



**Cursing in of the new Ministers of the Burundian Government**



**O**n Tuesday October 3, 2023, four new Ministers appointed by decree No. 100/200 of October 2, 2023, were cursing in at the Kigobe hemicycle, in accordance with article 138 of the Constitution of Burundi, before the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, Parliament and the Constitutional Court.

The right hand raised and the left hand holding the national flag and that of unity, all those Ministers presented their oath: "I,... I curse loyalty to the Charter of National Unity, the Constitution and the law. I am committed to combating any ideology and practice of genocide and exclusion, to promot-

ing and defending the human rights, to defending the superior interests of the nation and to promoting the unity and cohesion of the Burundian people."

Those are the Minister of the Health and the Fight against AIDS Dr. Liduine Baradahana, the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock Mr. Prosper Dodiko, the Minister of Civil Service, Labor and of Employment Mr. Venuste Muyabaga, and the Minister of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture Ambassador Gervais Abayeho.

Those oath-taking ceremonies also saw the participation of the Vice-

In this Edition:	page
Cursing in of the new Ministers of the Burundian Government	1
President Ndayishimiye presents the new Governor of Ngozi	2
Strengthening bilateral relations on the agenda of exchanges between the Burundian Head of State and the Kenyan Prime Minister	2
Gitega: Members of the Government host a public broadcast	3
Parliament in Congress: Presentation of the implementation report of the Government Action Plan for the second half of the 2022-2023 budget year	5
Celebration of the National Day of the Federal Republic of Germany	6
Gitega: The Catholic Church supports the Ewe Burundi Urambye Program	8
Giheta Parish: Celebration of the International Day of Older Persons	9

President of the Republic, former Heads of State, the Prime Minister, the Ombudsman, the President of the Constitutional Court, that of the Supreme Court, the

body diplomatic and consular, senior executives of the defense and security corps, representatives of religious faiths, civil society, etc. **(Presidency)**

### President Ndayishimiye presents the new Governor of Ngozi



**O**n Wednesday October 4, 2023, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye presented the new Governor of the Province of Ngozi whom he asked to administer as a good father.

“In the absence of a good shepherd, the sheep disperse,” said the Head of State, rejoicing that favoritism and other bad behavior characteristic of the former leaders of Burundi, which sowed discord among citizens are no longer relevant.

The President of the Republic of Burundi also recommended to the new Governor to collect and address the grievances of the population, promote justice and good governance, fight against fraud and maintain security through close collaboration with the population.

Addressing the population, the Burundian Number One congratulated the inhabitants of Ngozi Province for having taken the lead in matters of reconciliation and development, especially in the locality of Ruhororo which had been shaken by the crisis thanks to the unifying spirit which now characterizes the leaders of Bu-

rundi.

The President of the Republic of Burundi asked for progress in consolidating peace and unity by turning a deaf ear to rumors. He wants the Province of Ngozi to serve as a model in terms of development, and for Burundian aspirations to be achieved even before 2040 and 2060. He said all these words while reassuring the population in the face of the resurgence of rumors aimed at decentralizing the population at the time. where the Burundians aim to have a country emerging in 2040 and developed in 2060.

The President of the Republic indicated that these troublemakers are not numerous, that Burundians united together will defeat them. No one will further undermine the democratic order established in Burundi. He recommended that every Burundian be vigilant and that actions speak louder than words before saluting the work recently done by members of the Burundian parliament in defending the interests of citizens through oral question sessions addressed to ministers.

