



Trade on the menu of telephone conversations between the Burundian President and his Kenyan and Tanzanian counterparts



ting Burundi but that his visit was postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. They also exchanged greetings for the year 2021.

On January 17, 2021, H.E. Evariste Ndayishimiye received on the phone his counterpart from the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Jonh Pombe Magufuli.

The Senior Advisor in charge of Communication at the Presidency of the Republic of Burundi issued on Monday, January 18, 2021, a press release on the exchanges that the President of the Republic had with his counterparts.



According to this statement, the President of the Republic of Burundi, H.E. Evariste Ndayishimiye spoke on the phone with his counterpart of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta. Their exchanges focused on subjects related to cooperation and development, particularly in trade matters. During the telephone dialogue, H.E. Kenyatta informed the President of Burundi that he had expressed interest in visi-

Their conversation focused on the bilateral relations which are "naturally" good. The two leaders agreed to work closely together to strengthen peace and security in the region and the development of both countries in all areas, including trade.

(Source: ABP-Infos 12130)

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The Head of State calls on everyone to engage in a merciless fight against Covid-19



The Burundian Head of State, H.E Evariste Ndayishimiye, called on the population to step up a gear to face the Covid-19 pandemic. He launched this call during the mass celebrated in the parish of Murayi on Sunday January 17, 2020, in the commune of Gihe-ta, in the province of Gitega (center of the country).

The Head of State seized this opportunity to thank the Almighty God for his protective eye. He embarked on the resumption of the Covid-19 pandemic, lamenting that it has grown because of the irresponsibility of some people who have taken this scourge lightly. He asked everyone to do battle with such behavior and to strictly follow the related preventive measures recommended by health providers. For the Burundian Head of State,

hand washing is first and foremost in these measures. "Myself, I wash my hands before touching anything", he said, then asked the population to do the same. Breast-feeding women, he asked to wash their hands before touching their babies and to avoid touching them in the nostrils or in the mouth so as not to contaminate them. For people who suspect they have Covid-19, President Ndayishimiye urged them to rush to testing centers and take the drugs properly, arguing that care is free. Greetings of any kind including shaking hands or hugs must be stopped because touch is the main source of contamination, recalled the Burundian Head of State, before raising awareness about wearing masks as another means of prevention from this scourge. The fight against Covid 19 requires allaying fear, from which everyone must fully and vigorously engage in it, while rolling up their sleeves in the day-to-day work, each as their own. United, there is no doubt that the country will be able to defeat Covid-19 in less than two months, according to the Head of State.

He did not fail to call on all farmers to get actively involved in agriculture for the second cropping season in order to have a large production.

(Source: www.abpinfos.com)

Gitega: ruling party holds interfaith prayer of thanksgiving



The ruling CNDD-FDD party organized a three-day interfaith prayer of thanksgiving from January 21 to 23, 2021 in Gitega province, the political capital of the

country.

This prayer began with a Mass which was celebrated at Christ the King Cathedral by the Archbishop of Gitega Monsignor Simon Ntamwana. The mass saw the participation of the high authorities from the CNDD-FDD including the President of the Republic, H.E Evariste Ndayishimiye, the Representatives of the political parties approved in Burundi and many others.

In his homily, the Archbishop of Gitega, Mgr Simon Ntamwana invited the Burundian authorities to protect the entire population without distinction. He also called them to imitate Jesus Christ in his love to lead the country well,

to be the light and to serve as a model. After Mass, the solemn opening ceremonies of this interfaith prayer of thanksgiving continued at Gitega aerodrome.

As reported by the Deputy Secretary General of the CNDD-FDD party Honorable Joseph Ntakarutimana, the interfaith prayer of thanksgiving is organized at the beginning of each new year to thank the Lord for the blessings he grants to the country. He then wished the members of the CNDD-FDD party and the President of the Republic, also a member of this party, every success during this new year of 2021. He called on the population to respect the barrier measures to fight against the the world threatening COVID19 .

The Deputy SG of the CNDD-FDD Honorable Joseph Ntakarutimana said that his Party has always been guided and protected by God during its journey of struggle for democracy until it came to power. He invited all the Bagumyabanga to combine their efforts to contribute to the construction works of the building of the Altar of the Alliance in Gitega which is about to be completed.

The Honorable Joseph Ntakarutimana ended his remarks by specifying that the prayer of thanksgiving is organized to prepare the conduct of the extraordinary congress of the CNDD-FDD which will

be held in Gitega on January 24, 2021 to elect the new leaders of the Party.

