



**Towards the strengthening of Russian-Burundian cooperation  
in the field of health**



**O**n wednesday february 15, 2023, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye received in audience a Russian delegation led by the Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation in the field of health care and the fight against the spread of epidemiological diseases, Dr. Anna POPOVA.

She had come to present him a donation of medical equipment offered by Russia to Burundi, intended for the prevention and screening of epidemi-

ological diseases.

After congratulating the Burundian Number One for Burundi's successful fight against COVID-19, Dr POPOVA indicated that with the aim of strengthening relations of friendship and cooperation between Burundi and Russia, a laboratory for the screening of epidemiological and infectious diseases has also just been opened at the National Institute of Public Health ( INSP) in order to support Burundi in the fight against epidemiological and infectious diseases.

“Our objective is to share our experience and our knowledge with friendly countries in order to help them preventing diseases”, suggested the Special Envoy of His Excellency Vladimir Putin who continued by revealing that a team of Russian trainers are already here in Burundi to build the capacity of Burundian medical specialists in the prevention and screening of epidemiological and infectious diseases using this equipment.

In addition, the Special Representative of the Federal Republic of Russia took this opportunity to invite the Head of State to take part in the Russia-Africa Summit during which issues related to the fight against the spread of epidemics will be discussed as well than feeding children through school

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canteens.

The President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye thanked the Federal Republic of Russia for its commitment to Africa in general and to Burundi in particular and for its willingness to strengthen the good historical relations which have always characterized the two country.

"The best friend is the one who protects the life of his friend," said the Burundian President, who later confirmed his participation in the Russia-Africa summit.

The Head of State also granted an audience to the Coordinator of United Nations System Agencies in Burundi, Mr. Damien Mama, who came to bid him farewell at the end of his mandate.

"It was an opportunity to take stock of the achievements and to obtain new directions for the pursuit of the mission", specified the UN diplomat before expressing a high appreciation for "the climate of peace and security which reigns in the Burundi and the economic recovery inspired by President Evariste Ndayishimiye ([www.presidency.bi](http://www.presidency.bi))

### President Ndayishimiye calls on the provincial administration to mobilize the diaspora around the development of the provinces



**O**n monday february 13, 2023, during a visit to agro-pastoral projects at Murwi in the Province of Cibitoke, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye called on the Governors of provinces to raise awareness among members of the diaspora to bring building block for the development of their native provinces.

The visit to Mugimbu locality is part of a campaign launched recently by the President of the Republic to inquire about the various projects being carried out in the country and to encourage their initiators while invit-

ing the rest of the population to follow suit.

The agro-pastoral projects visited belong to Dr. Jackson Nahimana, a native of Murwi Commune, Ngoma Zone, Mugimbu locality. After completing his medical studies in Canada, Dr. Jackson Nahimana decided to return to the country in order to contribute to the development of his Commune, he revealed during an experience sharing session with the Head of the state.

He also indicated that with the support of the population of his native locality, now grouped together in the "Central Committee of Mugimbu" Association, other local development projects have been carried out, in particular the construction of a health, the rehabilitation of the road leading to his locality, the drinking water supply project and many others.

"By visiting you, I would like the members of the diaspora to be able to learn, through you, that one can lead a better life in one's native country", hinted the Burundian Number One before inviting all the Burundian people to get down to work and get rid of begging and dependency in order to work for their economic empowerment. Finally, he reminded that the safeguard of peace and security is essential to make development projects possible. ([www.presidency.bi](http://www.presidency.bi))

### The Vice-President HE Ir Prosper BAZOMBANZA takes part in the 40<sup>th</sup> Virtual Summit of the Steering Committee of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD)



**O**n wednesday february 15, 2023, on behalf of the Head of State of Burundi, the Vice-President of the Republic HE Ir. Prosper BAZOMBANZA took part, by videoconference, in the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the Orientation Committee of

Heads of State and Government of New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD). Their exchanges focused on the evaluation of the past years and the prospects for the future.

In his speech, the Vice-President Ir. BAZOMBANZA focused on two main points, including the role of young people in the development and development of the agri-

cultural sector in Africa. He specified that the Burundian Government has already undertaken a vast project to enhance the role of the youth by creating cooperatives for the young people throughout the national territory, the creation of the youth bank to finance their activities, the establishment of a guarantee and impulse fund for young people without forgetting the inclusion of the young people in decision-making spheres. He added that a women's bank has also been created to enable them to have access to credit.

