



The Head of State asks ISABU to involve the private sector in the multiplication of selected seeds to increase production



On Monday January 23, 2023, during the inauguration of the Kayanza Regional Research Station, made up of a Plant Biotechnology Laboratory and a Coffee Growers Training Center, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye called on ISABU to involve private economic operators in the multiplication of selected seeds in order to increase production.

In the same province of Kayanza, the Burundian Number One then visited Munanira in Muruta commune, the Innovation Center for crops adapted to high altitudes such as potatoes,

wheat, etc. His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye encouraged the research work undertaken by ISABU and its partners to popularize new crop varieties, especially varieties from Europe that are more productive compared to local ones.

He asked them to redouble their efforts and expressed his wish to see that many farmers have access to selected seeds to increase production. In the case of potatoes, the Head of State wants to promote a new approach of transformation in this sector in Burundi.

When it turned out that the selected seeds are still insufficient, His Excel-

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lency Evariste Ndayishimiye promised that the Burundian Government will spare no effort to support ISABU, so that it can succeed in its mission, that of promoting development. Agricultural Scientist in Burundi and contribute to the establishment of an agriculture based on innovation that meets the needs of farmers.

After Muruta, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye visited a multiplication center for selected seeds of Mwokora potatoes over an area of 53 hectares, on the

dry hill of the commune in Cibitoke province where he participated in the harvesting of this crop. He encouraged the local population to work hard to increase agricultural production and to intensify the breeding of small livestock such as rabbit farming, to the protection of the environment by practicing the fight against erosion, the tracing of curves of level to protect the land to be cultivated. (www.presidency.bi)

The Vice-President BAZOMBANZA calls on the population of Bururi to reforest the hills to protect the environment



On Thursday January 26, 2023, the Vice-President of the Republic HE Ir Prosper BAZOMBANZA joined the population of Muyange locality in Bururi commune and province in community development work consisting in the planting of forest tree seedlings. He encourages the population of this locality to reforest the hills to protect the environment.

The Vice-President of the Republic HE Ir Prosper BAZOMBANZA said that the purpose of this descent is to join the population of this province in development work like the Head of State of Burundi, who continues to encourage and support the development activities of the Burundian population.

The Vice-President of the Republic also thanked and encouraged the Burundian Office for Environmental Protection for the step already taken in protecting the environment by planting forest, agroforestry and fruit trees throughout the country. To this end, he advised the population that this tree planting activity could be followed by the tracing of contour lines to promote the infiltration of rainwater.

The Vice-President BAZOMBANZA called on the population of this locality to prepare well for cropping season B in order to increase agricultural production and therefore that the consumer has enough to eat. He also called on residents to refer to the council of hill notables in their disputes, especially land disputes, in order to relieve the courts, which are currently overflowing with a large number of these disputes.

The Vice-President of the Republic HE Prosper BAZOMBANZA did not forget to urge the population of the area who still live in houses with thatched roofs, to replace them with houses with sheet metal or tiled roofs and that the A responsible and hardworking Government will not fail to support them, and he finally ended his remarks by reminding the services of OBUHA to enforce construction standards, particularly in urban centers. (www.presidency.bi)

Gitega: The Prime Minister urges officials to invest in agriculture



On Wednesday January 25, 2023, the Prime Minister Lieutenant

General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca met in the capital of Gitega province the heads of decentralized services, representatives of political parties, religious denominations, civil society and cooperatives working in province of Gitega.

The Governor of Gitega Mr. Venant Manirambona in his welcoming address, was delighted that his province is characterized by peace and security. He indicated that

the persons in charge of the different sectors in this province work in good collaboration. In his speech, the Prime Minister Lieutenant General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca urged the administrative authorities in Gitega province to be good unifying pastors, to apply and enforce the law

for everyone impartially. He asked them to invest in agriculture and livestock to serve as a model for the population in order to increase production and that every mouth has something to eat and every pocket has money like the President of the Republic recommends it. (www.rtnb.bi)

Ruyigi: The Prime Minister urges the authorities to solve the problems of the population



On Monday January 23, 2023, the Prime Minister Lieutenant General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca visited Ruyigi province where he met the heads of decentralized services, representatives of religious denominations, political parties, civil society, cooperatives, etc

In his welcome speech, the Governor of Ruyigi province Mrs. Emerencienne Tabu told the Prime Minister that his province is peaceful, that the population is going about development work and preparing for the growing season.

