



**New Ambassador of the United States to Burundi:  
Towards the strengthening of cooperation ties**



This Tuesday, March 02, 2021, the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye received in audience Madam Melanie Harris Higgins, new Ambassador of the United States of America in Burundi, who had come to present her Letters of Credence.

During their exchanges, Ambassador Higgins welcomed the historic ties of cooperation and friendship between Burundi and his country the United States. She informed the Head of State that the American Government notes the recent changes made by the State of Burundi which are likely to promote a revitalization of relations and partnerships: "I personally commit myself to work to strengthen relations which have existed for several decades between our countries. I come to Burundi in a spirit of cooperation, and the new changes driven by the Government of Burundi are creating the conditions for forging new partnerships. The US Gov-

ernment has already spoken out in favor of increased assistance through USAID".

The Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye reassured her of the availability and willingness of the Burundian Government to give new impetus to development cooperation and diplomatic relations: "Burundi has recently acquired new institutions in the outcome of the 2020 general elections and the time has come for the mobilization of all Burundians and our partners for the development of our country. We are ready to reflect and identify together partnerships and actions of mutual interest that will benefit our respective peoples".

With more than two decades of experience in representing the United States in various spheres, Amb. Melanie Harris Higgins was appointed United States Ambassador to the Republic of Burundi when she was sworn in on January 13, 2021 and will have her residence in Bujumbura.

(Source: [www.presidence.gov.bi](http://www.presidence.gov.bi))

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## Burundi strengthens its role at the regional level



The President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye participated for the first time in the Ordinary Summit of Heads of State of the east African Community (EAC), which appointed among others the Honorable Kenyan Dr. Peter MATHUKI as Secretary General and the Burundian Mr. Nestor Kayobera, to the presidency of the Court of Justice of the EAC.

“I am delighted to be with you my peers, Heads of State and Government to help guide the advancement of the

community agenda. I seize this opportunity to congratulate the new President of the Summit of Heads of State of the EAC, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta and the new Secretary General of the EAC, Honorable Dr. Peter MATHUKI and assure them of our support”, said President Ndayishimiye proud to see his country represented at the highest summit of the Court of Justice by a Burundian citizen by the name of Nestor Kayobera. “We are happy to see that neighboring countries are asking to join our Community.

This is a telling sign that, once again, as a community, we are doing our best to promote it. We must maintain this course, this direction and this pace to reach the highest stages of integration”, insisted the President of the Republic of Burundi, who did not fail to thank various organs of the Community for the progress carried out with regard to the execution of the programs and projects of the said Community during this period from February 2019 to February 2021.

(Source: [www.presidence.gov.bi](http://www.presidence.gov.bi))

## CNDD-FDD member authorities called on to fight against corruption with the utmost energy



The President of the Republic HE Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye and President of the National Committee of the Wise of the CNDD-FDD party in the company of the Secretary General of this party in power Honorable Réverien Ndikuriyo enhanced with his presence on Sunday, February 28, 2021, the ceremonies of celebration of the victory of the CNDD-FDD at the communal level which took place in the chief town of Buraza

commune in Gitega Province.

In his welcome address, the Provincial Secretary of the CNDD-FDD in Gitega Honorable Georges Nshimirimana underlined that the choice of the Buraza commune was motivated by the fact that this commune was ranked first by voting the CNDD-FDD party with more than 97%. According to Honorable Georges Nshimirimana, this commune is also among the first communes in the country which voted for the CNDD-FDD and occupies the 2nd place at the national level.

The Secretary General of the Party in power, Honorable Reverien Ndikuriyo for his part, thanked and congratulated the Bagumyabanga of Buraza commune for having voted overwhelmingly for the CNDD-FDD. It is an honor for the municipality, he added. He then asked the faithful of his party in Buraza commune to materialize the victory they have received by preserving peace and security and by going about their development work.

Speaking, the Head of State HE Mr. Evariste Nday-

ishimiye asked the authorities of the country, members of the CNDD-FDD party to fight with the last energy against corruption, economic embezzlement and to avoid any form of ethnic discrimination.

