



Closing of the 2nd Edition of the National Forum on the Development of Burundi



The President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye closed on friday april 21, 2023, at the "Palais des Congrès in Kigobe", the 2nd Edition of the National Forum on the Development of Burundi.

Various themes were discussed and enriched in plenary. Those are:

- Concept of emergence, vision and purpose of the vision Burundi emerging country in 2040 and developed country in 2060;
- State commitment;
- Economic efficiency (agriculture, infrastructure, energy, mines, services);

-Education, technical and vocational training, entrepreneurship, social protection;

-Health, Water, Hygiene and Sanitation;

- Sustainable ecology and heritage;

-The conducive macroeconomic framework and mobilization of resources.

The President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, after having followed all the related work, thanked the participants for all the very rich contributions which will serve as a foundation for emerging Burundi in 2040 and developed in 2060.

"Reference statistics do not tell the

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reality on the ground. But this reveals the spirit of begging of some Burundians unaware of their identity", lamented President Ndayishimiye, demonstrating that so far use has been made of the photos of the Kamenge Military Hospital in 2009, straw houses of 60 years ago in the country, data relating 50% of malnourished children, etc.

He then urged the Ministers, each in his or her attributions, to take stock of the achievements and draw up the list of needs, and consequently its statistics.

The President of the Republic called on all Burundians to patriotism, good management of public affairs and good governance.

The Number One Burundian pledged to this audience

of expert technicians, to be a good leader in this Vision of Burundi emerging country in 2040, Developed Country in 2060, and promised to punish offenders.

He also invited the expert technicians to a national conference on agriculture, nutrition and the environment which will be organized very soon to assess the state and forecast the prospects.

He finally concluded by thanking the technical and financial partners who support Burundi in a visible way and took the opportunity to call on others to get the country's development off to a good start, which will be beneficial not only to Burundians, but also to other countries.

(www.presidency.gov.bi)

The Head of State receives in audience the Director General of the Council of Canada Fransaskois Schools



On wednesday april 19, 2023, the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye received in audience, at the Presidential Palace of Gitega, a delegation from the Canada Fransaskois Schools led by Mr. Ronald Ajavon, the Director General of this organization.

The exchanges between these two high personalities focused on the relations of cooperation in the educational and agricultural field between Burundi and the province of Saskatchewan in Canada. They explored partnership opportunities, in particular through an agricultur-

al technical school which will be established at Mahwa in Ryansoro commune of Gitega province, a training and practical establishment which will focus on the exchange of young people's experiences and their skills in modern agriculture and animal husbandry.

During this audience, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye pointed out that agriculture and livestock are taken as pilot sectors for the development of Burundi. Therefore, the Director General of the Canada Fransaskois Schools indicated that it is with this in mind that their organization will set up an agricultural school of excellence at Mahwa seed center, to serve as an exchange of experiences between young Burundians and those from Canada. "Young Burundians will be able to go to Canada to strengthen their capacities and knowledge in agro-pastoral matters", he added, while giving a glimmer of hope that these exchanges of experiences will help them to be able to develop these areas prioritized by the Burundian government.

After the audience, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye invited these agro-pastoral experts from Canada to visit the potato greenhouse at Kibimba in Giheta commune of Gitega province, to inquire about the modern multiplication system and protection of selected seeds of this crop, safe from all risks.

(www.presidency.gov.bi)

The Head of State calls on young rabbit breeders to form cooperatives to increase production



During the visits he made on Saturday April 22, 2023 to young rabbit breeders in the Buganda communes of Cibitoke and Muha of the Town Hall of Bujumbura, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye called on them to join in cooperation to increase the production, in order to be able to benefit easily from the markets, being together.

In Buganda commune, Mrs. Bora Njebarikanuye, while she is a graduate in public health, carries out on Gihagarika hill, a breeding of over 110 rabbits, a project which she started on February 2022 with 60 rabbits, after having carried out Internet research on how to raise rabbits. She says that today many people come to buy rabbits from her.

A young electrician by training, but who chose to raise rabbits, Mr. Jadot Uwimana from Gasekebuye district in Muha commune of the economic capital of Burundi, meanwhile, says that he started rabbit farming in 2019 with 10 rabbits which later multiplied to 300.

