



**President Ndayishimiye took part in COP28**



**O**n Monday December 4, 2023, the Burundian Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye accompanied by the First Lady, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, returned to the country after a work mission carried out in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, where alongside his Counterpart Heads of State and Government, he took part in the United Nations conference on climate change (COP28) held from December 1 to 2, 2023.

During a lively press briefing upon his arrival in Bujumbura, the President

of the Republic suggested that during this conference he returned to the country's multiple initiatives aimed at protecting and restoring landscapes including the "Ewe Burundi Urambaye" program and also reiterated the call for a synergy of efforts to translate promises into action.

He also indicated that Burundi is the first one on the list of countries having most taken into account the health of the population in their climate change mitigation plan according to the recent report from the Global Alliance for Climate Change.

On the sidelines of COP28, His Excellency President Ndayishimiye took

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part in an event on green industrialization organized by Kenya. An opportunity to discuss the best path to propel Africa towards a carbon neutral economy. The Head of State also received in audience the investors wishing to provide their support in the sports sector and promised to visit the country in the coming days to contact the technical services with a view to setting up

the cooperation frameworks. .

Still on the sidelines of COP28, the Agreements in the mining sector between the United Arab Emirates and Burundi were signed by the Ministers responsible for foreign affairs of the two countries in the presence of the Burundian Head of State. **(Presidency)**

### The Head of State enhances the taxpayer's day with his presence



**O**n Tuesday December 5, 2023, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye enhanced with his presence the Taxpayer's Day, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition organized in Bujumbura under the theme "Let's use modern technology for online declaration and payment of taxes and fees , let's support the development of the country."

The Commissioner of the Burundian Revenue Office (OBR) Mr. Jean Claude Manirakiza indicated that that Day is an opportune moment for the self-evaluation, for congratulating ourselves on the progress already recorded and an opportunity to deplore the shortcomings and errors committed.

Mr. Jean Claude Manirakiza indicated that the new technology of electronic declaration and electronic payment of taxes brought added the value to the country because it allowed the increase in revenue to the public treasury and the reduction of tax and customs fraud.

Despite the significant progress in the collection of taxes, the Commissioner General of the OBR deplors the behavior of certain OBR agents who collaborate with certain traders or the economic operators in tax fraud. Some of them were fired, others imprisoned, said Jean Claude MANIRAKIZA.

Mr. Olivier Suguru, President of the Federal Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Burundi (CFCIB), in response to that concern, indicated that that organization will work in synergy with the Government of Burundi to combat the committed fraud, including the fraud tax and the customs duties.

In his speech for the occasion, the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE pointed at certain executives and agents of the OBR who display the notorious complicity in tax fraud, calling for a change in behavior. And to specify that a law on digitalization will soon be put in place, with a view to repressing anyone who disregards the law. **(RTNB)**

### Seminar for the Heads of Diplomatic and Consular Missions of Burundi abroad



**O**n December 7 and 8, 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation organized a seminar for the Heads of Diplomatic and Consular Missions of Burundi abroad.

On Thursday December 7, 2023, His Excellency the President of the Republic Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE met behind closed doors the Heads of Diplomatic and Consular Missions of Burundi abroad at the Ntare House palace.

After that session, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO discussed about the current situation of Burundian diplomacy, then he indicated that that seminar is organized at a time when Burundi is experiencing a new



momentum of development with the vision of Burundi as an Emerging country in 2040 and a Developed country in 2060. The Minister Albert SHINGIRO reminded the Heads of the Diplomatic and Consular Missions of the Ministry's commitment for strengthening the economic diplomacy through an awareness raising in favor of the foreign direct investments, trade, tourism promotion, infrastructure and technology transfer.

In his speech, the President of the Republic, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE said that that seminar will be of a great importance, because it will be an opportunity for their self-assessments and their determinations in promoting the Burundian diplomacy. The President of the Republic urged the leaders, including the Diplomats, to use their positions in order to bring about a significant positive change, each in their field, although the resistance to change was always reported.

The Head of State asked the Burundian Diplomats accredited abroad to praise the riches of their country including coffee, tea, tourist sites, the climate, the quality of its food, etc. He took the opportunity

to tell them about the Vision of Burundi as an Emerging country in 2040 and a Developed country in 2060, before enlightening their conscience on the contribution of all Burundians to the success of that objective. He reminded the major pillars of the sustainable development including peace and security, the program budget, the digitalization of services and an awakened conscience for the interest of his homeland. The President of the Republic finally announced that a new action plan, including the challenges and solutions discussed in that seminar, will be accomplished for a dynamic diplomacy.

The second day of the seminar of the Heads of Diplomatic and Consular Missions was marked by the various presentations and discussions on the Diaspora, the new agreements relating to the Burundian migrant workers, the new Cooperation Framework Plan between Burundi and the United Nations Development System, the new approach to the financial management (program budget) and the activity reports: findings and reminders of the expected results.

The seminar ended with the reading of the recommendations made during that activity. **(MFADC)**

### The First Lady of Burundi highlights the importance of the fight against AIDS on International Day



**O**n Wednesday December 6, 2023, the First Lady Her Excellency Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE, took part in the ceremonies to celebrate the International AIDS Day in the province of Ruyigi, normally celebrated on December 1 of each year. Under the theme "Let's entrust the leadership to Communities," the First Lady delivered a committed speech, highlighting Burundi's the remarkable achievements in the fight against

that disease and the challenges that remain.

