,793,278,113 compared to the revenues collected in March 2020, therefore an amount that should go into the municipal coffers.

On the basis of these results of the test month, the Minister of the Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security took the decision to dismiss all the municipi-

pal accountants of Burundi from their functions, in particular for having handicapped the collection of these revenues by complicity with the former tax collectors previously dismissed from their post. These accountants will no longer ensure the centralization of municipal revenue while awaiting other measures from the competent bodies. .

(MFADC-Newsroom)

Impact of diplomacy on the field

Since the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the Government of Burundi, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, has initiated a process of monitoring the achievements of development partners. The objective is to realize the impact of the partnership to the burundian people. It is within this framework that the Director General in charge of Multilateral Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Ambassador Rémy BARAMPAMA and the Country Representative of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Mr. Emmanuel NJUKWE, jointly organized a field trip.

Carried out in two phases from March 07 to 10 and from March 28 to 31, 2021, this descent covered seven provinces of the country. These include the following provinces: Rumonge, Makamba, Rutana, Bururi, for the first phase and Gitega, Mwaro and Bujumbura-Mairie for the second phase.

In fact, IITA has been with Burundi since 1994. It contributes in the agricultural sector. It introduced new crop germplasms including cassava, bananas and maize. Its key partner is the Institute of Agronomic Sciences of Burundi (ISABU).

Thanks to this multifaceted support in this sector, Burundi is able to cope with plant diseases and pests, in particular the crops mentioned. IITA imports the parental lines of the crops and deposits them in the ISABU gene banks for their growth.

Fields of experimentation with maize varieties in Mayengo (Rumonge)



At the harvest stage, a mixed commission, (male / female growers and technicians for supervision), select a better variety according to well-defined criteria, in particular resistance to diseases, parasites, vegetative cycle and production.

Collection of banana varieties at ISABU Mahwa Station (Gitega)



A large collection center for banana varieties with a workforce of 278 varieties from different corners of the world, including 55 local ones.

IITA introduced banana plantains from Ghana.
Experimental fields in Murongwe (Mutaho, Gitega)



In search of profitable and disease resistant varieties of cassava.

Currently, thanks to this research, it has been possible to introduce new varieties resistant to cassava disease (especially Mosaic).

(MFADC-Newsroom)

Submission of a donation contributing to human security by the Embassy of Japan in Burundi



On Thursday April 08, 2021, the Representative of the Embassy of Japan in Burundi Mr. SASAO Kohei went to the Fundamental School of Gitezi in Isale Commune of the Province of Bujumbura in order to give a donation to the local community. The financing contract in the amount of ninety thousand two hundred and twenty-eight US dollars (USD 90,228) was signed on September 10, 2019 in Bujumbura between the Embassy of Japan in Burundi and the association of "Initiative pour le Développement de la Person Rurale" (IDPR).

The purpose of this donation was to ensure the implementation of the following activities: construction of a block of 2 classrooms; building an administrative block; construction of a latrine block; rehabilitation of 2 existing blocks with 4 classrooms; purchase of 120 desks, 10 tables and 15 chairs; installation of a water tank and installation of solar energy.

Japan considers education as one of the priorities of its

cooperation in Burundi. This area is the key to socio-economic development and human security at both local and national levels. The development of human resources is the only way to a better life. The donation to local micro-projects contributing to human security is designed to promote self-help and develop a sense of initiative among basic communities in order to incite them to problems that affect them in the fields of education, health, water and sanitation, as well as the environment.

In these ceremonies, the government of Burundi was represented by the Director General of National Education at the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research, Dr Paul HAKIZIMANA accompanied by the Director in charge of Relations with Africa, Asia and Oceania at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Mr. Pancrace CIMPAYE.