“But, for lack of means, I chose to reduce up to 100 rabbits. My breeding is very fruitful since after six months, I can sell up to 300 kg of meat at 12,000 BIF per kilogram”, he reassured. President Evariste Ndayishimiye welcomes the courage of this young city dweller, while thanking his parents for their support and their unwavering accompaniment which made this initiative possible.

During these two visits, the Burundian Number One His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye encouraged these breeders and praised their contribution in the fight against poverty in Burundi, especially since their school career did not predestine them to breeding. He asked them to work in synergy with other young breeders by joining forces in cooperatives to increase the production, in order to conquer the internal and external market of the country.

To the Representatives of the Economic Empowerment and Youth Employment Program (PAEEJ), His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye asks them to follow and assist these young rabbit breeders by finding them enough space to pool their breeding. Concretely speaking, he asks them to group these young people into provincial cooperatives to facilitate the sale of their products on the local and international market.

You will know that on the sidelines of these visits, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye went to Gihanga commune of Bubanza province to inquire about the state of the fields, after the appearance of insects attacking to rice crops. He was delighted to note that the SRDI had already started a massive disinsection campaign. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

The cooperatives of Mukike and Rusaka communes committed to producing potatoes to satisfy the domestic and international market



During a visit that the Head of State, His Excellency

Evariste Ndayishimiye, carried out on Tuesday April 18, 2023 in the Mukike and Rusaka communes, respectively in the provinces of Bujumbura and Mwaro, communes which had known, for several years, socio-economic challenges related to low agro-pastoral productivity; the population of these two municipalities

united within the cooperatives says they are committed to producing potatoes to satisfy the domestic and international market.

In Mukike commune of Bujumbura province, the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye began his visit to the potato fields of the Sangwe cooperatives of Kanyunya, Rukina zone before visiting a former civil servant and currently modern agri-pastoralist from the same locality. After a guided tour of his agro-pastoral estate, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye invited other retirees to follow in his footsteps by maintaining development projects.

In Rusaka commune of Mwaro province, the Burundian Number One visited a 3.5 hectare potato field of Sangwe cooperative of Gasenyi hill. President Evariste Ndayishimiye encourages this cooperative which has already achieved a turnover of 153 million 350 miles since 2019.

In each of these two communes, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye held a meeting with the members of the various cooperatives, the natives and the administrative officials where he was delighted with the step taken in the development projects: "Instead of being cultivated, some land was covered with trees and dry grass. I winked at the administration and the population to transform these unproductive grasses and trees into food crops," he reminded.

The Head of State notes with satisfaction that his advice has been heard and followed where almost all the hills have cooperatives invested in the development of their locality. He was also pleased to find that the grassroots administrators took the lead in setting a good example for the population.

"Currently, it is clear that the Burundian population has changed its behavior by joining cooperatives to exchange opinions on development projects," he added.

The President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye also said he was satisfied with the good results recorded by these municipalities of Mukike and Rusaka which have taken a remarkable pace in the execution of development projects, thanks to unity and social cohesion. "Our unity is our strength", specified President Evariste Ndayishimiye before calling on all citizens to remain calm because, he said, "peace is the source of development". "Our common enemy is none other than poverty. Let us change our old mentalities by responding to the vi-

sion of the responsible and hardworking Government by practicing modern agriculture and animal husbandry".

During these talks, the Representatives of the cooperatives of Mukike commune of Bujumbura province and Rusaka commune of Mwaro province had the opportunity to express themselves, through their testimonies, on the way in which they managed to succeed in their agro-pastoral projects within their respective cooperatives.

"We had some ups and downs to start with. Some had even despaired, believing that their cooperatives were going to go bankrupt. But, since we had a common vision, we persisted and eventually succeeded," they revealed.

Regarding the choice of potato crop, the cooperatives of Mukike and Rusaka communes indicate that this crop is very productive and beneficial. Many started to cultivate on a small area but over time they have enlarged the fields and at the moment they even manage to harvest more than 140 tons for a single season. These cooperatives want their products to be sold in other provinces to supply the entire Burundian population.

However, these cooperatives deplore the fact that some inter-zonal roads are defective, which makes the sale of their production a problem. They ask the Head of State to rehabilitate these roads to facilitate these commercial exchanges as well as the exercise of various activities.

Local administrators, for their part, affirmed that they took the lead in preaching by example to their constituents. They specified that in the early days, the population resisted and refused to change their behavior. "The population advocated having many cows and saw this as great wealth. Also, she thought that preserving a large land for the cows is an advantage for the households", testified the administrator of the commune Mukike during his intervention.

