



Government retreat to revisit the ultimate goal of a responsible and hard-working State



The Burundian Head of State, H.E Mr. Évariste Ndayishimiye, presided on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at the Presidential Palace of Gitega, the activities of the Government retreat. He said that the essence of this retreat was to revisit the ultimate objective of the responsible and hard-working State, according to the Government Spokesperson, Mr. Prosper Ntahorwamiye, at the end of this activity which was held indoors.

He specified that the objective in question is to do everything to satisfy the population, recalling that the role of the Government is to be at the service of the population. In order to better conduct discussions, the members of the Government followed a communication centered on the economic circuit and how public expenses is made, developed by the Minister having Finance in

his attributions. Subsequently, said Mr. Ntahorwamiye, the members of the Government exchanged on various aspects, such as the re-

duction of public expenditure and the increase of the receipts so that the mouth of each citizen has enough to eat and has money in his pocket, as recommended by the Head of State.

This objective can only be achieved if all the Ministers, each as far as he is concerned, properly tackle their mission while maintaining the uniqueness and complementarity of the Government, concluded Mr. Ntahorwamiye.

(Source: www.abpinfos.com)

In this edition:	page
Government retreat to revisit the ultimate goal of a responsible and hard-working State	1
"Female leadership, source of inclusive development"	2
Visiting Ngozi, the Head of State encouraged the population to carry out development projects	3
Burundi agrees to the creation of a special fund for climate change in Africa	4
The Prime Minister of Burundi receives in audience the Ambassador of South Africa in Burundi	5
Visit of H.E the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation to the Republic of Tanzania	5
Celebration of International Women's Day at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation	6
The Ministry of Health and its partners rely on the intra-action review of the response to COVID19	7

"Female leadership, source of inclusive development"



This March 08, 2021, surrounded by Senior Officials of the State and Burundian Women gathered by thousands and coming from all over the country, the Presidential Couple took part in the ceremonies marking the celebration of International Women's Day organized in the political capital city

of Gitega under the theme: "Female Leadership, Source of Inclusive Development".

The ceremonies began with a colorful parade made by women from different socio-professional backgrounds, including Police and Military representing the Defense and Security Corps.

In the speeches delivered successively by the Governor of Gitega Province, the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System and the Minister in charge of Human Rights, all returned to the need to combine efforts in order to offer more dignified living conditions and gender equality around the world. All the speakers, however, welcomed the step already taken by Burundi in terms of valuing Women's Leadership, which is reflected in the level of representativeness of Burundian women in positions of high responsibility.

The Ministry of Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender took this opportunity to award honorary prizes to Burundian women who have distinguished themselves in their chosen field, including HE Madam Angeline Ndayishimiye, the First Lady of Burundi, for her action in favor of the Promotion and Empowerment of Burundian Women. Also honored were Miss Sada Nahimana, current number one in African court tennis, as well as Madam Mireille Kamariza, Burundian scientist who developed a protocol allowing a rapid diagnosis of tuberculosis, likely to reduce the associated mortality of this disease.

In his special speech, the President of the Republic His

Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye recalled that the celebration of this International Day is not the result of chance: "In Burundi and throughout the world, brave women leaders have gathered keen to acquire rights that were denied to them. They faced a lot of resistance and it is up to us today to perpetuate their gains. Today, women have proven that they can succeed where even men fail. It is this bravery and wisdom that makes women a key player around the world and that they should be included in decision-making bodies instead of being marginalized".

The Burundian Head of State called to some men who do not esteem women at their fair value: "This day also offers the opportunity to call to order some men who do not esteem women at their true value, which so often devalues them in the professional and private spheres. For this category of men, may "March 8" be an occasion to remember the inestimable value of women. May this day serve to put an end to the physical or verbal violence to which some women are victims in homes, that the heads of families no longer abuse their social position and make a commitment to honor the dignity of their wives".

Closing his speech, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye reiterated the commitment of the Government of Burundi to support Burundian women in their personal development, because without a doubt, this will have an impact on the development of families and of Burundi as a whole: " In order to support women's activities, the Government of Burundi fought against discrimination against women by offering them work opportunities in all sectors. However, the Government noticed that women constitute the major part of the population, and that, if their entrepreneurial initiatives were sufficiently supported, socio-economic development would quickly become a reality. This is why we set up the Investment and Development Bank for Women".

