



The Head of State receives in audience Mr. Moussa Faki, the President of the African Union Commission



The Head of State, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye received in audience on Friday, March 17, 2023 at the Province of Kirundo, the President of the African Union Commission, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, who is making his first official visit to Burundi.

Among other things, they discussed Burundi's contribution to maintaining peace in the region as well as the projects carried out by the Burundian President recently appointed Youth Champion by the African Union's "Youth, Peace and Security" Commission.

"We appreciate your diplomatic and military efforts for regional peace,

particularly in Eastern of the Democratic Republic of Congo, they will contribute to the stabilization of the country. You have the full support of the African Union", declared Mr. Moussa Faki who also made a point of specifying that Burundi is a model of country which succeeded in mobilizing the youth around the development of their country.

"We draw inspiration from our experience. To prevent young people from getting involved in conflicts, we must show them the future", said the Number One Burundi before revealing that the Government of Burundi has invested forty eight billion Burundian francs which have enabled the crea-

In this Edition:	page
The Head of State receives in audience Mr. Moussa Faki, the President of the African Union Commission	1
All Burundians are called upon to contribute to the economic recovery of the country	2
President Ndayishimiye receives the credentials of six Ambassadors: Djibouti opens a representation in Burundi	2
The Burundian President calls on magistrates to be men and women of value	3
President Ndayishimiye intends to promote integrated agriculture	3
Burundi concluded the presidency of COMIFAC	4
Return of the Speaker of the National Assembly from Bahrain	5
Visit to Burundi of a delegation from the African Union Commission	6
The Government records good results in the promotion of human rights (T. Ncutinamagara)	8

tion of fifty thousand jobs to maximize opportunities for young people.

“Let the African Union make this a priority. If young people are called upon to contribute to the develop-

ment, they will abandon the armed groups”, continued the Burundian President before entrusting his guest with some of the projects he has for regional youth. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

All Burundians are called upon to contribute to the economic recovery of the country



While proceeding to the inauguration of a tilapia fish farm of the company Aqua Burundi SA on the shores of Lake Cohoha, on Friday March 17, 2023, in the Province of Kirundo, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye challenged the Burundians to work diligently for the economic recovery of the country. This project implemented in partnership with the Norwegian company Willing Hands provides for a production of 1000 tons/year and will contribute in particular to the im-

provement of the living conditions of the surrounding population, indicated the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Aqua Burundi Company.

The President of the Republic welcomed this initiative and encouraged other Burundians to do the same: “We ask the administrative authorities to guide us so that each citizen, in his sector of activity, can work actively to provide a cornerstone for the recovery of the national economy”.

The Burundian Number One, however, deplored that the Yaranda hill of Kirundo Commune, which houses such a large-scale project, is not supplied with electricity. He instructed the Regideso Officials to proceed with its electrification immediately at the risk of suffering sanctions.

The Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye finally urged the businesspersons to promote partnership and especially to support emerging cooperatives with the aim of increasing production in the country. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

President Ndayishimiye receives the credentials of six Ambassadors: Djibouti opens a representation in Burundi



On Tuesday March 14, 2023, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye granted a series of audiences to six extraordinary and plenipotentiary Ambassadors who had come to present their credentials to him at the Presidential Palace in Gitega.

These Ambassadors are Mr. Christian Felner, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Austria to Burundi, with residence in Nairobi, Mrs. Tania Porex Xiques, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba to Burundi, with residence in Kampala, Mr. Abdi Mahamoud Eybe, Ambassador Extraordinary

and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Djibouti to Burundi with residence in Addis Ababa, Mr Saud Bin Hilal Al Shidhani, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Sultanate of Oman to Burundi with residence in Dar-Es-Salaam, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Sudan to Burundi residing in Kampala, Mr Ahmed Ibrahim Ahmed, and finally Mr Simon Juach Deng, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of South Sudan to Burundi, with residence in Kampala.

These Diplomats all promised to put the package to strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation between Burundi and their respective countries.

“I hope that I will not be the first and the last Ambassador of Djibouti in Burundi”, suggested Abdi Mahamoud Eybe, the Djiboutian Ambassador whose country has just

The Burundian President calls on magistrates to be men and women of value



During the ceremonies of exchange of vows held on Saturday March 11, 2022 with the body of the judiciary at the presidential palace of Kiriri, the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Évariste Ndayishimiye called on the Magistrates to be men and women of value. In his speech for the occasion, His Excellency Évariste Ndayishimiye reminds the Magistrates that the value of a man is measured in his personality and advises them not to fall into the traps set by the anti-patriots. "Burundi will be what you would have liked it to be," said President Ndayishimiye, inviting Burundian magistrates to keep their personality to serve the litigants professionally because according to President Ndayishimiye, the value of a person has no of payment.

The Head of State mentioned five difficulties that must be taken with care to deal with them:

- The litigant can lie and accuse unjustly because he has a coverage from a magistrate who will support him;
- The other arranges with the magistrate to create or set up a scenario that will be beneficial to both sides;

- Others go to intimidation and the magistrate gives in while a man of value never gives in to little;

- Anti-patriotism is also an obstacle because one cannot serve well when one does not love one's country;
- Wage policy is holding us all back. The value of a person does not depend on his salary.

