

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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The late Thérance SINUNGURUZA served the nation with courage and loyalty



The funeral of former Vice President of the Republic Thérance Sinunguruza took place on Wednesday, March 13, 2020, at Mpanda cemetery after the last tributes at the Kamenge military hospital.

High personalities were present, including first the President of the Republic H.E. Pierre Nkurunziza, the President of the National Assembly, the Very Honorable Pascal NYABENDA, the 1st Vice-President of the Republic H.E Gaston SINDIMWO and his family.

At Mpanda cemetery, those who held the speech said that after having served the state, the late Thérance Sinunguruza

took care of the apostolate at Emaus Holy Church. On behalf of the Government, the President of the National Assembly Pascal Nyabenda gave his condolences to the grieving family and said that he held several positions and that he was characterized by courage and loyalty. The late Thérance Sinunguruza died at the age of 61 and left a widow and 4 children.

(Source : rtnb.bi)

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Living conditions of the victims of Gatumba: a concern of the Ministry in charge of public security



The Ministry of Public Security and Disaster Management CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni provided assistance to the residents of Gatumba victims of the flood, who currently live in the Kigaramango site. This aid is made up of food and other goods having the value of 46 million Burundian francs all together. The Minister Alain Guillaume Bunyoni who proceeded to the distribution of this aid, promised to these victims that the Ministry in charge of Public Security will continue to look after them.

The aid to these victims included 12 tones of rice, 6 tones of beans, 5.2 tones of corn kernels and almost 39,000 pieces of soap. Each person received 8 kg of rice, 4 kg of beans, 3 kg of corn kernels and 28 pieces of soap.

The Governor of the Province of Bujumbura Ms. Nadine Gacuti said that the number of victims of the Gatumba flood is currently estimated at 8,000. The site has a total of 1,341 households made up of 6,705 people. (Source : rtnb.bi)

Kabezi: Inauguration of two health centers



The Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, Dr Thaddée Ndikumana proceeded, on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, to the inauguration of two health centers in Kabezi commune in Bujumbura Province. Dr Thaddée Ndikumana appreciated the efforts of the population and the Kabezi administrators in the construction of the two health structures which will ease the pain of the population of the two localities, who had to travel long distances to seek medical treatment.

According to the Administrator of the Municipality of Kabezi, Madame Epérance

Habonimana, the Masama health center and that of Gitenga which had just been inaugurated came at the right time because, she explained, the population of the two localities and of surroundings traveled long distances to reach a health facility.

The Minister in charge of Public Health first inaugurated the Masama health center before proceeding to the inauguration of that of Gitenga in Kabezi Commune. On this occasion, Dr Thaddée Ndikumana said that these two health centers were equipped with medical equipment and medicines worth BIF 50 million.

The Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS also promised to provide the two health centers with two new ambulances to facilitate patient transport and the supply of

medicines.

Minister Thaddée Ndikumana also promised to provide solar power to the two health centers to enable them to operate before the supply of electricity and the arrival of sufficient staff.

The construction of the Masama and Gitenga health centers began in 2016 with the funds that the Government grants to the municipalities through the FONIC, the total cost being estimated at more than BIF 285 million.

It should be noted that in addition to ambulatory medicine, these health centers also have a maternity and accommodation service for patients who are waiting to be sent to other hospitals. (Source : rtnb.bi)

Burundi enters the digital transition process



The Government of Burundi and the company startimes software technologies organized on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 the ceremonies of handing-over and resumption of the infrastructures of Digital Television Broadcasting. These are infrastructures with different equipment including 3 transmitters, energy equipment, etc. The project to migrate from analog to digital was carried out by the company starTimes software thanks to a credit that the Government of Burundi obtained from a Chinese bank.

This project could start in the near future, according to the Minister of Communication and Media Mr. Frédéric Nahimana, the manager of this digital network will be the Digital Broadcasting Company in Burundi

Minister Frédéric Nahimana said there are various advantages of the migration from analog to digital. He notably cited the opening up of certain areas of the national territory, support for communication for development, improvement of the quality of services, economic growth, etc. And to specify that the meeting of the general assembly of STNB shareholders are at work, the project could start in the near future.

According to the General Director of National Radio Television of Burundi (RTNB) Mr. Eric Nshimirimana, it is a feeling of satisfaction for RTNB and its beneficiaries. The culmination of this process is the result of the involvement of the Government of Burundi through the authorized technical institutions on the one hand, but also executives and agents of the RTNB and the company StarTimes on the other, who inverted to achieve these tangible results, he explained.