And to thank the Bagumyabanga of the CNDD-FDD of Buraza, the President of the Republic promised the rehabilitation of the roads in bad condition which connect the areas of this commune as well as the electricity. Nevertheless, he urged the population to gather in villages to facilitate the implementation of the Government's development projects.

Before the ceremonies, the President of the Republic and his spouse HE Madam Angéline Ndayishimiye joined the Christians of the Ndava Parish in Buraza commune in the Sunday Prayer of the 2nd Sunday of Lent. The Prayer also saw the participation of the Secretary General of the CNDD-FDD, Honorable Réverien Ndikuriyo accompanied by of his spouse and his Deputy Honorable Joseph Ntakarutimana as well as other authorities of the native country of Gitega.

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

### Visit of the Kabu 16 (20MW) hydroelectric project in Cibitoke province by the Burundian Prime Minister



A 15-month extension period requested by the Indian Company "Angélique International Limited" (AIL) to the Burundian Government, was granted on Tuesday March 2, during the descent of the Burundian Prime Minister, CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni, in Cibitoke province, to visit the Kabu 16 hydroelectric project.

In this work descent, the Prime Minister, accompanied by five members of the Government, began with a guided visit which preceded a closed meeting, to agree on what to do to complete the work and put this hydroelectric center in service.

In an interview with journalists, the Prime Minister said that the work should be completed after four years, since May 2017, and that there is a delay of almost a year.

He specified that this delay was due to three constraints including problems caused by the altered geology on part of the land; flooding of the dam site; and the Covid-19 pandemic which caused a temporary halt to these activities.

Thus, he urged the AIL company to double their efforts and increase their employees to complete the remaining activities without exceeding this time allotted for the third extension.

To achieve this, an activity program must also reach the Prime Minister in ten days to verify the feasibility while a technical committee of the Government will monitor these activities on a daily basis with the supervision of the Minister in charge of energy.

Note, however, that failure to comply with this extension period will result in penalties for the company Angélique International Limited, in accordance with the contract.

Note that the total amount with amendment is estimated at 86,457,478 USD while the end of the work is scheduled for June 30, 2022.

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

## The “Good Action-Umugiraneza” Foundation helps the parish of Kibumbu



After the misfortune that befell the Kibumbu Parish in the Province of Mwaro on February 18, 2021 and which swept away the roofs of the buildings of this Parish, the President of the “Good Action-Umugiraneza” Foundation HE Madam Angéline Ndayishimiye, First Lady of Burundi, made a support visit to this Parish on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, with material assistance.

In the name of the Foundation "Good action-Umugiraneza", HE Madam Angéline Ndayishimiye indicated on this occasion that after considering the situation in which the Parish of Kibumbu is now, the members of this Foundation decided to take a part

from the materials used in the construction of its headquarters to help this Parish. It was the occasion to grant the parish priest of Mwaro Parish seven hundred metal tubes for frameworks worth 32,550 million BIF in order to contribute to the rehabilitation of this parish. The President of “Good Action-Umugiraneza” Foundation seized this opportunity to ask the population of Mwaro and all Burundians to contribute in a substantial way in order to also equip this Parish with suitable chairs or benches and to complete the rehabilitation of this Parish as soon as possible. "You will have built your houses in the sky where rust and moth do not destroy and you will have amassed inexhaustible treasures in heaven, instead of attaching yourself to the things of the world", insisted the First Lady.

The Parish Priest of Kibumbu meanwhile expressed his gratitude to the presidential family and the “Good Action-Umugiraneza” Foundation for their support. She thus blessed H.E Madam Angéline Ndayishimiye and her Foundation and wished her every success in her functions.

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

## Burundi celebrates African School Food Day



The First Lady HE Madam Angeline Ndayishimiye, President of OPDAD-Burundi (Organization of African First Ladies for Development) and sponsor of the National School Feeding Program (PNAS), enhanced with her presence the ceremonies of the celebration of the African Day dedicated to School Feeding (JAAS), 6th edition.

This activity took place at ECOFO Muyange in Gashoho commune in Muyinga province.

The African Day dedicated to School Feeding, 6th edition was celebrated under the theme: "Harnessing traditional knowledge and Food in Africa to support school feeding programs and systems in the context of Covid-19 and beyond.