For his part, Mr. Désiré Minani, Governor of the Province of Ngozi, among other things, committed to working hard to enable this province to contribute to achieving the Vision of Emerging Burundi in 2040 and developed in 2060, promote cooperatives and execute all judgments rendered in this province before the end of the year

Note that as promised, the President of the Republic granted a donation of more than 5,400 sheets of metal to the displaced people who returned home and to the families of the Batwas who have construction sites where the elevation of the walls has been finalized, in order to support their efforts to integration into the community without discrimination. **(Presidency)**

### Strengthening bilateral relations on the agenda of exchanges between the Burundian Head of State and the Kenyan Prime Minister

On Monday, October 2, 2023, the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye received in audience at the Gitega Palace, Dr. Musalia Mudavadi, and Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya with whom they generally discussed the strengthening

of bilateral relations, friendship and cooperation between Burundi and Kenya. The Kenyan Prime Minister also carried a message from the Kenyan Head of State His Excellency William Ruto to his Burundi counterpart His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye aimed at the develop-

ment of the East African Community in the interest of their respective peoples in particular and those of the region in general.

President Ndayishimiye thanked all the Heads of State and Government of the EAC member countries for the common interest they have in maintaining peace throughout the community who spoke on the security situation at the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, before welcoming the contribution of the Republic of Kenya to the Nairobi Peace process.

“We thank you for everything you do for the community and for the restoration of peace in the region,” said the Special Envoy of the Kenyan President, taking this opportunity to reaffirm his Government's commitment to consolidate cooperation with Burundi.

The two High Personalities continued their discussion on various aspects relating to the life of the East African Community with a view to preparing the next Summit of Heads of State and Government of the member countries of that organization, scheduled for November 2023. **(Presidency)**

### Gitega: Members of the Government host a public broadcast



On Friday October 6, 2023, the members of the Government of Burundi hosted a public program at the Ingoma stadium in Gitega from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Ministers answered the questions from the press and the population. The public broadcast of the members of the Government at the Ingoma stadium in Gitega was enhanced by the presence of the Prime Minister Lieutenant General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca. In his luminary words, Prime Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca welcomed the desire of the population to respond to the Government's call to practice irrigation during the dry season and the practice of permanent stabling of livestock, which contributes to the increase in production.

When the program is hosted the day after the start of the school year, Prime Minister Lieutenant General Gervais Ndirakobuca encouraged the students to work diligently with a view to being future executives of Burundi emerging in 2040 and developed in 2060. And call on parents and educators to regularly monitor the education of these children. The Prime Minister called on the judges of courts

and tribunals to deliver the fair justice to avoid the conflicts that could degenerate and cause insecurity.

At a time when Burundi has begun its new cooperation policy so that Burundi can restore its image in the concert of nations, the Prime Minister asks the population not to give in to rumors which could taint that policy. Concerning the decree on the unblocking of careers, most institutions with special status have

already transmitted the data on the budgetary impacts to the commission located at the Prime Minister's Office. That commission is waiting for the other remaining institutions to send it their data in a few days and is at work. The Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning Mr. Audace Niyonzima reassures that there will be no delay, the commission is working hard so that this month of October salaries are in compliance with the decree on unblocking. He indicated that there are still 10 days to prepare the salaries, which is enough so that there is no delay.

To the question of water shortage, the Minister of Hydrology, Energy and Mines Mr. Ibrahim Uwizeye responds that demand is increasingly strong due to the expansion of cities. The solution envisaged is to interest the private individuals in investing in that sector. Concerning the power cuts, they are sometimes due to the obsolescence of the electricity transmission networks. The solution is to rehabilitate them. Minister Ibrahim Uwizeye reassures that with the commissioning of Rusumo Falls, there will be some improvement in electricity supply around December.

Responding to the question of the delay recorded in

the importation of hybrid corn seeds, the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock Mr. Prosper Dodiko reassures that the PAN53 and Bazooka seeds are available but that the insufficiency complementary seeds is due to the increase in cultivable space due to the response to the Government's call to increase production.

To the question of former agents of SOGESTAL Kirimi-ro which closed in 2020 and who are claiming their unpaid salaries since 2018, the Minister in charge of finance said that a commission toured SOGESTAL and SODECO and made a report that he handed it over to the Minister. This report lists unpaid debts of 2.3 billion francs. Today the report is on the table of the Government which will decide what happens next. Mr. Audace Niyonzima reassures those concerned and invites them to be patient.

