

# REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and  
Development Cooperation

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### Official launch of the modernization works of the Port of Bujumbura



**T**he Head of State H.E. Mr Evariste Ndayishimiye proceeded, on Thursday 09 September 2021, to the official launch of the modernization works of the Port of Bujumbura. The departments concerned, in particular the Ministry of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism, were called on to get involved as much as possible to remain available in order to meet the needs expressed by the technicians on this site. The ceremonies began with a guided tour of the sites that will house the shipyard, the container terminal as well as the places where the diversion of the Buyenzi canal which brings sediments and where the dredging of the port basin will be built. The Head of State subsequently officially launched the modernization works of the Port of Bujumbura,

a project financed and executed by the Japanese Government to the tune of 31 million US Dollars.

In his speech of the occasion, the President of the Republic indicated that this project comes at the right time, stressing that Burundi is developing trade relations with the countries of the region, which requires that the transport sector adapts to the commitments of the State of Burundi which has signed several free trade agreements. This was the opportunity for the Head of State to express his gratitude particularly to Japan and the various technical and financial partners in general for their multiple support that they continue to grant to Burundi in this way of economic recovery, in particular through the construction of infrastructures and the rehabilitation of existing ones. He reiterated his thanks to the European Union, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and other partners who will do work related to the modernization project of the Port of Bujumbura.

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On this occasion, the President of the Republic made a point of clarifying that this project comes at a time when Burundi is developing another project for the construction of the railway that will link Tanzania to Kindu in the DRC via Gitega and Bujumbura. And to encourage technical and financial partners to support Burundi even in other projects useful for the development of cross-border trade. The President of the Republic took this opportunity to urge the Japanese Ambassador to Burundi to intercede for Burundi with his country to also launch the work that the Japanese Government had expressed the wish to develop in Burundi, namely the construction of the urban road network of Bujumbura, buses' donation to OTRACO, the provision of drinking water in the southern sector of the city of Bujumbura, the rehabilitation of the power line in the city of Bujumbura and the agricultural irrigation project of the perimeter of Gihanga III. Finally, the Head of State called on the services concerned, in particular the Ministry of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism to get involved as much as possible to remain available in order to meet the needs expressed by the technicians of this site. For his part, the President of the Republic reassured that he will remain available to do what-

ever needs to be done so that the work of modernizing the port of Bujumbura is facilitated and completed as quickly as possible. The Japanese Ambassador to Burundi HE Mr. MASSAHIRO IMAI underlined that the modernization works of the Port of Bujumbura which will cost 31 million US Dollars will allow the improvement of the circulation of goods, a prerequisite for the economic growth of Burundi and the region.

The Japanese Ambassador to Burundi clarified that Japan is determined to continue its contribution to the development of Burundi through its assistance in different sectors, including accelerated training in several areas. H.E.Mr MASSAHIRO IMAI took this opportunity to invite the President of the Republic of Burundi to take part in the 8<sup>th</sup> Tokyo International Conference on African Development to be held in Tunisia in 2022.

After the Port of Bujumbura, the Head of State visited a shipyard on the shore of Lake Tanganyika in Kabenzi commune in the province of Bujumbura, belonging to a Burundian economic operator named Uwiragiye François. It is a construction of a ship 68m long by 12m wide and 4.5m high and which will have 3 levels at the rear. ([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

### The Ambassador of Burundi in Paris participates in the Congress of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)



**T**he International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the French Government have agreed to host the 2020 IUCN World Conservation

Congress from September 3-11, 2021 in Marseille. The event, originally scheduled for June 2020, has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a reminder, the IUCN World Conservation Congress brings together the global conservation community, including top international experts in conservation science, policy and practice. Held every four years, the Congress enables IUCN's 1,400 Member organizations, including States, civil society and indigenous peoples, to democratically determine the most pressing nature conservation issues, as well as the actions to be taken to respond to them.