The ceremonies marking JAAS began with the planting of fruit trees in the gardens of ECOFO Muyange I.

For the Deputy Director of the World Food Program (WFP) in Burundi, the celebration of the JAAS is an opportunity to assess oneself and to make a series of commitments at the level of Africa and at the national level for nutritional improvement through school canteens.

The national school feeding program is integrated as a multisectoral tool that enables the development of human capital by improving the health, nutrition and well-

being of schoolchildren and educational outcomes, he continued.

The school feeding program helps stimulate local economies, support rural and agricultural development, strengthen local food systems and reduce poverty by providing smallholder farmers with a predictable outlet for their products through commercial and employment, added the Deputy Director of WFP.

The local school feeding program contributes to Burundi's efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 2020-2025 vision and to achieve a Burundi free of famine and malnutrition.

WFP supports more than 143 cooperatives bringing together more than 34,000 small producers to improve their quality, productivity, post-harvest management, access to credit and to markets.

WFP purchases over 30% of the food served under the school feeding program from local smallholder farmers, creating a stable and predictable market for them. Between 2013 and 2020, WFP purchased more than 30,000 tonnes of food locally and injected a total of US \$ 18 million into the local economy.

The school feeding program is one of the country's biggest safety nets. For the 2019-2020 school year, the program offered a daily meal to more than 600,000 children in some 700 schools. 1/4 received a balanced and nutritious meal every day, revealed the WFP Deputy Director.

School canteens contribute to better education by providing meal for schoolchildren, help fight against school dropouts, improve school performance and tackle the underlying causes of chronic malnutrition and prevent COVID-19 by training children in nutritional behavior changes, dietary diversity, family planning, hygiene and the fight against sexually transmitted diseases, COVID-19 through teenage clubs.

WFP has asked the First Lady HE Madam Angéline Ndayishimiye at the same time sponsor of this PNAS program to plead with donors when in September / October 2021 a summit of the United Nations on food and production systems will be held, to increase the funds allocated to this program.

WFP is committed to making every effort to continue to support the Government of Burundi in its efforts to meet the challenge of developing human capital by improving the health, nutrition, well-being and educational outcomes of schoolchildren throughout the country.

As for the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research, Mr. Frédéric

Bangirinama welcomes the concern of the First Lady reserved for the well-being of children by agreeing to be the godmother of the National School Feeding Program (PNAS)

In her speech, the First Lady HE Angéline Ndayishimiye said that the celebration of African School Feeding Day is an opportunity to look back on the step already taken in the culmination of the PNAS in order to perpetuate this last because it turned out that the program (PNAS) is of a capital importance in the development of children in school.

According to the First Lady, this program set up by the Government of Burundi to feed schoolchildren in schools with the support of these partners is an eloquent sign that the responsible and hard-working Government is concerned about the well-being of the country's children.

According to the First Lady, the theme of this year calls for carrying out this School Feeding Program (PNAS) with local foods because the foods are familiar to schoolchildren and are made up of the nutrients necessary for the growth of children and are provided to lower costs compared to imported food.

According to HE Angeline Ndayishimiye, WFP in Burundi has intervened in school feeding for a long time but food came from abroad, with the exorbitant transport costs, these costs are reduced by the consumption of local food which can help to expand its field of intervention to take the children of the country in the same way.

The First Lady is delighted with school feeding because it will help achieve the goal of zero malnutrition in Burundi and she calls on cooperatives to produce a lot and to diversify crops.

The First Lady called on everyone to support this school feeding program for its sustainability in order to have Burundians in school who will contribute to the development of the country.

With the aim of contributing sustainable development in the safeguard of the environment and in the support of the national project "Ewe Burundi Urambaye", the First Lady took the opportunity to launch the campaign of planting fruit trees in all the beneficiary schools of the National School Food Program (PNAS).

On the sidelines of the ceremonies, the First Lady granted food supplements to the schoolchildren of ECOFO Muyange I composed of porridge.