The ceremonies ended in a festive atmosphere to the rhythms of the mythical Burundian drum and traditional songs.

(Source: www.presidence.gov.bi)

Visiting Ngozi, the Head of State encouraged the population to carry out development projects



On Wednesday March 10, 2021, the Head of State His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye was in Ngozi where he visited various development projects carried out by the population, with the support of IFAD's PRODEFI and PAIFAR-B projects. In the Nyakijima II valley, he visited rice fields extending over 108 hectares, belonging to the population grouped in cooperatives. He encouraged them to work in association, which facilitates the work of the farm monitors in raising awareness about increasing production.

As a second stop on his journey, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye visited a carpentry workshop in the Shikiro district of the city of Ngozi, belonging to a veterinarian who received funding of 21 million Burundian Francs to buy modern machines. It employs around 20 permanent employees and around 30 day laborers. The Head of State encouraged him and asked him to train the surrounding population in self-development, as a model in successful entrepreneurship.

Also in Rusuguti, the Father of the Nation visited a farmhouse with a modern breeder known as Nsenyiyumva J. Marie, who received support from the PRODEFI cattle herd repopulation program. He told the Head of State that his family's living conditions have changed so much with the acquisition of these cows. In addition to milk, this family also receives money and their fields are very productive as they are well smoked and tended. As part of the chain of solidarity, he gave a calf to another breeder. Currently this breeder has six cows born from this calf. His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye recommended that breeders revitalize breeders' cooperatives with their own veterinarians, in order to be

more productive.

In Gashikanwa Commune, he visited a mini-rice mill of the "Société de Valorisation des Produits Agricoles" (SOVAPA), a project supported by the PRODEFI program. It is a project owned by 31 rice production cooperatives. This rice processing unit comes up against an instability of the electric power of the Regideso, which means that the transformer is regularly broken down. This slows down the activities of this mini-rice mill. The Head of State recommended that PRODEFI initiate the biogas system in households to improve their living conditions.

After Gashikanwa, the President of the Republic visited the Nyamugerera valley in Mwumba Commune, a swamp of modern bean fields covering 25 hectares and whose development is supported by the PIFAR-B program. He joined the people in the work of weeding their fields, before participating in the installation of the ramparts in these same fields.

In the Rukeco zone of the Busiga Commune, he visited the "Turwizamata dairy cooperative". With good milk production, this Cooperative was able to buy 8 cows and 1 hectare property on Murambi hill in the same locality, and intends to set up a school there to educate breeders on good production. The Head of State called on the agents of the PAIFAR-B program which supports this project to proceed with the release of a lot of credits to the farmers.

(Source: www.presidence.gov.bi)

Burundi agrees to the creation of a special fund for climate change in Africa



During the 984th meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union held by videoconference on Tuesday March 9, 2021, on the effects of climate change on peace and security in Africa, Burundi supported the idea of creation of a special fund for climate change on the African continent. Burundi was represented by the Vice-President of the Republic, HE Mr. Prosper Bazombanza.

In his opening remarks, the President of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union for the month of March 2021, HE Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta indicated that climate changes such as drought, desertification, famine, floods, for to name but a few, fuel tensions and create armed conflicts within the African continent.

He called on the Member States of the African Union to adopt strategies to deal with climate change and also to implement the decision of the 14th Summit to silence the guns in Africa, in particular by putting an end to the instability that reigns in the Western Sahara and which compromises the efforts of Peace in the region.

The various Heads of State and Government who intervened, among others, proposed the creation of

a special fund for the fight and strengthening of resilience to climate change as well as the appointment by the United Nations of a special envoy responsible for climate change issues.

Taking the floor, Vice-President Bazombanza, who spoke on the behalf of His Excellency the Burundian Head of State, presented Burundi's position on climate change. He underlined among other things the need to "deploy all the tools and mechanisms of preventive diplomacy available in frank collaboration between the Commission of the African Union, the Member States, the Communities and the Regional Mechanisms, the United Nations and the entire International Community to facilitate the prevention, management and resolution of these threats". He also called on Member States to "support humanitarian action and disaster management aimed at saving, on the one hand, victims of terrorism and violent conflicts and, on the other hand, victims of disasters caused by effects of climate change". He ended his remarks by announcing that Burundi strongly supports the initiative to create a special fund for climate change as proposed by other member states.