(MFADC-Newsroom)

Implementation of the computer procedure for controlling the use of currency and customs clearance of goods



The Bank of the Republic of Burundi (BRB) and the Burundian Revenue Office (OBR) have just set up a computerized system to monitor validations of import declarations, to control payments in foreign currency as well as customs clearance in the import framework. The governor of the BRB Mr. Jean CIZA and the Commissioner General of the OBR Mr. Audace NIYONZIMA declared this during a press briefing that they jointly hosted on Wednesday April 7, 2021. This system has been put in place to face certain challenges, namely the non-existence of a computerized system for managing the validation process of import declarations (DI) at the level of the banks and the problem of real-time monitoring of the use of foreign currencies, from their allocation by the BRB until the release for consumption (customs clearance) of the goods for which the currency has been requested. This new system is also a response to the challenges related to the difficulty of ensuring whether the currencies allocated to economic operators have

been used according to the objective for which they were requested, as well as the discrepancies in the statistical data produced by various institutions involved in the import process and for the same imported products, the speakers noted. The BRB, OBR and commercial banks are the main actors in monitoring, controlling and closing the process of importing and declaring goods, they noted, adding that declarants still have a role to play in the validation of import declarations as well as in customs clearance. With this new system, the importer or his declarant confides in the commercial bank for all formalities relating to the validation and payment of the goods to their supplier. Moreover, the importer himself, via his declarant, will this time directly access the customs clearance system to register and submit his import license application to his bank, electronically. He will go to his bank with the reference of the import declaration automatically generated by the system as well as the documents required for validation.

In addition, the speakers noted, since the statistical data is taken in one place, the risk of data discrepancies this time around will be minimized. The basic conditions for the use of this new system by importers, banks and declarants are, among other things, an internet connection, a username and a password to access to sydonia World.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

1

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI**PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat-General of the State****MEDIA RELEASE NO 16 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 07 April 2021**

A Cabinet Meeting was held in Bujumbura on Wednesday 7th of April 2021, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi.

Before presenting the agenda, His Excellency the President of the Republic congratulated the new Minister of National Education and Scientific Research for the confidence bestowed upon him and welcomed him to the Council of Ministers.

He also wished him good success in the mission of implementing the country's education policy entrusted to him, because it is his ministry that is responsible for training the experts that all services in the country need. He told him that the Government must work in close collaboration as a whole, be united to be complementary in all sectors and that one should not hesitate to seek the advice or support of colleagues when necessary.

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 chaired by the Prime Minister on the 1st of April 2021 , and which was devoted to the analysis of the same items on the agenda.

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

1. Roadmap and Memorandum of Understanding for the construction of a shopping centre on the ruins of the central market of Bujumbura, presented by the Services of the Prime Minister.

On December 9, 2020, the Council of Ministers analyzed a Note on a request from the Association of Banks and Financial Institutions of Burundi (ABEF) to the Government of Burundi to build a large shopping centre on the ruins of the former central market of Bujumbura.

The Council of Ministers had given its agreement in principle for the continuation of the project, and had, among other things, recommended to the representatives of the State and to those of the Association of Banks and Financial Institutions to come together to develop a roadmap, and eventually a schedule of activities, and if necessary, give oneself a clear and precise schedule of the start and end of the execution of the works, so that the center is effectively operational within a reasonable timeframe, because the Burundians have been waiting for a long time looking forward to the rehabilitation of this market.

This roadmap presented for the implementation of the project includes all the activities to be carried out from the establishment of the joint technical commission until the official inauguration of the large shopping center that will have been built on this site. It is expected that the construction works will last five years.

The official inauguration of this Center is scheduled for April 3, 2026.

As for the Memorandum of Understanding, it fixes the financial package of the project via the creation of a joint investment company, indicates the obligations of each of the parties and determines the mode of management of the joint project.

After discussions, the two documents were adopted subject to certain elements to be taken into account in their finalization, in particular:

3

- The availability of the title deed of the site of the former central market of Bujumbura in the name of the State as well as the determination of the area of the land as well as its commercial value;
- Ensure that when signing the Agreement each bank is committed in its capacity;
- Rework the Memorandum of Understanding to keep only the essentials, especially since the details will be in the Convention that will be signed afterwards;
- In the agreement to be signed, specify that the land is part of the capital but that it remains the property of the State.

2. Draft teaching policy document, presented by the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research.

Since 2015, the international community has adopted a new international agenda for education, the philosophy of which is "to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, and promote lifelong learning opportunities for everyone ". However, teachers are the key to the success of this agenda.

