



Pope Francis congratulates Burundi on sixty years of good diplomatic relations with the Holy See



press his wish to guarantee good diplomatic relations with the Vatican. "This will allow these two parties to extend bilateral relations for the well-being of Burundians, both in the spiritual and socio-economic fields," he said.

On thursday february 9, 2023, the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye received in audience, at the Kiriri Palace, the Apostolic Nuncio to Burundi Mgr Dieudonné Datonou, who carried a message from His Holiness Pope Francis where he congratulates Burundi for sixty years of good diplomatic relations with the Holy See.

As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Burundi as well as the creation of the Nunciature in Burundi, the Apostolic Nuncio in Burundi indicated that His Holiness Pope Francis encourages the Government of Burundi and particularly His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye who continues to ex-

The two High Personalities also discussed the construction of a basilica at the Sanctuary of the Virgin Mary of Mugera, a place that brings together people from several backgrounds each year. The Head of State promises to support the project, given that Mugera is a cultural, sacred and historical place, not only for the Catholic Church but also for the Burundian State.

Regarding the Memorial of Bishop Michael Courtney, Bishop Dieudonné Datonou revealed that the Catholic Church plans to build a reference hospital at the place where this former Apostolic Nuncio was assassinated in Burundi and thanks the Government of Burundi for its involvement in this project. (www.presidency.bi)

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The Head of State calls on burundians to keep the charter of national unity at heart and asks leaders to live the spirit of equity and non-discrimination



On Monday February 06, 2023, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye enhanced with his presence the ceremonies marking the adoption of the national unity charter in Gitega. He called on Burundians to keep the charter of national unity at heart and asked all leaders to live the spirit of equity and non-discrimination.

In addition to the Head of State, the celebration of the 32nd anniversary of the adoption of the Charter of National Unity, in the political capital was enhanced by several High Authorities of Burundi as well as the Representation of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps

accredited in Burundi. The ceremonies began with the laying of wreaths at the Monument of Unity made in downtown Gitega province.

The festivities continued at the Ingoma Stadium and were enhanced by drummers and traditional dances, a prayer that was led by different religious denominations followed by the sound of the national hymn.

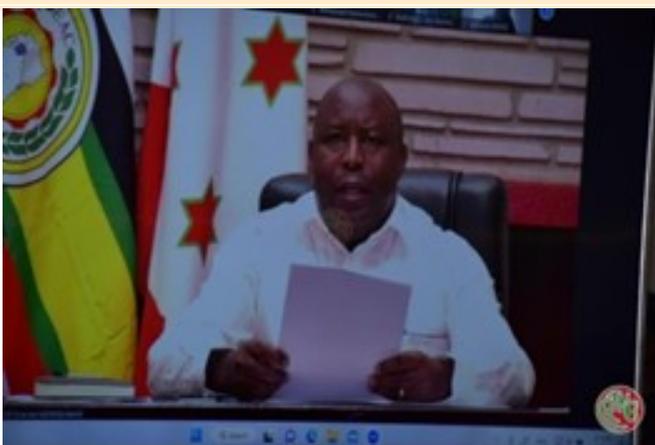
In his words of welcoming, before expressing his thanks to the Head of State who enhanced with his presence the ceremonies, the Governor of the Province of Gitega, Mr. Venant Manirambona indicated that the population of his constituency lives in unity and harmony and quietly going about daily activities.

In his speech for the occasion, President Ndayishimiye explained the content of the Charter of National Unity and revealed the origins of the Unity of Burundians which does not date from 1991 at all, but from the creation of the Burundian nation by our ancestors. He calls on Burundians to get rid of any factor or driver of divisionism and invites everyone to make the Charter of National Unity their precious daily concern.

The Father of the Nation closed his speech by promising the distribution of land to the Batwa who do not have it because "they too are Burundi like the others," he said.

(www.presidency.bi)

The Head of State participates by visio-conference in a high-level meeting



The President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye participated by visio-conference in a high-level meeting to validate the African report on Governance, a biennial report prepared by the African Peer Review Mechanism. Led by the President of Sierra Leone and Chairman of

the Forum of Heads of State and Government of the said Mechanism, this meeting aimed to share experiences and good practices on Governance, the analysis of challenges and constraints as well as the elaboration of recommendations in order to establish good governance in Africa.