In ending his speech, President Ndayishimiye reassures the Magistrates not to be afraid because the path is good even if there is still a lot to correct. As a thanks to the six exemplary magistrates during the year 2022, the President of the Republic HE Evariste Ndayishimiye offered them each a cow as a sign of encouragement and in turn the Minister of justice offered two cows to the Magistrate Supreme, "yabutungane et yaterimbere rirama." (www.presidence.gov.bi)

President Ndayishimiye intends to promote integrated agriculture



During a descent carried out on Thursday 16 2023, in Karusi Province on an ecotourism site being developed on canzikiro locality in Bugenyuzi commune, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, who was accompanied by the First

Lady His Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, encouraged the population to promote integrated agriculture for the socio-economic development of the country.

This project to develop an ecotourism site, which

began in 2011, already includes thirteen fish ponds covering six hectares as well as thirteen chicken coops mounted on stilts, with a production of three hundred tonnes of fish and thirty hens per year. In addition, continued the President of the Republic, I intend to build a hotel there for tourists, restaurants and bars.

"I would like Burundians to understand that becoming rich is an accessible dream and that little by little the bird is making its layer," he said, calling on his compatriots to start with small projects to achieve great things with patience and perseverance.

In the same locality, the Presidential Couple has set up an agro-pastoral complex including fields of corn and banana trees and a breeding farm for Friesian and Sahiwal cows. The Burundian Number One recommended that from the next cropping season we can apply

the technique advocated by Tujane Community Integration Burundi (Transactions compensated on an immediate basis (TCIB) aimed at conserving soil nutrients to increase production.

Still in the company of the First Lady, the Head of State proceeded to harvest potatoes in the Bitare locality Bugendana commune of the province of Gitega where with 2.6 tons planted on an area of 4

hectares, we expects a harvest of 96 tonnes.

They took this opportunity to inquire about the status of rice growing, a project being implemented in the same commune of Bugendana. With regret that this crop was not well maintained, he recommended preparing and fertilizing the soil immediately."(www.presidency.gov.bi)

Burundi concluded the presidency of COMIFAC



On march 17, 2023 in Bujumbura, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Burundi Lieutenant General Gervais NDIRAKOBUCA opened the Eleventh Ordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) held at the Club Lac Tanganyika Hotel. In his speech, the Prime Minister reminded that COMIFAC was born of the firm will and solemn commitment of the Heads of State of Central Africa, meeting in Yaoundé in march 1999, to work in a concerted manner to promote the management sustainability of the Congo Basin ecosystems, which absorb about 1.1 billion tons of CO₂ per year from the atmosphere, or about 4% of global emissions, which means that Central Africa remains one of the only regions in the world which absorbs more carbon than it emits. According to Lieutenant General Gervais NDIRAKOBUCA also reminded that COMIFAC brings many advantages to member countries through the implementation of its Convergence Plan which reflects the common vision of Central African States and constitutes a global framework of interventions to be carried out in the level of member countries and at the sub-regional level to achieve the convergent objectives set out in the yaoundé declaration on forests. He gave the case of the pro-

jects and programs from which the member countries have been able to benefit, in particular the "sustainable management of forests in the Congo Basin" program, the regional project "non-timber forest products, Support project for the Forest Observatory of Central Africa (OFAC), Regional REDD+ Project (Reduction of emissions linked to deforestation and forest degradation), etc. The Prime Minister of the Republic of Burundi welcomed the achievements of COMIFAC within the framework of the implementation of the yaoundé declaration of march 1999 in which our Heads of State and Government committed themselves to the Conservation and management sustainable development of forest ecosystems in Central Africa. He said that the main objective of the 11th ordinary session of the Council of Ministers was to assess the performance of COMIFAC by examining some priority issues on the life of the institution. The Prime Minister of Burundi thus told the participants what has been done and what is being done at the national level in terms of the environment in general and in the field of forests in particular. He indicated that there have been put in place strategic tools that can contribute to the sustainable management of forests and the fight against climate change, in particular the National Reforestation Program "EWE BURUNDI URAMBAYE"; the forest policy which aims to ensure the sustainability of existing forest resources and the development of new resources to meet the socio-economic and ecological needs of present and future populations; the climate change policy and its strategy; the National Plan for the Development of Burundi 2018-2027 with a strategic objective of preserving and restoring terrestrial ecosystems, fighting against desertification; the national REDD+ strategy which proposes a national forest monitoring system based on Measurement, Notification and Verification; Nationally determined

contribution. In the latter, the Prime Minister indicated that the country has set itself the conditional objective of developing rural forestry (afforestation of 53,340 ha over 10 years) as well as the bamboo sector to protect the banks of rivers in reason of 250ha / year. Under the unconditional objective, the country plans to rehabilitate 36,000 ha of degraded environments in the Congo Basin and Bugesera. In addition to the production and popularization of improved stoves as an alternative energy to wood energy, the country is struggling to ensure low-carbon development with, as strategic actions, the promotion of wood-saving techniques, support for reforestation in progress by favoring the protection of watersheds and the supply of green coal, he specified. He announced that in the exercise of its mandate as President-in-Office of COMIFAC, Burundi will plead for the effective inclusion of all COMIFAC countries in the CAFI initiative (Central Africa Initiative) including the other countries which are not currently part of it (Burundi, Rwanda, Chad, Sao Tome and Principe)