The 984th meeting of Heads of State and Government also analyzed the decision of the 14th summit, held on December 6, 2020, to silence the guns in Africa in this case by putting an end to the conflict that prevails in Western Sahara. It has been revealed that the situation has deteriorated in the Sahara due to the violation of the ceasefire by Morocco, an act which has resulted in the escalation of violence in this territory of northwestern Africa Morocco.

His Excellency the Vice-President in his remarks "reiterated Burundi's support for the efforts of the Secretary General of the United Nations and those of the African Union to facilitate a lasting, pragmatic and compromise political solution to the Sahara issue". For Burundi, an autonomy plan could constitute a good basis for negotiations.

(Source: www.presidence.gov.bi)

The Prime Minister of Burundi receives in audience the Ambassador of South Africa in Burundi



The Burundian Prime Minister, CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni, received in audience on Wednesday March 10, at the Presidential Palace Ntare Rushatsi, the Ambassador of the South African Republic in Burundi, HE Madam Kgomotso Jolobe, who came for a courtesy visit.

At the end of the audience, Mr. Moïse Nkurunziza, Spokesperson of HE the Prime Minister, indicated that the two authorities exchanged on the cooperation relations of the two countries, especially in the fields of defense and security, trade and transport.

At this level, the two authorities insisted on maritime transport and the exploitation of minerals, but also on the layout of the road connecting the two Burundian capitals, the economic capital Bujumbura and the political Gitega. Ambassador Jolobe positively appreciated the holding of the 2020 elections in Burundi

and indicated that South Africa was among the observers of these elections. She congratulated the Prime Minister and the institutions resulting from these elections.

Mr. Nkurunziza said that in his turn, Prime Minister CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni recognized the role played by the Republic of South Africa especially in 2015 when some countries turned their backs on Burundi but that this country remained with Burundi. He added that South Africa has played a crucial role in removing Burundi from the list of countries under review by the United Nations Security Council.

According to Mr. Nkurunziza, the Prime Minister of Burundi expressed the wish that there be a partnership between the Burundian Parliament and the South African Parliament as long as the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi mirrors that of South Africa.

Ambassador Jolobe raised the challenge of the Coronavirus pandemic, which causes South African experts who would like to come and see the opportunities to exploit these channels of cooperation to encounter the problem of seven-day containment. She found that this is a hindrance, but, by mutual agreement, the two authorities saw that they must nevertheless work for the good of the peoples of both countries.

(Source: www.abpinfos.com)

Visit of H.E the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation to the Republic of Tanzania



The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, H.E Ambassador Albert Shingiro, paid a working visit to the Republic of Tanzania, from March 3 to 5, 2021.

During this visit, he enhanced with his presence the sixth session of the Permanent Joint Commission for Cooperation between Burundi and Tanzania, during which, a document of the roadmap for cooperation between Burundi and Tanzania during these three years 2021-2024, was signed by the Ministers of Burundi and Tanzania in charge of foreign affairs, name-

ly HE Ambassador Albert Shingiro and HE Pal-amagamba Kabudi.

The sixth session of the Permanent Joint Commission for Cooperation between Burundi and Tanzania ended in a good-natured atmosphere. Both delegations congratulated each other on the colossal work accomplished in such a short time.

Then, the Ministers of Burundi and Tanzania in charge of foreign affairs in their attributions went to

the common border between Burundi and Tanzania.

Finally, on his way back, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, H.E Ambassador Albert Shingiro, visited the plot where the General Consulate of Burundi will be built in Kigoma, Tanzania.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

Celebration of International Women's Day at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation



On Tuesday March 9, 2021, the women of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation gathered for a drink, to celebrate International Women's Day, 2021 edition.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation H.E Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO was represented by Ambassador Justine NISUBIRE, Technical Advisor in the Office of the Minister. She appreciated the way women are treated in the Ministry and she took the opportunity to thank H.E the Minister for the loincloths that were offered to the women of the Ministry, while emphasizing the elegance of these women at this ceremony.