This meeting mainly concerned the report of six African countries which have undergone constitutional changes namely the Kingdom of Lesotho, Sierra Leone, the Republic of Comoros, the Republic of Sudan, the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Chad.

During this meeting, the Burundian Head of State guided the analysis of the report that was made on the Republic of Guinea, which has undergone constitutional changes on many occasions.

The President of the Republic returned to one of the causes that leads to constitutional changes in most African countries, namely poverty. He explained that in the

minds of many Africans, access to power is synonymous with access to wealth, and that one finds that public goods become the goods of a certain group and are shared to the detriment of the people.

He pointed out that this practice creates discontent and mistrust between the governed and the rulers, which results in these constitutional changes.

The Head of State shared Burundi's experience in establishing good governance and recommended that the countries participating in the meeting strengthen the judicial system and inclusive social dialogue so that governance is concentrated and aims at the well-being of the population, without discrimination. (www.rtnb.bi)

The Burundian Ombudsman joins the inhabitants of Ngozi province in community



On Saturday February 4, 2023, the Burundian Ombudsman, Mrs. Aimée Laurentine Kanyana joined forces with the inhabitants of the commune and province of Ngozi

in community work to build the office of this commune. The work consisted of mixing the cement, gravel and sand used to raise the reinforced concrete columns of the five storey building.

Mrs. Aimée Laurentine Kanyana called on the population of Ngozi province to get down to development work in all sectors so that in 2025, Butanyerera province will be renowned for several infrastructures and a large production in order to satisfy visitors who will frequent the province. (www.rtnb.bi)

The Minister in charge of Youth visits five provinces



On Tuesday February 7, 2023, internet access, capacity building for young people in developing projects, insufficient equipment in youth centers are some of the grievances that were submitted in Ruyigi province, to the Minister of Affairs of the East African Community, Youth, Culture and Sports, Ambassador Ezéchiel Nibigira. In this meeting, the participants raised the problem of scarcity of Umuvugangoma wood used in the

manufacture of drums. They also asked for the preservation of local cattle breeds which give better quality skins for drums compared to new breeds such as the Frisian breed.

The other concern expressed by the Governor of Ruyigi is the Economic Empowerment and Youth Employment Program (PAEEJ) which takes too long to release the credits requested until the applicants no longer manage to carry out their projects of development. The Minister promised to discuss this with the authorities of the Economic Empowerment and Youth Employment Programme.

In the afternoon of the same day, Minister Ezéchiel Nibigira listened to the inhabitants of Cankuzo province where the population and the administration are requesting an exchange bank on the border with Tanzania and an agency of the Bank of Youth Investment (BIJE).

The people in Cankuzo complain that Burundian products are not considered quality products when they arrive in Tanzania. For Minister Ezéchiel Nibigi-

ra, the quality problem will be solved because the Government is now working to strengthen the capacities of the Burundian Bureau of Standardization (BBN), and quality control.

The Minister in charge of Youth, Ambassador Ezéchiel Nibigira has collected the grievances of the population of Kirundo. The Intore dancers denounce the distortion of this traditional dance and wish that they be invited to competitions organized outside the country. The Minister took note of this request.

To the issue of the lack of athletic equipment in schools raised by the Governor of Kirundo, the Minister indicated that this issue will be resolved within the framework of the relaunch of sports and cultural competitions in schools recommended by the Government. The Minister took note of the complaints of young entrepreneurs of Kirundo directed against the Youth Investment Bank (BIJE) and accuse it of reducing the amounts of credits requested and the repayment periods, which hinders the realization of projects. He said that the follow-up will be ensured with the Bank.

In Muyinga province, the concerns expressed to the Minister in charge of Youth Ezéchiel Nibigira were related to the law governing the National Youth Council

of Burundi, to the under-equipped youth centers, to the difficulties experienced by those who travel to Tanzania. Regarding people traveling to Tanzania and experiencing difficulties there, the Minister advises that those traveling to Tanzania ensure that they carry full travel documents.

As for the law governing the National Youth Council of Burundi, the Minister makes it known that this law exists. The Government is waiting for the National Youth Council of Burundi (CNJB) to make its proposals for the amendment of this law.