At the end of his speech, the Prime Minister of Burundi said that COMIFAC, under the presidency of Burundi, will use this opportunity so that the international community considers the forests of Central Africa

rightly as "First green lung of the planet" by their ability to remove carbon from the atmosphere with a net positive carbon balance automatically reduction the forests of the Amazon which have become negative in terms of carbon balance. Let's remember that the eleventh Council of Ministers of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC), was also marked by the handover ceremony of the incumbent presidency, between the Republic of Cameroon, outgoing President and the Republic of Burundi, President incoming represented by Dr Sanctus NIRAGIRA, Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Burundi in the presence also of Heads of Institution, Ambassadors of COMIFAC member countries, technical and financial partners , regional and international organizations and the business community.(MAECD)

Return of the Speaker of the National Assembly from Bahrain



The President of the National Assembly, the Right Honorable Daniel Gélase Ndabirabe returned, on wednesday march 15, 2023 from a working mission to Bahrain (in Manama) where he had participated in a meeting of the Forum of Parliamentarians from non-resident countries aligned and at the 146th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Arriving at Melchior Ndadaye International Airport, the Speaker of the National Assembly told the press that this meeting was to analyze the implementation of the statutes adopted last year in Azerbaijan. They



thus studied how we can transform this group of non-aligned countries into a real institution like the EALA, the CIRGL, the Pan-African Parliament and others.

He explained that what motivated thinking about the institutionalization of this group of non-aligned countries is that at the moment there is no executive secretariat and there are not many games that are being done at the grassroots level, at the administrative level.

Regarding the socio-economic consequences of Covid-19, the non-aligned countries have undertaken to help each other so that each other can recover.

Regarding the 146th Conference of the World Inter-Parliamentary Union, the question was to identify

the causes or reasons that lead countries not to experience the socio-economic progress they want, the Right Honorable Gérase Ndabirabe said that We have found that this is linked to exclusion, social inequalities, disrespect for others, lack of affection between different peoples of these countries and injustice.

The President of the National Assembly has indicated that they have agreed that the member countries of the Inter-Parliamentary Union can make efforts at the level of parliamentarians, who, as elected repre-

sentatives of the people, have the mission of explaining and to snatch these feelings of hatred, imbalance, exclusion, inequalities and others from the population.

We also asked the Inter-Parliamentary Union to put in place a bill to fight against divisions and exclusions of all kinds, whether religious, ethnic, tribal, gender and others. A technical team has been put in place to prepare this bill and we are awaiting another invitation to analyze it together, concluded the president of the lower house of the Burundian parliament. **(ABP)**

Visit to Burundi of a delegation from the African Union Commission



Government of Burundi offered a dinner to the Chairperson of the African Union Commission His Excellency Moussa Faki Mahamat and his delegation in

On thursday march 16, 2023, a High-level African Union delegation led by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission His Excellency Moussa Faki Mahamat arrived in Bujumbura for an official visit.

At Melchior NDADAYE International Airport, His Excellency Moussa Faki Mahamat was welcomed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO. On the evening of march 16, 2023, the

the presence of certain High Authorities and Senior Government Officials, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation His Excellency Albert SHINGIRO and the Minister in charge of the Interior Mr. Martin NITERETSE.

It should be noted that His Excellency Moussa stayed three days in Burundi and was received by the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, on march 17, 2023. **(MAECD)**

Joint Annual Review of the Ministry in charge of public health and its partners



As part of the implementation of sectoral health policies in Burundi, it was held in Gitega from march 14 to 15, 2023, the meeting of the Joint Annual Review (RAC) between

the Ministry of Public Health and fight against AIDS with its Development Partners as well as the Ministries whose priorities are related to health. These meetings were organized under the theme "Improvement of primary health care to achieve Universal Health Coverage."

The objective of the foundations of this Joint Annual review with the partners is to contribute to the improvement of the performances of the service providers in the field of health in Burundi.

The objectives of the Joint Annual Reviews also reflect current trends which consist in emphasizing greater accountability for results and in particular mu-

tual accountability between partners, improved political dialogue and transparency.

According to the Resident Representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) and leader of health partners Dr Xavier CRESPIE, the regularity of the organization of the Joint Annual Review is a sign of the commitment of the Ministry of Health and the fight against AIDS and the Government to improve interventions in favor of the health of populations.

He also indicated that this Joint Annual Review provides an opportunity to carry out a rapid and participatory retrospective analysis of the indicators of the health priorities contained in the 2021-2027 health sector strategy. It will make it possible to show the progress made, to identify the weak points, the constraints and to identify the lessons learned in order to improve the implementation of the planned activities.

As for the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, Dr Sylvie Nzeyimana, the joint annual review makes it possible to assess herself in order to refine strategies, improve the effectiveness and synergy of Government interventions and those development partners.

She indicated that the joint annual review falls within

the framework of the international partnership for health in order to promote the principles of the Paris declaration which are the approval, alignment, harmonization, management based on the results and mutual accountability.

According to Minister Dr. Sylvie Nzeyimana, these meetings raised an opportunity to assess the progress made towards achieving results, in the 2nd year of implementation of the 2021-2023 sector strategy which is aligned with the PND2018-2027.

