

# REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and  
Development Cooperation

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## Gitega: the President of the Republic receives in audience various personalities



The President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye granted, on July 27, 2020, at the Presidential Palace of Gitega, an audience to the former Heads of the Burundian State including President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya and President Domitien Ndayizeye.

The Burundian Head of State also received in audience, behind closed doors, the Bishops of the Anglican Church of Burundi as well as the Ambassadors of France, Germany and the European Union accredited to Burundi. According to the Spokesperson of the Head of State, Mr. Jean Claude Karerwa, these Bishops had expressed the wish to pay a courtesy visit to the Head of State to reiterate their congratulations to him following the confidence that the Burundian people placed in him to rule the country. Mr. Jean Claude Karerwa said that these Bishops also congratulated him on the establishment of a responsible and hard-working Government. They pledged their commitment to support

the Head of State in carrying out his Government's programs. Their support will be channeled in the areas of women's empowerment, environmental protection, the promotion and protection of human rights and those of the child.

In addition, Mr. Jean Claude Karerwa indicated that the Anglican Bishops have promised to sensitize their followers to actively contribute to the sustainable development of the country. Regarding the audiences granted to the above-mentioned Diplomats, Mr. Jean Claude Karerwa said that they asked for the restoration of good relations between Burundi and their respective countries. "They asked that their countries and Burundi engage in a frank political dialogue, with a view to renewing the relations of cooperation



between these three countries", explained further the Spokesman of the President of the Republic.

In reaction to their grievances, the President of the Republic received their messages favorably, while specifying

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that he informed them that Burundi favors relations of mutual understanding, of win-win cooperation, of cooperation which respects International Conventions and Treaties. Mr. Jean Claude Karerwa said that the French Republic has invited the Burundian Head of State to take part in the France-Africa Summit which

may be held in 2021 in Paris. As for the European Union, he has been invited it to participate in the European Union-African Union Summit, scheduled for October 2020.

(Source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## Burundi's Diplomatic Missions abroad are working to improve Burundi's image



As part of the framework of ensuring Burundi's socio-economic development, and attracting foreign investors, the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE

announced at his inauguration that the Government is committed to providing foreign investors with an ideal framework for a partnership that is always a win-win, because according to him, this is possible since God has made it a privilege to Burundians to have a country that is full of resources and natural resources, in return, they will invest their money.

All parties will have to win. He urged foreign investors to seize the many business opportunities that Burundi offers.

It is in this context that the Heads of Burundi's Diplomatic Missions abroad are increasing, actions in the direction of stimulating investors to come to Burundi to contribute to development and restore the country's image.

With this in mind, the Ambassador of Burundi to Paris His Excellency Ernest NIYOKINDI met with the Mayor of Terres de Bord Mr. Patrice Philippe during his brief visit to Normandy. The two personalities exchanged views on cooperation issues, including the twinning of a Burundian school and that of the commune of Terres de Bord. They also raised the possibility of economic exchanges between Burundi and the Eure department. The Mayor promised the Ambassador that he would soon formally invite him to deepen these discussions.

In the Netherlands, Burundi's Ambassador to The Hague His Excellency Gamaliel NKURUNZIZA has begun contacts with Dutch investors. In these contacts, he introduced them to the business opportunities that Burundi offers. He encouraged them to come and invest in the country.



In Italy, the Ambassador of Burundi in Rome Her Excellency Esperance NDAYIZEYE carried out a working Mission to northern Italy in the province of Sondrio. She met with the President of Commerce, the President of the Union of Industries, the Union of Craftsmen and the President of the People's Bank of Sondrio. They exchanged on investment opportunities in Burundi.





Businessmen in this province have expressed a desire to come and invest in Burundi. These exchanges will be explained into a virtual meeting to be held soon as part of moving towards cooperation. It should be noted that during his meeting with the Mayor of Sondrio and the Governor, the Ambassador of Burundi in Rome was accompanied by the Representative of the Burundian Diaspora in Italy. In the same context, the Ambassador of Burundi in Rome took the opportunity to visit a cooperative for the processing and conservation of tomatoes and fruits, a modern agro-pastoral and tourist complex Mantello.