The Minister in charge of Youth Ezéchiel Nibigira also went to Karusi province to inquire about the concerns of the population. Among the grievances submitted to him are the need for an agency of the Youth Investment Bank (BIJE) in this province to facilitate the task of applicants for loans and other services of this youth bank. The provincial administration has called on an expert who will check whether the construction work on the stands of the modern stadium meets the standards. The Minister promised to submit this grievance to the Burundi Football Federation (FFB) to send this expert. (www.rtnb.bi)

Formulation workshop for the Country Development Document (CPD) 2024-2027



The United Nations Development Program in Burundi (UNDP-Burundi), in collaboration with the Government of Burundi through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, organized from february 1st to 03, 2023 a workshop to formulate a new National Development Program 2024-2027, for national stakeholders.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation was represented by the Director General of Multilateral Relations, Ambassador Isaïe Kubwayo while the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) was represented by Mr. Mathieu CLOLEWA, Representative UNDP resident in Burundi.

During the workshop, the participants were informed that the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) follow in their achievements the three-year program

which ends with 2023 while the Framework Plan for Cooperation for Sustainable Development is operational until 2027. As the United Nations Agencies must follow the program of the Framework Plan for Cooperation for Development in their activities, each as far as it is concerned, the workshop participants then proceeded to develop a new program for the period from 2024 to 2027. The participants plan to finalize the draft in mid-march later. (MAECD)

The Central Census Bureau organizes a round table of producers and users of statistical data



On tuesday february 7, 2023, the Central Office for the General Census of Population, Housing, Agriculture and Livestock in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, with the support of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Burundi organized in Bujumbura, a round table on the needs of producers and users of agro-pastoral statistical data in Burundi.

The general census of population, housing, agriculture and livestock will enable the Government of Burundi to adopt substantial strategies to improve the life of the population insofar as the agro-pastoral sector is the first provider of employment in Burundi.

According to the Acting Director General of the National Institute of Statistics in Burundi (INSBU) and President of the Central Bureau of the Census Mr Nicolas Ndayishimiye, the objective of the round table is to exchange with the producers and users of statistical data from the agriculture and livestock so that their needs are identified and taken into account in the census which will soon begin.

This census will make it possible to collect data that can correctly show the needs of stakeholders in the agro-pastoral sector.

Mr Nicolas Ndayishimiye said that the reliable and exhaustive statistical data in the field of agro-pastoralism which would come from the census will enable the authorities to adopt planning strategies for projects and programs which will boost Burundi's economic growth at a time when the vast majority of the Burundian population lives from agriculture and livestock.

In his speech at the opening of the round table, the Representative of the Food and Agriculture

Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Burundi, Mr. Pissang Tchangai Dademano indicated that the FAO attaches great importance to statistical information, as stipulated in article 1 of its constitution, with a view to collecting, analyzing, interpreting and disseminating all information relating to nutrition, food and agriculture.

It is in this perspective that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is working to promote international censuses of agriculture through its ten-year programs for the world census of agriculture and its statistical capacity building programs he continued.

According to the Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Burundi, the planned census in Burundi comes at the right time insofar as it is part of the implementation of the world program of the census of agriculture 2020 recommended by the FAO which covers the period 2016-2025.

As for the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock Dr. Sanctus Niragira who represented the Government in this round table, said that the Government of Burundi is convinced that this process must comply with international standards in censuses because the conduct of a census also depends on the planning implemented, the use of resources and the appropriate quality assurance during all stages of this process.

He added that all the partners should mobilize each in its field of intervention to make this census a success.

The innovation is that Burundi is organizing a very first agro-pastoral census which is coupled with the population and housing census. The pooling of these two operations requires great management and flawless professionalism. The Central Bureau of the Census, as a permanent technical body that ensures the implementation of this process, needs to be supported by the Government and its partners.

Dr. Sanctus Niragira therefore invites the Central Bureau of the Census to work in a professional manner while collaborating with its partners in order to provide Burundi with statistical data guaranteeing quality assurance.

In order to prepare the digital census cartography, a team of cartographer technicians was deployed in the field to correct the inconsistencies in the boundaries

of the hills and neighborhoods. As for the Ministry in charge of infrastructures, Equipment and Social Housing, it has started a series of works to reclassify towns, urban centers and centers with an urban vocation and those for the delimitation of urban perimeters to distinguish the urban environment from the rural environ-

ment, which will provide data disaggregated by place of residence. According to expert forecasts, this double census would involve a sum of around seventy five billion and the dissemination of its results is planned for 2026. (www.rtnb.bi)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

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