Responding to the question of prisoners acquitted but not yet released, others without files and those who do not receive permission to consult specialist doctors, the Minister of Justice Domine Banyankimbona reassures that procedures are underway to release them and asks for all people imprisoned without files to ask for help from the ministry and for those who want to consult specialist doctors to wait until they are referred by the nurses.

Concerning children in street situations, the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Safety Mr. Martin Niteretse announces that the Government has decided to take them off the street, as of next Monday they will be transferred to a center set up in Cankuzo where they will learn trades or return to school. For the Government, these children are citizens, they have the right to a civic education, especially since some of these children are starting to become criminals.

Concerning the revaluation of retirement pensions, the Minister in charge of the civil service and that of social affairs say that the INSS and the ONPR are in the process of getting organized. There was a delay because of the large flow of retirees and the digitalization of data which is at 90%. They reassure that soon the question will be resolved and that those concerned will regain their rights.

On the question of multilateral cooperation and talks with the European Union for budgetary support financing, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Ambassador Albert Shingiro, announced that dialogues are continuing for financing guidelines for Government priorities to promote win-win coopera-

tion.

Regarding the management of plots in urban areas, the Minister in charge of infrastructure Dieudonné Dukundane clarified that those who have plots and who have documents are authorized to sell them to whomever they want. He added that the sale remains prohibited for those who received plots from the State and who have not developed them.

To the question of power cuts at the Manga site which disrupt the broadcasts of various radio stations, Minister Léocadie Ndacayisaba in charge of the media responds that Regideso has planned to rehabilitate the currently dilapidated power line. As for the royalties demanded by the ARCT in foreign currency, the Minister said that those royalties are not paid in foreign currency, but in local currency at the BRB exchange rate.

Regarding the irregularities which would have characterized the recruitment of teachers, the Minister in charge of Education Dr. François Havyarimana says that a commission responsible for investigating its irregularities has been set up and the report will be provided next week to schedule new tests in the locations that will be targeted.

Concerning the digitalization of public services, the Minister in charge of communication says that work is progressing normally. The national digitalization plan and the action plan are already available.

The broadcast from members of the Government closed with a message from Prime Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca where he called on Burundians who defraud production towards neighboring countries to put an end to this practice.

The Prime Minister warns those responsible for health centers and hospitals who report overcharging for services offered to children under 5 years old and pregnant women, specifying that they will be severely punished.

Regarding the Gatumba floods, the solution is not to build a dike along the Rusizi River because the real problem is that it is the waters of the lake that are rising. The sustainable solution is to move the populations of Gatumba to settle them in areas not exposed to the risk of flooding. Coming back to the untimely rise in fuel prices, the Prime Minister said that from now on the rise in fuel prices will depend on its rise on the international market. **(RTNB)**

## Parliament in Congress: Presentation of the implementation report of the Government Action Plan for the second half of the 2022-2023 budget year



On Monday October 2, 2023, transactions on Burundian territory are carried out in local currency, ruled the President of the National Assembly. Right Honorable Gélase Daniel Ndirakobuca supported an intervention which expressed the concern about the decision to purchase the plane tickets in foreign currency. It was on the sidelines of the Parliament congress held to follow the presentation of the implementation report of the Government Action Plan for the second half of the 2022-2023 budget year.

Overall, the Prime Minister was delighted, the Government carried out 86.17% of the actions it had planned and used 82.12% of the budget which was allocated to the various actions. Lieutenant General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca admitted that following unexpected circumstances, certain actions were carried out at a level less than 50%; while others were not carried out at all.

Based on axis no. 13 of the PND 2018-2027, worded "Consolidate good governance and eradicate corruption and economic and financial embezzlement", with the objective of ensuring the moralization of judicial personnel on justice issues and the fight against corruption, of the 250 magistrates and judicial officers planned for awareness-raising, 303 were with a budget estimated at 25,160,000 BIF.