At his inauguration, the President of the Republic also urged the Burundian Diaspora to participate in Burundi's influence and to contribute to the realization of economic development projects. For example, the Ambassador of Burundi in Dar-Es-Salaam, His Excellency Gervais ABAYEHO, met on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 with representatives of the Burundian Diaspora living in Dar-Es-Salaam. They discussed their contribution to Burundi's development based on Burundi's National Development Plan (PND 2018-2027).

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

### Rutana: Ordination of Priests and Deacons



The Mpinga Parish of Rutana Province celebrated on Saturday, July 25, 2020 its 75th anniversary and

proceeded to the Ordination Ceremonies of 9 Priests, 6 Deacons; and collation of Ministries namely readership and acolyte.

In his homily, Bishop Bonaventure Nahimana of the Diocese of Rutana recommended to these happy ordained to always be humble in the accomplishment of their ministry while fearing God as well as his Son Jesus Christ.

He reminded them that they will carry the Cross of Christ in the evangelization of the Word of God. "You will do it in unity with Jesus, in the faith and love that believes and endures everything. There will be plenty of temptations, but everything must be done to overcome them", said Bishop Bonaventure Nahimana.

"God chose you by his love, he wanted you to share the faith with his Son, that you would teach the good news with respect for God, be the Servants of your Christians as the Father of the family listens to his children, you are not researchers or scientists because those who do that forget that intelligence and

life belong to God who created the world", concluded Mgr Bonaventure Nahimana.

On behalf of the President of the Republic, the Right Honorable Réverien Ndikuriyo, President of the Senate of Burundi conveyed the message of congratulations to the Catholic Church in general and to these Orders in particular and pledged the support of the Government in all the activities of the Church.

The Right Honorable Réverien Ndikuriyo asked those who had just taken the oath to keep their commitments in mind, to appease the spirits of Burundians who have gone through various crises, to bring together young people by encouraging them to work and to cut short with inappropriate manners.

The Senate Speaker asked the Church not only to give sacraments, but also to train and inform Christians about pandemics like COVID-19, climate change, globalization with strict respect for culture and good manners.

The Government of Burundi needs the advice of the Church and its contribution in the building of the Nation, continued the Right Honorable Reverien NDIKURIYO. He nevertheless asked the Church not to go beyond its limits because according to him all power comes from God.

Such ordination ceremonies have taken place in other Dioceses of the country such as the Archdiocese of Bujumbura in the Parish of Bukwavu and in the Archdiocese of Gitega.

(Source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## Celebration of the National Day dedicated to local solidarity



The National Day dedicated to local solidarity was celebrated last Saturday and Sunday at the level of all

the Communes and Hills of Burundi, where food and non-food collected were distributed to the most deprived.

In Kayanza Province, related activities began with community sanitation works on National Road N°1 to Gahahe Hill in Kayanza Commune. In his speech for the occasion, the Burundian Ombudsman Honorable Édouard Nduwimana who had responded to these activities welcomed the idea of starting them with community work. He said if people do not work to increase production, it would not be possible to rescue the vulnerable. He said that the celebration of this day comes at the right time because it has just taken place the day after the elections which allowed our country to acquire new leaders. To this end, he called on the people of Kayanza to obey and support new leaders through development work. For their part, the new administrative officials were called upon to be servants of the population. The food and loincloths collected were handed over to the vulnerable.

In Mwaro Province, the national day dedicated to local solidarity was celebrated on Kibungere hill in Nyabihanga commune, in the presence of the Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, Mrs. Imelde Sabushimike, native of Kibungere Hill. She focused her speech on safeguarding and consolidating the positive values of solidarity that characterized our ancestors, in hard times as in joy. She invited the population to avoid laziness and to



work for the development of their commune.

She had provided aid of 517 kg of beans, 25 pieces of hoes and 2 boxes of laundry soap, while the people of Kibungere collected fresh and dry food consisting of maize, sweet potatoes, cassava, bananas and potatoes.