In her speech, the First Lady welcomed the significant progress made by Burundi in the fight against AIDS, which has earned the international recognition for having progressed towards the ambitious UNAIDS target of 95-95- 95, in the Central and East Africa region. However, she reminded that despite those encouraging advances, it is essential to persevere because the path to the total elimination of the disease still remains long.

The First Lady expressed her deep concern about the persistence of cases of contamination among the Burundian population, particularly among the young people. She stressed that the fight against AIDS is a collective responsibility, because the consequences of that disease affect the whole of society and hinder the development of the country. She strongly denounced the harmful practices that contribute to the spread of the virus, such as the use of narcotics and the sexual violence, and called on each individual to actively en-

gage in the prevention and eradication of those practices.

In a fervent call for justice, the First Lady demanded that the perpetrators of rape and other wrongdoing against the young girls be severely punished. She also requested the increased involvement of the administrative authorities to prevent the new contaminations among the children and promote the appropriate protection measures. Furthermore, she expressed her gratitude to international partners who continue to support Burundi in that crucial fight, while encouraging the continued cooperation in strengthening the national capacities in that area. Various prizes were awarded by the Consultative and Decision-Making Framework of the Organizations of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) and the Community of Communes of Pithiverais

(CCDP+) to champions in the fight against AIDS in Burundi including H.E the First Lady and President of the Office of the First Lady for Development (OPDD)-Burundi, the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS (MSPLS), the U.S Embassy in Burundi, and the National Association for Support of HIV-positive and AIDS patients (ANSS).

The celebration of the International AIDS Day was a moment marked by the mobilization of the First Lady and many committed actors from the Burundian Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS. That event strengthened the determination of all participants to intensify the awareness, prevention and treatment efforts, in order to achieve the goals set by UNAIDS and ensure the better health for all Burundians. **(Presidency)**

### People with disabilities called upon to plan the development projects



On Thursday November 7, 2023, the national fitting and rehabilitation center located in Gitega celebrated its golden jubilee and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities which is normally celebrated on December 3 each year. The ceremonies were enhanced by the presence of the Prime Minister of the Government of Burundi, Lieutenant General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca and the Minister in charge of national solidarity. The speeches delivered on that occasion suggest that the Government of Burundi has made a lot of efforts to support people with disabilities.

The festivities began with a thanksgiving Mass celebrated at the Saint Sacrement Parish of Gitega. That Mass saw the participation of the Prime Minister Lieutenant General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca, the Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, Mrs. Imelde Sabushimike, senior executives of the Prime Minister's office, executives

and Heads of the various decentralized services in Gitega as well as the population and current beneficiaries of the National Apparatus and Rehabilitation Center (CNAR).

During that Mass, the celebrant Priest reminded the origins of the CNAR in 1973, initially a center for the disabled managed by the Catholic Church to become a national center in 1986. Under the theme "United in action to save and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals for, with and by people with disabilities". The festivities were enhanced by the demonstrations of performances by disabled artists developing their numbers while calling for their inclusion in economic development planning in various sectors of national life.

In her speech for the occasion, the Minister responsible for the social affairs, Madame Imelde Sabushimike, noted that the considerable efforts are being made to support people with disabilities in Burundi. She notably cited the services of the CNAR where disabled people with proven economic vulnerability are treated free of charge. Across the country, she noted, the Government of Burundi has already built more than 1,500 homes for vulnerable disabled people while those who can and who can raise walls benefit from the Government's sheets.

Ms. Sabushimike thanked the specialized centers and certain public schools which have already integrated inclusive education into their programs.

For his part, the Burundian Prime Minister reaffirmed the Burundian Government's commitment to ensuring the well-being of the entire population in general and people

with disabilities in particular. And to call on the international organizations working in Burundi to include in their action plans, projects aimed at the economic empowerment of people living with the disabilities. The organizations of the United Nations system have been called in a particular way asking them to follow in the footsteps of the Government of Burundi which continues to be concerned about the well-being of that category of people.

Addressing people with the disabilities to address their grievances, Prime Minister Lieutenant General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca asked people with disabilities to plan the development projects in line with the Government's vision of making Burundi an Emerging country in 2040 and a country developed in 2060. He asked the confederation of associations of people living with disabilities to plan development projects that align with the 2040-2060 vision of the

Government of Burundi, which will allow the Government of Burundi to review increasing the budget allocated to this sector, especially since Burundi has now adopted a program budget system.

The Head of the Burundian Government calls on Burundians to contribute effectively to forever banishing the unworthy behavior of people who roam the cities all day long begging, reminding that those who are returned to families do not take long to return to the streets. "In the community, every citizen must contribute to the supervision of street children returned to the families so that they do not return there," insisted the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister and the Minister in charge of national solidarity provided the food assistance to the national equipment and rehabilitation center to support it in its activities to care for disabled people. **(RTNB)**

### Some oral presentations with debate for the Minister responsible for Public Health



During the plenary session of December 8, 2023, the National Assembly invited the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, Mrs. Lydwine Baradahana, to answer the questions of the Honorable Deputies concerning the audit report released by the Court of Auditors on the budgetary management capacity of its Ministry for the period from 2019/2020 to 2022/2023. The main objective of that session was to clarify the issues raised by the Honorable Deputies and to provide detailed explanations on the findings of that report. The audit carried out by the Court of Auditors focused on the evaluation of the budgetary and accounting management conditions, as well as on the evaluation of the internal control capacity. Different aspects were taken into account when assessing budget management conditions, including the assessment of the previous management review, the management capacity of the budget preparation

process, the capacity to execute public expenditure and the monitoring of budgetary and accounting information.

