



President Ndayishimiye supports youth entrepreneurship



On friday october 21, 2022, the Head of State, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, for the first time since his accession to power, participated in a program broadcast live on one of the local channels, Radio Kazoza FM. Through the program “Be your own boss”, he expressed himself in favor of the promotion of youth entrepreneurship.

During this program which lasted 2 hours (from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.), the President of the Republic discussed with the other guests on set and also answered the various questions of the listeners in order to dispel any ambiguity and encourage young people to undertake in order to ensure their empowerment and contribute in return to the socio-economic development of the country.

Speaking on the salutary measures recently taken in Burundi, the Head of State is delighted that, as Father of the Nation, he has contributed to the improvement of the living conditions of the population although many efforts

remain yet to deploy.

On the question of how to realize the principle put forward by the Government of Burundi according to which "every mouth must have food and every pocket money" His Excellency Ndayishimiye indicates that this bet will be won through hard work by all Burundians aiming to increase production until they have a surplus.

"You must endure hardships and meet challenges through hard work," said the Number One Burundian who encourages young people to repatriate in order to contribute to the reconstruction of the country.

He castigated the migratory movement of some Burundians to Serbia, which he compared to the behavior of the prodigal son, reminding that Burundi contains many opportunities and that instead of abandoning their country, they should rather exploit these opportunities.

Based on his own experience, the Burundian President advised low-income citizens to have the courage to initiate small income-generating projects in order to increase family income.

President Ndayishimiye finally called on all Burundians to contribute to improving the image of their country by all possible means and to roll up their sleeves to contribute to its development. (www.presidence.bi).

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Burundians called to keep the legacy of love and unity bequeathed by His Excellency



On Friday October 21, 2022, in a requiem mass celebrated as part of the commemoration of the 29th anniversary of the assassination of His Excellency Melchior Ndadaye, the Hero of Democracy, Burundians were challenged to keep his heritage based on love and the unit.

Hosted by the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye who was accompanied by the First Lady His Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye and several high Dignitaries of the State, this Mass organized in memory of His Excellency Melchior Ndadaye, his close collaborators assassinated the same night and other Burundians killed a few days later, was an opportunity to invite the Burundian people to forgive each other and to reject any form of discrimination like His Excellency Melchior Ndadaye with the support of divine strength.

"It is time to close the bloody page that marks the dark period of the country's history to open the pages of forgiveness and reconciliation in order to move towards sustainable development of the country", said Mgr Anatole Rugerinyange in relying on the word of God taken from Ephesians.

The ceremonies continued at the Mausoleum of the Hero of Democracy of Burundi where his close collaborators and other unknown martyrs also rest. On behalf of all Burundians, the Presidential Couple paid tribute to the Hero of Democracy by the meditation and laying of wreaths on the tomb of the late President Of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Melchior Ndadaye and on that of the unknown martyr, followed by representatives of the diplomatic and consular corps accredited to Burundi, the families of the illustrious disappeared, political parties and many others.

It was an opportunity to remind the guests of the journey of the Hero of Democracy and particularly his speech delivered after the victory of his political party, a speech that marked the spirits through which Excellency Ndadaye announced the establishment of an administration based on unity and justice for all.

Invested on July 10, 1993 for a 5-year term, President Melchior Ndadaye spent only 112 days at the head of the country because he was assassinated on October 21, 1993 of the same year. (www.presidence.bi)

KAZOZA CARE FOR CHILDREN distributes school materials to needy children in Buterere commune



On Wednesday October 5, 2022, KAZOZA CARE FOR CHILDREN, one of the companies of the Burundian Diaspora, had given school materials (notebooks, pens, pencils and slats) to indigent children selected in 100 households in Buterere area, Bujumbura city Hall. It was a great

pleasure for parents and their children who spent more than a year without studying. In these ceremonies, Mr. Didier NDUWIMANA, called Prophet Joshua of Sabaoth Church was present.

In his speech, Prophet Joshua encouraged these children by asking them to take advantage of this opportunity to study because this school material is available because of some people have sacrificed themselves and want this new generation to grow up with a heart full of love. He asked them to be grateful for this gesture and to do it to others in the future.