What if that amount was used to initiate laws, before adding other facade mechanisms such as illicit enrichment, money laundering and non-declaration of assets before major dignitaries take office for

leaders? taking office. If the law ever came down hard on perpetrators, there would certainly be a change in mentality.

There is no shortage of well-developed laws in the country, replied the Prime Minister, who places the problem elsewhere. For Lieutenant General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca, the law is one thing and its implementation is another. He then called on Parliamentarians to enjoy their right by initiating legislative proposals which will be debated in the Council of Ministers before becoming draft laws to be submitted to Parliament for adoption.

Another area to reconsider concerns the contracts signed since 2015. The President of the National Assembly was forced to demonstrate the imbalance between the partners who exploit the Burundian subsoil thanks to Burundian capital by hiring local labor to ultimately return home with all the profits. Those are adhesion contracts, added the Head of the Burundian Government. They were previously prepared abroad, the Burundians were only putting their signature, lamented Lieutenant General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca who reserved himself from saying a lot so as not to arouse these usurpers.

For those who criticize the fertilizers ordered from Fomi which holds the monopoly, the Prime Minister recognized that no study has been carried out on Burundian territory, unlike in Tanzania where eminent university professors and specialists from all sides were associated to harmonize the nature of the soil and the quality of different varieties of fertilizers. However, he reassured that all is not lost for Burundi which has already established a fertilizer factory in Bugendana that meets standards.

Since the Prime Minister is the coordinator of all ministries, the President of the Senate compared him to a coach of a football team who places his players knowingly. At half-time, the coach can swap the positions of his players or completely remove from the game a player who does not know how to properly exploit the tactics of the game. **(General Assembly)**

### The Representative of UNICEF in Burundi received in audience by the President of the Senate



**O**n the afternoon of Tuesday October 3, 2023, the President of the Senate, Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, received in audience the Representative of UNICEF in Burundi, Madame

ame France BEGIN, who came to introduce herself to the authorities of the Upper House of Parliament one month after his appointment to this post. During their interview, Mrs. BEGIN appreciated the good collaboration between the Senate and UNICEF, particularly in the areas of child protection and the strengthening of the capacities of elected officials in the fight against the early pregnancies and the promotion of schooling of girls.

The UNICEF Representative invited the Senate to invest in the social sectors when analyzing the budget law. Right Honorable Sinzohagera promised his host unwavering support during his mandate in Burundi. **(Senate)**

### Campaign to evaluate the ethnic quota system with the State executives and the representatives of religious faiths



On October 4 and 5, 2023, with a view to collecting the opinions of the population on the evaluation of the ethnic quota system as stipulated in article 289 of the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi, the President of the Senate, Very Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, accompanied by his two Vice-Presidents, held meetings, in Bujumbura Town, for the State Executives and the Representatives of the religious faiths, respectively on the aforementioned dates.

During those meetings, some participants called for the removal of ethnic quotas in the Burundian Constitution while others suggested extending them.

After listening to their opinions, Right Honorable Sinzo-



hagera also called on them to demonstrate their professional conscience, preserve moral values and be proud of their identity.

The two Vice-Presidents of the Senate, Honorable Dénise Ndadaye and Honorable Fabrice Nkurunziza, continued the evaluation campaign of the ethnic quota system with the Representatives of the judiciary, in Bujumbura Town on Friday October 6, 2023, to collect the opinions of the latter in relation to article 289 of the Constitution of Burundi. During their interventions, some proposed that the system of ethnic quotas be removed from the Constitution to entrust work and positions of responsibility to people taking into account skills, and others who wish to maintain these quotas in the Constitution Burundian. **(Senate)**

### Celebration of the National Day of the Federal Republic of Germany

**E**mbassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Burundi organized on Tuesday October 3, 2023 in Bujumbura, the ceremonies marking the 33rd anniversary of the reunification of Germany. The event saw the participation of His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation who represented the

Government of Burundi as well as other authorities including Parliamentarians and Senators, Heads of diplomatic and Consular missions, Representatives of International Organizations, German nationals living in Burundi and friends of Germany.