"However, the local cows do not give much production. We have thus organized awareness sessions on all the hills," he explained. The administrators affirm that with the collaboration of the population, they will continue to develop projects aimed at the development of the country in general and their municipalities in particular. (www.presidence.gov.bi)

The First Lady of Burundi hurries up to aid of the vulnerable



The First Lady of Burundi Angeline Ndayishimiye on wednesday april 19, 2023 granted aid consisting of mattresses, rice, soaps, milk and loincloths to the NKuba Orphanage at Mutoyi zone in Bugendana commune of Gitega province. This orphanage accommodates 138 vulnerable children, namely orphaned children, elderly women and those suffering from chronic illnesses and adult girls

who were welcomed to this Orphanage as children. The Representative of this Orphanage Mrs. Schinardi Fiorenza warmly thanked the First Lady at the same time the President of the "Fondation Bonne Action Umugiraneza" for this gesture of love.

The First Lady Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye said that she assisted this Orphanage on behalf of the Good Action Umugiraneza Foundation in order to show charity to it.

Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye was accompanied by the Representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Burundi Dr Xavier Crespin. She took this opportunity to thank the WHO, which is sparing no effort in the fight against malnutrition in Burundi.

H.E Angeline Ndayishimiye urged young people to always think and accompany their parents in old age instead of entrusting them to care centers for the elderly. (www.rtnb.bi)

The First Lady calls on the students of Mwaro High School to change their behavior



The First Lady H.E Angeline Ndayishimiye in collaboration with the WHO organized tuesday april 18, 2023, at Mwaro High School in Mwaro Province, an awareness workshop for young boarding students on sexual and reproductive health, HIV / AIDS, nutrition, well-being and the fight against Covid-19. The workshop saw the participation of the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS Dr Sylvie Nzeyimana, that of National Education and

Scientific Research Dr François Hvyarimana, the WHO Representative in Burundi Dr Xavier Crespin as well as all the students of Mwaro High School.

During this workshop, the First Lady of the country urged the students of Mwaro High School to be characterized by discipline to prepare for their future. She advised the students of Mwaro High School to avoid prostitution. The First Lady of the Country informed the students of Mwaro High School that prostitution is the

source of many misfortunes such as school dropouts, unwanted pregnancies, abortion and the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases. She also urged them to avoid naivety, drug use, etc. After the workshop, the First Lady of the country presented to the Director of Mwaro High School, a donation of 150 mattresses, footballs, volleyballs, and basketballs as well as sports shirts for the students. (www.rtnb.bi)

The First Lady launches the production activities of whole fortified corn flour to support the school canteen program



Accompanied by the Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism Mrs. Marie Chantal Nijimbere, the First Lady Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye proceeded, on Monday April 17, 2023, to the official launch of the production activities of the wholemeal flour of fortified corn.

To reach this stage, efforts have been made by the office of the World Food Program (WFP)-Burundi and its partners, including the Rockefeller Foundation, to be able to produce food with high nutritional value in order to satisfy the institutional school canteen market.

According to the Representative and Country Director of the WFP Mr. Taal Houssainou, this initiative could contribute to the improvement of the quality of the food that we give daily to the students.

In her speech, the First Lady spoke of her commitment to support the school canteen program in Burundi. She listed the benefits of this program including allowing students to focus enough on their studies and improving their performance.

Her Excellency the First Lady warmly thanked the

WFP, a main partner of the Government of Burundi in this program which provides daily school meals to approximately 650,000 children in more than 800 schools in seven of the eighteen provinces of the country. The improvement in coverage from year to year, although satisfactory, represents only one in four children in Burundi, while the Government's objective is that every mouth has food at school, every school day. This initiative will contribute to improving the quality of food given daily to students in the school canteen program.

The First Lady also thanked the WFP and its partners, including the Rockefeller Foundation, for the efforts made to be able to produce fortified nutritious foods. She further requested that this fortified corn flour be prepared for consumption after being certified by the skillful agency in order to give the students a flour that is not harmful to their health. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

Muslims urged to set example in building peace, social cohesion and development during Eid-Al-Fithr celebration



ulation to do all possible means to deal with this situation. He also noted that the Muslim community always prays for peace to reign in the sub-region and asked the Burundian population, all categories combined, to

The Islamic community of the provinces of Bujumbura Mairie, Bubanza and Ruyigi joined forces with the whole world on midday april 21, 2023 to celebrate the feast of Eid-El-Fithr.