In addition, the evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal control system focused on the aspects relating to the control environment, risk assessment and control activities, information and communication as well as management.

Considering the evolution of the investment credits allocated to the Ministry, the observation is that there was, for the financial years 2019/2020 to 2022, an increase of 121% due to the construction of the new hospitals. However, a decrease of 29.3% is observed for the 2022/2023 financial year because the construction budget was transferred to OBUHA.

As for the level of budget execution in relation to voted appropriations, the overall rate of budget execution is 87.6% in 2019/2020, 97.2% in 2020/2021 and 90.8% in 2021/2022. Even if the reasons are not mentioned, the observation is that the budget execution rate for investments is low for the years 2019/2020 (41.5%) and 2021/2022 (69.5%).

Certain actions were initiated as part of the preparation for the implementation of the program budget by the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS.

Questions relating to the current state of municipal hospitals and the assets of the said Ministry were raised by the Honorable Deputies. The Minister re-



sponded by indicating that thanks to the support of the global fund, those assets will be listed using CMMS software, which will make it possible to obtain a clear vision of the assets of that Ministry. Regarding the shortage of the medical personnel and the departure of the Doctors abroad, the Minister stressed that the appropriate solutions are being developed to resolve that problem.

After analysis of the report of the Court of Auditors by the standing committee on public accounts and finance, economic affairs and planning, it appears that during the budgetary years 2019/2020, 2020/2021 and 2021/2022, the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS has done its best in budget management. However, shortcomings should be noted linked to the low execution rates of certain expenditures, the long delays in the completion of the public expenditure chain, the keeping of accounts and the effectiveness of the internal control system. .

Finally, it is recommended that the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS adopt the recommendations made by the Court of Auditors.

Mrs. Lydwine Baradahana had the opportunity to present the measures taken by her Ministry to improve the budgetary management and ensure the efficient use of the allocated resources. She underlined the importance of transparency and accountability in the management of public funds, as well as the commitment of her Ministry to implement the recommendations made by the Court of Auditors.

At the end of the plenary session, the President of the National Assembly, including the Deputies, satisfied with the answers and explanations provided during his first intervention before the Deputies, strongly encouraged the Minister Baradahana to continue his efforts and to continue to work for the well-being of the population with determination. **(General Assembly)**

## Approval of new members of the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) by the National Assembly



**U**nder the provisions of the article 91, paragraph 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi, seven new candidate members of the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) were approved by the National Assembly in turn during the plenary session of December 7, 2023, after the Senate approved them on December 6, 2023.

Thus, they will be appointed by the presidential decree in accordance with that previous law, taking into account that they were approved separately by the National Assembly and the Senate by the absolute majority.

Those Candidates approved by ninety-five (95) Honorable Deputies are:

Ntahorwamiye Prosper, Hutu, was approved President of the CENI;

NAHIMANA Victoire, Tutsi, was approved Vice-President of the CENI;

BIZUMUREMYI Odette, Tutsi, was approved as commissioner in charge of administration and finance;

NYANDWI Sylvestre, Hutu, was approved as commissioner in charge of legal af-

fairs and electoral litigation;

BIZIMANA François, Hutu, was approved as commissioner in charge of electoral education and communication;

NDAYIRAGIJE Léonidas, Hutu, was approved as commissioner in charge of operations, electoral IT and equipment maintenance;

BUGAGA Gabby, Tutsi, was approved as commissioner in charge of electoral logistics and supplies. **(General Assembly)**

## Information and exchange Seminar for the Parliamentary, Members for the Commissions in charge of the political and diplomatic issues



strengthening the National and International Sovereignty, particularly through the development of an official foreign policy document.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation organized, from December 5 to 6, 2023, at the Lake Tanganyika Club, in the economic capital of Bujumbura, an information and exchange Seminar for the Parliamentarians, members of the Commissions in charge of political and diplomatic issues.

In his speech at the launch of activities, on Tuesday December 5, 2023, on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Albert Shingiro, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation Mr. Ferdinand Bashikako welcomed the guests.

He thanked the President of the Commission at the National Assembly, Honorable Côme Manirakiza for his sincere and active collaboration in the preparation and completion of that work. He also thanked the Honorable Executives for being kind enough to respond to the invitation, and everyone who contributed to the preparation of the Seminar.

He specified that that Seminar is a means of exchanging information and sharing the experiences on certain diplomatic sectors targeted by the mutual agreement likely in responding more easily and with the full knowledge of the facts to their legislative mission. It was also an opportunity for the Ministry for providing them with the necessary instruments to better understand the diplomatic work and its effects on the population that they represent with dignity.