The ceremonies of the African day of school feeding ended with the sharing of the rest between the First Lady H.E Angéline Ndayishimiye and the schoolchildren of ECOFO Muyange I. (Source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## Mr. Bourita receives his Burundian counterpart, carrying a message from the President of the Republic of Burundi to H.E the King of Morocco



The Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccans residing abroad, Mr. Nasser Bourita, received, on Thursday, February 25, 2021 in Rabat, the Burundian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, HEM. Albert Shingiro, bearer of a message from the President of the Republic of Burundi, HE Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye to His Majesty King Mohammed VI.

This message “falls within the framework of the consultation between the two fraternal Heads of State, but also within the framework of the new dynamic experienced by bilateral relations between the two countries”, indicated Mr. Bourita during a joint press briefing with his Burundian counterpart.

For his part, HEM. Shingiro, visiting Morocco as the Burundian President’s envoy, conveyed to Mr. Bourita the congratulations of His Excellency Mr. Ndayishimiye to H.E the King of Morocco for his South-South and Triangular Policy Strategy and his African Policy.

The visit of the Chief of Burundian diplomacy to Morocco was also an opportunity for the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Burundi to sign a cooperation roadmap between the two countries for the period 2021-2024.

(Source: [www.mapexpress.ma](http://www.mapexpress.ma))

## Morocco and Burundi establish cooperation roadmap for the period 2021-2024



The Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Burundi established, on Thursday, February 25, 2021 in Rabat, a cooperation roadmap covering the period from 2021 to 2024 and part of the common desire to intensify the existing relations between the two countries to impulse new life to them.

Signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccans residing abroad, HEM. Nasser Bourita and the Burundian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, HEM. Albert Shingiro, this cooperation roadmap also marks the ambition of the two countries to

strengthen their bilateral relations based on mutual respect and by developing a solid partnership and active solidarity.

The roadmap was prepared during the visit to Bujumbura on February 8 and 9, 2021 of a high-level Moroccan delegation, chaired by the Ambassador Director General of the Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation, accompanied by the Ambassador Director of African Affairs of the Ministry.

At the end of this visit to Bujumbura, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Burundi agreed to work to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in several areas, including education and training, technical cooperation, security cooperation, economic promotion and investments, international financing and the exchange of official visits.

It emerges from this cooperation roadmap that the Moroccan side is ready to provide assistance and share its expertise with the Republic of Burundi in the above areas, through the organization of learning-visits in Morocco

for the benefit of senior Burundian officials and the granting of scholarships for students and trainees from Burundi in Moroccan public higher, technical and vocational education establishments.

In addition, for the Kingdom, this involves the organization of capacity building programs for the benefit of senior officials of Burundi in various fields, the dispatch of Moroccan experts from various sectors and delegations of operators. Moroccan organizations in Burundi to develop win-win business partnerships with local operators and promote various investment opportunities with a view to carrying out joint projects in priority sectors of interest for the Republic of Burundi.

Morocco also undertakes to support the Republic of Burundi in the preparation of files relating to the development of infrastructure or strategic projects for the country and in obtaining support from regional and international funding organizations with which the Kingdom of Morocco maintains relations. The signing of this document takes place during a meeting between HEM. Shingiro and HEM. Bourita, during which the two officials were able to explore the prospects of strengthening bilateral cooperation by identifying new axes to expand the cooperation programs to be implemented between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Burundi.

On this occasion, the two parties welcomed the feelings of esteem and mutual respect existing between His Majesty King Mohammed VI and His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi.

The two Ministers also underlined the quality of the existing political relations between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Burundi, which remain imbued with fraternity and solidarity.

They also both reaffirmed the firm will of the two countries to diversify and consolidate cooperation in several areas and selected a number of actions to be carried out jointly, as part of the achievement of the objectives set.

Speaking at a press briefing after the signing, Mr. Bourita said that the establishment of this

roadmap, which lists the priority areas of cooperation, comes thanks to the will of the two Heads of State to strengthen the fruitful and mutually beneficial partnership between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Burundi.

“We have also agreed to reactivate the institutional cooperation mechanisms, whether it is the framework of diplomatic and political consultation or the large mixed commission which will meet very soon,” said the Minister, revealing that a Moroccan multisectoral mission will be visiting in Bujumbura before the end of March to start implementing this roadmap.

Mr. Bourita, in this regard, noted that a technical team will visit Burundi next week to begin the procedures for opening an Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in the Burundian capital.