In Bujumbura, the Political, Social and Cultural Advisor to the Presidency of the Republic of Burundi, Mr. Jean Claude Karerwa Ndenzako represented the Head of State, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye in the ceremonies that took place in the urban commune of Nyakabiga.

In his remarks, Mr. Karerwa Ndenzako asked the Muslim community to always observe good behavior, to contribute to the fight against poverty by investing more in different areas such as trade, infrastructure, health, education, etc The Deputy Legal Representative of the Islamic Community of Burundi (COMIBU) Mr. Othman Protais Ndagijimana, meanwhile, indicated that the celebration of the Eid el fithr holiday is a good opportunity for Muslims and non-Muslims to share joy and food to strengthen friendship.

On this occasion, the Deputy Legal Representative of COMIBU (Islamic Community of Burundi) challenged the Burundian population in general and Muslims in particular to contribute to building a better Burundi economically and in the security field. He said that this day comes when we observe the rise in prices for foodstuffs. He called on the entire Burundian pop-

combine their efforts to safeguard peace.

In Bubanza province, Sheikh Abdoul Karim MIBURO, who led the prayer, asked the Islamic community to continue to adopt good behavior, even after this month of Ramadhan. He called them to humility, to respect for God, to pray five times a day, to solidarity and to mutual help. The other call was to avoid anything that could poison the good relations between this community and God, between them and other creatures, we learn on the spot. It should be noted that 30 vulnerable Muslims received food aid from their peers, in order to celebrate this holiday with joy like the others.

In Ruyigi province, the Representative of the Islamic community, Scheik Saidi Abdoulaziz called on Muslims to carry the torch in the strengthening of peace, social cohesion and development.

The ceremonies of this end of the month of Ramadan took place at the Uhuru stadium in the capital of the province.

In the interview he gave to the ABP, this figure of the Muslim community said that the Muslim community of the place must know its essential role in the development of the province and the whole nation **(ABP)**

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REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat-General of the State**MEDIA RELEASE N°04 CONSECUTIVE TO THE EXTRAORDINARY
CABINET MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17 APRIL 2023**

An Extraordinary Cabinet meeting was held in Bujumbura on Monday 17th of April 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 Friday 14 April 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 issues were analyzed:

1. Bill fixing the general budget of the Republic of Burundi for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

This draft budget had been analyzed by the Council of Ministers on April 5, 2023 and the latter had reached the following conclusions:

- Defer the proposed budget and restructure it differently to take into account the notion of program budget;
- The structures in which the State has shares as well as the level of its shareholding must appear in this draft budget;
- Dividends from entities in which the State has shares must be clearly budgeted as revenue;

- The budgets of State structures with autonomous management, i.e. expenditure and revenue, must appear in the State budget;
- All the State assets must be clearly shown because they constitute capital.

A team of expert economists has been put in place to restructure this budget in accordance with these guidelines.

Among the major allocations retained in this draft budget, it is worth mentioning:

- Salaries and wages and the implementation of salary policy;
- The Railway Construction Project;
- National Fertilizer Subsidy Program;
- Rehabilitation of the Melchior NDADAYE Airport runway;
- The additional allocation from the PBF (Ministry of Public Health);
- Maintenance of military and police troops;
- The purchase of trucks and transmission equipment;
- The Youth Economic Empowerment and Employment Program (PAEEJ);
- Support for development projects of hillside cooperatives;
- The construction of the cancer center;
- Equipment for strengthening the public security and national defense system.

After analyzing the restructured draft budget as recommended, the Council of Ministers adopted it with the following recommendations and observations:

- The amounts allocated to certain budget lines which had been underestimated have been revised upwards, while others which had been forgotten have been created. It is:
 - o Salary remuneration of the National Defense Force of Burundi and the National Police of Burundi, in accordance with the new statutes and salary policy;
 - o PAEEJ operating costs;
 - o Food for prisoners;