The pupils thanked KAZOZA CARE FOR CHILDREN from the bottom of their hearts for this good deed because on their part, they had already lost the hope to rejoin the schools, because their parents are unable to get for them the necessary in order to study.

On the parents' side, they were delighted with this great initiative of KAZOZA CARE FOR CHILDREN to help indigent children and their parents so that they continue to study. The parents had also asked this company a help of a certain amount of money for small projects to be able to feed these children. The enumerator of these 100 households said that it was not an easy job before but finally it was a great success for these households. She took this opportunity to thank KAZOZA CARE FOR CHILDREN and Prophet Joshua for this great gesture. The Representative of KAZOZA CARE FOR CHIL-

DREN in Burundi, Mrs. Emelyne NIYONSABA said that this company began its activities in 2019, with the objective of helping indigent children and parents. This company began to take care of 10 children, and some of them have finished secondary school and they are proud of the step taken. She then said that they chose Buterere area because they found that this commune has a lot of children and households in poverty. She finally thanked all those who contributed to make this work successful. **(MFADC)**

Agricultural inputs must reach farmers within a week



On Monday October 17, 2022, in a meeting to assess the progress of preparations for season A held in political capital at Gitega, for senior officials and executives of the Ministry in charge of Agriculture and Livestock, and those of the Ministry in charge of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security, Provincial Governors and Communal Administrators. Prime Minister Lieutenant General of the Police Gervais Ndirakobuca announced that the poorest farmers whose seeds have not germinated or have been destroyed due to lack of rain will benefit from new seeds so as not to miss this growing season. During this meeting, the Prime Minister invited each Governor to present the situation of agricultural inputs (seeds and fertilizers) available in his province and the quantities expected, the areas intended for cultivation and those already sown. After learning about the progress of preparations for cropping season A, the Prime Minister asked the Representative of the FOMI factory to supply before the end of this week Imbura-type fertilizer to

the provinces which do not have it, have not yet had a sufficient quantity, up to at least 70% of the needs expressed. He also pointed out that the provinces of Cibitoke, Bujumbura and Bubanza do not have enough Bagara and Totahaza type fertilizers and asked the FOMI factory to provide them with these inputs as soon as possible.

The Prime Minister took this opportunity to ask municipal administrators and technicians from the Provincial Offices for the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock (BPEAE) to identify the poorest farmers whose seeds do

not have germinated or have been destroyed by lack of rain and provide them with new seeds to avoid missing this season.

At the same time, he recommended that the administrators and technicians of the BPEAEs ensure the quantities of agricultural inputs that are in the provincial and communal warehouses and follow their delivery in the areas and on the hills.

The Prime Minister also invited the administrative authorities to organize searches to seize the fertilizers marketed fraudulently and give them to the poorest farmers.

He also recommended that the administrators and technicians of the BPEAEs develop and popularize export crops on a large scale, in order to have foreign currency.

Finally, the Prime Minister asked the administrators to enforce the new prices of BRARUDI products. He specified that there are no more high-end bistros and that all refreshment bars must now charge the same prices, except for hotels. (www.rtnb.bi)

Visit of a delegation of Belgian investors in Burundi



On tuesday october 17, 2022, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation Mr. Ferdinand Bashikako received in audience a delegation of Belgian investors from the company TARGET CONSULTING GROUP led by Mr. Alexis Franck. Their exchanges were centered on certain projects

that this company wants to carry out in Burundi in the fields of energy, telecommunications, protection of forests and the development of the International Airport Melchior NDADAYE and the Port of Bujumbura etc.

Mr. Alexis FRANCK announced that initially, these investors will build a Shopping Center in the Gatumba zone, MUTIMBUZI commune which will be used for trade between Burundi and neighboring countries, in particular the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Zambia via the shipping from Lake Tanganyika.

The Permanent Secretary appreciated their projects and welcomed the investors to Burundi. Mr. Ferdinand Bashikako said that the Government of Burundi encourages investors working in the economic development sector and projects that are among the priorities of the National Plan of Burundi 2018-202. **(MFADC)**

Launch of the campaign of spraying, fertilizing and planting coffee trees



On thursday october 20, 2022, the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock proceeded, on the Gihuga hill of the Giheta commune in the province of Gitega to the national launch of the campaign of spraying, fertilization and establishment of coffee plants. The activities of this campaign were enhanced by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry in charge of Agriculture and Livestock Mr. Prosper Dodiko with the DG of ODECA Mr. Emmanuel Niyungenko.