“We are today at the start of a new phase in our bilateral relations”, specified Mr. Bourita, noting that it is a “better structured phase, with a very rich content and tangible results for benefits of the two brother peoples”.

For his part, the Head of Burundian diplomacy underlined that this roadmap includes “very specific” areas of cooperation, referring in this respect to his talks with Mr. Bourita which focused, in particular, on the exploration of means to strengthen the relations of cooperation and friendship between the two peoples of Morocco and Burundi.

“We said to ourselves that we have to go beyond human-to-human relations to strengthen the relationship between our two peoples,” he said.

(Source: [www.mapexpress.ma](http://www.mapexpress.ma))

## March, a test month to improve the collection of municipal revenue for the 2021 edition



The Spokesperson of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security, OPP1 Pierre Nkurikiye announced on Tuesday March 2, 2021, in Bujumbura, that the entire month of March 2021 constitutes a test month for improvement of the collection of municipal revenues throughout the territory of Burundi.

As a reminder, the said Ministry organized, from January 25 to 31, 2021, a demonstration week for the improvement of the collection of municipal revenues in the 10 of the 119 municipalities of the country namely Giharo, Gitega, Kayogoro, Kayanza, Mutimbuzi, Musinga, Ngozi, Rugombo, Nyanza-Lac and Rumonge.

In these ten communes of the country, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security obtained very encouraging results of a surplus of more than 65 million Burundian

francs which notably motivated the extension of this week to the three communes of the City of Bujumbura namely Ntahangwa, Mukaza and Muha on February 6 to 13, 2021, said Mr. Nkurikiye.

On the basis of the even more encouraging results of a surplus of more than 129 million Burundian francs obtained for this witness week organized in the town hall of Bujumbura, the said Ministry decided to extend this activity in all the Communes of Burundi for a whole month, to realize the real situation of municipal revenues collected, continued OPP1 Nkurikiye.

He added that this activity will be carried out with a view to increasing municipal revenues with a view to supporting municipalities in an equitable manner taking into account their real financial capacities.

The Spokesperson of the Ministry of the Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security, indicated that for the implementation and a good realization of this test month, the technical teams of the Ministry and its senior executives were deployed across the country to support and encourage new tax collectors. The municipal authorities are involved in this activity.

He also reported that former tax collectors have been suspended across the country, noting that this activity will be carried out by new collectors recruited from young job seekers recently registered across the country.

Given that this activity comes under the recommendation of the highest authorities of the country, the Ministry asks the administration, the Police, all the actors directly involved, all the authorities of the country and the entire population to get involved for its good success.

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

## Women leaders call on their sisters to be more active in their spheres of action in favor of inclusive development



Women leaders from various sectors of national life call on their sisters to take an active and competitive part in their respective spheres of action to promote female leadership evolving towards inclusive and sustainable development.

This call was launched on Wednesday March 3, 2021 during a conference-debate on the theme: "Women's leadership: towards an egalitarian future" organized at



Gitega by the French Institute of Burundi and the delegation of the European Union, in collaboration with the "Alliance Franco-burundaise de Gitega" as part of the preparations for International Women's Day.



The conference was moderated by six women leaders who marked their visibility in community, social, cultural, entrepreneurial and sports development, namely Mrs. Spès Nihangaza, Representative of the FVS Amade Association and Consul of Monaco; Madam Lydia Nsekera, President of the National Olympic Committee; Madam Jeannette Kaneza, Representative of the Association of Women Engineers in Civil Engineering; Madam Perpétue Muganda, author of the book "Trésor du Burundi ancestral"; Mrs. Solange Nisabwe, Leader of the Promotion of the Rights of People with Disabilities and Mrs. Ange Muyubira, Leader in Entrepreneurship.

Speaking about the significance of International Women's Day, these women leaders converged their opinions to indicate that it is an adequate framework offered to women to assess the step taken in the promotion of equal human rights and of the woman.

They said that remarkable progress has been made in Burundi, but that efforts are still to be made. They welcomed the increase in the rate of representation of women in elective bodies to a rate of over 40% in the Senate and at least 30% in the National Assembly and the Municipal Council. They wanted to increase this rate of representativeness of women to 50% in decision-making bodies so that there is parity for men and women, said Mrs. Nihangaza.