During this Congress, on September 5, 2021, His Excellency Ambassador of Burundi in Paris Mr. Ernest NIYOKINDI declared that the

“Responsible and Laborious Government” resulting from the 2020 elections is at the service of the Nation in order to promote the development of all Burundians under the slogan: “Each mouth must have food and each pocket must have money”.

On the diplomatic level, he said that Burundi welcomes the opening to the outside world and in particular the lifting on November 4, 2021 of the restrictive measures that had been taken by the Francophonie since 2015 against Burundi. He congratulated the organizers of this Congress for their dedication and diligence in organizing this important event in this difficult time of the COVI-19 pandemic. Ambassador Ernest NIYOKINDI also said that this congress was held in the beautiful moments when the whole world is facing climate change and all the countries including Burundi that he represents in France would spare no effort to take initiatives to conserve nature.

With regard to Burundi, the Government welcomes the step already taken in nature conservation despite some challenges. Globally, Burundi has ratified several conventions and protocols related to biodiversity, nature and climate: CBD, UNFCCC, etc. For example, in the context of contributing to the Bonn Challenge in connection with the restoration of forest landscapes, Burundi has made a commitment to restore 2000ha. Thus, a national program called “Ewe Burundi urambaye”, which means, “WELL DRESSED BURUNDI” is in the process of being implemented.

About 1 billion tree seedlings have already been planted across the country during the 3 years (2018-2021). The Government salutes the various national and international partners for their support.

According to Ambassador Ernest NIYOKINDI, Burundi is politically committed to ensuring ecologically sustainable and socially equitable development with solutions based on nature as evidenced by the National Development Plan 2018-2027 (PND2018-2027), particularly at the level of Strategic Orientation 3: Ensure sustainable management of the environment, mitigate climate change and improve land use planning. This strategic orientation has 4 axes of intervention: sustainable management of the environment, water resources and global sanitation, climate change and risk management and land use planning. Burundi has 14 protected areas (parks, nature reserves, lakes, protected landscapes and natural monuments) these areas are home to a significant diversity, endemic species, exceptional tourist attractions, etc. These areas are surrounded by local communities in need of technical and financial support in order to participate in their conservation.

Ambassador Ernest NIYOKINDI also reaffirmed Burundi's commitment to the conservation of nature and its resources for current and future generations and he called on technical and financial partners to support Burundi in the implementation of its PND 2018-2027 which reserves an important place for sustainable development respectful of nature and communities. (Rédaction-MAECD)

## Together, road insecurity can turn into road safety (Burundi Red Cross)

**T**he Ministry of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism, in collaboration with the Burundi Red Cross, organized on Tuesday September 7, 2021 an information, awareness and mobilization workshop for public and private stakeholders as well as other organizations, on the first aid training project. The aim of this

workshop is to get all the stakeholders to understand that everyone has a share of responsibility so that road insecurity is transformed into road safety.

According to the Secretary General of the Burundi Red Cross M Anselme Katiyunguruza, road accidents are often caused by the bad behavior of some drivers, including

drunkenness, the use of mobile phones while driving, speeding, not wearing helmets for bikers and cyclists, etc. The Secretary General of the Burundi Red Cross indicated that in Burundi, the authorized services reveal that 4,447 road accidents in 2020 against 3,786 in the first half of 2020-2021 were recorded. Mr. Anselme Katiyunguruza specified that to reduce the cases of death due to road accidents, the drivers of transport vehicles must as a priority be trained in first aid. He asked the public authorities that there be orders and decisions to limit road insecurity and order that this be an obligation, continued the secretary of the Burundi Red Cross. For M Katiyunguruza Anselme, insurance pays a lot of money, which is why it is necessary to focus



much more on prevention activities of the culture of risk so that the world, including Burundi, live a serene environment at the level of road management. The representative of the Minister in charge of transport indicated that this Ministry signed, with the Burundi Red Cross on April 7, 2020, a memorandum of understanding in order to promote road safety in Burundi in accordance with the 3<sup>rd</sup> objective of sustainable development that there is a need to reduce the number of road traffic fatalities and injuries globally. The Secretary of the Red Cross wishes that at the end of the training, the authorities in charge of granting driving licenses can be reassured that the drivers are certified in first aid and equipped with a first aid kit. ([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## Validation of the final report of the PNIA 2016-2020