Since 2006, Burundi has already embarked on major reforms in the education system, the implementation of which requires the establishment of a consistent teaching policy.

Several initiatives aimed at improving the quality of education in Burundi have been undertaken, including the establishment of free education at the basic level, educational reforms at the basic, post-basic and higher levels. , etc...

All of these reforms would be small in scope if they were not supported by an effective teaching policy.

It is within this framework that this policy was developed. It revolves around three axes, namely:



- Strengthen initial and in-service training for teachers in order to improve their skills and learning outcomes;
- Streamline the management of teaching staff to improve productivity, ethics, retention and motivation;
- Standardize the qualifications and practices of teachers at all levels of the education system.

After discussions, the Council appreciated this policy but noted that there was a need to support it with an action plan for its implementation, as well as the necessary budget, specifying what is currently allocated to the component "Education".

The file will be brought back to the Council of Ministers within two weeks.

3. Draft decree establishing the conditions for access to higher education in Burundi, presented by the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research.

Access to higher education is until today regulated by Decree No. 100/275 of October 18, 2012.

This decree did not specify the fate of the laureates of the vocational education centers and vocational training centers who would stand out, with the capacity to continue in higher education.

This project opens up the access of these laureates to higher education.

It also opens higher education to postulants from Member States of the East African Community, under the same conditions as Burundian laureates, provided that they meet the conditions for access to this level of education in their country of origin.

Finally, it facilitates the mobility of students holding a state diploma within faculties, departments and institutes in a training course other than the one initially attended, with capitalization of credits.

After analysis, the project was adopted with some retouching aspects.

4. Draft decree amending Decree No. 100/192 of June 29, 2012 on the conditions for obtaining the State diploma, presented by the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research.

The decree on the conditions for obtaining the state diploma has been in force since June 2012. The current context requires its updating.

While in the decree in force a candidate who did not pass during a session of the state examination could re-apply only once within a period not exceeding three years after the unsuccessful session, this project remove this limitation especially as an administrative fee of fifty thousand Burundian France (50,000 Fbu) is required, so that they can appear as many times as necessary in compliance with the standards in force.

In addition, in the decree in force, to obtain a State diploma, the candidate must have a mark greater than or equal to 50% resulting from the summary of the mark obtained at school in the disciplines covered by the examination and that obtained in the state examination.

This project eliminates the consideration of the school mark to consider only the mark obtained in the State Examination to avoid speculation and for more fairness and objectivity. It has in fact been observed that certain schools, especially private ones, award high marks out of complacency in the disciplines subject to state

examination to maximize the chances for laureates to obtain the 50% required to obtain the diploma of State.

After discussions, the project was adopted with, among other things, a recommendation to increase the amount of the fee for those who appear for the state examination after several years of delay or on several occasions.

5. Draft decree restructuring the Rundi Academy, presented by the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research.

The Rundi Academy was established by decree n ° 100/188 of August 25, 2014. Its main mission is to protect and promote the Rundi culture, promote the use of Kirundi in the country and abroad, supervise all research and all planned actions on Kirundi.

Several factors have meant that the Rundi Academy has not been operational since its inception.

Thus, in order to make it functional, it has been repositioned to the Ministry in charge of Education through Decree No. 100/090 of October 28, 2020 which organizes this Ministry.

In addition, an Academic Council has been planned in place of the Board of Directors initially provided for in the decree creating this Academy.

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted with some alterations.

6. Note on the management of the issue of execution of the contract for the sale of the land housing the former AFB stadium concluded between the Government of Burundi and TOYOTA BURUNDI, presented by the Minister of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing.

The purpose of this Note was to inform the Council of Ministers of the progress of the execution of the contract between the Government and TOYOTA BURUNDI company in connection with the land of the former AFB stadium that the latter bought to the State of Burundi since February 2013.

It is also a question of the position to be taken after the formal notice sent to TOYOTA BURUNDI with regard to its breaches of its contractual obligations as well as the follow-up to it.

It can be observed that the reaction to the formal notice was made by a company other than TOYOTA BURUNDI which signed the contract with the State of Burundi.