At the end of the meeting of the Joint Annual Review, some recommendations were set, in particular the improvement of the supply of care, the availability of quality essential drugs, innovative financing of the health sector, infrastructure and equipment as well as than good governance.

On the sidelines of the work of the meeting on the Joint Annual Review, the Minister of Public Health Dr Sylvie Nzeyimana provided on tuesday in the afternoon, march 14, 2023, assistance to a mother who gave birth to triplets at Sainte Therese of Gitega. This assistance consisted of powdered milk for infants, pampers, laundry and toilet soaps, etc. (www.rtnb.bi)

The journalists called upon to adapt to digital evolution



The Ministry in charge of the media organized from march 14 to 15, 2023, in Ngozi, a workshop to popularize the results and recommendations of the 3rd edition of the general assembly of communication and the media. This workshop was attended by media professionals working in Ngozi, Kayanza, Kirundo and Muyinga.

According to Mr. Thierry Kitamoya, assistant to the Minister in charge of the media, the general assembly of communication and media in 2022 resulted in decisions likely to promote the work of communicators and journalists, in compliance with the law and ethics, while adapting to digital evolution.

In his presentation, Mr. Jacques Bukuru, the journalist and speaker on the first day of the workshop, reminded the journalists that they must respect the principles of the profession and good morals, defend the common interest, maintain neutrality and give voice to citizens.

The speaker Mr. Jacques Bukuru urged the journalists from the northern provinces of Burundi to establish relationships of trust with communicators from public Institutions and promote investigative journalism.

On the 2nd and last day of the workshop to popularize the results of the 3rd edition of the fields general on communication and the Media, the journalists were informed about the advantages and disadvantages of information and communication technologies.

Mr. Alain Diomède Nzeyimana, the speaker of the day, explained to the journalists how information and communication technologies (TIC), evolve rapidly, revolutionize the world but are also used by criminal organizations. "Obviously, there are more advantages than disadvantages in this digital evolution,"

reassured the speaker.

Faced with the potential and dangers of information and communication technologies (ICT), the speaker Mr. Alain Diomède Nzeyimana recommended that journalists exercise caution.

For Mr. Alain Diomède Nzeyimana, journalists must adapt to this new digital environment, be more professional, because this is what will differentiate a real journalist from those who broadcast anything on social networks. (www.rtnb.bi)

Karusi: Agriculture Minister launches plant clinics



The Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Dr. Sanctus Niragira launched on tuesday march 14, 2023 sixty-eight plant clinics in Karusi province fifty clinics which were already operational. A total of one hundred and eighteen clinics will be set up, each municipality having a clinic with two plant Doctors per clinic.

One hundred and thirty-six champions received certificates and materials consisting of tablets, megaphones, umbrellas and more. As indicated by Dr. Sanctus Niragira, these champions received training

thanks to the plantwise project funded by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Burundi.

During this training, participants learned to identify the causes of plant health problems using field diagnostics.

The Minister in charge of agriculture thanked the Dutch Embassy which contributed to the success of this plantwise project. He urged the plant Doctors to serve the population well and manage the kit granted to them as a father.

Dr. Sanctus Niragira asked these champions to follow farmers closely by identifying different diseases that attack the plantations.

The representative of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Burundi indicated that these plant clinics will reduce losses and calls on farmers to develop crops that are resistant to climate change and pests. These clinics will contribute to the improvement of agricultural production, concluded the representative of the Dutch Embassy. (www.rtnb.bi)

The Government records good results in the promotion of human rights (T. Ncutinamagara)

The Ministry in charge of national solidarity in partnership with the United Nations system in Burundi organized on monday march 13, 2023, a capacity building workshop for the drafting of the periodic report of Burundi, a report on the im-

plementation of the convention international convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination.

In her speech, the Assistant to the Minister in charge of national solidarity, Mrs. Tantine Ncutinamagara, indicated that the purpose of this workshop was to



discuss the state of cooperation between Burundi and the International Human Rights Mechanisms from the ratification of treaties. Mrs. Tantine Ncutinamagara is delighted that the Government of Burundi has recorded excellent results in the promotion and protection of human rights.

According to the human rights expert at the United Nations, involvement in the drafting of reports on human rights in all its components is the prerogative of each organization, both national and international working in such or such other member country of the United Nations. And to explain that it is to alert on the

situation of human rights in the different sectors of the life of a country, whether from the angle of security, human rights, education, health and others. This expert calls on member States and Governments of the United Nations to write reports in time to juxtapose them with the reports of human rights organizations, both national and international. This workshop was attended by the Representatives of the various national human rights commissions, the principal adviser of the United Nations system, the executives of the Ministry in charge of human rights and many others. (www.rtnb.bi)

1

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat-General of the State**MEDIA RELEASE N° 02 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15 MARCH 2023**

A Cabinet meeting was held in Gitega on Wednesday 15th of March 2023, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Major General Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, President of the Republic of Burundi.

After the presentation of the agenda, His Excellency the President of the Republic invited the Prime Minister to present the summary of the observations resulting from the preparatory meeting of the Council of Ministers which the Prime Minister chaired on Tuesday 07 and Monday 13 March 2023, and which was devoted to the analysis of the same files on the agenda.