**T**he Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock organized Monday, September 6, 2021, a national workshop to validate the final assessment report of the National Agricultural Investment Plan (PNIA) 2016-2020, a report which will guide the updating of sector documents for the preparation of the PNIA 2021-2027 on the basis of the lessons learned. During this workshop, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock Mr. Emmanuel Ndorimana informed that the development of the new PNIA (2021-2027)

aligned with the National Development Plan PND2018 -2027 will lead to the implementation of the hard-working and responsible Government's goal of increasing production so that every mouth has food and every pocket has money. Mr. Emmanuel Ndorimana recalled that the projects contained in the 2016-2020 PNIA were relevant and responded to the concerns of the Ministry, particularly aimed at increasing agricultural production. He said on this occasion that the stakeholders were involved in the identification of projects.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock underlined that even if the success of the execution of the PNIA 2016-2020 is evaluated at 88%, challenges were noted in particular: the crisis of 2015 and its consequences, the lack of financial, material and human resources for the implementation of the activities of the PNIA and the global Covid-19 pandemic. Despite all these exter-

nal challenges, Mr. Emmanuel Ndorimana is delighted with the results achieved because the 2016-2020 PNIA has shown flexibility and adaptability in the face of the many unforeseen events that have arisen during its implementation. It was also an opportunity for the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock to let it be known that production has increased thanks to the massive use of inputs, the development of marshes and the production management by setting up agro-food processing units, building storage sheds, drying areas and milk collection centers. He added that there was great ownership of the changes made to the PNIA 2016-2020, which made it possible to gradually mobilize additional resources with the new projects initiated in the agricultural sector. The Permanent Secretary indicated that the Ministry expects from this evaluation, a quality work which will improve the content and

the form, specifying that it is on the basis of this validated report that will be built the new site which is PNIA 2021-2027. He thanked the executives of this Ministry and the technical and financial partners who implemented the 2016-2020 PNIA, calling on them to redouble their efforts in mobilizing funds for the 2021-2027 PNIA to enable agriculture to develop "in being a real engine of economic growth by 2027". Finally, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock suggested that the Government of Burundi, through this Ministry, will spare no effort to complete the process of developing the new PNIA and its action plan. The final assessment report of the National Agricultural Investment Plan PNIA (2016-2020) was validated with some modifications and recommendations which will be included in the new PNIA, third generation. ([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

### The COPROSEBU makes a descent on the ground to exchange experiences



**T**he Burundi Seed Producers Collective (COPROSEBU) visited from September 7 to 8, 2021 the fields and stocks of seed multipliers in different provinces of the country. This visit is part of the exchange of experiences between seed producers as indicated by the President of COPROSEBU. This delegation was led by the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock-Minister's Assistant. In Mugamba commune of Bururi Province, they visited Mr. François Niyungeko, a seed multiplier after they vis-

ited Mr. Albert Ndayishimiye on the Musenyi hill in Rutovu commune.

Mr. Albert Ndayishimiye has seed fields that extend over an area of over 6.5 ha with a sprinkler irrigation system. On the second day of the COPROSEBU visit, they visited a seed producer in the Rugari commune Musinga zone by the name of Mrs. Mariette Ntirampeba who produces beans and corn seeds. Mrs. Mariette Ntirampeba said that she plants few seeds but that the production is satisfactory from where the neighbors benefit from the seeds and buy what they need. She asked the responsible and hard-working Government to revise upwards the price of selected seeds because the multiplication of seeds is a job that requires a lot of means to have good quality seeds. The delegation again visited a seed multiplier by the name of Mr. Félix Niyonzima in Ngozi commune. Mr. Félix Niyonzima asked the Government of Burundi to support seed producers with regard to seed storage. Finally,

they visited the fields belonging to Mr. Charles Mbonankira in Ngozi commune. He has a project to multiply the hybrids on an area of 46 ha for this growing season A. Mr. Charles Mbo-

nankira advises farmers to use the selected seeds because less seeds are grown but the production is good. ([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## CVR / Mwaro: The population called to testify on the events of 1972