After discussion and debate, the Council of Ministers recommended inviting TOYOTA BURUNDI to respond to the correspondence sent to it, especially since it is party to the contract.

In the event that it expresses interest in pursuing the project to which it is committed, it must be granted, in an additional agreement, a period not exceeding three months to begin the work, as well as a period for having finished them.

7. Business plan for the rehabilitation, modernization-extension and establishment of a distillery project at SOSUMO, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

SOSUMO was established in 1982 with the aim of transforming sugar cane production to meet local demand for sugar.

The installed capacity of the plant was 20,000 tons per year and the population was estimated at five million at that time.

Today, the population is estimated at twelve million and the society is unable to meet local demand.

8

This project for the rehabilitation, modernization-extension and establishment of a distillery aims, on the one hand, to rehabilitate the plant's equipment which has become obsolete, to increase the yield of sugar cane per hectare and to increase production up to 'to 35 thousand tons per year, on the other hand.

The cost of the investment is equivalent to 132,189 556,593 Fbu including:

- 105 993 994 078 Fbu for rehabilitation, modernization-extension
- 26,195,562,515 Fbu for the project to set up a distillery

After analysis, the Council of Ministers supported the project but recommended that the “rehabilitation, modernization-extension” component be given priority over the “distillery” component.

The Ministers in charge of Finance, Trade and Agriculture as well as the Bank of the Republic of Burundi have been appointed to jointly study the modalities for the realization of this project.

It will be necessary to think of external financing for equipment that requires foreign currency, and to resort to domestic financing for what can be financed in local currency.

SOSUMO will have to draw up a detailed roadmap for the implementation of this project.

8. Any Other Business.

- The Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security presented the report on the progress of municipal revenue collection during the test period organized by the Ministry.

In ten pilot municipalities, it appears that the amount collected during the period from January 25 to 31, 2021 was 115,073,550 Fu while that which had been collected during the week of January 18 to 24, 2021 totaled only an amount of 49,724. 275 BIF, an increase of 131%.

In all the municipalities of the country, the receipts which were collected during the month of March 2021 are estimated at 3,269,260,814 Fbu against 1,475,982,701 Fbu for the month of March 2020, an increase of 121.5%.

The Council of Ministers appreciated the work that has been carried out because it will allow considering the reform of the municipal revenue collection system.

It will be necessary to ensure that the sums collected are not allocated to activities other than those provided for in the Communal Development Plan.

Members of the Government were also urged to follow up on the activities under their jurisdiction which are carried out in the Communes.

- The Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender noted the needs for emergency humanitarian assistance and an additional budgetary allocation.

Indeed, the observation is that climatic hazards constitute a recurring threat and their negative impact is manifested by the deterioration of the living conditions of the populations.

Torrential rains destroy food crops resulting in food insecurity, strong winds destroy homes causing internal displacement of populations who have become homeless, schools and other public infrastructure.

As the challenge of the ministry in charge of social affairs remains the absence of a strategic stock that can cover emergency interventions, the note requested a budgetary supplement in order to reconstitute the strategic stock and thus meet the urgent needs for the neediest people.

The Council of Ministers observed that disasters are unforeseeable events and that it is difficult to determine the means to deal with them.

The Government will nevertheless be able to see to the extent of its possibilities the means that may be made available. Moreover, in case of extreme necessity, recourse should be made to national solidarity.

However, the Council of Ministers recalled the need to draw up lists of the indigent, hill by hill, in order to facilitate State intervention in case of need.

- The Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock presented a note on material and financial needs for the collection, purchase and management of maize production.

This Note indicates the maize collection plan, the schedule of operations, and the material and equipment requirements necessary for the purchase of the production.

It is expected that the purchase of production will start on April 12, 2021, and this requires a special exemption to purchase the material and equipment of the hangars directly from the local or regional market, without going through lengthy public procurement procedures.

The Council of Ministers recommended the involvement of everyone so that the operation to purchase the production goes as planned so as not to disappoint the producers.

Done at Bujumbura, April 8th, 2021

**Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE
Secretary-General and Spokesman.-**

Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération au Développement

Direction de la Communication

www.mae.gov.bi

Twitter: @MAEBurundi