In his speech for the occasion, the Head of State H.E Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye asked CNDD-FDD activists to always connect their souls to God for the benefits that he has not ceased to grant them from the armed struggle until now. The Head of State asked the Bagumyabanga to keep the promise that God must take pride of place in the CNDD-FDD party.

H.E. Evariste Ndayishimiye also asked the Bagumyabanga to observe the fast during the 3 days of the prayer of thanksgiving to establish a sincere relationship with God. He invited them to ask forgiveness and to pray a lot so that the next extraordinary congress of the CNDD-FDD takes place in peace and that the new leader of this Party is a man worthy of the name.

Regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, the President of the Republic deplored the slackening of the implementation of the barrier measures which led to the reappearance of this pandemic in the country. He then invited the Burundian population to redouble their vigilance in order to eradicate this pandemic.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The President of the Senate receives in audience the President of the Court of Auditors



The President of the Burundian Senate, Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, received in a closed session on January 19, 2021, the President of the Court of Accounts, Mr. Élysée Ndaye. At the end of their exchanges, the Spokesperson of the

Senate, Mr. Gaby Bugaga, declared to the press that the President of the Court of Auditors came to present his warm congratulations to the President of the Senate for the confidence that the people have, placed in him, through the Senators, to lead the Upper House of Parliament.

"Mr. Ndaye has engaged with the functioning of the institution of which he is at the head," said Bugaga, adding that he explained that the Court of Accounts is responsible for the analysis of the budget law and the preparation of the state budget execution report.

However, no such report has been submitted to parliament, according to Mr. Ndaye.

Faced with this shortcoming, the President of the Senate recommended working with the Ministry in charge of Finance to remedy the situation. Concretely, indicated, Mr. Bugaga, the President of the Senate recommended "to produce the report of execution of the budget before the adoption of the budget law which follows".

The President of the Court of Auditors took good note and promised to invest in it, according to the same spokesperson.

In addition, the President of the Court of Auditors referred to gaps in the law governing this institution, explaining that the Court is carrying out investigations on the execution of the state budget. He lamented the lack of a jurisdiction within him to try those who have been involved in embezzlement. To fill this gap, the President of the Senate suggested that he submit a bill to the Council of Ministers which, in turn, can send it to Parliament for adoption.

(Source: www.abpinfos.com)

Wearing a mask is only compulsory in public transport



The National Crisis and Management Committee of Covid 19 set up by the President of the Republic HE Evariste Ndayishimiye met on Monday January 18, 2021, at the Cabinet of the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, with the aim of evaluating the implementation of the voluntary screening campaign for Covid 19. This meeting was chaired by the Minister of the Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security, and Chairman of this Committee CPC Gervais Ndirakobuca.

At the end of the meeting, which was held behind closed doors, the Minister in charge of Public Health and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Thaddée Ndikumana, revealed to the press the content and measures resulting from this meeting. The Committee indicated that among the contact cases that have been actively sought in recent days, only 3% have been infected and that of all the positive cases

that have been identified, over 76% are already cured.

Dr. Thaddée Ndikumana let it be known that the committee in charge of managing Covid 19 had noted with bitterness that sporadic cases of intellectuals and wealthy people hide as if contracting Covid-19 is shameful. The Committee calls on them to consult the nearest health centers instead of resorting to traditional therapy.

Regarding the wearing of masks, the Committee welcomed the initiatives of certain officials. He nevertheless informs that only the measure of the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS is required, namely that of wearing masks in public transport. Elsewhere and in public places, the Ministry in charge of Public Health recommends hand washing devices with clean water and soap.

To certain schools and other entities which order the closure or measures not decreed by the Ministry in charge of Public Health in the event of the discovery of a positive case, the Committee recommends that their officials seek each time the opinion of "a health manager for advice on the measures to be taken". The committee asks those in charge who take hasty measures to rely on the barrier measures taken by the Committee in charge of the management of the pandemic.

With regard to the figures put forward by certain social networks, the Committee asks the population to be

wary of this kind of rumors and to consult those published by the Ministry in charge of Health which has the prerogatives to publish results which are reliable.

The Committee calls on the population to remain calm and to go about their development activities on a daily basis while scrupulously respecting the barrier

measures to limit the spread of COVID19, concluded the Vice-President of this Committee, Dr. Thaddée Ndikumana. The Minister in charge of Public Health remains confident that with strict compliance with preventive measures, the pandemic will be brought under control as before.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The Minister in charge of National Defense assisted 1,400 households affected by water scarcity



The Minister of National Defense and Veterans Affairs, Ir. Alain Tribert Mutabazi, along with other military executives, on Saturday January 16, 2021 granted food aid to 1,400 households in three municipalities in Kirundo province (North of Burundi), noted the ABP on the spot.