**T**he Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CVR-in french) officially launched on Wednesday September 8, 2021 in Mwaro province, work to find the truth about the events of 1972. The activity took place on Gasenyi hill, Makamba area, Rusaka commune, where mass graves were filled in, verified and confirmed during the construction of the Makamba vocational education center. On the occasion of the launch of the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Mwaro, its President Mr. Pierre Claver Ndayicariye asked the adults who were eyewitnesses

to the events of 1972 to tell the commission what they saw and experienced.

For the CVR's President, uncovering the truth is important for the country because "we cannot have peace by walking on mass graves where our parents, our neighbors, our friends, etc. have been thrown. He also called on communal administrators to identify people who could help the commission uncover the truth about the 1972 massacres. The CVR's President urges the perpetrators of these massacres who are still alive to have the courage to ask forgiveness from God and the affected families. For him, it would not be good if the perpetrators of these crimes still living leave this world without asking forgiveness when they have the opportunity to do so. The CVR is ready to accompany all those who would like to ask forgiveness for the crimes committed in 1972, declared Pierre Claver Ndayicariye President of the CVR. ([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## CVR-Mairie: useful information in qualifying the events of 1972



**O**n the occasion of the provisional closure of the truth-seeking activities on the events of 1972 in Bujumbura City Hall, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CVR) organized an ecumenical prayer in Buterere on Tuesday August 7, 2021. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President of the Senate Honorable Cyriaque Nshimirimana enhanced the ceremonies with his presence. During this prayer organized by the CVR in Buterere, Pastor Julien Nsengiyumva recognized

before God that in the past, the Burundians did not know how to properly manage Burundi, this beautiful country that the Lord gave them. It is therefore for the Burundians an opportunity to ask forgiveness, to pull themselves together to make Burundi a haven of peace.

Taking stock of the research in Bujumbura City Hall, the President of the CVR Mr. Pierre Claver Ndayicariye affirmed that human remains were found in the Buterere zone, a sign that the killed people were thrown into mass graves. Mr. Pierre Claver Ndayicariye, CVR's President, presented one of the lists of people identified by the authorities at the time to be imprisoned and then killed. He claims that mass graves were dug by machines at and around the Buterere sewage treatment plant. In its investigations, the CVR interviewed 154 people: witnesses and survivors, widows, orphans, former civil servants and truck drivers who are still alive.

In addition to the hearings, the CVR received various documents which provide information on those arrested, imprisoned and ultimately killed. These victims were chosen from among men and young people among Bahutu, intellectuals, students, officials etc. During the provisional closure of the CVR's activities in Bujumbura City Hall, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President of the Senate, Honorable Cyriaque Nshimirimana clarified that the mission of the CVR is not to rekindle resentment, to arouse the spirit of revenge or pit one component of the population against another. It is rather to discover the truth

for an effective reconciliation in Burundi, he said. Honorable Cyriaque Nshimirimana, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President of the Senate, on behalf of the institutions congratulated and encouraged the CVR for the work accomplished. He invited the CVR to take another step, that of helping to correctly qualify the crimes committed in 1972. We cannot continue to speak "of events when populations have perished. That would trivialize the facts," he added. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President of the Senate encourages the perpetrators of the 1972 massacres to ask for forgiveness without fear of being killed for revenge because we are in the process of transitional justice. He asks those who have lost theirs to agree to grant forgiveness to those who ask for it. Referring to the word of God, one must learn to forgive in order to be forgiven. He calls on the Burundians to understand that the events of 1972 are not attributable to any ethnic group. It is the fact of bad governance that characterized the power of the time. With this reading of these events, reconciliation between Burundians will be easy. Honorable Cyriaque Nshimirimana rather took this opportunity to invite the Burundians to support the CVR by providing it with all the information useful for discovering the truth about the events of 1972. ([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

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**REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI****PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC  
Secretariat-General of the State****MEDIA RELEASE NO 25 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 08 SEPTEMBER 2021**

A Cabinet Meeting was held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2021, under the chairmanship of His Excellency 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 Friday 3 September 2021, and which was devoted to the analysis of the same files on the agenda.