In his speech, the Permanent Secretary Mr. Prosper Dodiko said that coffee has been grown in Burundi since 1920 and brings the country more than 80% of foreign currency by exporting this product.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock urged the population in general and coffee growers in particular to properly maintain coffee, an export crop of great importance in the economy national.

To encourage the cultivation of coffee, the Government of Burundi has revised upwards the price of coffee per kg and granted coffee plants and pesticides to farmers free of charge, said Mr. Prosper Dodiko. The Government gives coffee growers 40% of fertilizers and the remaining 60% is paid by the State, added the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock.

The participants in this event followed how to practice spraying with the appropriate tools, how to fertilize coffee plants as well as the procedures for setting up coffee plants. **(www.rtnb.bi)**

The CNAR Center in Gitega receives a donation of equipment



On monday october 17, 2022, the Minister of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender Mrs. Imelde Sabushimike proceeded to the delivery of a radiology device to the national center for equipment and rehabilitation (CNAR) of Gitega. This device was donated by the

Umuseke Foundation, whose headquarters are in Italy. This is a sigh of relief for the CNAR whose radiology department had not been working for 8 months.

The Minister having National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender in her attributions expressed her gratitude to the Umuseke Foundation for the donation of the radiology device to the CNAR center. It is a gift of great importance for the Burundian population who request services from CENAR because this center welcomes people with limited means.

The Minister in charge of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender has appealed to anyone living with a disability or who has had an accident to go to this national center for treatment because, according to the Minister, this X-ray machine is available to anyone who needs it for health care. (www.rtnb.bi)

Celebration of the International Day of Peace



On monday october 17, 2022, the Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender, in collaboration with the UNDP, organized a day of exchanges on human rights for municipal councilors and social workers from Gitega province in the capital of Gitega province. The day was organized as part of the celebration of the International Day of Peace, 2022 Edition.

In her speech, the Minister for National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender Mrs. Imelde Sabushimike indicated that the International Day of Peace is celebrated every year on september 21. The theme for this year is "End Racism. Build Peace".

The Minister explained that peace is an essential condition for the development of good between communities. And to add that the concept of peace remains one of the major elements inherited from the

cultural universe of our ancestors.

She said that the Government spares no effort to ensure the peace and security of the population so that it can go about its development work in peace. Participants in this human rights training workshop received the presentations on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, categorical rights and responsible citizenship. (www.rtnb.bi)

Celebrating International Women's Day 2022 Edition



On Tuesday October 18, 2022, Burundi celebrated the International Day of Rural Women, 2022 Edition. Organized by the Ministry in charge of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, this day was celebrated in the political capital of Gitega under the theme: "Rural women at the heart of a balanced diet for all". The ceremonies were enhanced by the presence of the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry in charge of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender Mr. Pontien Hatungimana, the Resident Representative of WHO in Burundi, the Governor of Gitega province as well as other senior executives and officials of the said Ministry.

The celebration of the International Day of Rural Women was overstated by traditional dances relating the role and importance of rural women in Burundian society and the display of the Burundian drum. This day was also marked by the exhibition and sale of manufactured products made by women and agricultural products, the fruit of the efforts and labor of rural women.

In his speech for the occasion, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry in charge of National Solidarity Mr. Pontien Hatungimana indicated that rural women contribute enormously to the development of the country in general and of families in particular, through work in the fields and the livestock. For this reason, the rural woman is considered as a pillar of development, from several angles.

On her side, the Representative of Rural Women hailed the initiatives of the Burundian Government and its partners to support rural women and promote their integral development. Among other things, she appreciated the establishment of the Investment and Development Bank for Women (BIDF), the free access of girls to education as well as the participation of women in decision-making bodies. and many others.