In his speech for the occasion, the Prime Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca said that the purpose of the meeting with the representatives of the population was to discuss the life of the country in general and the problems that haunt the population, in order to find them solutions and provide guidance on the development of the country.

Among the concerns of the population of Ruyigi province, the Governor raised the issue of traders who refused to operate a new market built in the capital of Gisuru commune with an amount of more than 800 million Burundian francs.

To this question, the Prime Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca ordered the traders of Gisuru commune to immediately leave the old market for the new market without discussions because the commune is losing a lot of taxes and duties. Other issues raised are mainly related to land disputes, justice, etc.

The Prime Minister reminded the administrative officials that they have the mission to follow closely the problems which haunt the population and to solve them. (www.rtnb.bi)

The Prime Minister visits Cankuzo province



On Tuesday January 24, 2023, the Prime Minister Lieutenant General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca visited the prov-

ince of Cankuzo. He met the administrative, judicial, military and police officials, representatives of political parties, religious denominations, civil society, cooperatives, traders and the population.

The Prime Minister said that his visit to the province of Cankuzo is part of discussing the life of the province of Cankuzo in particular and the country in general. An opportunity to see together where the country comes from, where it is and where it is going in development. He further explained the vision of responsible and hard-working Government and urged the authorities to work for the interest of the people.

The Prime Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca congratulated the inhabitants of Cankuzo because this province

will house the capital of the province of Buhumuza. He thanked them for safeguarding peace and security and invited them to get down to development work. The Prime Minister Lieutenant General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca invited the population of Cankuzo

Province to protect the environment to avoid natural disasters due to climate change by planting trees, drawing contour lines and avoiding fires of bush. The population of Cankuzo province had the opportunity to submit their grievances to the Prime Minister. (www.rtnb.bi)

The Minister in charge of Solidarity collects the concerns of the population of Mwaro



On Wednesday January 25, 2023, the Minister of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender Mrs. Imelde Sabushimike met the inhabitants of Mwaro province in order to inquire about the concerns of the population relating to the missions of the Departments of the Ministry. Among the concerns expressed, there is an urgent need for sheets for the roof of ECOFO Higirow in Ndava commune which was destroyed by bad weather.

To this question of sheet metal for ECOFO Higirow, the Minister indicated that it is a question to be submitted to the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Re-

search because the Ministry of National Solidarity does not give sheet metal in schools, if any finds, it is for vulnerable families.

Representatives of the Batwa of Mwaro raised the problems of lack of decent housing and access to land because some live on the land of others in the "ubugeregwa" system long abolished by law.

On the question of sheets for vulnerable families, Batwa or others, the Minister Mrs. Imelde Sabushimike specified that for the moment the Ministry has no sheets to give but she hopes to have some incessantly. While waiting for these sheets to arrive, the Minister, Mrs. Imelde Sabushimike, recommends that the administration identify these people living in huts, in collaboration with the representatives of the Ministry, draw up lists, specifying the number of sheets needed and send them to the Ministry of National Solidarity.

For other family issues related in particular to divorces, the registration of children in the civil status, illegal marriages, the Minister recommended that the administration and the representatives of the Ministry make field trips to inquire about the problems that arise in households with a view to finding solutions for them before it is too late. (www.rtnb.bi)

The population of the southern provinces of the country present the challenges that handicap the health sector



On Monday January 23, 2023, the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS Dr Sylvie Nzeyimana met in Rutana, the heads of decentralized services, administrators and health professionals to discuss the problems and concerns that handicap the health sector. In his welcoming address, the Governor of the province of Rutana Olivier Nibitanga informed the Minister in charge of Health that the health province of Rutana is experiencing challenges with a lack of doctors in the hospitals of Gihofi and Rutana and is facing embezzlement of funds in certain healthcare structures.

In her message, the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS Dr Sylvie Nzeyimana promised to provide doctors to the hospitals of Gihofi and Rutana although this challenge is national. It suggests that health facilities recruit contractual service providers using their own funds without waiting for recruitment from the Ministry in order to support the Government of Burundi in its policy of bringing care closer to the population.

Reacting to the problem of embezzlement of funds in the field of health, Minister Dr. Sylvie Nzeyimana asked that the embezzled funds be returned to the State's coffers without waiting for legal proceedings.

Among the concerns raised by the health personnel in the field of health structures are, among others, awarding public contracts which would be characterized by irregularities at the Rutana Hospital and the lack of social dialogue in the health facilities.

The Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS Dr. Sylvie Nzeyimana continued her visits to collect the concerns of the population in the health sector in the province of Makamba.

In his welcoming address, the Director of Cabinet of the Governor of Makamba indicated that the health province of Makamba faces challenges related to the lack of doctors and providers who behave badly in the workplace.

The Director of Cabinet of the Governor of Makamba also asked the Minister to provide the province with another Health District because the Health Province is very large and has only two health districts.

Minister Dr. Sylvie Nzeyimana promised to resolve some of the challenges submitted to her and gave guidance to all the concerns of the population of Makamba to find solutions to their problems.

The Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS Dr Sylvie Nzeyimana then met on Tuesday January 24, 2023 in Matana commune, the heads of decentralized services, administrative staff, health

personnel and the population of Bururi province to discuss on the concerns that handicap the health sector.

In his welcoming address, the Governor of the province of Bururi indicated that the health province of Bururi is experiencing challenges such as insufficient personnel, the BDS of Rutovu and Matana which do not have their own offices and the lack partners in the health sector.

Bururi Governor Leonidas Bandenzamaso also noted that the health province of Bururi is dealing with COVID-19 in boarding high schools and ECOFOs but reassures that the numbers are starting to drop. The Governor is delighted that members of the Diaspora from Bururi have already understood that their contribution is essential and are at work to help in the health sector.

Among the major concerns raised by the population and the health personnel of Bururi are the lack of equipment in the communal hospitals, the implementation of the program budget in the health facilities, the debts linked to the Health insurance card (CAM) card and many others.

The Minister in charge of Health Dr. Sylvie Nzeyimana gave guidance to all the concerns of the population and the staff of the health sector of Bururi province in order to find solutions.

On the sidelines of the meeting in Matana, the Minister in charge of Health, Dr. Sylvie Nzeyimana, handed over equipment kits to 294 community health workers in the health districts of Matana and Rutovu. This equipment kit is composed of bicycles, mobile phones, boots, megaphones, bin seals, raincoat, etc. The objective of delivering this kit is to facilitate community health workers to educate families to have their children vaccinated and carry out community health monitoring. (www.rtnb.bi)

The United Nations reminds the urgent need to unite efforts to preserve peace, security and stability in Central Africa

The 54th ministerial session of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

(UNSAC) was held in Brazzaville from January 12 to 16, 2023. The official opening ceremony was chaired by the Prime Minister Congolese, Mr. Anatole Collinet

Makosso. It took place in the presence of members of the Government, the Diplomatic Corps, the Representatives of regional and sub-regional organizations as well as senior officials of the United Nations.



In his speech, Head of United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), Mr. Abdou A Barry expressed his gratitude to the Government for its remarkable hospitality as well as for the efforts and resources invested in providing an optimal framework for consultation and reflection on security issues in Central Africa. He then highlighted the progress made in certain areas. He particularly praised the involvement of women in political life and in the management of public affairs, mentioning, among other things, the accession of women to the vice-presidency of the Republic in Angola and Gabon. He then reminds that this approach reflects the need to promote their participation in all bodies for reflection, consultation and decision-making, especially since they have an important role to play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts in the sub-region. He said he was convinced that additional efforts will be made to also take into account the good representation of women in official delegations, including within the framework of UNSAC statutory meetings, in accordance with the Sao Tome Declaration adopted on December 2, 2016 by the Committee.

The Head of UNOCA also insisted on the main challenges in terms of peace and security, highlighting maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea, violent extremism in the Lake Chad basin, the shortcomings of electoral systems, inter-community violence, the circulation of small arms and light weapons, the effects of climate change, hate speech, etc.

In this session, the participants also adopted a Declaration on the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo where the resurgence of the M23 is very worrying. The Head of UNOCA regretted that the situation in the

East of this country is slow to normalize, despite the bold initiatives of the countries of the region. Hereafter, according to him, the urgent need to unite efforts to preserve the peace, security and stability of the States of Central Africa



The President of UNOCA Mr. Abdou A Barry also reminded the paramount importance of the leadership of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in the prevention of violent conflicts, Mr. Abdou A Barry reminded the importance of ECCAS, particularly in the prevention of violent conflicts and the management of crises in its Member States. In the same spirit, he indicated that UNSAC remains a relevant tool for preventive diplomacy and confidence-building between Member States, adding that it is a valuable platform for consultation on tensions that may arise between States neighbors. He encouraged member countries to maintain their commitment to the Committee in order to ensure the continuity and fluidity of its activities while pursuing the reflection begun several years ago on a reform of working methods, with a view to more efficient operation.