After restitution by the Secretary General of the State to the President of the Republic, the following items were analyzed:

**1. Note on the dossier relating to reforms in the social security sector, presented by the Prime Minister's Office.**

In his speech of June 18, 2020 during his inauguration, His Excellence the President of the Republic expressed the desire to improve the living conditions of retirees in terms of social security, the objective of which is to grant an equivalent retirement pension, roughly the last salary of the pensioner.

It is to follow up on this guideline that a commission was set up with the mission of analyzing the reform of social security with regard to retirement pensions and putting this desire into practice.

The main proposals of the Note are:

- The benchmark year is 2020;



## 2

- Start the reform at the ONPR level for all retirees and for public sector contractors at the INSS level. The sources of funding can be found at the level of the ONPR, but for the INSS it is only initially;
- Certain provisions of the Social Protection Code need to be revised to implement this reform;
- For retirees before 2020, three scenarios are proposed to increase the current pension: an increase of 30%, 40% or 50% causing a budgetary impact which will have to be financed by the State;
- An ordinance from the Ministers in charge of finance, social protection and the civil service is necessary to determine the modalities of application of this reform.

After analyzing the content of the Note and the various proposals, the Council of Ministers formulated the following observations and recommendations:

- The Ministry in charge of the civil service will provide data showing government employees who will retire in the next ten years to make budget impact projections;
- The share of the INSS and ONPR institutions and that of the State must be increased in the implementation of this reform after taking into account retirees before 2020;
- The Ministry in charge of finance is called upon to make calculations to see which of the three scenarios proposed the State to be chosen;
- In all cases, no retiree should receive a pension of less than 30,000Bif
- For the parastatal and private sectors, the implementation of these reforms will be conditional on the separation of the parastatal and private sectors.
- The provisions of the Social Protection Code relating to the calculation of the amount of the old-age pension are no longer in conformity with the reforms of the social security sector, retirement pension component and are to be revised.
- The legal framework of these two institutions (INSS and ONPR) does not match the on-going social reform, hence the need to revise them;
- The method of calculating contributions for the INSS and the ONPR must be harmonized;
- The reform must be started at the level of the ONPR for all the retirees concerned, and only for those under contract affiliated to the INSS whose salaries come from the state budget.
- A Fund must be set up to support this reform in a long-term fashion;

## 3

- A timetable for the implementation of this reform must be drawn up;
- Ensure that the reform encourages civil servants to retire early;
- Retirees who leave early will not benefit from the pension if they take up other paid jobs;
- The responsible ministry to diagnose the sources of income of the INSS, its management as well as its assets and prepare a Note for the Government.

Regarding the basis for calculating the pension, the Government will decide after all the scenarios and calculations have been completed.

## **2. Bill amending certain provisions of the Social Protection Code and revaluing pensions for the public sector,** presented by the Prime Minister's Services.

One of the aspects of the social protection system is the pension system providing the service of old age and invalidity benefits and the service of survivors' benefits from which members or their dependents that fulfil the conditions required by law may benefit.

However, over the years, it turned out that the amount of pensions offered to beneficiaries could no longer guarantee them a descent life compared to the cost of living.

The Government has thus expressed the will to increase, initially, the amount of the old-age pension for civil servants, executives and agents of the public sector, and to apply the same process for the parastatal and private sector in a second time. The objective is to grant a retirement pension equivalent more or less to the last salary of the pensioner.

The purpose of this bill is to modify certain provisions of the Social Protection Code relating to retirement pensions (75, 82, 83, and 54) to adapt them to the wishes of the Highest Authority.