Nevertheless, she deplores the fact that rural women are still subject to violence in the family and in the community and calls on the Government of Burundi to make more efforts to further protect rural women from attacks directed against them, by putting in place other legal instruments that advocate for the protection and promotion of women's rights.

On behalf of the representative of the United Nations system in Burundi, the Resident Representative of the WHO in Burundi, Dr. Xavier Crispin suggested on this occasion that the United Nations positively appreciates the role of rural women in Burundi. He said that the United Nations will always support initiatives aimed at the political and socio-economic empowerment of rural women.

The ceremonies ended with a visit to the stands of food and manufactured products made by rural women, in an exhibition and sale that will last two days. (www.rtnb.bi)

Towards the establishment of an early warning system to prevent disasters



On Monday October 17, 2022 Burundi joined the world in celebrating the

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2022 Edition under the theme: "Early warning, pillar of resilience for community development". The ceremonies of this day took place at the football field of the Muha camp in the urban commune of Muha.

The activities of this day began with a visit to a ravine located in the Gasekebuye district in Muha commune supported within the framework of the resilience of the risks of natural disasters carried out by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in collaboration with the national platform risk reduction and disaster management funded by the European Union.

In his speech, the delegate of the United Nations Resident Representative in Burundi, Dr Xavier Crispin in the ceremonies indicated that the United Nations will take the lead in a new action to guarantee that every person on earth is protected by precocious warning systems within 5 years.

In Burundi, the disaster risk reduction system has been greatly strengthened in recent years as more than one knows, Burundi is one of the countries most affected by climate change, and it is regularly hit by a variety natural hazards linked to slow-acting hydrometeorological and climatic events.

These hydro-meteorological events (stormy winds, torrential rains, landslides and floods) and slow-acting climatic events (drought, soil degradation and erosion) are responsible for more than 90% of the displacement of people and leave tens of thousands of homeless people.

These natural disasters cause serious damage by means of substance, they destroy houses, agricultural lands, shops, roads, schools and are therefore a brake on growth and development.

According to Dr. Xavier Crispin, the impacts of environmental and climate change are felt across the country, so action must be taken without delay to build resilience to change in the country, in order to

reduce the risks associated with disasters.

Dr. Xavier Crispin says that the National Development Plan (PND2018_2027) which integrates disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change eloquently reflects the efforts and commitment of the Government to prevent these risks, the United Nations pledge to support these efforts.

It is with this in mind that concerted action to set up an early warning system was carried out to prevent and enable more effective and efficient management of disasters in Burundi. In this context, equipment, a multi-risk map and the updating of contingency plans have been financed.

As for the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Interior, Community Development and Public Security André Ndayambaje, the celebration of this day marks the mid-term review of the Sendai framework which will conclude at a high-level meeting of the general assembly in May 2023 to a political declaration.

This international day of reduction is normally celebrated on October 13 of each year. This day was instituted by the Sendai Conference, which adopted a new disaster risk reduction framework that sets seven measurable goals to be achieved by 2030.

The Permanent Secretary of the Minister in charge of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security indicated that the Government has carried out resilient actions such as the establishment of the national platform, the national strategy 2018-2025, the plans for contingency, multi-risk mapping, the risk prevention fund, the network of journalists and soon intends to open a school of risk management which will be regional, the protection of the banks of the Rusizi river and the increase in intervention equipment.

The celebration of this day in Bujumbura Town Hall has a particular meaning because the municipalities in Bujumbura are among the high-risk places according to the multi-risk mapping.

André Ndayambaje asked the authorized services to redouble their efforts so that the early warning system is effective to warn the populations before the disasters fall on them without knowing it. He thanked all the development partners for their multifaceted support. . (www.rtnb.bi)

BHB: Towards the facilitation of banking operations



On Monday October 17, 2022, Banque de l'Habitat du Burundi BHB launched a new money transfer product for its customers: BHB e-cash. This product is the result of a partnership between BHB and the Sasai Fin Tech Company known as ECOCASH.

This partnership will allow the bank's customers to carry out money transfer operations from the customer's bank account to their ECOCASH account and vice versa, including withdrawal, balance consultation, mini history, from their bank account via the mobile phone, said Mr. François Nibizi, Managing Director of the Banque de l'Habitat du Burundi.