(Source: [www.abpinfos.com](http://www.abpinfos.com))

## Security: the hunt for criminals continues



Since the Minister in charge of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security CPC Gervais NDIRAKOBUCA announced zero tolerance for corruption and crime, the hunt for criminals continues.

The Public Security Spokesperson OPP1 Pierre Nkurikiye indicated that 19 Police Officers and 4 Administrative Officers were dismissed and 4 Police Officers

including 2 officers are under questioning.

"Several other suspected culprits have already been apprehended and their files are sent to justice", said OPP1 Pierre Nkurikiye.

The Spokesperson for the Ministry of in charge of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security also presented another group of suspected criminals who were apprehended by the National Police.

(Source: [www.rtnb.com](http://www.rtnb.com))

## The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation announces the diplomatic emergencies of his Ministry



During an interview on July 27 granted to the "Sputnik" press agency, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation His Excellency Albert SHINGIRO spoke about the diplomatic emergencies that are awaiting for him in his new functions by saying that the Ministry in charge of Foreign Affairs will be particularly concerned with improving the image of Burundi through relations based on mutual respect, good neighborhood, complementarity, strengthening of understanding between the Burundi and the other countries and between Burundi and various organizations in order to maximize the results of the Ministry's initiatives in Economic Development Cooperation.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation continued by saying that economic diplomacy should be at the center of the activities of the Ministry with particular emphasis on the promotion of foreign investments and commercial exchanges, the transfer of technologies and the strengthening of partnership mutually beneficial within technical and financial partners of Burundi through investment projects aligned with the priorities of the 2018-2028 Burundi National Development Plan. The National ownership will be one of the guiding principles that will guide this partnership.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation added that the Burundians will show the world that they have talents and that they have a role to play in multilateralism based on the rules of the game drawn up by the Charter of the United Nations and regional and international legal instruments to which Burundi has freely adhered.

For the Minister, the good relations existing between Burundi and African countries or African organiza-

tions; the integration of Burundi into various regional and international organizations; solidarity with other countries and international organizations in the project and the program of development of Burundi such as agriculture, health, education based on the needs at the work market, human capital, rational exploitation of natural resources, protection of environment will be strengthened.

According to H.E Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation will build diplomatic relations based on mutual respect where some States do not substitute to the international community to oppress other States by imposing them unilateral coercive measures. Therefore, the Minister hopes that the unilateral sanctions taken against Burundi will be cancelled. Otherwise, the Minister said that priority should be given to the dialogue and the mutually respectful cooperation instead of the unilateral way.

Regarding Burundians abroad, the Minister indicated that the Government of Burundi would like Burundians who are in foreign countries to be treated with dignity, just as the Government of Burundi itself wishes to guarantee pleasant living conditions for foreigners living in Burundi.

The Minister ended by saying that the Government will continue the policy of voluntary repatriation of refugees and by reiterating the call from the Head of State to all Burundian refugees willing to return to their homeland to do so since the situation in the Burundi is calm, stable, and under control and also urging the Burundian diaspora to participate in the promotion of Burundi and to contribute to the practice of economic development projects within the framework of the National Development Plan of Burundi of 2018-2028.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)



## The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, determined to defend the interests and sovereignty of Burundi



**H**is Excellency Albert SHINGIRO, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation has given an exclusive interview to the Journal "Sputnik", where he spoke on various issues.

Regarding his new responsibilities at the head of Burundian diplomacy, His Excellency Albert SHINGIRO wished, first of all, to thank the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE and the Prime Minister His Excellency Alain-Guillaume BUNYONI for the confidence they have placed in his person, through his appointment.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation then confided that he was fully committed to defending the interests and sovereignty of Burundi as he always did when he was Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations, in New York. .

Thus, as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Albert SHINGIRO expressed the wish to do more by broadening the scope of bilateral and multilateral relations and cooperation.