After restitution by the Prime Minister to the President of the Republic, the following items were analyzed:

- 1. Draft Education Sector Plan 2022-2030**, presented by the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research.

In 2012, Burundi adopted a Sectoral Plan for the Development of Education and Training (PSDEF). At the heart of this Plan was a major reform of basic education, with the establishment of the fourth basic cycle organized according to new methods intended to accommodate the greatest number of young Burundians.

Unfortunately, the 2015 crisis and the economic difficulties that followed did not allow this Plan to be fully implemented and the hopes that it was backed had to be reviewed.

Thus, in May 2018, a Transitional Education Plan took over. This plan includes a number of adjustments compared to the Plan adopted in 2012.

At the end of the period covered by the Transitional Education Plan in 2020, the country's political and diplomatic situation can return to the normal course of sectoral planning.

In 2019, Burundi had launched a diagnosis of its education sector, ranging from pre-school education to higher education, based on evidence. Following this diagnosis, the Government requested the support of its technical partners with a view to developing an Education Sector Plan which should take over from the Sector Plan for the Development of Education and Training (PSDEF) 2012-2020.

This Education Sector Plan prepared

- presents the situation of the education sector;
- highlights the main strategic orientations and its consistency with the PND;
- presents the priority programs of the education system;

The main strategic directions are:

- ✓ Improving access and equity;
- ✓ Improving the quality of teaching;
- ✓ Expansion and modernization of higher education and scientific research;
- ✓ Expansion and reform of technical and vocational education and training;
- ✓ Improving sectoral governance.

After exchange and debate, the Council of Ministers adopted this Sector Plan with the following recommendations:

- In anticipation of the development of a long-term Education Policy, share the conclusions and recommendations of the National Symposium of Education with all the ministries in preparation for a Government Retreat devoted to the question of education;
- The Ministries are called upon to identify the areas to be developed in their respective sectors and which require training abroad and submit them to the Minister in charge of Education for the search for scholarships;
- There must be adequacy of training and development;
- It is necessary to show what is planned to raise the level of the French language because it is the one that is used in the Burundian administration;

- We must develop the English language because it is currently the most spoken language in the world;
- The place of “research and development” must be shown in this Sector Plan;
- In order to raise the level of knowledge of learners, it is necessary to develop pedagogical education, to orient high-level students there and to imagine strategies to be put in place so that the teaching profession is envied;
- Ensure the quality of training at all levels of education by closing educational establishments that do not meet the operating conditions;
- Follow up on the promise of the French Government for the construction of another vocational training center like that of Rusi;
- Transfer to the Rusi Training Center the materials and equipment located in other centers and which are not exploited, such as the Buyenzi Incubation Center;
- Privilege the practical side in the lessons to be dispensed;
- Provide schools with laboratories and equipment for practical work;
- Develop teaching programs at all levels taking into account the product sought at the end of the learner's training;
- Make an objective evaluation of the Faculty of Medicine like all the strategic sectors;
- Make operational the vocational training centers established in all the Provinces.
- Strengthen the Rundi academy to give Kirundi the necessary place in order to prepare to teach all subjects in this language;
- Equip each census hill with a basic school;
- Organize retraining of teachers so that they are more efficient;
- Build a National Research Center;
- Imagine strategies to avoid the brain drain.

2. Bill ratifying the Constitution and the Convention of the African Telecommunications Union signed on December 7, 1999 in Cape Town, South Africa as revised on July 10, 2014 in Harare, presented by the Minister of Communication, Information Technology and Media.

Specialized institution of the African Union (AU) competent in telecommunications, the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) was created on December 7, 1977 on the

sidelines of the 12th Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of the African Union (OAU) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the name of "Pan-African Telecommunication Union (PATU)".

Having realized later that partnership in the development of information and communication technologies in Africa is the means that can enable the peoples of Africa to participate more effectively in the continent's information revolution, it was decided, in occasion of the 4th extraordinary session of the Pan-African Telecommunications Union held on December 7, 1999 in Cape Town, South Africa, to restructure it under the name "African Telecommunications Union", with a view to paving the way for the participation of the private and social sectors, and take into account the convergence of electronic communication networks and services.

The African Telecommunications Union has the vision of “making Africa an active player in the global information society”.

The ATU is currently governed by the Constitution and the Convention adopted on September 7, 1999 and revised on July 10, 2014 which Burundi has already signed.

It is important that Burundi ratifies these legal instruments in order to fully enjoy the rights and benefits they confer.

After discussion and debate, the Council of Ministers adopted this project subject to a few formal corrections.

- 3. Draft ministerial ordinance on implementing measures of the Civil Aviation Code of Burundi in terms of fees for services rendered by the Civil Aviation Authority of Burundi (AACB), presented by the Minister of Commerce, Transport, Industry and Tourism.**

5

Civil aviation involves multiple facilities and services whose costs relate to capital and fixed asset depreciation, as well as maintenance, operating, management and administrative costs.

The aeronautical and non-aeronautical fees currently collected by the Civil Aviation Authority of Burundi are governed by regulatory texts dating from 1989, 1995 and 2014.