The Vice-President HE Ir. Prosper BAZOMBANZA further stated that all African countries should make an effort to increase the budget allocated to the agricultural sector in order to be able to reduce its external dependence in the importation of essential

food products and in the field of infrastructure, he took the opportunity to thank the African Development Bank (ADB) for the support promised in the construction of the railway which will connect three countries namely: Tanzania, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Finally, he stressed that Burundi has reached a satisfactory step in the fight against HIV-AIDS and that it will join other nations in the fight for eradicating pandemics.

It should be noted that during this 40<sup>th</sup> session of the steering committee of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD), Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sissi was appointed to succeed Rwandan President His Excellence Paul Kagame, as chair of the said committee. ([www.presidency.bi](http://www.presidency.bi))

### Towards the construction of Parliament and Ministries apartment in Gitega



**O**n thursday february 16, 2023, the Spokesperson of the Senate the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera received in audience the Representatives of a consortium of two Indian companies Christopher Charles Benninger Architects (CCBA Designs Pvt Ltd) and Shah Technical consultants Pvt Ltd who are updating studies of the Parliament Building Project and ministerial buildings in Gitega, the polit-

ical capital of Burundi.

The Representatives of the two companies presented the images of the future Parliament apartment and the ministries apartment. In their designs, these apartment will be durable and easy to maintain.

The final report of the feasibility study for the construction of these apartments is expected in two months and will be presented to the Ministry of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing. The concern of the President of the Senate states that the constructions themselves can start as soon as possible, especially since the financial means are already available. Only for the ministerial buildings that will be erected at the old airfield, the current project will cover two buildings, the others will be added gradually.

The interest for the citizens will be enormous insofar as all the Ministries will be on the same site. The Parliament complex will be erected in Nyabututsi and will include the chambers and offices of the Senate and the National Assembly. ([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

### Burundi and the Holy See maintain strong relations



**T**he Holy See and the Republic of Burundi celebrated, on february 11, 2023, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations and the creation of the Apostolic Nuncia-

ture in Burundi. The ceremonies took place at the residence of the Apostolic Nuncio in Burundi after an Eucharistic Mass celebrated at the Regina Mundi Cathedral. According Mgr Dieudonné Datonou the Apostolic Nuncio to Burundi, the diplomatic relations began on december 16, 1962 during the visit of the King of Burundi to the Vatican at the invitation of the Pope and were deepened by the creation of the Apostolic Nunci-

ature in Burundi on february 11. 1963. For Nuncio, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary is a celebration those who are committed to helping Burundi to germinate. He also returned to the contribution of the Catholic Church in the health and education sector.



In his speech, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO expressed his pride, that of the Government and the people of Burundi, for

having been among the very first African countries to establish diplomatic relations at the level of Embassy with the Vatican State. He welcomed the tangible results resulting from the harmonious and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two parties, especially in the health and education sectors, which contribute to the development of Burundi. For example, he pointed out, a good number of Burundian intellectuals are the fruits of schools under Catholic convention.



During the sixty-year period of cooperation between Burundi and the Holy See, there have been pleasant moments along the way, such as the visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul II in september 1990, a visit which will have left all the Burundian people in great admiration of this very high personality as well as many good memories. Official or working visits to the Vatican have been made by the highest Burundian personalities, starting with King MWAMBUTSA IV, former President Pierre NKURUNZIZA in 2009 and that of His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, President of the Republic in march 2022. During this beautiful period all was not ruddy, both parties were confronted with some difficult moments which could leave traces

of bitterness and resentment in the hearts.



The major challenge encountered was observed under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Republic where relations between Burundi and the Catholic Church were paralyzed and the assassination of the Apostolic Nuncio Bishop Michael Courtney during the hard times of the Burundian crisis. However, relations between Burundi and the Holy See were quickly revitalized.