During his two-day descent in Kirundo province, the Minister Mutabazi first went to Busoni commune, precisely on Rwibikara hill where he gave three tons of rice and three tons of beans to 600 households affected by the water scarcity that did not have the chance to harvest.

He was also on Runyonza hill in Kirundo commune for the distribution of two tons of beans and two tons of rice to 400 households. He ended his day in Bugabira commune, on Kigoma hill, where he also gave two tons of beans and two tons of rice to 400 other households as well. However, there are 26,000 households in Busoni, Bugabira and Kirundo municipalities that did not harvest due to water shortage.

The Minister in charge of National Defense indicated that this manifested gesture is a model for the popula-

tion of Kirundo province so that they always show solidarity in difficult times. To those who harvested, he urged them to organize themselves to support the victims of the vagaries of the weather, not to waste the harvest and instead proceed to the storage of agricultural production in appropriate sheds in order to fight against famine.

He did not fail to wink that we must always respect the barrier measures against the spread of Covid 19 in these days when a lot of people are tested positive. We must also eradicate the practice of fraud which slows the development of the country, he advised. Minister Mutabazi appealed to everyone to join cooperatives in order to be able to self-develop and develop the country.

Note that this day began with the planting of trees in Busoni commune, on Rwibikara hill and on the edges of the RN14 leading to the Rwandan-Burundian border of Gasenye-Nemba where 6,200 agro-forestry tree seedlings have been established.

(Source: [ABP-Infos N ° 12129](#))

The Government welcomes the contribution of the Catholic Church in the development of the country



The Minister of Justice Madam Jeanine NIBIZI enhanced with her presence on Saturday January 16, 2021, the consecration ceremonies of the new church of the parish of St Matthew of Muyuga in Ryansoro commune of Gitega province. The Minister of Justice was the bearer of the message of the President of the Republic H.E Evariste Ndayishimiye. The ceremonies were chaired by the Archbishop of Gitega Monsignor Simon Ntamwana.

After the consecration ceremonies of this new church, Archbishop Simon Ntamwana asked the Christians of the Muyuga parish to respect this temple of God.

Speaking on behalf of the President of the Republic, Madam Jeanine Nibizi, Minister of Justice congratulated the Christians of the Muyuga parish for having built their own church. She indicated that the Burundian Government welcomes the efforts of the Catholic Church of Burundi in the development of the country through different sectors such as education, health, economy, etc.

The Minister also invited the leaders of the Catholic Church to sensitize their faithful to the fight against the Covid 19 pandemic which is raging in the world as well as in Burundi, by respecting the barrier measures put in place by the Ministry of Public Health and the fight against AIDS.

The Minister of Justice Madam Jeanine Nibizi also gave the Parish Priest of Muyuga, Father Deo Rushatsi, an envelope from the President of the Republic, to support the development works of this young parish.

The construction works of the Muyuga parish church started in April 2017. As indicated by the President of the Parish Council, the church was built thanks to the contributions of Christians and friends of the Muyuga parish. (Source: www.rtnb.bi)

Press conference held by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO, on the achievements of the Ministry for the 2nd term of 2020-2021.



The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO presented this Wednesday, January 20, 2021, the achievements of the Ministry counting for the second term, on the basis of the action plans of the Government and that of our Ministry for the period from 2020 to 2021, as well as on the basis of innovative initiatives other than action plans.

This presentation focused on four main axes of communication, namely the strengthening of good governance, the strengthening and extension of development cooper-

ation, the strengthening of diplomatic communication as well as the consolidation of a strategic relationship between diaspora and the Government.

Regarding the strengthening of good governance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation focused firstly on the fight against corruption and economic embezzlement, and on the review of the processing time of files in order to avoid administrative slowness. Second, the Ministry invested in building the capacity of the staff in responsible management of public affairs.