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- o Maintenance of boarding students for the Ministry in charge of National Education and the Ministry of Public Health and purchase of vehicles for certain schools for the Ministry of National Education;
 - o Rehabilitation of the Melchior NDADAYE Airport runway;
 - o Construction of the Kwale Port Fence;
 - o Purchase of three double cabin vans for the RTNB;
 - o Counterpart for compensation during the electrification of 42 centers in the Provinces of Kirundo and Muyinga;
 - o The operating costs of the Technical Commissions set up by Order of the Prime Minister.
- Revise upwards the revenue from the following activities because they have been underestimated:
- Mobile telephony
 - o Charging for Short Message Services Mobile (Mobile SMS);
 - o Taxation for Mobile and Fixed Data Services (SDM & Fixed);
 - o Taxation for Mobile Financial Services;
 - o Taxation for other services related to communication via Telephones,
 - The sale of ordinary passports, CEPGL cards and passes.
 - Modernize revenue collection by the Special Traffic and Road Safety Police Services;
 - Increase the fine applied in the event of a traffic accident if this revision does not violate the Highway Traffic Code;
 - Revise the ordinance governing the technical inspection of vehicles;
 - Revise the decree-laws on the organic framework of Burundian public establishments and personalized State administrations to definitively resolve the issue of the Boards of Directors which burden the budgets of these structures when they are not necessary;
 - Institute a fine in the event of damage to public infrastructure;
 - Tax imported luxury vehicles by applying a lump sum and not as a percentage to avoid speculation on the value of the vehicle and by defining them in relation to their power;
 - Increase the registration tax for vehicles and motorcycles.

It was recommended that the ministries concerned put in place all the necessary instruments for these measures to be implemented.

Other recommendations are:

- Implement the construction project of the House of African Youth;
- Check that the additional budgets concerning especially hospitals and municipalities do not contain errors;
- Ensure that there is no activity planned in a ministry but carried out in a Commune while the same Commune has planned it (avoid duplication);
- Start the effective implementation of the salary policy, and if there are any errors, correct them afterwards;
- In this draft budget, comply with the nomenclature provided for by the law on public finances;
- Bring the technicians of the Ministry of Finance to master the program budget software;
- Ensure that the prices of equipment are not overestimated and carry out group purchases to reduce prices;
- Ensure the monitoring and traceability of incoming currencies from tourism;
- Ensure that, with the Year 2024, Burundi:
 - Has an iron industry
 - Exports peat to the Democratic Republic of Congo
 - Produce marble
- Finalize projects that have not received funding through this budget and submit them for funding research (Ministries in charge of ICT, Environment, Youth, etc.);
- Increase the capacity to absorb the budget of projects with funding so that none are canceled.

2. Action Plan for the Prevention and Resilience Allocation – Fiscal Years 2024-2026, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

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Burundi has been a full member of the World Bank since 1963. It is classified in the category of low-income countries and is eligible for the various financing windows of the International Development Association (IDA).

In addition to IDA resources, developing countries can access additional resources from a complementary window called “Fragility, Conflict and Violence”.

Burundi is eligible for this window, which is full of the resources available to support the efforts of countries that are working on public policies/strategies and development programs that address the factors of fragility, conflict and violence.

The eligibility of a country is based, among other things, on the existence of a national conflict prevention strategy with an action plan prepared in consultation with the World Bank.

Burundi is in a good position to be eligible for this funding given the Government's commitment to strengthening peace and stability through existing strategies, namely:

- (i) The National Development Plan;
- (ii) The National Program for Capitalization of Peace, Social Stability and Promotion of Economic Growth.

All these strategies must be supported by an Action Plan for their operationalization. It is for this reason that this action plan has been developed.

If Burundi becomes eligible, the World Bank will make available to it an allocation of approximately USD 150 million in the form of support for the implementation of economic reforms for the period of 3 fiscal years from 2023-2026.

For the fiscal year 2023-2024, an allocation of at least USD 50 million could be disbursed.

After discussion and debate, the Council of Ministers adopted this action plan and made, among other recommendations:

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- Study a format that builds a solid and inclusive Diaspora that really participates in the development of Burundi;
- Ensure that the proposed action plan meets the standards recommended by the World Bank.

3. Any Other Business

His Excellency the President of the Republic informed the members of the Government that the field visits they carried out at the beginning of the Year 2023 were greatly appreciated by the population.

He urged them to organize another raid before the start of the 2023/2024 budget year (i.e. before July 1, 2023) to once again listen to the grievances of the population and address them.

Done at Bujumbura, 17 April 2022

Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE

Secretary-General and Spokesman.-

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

www.mae.gov.bi

Twitter: @MAEBurundi