After discussion and debate, the bill was adopted with, among other recommendations:

- Submit the project to the National Legislation Service for legal grooming and translation into Kirundi;

## 4

- Write the protection code under revision in clear and understandable terms that are not susceptible to different interpretations;
- Incorporate the provisions that will have been amended in the Social Protection Code under revision so that at the end there is a single text that is easy to consult.

### **3. Sectoral strategy of the priority actions of the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS and its monitoring framework, presented by the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS.**

This strategy constitutes a strategic plan for the orientation of priority actions to operationalize the policy documents for health in Burundi.

It was developed with the aim of extending the National Health Development Plan, third generation until 2027, which should end in 2023 in order to allow the implementation of the National Development Plan which runs from 2018 to 2027.

This strategy is also in line with Burundi's subscriptions to international health declarations and acts.

It aims to contribute to the reduction of mortality, disabilities and preventable disabilities through the provision and use of quality health services.

It revolves around twelve priority strategic directions, namely:

- 1 ° Improving the supply of maternal health care and services for new-borns, children and young people, the elderly as well as quality nutritional health;
- 2 ° The fight against communicable, non-communicable and deficiency diseases;
- 3 ° Improving the production and management of health personnel;
- 4 ° Improving the availability and quality of health products;
- 5 ° Improving the availability and quality of health infrastructure and equipment;
- 6 ° strengthening the health information system and health research;
- 7 ° The strengthening of financing mechanisms for the health sector;
- 8 ° Strengthening governance and leadership in the health sector;
- 9 ° Improvement of the community health system;
- 10 ° strengthening intersect oral collaboration for better health;

11 ° Strengthening of integrated disease surveillance and management of public health emergencies and natural disasters;

12 ° The strengthening of the management of population issues to tend towards demographic dividends.

Regarding the monitoring and evaluation framework, this Strategy:

- Defines the institutional and operational framework for implementing the Strategy;
- Identifies and defines the key indicators making it possible to measure the progress made at all levels in the implementation of the strategy;
- Indicates the collection tools, the data circuit and the quality control mechanisms for health data used to inform the indicators in the results framework;
- Describes the methodological orientation for the mid-term evaluation of this strategy and its final evaluation;
- Indicate the mechanisms for the dissemination and use of monitoring data and evaluation results at all levels.

After analyzing this strategy, the Council of Ministers adopted it with the following recommendations:

- Develop an action plan that indicates the government's share as funding and partner support;
- Update the data included in the document;
- Update the organization chart of the ministry;
- Indicate the number of health centres to be built as well as the number of staff needed during the period that the strategy will last;
- Plan, in collaboration with the other ministries concerned, the construction of a pharmaceutical plant;
- Develop a roadmap for the implementation of this strategy;
- Develop project documents for the implementation of the Strategy with related budgets to be submitted to partners.

**4. Bill revising the Mining Code of Burundi**, presented by the Minister of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines.

The mining sector is currently governed by law n ° 1/21 of October 15, 2013 on the Burundi mining code.

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This text made it possible to rationalize, clean up and increase mining activity both in terms of research and operation.

However, it has been observed that this legal framework is no longer in line with the development of the local mining sector and the new orientations of national policies, in particular the National Development Plan, the 2020 mining policy and international policies such as the Millennium for Development, the African Mining Vision, etc. ...

Moreover, despite the significant results obtained in this sector, the impact on the national economy has remained low.

It therefore appeared necessary to revise this Code in order to correct the shortcomings found in it and to achieve a better rebalancing in order to maintain the attractiveness of the sector so as to guarantee a mutually beneficial partnership between the State, investors and local community.

The revision of this text could not be carried out in dissociation from the reality experienced in the mining sector at regional and continental level. This is why this project was inspired by texts governing the mining sector of certain African countries.