In his speech, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Carsten Hölscher said that with reunifica-



tion, Germany regained its full sovereignty in matters of foreign policy and that his

country has been celebrating this reunification for 33 years. . It was preceded by more than 40 years of painful separation, the result of a murderous war started by the Germans, a war which left millions dead in Europe and around the world.

According to him, the international community rightly expected Germany to assume more responsibilities for world peace and security commensurate with its economic power and consolidated democracy. Ambassador Carsten indicated that on the military level, Germany participates in international peacekeeping operations and organizes conferences to resolve international conflicts. In addition, Germany mobilizes considerable financial resources each year in order to contribute to the economic and political stabilization of vulnerable crisis regions. According to Mr. Carsten, Germany is the second largest donor to the United Nations system and the second largest donor of humanitarian aid. As part of a strategic reorientation of Burundi's development cooperation, Germany favors the approach through multilateral structures or international and regional organizations. Through these channels, Germany remains one of the main donors to Burundi. Although this commitment may be less visible in some cases, it is still evident. Burundi can count on Germany as a reliable partner.

Ambassador Carsten also underlined the commitment of the Land of Baden-Württemberg, which has been linked to Burundi by a partnership since the 1980s. In June, representatives of Baden-Württemberg signed a Joint Declaration of Intent with Burundi underlining the desire to continue to intensify relations. Baden-Württemberg supports, among other things through the Foundation for Development Cooperation (SEZ), numerous projects of Burundian civil society, but also municipal and university partnerships. In 2024, the two countries will celebrate 40 years of partnership between Ba-

den-Württemberg and Burundi, both in Germany and here in Burundi.

Speaking during these ceremonies, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO thanked on behalf of the Government of Burundi the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany for the invitation she addressed to him in order to participate in this great national holiday.

According to the Minister, German reunification was a great historical turning point, the emergence and triumph of a new inspiring political philosophy. Indeed, whatever the differences between the reunified entities, federalism with equal rights offers other countries good opportunities to resolve conflicts from the perspective



of shared responsibility. History is stubborn and no one can claim to control or stop it. The will and

determination of the German people subsequently accelerated events and on November 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall fell, the path to reunification was thus traced and a reunified Germany regained its full sovereignty on October 3, 199.

He also underlined that the day of German reunification marks in the collective memory not only a day of freedom but also the triumph of the aspiration for national unity. He warmly congratulated the German people and at the same time hoped that the artificial walls that are being erected before our eyes between certain powers today will collapse in favor of a united world devoid of conflicts, geostrategic tensions, the diplomacy of muscles and crisis of confidence, a world tending towards a shared future, a world respectful of the rule of international law, a contemporary world united to face the many common challenges that people are facing at the moment.

Burundi shares and defends, like Germany, the same values of freedom, unity and reconciliation having also experienced many. (MFADC)

## Gitega: The Catholic Church supports the Ewe Burundi Urambaye Program



**C**aritas-Burundi organized the sanitation work which consisted of cleaning the Mushasha cemetery

in the Archdiocese and Province of Gitega, collecting the plastic bags and bottles and the planting trees to protect the environment. The work is organized as part of the celebration of the World Creation Day under the theme: "Protecting our planet, source of good health and the sustainable development".

During the celebration of the World day dedicated to Creation, Abbot Jean Baptiste Hakizimana, Secretary General of Caritas-Burundi indicated that the Catholic Church of Burundi supports the Government Program "Ewe Burundi Urambaye", which aims at the protection of the environment.