He recognized the heavy responsibilities, but said that he was happy with the evolution of his diplomatic career and confident to continue to assume the responsibilities of leader so that his appointment at the head of the Burundian diplomacy appears legitimate both to the eyes of the hierarchy and the staff of the institution, but also to the eyes of Burundian people. This is possible, since he had previously held the post of Permanent Secretary within the same Ministry.

His Excellency Albert SHINGIRO had some individual exchanges with former colleagues in order to familiarize himself with his new function. He also plans to organize meetings with his peers from the region and the rest of the world "to develop relations of friendship and fraternity which are very useful for any diplomat". Finally, in the performance of his duties, he also counts on remaining true to himself while being firm, flexible and open at the same time.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

## The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation speaks about diplomatic relations between Burundi and its various partners



**I**n an exclusive interview in Sputnik, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO denied what is often mentioned in the media by Burundi's desire to distance itself from the West.

"That's not true at all." Said the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

According to the Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs, the vision of the Government of Burundi is to show the country's openness to all countries and international organizations that are more interested in a rapprochement with Burundians, in order to forge and/or maintain complementary relations for global interest. The Government will work to achieve the results of this objective. His Excellency Albert SHINGIRO goes on to say that the West is also a long-standing partner of Burundi despite some concerns that have been observed between 2015 and 2020 with some countries in this region. According to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, the time

has come to normalize relations with his countries, but everything will be done through mutually beneficial and respectful cooperation based on the principle of sovereign equality of the Member States of the United Nations.

In the case of strengthening relations with the European Union and in particular with France, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation points out that the Government of Burundi expects the revision of the Cotonou Agreement which was signed on 23 June 2000 and the total lifting of unilateral sanctions that were imposed against Burundi in a hurry in 2015. The 20-year Agreement, revised every five years, has expired and is expected to be revised in February this year. Today, there are transitional measures put in place by the Ambassadors of these countries concerned with the authorization of their respective Ministers in charge of Foreign Affairs. Transitional measures to implement the Cotonou Agreement envisage its expiration in December 2020. However, the sanctions against Burundi were rejected by the Government of Burundi and other actors in the international community who even called for the immediate lifting of the sanctions (The East African Community, the African Union, the 9th Meeting of

Heads of State and Government of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries held in Nairobi from 9 to 10 December 2019). With regard to relations of friendship and cooperation with France, the Government of Burundi obviously intends to strengthen relations with that country based on mutual respect between the two countries.

Regarding diplomatic priorities with the neighbouring country in the East African region, the Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs said that the Government of Burundi will continue to strengthen Burundi's integration into regional and continental organizations. Thus the President of the Republic said at his inauguration, inter-African relations should improve and move towards the free movement of people and goods. Similarly, roads and air bridges should be further developed to facilitate the integration of the African continent. The Government will also attach great importance to the respect by all of the regional legal instruments for peace, security and development, as well as for the non-aggression and promotion of good-neighbourly relations in the region.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

### The Director General in charge of Diaspora at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation visits the NGO IZERE-HOLLANDE



**O**n Tuesday 28 July 2020, the Director General of Diaspora, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Foreign Non-Profit Organizations (ASBL) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Mr. Philbert MUREKAMBANZE paid a working visit to the headquarters of the Representation of the NGO IZERE-HOLLANDE based in Mirango II, 15th Avenue, Mr. André NKESHIMANA.

Mr. André NKESHIMANA, President of the Non-Profit Organization IZERE-HOLLANDE, is a Burundian who lives in Holland since 1997. Mr. André NKESHIMANA reported that the Organization was founded in 1997 and it includes Burundians as well as friends from Burundi residing in the Netherlands. He then informed the Director-General in charge of the Diaspora that this Organization is coming to the fore in the implementation of the National Development Plan of the Republic of Burundi, with the main objectives of helping compatriots both inside and outside Burundi and supporting the various efforts to rebuild Burundi.