During the analysis of this project, the Council of Ministers made the following observations:

- The text must make it clear that the minerals belong to the state;
- The basement belongs to the State and the person who operates a property has only the right of use;
- Clear conditions must be set in order to be able to obtain a mining exploration permit or an exploitation permit;
- The State of Burundi must be associated in the research and exploitation of minerals;
- The operator's compensation is to be negotiated after calculating the value of the minerals and the cost of his investment;
- The state must have the latitude to donate part of the ore body for exploitation;
  - The installation of a treatment plant is necessary to have at least one semi-finished product;
- A body for verifying and monitoring mineral exploitation must be set up;
  - The operator must give a guarantee of his capacities in the form of a financial deposit at the central bank;

- The text should highlight aspects related to compensation and resettlement of expropriated people as well as the establishment of social infrastructure in the mining area;
- With regard to sanctions, in addition to the fine to be paid, the subject to the sanction must pay the loss of earnings caused to the State;
- The Ministry in charge of Finance should make its own budget available for mining research;
- Investors in the mining sector should be encouraged to strengthen the national laboratory so that it is certified at the international level;
- The project should show how mining companies whose activities have been suspended will be managed;
- It is necessary to show how the parts of the perimeters given in concession to mining companies for exploitation but which it has been proven that they do not contain minerals must be managed.

The Ministers in charge of Mines, Finance, Justice and Infrastructures have been appointed to rework the project taking into account these orientations. The reworked project will be brought back to the Council of Ministers for reanalysis and adoption.

**5. Draft memorandum of understanding between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for cooperation in the mining sector**, presented by the Minister of Water, Energy and Mining.

During the visit of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Burundi to Tanzania in September 2020, in the talks he held with his Tanzanian counterpart, the strengthening of bilateral ties, with particular emphasis on the promotion and strengthening of economic cooperation.

It is in this context that experts from these two countries met in February 2021 to follow up on the directives of these two heads of state.

It was during the 6th session of the Permanent Mixed Commission between the Republic of Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania held in Kigoma in March 2021 that it was recommended to conclude a draft memorandum of understanding between the Government of Republic of Burundi and the

Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for cooperation in the mining sector. It is this memorandum that is being analyzed.

It indicates in particular its objective, the competent authorities responsible for its implementation as well as the commitments of the parties.

After discussion, the memorandum was adopted with the recommendation to monitor its implementation so that there is a win-win partnership.

**6. Draft law revising law n ° 1/21 of December 31, 2010 amending law n ° 1/15 of April 29, 2006 relating to the status of officers of the National Defense Force of Burundi.**

**7. Draft law revising law n ° 1/20 of December 31, 2010 amending law n ° 1/16 of April 29, 2006 relating to the status of non-commissioned officers of the National Defense Force of Burundi.**

**8. Draft law revising law n ° 1/19 of December 31, 2010 amending law n ° 1/17 of April 29, 2006 relating to the status of rank and file members of the National Defense Force of Burundi.**

These three projects were presented by the Minister of National Defense and Veterans Affairs.

The Burundi National Defense Force is governed by organic law n ° 1/04 of February 20, 2017 on the missions, organization, composition, conditions of service and functioning of the Burundi National Defense Force.

Currently, the officers, non-commissioned officers and ranks of the National Defense Force of Burundi are governed by Statutes put in place in December 2010.

These statutes should therefore be adapted to this recent organic law.

These projects are largely inspired by these statutes of December 2010 while adapting to the organic law of 2017, by bringing certain innovations that could allow the Officer, the non-commissioned officer and the rank and file to work in an environment socio-economic and security of the moment.

This project brings innovations in terms of rights, duties and incompatibilities, advantages linked to working conditions, seniority, support for the family of the serving soldier who dies as well as support for a worthy reintegration to civilian life for those who retire.

New developments have also been made with regard to bonuses, allowances and other social benefits as encouragement and compensation for the constraints and risks of the military profession.

Innovations can also be observed in career management as well as in the disciplinary system.

At the end of the debate, the three drafts were all adopted.