According to the Managing Director General (ADG), following the transformation of the Urban Housing Promotion Fund into the Burundi Housing Bank (BHB) and after the official launch of its activities, the BHB has set itself the objective of becoming a local bank in order to better serve its customers.

To achieve this objective, the BHB has decentralized its activities by creating branches in Ngozi, Rumonge, Gitega and in the three communes of the town hall of Bujumbura.

But the observation is that not all customers who have opened their accounts can do banking because the BHB is not yet in all the provinces of the country.

In order to meet the needs of its customers and improve its brand image, BHB has decided to negotiate partnership contracts with the platforms of payment systems by money transfer, ECOCASH and LUMI-CASH. The Managing Director General of Banque de l'Habitat du Burundi concluded that these partnerships will allow BHB customers to carry out banking operations via mobile phones without having to go to the bank's counters. (www.rtnb.bi)

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REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat-General of the State**MEDIA RELEASE N° 18 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER 2022**

A Cabinet meeting was held in Bujumbura on Thursday 20th of October 2022, 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 held on Friday 04 October 2022, 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 Government Annual Action Plan, Fiscal Year 2022-2023, presented by the Offices of the Presidency of the Republic.

In order to organize the annual planning in accordance with the budget year which begins with July 1 of the year and ends on June 30 of the following year, and taking into account the notion of program budgets and program contracts, a new Annual Action Plan for the 2022-2023 Financial Year has just been drawn up, integrating the Annual Work Plan and Budget "PTBA" which shows the quarterly results to be achieved with a related budget.

The 2022-2023 Government Action Plan is a summary of the actions that the ministries have planned as key activities for the 2022-2023 budget year.

The actions retained in the Annual Action Plan have a national scope and ensure the implementation of sectoral policies and strategies, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, (SDGs) pursue the objectives set out in Vision Burundi 2025 and are part of the main axes of the National Development Plan of Burundi. This Action Plan also includes actions from the National Project "EWE BURUNDI URAMBAYE".

This Plan shows the objectives to be achieved, the concrete actions to be carried out, the expected results, and the objectively verifiable indicators, the areas of action, the deadlines, the budget and the sources of financing.

Finally, this Plan constitutes, in each of its sectoral components, a commitment of the ministry concerned for the results presented on each action.

It must provide concrete solutions to the expectations of the population, and it is on the basis of the results on the ground that the ministries will be evaluated.

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

- Raising awareness on the correlation between the Annual Action Plan and the Program Budget so that everyone has the same understanding;
- Prioritize activities that are visible and have a direct impact on the ground and on the population;
- That the Ministry in charge of Finance be quicker to make available the necessary funds for the financing of activities within the deadlines provided for in the Action Plan;
- Show the overall cost of the Action Plan as well as the total amounts according to the sources of financing;
- Ensure that the rating criteria are the same for all ministries;
- In addition to the National Development Plan as a reference, the Head of State's Keynote Speech must be taken into account to identify priority actions;

- It is necessary to evaluate the execution of the National Development Plan and the Program Speech of the Head of State to identify the urgent and priority actions to be implemented;
- Integrate the adjustments proposed by the various ministries and that the document be prepared as quickly as possible;
- In the future, the Services of the Presidency of the Republic will guide sector technicians in the selection of key actions that take into account the vision of the Highest Authority;
- Prepare in time the annual action plans for the next budget years;
- In the development of the next action plans, ensure in time that these are linked to the National Development Plan and the Public Investment Program.

2. Bill revising the status of the legal profession, presented by the Minister of Justice.

The legal profession is currently governed by Law No. 1/014 of November 29, 2002 reforming the Statute of the legal profession.

With nearly two decades of existence of this law, it no longer fits with current realities and deserves to be updated.

Indeed, since its entry into force, the phenomenon of globalization, the development of technologies, the reforms of higher education, Burundi's membership of regional organizations as well as the proliferation of bars have had an impact on the status of the legal profession.

It is therefore appropriate to update this law, which has now become anachronistic, to meet the requirements of the moment.