Minister Albert SHINGIRO reminded that strong relations had been established between the two States, the symbiosis between the Burundian population and the Catholic Church as well as the combined efforts of all nevertheless helped not to give in to panic and to pursue a good path to shape a bright future in the relations between Burundi and the Holy See. This short page in the history of relations between the two parties was an accident that they have definitively closed and transformed into an asset to embellish and further warm relations with the Vatican. The Minister concluded his speech by calling on the various development partners to bring, each according to their capacities, support to the efforts of the Burundian Government for the implementation of the National Development Plan of Burundi and the fierce fight led by the President of the Republic against poverty and above all its efforts aimed at building a Burundi that is respected and respectful of others. **(MFADC)**

## 36<sup>th</sup> AU Summit: Opening of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session of the AU Executive Council



**F**rom 15 to 16 february 2023, the African Union Commission (AUC) organized the forty second (42<sup>nd</sup>) Ordinary Session of the Executive Council at the African Union Seat at Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. The official opening ceremony of the Session took place on February 15, 2023. It was opened in the presence of the leaders and officials of the African Union (AU) Commission, Ministers of African Union Member States, Heads of Organs and Offices of the African Union and Partners. The Government of Burundi was represented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation His Excellency Ambassador Albert Shingiro.

The forty second Ordinary Session of the Executive Council emphasized on the draft agenda, draft decisions, declarations and recommendations for consideration by the Heads of State and Government at their 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly, which was scheduled from february 18 to 19, 2023.

For two days, the ministers of foreign affairs and Authorities would deliberate on the various items on the agenda of the Executive Council, in particular; the examination of the report of the forty fifth Ordinary Session of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREP), held from 16 to 27 january 2023 at the headquarters of the African Union (AU) at Addis Ababa.

The session would also consider the annual report on the activities of the African Union and its organs, the report on the operationalization of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Africa, the progress report on the es-

tablishment and operationalization of the African Medicines Agency. (AMA), the Annual Report on the implementation of the activities of the AU roadmap for the year 2022 on the theme of food, the Review of the policy brief and road of the theme of the year 2023 "Acceleration of the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (ZLECAF)", Report on the social and humanitarian situation (humanitarian situation and humanitarian agency), Evaluation report of the first ten-year implementation plan and the development of the second ten-year implementation plan for Agenda 2063.

Among the Highlights of the Executive Council Session would include the election of two judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfHDP), the election of six members of the African Union Advisory Council against Corruption (AU-ABC), the appointment of three Judges to the Administrative Tribunal of the African Union and the appointment of a member of the Board of Auditors of the African Union (AU), for a term of two years, 2022 and 2023.

In her speech, Her Excellency Mrs. Aissata Tall Sall, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad, President of the Executive Council expressed her gratitude to the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia which gave them generous hospitality in Addis Ababa. She wished participants at the forty-second Ordinary Session a happy new year 2023 and expressed his wishes for a resilient, peaceful and prosperous Africa. She underlined that this New Year 2023 begins on the African continent in a context still full of challenges from all points of view; terrorism continues to gain ground and the

resurgence of unconstitutional changes of Government has led to complex political transitions in the countries affected. At the same time Africans are still suffering the adverse economic and social effects of the Covid 19 pandemic and the Russian-Ukrainian crisis, climate change and the humanitarian situation in Africa posture equally pressing challenges.

With regard to the Covid-19 pandemic, Her Excellency Mrs. Aissata Tall Sall, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad, President of the Executive Council added that the threat persists, with still the risk of the emergence of new variants. Moreover, the World Health Organization (WHO) has maintained its recommendation for greater vigilance against this particularly dangerous virus.

It was also an opportunity to salute, once again, the crucial role of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-Africa in the fight against Covid-19 and the coordination of response actions against epidemics in Africa. In this same context, Her Excellency Mrs. Aissata Tall Sall appreciated the notable progress made in the operationalization of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-Africa and the

African Medicines Agency (AMA). Within the framework of pharmaceutical sovereignty, several Member States have already set up production industries for vaccines, medicines and biotechnological materials. Strengthening African solidarity, accentuating resilience measures. On the economic side, she added that the implementation of the conclusions of the two extraordinary Niamey Summits relating, respectively, to industrialization and economic diversification, and to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) will make it possible to relaunch African economies hard hit by the consequences of Covid-19 and, more recently, by those of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis.

Her Excellency Mrs. Aissata Tall Sall, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad, President of the Executive Council warmly thanked her colleagues for the unflinching support from which the Senegalese Presidency of the African Union has always benefited. She call on them to mark the beginning of an era in which Africa will, more than in the past, be listened to, consulted and respected. She said that the member states must rely on each other's usual pragmatism for effective and fruitful deliberations. (MFADC)

## Celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Burundi and the Holy See



**O**n february 10, 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation in close collaboration with the Apostolic

Nunciature celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Burundi and the Holy See. The chosen theme is: 'Sixty years of shared vision and values and visions'.