These women leaders have, for this purpose, shared with the public the experience of their women's leadership journey and shared with the participants the undeniable positive values in favor of an egalitarian future of the rights of men and women.

They thus invited girls and women to promote these values through a firm commitment to inclusive change, self-esteem, overcoming discriminatory cultural barriers, involvement in community and national development, and safeguarding positive cultural values, the reconciliation of household, maternal and professional responsibility, active and competitive participation in its sphere of action, discipline, perseverance, and sensitization of the population on the change against the discriminatory mentality in favor of an inclusive and sustainable development.

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

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## REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC  
Secretariat-General of the State**MEDIA RELEASE NO 14 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 03 MARCH 2021**

A Cabinet Meeting was held in Bujumbura on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 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 chaired by the Prime Minister on Friday 12 February 2021, and which was devoted to the analysis of the same items on the agenda.

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

- 1. Draft decree amending article 24 of decree n ° 100/031 of July 28, 2020 revising decree n ° 100/54 of September 24, 2005 relating to the internal regulations of the Council of Ministers, presented by the Prime Minister's Services.**

Before the Cabinet Meeting, the Prime Minister chairs a preparatory meeting to analyse the items which will be debated in the Cabinet Meeting as provided for by article 133 of the Constitution which stipulates that "The Prime Minister animates and coordinates government action. The Prime Minister chairs the preparatory meetings of the Council of Ministers".

Article 134 of the same Constitution indicates that "The Government's internal regulations specify those who lead and coordinate the action of the Government in the event of the Prime Minister's impediment".

Although the Constitution provided for it as such, the analysis of the texts in force, in particular decree n ° 100/031 of July 28, 2020 revising decree n ° 100/54 of September 24, 2005 relating to the internal regulations of the Council of the Ministers did not provide for the one who animates and coordinates the action of the Government in the event of the Prime Minister's impediment.

This draft decree comes to fill the above gap.

Taking into account the order of precedence of Ministers, the draft provides that in the event of the Prime Minister's impediment, the presidency of preparatory meetings of the Council of Ministers is delegated to the Minister in charge of the Interior, and to the Minister in charge of justice in the event of the latter's impediment.

After discussion and debate, the Council of Ministers noted that according to the Constitution, it is the Internal Regulations of the Government which specifies the one who coordinates the action of the government in the event of the Prime Minister's impediment and not the Internal Regulations of the Council of Ministers. However, the Internal Rules of the Government do not exist to this day.

It was therefore recommended to prepare this text as quickly as possible with a view to its adoption by the Council of Ministers in order to comply with the Constitution.

It will also be necessary to examine the provisions of the Constitution to see if the two texts (the Internal Regulations of the Government and the Internal Regulations of the Council of Ministers) should be separated or if they can be the subject of a single text.

2. **Bill on the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the agreement on the promotion and reciprocal protection of investments between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea**
3. **Bill on the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the trade agreement between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea**
4. **Bill on the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the cooperation agreement in the maritime and port transport sector between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea**
5. **Bill on the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the reciprocal visa waiver agreement for holders of diplomatic and service passports between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea**

These four projects were presented by the Minister of Justice.

On July 21, 2017, the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea signed the framework agreement for economic, cultural, scientific and technical cooperation. The agreement aims to intensify bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

In order to materialize this framework agreement, on the sidelines of the State visit carried out by the President of the Republic of Burundi to Equatorial Guinea from November 1 to 7, 2020, sectoral agreements were signed, in this case the agreement on the reciprocal promotion and protection of investments, the trade agreement, the cooperation agreement in the maritime and port transport sector, the reciprocal visa exemption agreement for holders of diplomatic and service passports.

Regarding the Agreement on Reciprocal Investment Promotion and Protection, each party undertakes to promote and facilitate the investors of the other party in accordance with the laws and regulations as well as relevant investment promotion policies, creating the conditions favorable to the reciprocal investments of the two States. It also undertakes to protect in its territory the investments made by the investors of the other party.

With regard to the trade agreement, the two parties undertake to take all necessary measures to facilitate the promotion of trade between the two countries, including facilities for the organization of exhibitions and trade fairs, as well as the creation of commercial companies according to the laws and regulations in force in the respective countries.