A consultation of the airlines was carried out on 09/16/2021, with a view to discussing a proposal to update the aeronautical fees applied by the Civil Aviation Authority of Burundi and the principle of readjusting them to the average of those applied in the countries of the East African Community has been accepted.

Moreover, since these royalties are distributed through several regulatory texts, it is necessary to group them under a single ministerial order for easier exploitation.

Finally, given that certain services are rendered without compensation for royalties even though they incur production costs, this new ordinance introduces new royalties relating to these services.

At the end of the analysis, the project was adopted with, among other recommendations:

- Rephrase the title by highlighting only "the fixing of royalties" without having to quote the Civil Aviation Code;
- The Civil Aviation Authority of Burundi must provide a revenue investment plan;
- The Civil Aviation Authority of Burundi must regularly give the report on the currencies collected;
- Make the budgets of self-managed structures appear in the State budget;
- Mention the Minister in charge of Finance as co-signatory of the order.

4. Draft decree amending decree n°100/311 of November 27, 2012 authorizing the State of Burundi to participate in the capital of the company "Global

Port Services Burundi", presented by the Minister of Trade, Transport, of Industry and Tourism

This draft decree was analyzed after the presentation, by the Minister in charge of Finance, of the report of the Mixed Technical Commission which was set up in response to the recommendations of the Council of Ministers of October 14, 2021 on the Global Port Services Burundi file.

These recommendations the following:

- Valuing assets and identifying other assets that belong to the State;
- Carry out the necessary checks to find out the circumstances that led to the 18 boats that the Kingdom of Belgium transferred to the State of Burundi ending up in the hands of ARNOLAC and take the appropriate measures;
- Check whether the other existing boats belonging to individuals have not been generated by boats belonging to the State of Burundi;
- Properly value the assets of the State in order to accurately define the actions of the State in Global Port Services Burundi;
- Monitor the progress of disputes involving the State of Burundi and proceed with the execution of those who have been judged;
- Check the account on which transit the rents of buildings and other assets.

According to the final expert report, the total value of the contributions of the State is 1,740,223,977 Fbu on December 24, 2012 and would have an additional dividend of 3,234,460,974 FBu on 31/12/2020. It is therefore important to review the structure of the share ownership.

For this, the Ministry of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism proposes, among other things, the following chronological actions:

- The revision of Decree No. 100/311 of November 27, 2012 authorizing the State of Burundi to participate in the capital of the company "Global Port Services Burundi";

- The establishment of the GPSB statutory bodies to allow the revision of the Shareholding Agreements and the Articles of Association in accordance with the new shareholding structure;
- Consideration of the ongoing Bujumbura Port Modernization and Extension Project, a mission which fell to Global Port Services Burundi but which was not implemented;

This draft decree proposes that the capital of Global Port Services Burundi be 2,710,223,997 Fbu. The contributions of the State of Burundi in the share capital of the company Global Port Services Burundi represent 64.21% of the shares, i.e. 1,740,223,997 Fbu.

Finally, this draft decree will enter into force with retroactive effects from December 24, 2012.

At the end of the analysis, the draft decree was adopted with the following recommendations:

- Accelerate the finalization of this decree so that the new bodies are put in place;
- Complete the liquidation of Ex EPB as well as all the other State companies in liquidation;
- The Ministries concerned by the conclusions of the Mixed Technical Commission on the recommendations of the Council of Ministers of October 14, 2021 must, each as far as it is concerned, draw up a plan for their implementation under the coordination of the Prime Minister.

5. Project for the construction of a plant for the formulation of NPK-type mineral compound fertilizers (BLENDED) on Jenda hill, Bugendana Commune, Gitega Province, presented by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock

The Government of Burundi has placed agriculture at the top of the priorities capable of accelerating economic growth.

One of the key elements for the development of this sector is the availability of quality agricultural inputs and more particularly fertilizers.

In recent years, the demand for fertilizer has continued to increase, rising from 13,000T in 2013 to more than 90,000T in 2022. The FOMI plant has not been able to meet this demand.

After the development of fertility maps at the national level and by agro-ecological zone by ISABU in 2022, deficiencies in major elements and also in micronutrients were noticed, and current fertilization practices should provide answers to this issue of soil fertility.

Faced with this situation of soil fertility, this project recommends providing the trace elements necessary for plant growth.

This system will make it possible to produce formulas adapted to the category of crops and natural regions, providing nutrients in sufficient quantities. The installation of this factory will allow the Government of Burundi to produce quality fertilizers which are currently imported despite the presence of the FOMI factory.

The overall objective of the Project is to contribute to increasing soil productivity through the local production of quality fertilizers and formulas adapted to the requirements of the soil according to the agro-ecological zones.

After discussion on this file, the Council of Ministers appreciated the Project and recommended the following:

- Ensure that the product is of high quality;
- Involve the technicians of the ministry in charge of agriculture and those of the University of Burundi so that they support this Project;
- Protect Burundian innovations and industries as much as possible.

6. Note on the request for poles by the BTP Company on behalf of REGIDESO and ABER, presented by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock.

The BTP company requested a quantity of 7000 poles on behalf of REGIDESO and ABER but it turned out that the OBPE to which the request had been addressed could not have this quantity in the afforestation that it manages.

Of the 7,000 poles that the company requested, only 2,820 have been identified and the remaining 4,180 can be identified in other woodlots.