The Non-Governmental Organization IZERE-HOLLANDE is multifunctional. To its credit, the Organization has accomplished several achievements, particularly in the field of social investment through MURYANGO Brickyard, MURYANGO Bakery, Trades Apprenticeships, Rural Cooperative, Surgical Operations, Sport, etc. The President of the Non-Governmental Organization IZERE-HOLLANDE reported that he thought about these projects above, as part of the increase in employment for

young people in different provinces and for this, many young people have already had training in the provinces of Ngozi, Gitega, Makamba, Karusi and Bujumbura Town Hall.

Regarding the manufacture of compressed brick using a Dutch mobile machine to promote development, the President of the Organization said that as part of contributing to Burundi's economic reconstruction efforts and promoting job creation by diversifying income resources and thus contributing to self-development, the Organization IZERE-HOLLANDE has made available to the public, businesses, the territorial administration and the Burundian population, a modern machine for making bricks from the mixture of cement, sand and earth, a mobile machine that can be moved to any place where anyone in need can use it. He also reported that, using these bricks, the NGO IZERE-HOLLANDE has already built public toilets in Gitega.

The President of the Non-Governmental Organization IZERE-HOLLANDE then explained what relates to the surgical operations. He reported that as part of helping the most vulnerable people, two thousand people have been operated on tumors, physical malformations, physical deformities such as hare beaks, hermaphrodites, etc. This was done with the aim of training Burundians to collaborate with Dutch doctors. He went on to stress that this NGO works with the Administrators. Cooperatives are superintended by local natives, with respect for gender. He also stres-

sed that the NGO will soon build a trades school promised to the Government in Muzinda, Bubanza province.

The President of the Non-Governmental Organization IZERE-HOLLANDE also reported that this NGO mentors young people in the teachings of trades such as sewing, computer science, sports coaching and distribution of balloons, trunks etc. for the purpose of self-development and social cohesion.

Mr. André NKESHIMANA announced that in order to train Burundian fishermen to properly conserve fish caught, the association has the necessary instruments for fishing.

Finally, he said that the association also trains young people on how to make breads. He also stressed that IZERE-HOLLANDE is working with the Dutch to mentor young Burundians in order to combat unemployment.

In turn, the Director General of Diaspora and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Foreign Non-Profit Organizations (ASBL) at Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation encouraged this NGO of the Burundian Diaspora in Holland. He also invited all members of the Burundian Diaspora abroad to bring investment to Burundi. He finally invited the President of the NGO IZERE-HOLLANDE to support SANGWE cooperatives.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

### The Minister in charge of the Media raids various departments within her jurisdiction



The Minister in charge of Communication, Information Technologies and Media, Madam Marie Chantal Nijimbere carried out on Monday, July 27, 2020, a work descent respectively at the National Radio Television of Burundi (RTNB), at the Burun-

dian Press Agency (ABP), at ONATEL and the National Post Office.

The Minister in charge of Communication began the working visit within the RTNB. Welcomed by the Director General of the RTNB Mr. Eric Nshimirimana, the latter gave her a full overview of the daily activities of this institution, which activities are divided into four departments including the Department of Administration and Finance, the Technical Department, the Radio as well as the Television. After the presentation of the activities of the RTNB, the Minister Marie Chantal Nijimbere made a guided visit to the various services of the RTNB.

According to the Director General of the RTNB, this Institution faces various problems to accomplish its mission to inform, train and entertain the public. He



cited in particular the insufficiency of personnel, of reporting vehicles, the problem of the digitization of the radio, the wear and tear of certain equipment in the service of transmitters, the modernization of the archives service, the arrears of payment towards the International Associations where RTNB is a member, etc.



To these various concerns of the Director General of RTNB, Minister Marie Chantal Nijimbere first of all praised the great work carried out by media professionals in general and RTNB journalists in particular for their contribution to the development and to the education of the population through broadcasts and the newspaper.

Regarding the challenges that haunt the RTNB, Mi-

nister Marie Chantal urged everyone to lend a hand in order to find lasting solutions because "all together we are able", she testified.

She also invited media professionals and RTNB journalists in particular to be pioneers in the fight and prevention of Covid19 in line with the message of the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, "Ndakira, Sinandura kandi Sinandukiza".