With regard to the cooperation agreement in the maritime and port transport sector, the two parties agree to cooperate to promote the use of safe, secure and uncontaminated navigable waters as well as maritime transport practices respectful of the environment. The parties also undertake to exchange information in this sector.

Due to the reciprocal visa waiver agreement for holders of diplomatic and service passports, nationals of one of the parties holding such passports will be exempt from the visa requirement to enter, exit and stay temporarily in the territory of the other party.

Through this agreement, the two parties will have facilitated the mobility of nationals of their countries on the one hand, and intra-African mobility on the other hand.

After discussion and debate, the Council of Ministers adopted these four projects with a few formal aspects to be cleaned up.

It was also recommended, on the one hand, to finalize and prepare the cooperation agreement on the exchange of agricultural labor and on the other hand, the competent services were asked to properly regulate the granting and use of diplomatic passports in order to limit their misuse.

**6. Bill on the reorganization of the drinking water and basic sanitation sector, presented by the Minister of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines.**

The drinking water and basic sanitation sector is a key sector for the life of a human being. Its good management allows the improvement of the living conditions of the population, and consequently, socioeconomic development. To this end, it is necessary to have an adequate political and legal framework.

Burundi has important policy and strategy documents relating to overall planning in the drinking water and sanitation sector, but it lacks an appropriate legal framework for this sector.

Indeed, the analysis of the situation shows that the entire legal system applicable to the drinking water and basic sanitation sector calls for the following observations:

- The texts are multiple and scattered
- The provisions governing the basic sanitation sector are very weak
- Some texts date from the colonial era and require updating
- The drinking water and basic sanitation sector is liberalized but needs more regulation, particularly in terms of entry and exit procedures for private actors, facilities to attract investors to the sector, etc.

It is in this context that the development of this Bill takes place. It has the merit of:

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- Constitute a unified legal framework governing drinking water and basic sanitation instead of having scattered provisions found in several texts
- Establish the legal and administrative regime of the basic sanitation sub-sector, thus filling the legal vacuum that can be observed on this subject
- Set the framework for coordinating the activities of the various stakeholders in this sector
- Devote, in addition to the already existing Burundian Agency for Water and Sanitation in Rural Areas, another similar agency in urban areas
- During the debate, the Council of Ministers made the following observations, among others:
  - The basic sanitation sector is a transversal sector with many stakeholders depending on the specificity of each
  - The organization of the drinking water sector cannot be combined with that of basic sanitation
  - Clear agreements are needed between Regideso and the people or groups who organize themselves to collect water, so that they can be sure that their investment will be profitable to them because Regideso's tendency is to appropriate water infrastructure
  - A coordination framework is necessary to guide activities in the basic sanitation sector given its cross-cutting nature

The Council has, ultimately, set up a team that will rework this bill under the coordination of the Prime Minister. It will also be necessary to ensure that the other texts from which this project draws its substance, in particular the Water Code, do not require updating. The team will check whether the text should take the form of a law or a decree.

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This project will be brought back to the Council of Ministers within a month.

**7. Note on the report of the Commission for analysis and validation of the value of the assets of the former EPB and determination of the State's contributions in the company Global Port Services Burundi, presented by the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning**

In 1967, the State entrusted the management of the Port of Bujumbura to a concessionary company "Société d'Exploitation du Port de Bujumbura" EPB "with a 30-year contract. This contract was to end in 1997.

With the rehabilitation of the Port in 1988, the State shortened the contract in 1992 by concluding a new contract with EPB which was to end in 2002. After this period, EPB renegotiated a new 10-year contract ending in 2012.

In December 2012, the State signed a thirty-year concession agreement with Global Port Services Burundi for the operation of the Port of Bujumbura.

It was understood that the State was going to proceed quickly to the valuation of its contributions in this Agreement, and that in the meantime, the company would pay, as rent each year, a royalty in the amount of 11.5% of the turnover achieved.

Unfortunately, since then, the rented equipment has never been determined and the State does not know exactly its contribution as capital in the company Global Port Services Burundi, because the report of the consultant committed for this purpose and produced in 2019 has never been validated.



