



The President Ndayishimiye thanks the Christians for their prayers



On the occasion of the celebration of the 3rd anniversary in power, on Sunday June 18, 2023, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye joined the Christians of the Church of Pentecost of Ntakangwa, in the Town Hall of Bujumbura.

In his homily, Reverend Pastor Onesphore RUKWIRIRIKANYA insisted on the sanctification of the people of God because according to him, the world is sinking more and more into darkness because of sin.

"No one is supposed to live with the Holy Spirit if he harbors hatred and

divisions in his heart, if he is a thief, criminal, or behaves contrary to the word of God", said Reverend Pastor RUKWIRIRIKANYA. "At the time when the people of Israel were cured of their illnesses, were unleashing demons, the great ones were watching Jesus, the Messiah to accuse him of slippages", said the Pastor awakening the spirit of the Christians who occupy the positions of power decisions to be faithful and to inspire confidence in their Superiors. "I then thank you for your prayers, undeniable support in the construction of the kingdom of God in Burundi", introduced the Burundian Head of State, proud to sing the hymn of praise thanking God for the bless-

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ings of these last three years. "I pray that God reigns in our country, and that love manifests itself in all minds.

Thus will we live in a country of blessings", concluded The President Ndayishimiye. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

Fair made in Burundi: Innovation at the service of companies in Burundi



The Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi H.E Prosper Bazombanza enhanced with his presence on Wednesday June 14, 2023 at the "hotel source du Nil" an official launch of ceremonies of the fair made in Burundi and the public and private academic partnership forum 2023 edition under the theme "Research and innovation at the service of businesses in Burundi."

H.E Prosper Bazombanza indicated that that fair aims to promote the competitiveness of enterprises in Burundi, an opportunity to encourage public and private partners to promote the private sector by participating more

actively in the creation of enterprises for the increase of national economy and by putting an expertise to the products of Burundi.

Prosper Bazombanza calls on the private sector to take ownership of its vital role in economic growth and the fight against poverty.

The Vice-President of the Republic indicated that to achieve the vision of the Government of Burundi, an emerging country in 2040 and a developed country in 2060, "we must maximize the rational exploitation of many resources that abound in our country", specified Prosper. Bazombanza.

He added that the journey was made possible through the combination of efforts to develop science, research, technology and industrialization.

Since more than 60% of the population living in Burundi are under 35, the Vice-President of the Republic H.E Prosper Bazombanza indicated that young people are at the heart of our actions. He stressed that they have already entered the race because the development of Burundi relies on their capacity to undertake and always be innovative. (www.rtnb.bi)

Houses transferring money abroad are temporarily suspended



The Prime Minister General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca held on Monday June 12, 2023, at the Ntare Rushatsi Palace, a meeting with officials of exchange offices and those of the Bank of the Republic of Burundi to see how to find solutions to different challenges that are observed in the field of currency exchange.

In his introductory remarks, the Prime Minister said that currency exchange work must attract a lot of attention to avoid ruining the country's economy. For this question, he invited all stakeholders in the field of cur-

rency exchange, to do so in accordance with the law so as not to expose themselves to sanctions. Managers of exchange offices who find that working in accordance with the law in this matter is not easy, are requested to stop working in this field of currency exchange. After his introductory remarks, the meeting continued behind closed doors.

The Spokesperson of the Prime Minister, Mr. Moïse Nkurunziza, said after these changes, that it was found that the exchange offices did not realize what they had to do. He explained that instead of doing currency exchange, they devoted themselves to collecting currencies, instead of carrying out their job as currency changers.

He explained that whoever comes with foreign currency finds his change in local currency, while whoever comes with local currency does not find service in foreign cur-

rency. It was also found that the so-called officials of the exchange offices are not their real owners. For all these reasons, measures were taken on the same occasion. Any exchange office, within a period not exceeding three days, must reconstitute its share capital of 500 million BIF as prescribed by the regulations in this area, because this money constitutes a guarantee. It was also decided during this meeting that any exchange office that cannot collect and declare to the BRB, an amount of 50,000 dollars or euros each week will be closed. Money transfer houses abroad are temporarily suspended and that only

commercial banks are authorized to do this work. Anyone who is caught in possession of cash currency without preparing for a trip abroad or going to the exchange office will be prosecuted. Exchange offices opened in the name of more than one person must file the supporting documents relating thereto on June 12, 2023 at the BRB. All commercial transactions made on Burundi ground must be settled in local currency, with the exception of the service sector, including hotels, said the Prime Minister's spokesperson. **(ABP)**

The Minister in charge of media visits the RTNB



On Thursday June 15, 2023, the Minister of Communication, Information Technologies and the Media, Mrs. Léocadie Ndacayisaba paid a working visit to the National Radio and Television of Burundi (RTNB) after laments on the quality of the services of this public institution to see together with the heads of ser-

vices, the concrete actions to be taken to improve the services. After a briefing with the Heads of Departments, the Minister of Communication, Information Technologies and Media Mrs Léocadie Ndacayisaba visited the production chain until the broadcast on national television. In a meeting with the heads of the RTNB services, challenges were raised, among others, the archaic broadcasting system, production equipment, human resources who leave without being replaced, insufficient salaries which cause departures. The other concern of the RTNB staff is their classification by type of employment in the new salary policy. The Minister of Communication, Information Technologies and Media Léocadie Ndacayisaba promised to plead with the hierarchical authorities in order to resolve the concerns expressed by the workers of the RTNB to finally improve the services and the well-being of the workers. **(www.rtnb.bi)**

The general state budget for the 2023/2024 financial year is estimated at BIF 3,952.9 billion.