The activities of the ceremony began with a conference-debate on "The History of Relations between Burundi and the Holy See" presented jointly by Ambassador Laurent Kavakure and Brother Emmanuel Ntakarutimana at the KIRIRI GARDEN Hotel.

In his presentation, Ambassador Laurent Kavakure indicated that the introduction of the Catholic Church in Burundi dates from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was the

work of the missionaries of Our Lady of Africa, better known as the "White Fathers", under the leadership of Cardinal Lavigerie. He showed how the Catholic Church in Burundi is an old Institution which was related to the colonial power. He said that the colonial power and the Catholic Church shared the same ideology of "civilizing mission".

Quoting Msgr. Stanislas Kaburungu, a living memory, the speaker said that: "in relation to the agenda of the Sovereign Pontiff John XXIII, the first session of the Second Vatican Council was held from october 11 to december 8, 1962. Visiting the Vatican on december 16, 1962, His Holiness Pope John XXIII received the King Mwambutsa IV, at the head of a large delegation. The King offered the Holy Father land for the construction of a Nunciature. On february 11, 1963, the Pope promulgated the Apostolic Letter (Christianae Veritatis) by which he erected the Apostolic Nunciature in Burundi". And to add that the Kingdom of Burundi was thus the first country in Africa to establish diplomatic relations with the Holy See at the rank of Embassy.

As for Brother Emmanuel Ntakarutimana, he showed in his presentation the role of the Catholic Church in the integral development of the human person.

During the exchanges, the participants made various suggestions and comments, they asked among the others for the rewriting of the history of Burundi by the Church and the Government with a common vision of the authors.

In his speech delivered at the end of the presentations, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation Mr. Ferdinand Bashikako thanked the speakers who helped the participants to explore the relations between Burundi and the Holy See. He pointed out that the Government of Burundi, under the leadership of the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellence Evariste Ndayishimiye, is committed to pushing forward the relations that

exist between Burundi and the Holy See.

Regarding the accreditation of an ambassador of Burundi residing in the Holy See, the Permanent Secretary replied that the file is being analyzed.

The Apostolic Nuncio in Burundi His Excellency Bishop Dieudonné DATOU thanked the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation for accepting the co-organization of the activities marking the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Burundi and the Holy See. He also underlined the role of forgiveness in all the dramas that the country has known.

The activities marking the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Burundi and the Holy See continued with the celebration of an Eucharistic Mass at the Regina Mundi Cathedral and a reception was offered in honor of the participants in the Apostolic Nunciature. **(MFADC)**

## Burundi now has a document of standard operating procedures to combat human trafficking



On Wednesday February 15, 2023, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation Mr. Ferdinand Bashikako officially launched the standard operating procedures to combat human trafficking.



In his host village, the President of the Commission for consultation and follow-up on the prevention and repression of human trafficking Colonel MASUMBUKO Epitace

said that the Government of Burundi has not lagged behind in the fight against human trafficking. He cited in particular that since the 2000s, Burundi has ratified international legislative texts, it has promulgated national laws such as the anti-trafficking law of 2014, it has set up coordination structures such as the anti-trafficking commission people.



The representatives of the various partners present showed the importance of this document of operational procedures because they will allow all the parties concerned to identify and systematically note the signs of trafficking and the appropriate care for survivors as well as the facilitation of the support for victims and the prosecution of suspects. They further indicated that the launch of these standard operating procedures by the Government of Burundi comes at an opportune time, after the country's stable rise in the ranking of the United States Sector of State's annual report on Trafficking in Persons, from the category three, through category two.

In his speech for the occasion, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation Mr. Ferdinand Bashikako indicated that the primary responsibility for the protection of victims lies with the national authorities, in accordance with national and international legal instruments. He added that we must also recognize the complementary role of other actors such as international organizations as well as civil society organizations in this fight.