Third, it was about strengthening the culture of openness, transparency and accountability. Fourth, it concerned the rationalization of expenditure in the Foreign Service. Fifth, the Ministry continued its vast reform project for strengthening the governance in cooperation with technical and financial partners and foreign NGOs. Sixth, to ensure good governance within this Ministry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation continued the work of establishing policies and strategies that will allow the Ministry to fully assume the role of promoting Burundi in the concert of nations and play a key role in the implementation of the NDP Burundi 2018-2027.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation also spoke about strengthening and expanding development cooperation. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation first clarified that bilaterally, the second term of 2020-2021 was marked by giant steps in strengthening relations of friendship and cooperation with friendly countries, which led to several high-level visits that has resulted in the signing of several cooperation agreements, productive diplomatic and political consultations and the re-launch of joint cooperation commissions with these friendly countries of Burundi.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation then announced, that at the multilateral level, the term was characterized by the victory of truth over the lie of those who had succeeded in deceiving the vigilance of certain partners by imposing sanctions on Burundi.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation also announced that Burundi has been removed from the agenda of the United Nations Security Council and His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO expressed his gratitude to all the countries that supported the legitimate request of Burundi in this campaign which enabled our country to regain its rightful place, and which it deserves in the concert of Nations.



The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation also spoke on the sanctions of the International Organization of Francophonie which were also unconditionally lifted. In this regard, he addressed his thanks to the Member States who supported Burundi's request to recover its rights as a full member of the OIF.

Regarding the strengthening of diplomatic communication, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation indicates that he met the Heads of diplomatic and consular missions and the Representatives of Regional and International Organizations accredited to Burundi in the month of October 2020.

He also announced that it was a good opportunity to discuss the strengthening of Cooperation in general and the fight against Covid-19 in particular.

Before concluding, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation also spoke about the consolidation of a strategic relationship between the diaspora and the Government where he insisted on the motivation of the members of the diaspora to come and invest in Burundi, and that a draft Ministerial Ordinance on the exemption of their personal ef-

fects just in case of definitive return to the country, is being prepared.

Finally, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation reiterated his gratitude to all Burundi's partners, especially those who supported the country in the advocacy campaign for the removal of

the sanctions that had been unilaterally imposed on Burundi. He encouraged those who are still hesitant to follow the footsteps of the United Nations Security Council and the International Organization of Francophonie in order to definitively turn the page of conflictual relations.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

The Minister in charge of Public Health calls on the population to strictly respect the measures to prevent and fight against Covid-19



The Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, Dr Thaddée Ndikumana, in collaboration with the National Committee for the Prevention and Fight against Covid-19 hosted on Monday January 18, 2020 in his Cabinet, a meeting to inform the public on the Covid-19 situation in Burundi, noted the ABP on the spot.

After informing that there are many imported cases of Covid 19, the conclusion is that among those screened, 3% had been infected with this pandemic, and 76% are already cured. It is for this reason that the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS has asked the population to scrupulously respect the measures to prevent and fight against this pandemic. Regarding the wearing of masks, he called for this measure to be respected for drivers and customers in order to fight against this pandemic. In this meeting, Dr. Ndikumana seized the opportunity to appeal to the population so that those who have the dangerous signs of this disease, consult the doctors to take the drugs in order not to infect others.

(Source: www.abpinfos.com)

The Minister in charge of Agriculture before the Senate to explain two bills



The Senators analyzed and adopted on Wednesday January 20, 2021, two bills including the bill on the manufacture, possession, import, export, marketing and regulation of veterinary products and the one revising law nr 1/08 of 11th May 2018 on the management of pesticides in Burundi. The ses-

sion was chaired by Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, President of the Senate.

The Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Dr. Déo Guide Rurema represented the Burundian Government to present the explanatory memorandum to these two bills and to answer questions from Senators.

Regarding the 1st bill on interest in veterinary products, the Minister explained that this bill will allow the country to come into compliance with the standards of the World Organization for Animal Health; update and harmonize Burundian veterinary legislation with that of the East African Community.

This bill will also make it possible to regulate, according to the Minister, veterinary products which contain chemicals, toxic, biological such as vaccines, seeds and hormones which, if misused, can harm the health of animals and consumers of animal products as well as the environment. In addition, this bill will help to control residues of veterinary products in animal products, set up a regulatory authority, regulate and inspect veterinary products in all links of the circuits.

Regarding the second bill on pesticides, the Minister explained that the adoption of the latter will make it possible to comply with the standards of the FAO, CO-

DEX and the WTO which govern all interventions in the field of health in the world, said the Minister Déo Guide Rurema.