After the raid on RTNB, the Minister of Communication, Information Technology and Media visited the Burundian Press Agency. Among the complaints addressed to Minister Marie Chantal Nijimbere are the insufficiency of financial resources, the problem of cartage and the absence of the Administrative and Financial Director at the Burundian Press Agency because, he said, the subsidies from the state are limited only on the salary payment of employees of this agency.

Taking the floor, the Minister in charge of Communication encouraged them to combine their efforts by informing and educating the population, especially since the correspondents of this agency are found in all the provinces of Burundi.

(Source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## OBR seizes defrauded goods



**T**he Burundian Revenue Authority (OBR) seized on Sunday night, July 26, 2020, goods consisting of 25 cartons of whisky and wine, 630 loincloths and packaging. This seizure took place in a plot located on the shores of Lake Tanganyika in the rural Kibenga district.

The warden of the plot, although he has not admitted to collaborating with the fraudsters, told OBR authori-

ties that goods have been passing through this place once a week since May.

The Commissioner General of OBR Mr. Audace Niyonzima asked the population to denounce the fraudsters because they cause a huge loss in the public treasury.

Mr. Audace Niyonzima calls on the population especially those who live on the shores of Lake Tanganyika to remain vigilant and to contribute to the fight against this fraud. He also calls on local Administrators, the Defense and Security Corps, and national intelligence services to continue to fight against fraud. The OBR Commissioner General reminds the population that anyone who denounces a case of fraud is entitled to 10% of the value of the goods seized.

(Source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

**REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI****PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC**  
**Secretariat-General of the State****MEDIA RELEASE CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29 JULY 2020**

A Cabinet Meeting was held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> of July 2020 in Gitega, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic Burundi. The following items were on the agenda:

**1. Draft decree on the missions and organization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation**, presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

Following the establishment of the new structure of the Government, the new Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation needs to be reorganized to adapt it to this new structure.

Indeed, with the addition of the "development cooperation" component to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, certain missions relating in particular to the development of economic and trade relations between Burundi and bilateral and multilateral partners are now integrated into the remit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

It is also important to note that migration for employment is an issue that concerns most nations and therefore looms large in international relations. Burundi should therefore pay special attention to migrant workers from Burundi, whose number is gradually increasing. A legal and institutional framework relating to the mobility of the Burundian labor force, to the good governance of labor migration and to the negotiation of bilateral agreements with the countries of destination is more than necessary. This project is proposed to address these concerns.

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted with certain corrections.

**2. Bill on the organization of the Diplomatic Service of the Republic of Burundi**, presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

The Constitution of the Republic of Burundi provides, in article 164, paragraph 3, that the organization of the diplomatic and consular service is a matter of law.

However, it should be noted that the Diplomatic Service has so far been governed by scattered and incomplete decrees, orders and memoranda. This situation does not allow a clear management of the Diplomatic Service and the careers of civil servants in the Diplomatic Service.

This project complies with the Constitution and addresses these gaps.

It guarantees the development of a diplomatic career in accordance with the principles of efficiency, stability, transparency, continuity and mobility.

After analysis and debate on this bill, the Council noted that it is necessary to analyse first the problem of Burundian diplomacy in general before proposing solutions.

To this end, the Council recommended first drafting and adopting the Burundi Diplomacy Policy that this bill would implement.

**3. Draft decree on the subsidy of health care for State personnel retired due to age limit + Draft order determining the terms of application of the draft decree on the subsidy of health care for the State personnel retired for age limit**, presented by the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS.

In his speech to the Nation during his Inauguration, His Excellency the President of the Republic announced, among other measures, the health care subsidy program for state retirees.

This program reinforces and supports other policies and programs in which issues relating to the health care of the elderly are taken into account.



With the aim of ensuring the well-being of people who have loyally served the Republic, the measure of free healthcare for retired people from the State, in addition to being recognition of the services rendered, also consists of the implementation of international instruments and national systems relating to health rights.