Mr. Ferdinand Bashikako indicated that these procedures are designed to improve and support the identification, referral and assistance of victims of trafficking in the country through coordination and cooperation between the Government stakeholders, civil society and international organizations. He explained that these procedures will transform the quality and rigor of the work of protecting victims of trafficking and prosecuting perpetrators and provide minimum standards for effectively combating human trafficking. He suggested that it is an essential tool in the protection of victims and, as such, is a key element of the country's efforts to establish a strong and comprehensive response

against human trafficking.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation continued to explain that the Government of Burundi was recently reclassified to Category two in the US State Sector's Trafficking in Persons Report, based on progress made by Governments to fight human trafficking. The report recognizes the significant efforts of the Government of Burundi in its fight against human trafficking.

"The Government of Burundi, which has already embarked on this fight, fully supports these procedures, and calls on all national and international stakeholders fighting against human trafficking in Burundi to recognize them, appropriate them and fully implement them." he added.

It should be noted that this document was drawn up by the Commission for Consultation and Monitoring, Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Persons in Burundi in collaboration with international partners such as the United States of America, the Kingdom of Netherlands, Unicef and IOM.(MFADC)

## The Minister of the Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security answers questions from Senators



**O**n tuesday february 14, 2023, in plenary session in the Senate, the Minister of the Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security Mr. Martin Niteretse

answered the oral questions addressed to him by the Senators in connection with the sectoral administration.

Responding the question of knowing the relationship between the 15 elected members of the locality Arbitration Council and the five who are responsible for locality administration, the Minister in charge of the interior indicated that each of the two bodies has its own notebook charge and that there are no overlaps between the two boards.

Regarding the question of whether civil status services are computerized in all the municipalities of the country, the Minister Martin Niteretse suggested that these services are being digitized in 11 pilot municipalities since december 29, 2022 and that the services of other municipalities will be digitized taking into account the experiences of the pilot municipalities.

Asked about the date of introduction of the National Biometric Identity Card, the Minister in charge of the Home Affairs told them that the software is already available and that these biometric cards will soon be introduced and will be issued at the zone level.

On the question of why some administrators do not enforce the fixed prices of certain products such as cement, BRARUDI drinks, sugar, meat, the price of transport, Minister replied that the administrators work properly but that traders' speculators often deceive their vigilance.

Asked whether all the municipalities in the country already have electricity, the Minister in charge of the interior said that Régideso has received money from 2021 to 2022 to electrify 30 municipalities. He added that the process will continue until all the communes of the country and even the areas are equipped with electricity by 2030.

Regarding the desire to put in place regulations that would govern community work so that there is effective participation of each citizen, Minister Martin Niteretse indicated that not all regulations are written and specified that the recommendations of the Head of State take the place of a regulation. "It is up to the municipal ad-

ministrators to organize community work every saturday and to align the population around this

work, failing which these administrators will be dismissed", underlined the Minister. ([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

### The Ministry of defense takes stock of the achievements



On tuesday february 14, 2023, the Minister of National Defense and Veterans Affairs Mr. Alain Tribert Mutabazi hosted a press briefing on the results of the major achievements of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the 2022-2023 budget year.

In the area of strengthening national defense, the Minister said that the defense forces have worked day and night to ensure the security of the country. They have been always vigilant to prevent any wrongdoers from disrupting the country's security, he said.

In order to maintain the discipline of the military in good shape, the supervision of the military remained one of the priorities.

Regarding the strengthening of good governance, the Minister in charge of national defense conducted visits to assess the progress of the projects of this Ministry.

In order to fight against fraud especially in Lake Tanganyika, Mr. Alain Tribert Mutabazi indicated that 11 cans of fuel oil were seized and handed over to the authorized authorities for investigation. Similarly, 21 canoes that were fishing during the closure period of Lake Tanganyika were seized, he added.

In the field of counter-terrorism, a simulation, prevention and counter-terrorism exercise is being organized and even the preparations of the training modules have been carried out.

The Minister in charge of defense indicated that during the realization of its projects, the ministry encountered some challenges including insufficient means and a problem of adapting to the new program of the Government of the program budget.

Looking to the future, the Ministry intends, during this exercise, to continue to build the capacities of members of the defense corps through various training courses and to provide them with the necessary equipment to enable them to carry out their task, concluded Alain Tribert Mutabazi, the ministry having national defense in his attributions. ([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

### Information and awareness workshop on the adoption procedure in Burundi



On wednesday february 15, 2023, the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs and Gender in collaboration with the organization Gruppo Di volontariato solidarietà (GVS) organized an information and awareness

workshop on the adoption procedure in Burundi.