For the Minister Dr. Déo Guide Rurema, this bill will also update and harmonize Burundian legislation on pesticide management with that of the East African Community. "Much more, it will make it possible to regulate the management of pesticides, to regulate and inspect pesticides in all links of the circuits, to control pesticide residues in products of vegetable origin from production to consumption", concluded the Minister.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

Burundian Ombudsman calls for safeguarding peace and security



The Burundian Ombudsman Honorable Edouard Nduwimana and his wife joined the Christians of the parish of Bukeye, Archdiocese of Bujumbura in the Sunday prayer of January 16, 2020.

In his homily, the parish priest of Bukeye, Abbot Adalbert Niyonzima called the Christians to be the light of the world, to keep the commandments of God and to show love for their neighbors. He also invited Christians to stop being sources of conflict in those around them and to help the needy so that fraternity can be established in the community.

In his greetings to the Christians of Bukeye and to the population of Muramvya in general, the Burundian Ombudsman wished them the best wishes for the New Year 2021. He invited the population to consolidate peace and security, the basis of sustainable development.

The Burundian Ombudsman Honorable Edouard Nduwimana also urged the population to scrupulously follow the advice of the leaders of the country and those of the church and especially to support the Government's policy which advocates the increase in production so that the population gets enough food.

Regarding the Covid19 pandemic which is destabilizing the world, the Burundian Ombudsman called on the Christians of Bukeye to scrupulously observe the barrier measures taken by the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS to limit the spread of Covid19. And to salute the contribution of the parish of Bukeye which continues to sensitize its Christians to get involved in the fight against this pandemic.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The Bank of the Republic of Burundi warns illegal practitioners



The Bank of the Republic of Burundi (BRB) released on Wednesday January 20, 2021, a press release in which it informed the public that there are activities of investment and marketing of money in fraudulent pyramid forms, commonly called "Ikirimba". This business consists of raising funds from investors by dangling high short-term returns and paying ephemeral returns to first-time subscribers at the expense of new members.

According to Mr. Prosper Ngendanganya, Director of Stability and Financial Inclusion Supervision, in this new type of business, the last members are losing all their capital. Mr. Prosper Ngendanganya said that these practices are also done on ecocash and lumicash.

And to add that in this form of fraud, some lumicash and \ or ecocash agents collect deposits from the public by claiming that they are forming tontines when they are fraudulent pyramid schemes. These agents fix the amount to be paid for the new member and the number of people to be recruited to be paid in turn and it becomes a recruitment chain.

In this regard, the Bank of the Republic of Burundi reminds the general public that all these practices are carried out illegally without any authorization from the competent authorities. Practitioners are exposed to penal, legal and regulatory sanctions because they carry out financial intermediation activities regulated by the Central Bank, without its prior authorization under article 12 of law nr 1/17 of the August 22, 2017 governing banking activities, explained Mr. Prosper Ngendanganya.

The BRB takes this opportunity to invite any natural or legal person who has sufficient information on illegal practitioners of financial intermediation activities, to report it to the nearest local administration and / or to the BRB at the number phone 22 20 40 00.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The situation of Regideso is comfortable according to its former Managing Director



The former Managing Director of Regideso, Mr. Siméon Habonimana, leaves a good situation of the bank accounts to the new Managing Director. He said this during the handover and takeover with his

successor, Major Jean Albert Manigomba, carried out on Monday January 19, 2021. The former Managing Director added that the new one comes at a time when the company's situation is very comfortable.

According to Mr. Habonimana, when he took office of the management committee he headed in 2017, the cash flow was around 1 billion 800 million Burundian francs, the debts of Regideso towards third parties amounted to 38 billion 700 million and claims against Regideso amounted to 26 billion. To relieve the company, this committee carried out forced recovery. He also avoided the squandering and expenses

that bleed the coffers so that they were able to restart projects that were at a standstill.

He cites in particular the electrification project of Nyabugete, Mubimbi-Kabezi, the water supply in Rumonge, Muyinga, the start of projects with external funding, the close monitoring of customers by the census and their geolocation as well as the decrease in billing time.

For the moment, he said, the company has no debt, turnover rose from 56 billion in 2017 to 88 billion in 2018 and 107 billion in 2019, with a negative balance sheet of 8 billion in 2017, 3 billion in 2018 and 2 billion in 2019.

In terms of challenges, he said it is the burden of the business that weighs heavily. He gave as an example that in 2019, out of the 107 billion realized, the weight of the energy purchased from the thermal power station alone represents around 62 billion.

The new Director General will have to closely follow the current investment projects with external support such as the pulling of the Rusumo falls-Gitega power line financed by the AfDB and the European Union, the start of construction work on the Jiji-Murembwe

hydroelectric power station, installation of the new integrated management system to move towards eliminating the use of paper.