Abbot Jean-Baptiste Hakizimana called on the Catholic Christians in particular and the Burundian population in general to protect the land and its environment because "it is our common home. He further explained that when the land is poorly maintained, that has serious consequences on the human life such as the natural disasters. The Secretary General of Caritas-Burundi Abbot Jean Baptiste Hakizimana thanked the Catholic Dioceses in Burundi who have taken into consideration the call of Pope Francis who wants that from September 1, 2023 until October 4, 2023 of each year, Catholic Christians take the time to meditate on protecting the environment in order to have good health. He said that the Catholic Church educates Christians to avoid so-called ecological sins which are sins related to the destruction of the environment.

The activities of the World day dedicated to creation were closed with a thanksgiving mass said at the Christ the King Cathedral in Mushasha. **(RTNB)**

## Gitega: Media professionals trained in social protection



**O**n Tuesday October 3, 2023, the National Institute of Social Security (INSS) in collaboration with the National Communication Council (CNC) organized in the province of Gitega, a 4-day training session for the journalists on principles of the Social Protection in Burundi. The activity was opened by the Assistant to the Minister in charge of national solidarity Auntine Ncutinamagara.

In her opening speech, the Assistant to the Minister in charge of national solidarity indicated that the INSS organized that training session for media professionals with the aim of drawing up guidelines aimed at effectively informing the public on concepts related to social protection. The media, despite their major role in educating the population, do not effectively address issues related to social protection.

The Minister's Assistant then indicated that the training aims to the strengthening of the involvement of the media and media professionals in the promotion of the social protection. "The training also represents a spe-

cial opportunity to express yourself at the length with the aim of providing the contributing arguments necessary for popularizing and raising the awareness of the social protection.

She invited media professionals to actively participate in order to better educate the population on the principles of social protection.

The President of the CNC Vestine Nahimana said that the INSS and the CNC are two institutions which serve the nation but also the media. This emerging trilogy must stand up for the popularization of a sector of the country's national life, namely social protection.

According to the President of the CNC, in Burundi the press is free and the CNC in its three-year strategic plan 2023-2025 is committed to continuing to mobilize the media to diversify the subjects that interest the nation by initiating a series of activities including the organization of the workshops on the status of the journalists and the media professionals, on freedom of the press, the respect for the law governing the press as well as the awareness-raising workshops for the public authorities to facilitate access to the media sources 'information.

**(RTNB)**



## Giheta Parish: Celebration of the International Day of Older Persons



On Saturday October 1, 2023, under the theme: “All together including the youth, let's build a society that respects the rights of the elderly”, the congregation of the Bene Yozefu brothers of the Giheta parish joined in the celebration of the day International Association of Older People.

The ceremonies began with a thanksgiving Mass during which the Parish Priest of Giheta urged the Christians to honor the elderly in fulfilling the God's will.

In his welcoming remarks, Brother Superior General of the congregation of the Bene Yozefu brothers, Brother Cyriaque Hakizimana declared that the

idea of helping the elderly dates from 2012, and that act has continued to allow the elderly to support themselves. “Our congregation has sent the brothers abroad to be trained in caring for the elderly,” added Brother Superior General.

Brother Cyriaque Hakizimana also indicated that the congregation has initiated the cooperatives which bring together the young people and the elderly to strengthening and developing the resilience of that category of the population.

The Representative of the population asked the Government to establish a law that would govern the elderly people so that they can fully enjoy their rights.

On behalf of the Government, Mr. Salvator Ndayitwayiko who represented the Minister in charge of national solidarity, Mrs. Imelde Sabushimike, indicated that the Government has already made a lot of efforts to promote the rights of the elderly. He also suggested that the Government will always stand by those people.

The ceremonies closed with a provision of assistance to the elderly, assistance consisting of beans, rice and soap, granted by the Ministry in charge of the national solidarity.

It should be noted that the International Day of the Older Persons is celebrated nationally on October 6. (RTNB)

## Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

### Department of Communication

[www.mae.gov.bi](http://www.mae.gov.bi)

Twitter: @MAEBurundi