The main innovations of the bill are as follows:

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- Adapt the law to the BMD system in order to respond to the incessant requests of law graduates who want to embark on a career as a lawyer, because the law in force only admits holders of at least a law degree as trainee lawyers.
- Provide for compulsory initial professional training before being admitted as a trainee lawyer;
- Provide for compulsory continuing professional training for all active Lawyers to adapt the intellectual knowledge of Lawyers to the evolution of society and science;
- Establish a framework for the coordination of bars, in this case a national council of bars, to deal with any disputes that may arise between Lawyers from different bars;
- Take into account the integration of Burundi into the EAC because the cross-border mobility of Lawyers must be a reality.

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

- Extend the ban on practicing the profession of lawyer to those who have been dismissed from a state institution with specific status such as the OBR, the BRB, etc;
- Clearly mention the oath that the Lawyer must take;
- Remain open to other regional communities of which Burundi is a member in addition to the EAC;
- With regard to the degree required to be a trainee lawyer, specify that it is the baccalaureate degree or equivalent from a recognized University in Burundi or a foreign degree admitted in academic equivalence in Burundi;
- Specify what will be done for a trainee who fails more than once in the passage test from the small board to the large board;
- Specify that assistance to a vulnerable person by a designated Lawyer is free and that this vulnerable person cannot be from the Lawyer's family;
- Indicate the sanctions to be applied in the event of excessive failure by a Lawyer.

3. Bill on the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the IDA financing agreement No. E0700-BI between the Republic of Burundi and the International Development Association in favor of the Trade Facilitation and Integration

Project in the Great Lakes Region (PFCIGL)”, presented by the Minister of Commerce, Transport, Industry and Tourism.

Burundi's National Development Plan makes boosting growth sectors one of its main priorities. In this context, the Government is committed to developing lake transport and other waterways, and revitalizing the trade sector.

Thus, in order to promote this sector, Burundi and its development partners must channel substantial financial resources into it. The preparation of the Trade Facilitation and Integration Project in the Great Lakes Region is one of the responses to this concern.

The objective of the Project is to facilitate trade and improve the marketing of selected value chains, mainly targeting small traders and women traders in the border regions of the Great Lakes region.

The overall budget of the project at the regional level is 250 million US dollars, including 90 million dollars for Burundi.

After discussion and debate, the bill was adopted with the recommendation to ensure that all the documents to accompany this bill are complete.

4. Draft decree on the creation, organization and operation of the steering committee in charge of reforms based on international indicators of political, institutional, economic and social governance, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

In the early 2010s, the Government of Burundi embarked on a wave of reforms relating to the business climate and the economic, political and social environment, with a view to improving its international image and its scores in various rankings affecting these areas. Structures have been put in place for this purpose.

However, with the new Constitution of 2018 and the current structure of the Government, certain key structures of the institutional framework in charge of these reforms, including the steering committee, have been restructured, in particular the Second Vice-Presidency which has been replaced by the Office of the Prime Minister.

In this context, a revision or adaptation of the Institutional Framework is necessary to revitalize it and comply with the new structure of the Government and the current context.

To do this and for greater efficiency, the Government of Burundi has decided to create a single Steering Committee which will be responsible for Reforms based on International Indicators and Political, Institutional, Economic and Social Governance.

This Steering Committee will be chaired by the Prime Minister and will be composed of 11 Members of the Government, 6 representatives of the structures most concerned by these reforms and a representative of the private sector.

The Steering Committee will have an office and will be supported by Technical Working Groups.

After analysis, the project was adopted with the following recommendations:

- Reduce the number of government members in the Steering Committee to retain only key ministries;
- Delete the Executive Secretariat because the Coordinator of the Office of Strategic and Development Studies will ensure the Secretariat of the Committee;

5. Bill ratifying the trade agreement between the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Government of the Republic of Burundi, presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

The Republic of Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), referring to the revised General Cooperation Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo,

signed in Kinshasa, on September 02, 2021 and following the visit to this country by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Burundi in July 2021, have decided to strengthen and develop trade relations on the basis of equality and mutual understanding, to intensify bilateral ties of friendship and to extend their framework of cooperation.

To this end, a trade agreement between the two countries was signed in Kinshasa on April 29, 2022 and needs to be ratified for it to come into force.