The Minister in charge of human rights Mrs. Imelde Sabushimike said that the purpose of this workshop is to extend the knowledge on adoption in Burundi and provide clarification in this area.

Minister Imelde Sabushimike, specified that the adoption procedure in Burundi is the answer for children in vulnerable situations, especially street children and children abandoned after birth. According to Mrs. Imelde Sabushimike the ideal is that each child receives education in his blood family.

The Minister in charge of national solidarity specified that the Government of Burundi is sparing no effort in the protection of children. She said that more than 5,000,000 street children have been accommodated in monitoring centers, free health care has been

granted to children under 5, the name payment of school fees paid for children needy, etc.

As the President of the organization Gruppo Di volontariato solidarieta Abbé Francesco Corbo announced, this organization has already adopted many Burundian and foreign children.

During the presentations, the presenters insisted on

different types of adoption, namely simple and full adoption. In full adoption, the presenter indicated that the child is assimilated to a legitimate child with irrevocable parentage relations while in simple adoption, there are relations between the child and his family of origin. ([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

### The Ambassador of Burundi in Brussels pays a visit to the General Management of Brussels Airlines



Within the framework of maintaining good relations of cooperation between Burundi and the Kingdom of Belgium, the Ambassador of Burundi in Brussels, His Excellency Mr. Thérence NTAHIRAJA paid a courtesy visit to the General

Management of the Company Brussels Airlines, on february 8, 2023.

On this occasion, the exchange was centered on a single point. This is the strengthening of Bujumbura-Brussels air transport. As a reminder, Burundi now has six airlines operating on its soil, namely: Kenya Airways, RwandAir, Air Tanzania, Uganda Airlines, Ethiopian and Brussels Airlines. Brussels Airlines currently has two fixed weekly flights on wednesdays and Sundays.

It should be noted that the cooperation between Burundi and the Kingdom of Belgium has evolved positively since the signing of the General Convention for Cooperation and Technical Assistance on July 29, 1963 in Brussels. It should also be noted that the interventions of the Belgian Government in Burundi are carried out by its Cooperation Agency "ENABEL", and are located in the field of health, agriculture and education. (MAECD)

### SOPROVAB: Agricultural technicians will help in the calculation of needs



On Tuesday February 14, 2023, as part of the popularization of bread-making wheat, the Society for the Production and Valorization of Bread-making Wheat (SOPROVAB) organized successively in Jenda commune Mugongomanga in the province of Bujumbura and in the capital of Mwaro province an awareness session for seed multipliers on the choice of these provinces to host bread wheat seed

multiplication activities.

The Director General of Society for the Production and Valorization of Bread-making Wheat Mr. Onesphore Ntakirutimana says that the idea that prompted him to want to develop this wheat crop was the survey carried out at the Office Burundais des Recettes (OBR) and the Bank of the Republic of Burundi (BRB) in 2020 which shows that more than 83 thousand tons of wheat worth more than 43 billion were imported. Following this colossal sum, the idea was born by wondering the reason for a loss of this sum while wheat is cultivable in Burundi.

The ambition of the Society for the Production and Valorization of Bread-making Wheat (SOPROVAB) is to extend throughout the national territory and forges partnerships especially with the Government of Burundi via the Ministry in charge of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock and the banks so that they grant credits to seed multipliers under its endorsement.

With regard to owners of land who do not have the

## The Burundian Diaspora in Gabon celebrates the New Year 2023



**O**n february 12, 2023, the Burundians living in the Republic of Gabon got together to celebrate the New Year 2023. The guests were welcomed by Mr. Ndikumwami Jean, the African Development Bank (AfDB) executive in Gabon.



In their exchanges, the members of the Diaspora present on this holiday reminded each other the good relations and mutual aid that characterize the Burundians living

in Gabon. They also appealed to all members of the Diaspora to always think about subsidizing to the development of their motherland.



Speaking, Mrs. Odette Nisabwa, a Burundian who exercises her functions in Gabon and who is among the leaders of the Association of the Burundian Diaspora at the world level, explained to the participants the role and the importance of this association. She encouraged them to join in large numbers in the

Association of the Burundian Diaspora. As she continued to explain, the Association of the Burundian Diaspora are Burundians exercising their functions abroad who came together to develop the self-development projects and to develop their country. The ceremonies took place in the total joy of the participants. **(MFADC)**

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
and  
Development Cooperation**

**Department of Communication**

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