In this regard, Mr. Siméon Habonimana informed that 500 computers are on the way, that the software is already there and that technical assistance is planned.

In terms of electrification, Regideso ordered equipment to ensure the distribution of electricity in the districts of Bujumbura. Regarding water, the water supply works in Rugazi will allow the population of Carama and Gahahe to be relieved in terms of water supply. The works to supply drinking water to the districts of Kanyosha-Ruziba from Mutambu will allow the southern part of Bujumbura to be relieved.

A site left to the new Managing Director: the construction of a three-storey building intended to house the projects to avoid continuing to bleed the company with rentals of 33 million per month. The new building, which houses the technical department, will save 20 million francs in two years' time, which is spent on rental costs.

(Source: www.abpinfos.com)

Religious leaders called to be more involved in the process of national reconciliation



The non-governmental organization Tearfund organized, on Monday January 18, 2021 at the Royal Palace hotel, an exchange workshop on the role of religious denominations in the management of memories and on the current state of the Covid-19 in Bu-

rundi, for representatives of religious denominations.

Among the distinguished guests at this workshop were the President of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), Ambassador Pierre Claver Ndayicariye, the legal representative of THARS (Trauma healing and reconciliation service) at the same time Rector of the International University of Leadership, Pasteur Désiré Niyonzima, as well as the Physician Director of the Prince Louis Rwagasore Clinic, Dr David Havyarimana, observed the ABP on the spot.

The Country Director of Tearfund, Mr. Désiré Majambere, in his welcome remarks, indicated that the role of religious denominations in the manage-

ment of memories is so essential that religious leaders always remain alongside people who have been traumatized as a result of past crises. He pointed out that the trauma affects not only the victims of such an unfortunate event, but also the perpetrators. Both parties need to heal.

Mr. Majambere also drew inspiration from the Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 5 verses 13-14 to remind religious leaders that they are "the salt of the earth and the light of the world". This Authority from the Christian organization Tearfund reported inviting the President of the TRC to brief religious leaders on TRC activities and remind them of their role in memorial management.

In his briefing on the 1972 mass graves already excavated across the country, the TRC President noted that the search for truth carried out in order to combat the trauma of a painful past. "We live in a past that does not pass because we lie and we live in constant hypocrisy", lamented Mr. Ndayicariye, before asking religious leaders to make their contributions to achieve a true healing of memories.

Forgiving is an individual effort, Mr. Ndayicariye said, while asking for forgiveness is hard, but it depends on culture and education. Hence, he called on representatives of religious denominations whom he calls "the soldiers of peace, truth and reconciliation" to teach their christians to learn how to live and survive together.

He also called on religious leaders to preach forgiveness because, he added, the salvation of a people depends on truth and reconciliation. Churches must teach the truth that frees everyone as prescribed in the bible, added Ambassador Ndayicariye who calls on religious leaders to consolidate peace and contribute to the process of national reconciliation and the management of hurt memories.

According to Pasteur Désiré Niyonzima, unhealed trauma perpetuates cycles of violence. This affects the decision-making process as well as family and community relationships.

As for the challenges related to the trauma healing process, they include, among others, the slowness in the recovery of security, the lack of a united community, the non-understanding of events, the repetition of traumatic events, the neglect of cultural rites such as mourning, lack of forgiveness.

The participants in this workshop positively appreciated the work of the TRC which is in search of inclusive truth in Burundi. They wanted the latter not to be an ad hoc commission but a permanent one in order to have the time to travel all over the country to the level of the hill in search of this hidden truth, more than 40 years ago.

The National Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNED), Reverend Sylvestre Bizimana, promised to always pray for the TRC to accomplish its mission.

(Source: www.abpinfos.com)

Athletics: Venuste Niyongabo appointed executive Member of the World Olympians Association



The Burundian Olympic Champion, Mr. Venuste Niyongabo was appointed by the President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as an executive member of the World Olympians Association.

This Association represents the Olympians and has around 100,000 Olympians spread across the world. Mr. Venuste Niyongabo was Olympic champion in 1996, over 5000 meters, at the Olympic Games in Atlanta in the United States.

On his tweeter account, the President of the Republic of Burundi, Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye, warmly congratulated our champion Mr. Venuste Niyongabo who has just been appointed executive member of the World Olympians Association.

For the President of the Republic H.E Evariste Ndayishimiye, Mr. Venuste Niyongabo "is and will remain a source of pride for his homeland, Burundi". (ABP-INFOS 12133)

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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