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

- Put in place support measures so that this commercial cooperation agreement is properly implemented;
- Build the bridge over the Rusizi linking Burundi to the Democratic Republic of Congo to facilitate the movement of goods and people between these two countries;
- Advocate for the Uvira-Bukavu road to be built in order to facilitate trade between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo;
- Assess the needs necessary to align the Burundi Bureau of Standardization and Quality Control at the level of standardization offices meeting the standards, in order to ensure the competitiveness of processed products in Burundi.

6. Draft decree establishing a Public Center for Polytechnic Training and Professional Retraining, presented by the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research.

The Government of Burundi is committed to developing the human capital essential for growth and social and economic development.

But it is observed that the training offers in fundamental, post-basic and higher education are mainly oriented towards the acquisition of knowledge but are not very

oriented towards learning a trade. The education sector has until now kept a theoretical, generalist and little professionalizing character.

As a result, there is a large mass of the active population without professional skills and forced into unemployment.

In addition, the rapid evolution of technologies does not allow different personnel to adapt to new tools and production machines.

To deal with this issue and respond to the difficulties and challenges encountered in the education sector, the Government plans to create Public Centers for Polytechnic Training and Vocational Retraining.

This type of center is essential for the implementation of an ambitious development policy.

After discussion and debate, the draft decree was adopted with the following observations and recommendations:

- Provide the Center with the skills to certify individual skills and issue to those who complete the training the higher technician certificate;
- Proceed with the popularization of this Center so that all those who could be interested in training are aware of its existence;
- Registration in these Centers will be voluntary and the training will be paid for;
- Ensure the quality of trainers in these Centers so that they provide solid practical training capable of attracting graduates;
- Highlight the sectors that have opportunities in the world of employment because they are the ones that attract the most candidates;
- Before considering the construction of other Centers, ensure that the Rusi Center is functioning properly;
- Evaluate the functioning of the Trades Teaching Centers to possibly find another orientation to give them;

- The Center will be headed by a Director General with regard to the specificity of its missions;
- Have the Ministry of the Interior represented on the Board of Directors;
- Consider organizing a workshop bringing together all the approved universities in Burundi to discuss the loan-scholarship system;
- Annually update the ordinance regulating the loan-scholarship.

7. Second Amendment to the Financing Agreement for the Project to Intensify Agricultural Production and Reduce Vulnerability in Burundi (PIPARV-B) by integrating Grant n^o2000003623 of USD 9,994,500 from the Green Climate Fund (GCF)), presented by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock

With the aim of ensuring sustainable food security, economic growth and improving the incomes of the population, the Government of the Republic of Burundi has designed and is in the process of implementing the National Development Plan, in particular through a mobilization of necessary financial resources.

It is within this framework that, with the support of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Government of the Republic of Burundi formulated the Project for the Intensification of Agricultural Production and Reduction of Vulnerability in Burundi (PIPARV -B), whose initial financing agreement was signed on February 13, 2019, for an amount of 27.488 million USD and a duration of 6 years.

IFAD has already mobilized additional financing of USD 10 million, which has been amended to the Financing Agreement.

Still with the support of IFAD, the Government of Burundi obtained, from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), a donation of 9,994,500 USD for the co-financing of PIPARV-B.

To facilitate the implementation of this financing, it was agreed to integrate it into the IFAD financing agreement which is the main financing of PIPARV-B, hence the second amendment to the PIPARV financing agreement -B signed by IFAD.

At the end of the analysis, the project was adopted.

- 8. Bill on the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the IDA financing agreement n^o E0930-B1 between the Republic of Burundi and the International Development Association in favor of the Support Project for the Foundations of the Digital Economy (PAFEN) signed in Bujumbura on September 01, 2022, presented by the Minister of Communication, Information Technologies and the Media.**

The development objective of the Support Project for the Foundations of the Digital Economy is to increase access to high-speed internet, particularly for underserved populations, and to improve the government's ability to deliver public services digitally. The source of funding for this Project is a grant from the International Development Association in the amount of fifty million US dollars.

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted with the recommendation to accelerate the digitization of public finances and the digital identity card.

**Done at Bujumbura, 20 October 2022
Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE**

Secretary-General and Spokesman.-

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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