The President of the Gender Unit within the Ministry, Mrs. Noémie Claire Siniremera, who is at the same time Director of the Diaspora, also thanked H.E the Minister for the consideration of women within the Ministry. She did not fail to express her gratitude for the loincloths. She also seized the opportunity to introduce the different members of the said Unit, promising to always do their best to enhance the status of women within the Ministry. Regarding the achievements of the Gender Unit of the Ministry, the members of these Unit regularly participate in workshops organized

by the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender. However, the Unit is faced with



certain challenges in carrying out the actions resulting from the recommendations of these workshops.

This is mainly the budget

constraint.

Otherwise, it is in a friendly atmosphere that the ceremonies took place, in place of the "Cercle de la Paix". The gentlemen of the said Ministry were also keen to support women and encourage them to always be the pillar of development.



The women also appreciated the prominent place granted to women within the Ministry and expressed

the wish to be given more hierarchical responsibilities to further contribute to the development and radiance of our country.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

The Ministry of Health and its partners rely on the intra-action review of the response to COVID19



The Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS in collaboration with its technical and financial partners opened on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, a 4-day workshop on the intra-action review of the response against COVID-19. According to the Assistant of the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, Dr Onesphore Nzigirabarya who opened the workshop on behalf of the relevant Minister, to contain this COVID-19 pandemic, the country through the Ministry in charge of Public Health with the support of its technical and financial partners, implements interventions, including the implementation of a contingency plan and response to COVID-19.

Dr Onesphore Nzigirabarya indicated that after 12 months of operation, it is opportune to conduct a review of the device that has been put in place in order to identify its strengths and weaknesses and thus draw lessons to improve its functionality and capitalize on its good practices acquired to strengthen the health system in a sustainable manner.

He also said that the objective of the intra-action review is to take stock of Burundi's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with reference to the contingency and response plan, in order to strengthen and improve the country's capacity to respond effectively to the current pandemic, with the long-term objective of strengthening the responsiveness of the health system.

According to Dr Onesphore Nzigirabarya, the Government of Burundi expects from the review a sharing of experiences and a collective analysis of the country's ongoing response to the COVID-19

epidemic, the identification of challenges, good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the contingency plan, the production of a draft of the COVID-19 response plan, and finally, the documentation and application of the lessons learned from the response to date in order to enable the update and validation of the national strategic plan for COVID-19 preparedness and response and other strategic plans to strengthen the health system.

As for the delegate of the WHO Representative in Burundi in this workshop, an intra-action review is a qualitative review of the measures taken so far to respond to an emergency in order to identify best practices, lessons and gaps in a national public health response. And to add that this intra-action review is based mainly on the personal experience and the perceptions of the people involved in the response to assess what worked well and what did not, to analyze the impact and determinants and agree on the way forward to improve the response.

The WHO Representative in this workshop also indicated that the intra-action review will help capitalize on good practices, lessons learned and challenges in the management of the COVID-19 pandemic. The results should enable Burundi to improve its response to the pandemic, by supporting good practices and preventing the shortcomings observed.

Participants will then develop and monitor the implementation of a plan to resolve the issues identified, document and apply lessons learned from response efforts to date, all of which will help improve the response and strengthen the response health system, he continued.

The delegate of the WHO Representative in Burundi welcomed the inclusion of all partners in this intra-action review of the response to COVID-19, a sufficient demonstration that the Ministry in charge of Public Health recognizes the contribution of "an inclusive and participatory integrated response to COVID-19".

He reiterated the commitment of WHO in Burundi to support the Government in its efforts to promote health with a view to achieving universal health coverage in Burundi.

(Source:www.rtnb.bi)

Suspension of the importation of certain food products



The Ministry of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism made public on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, a press release in which it informed economic operators and consumers of corn flour that the

latter time imported corn seeds and flour have a high content of mycotoxins.

Mycotoxins such as aflatoxins and fumonisins are known to be carcinogenic, according to this release. Given the production of this growing season A, the Ministry would like to inform the economic operators that safeguard measures have just been taken by prohibiting all imports of seeds and corn flour for a period of six months from March 8, 2021.

(Source: www.abpinfos.com)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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