During his closing speech, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Francophonie and Congolese Abroad, Mr. Jean-Claude Gakosso, whose country now holds the rotating presidency of UNSAC, indicated that Congo will spare no effort for the prosperity of the sub-region. Note that the 55th ministerial meeting of UNSAC will take place from May 15 to 19, 2023 in Sao Tome. **(MFADC)**

Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the new protocol relating to the Peace and Security Council for Central Africa (COPAX).



On January 22, 2023, a Peace and Security Council for Central Africa (COPAX) of Ministers meeting extended to Ministers in charge of maritime issues was held in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo under the theme "Governance and securing the maritime space of Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) for the development of a sustain-

able blue economy in Central Africa". Burundi was represented by the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security and the Minister of National Defense and Veterans Affairs. The objective was to develop a maritime policy for Central Africa centered on three main axes, namely: improving maritime safety and security in the maritime space of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the governance and securing of the ECCAS maritime space as well as the development of the sustainable blue economy.

During the meeting, the draft texts were examined and adopted by the competent bodies of ECCAS. These projects are: the main axes of the ECCAS integrated maritime policy, the revised memorandum of understanding relating to the safety and security of vital interests at sea and in the continental waters shared by the ECCAS Member States as well as the main strategic axes for the development of the sustainable blue economy in Central Africa.

It should be noted that these projects will be submitted to the ECCAS maritime conference which is scheduled for 25/2/2023 in Kinshasa on the sidelines of the 22nd Ordinary Session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of ECCAS. (MFADC)

The Maslah Site is no longer under the responsibility of the Burundian Contingent

On Saturday, January 21, 2023, the African Union Transition Mission for Somalia, ATMIS in acronym, officially handed over the Maslah Forward Operating Base to the Federal Government of Somalia, within the premises of the General Staff of the ATMIS strength. The ceremonies were graced by the Minister of State for Defense of Somalia, Mr. Abdinur Daahir Fidow. In accordance with the Concept of Operations (CONOPS), the National Transition Plan and following the mandate of the ATMIS which advocates the gradual transfer of responsibilities to the Somali security forces, the ATMIS officially handed over the Forward Operating Base of Maslah at the Federal Government of Somalia, a site it had occupied since 2013.

Speaking on behalf of the Burundi contingent, Brigadier General Jean Claude Niyiburana said that the official handover of this site falls within the framework of the implementation of the Concept of Operations and the National Transition Plan of the Federal Government. Somalian that ATMIS has taken as a priority and an objective to be achieved. According to him, its realization required meticulous preparation and a lot of logistical means. He particularly thanked the Somali people for their peaceful cohabitation, the Federal Government of Somalia for their support, cooperation and patience, but also the leadership of ATMIS and all other partners for their invaluable contributions.

On behalf of the Federal Government of Somalia, the Somali Minister of State for Defense said the transfer comes at a time when the Federal Government has

intensified military operations against Al-Shabaab in central and southern Somalia. "Huge military gains have been made over the past few months and we are keen to redouble efforts and count on your support to eradicate Al-Shabaab," Mr. Fidow said, reiterating the Federal Government of Somalia's commitment to the process of transition.



The Director of the United Nations Support Office in Somalia (UNSOS), Amadu Kamara, commended the stakeholders for successfully achieving the goal despite many challenges. "The successful handover of Maslah, within the restrictive timelines and other constraints, demonstrates the determination of the Somali Govern-

ment to succeed in generating forces and facilitating new offensive operations," Mr. Amadu Kamara said. The Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia, Ambassador Mohamed Souef Elamine, who presided over the ceremonies, expressed his satisfaction with the progress that ATMIS is making. "Today is a proud moment for us as the ATMIS Mission. Maslah is the first Forward Operating Base to be handed over by ATMIS since its establishment on April 1, 2022, following the end of AMISOM's mandate," he said. Ambassador Souef highlighted the key role Site Maslah has played in securing the capital Mogadishu, and in facilitating the Mission's military operations. "Geographically, the Maslah site has enabled our troops to secure the main supply route linking Mogadishu and the interior of the country, thus ensuring the safe and secure flow of goods and services, which is important for economic and social development of the country," he added.



The official ceremonies saw the participation of Senior Officials of the Somali Federal Government, Envoys and Representatives from the UN and Troop Contributing Countries. **(Burundi Forum)**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

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