Mr. Ferdinand Bashikako informed them that our country has regained its rightful place in the concert of the Nations, under the enlightened leadership of His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, President of the Republic of Burundi. He said that that development strongly encouraged the country in

That Seminar revolved around three presentations:

- A presentation on the negotiation of partnerships and cooperation agreements which falls doubly within their remit because not only do they negotiate partnerships and agreements themselves but also because the Government submits the acts relating to the diplomatic sector to their vote and cooperation, in response to the relevant articles of the National Constitution.



- Diplomatic, legal and protocol practices in order to clarify the interactions with the parliamentary work;
- The main orientations of Burundi's foreign policy.

He finally concluded that those themes converge towards a common objective which is the full realization of the economic diplomacy of our country based on five pillars, namely the attraction of the foreign investments; technology transfer; the gradual industrialization of the country; infrastructure development; promoting trade and tourism. They converge at the same time towards the implementation of the Vision of a “Burundi emerging country in 2040 and developed country in 2060”.

Before closing the Seminar, the participants raised the recommendations. They really appreciated the organization of that Seminar for them because they benefited from the analysis tools in their daily work, and they wished another Seminar for them to learn more because the time was short. **(MFADC)**



## Information and exchange seminar for the newly appointed Diplomats



On Wednesday December 6, 2023, in Gitega, at Centre Magnificat, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation Mr. Ferdinand BASHIKAKO proceeded to the opening of the information and exchange seminar for the newly appointed Diplomats.

Before beginning his speech, the Permanent Secretary first greeted and extended a warm welcome to those diplomats. He continued his speech saying that the Ministry organized that seminar for the newly appointed Diplomats for a better knowledge and understanding of their responsibilities with a regard to the mission given, seeing that the diplomatic mission is both noble, exhilarating and compelling. It also requires the qualities, intelligence, love of work, wisdom and patriotism.

The Permanent Secretary reminded them that Burundi is a sovereign State, which has approved its dignity to the world and which has been able to overcome many challenges including attempts at the foreign interference in the internal affairs of the country. "You will represent the Burundian people, a dignified, resilient, patient, hardworking people, and very attached to sovereignty, reason why you are called to represent and defend the vital interests of Burundi in your respective countries of accreditation," he adds.

The Permanent Secretary also asked those Diplomats to reflect the brand image of Burundi in the countries and organizations within their jurisdiction through their attitude and behavior in defending the vital interests of Burundi. He continued his remarks reminding them that

to represent the country requires to knowing its socio-economic development projects, its vision and its ambition, that it is necessary to mobilize the foreign investors, to present to them the numerous business opportunities in a good climate. He indicated that the Burundi's economic diplomacy is based on five pillars, namely: the attraction of foreign investments; technology transfer; the progressive industrialization of the country; infrastructure development; promoting trade and tourism.

Regarding the communication, the Permanent Secretary asked them to always use a rapid, effective and efficient communication, accurate, objective, clear, concise, and constructive and issued in a timely manner and faithful to the foreign policy and instructions of the Capital city. Regarding the cooperation with the countries or the organizations in their jurisdiction, he also implored them to ensure the strengthening of the existing good relations, but also the rapprochement of the traditional partners whose relations have cooled in recent years.

Note that in that seminar, the various presentations were made including the diplomatic and consular practices; the role of the Head of Mission in promoting the investors; the administrative and financial management in a diplomatic mission and tourism. **(MFADC)**



## REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC  
Secretariat-General of the State

**MEDIA RELEASE N°14 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 06 DECEMBER 2023**

A Cabinet meeting was held in Bujumbura on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2023, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Major General Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, President of the Republic of Burundi.

After the presentation and adoption 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 meetings of the Council of Ministers which the Prime Minister chaired on 08, 09, 20, 21, 22, 29 November and 01 December 2023, and which were devoted to the analysis of the same files on the agenda.

The following items were analyzed:

- 1. Draft organic law amending organic law no. 1/11 of May 20, 2019 relating to the Electoral Code**, presented by the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security.

The amendment to the law cited above is proposed for three main reasons:

- Harmonize the Electoral Code with Law No. 1/05 of March 16, 2023 determining and delimiting the Provinces, Communes, Zones, Hills and/or Boroughs of the Republic of Burundi;
- Resolve the difficulties encountered by the Independent National Electoral Commission in the implementation of certain provisions of the law in force;

- Take into account the recommendations resulting from the evaluation of the 2020 electoral process.

The main modifications proposed are therefore the following:

- To bring the Electoral Code into conformity with the Constitution, a provision relating to the order of elections was introduced following the shift in mandates of state institutions. With the exception of the presidential term which is seven years, the other terms remain five years.
- The establishment of a Voting Center which brings together polling stations;
- The idea of combining three ballots is abandoned. It is therefore no longer necessary for the electoral campaign to last three weeks. It is proposed that it last two weeks;
- In this project, the replacement of a Senator takes into account the three substitutes provided and the procedure for replacing an independent Senator is specified;
- The project introduces cases of incompatibility with the mandate of head of Hill/District;
- To facilitate the possible replacement of municipal councilors without compromising the gender balance, it is proposed that each candidate registered on the blocked list have at least three substitutes, preferably of the same ethnicity and gender;
- Burundians residing outside the country can vote for candidates from their electoral constituency of origin, including the independent candidate;
- In order to limit fanciful candidacy declarations for the elections of municipal councilors, a deposit of two hundred thousand Burundian francs (200,000 BIF) per independent candidate or per list of candidates from political parties or coalitions of political parties is proposed;
- To discourage certain behaviors that could compromise the electoral process, it is proposed that it be made an offense for any natural or legal person to:



- to propagate, through communication channels or on social networks, messages likely to compromise the electoral process or fuel electoral violence;
- to announce or proclaim the results of an election before the competent bodies.