According to the General Director of the StarTimes company, Mr. Paul Yu ZEICHAO, as part of this project, three hundred villages in 116 municipalities in the country were equipped with access to television and 660 technicians were

trained to maintain this network system across the country.
Mr. Paul Yu ZEICHAO said that the Government of China will supply 190,000 terminals to the Government of Burundi. The ceremony marked Burundi's entry into the digital transition process, he added.
The ceremonies ended with the exchange of delivery and resumption documents be-

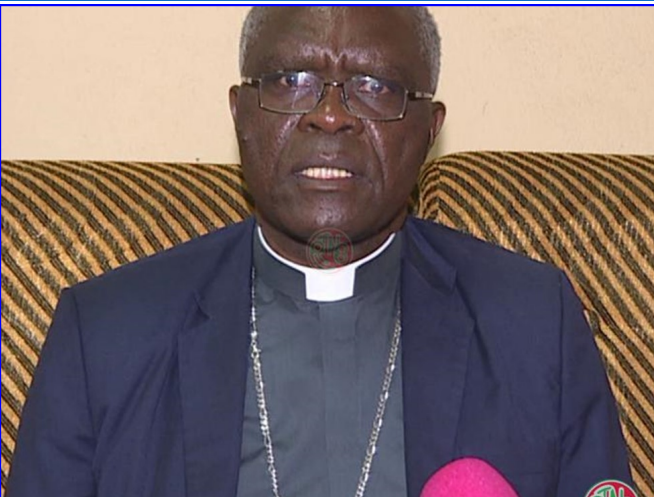
tween the Government of Burundi represented by the Minister of Communication and Media, and the General Director of the StarTimes company. It was also the official launch of the distribution of 190,000 reception terminals offered by the StarTimes company software technologies to the Government of Burundi. (Source : rtnb.bi)

The CENI evaluates the 2020 electoral campaign



The Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) evaluated, on Wednesday, March 13, 2020, the current electoral campaign for the 2020 elections. Dr. Pierre Claver Kazihise, President of the CENI deplors the incitement to violence which is manifested among some politicians and thanks the police and the justice system for the work done to restore a peaceful climate between political partners. (Source : rtnb.bi)

Elections 2020: the episcopal conference makes a statement



The Episcopal Conference of Burundi released, on Wednesday, March 13, 2020, a statement about the situation prevailing in the country during the electoral campaign of 2020. Mgr Joachim Ntahondereye, President of the conference, indicates that the campaign is proceeding in calm but that some cases worry. He calls for an end to the provocation and incitement to violence. (Source : rtnb.bi)

The rise in the level of Tanganyika Lake causes enormous damage



Planning authorities should consult environmental and land-use planning experts before allocating plots, just as beneficiaries should do before building their houses.

The remarks are from the specialist in environment and regional planning Professor Bernard Sindayihebura, after a tour with the press on Tanganyika Lake. Huge damage is observed in some buildings along the lake, especially to the south of the city of Bujumbura.

These constructions include Lacosta beach in Kibenga and the surrounding houses, Saga vyondo, Zion beach, safari gate, safi beach, etc. In short, the losses are enormous all along Lake Tanganyika. And for good reason, the heavy rainfall over the past two years in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Zambia and Burundi, four countries that share Tanganyika Lake. The rainwater which poured into Tanganyika Lake caused the level of the lake to rise appreciably causing damage due to flooding along this lake, explains Professor Bernard Sindayihebura, specialist in environment and regional planning.

He specifies that on May 12, 2020 at 10:30 am, the level of Tanganyika Lake was at 776.10 centimeters. He added that Tanganyika Lake had reached this level in 1964.

This specialist indicates that in 58 years this phenomenon could recur, according to research carried out. According to Professor Bernard Sindayihebura, we must now take the necessary decisions.

He advises the urban planning services to consult the experts before allocating plots and the beneficiaries to question the past before building. According to him, it is necessary to set up a warning coast below which one must never build. Concretely, we should not take into account the distance on the ground to build, but the alert coast which will be defined on the basis of historical data, he explained.

At Tanganyika Lake, in certain places where anarchic constructions are observed, the State could compensate these inhabitants and define a tourist area with mobile constructions there, concluded Professor Bernard Sindayihebura. He says that with the summer, the level of Tanganyika Lake will start to decrease but slowly.

(Source : rtnb.bi)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Department of Communication

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