The sale price of a standing pole fulfilling the conditions is 40,789.264 Fbu, at the time when, at REGIDESO as at ABER, a low voltage treated pole is bought at 238,000 Fbu and a medium treated pole voltage is purchased at 268,000 Fbu.

To see the current situation of State afforestation, trees meeting the characteristics required for poles are becoming increasingly rare, hence the Note already suggests considering other ways, namely: metal poles or reinforced concrete, or use private woodlots.

Following discussions on the note, the Council of Ministers made the following observations:

- The difference between the selling price of the standing pole and the purchase price of the treated pole is enormous;
- An intermediary between OBPE and REGIDESO is not necessary in the purchase of these poles;
- For reinforced concrete columns, it is necessary to draw inspiration from the experience of other countries in the Region which have this experience.

7. Note on producer price setting for cherry coffee: 2023-2024 coffee campaign, presented by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock.

This note motivates and proposes fixing the price of cherry coffee at 1200 Fbu per kg for this 2023-2024 campaign.

This price was calculated taking into account key parameters, in particular: coffee production by quality, the level of coffee prices in New York under normal world production conditions, the quality differentials compared to world prices on the New York, the production costs of the various links in the coffee sector, the development costs of the coffee sector, the municipal tax and finally the exchange rate of the American dollar against the Burundian franc.

After discussion and debate on the Note, the Council of Ministers reached the following conclusions:

- Review the costs throughout the chain from the producer to the sale of the coffee and set a more profitable producer price. Two representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, 01 representative of the Ministry of Trade, 01 representative of the Ministry of Finance will work on this file under the coordination of the Office of the Prime Minister and the report will be transmitted to the Prime Minister for decision.
- The same exercise of analyzing the cost of production to set a more profitable price for the producer should be done for all other export crops;
- Review the legal framework that governs ODECA because it should not be both a regulator and a buyer of coffee at the same time;
- Carry out an audit at ODECA;
- Closely monitor the file of operators who exported the coffee and who did not repatriate the currencies;
- Consider setting up a price stabilization fund for export crops;
- Consider the study of the marketing chain of all products to facilitate the setting of a more profitable producer price by reducing the link in the chain of commission agents which is detrimental to the producer and the consumer;
- Create a collection center for products to be marketed in each Commune;
- Pending the construction of a marketing center for products from youth projects, make the Palais des Arts a place for displaying these products to allow those who wish to place orders for these products.

8. Information note on the progress of the rehabilitation works of national road No. 3, Rumonge – Gitaza section (45 km) and related facilities, presented by the Minister of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social housing.

The purpose of this note is to explain the changes to the project following the consequences of climate change, environmental degradation and the new approach to pavement durability.

The major elements behind the changes to the project are:

- The rise in the level of Lake Tanganyika since 2019, which requires the addition of costly works of a port nature to protect the shore of Lake Tanganyika between Gitaza and Magara, and in Kagongo over a length of 8 km.
- The adoption of a new pavement structure integrating a new layer which generates an additional cost.
- Landslides that require additional stabilization work.
- The overflows of the rivers which oblige to enlarge the works and to add new ones.
- The impact of the extension of deadlines which affect the project by registering a delay of approximately 12 months which has a financial impact.
- The displacement of the networks installed in the rights-of-way of the road (REGIDESO and BBS) which has a cost.

The overall progress of the work at the end of February 2023 was 35.5%, while the consumption of deadlines is 75%.

In general, work is underway on the part of the RN3 project that has no problem, which is to say between Rumonge and Minago (20 km).

Work on the Minago to Magara section (10 km) has not yet started, except clearing. They are awaiting the Government's decision on the financial gap.

Through this note, the Government is asked to provide the Project with the amount of 18,607,517,500 FBU to fill the gap and deal with unforeseen events that could be improvised such as landslides, and to take note of the restructuring of the project in two

sections: 30km from Rumonge to Magara which will be rehabilitated by the SOGEA-SATOM/GETRA Group, and 15 km from Magara to Gitaza which will be the subject of a new resilience study.

The Council of Ministers took note of the Note and asked the Ministry in charge of Finance to take the necessary steps to make this amount available.

9. **Draft cooperation agreement between the Government of the Republic of Tunisia and the Government of the Republic of Burundi in the field of technological and industrial development, signed in Djerba in November 2022**, presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Development.

On the sidelines of the 18th Francophonie Summit held on November 20, 2022, in Djerba, Tunisia, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi, signed with his counterpart, of the Republic of Tunisia, a cooperation agreement in the field of technological and industrial development.

The main objective set by the two parties is to strongly contribute to giving new impetus to relations between the two countries by establishing partnerships in the technological and industrial fields.

At a time when Burundi wishes to acquire modern industries, it is necessary to establish new partnerships in the technological and industrial field to contribute to economic growth, industrial competitiveness, etc.

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted with the recommendation to negotiate training grants in the mining sector.

10. **Bill amending certain provisions of Law No. 1/08 of May 20, 2021 amending Law No. 1/17 of September 25, 2007 on the organization of the National Statistical System of Burundi**, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

- The development of the RUGOFARM agro pole in Cibitoke
- Rehabilitation of the runway at Melchior NDADAYE International Airport
- The construction of a breeding and multiplication center for rabbits
- Automation of tax declaration and payment procedures and deployment of 3,000 electronic invoicing cash registers.