After exchange and debate, the project was adopted with, among other observations and recommendations, the following:

- Add in visas, the reference to the law governing the press in Burundi;
- Reorganize visas starting with the most recent laws;
- Add a provision which specifies the places where elections are held: The elections of deputies and senators take place at the provincial level, those of Municipal Councilors at the municipal level, while those of Chiefs of Hills or Heads of Boroughs at the local level;
- Specify that the coalitions of political parties are formed after the calling of the elections for which they wish to become candidates;
- Remove the centralization of results at the level of voting centers as a proposed novelty and everything related to it in the project;
- Remove the technical unit responsible for supporting the Independent Communal Electoral Commission since in the event of a problem; it would be difficult to establish responsibility between the CECI and the technical unit;
- When listing the conditions for a candidacy, specify each time the election concerned;
- Increase the candidacy deposit for the presidential position to one hundred million Fbu (100,000,000 Fbu);
- Raise the candidacy deposit for the position of Deputy and Senator to Two million Fbu (2,000,000 Fbu);
- Insert a provision on the representation of each zone within the Municipal Council for the Party having won the elections in this zone;
- Increase the fine for any natural or legal person who disrupts the conduct of elections, using false news, slander or other fraudulent maneuvers.

**2. Draft organic law revising organic law n°1/04 of February 19, 2020 on the organization of municipal administration,** presented by the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security.

Since the promulgation of organic law n°1/04 of February 19, 2020 on the organization of municipal administration, several reforms have been initiated in the organization and functioning of local authorities.

It is appropriate to cite organic law No. 1/05 of March 16, 2023 determining and delimiting the Provinces, Communes, Zones and Hills and/or Boroughs of the Republic of Burundi which brought the Provinces from 18 to 5, Communes from 119 to 42, Zones from 399 to 451 and Hills or Boroughs from 2911 to 3044.

This law implies reorganization at the level of administrative entities, including the Province, the Commune, the Zone and the Hill or the District.

In addition, effective decentralization requires the strengthening of the municipal executive and clarification of the specifications of each local authority, to bring public services closer to the population.

Thus, through this new bill, a certain number of innovations can be observed:

- This project combines two old laws, namely: organic law no. 1/04 of February 19, 2020 amending certain provisions of law no. 1/33 of November 28, 2014 on the Organization of Municipal Administration and law no. ° 1/16 of May 25, 2015 relating to the terms of transfer of powers from the State to the Municipalities;
- The budget of the Municipality must be an integral part of the general budget of the State and before the Municipality takes out a loan, the Minister responsible for finance must approve it;



- At the level of the organs of the Commune, there is creation of the municipal executive. Once elected to the position of Municipal Administrator, he will no longer be a member of the Municipal Council;
- The revision of the specifications of the Municipal Administrator, the Zone Manager and that of the Hill Manager with the aim of bringing public services closer to the population;
- The elected Municipal Administrator is an agent. He receives compensation from the general State budget, but his bonuses and other benefits come from the Municipality budget;
- The title of “Permanent Executive Secretary” changes to become “Communal Executive Secretary”;
- The expansion of the organization chart of the Municipality by the creation of other services within the Municipality;
- The Municipality manages all the services established on its territory, the personnel and the equipment;
- At the Hill or District level, collegial work is renovated. The Hill or Boroughs Chief carries out his missions in consultation with the Hill or Boroughs Council.
- The minimum age of Hill or Boroughs Councilors is 25 years old.

At the end of the analysis, the bill was adopted with the following main observations and recommendations:

- Combine all the attributions of the Municipality and not separate the old ones from those which are transferred;
- Group the skills of the Municipality according to the following areas:
  - Territorial administration and community development;
  - Municipal planning and finances;
  - Territorial planning, town planning and housing;
  - Education, sport and social and cultural issues;
  - Public health;
  - Water, energy and quarries;
  - The environment, agriculture, livestock and land management;

- Tracks, communication and telecommunications routes;
  - Administrative, socio-cultural, economic and tourist infrastructures;
  - Human rights, social protection and gender inclusion;
  - Entrepreneurship, commerce and industry.
  - Carry out the incompatibility of the mandate of municipal councilor with the functions of: (1°) President of the Republic; (2°) Parliamentarian; (3°) Vice-President of the Republic; (4°) Prime Minister; (5°) Minister; (6°) Ombudsman; (7°) Provincial Governor and the members of his cabinet, (8°) Municipal Administrator; (9) Communal Executive Secretary; (10) Advisor to the Municipal Administrator; (11) Head of Department of the Commune; (12) Municipal administration support staff;
- Specify that when the incompatibility is lifted before the end of the mandate, the Advisor has the right to resume his mandate, unless the functions have ended by sanction;
  - Specify that the vote of no confidence in the Municipal Administrator is taken by two thirds (2/3) of the members of the Municipal Council physically present;
  - To comply with the globally recognized health structure, speak of Health District where mention is made of Department for other areas;
  - Among the conditions for being elected Municipal Administrator, add “being a national of the municipality”, and have the minimum age to 30 years;
  - Create an audit and internal control service attached directly to the Municipal Administrator;
  - Mention that the organization and operation of the departments of the Municipality will be specified in a decree;
  - Provide the Municipal Administrator with a legal advisor, a political and socio-economic affairs advisor and a communications and public relations advisor;
  - Specify that the Municipal Administrator recruits and hires staff, after deliberation of the Municipal Council, in accordance with the law;
  - Specify that the civil servant transferred to the Municipality remains governed by the general status of civil servants;