**9. Draft decree revising decree n ° 100/053 of 11 May 2018 establishing the Day dedicated to local solidarity**, presented by the Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Kind.

By decree n ° 100/053 of May 11, 2018, the Day dedicated to local solidarity was established, celebrated in all the hills / districts of the country on the last Saturday of the month of July.

The concern is to promote the entrenchment of the culture of mutual aid and solidarity which has always characterized the Burundian people.

During his opening speech at the 6th general assembly of the National Commission for Social Protection held in December 2020, the President of the Republic recommended that this day be celebrated the day before or the day after the Communal Day which is celebrated on the first Saturday in August. This assumes that Local Solidarity Day will be celebrated on the first Friday or the first Sunday in August.

To comply with this recommendation of the Head of State, this project proposes that the local solidarity day be celebrated on the first Friday of August, the eve of the municipal holiday.



The project also proposes the establishment of a national committee in charge of the organization, monitoring and evaluation of the Day.

At the end of the debate, the project was adopted with, among other recommendations:

- Include in the national monitoring committee, a representative of the Ministry in charge of Communication;
- Specify the list of members of the municipal monitoring committee;
- Do not specify that perishable aids will be distributed in the collection locality, because they can be sent elsewhere.

**10. Note on the urgent measures to be taken to prevent a possible malfunction of the Warubondo Special Economic Zone and an implementation plan for the recommendations of the Support Agency for the Realization of Public-Private Contracts (ARCP), presented by the Minister of Transport, Trade, Industry and Tourism.**

The Warubondo Special Economic Zone was created by decree n ° 100/23 of February 16, 2017 with the aim of introducing industrial innovation in the country and stimulating economic growth.

A contract for the establishment, operation and management of the Special Economic Zone of Warubondo was signed between the Republic of Burundi and the company ProCerv on 05/16/2018.

Currently, the site of the area is not yet serviced and no construction is visible there apart from a small market with an area of 3 hectares while the site has an area of 600 hectares.

However, the contract provides that this company was to start work within a period not exceeding three months after signing the contract.

Faced with this situation, the Ministry in charge of Trade gave notice to the company ProCerv and granted it a period of one month to be able to honour its obligations, but four months have just passed without this company making a sign of heading in the sense of honouring its obligations.

The Note proposes a series of measures to prevent a possible malfunction of the Warubondo Special Economic Zone and an implementation plan for the recommendations of the Support Agency for the Realization of Public-Private Contracts (ARCP).

After analyzing the Note's proposals, the Council of Ministers recommended, among other things, the following:

- The Ministry in charge of Trade in collaboration with the Ministry in charge of Justice will carry out the contract between ProCerv and the Government of Burundi for non-compliance with the terms of the contract by the company ProCerv;
- The person who built the market in the area will sign another agreement with the new buyer;
- Point out to the Public-Private Contract Realization Support Agency (ARCP) that the report it produced is biased;
- The legal framework governing Special Economic Zones must be prepared,
- The site must be serviced;
- The Ministry in charge of Trade in collaboration with that in charge of infrastructure and that in charge of Hydraulics will develop a development and occupation plan for the Warubondo site according to the sectors of activity.

### **11. Any other Business**

His Excellency the President of the Republic asked the members of the Government to closely follow the officials of their ministries because he noticed that they can knowingly mislead them in the treatment of files, or quite simply hide them important files.

He returned to the fight against the coronavirus where he is noted for indiscipline in cities and particularly among so-called "advanced" people, because they do not respect the barrier measures against the coronavirus. This has resulted in an increase in positive cases especially during this dry season. All ministries were asked to make their staff aware of compliance with barrier measures, to be screened regularly and to put in place measures to protect

visitors from this pandemic. The aim is that within a month, the positive cases have significantly decreased.

One of the factors in the spread of the coronavirus has been found to be the multiplicity of social celebrations and ceremonies. Therefore, in order to reduce them, the Council of Ministers proposed that they be held on Saturdays and Sundays only.

**Done at Bujumbura, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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

# Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

## Department of Communication

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