The Ministers concerned are called upon to quickly draw up the budgets in relation to these projects.

The following projects have been selected as second priorities for the 2023/2024 financial year:

1. Agriculture and animal husbandry

- The development of two agro poles of Cibitoke on 1400 ha and Karusi on 500 ha, including livestock breeding and integrated mechanized agriculture (production, conservation, processing and marketing), with an irrigation system;
- Construction of two modern storage sheds in Karusi and Ngozi
- The construction of cattle breeding centers (Karuzi, Bitezi, Ruyanza, Bitare, Kigarika, Randa), pig breeding centers (Karusi), poultry breeding center (Gitega) and rabbit breeding center (Kayanza and Gitega)

2. Infrastructure

- Construction of 5km of paved roads in each capital of Muyinga, Kayanza, Makamba, Cankuzo, Rutana and Gitega provinces
- Rehabilitation of provincial roads:
 - i. Kirundo-Busoni-Bwambarangwe-Giteranyi-Kobero-Butihinda-Gashoho
 - ii. Mugwi-Bukinanyana
 - iii. Gatobo-Kiremba-Marangara-Ntega-Kanyina
 - iv. Bukeye-Butaganzwa
 - v. Gatabo-Mbuye-Rango-Muhanga-Gahombo-Gatara-Kayanza
 - vi. Kumoso-Muzye-kurubaho-Giharo-Ruyigi-Kinyinya
 - vii. Kigwena-Kaberenge-Kivuruga
 - viii. Isale Bugarama

- Construction of 1000 social housing units
- Construction of the Port of Kula fence

3. Health

- Construction and equipment of 37 communal hospitals
- Construction of a cancer center in Gitega

4. Energy and Mining

- Electrification of 36 centers including 21 municipal capitals
- Construction of a carbonized peat processing plant

Other considerations include:

- ❖ Projects in progress or in preparation will continue their process.
- ❖ For the Kajeke Project, set up an Acceptance Commission which will show the company concerned the defects of the work.
- ❖ For the project to build a cancer center in Gitega, contact the International Atomic Energy Agency for a funding request.
- ❖ Regarding the population, housing, agriculture and livestock census, involve the team that worked on the census of young graduates to benefit from its expertise.

To conclude, His Excellency the President of the Republic asked all the ministries, especially those of the productive sectors, to be in front of the population to implement the projects identified with a view to enhancing the country's economy.

**Done at Gitega, 16 March 2023
Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE**

Secretary-General and Spokesman.-

As part of maintaining a permanent dialogue between producers and users of statistical data produced by the national statistical system of Burundi, the National Institute of Statistics of Burundi, with the technical and financial support of the United Nations system, organized a workshop on statistical governance in November 2022.

This workshop was organized insofar as the results of the implementation of Law No. 1/08 of May 20, 2021 amending Law No. 1/17 of September 25, 2007 on the organization of the National Statistical System of Burundi were not appreciated by some development partners and users of statistical data.

From this Workshop, it emerged the need to adapt the institutional and organizational framework of the national statistical system, so that it is able to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities offered by the modernization and technological transformation in the production of up-to-date quality official statistics, in support of development policies and strategies.

In this context, an adjustment of certain provisions of the law in force is proposed so that this law achieves the desired objective. These provisions to be adjusted relate to:

- Defining the scope of official statistics
- Professional independence
- The user consultation mechanism
- Coordination, statistical programs and resources
- Statistical visa

These adjustments will help build credibility and confidence in official statistics and strengthen the relationship between the Government and its development partners as well as with all of Burundi's economic and social actors.

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted with, among other recommendations:

- Review the entire law including the amended provisions to make it easier to read, indicating the amended provisions in the explanatory memorandum;
- Submit the project to the National Legislation Service for editing and translation into Kirundi;

- establish a Service in charge of statistics in each Ministry.

11. Public Investment Program (PIP) 2023-2026, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

This 2023-2026 Public Investment Program (PIP) is drawn up in the context of public finance reforms, in particular the establishment of program budgets, the revision of the Priority Action Plan of the National Development Plan of the new Vision Burundi 40-60, and the resumption of cooperation between Burundi and development partners.

The Public Investment Program constitutes all the projects and programs submitted by the various ministries as milestones for the implementation of the National Development Plan.

It is presented under two major categories, namely projects in progress for which financing is available or assured, and projects for which financing is yet to be mobilized.

In total, there are 382 projects, including 129 projects in progress, 151 projects in preparation, 66 projects with new/approved status and 36 projects with project idea status.

Unlike previous editions, the 2023-2026 Public Investment Program is results-oriented, thus specifying the activities planned under the project for the year in question, the expected results, as well as objectively verifiable indicators.

For the year 2023-2024, the budgetary appropriations available for investment are estimated at BIF 1,265 billion, an increase of 6.82% compared to the year 2022-2023.

After discussion and debate on this Programme, the Council of Ministers adopted it with the following conclusions:

- ❖ The following five priority projects have been selected during the 2023-2024 year:
 - The construction of the Kajeke irrigation dam

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

www.mae.gov.bi

Twitter: @MAEBurundi