- To give more weight to the Zone, decentralize the services most requested by the local population at the Zone level and provide it with the following zonal technical services: (i) Civil Status, (ii) the environment, agriculture, livestock breeding and land management, (iii) education, sport and socio-cultural issues (iv) health. The heads of these services must have at least a post-basic education diploma or equivalent;
- Specify that the Zone Head must be a native, national or resident in the Zone and that after his appointment, he must reside in the Zone;
- Specify that the mandate of the Head of Hill or District is remunerated from the budget of the Municipality, lasts five years and is renewable, and that this remuneration is fixed by a regulatory text;
- Specify that the draft annual budget is prepared by the Municipal Administrator and approved by the Municipal Council and that the Municipality's budgetary year is aligned with the State budgetary exercise;
- Specify that the authorization, commitment, liquidation and control of expenditure refer to the law relating to public finances;
- Specify how the budget arrives at the Minister of Finance, that is to say the route it takes and the deadlines for its transmission:
- Among the financial control bodies of the Municipality add “The National Directorate for Public Procurement Control”;
- In the transitional and final provisions, include a provision which talks about the management of the staff of the former Communes after the next elections;
- Proceed with the readjustment of judicial entities to take into account the new redistricting.

3. Bill revising Law No. 1/022 of November 6, 2018 amending Law No. 1/18 of May 15, 2014 establishing, mandate, composition, organization and operation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission , presented by the Prime Minister’s Services.

In order to return dispossessed lands, despoiled houses and other looted property to the victims of past crimes, the National Land and Other Property Commission was set up.

The mandate of the National Land and Other Property Commission expired in March 2022, but it left many pending files.

The Government reflected on an organ that could replace the National Land and Other Property Commission and found that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission could accomplish this mission because the missions of the two commissions overlap somewhere.

Thus, this present bill gives the Commission the competence to know the files which were pending before the National Commission for Lands and other Property and the files not yet submitted to the National Commission for Land and other Property before the end of its mandate.

The decisions of the Commission in matters of land and other property may be appealed to the Special Court for Land and Other Property.

For cases of successful amicable settlement, this project provides for the ratification of the settlement agreement by the Special Court of Lands and Other Property, in order to make it unassailable by subsequent commissions or jurisdictions.

It also provides for the creation, within the Commission, of a department which is responsible for handling disputes related to Land and Other Property. At the level of each province, the number of executives to be assigned will depend on the volume of conflicts.

After exchange and debate, the bill was adopted with the following observations and recommendations:

- Instead of creating a Department, set up Provincial Delegations of the Truth Reconciliation Commission which will deal with the issue of Land and other Property;
- These Provincial Delegations will include support staff working under the supervision of the Commissioners. They will be appointed by decree;



**4. Bill ratifying by the Republic of Burundi the agreement between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the Russian Federation on cooperation in the field of nuclear energy, presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.**

The Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the Russian Federation have signed a Cooperation Agreement in the field of the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

This Agreement is based on the mutual interest in establishing a stable legal framework to facilitate cooperation in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

The expertise acquired by the Government of the Russian Federation in this area makes it particularly well placed to meet Burundi's expectations.

As Burundi is faced with energy needs, this cooperation with the Russian Federation will allow Burundi to limit its energy dependence by producing its own sustainable energy source.

After exchange and debate, the project was adopted.

**5. Bill ratifying by the Republic of Burundi the agreement between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the Republic of Cuba on visa exemption for holders of diplomatic, official and service passports, presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.**

The Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the Republic of Cuba signed, on September 14, 2023 in Havana, the Agreement between the two Governments on the reciprocal exemption from Visas for holders of diplomatic,

official and Service passports. This Agreement will apply only to diplomats and civil servants of the two countries.

It testifies to the good state of ties of friendship, fraternity and cooperation and reaffirms the desire of the Cuban and Burundian governments to consolidate them.

The abolition of visas for holders of diplomatic, official and service passports will allow faster exchange, regularity and fluidity of travel for officials of the two respective administrations. It will create favorable conditions for economic, commercial and investment cooperation activities between the two countries.

After exchange and debate, the project was adopted.

**Draft decree revising Decree No. 100/069 of September 24, 2020 on the missions and organization of the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning**, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

This draft decree responds to the major concern of strengthening this ministry so that it assumes its role and increasing the accountability of all parties concerned by the implementation of ongoing reforms and the proper execution of projects. The main changes proposed are as follows:

- The change of name of the Ministry;
- Strengthening the Minister's office with technical advisors on legal, economic and public finance issues;
- The establishment of two permanent secretariats: The first in charge of Planning and Economic and Financial Cooperation, and the second in charge of Finance
- The establishment of a General Directorate of Reforms and Economic and Financial Cooperation;
- The General Inspectorate of the ministry which is renamed "General Inspectorate of Finance";
- Strengthening the IT department, by transforming it into the General Department of Information Systems;

- Strengthening the missions of the General Directorate of Public Finance by assigning it an internal financial control and verification department attached to the Director General.