The competent authority should therefore rule on this study report on the determination of the value of the assets of the former EPB on 12/24/2012 which also includes the valuation of the contributions of the State in the company Global Port Services Burundi.

During the analysis of the Note, the Council of Ministers was informed that the former EPB, which has not yet been liquidated, holds bank accounts as well as other State property illegally withheld, which 'it is necessary to value. The ex EPB also has pending litigation.

The Council of Ministers ultimately asked the Ministers in charge of Finance, Trade and Justice to work jointly with regard to the new elements to deepen this file and produce a more in-depth note which will be analyzed by the Council of Ministers within a month.

It will be necessary to separate what must be considered as a contribution of the State as capital and what Global Port Services Burundi must rent.

With regard to disputes, the Council of Ministers recommended that they be emptied as quickly as possible.

Regarding state property held by the former EPB, the Council of Ministers recommended that they be recovered as soon as possible, including by duress in case of necessity.

The Council also reiterated the need to revisit contracts where the interests of the state have not been properly taken into account.

## **8. Strategic note on the transformation of ISABU into an industry for the production of improved seeds and efficient livestock in Burundi, presented by the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock**

In order to increase animal and fishery agricultural production, the Government of Burundi has taken many initiatives to support farmers and breeders through various programs.

However, their implementation has been hampered by poor access by producers to improved seeds and efficient livestock

This mismatch is attributable to several levels of the link:

- At the level of the Institute of Agronomic Sciences of Burundi which is experiencing difficulties, such as the low financial capacity to have effective genetic material for starting research, as well as the lack of qualified personnel
- At the level of seed producers and birthing centers who have weak organizational and financial capacities
- At the level of farmers and herders who have low purchasing power that does not allow them to buy improved seeds.

This Note proposes strategies to transform ISABU into an industry for the production of improved seeds and high-performance livestock in Burundi, in order to sustain the results already achieved, further increase agro-pastoral production and release surplus production for processing and export.

For this, ISABU needs both material and human resources. The budgetary support that ISABU needs for this purpose is estimated at 8.4 billion Burundian francs in 2021, which will gradually decrease to reach slightly more than 4.5 billion in 2023, in order to increase the production of seeds and increasing animals from single to triple.

In their discussions, the members of the Government appreciated the content of the Note produced in order to promote the activities of ISABU in order to make it effective.

However, given the excessive resources required, they recommended identifying priority actions gradually and showing the necessary financial resources relating to them.

It will also be necessary to ensure that the allocated funds bring added value to the state by preventing them from being used in the ordinary functioning of ISABU.

**Note on the marketing of maize for season A 2021**, presented by the Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism.

Through the support of subsidies in agricultural inputs by the Government, the production of corn will go from simple to triple for the cropping season A 2021. The departments concerned then took the initiative to study strategies for good management of this harvest.

It is in this context that, to encourage the producer, the price of a kilo of dry corn has been set at 680 Fbu per kg.

In terms of the maize collection campaign, the note proposes that initially the collection be limited to 200,000 tons of maize.

During the discussions, the members of the Council appreciated the fact that the Government's efforts to increase production are beginning to produce very appreciable effects. They recommended in particular to:

- Raise awareness among the population in order to harvest sufficiently dry maize
- Ensure that the private parties who have signed up to collect and buy the corn harvest actually pay producers at the price set by the State;
- That the State grant facilities to private individuals who want to engage in this fundraising by guaranteeing their credits
- Ensure that storage costs are not exorbitant in storage sheds built by the private sector;
- That the State build its own silos with a maize processing system to avoid its degradation;
- The Ministry in charge of Finance should ensure that farmers have access to microcredits so that they can cultivate in a modern way
- Prepare for the management of the harvest of other products such as rice, potatoes which will also be good.

### **9. Any Other Business**

His Excellency the President of the Republic requested that any woman who wishes to participate in the activities marking International Women's Day on March 8 be allowed to go and that she does go there. Those who will fail to go will have to stay at work.

He finally wished everyone a Happy International Women Day and specified that he will grace the activities marking this Day at the national level in Gitega.

**Done at Bujumbura, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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

# Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

## Department of Communication

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