It is therefore important to put in place a legal framework in order to implement this measure of free health care for retirees who have served the State, hence the development of this draft decree and order.

After analysis and debate on these projects, the Council of Ministers adopted them with some adjustments.

**4. Draft agreements relating to the granting of tax advantages under the Investment Code to METALUSA, LIFE WAY COMPANY AND MODERN DIARY BURUNDI**, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

The draft convention relating to the granting of tax advantages under the Investment Code to the company METALUSA was analyzed by the Council of Ministers at its meeting of April 8, 2020.

The Council of Ministers made the following observations:

- Correct the paragraph that talks about cassiterite and steel because the latter does not come from cassiterite;
- Specify the texts to which reference is made to grant these advantages;
- Do not grant exemption from property tax because it is not justified;
- The exemption period should correspond to each phase of the expansion plan;
- It is necessary to indicate the details of the material to be exempted;
- Specify the penalties if the exempt material is used for purposes other than in this Project;
- Specify the start of the granting of these benefits.

The principle of supporting METALUSA by granting it tax benefits had been supported, but the Council had appointed a team to refine and finalize the relevant Agreement. The same team had to finalize at the same time the draft agreements in relation with the companies Life Way Company and Modern

Diary Burundi which requested the advantages within the framework of this same Code and which also appeared on the agenda of the meeting of 8 April 2020.

The designated team then analyzed these three projects. She provided answers to the questions raised and her work resulted in the preparation of three draft harmonized conventions which were analyzed during the meeting of the Council of Ministers on Wednesday, July 29, 2020.

After analyzing the three reworked projects, the Council of Ministers adopted them.

**5. Burundi mining policy Paper**, presented by the Minister of Hydraulics, Energy and Mining.

Burundi has a rich and varied mining potential whose rational development would significantly finance economic growth and social development.

Aware of the need to capitalize on this potential to make it a lever for development, the Government of Burundi has initiated a wide consultation with all stakeholders in this sector for the development of this policy.

In accordance with the National Development Plan, the mining and quarrying sector, just like other sectors, must build its policy and an action plan to contribute to the development of the country.

During this period until 2027, value added in the mining industry is expected to grow at an average annual rate of 47%. The valuation will significantly finance economic growth and social development. This will only be possible if the mining policy is adopted.

This policy document presents the strategies that guide the Government's policy to achieve effective management of the mining sector. It also provides guidelines for the use of mining revenues for sustainable community development.

After discussion and debate on this Policy Paper, the Council of Ministers adopted it with recommendations to be taken into consideration.

#### **6. Analysis of the shortage and speculation over the cooking salt, presented by the Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism.**

Speculation over the cooking salt has been observed in recent days. This speculative situation stems from an importer who marketed salt which was not sufficiently iodized and which was not suitable for human consumption. The services in charge of human health sounded the alert, and, in an attempt to remedy this situation and easily check whether the imported cooking salt meets the standards, it was decided by the authorized services to entrust the exclusivity of importation of salt to four importers only.

This is where the speculation started as prices started to soar as the quantities imported were not sufficient.

After analyzing this situation and its consequences, the Council decided to further liberalize the import of salt with the possibility of suspending all importers if it happens, once again, that salt does not meet the standards, especially since these importers cover each other. Penalties were also requested for the importer who was guilty of such misconduct by knowingly importing non-iodized cooking salt. The Burundian Bureau for Standardization and Quality Control was also urged to be more vigilant.

#### **7. Any Other Business**

- The Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS informed the Council that the measures taken for the prevention and the fight against the coronavirus have led to very satisfactory results in view of the statistics of people tested positive and those who recover.

In all the provinces of the country, screening is being carried out and the cases tested positive continue to decrease. On all the hills, community leaders are trained to identify the symptoms of this disease and encourage people who present to be tested.



As projected, there is hope that this disease will be eradicated in the country within three months.

- The Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security recalled that the Communal Day will be celebrated this Saturday, August 01, 2020 and invited all natives of the Communes to participate.

**Done at Gitega, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

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

# Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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