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

- Regarding visas, add the reference to the law on public administration; as well as the decree establishing the general framework for the specifications of Ministerial Inspections and Internal Control Services of the Burundian public administration in terms of governance monitoring;
- Keep the current name of the Ministry;
- Specify that the purpose of the decree is the reorganization of the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning”;
- Keep the General Inspectorate of the Ministry in place of the proposal for a General Inspectorate of Finance;
- Insert an article which provides for the method of appointing executives and senior executives of the Ministry;
- Specify the number of advisors to be assigned to different cells as well as their specifications;
- Distinguish personalized administrations from public establishments;
- Ensure that the public procurement code under review takes into account the Government's vision “Burundi Emerging Country in 2040 and Developed Country in 2060”;
- Disseminate the Vision document Burundi Emerging Country in 2040 and Developed Country in 2060;
- Finalize as quickly as possible the legal framework for personalized administrations of the State and Public Establishments;
- Accelerate the revision of the National Development Plan document.

7. Annual State budget execution report, Fiscal year 2022-2023, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.



As part of the implementation of the law relating to public finances, the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning produces performance and budget execution reports for transparency in the execution of the State budget.

This report concerns the execution of the State budget for the 2022-2023 financial year.

The 2022-2023 Budget was executed while an economic recession is observed internationally.

At the national level, following the start of program budgets and program contracts with the 2022-2023 financial year, the 2022-2023 budget was executed in a particular way compared to other previous budgets.

As this was the first year of starting the budget in program mode, difficulties in executing it arose.

In addition to this problem with budget execution, the budget forecasts for expenditures which were to be subject to public procurement presented a need to be refinanced because the prices on different categories of goods were not stable.

It should be noted that the salary forecasts for the 2022/2023 financial year did not cover additional salary expenses following the administrative release and fictitious career advancement carried out in the civil service sector.

Regarding revenue, revenue collection for the 2022-2023 budget year recorded a poor performance of 93.5%.

As for expenditure, the liquidation rate of the state budget at the end of the 2022-2023 budget years is 95.6%.

Generally speaking, analysis of the implementation reports of the Work Plans and Annual Budget throughout the year shows that the budget was generally consumed. However, efforts to better program activities and resources as well as the budgetary management mechanism are still required.

After analysis and debate on this Report, the Council of Ministers approved it with the recommendation to prepare this Report quarterly, and analyze it before the expenditure commitment ceilings.

**8. Bill establishing budgetary regulations and reports for the 2022/2023 financial year**, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

The budget settlement and reporting bill finds its origins in the law relating to public finances which stipulates that the Minister in charge of Finance prepares and submits to the Government for adoption the budget settlement and reporting bill at the latest five months after the close of the financial year.

It is within this framework that this draft budget regulation and report for the 2022/2023 financial year is submitted to the Government.

The budget was executed in both revenue and expenditure in accordance with the requirements of Law No. 1/22 of June 30, 2022 establishing the general budget of the Republic of Burundi for the 2022/2023 financial year. In terms of revenue, the achievement rate was 106% while in terms of expenditure, it was 109%.

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

- Make more efforts to capitalize on revenue by strengthening mechanisms to discourage tax evasion.
- Produce a report on the exemptions granted in order to assess the financial impact and verify that those who benefited from them carried out their projects properly.

**9. Note on the campaign to combat fraud on taxes and internal charges**, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning

As part of the campaign against fraud, an audit of certain companies producing juices and alcoholic drinks has been initiated.

In the context of the use of electronic invoicing machines among the taxpayers analyzed, irregularities were noted, in this case the difference between the prices appearing on the invoices sent to the OBR and the prices actually paid by customers

The analysis shows that on average VAT is reduced by 62%. This means that the VAT collector pays to the Treasury only 38% of the VAT collected on the sale of goods.

The note indicates the actions initiated or to be initiated towards the delinquent taxpayers, their tax advisors and the employees of the OBR.

After analyzing the note, the Council of Ministers appreciated the measures already taken to combat fraud, but that much remains to be done. The following observations and recommendations were made:

- The Council of Ministers particularly condemned the complicity at the level of the OBR in this fraud;
- OBR employees complicit in fraud must be seriously sanctioned;
- An audit will be carried out on all taxpayers and those at fault will be sanctioned and will have to repay what they owe to the Public Treasury;
- For vehicles used in fraud and seized, check whether they are the property of the fraudster or not;
- If it turns out that these are rented vehicles, return them to the owners if they are not complicit;
- Those who rent the vehicles check what they will be used for;
- Dismantle and repress salary fraud at the level of the Ministry of Civil Service and extend this work to other structures operating on the state budget.

**10. Project to support access to financing for imports of strategic products from the World Bank**, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

The proposed operation aims to revive the financing of imports.

The IDA will provide a US \$ 40 million guarantee facility to enable local commercial banks to open letters of credit to support imports by private businesses.

The scope of application will be limited to the import of essential products (fertilizers and medicines). All banks will be eligible provided they meet predefined criteria, which will be detailed in the project operations manual.



After analysis, the Council of Ministers adopted this project.

**11. Draft decree revising decree no. 100/091 of October 28, 2020 organizing the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock**, presented by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and of Livestock.

The purpose of modifying the decree in force is to restructure services so that the ministry can carry out its missions. Thus, it is proposed:

- The establishment of two Permanent Secretaries, the first in charge of the Environment and the second in charge of Agriculture and Livestock;
- The restructuring of certain services to correct malfunctions because certain missions of the General Directorates within the central administration overlap with the missions of certain personalized Administrations;
- The integration of the Burundian Regulatory Authority for Veterinary Products, Pesticides and Foods (ABREVPA) into the organization chart of the Ministry;

At the end of the analysis, the project was adopted with the following observations and recommendations:

- Insert in visas, the decree establishing the general framework of the specifications of Ministerial Inspections and Internal Control Services of the Burundian public administration in terms of governance monitoring;
- Number the missions with figures instead of hyphens;
- Specify that in order to accomplish its mission, the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock relies on central administration services and structures under the supervision or hierarchical authority of the Minister and list them, specifying that the organization and operation of structures under supervision or hierarchical authority are determined by decree;
- Instead of a General Directorate of Land, Environmental, Agricultural and Livestock Planning, retain a General Directorate of Planning;
- Place the General Directorate of Planning under the coordination of the Permanent Secretariat responsible for the field of Environment and the General Directorate of Resources under the coordination of the Permanent Secretariat responsible for the field of Agriculture and Livestock;

- In order to avoid confusion between the role of the Permanent Secretary and that of the Minister on the coordination of structures under the supervision or direct authority of the Minister, specify that the Permanent Secretary ensures the coordination of structures falling within his area of responsibility without prejudice to the hierarchical or supervisory power of the Minister over these structures.

**12. Draft decree revising Decree No. 100/13 of January 12, 2016 authorizing the State of Burundi to participate in the capital of the joint company responsible for the operation and maintenance of the multiplexing and distribution network digital television signals,** presented by the Minister of Communication, Information Technologies and Media.

In accordance with Decree No. 100/13 of January 12, 2016 authorizing the State of Burundi to participate in the capital of the joint company responsible for the operation and maintenance of the multiplexing and distribution network of digital television signals, the STNB company was created with 60% of the shares for the company StarTimes Network Technology Co.Ltd and 40% of the shares for the Burundian part.

Taking into account the fact that the contribution to industry had been overvalued, the renegotiation resulted in a shareholding of 45% instead of 40% for the Burundian party and 55% for the Chinese party instead of 60%.

The purpose of this draft decree is to comply with these changes by revising the decree authorizing the State of Burundi to participate in the share capital of STNB, in order to take into account the new distribution of shareholders.

At the end of the analysis, the draft decree was adopted with, among other observations, introducing a provision which specifies that the terms of dividend sharing are determined in a contract signed by both parties.

**13. Draft joint ministerial order on the terms of application of Decree No. 100/261 of November 18, 2021 on the status of Veterans,** presented by the Minister of National Defense and Veterans.

This draft order is provided for by Decree No. 10/262 of November 18, 2021 on the status of veterans. It clarifies the terms of application of this decree.

It talks about the rights of the veteran, particularly in terms of social security and other benefits. It also talks about the veteran's obligations.

The Council of Ministers analyzed this file and recommended:

- Develop the list of all demobilized Province by Province;
- Develop the list of demobilized people who already benefit from State benefits;
- Develop a list of the most needy demobilized;

After analysis of the project presented which was developed on the basis of these elements, the Council of Ministers adopted it with the following recommendations:

- Integrate the amounts induced by this order into the budget law under review;
- For those who will benefit from a one-off allowance, specify the amount in this order;
- Insert an article which specifies that the grounds for the different types of benefits as well as the beneficiaries are specified in the annexes which form an integral part of the order;
- Raise awareness among beneficiaries for proper use of the amount they have received.

**14. Information note on the signing of the interim agreement for the Electrification Program for hill villages in Burundi with the company Virunga Power Holdings Ltd,** presented by the Minister of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines.

The Draft Interim Agreement was analyzed by the Council of Ministers on September 27, 2023, and it was requested to provide proof of the financial capabilities of the partner to successfully complete this Program.

This note provides additional clarification on this Project.



It should be noted that this interim agreement allows the project to start, before the end of 2024, the construction phase of projects totaling approximately forty-five thousand (45,000) connections in a period of two years.

The project has sufficient financial support which, once the State of Burundi and the partner work together, will allow Burundi to reach the electricity access rate of more than 70% in 2030.

After the signing of the interim agreement, the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group will intervene in the Project as financier and co-developer of Virunga Power with a view to making this public-private partnership technically and financially viable and affordable.

Gridworks, which invests in the project through Virunga Power, has the confirmed financial capabilities to guarantee compliance with the implementation schedule allocated to the project.

The Council of Ministers approved the signing of this Interim Agreement.

## **5. Any Other Business**

His Excellency the President of the Republic informed the Council of Ministers of the end of the mission of the troops of the East African Community in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and that the continuation will be done at the bilateral level.

**Done at Bujumbura, 07 December 2023  
Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE**

**Secretary-General and Spokesman.-**

# Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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