The total State expenditure increases from 2,392.3 billion BIF in 2022/2024 to 3,952.9 billion for the 2023/2024 financial year, an

increase of 65.23%", indicated Mr. Audace Niyonzima, Minister of Finance, Budget and Development Planning. He was the guest of the National Assembly, on Monday June 12, 2023, to speak on the bill fixing the general budget of the State, financial year 2023/2024, submitted to the deputies for analysis and adoption. Speaking about this 65.23% increase in State expenditure compared to the previous year, Mr. Niyonzima explained that it is due, on the one hand, to the increase in investment on national resources for the im-

plementation of the Government's priority projects. An increase from BIF 794.03 billion for the 2022/2023 financial year to BIF 1,058.9 billion for the 2023/2024 financial year. The increase in current expenditure is the other aspect that has influenced the increase in general government expenditure. At this level, the Minister in charge of finance specified that current expenditure has increased from BIF 1,204.5 billion for the 2022/2023 financial year to 2,027.8 for the 2023/2024 financial year. An increase of 68.3%.

The Minister in charge of Finance has also demonstrated that revenue and donations show an increase of 46.9% compared to the previous year. The latter "go

from 2,194.8 billion BIF for the 2022/2023 financial year to 3,224.07 BIF for the 2023/2024 financial year. An increase which, according to him, stems from the "budgetary impacts of the new tax and non-tax revenue provisions.

"The overall deficit of this general budget project amounts to 728.9 billion BIF against 197.4 billion BIF in 2022/2023", estimated Mr. Niyonzima.

Minister Audace Niyonzima continued by indicating that net external financing amounts to 148.1 billion BIF while net internal financing is 580.8 billion BIF. And to conclude, that "the general state budget bill for the 2023/2024 financial year is in balance". (ABP)

Towards a new national housing policy



The Minister in charge of social housing Mr. Dieudonné Dukundane, communicated to the public on Tuesday June 13,

2023 on the new housing policy which was recently adopted by the Council of Ministers.

The Minister in charge of infrastructure said that for the housing sector, statistics have shown that to date less than 15% of the population living in Burundi lives in towns and villages.

He added that to be in the category of emerging countries in 2040 which is a vision of the Government, they have set themselves the objective of achieving an urbanization rate of at least 40% with a current population of 12 million living in Burundi, less than 1,700,000 people live in cities.

Minister Dieudonné Dukundane said that among the

challenges that have prevented Burundi from having a developed sector include, among other things, the land issue, the financing mechanism which are binding, the plots which are sold at high cost, etc.

The Minister in charge of social housing specified that we will not be able to continue to build in an anarchic way, that even the countries which are developed have adopted the strategy of building houses in apartments, hence this new national housing policy with houses that will be built high up.

The Minister in charge of infrastructure Mr. Dieudonné Dukundane, indicated that by the end of the summer of the year 2023, they hope to start the activities of this new national housing policy and the actors who are involved in this policy are: the State, financing institutions, construction companies, purchasers and service providers.

The Minister of Infrastructure has indicated that they will build houses of all categories, simple houses which will be accessible and which will be paid around 30 to 40,000,000, V.I.P and VVIP houses. He added that the value of the house will also depend on the prices of building materials on the market. (www.rtnb.bi)

The Ambassador of Burundi in Addis Ababa presents his credentials

ON Wednesday June 2023, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Burundi in Addis Ababa His Excellency Willy Nyamitwe was honored to have presented to His Excellency Salva Kiir, President of the Republic of South Sudan the credentials by which His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi has appointed him Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipoten-

tiary of the Republic of Burundi to the Republic of South Sudan, with residence in Addis Ababa.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Willy Nyamitwe conveyed the very warm greetings of His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi. He informed that the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye is looking forward to personally experience the breadth



of history and culture of South Sudan by paying a state visit to South Sudan at an agreed future date through diplomatic channels.

Ambassador Willy Nyamitwe told the President Salva Kiir that he begins his term with great appreciation for the strong relations that exist between Burundi and South Sudan. He personally reassured that he will do everything possible to continue to build on the strong relations that exist between Burundi and South Sudan. (MFADC)

The Ambassador of Burundi to the Republic of Slovenia



On Monday June 12, 2023, the Ambassador of Burundi to the Republic of Slovenia with

residence in Rome, Her Excellency Esperance Ndayizeye presented her credentials to Her Excellency Nataša Pirc Musar, President of the Republic of Slovenia.

Ambassador Esperance Ndayizeye also presented to Her Excellency Nataša Pirc Musar Burundi and its efforts to maintain peace and stability in the region and in Africa.

It should be noted that until now, Burundi and the Republic of Slovenia have not yet had diplomatic

relations between them.

However, looking to the future, as the Republic of Slovenia is very active and involved in many international and regional organizations and plays a significant role in their activities, the Government of Burundi has found it necessary to approach its Permanent Representation in New York in order to propose to it the establishment of diplomatic relations with Slovenia on the basis of the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States and that in the aim of developing the bilateral cooperation in sectors of common interest for the two countries, while confirming our commitments relating to the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations relating in particular to the respect and promotion of peace and International Security. (MFADC)

The Ambassador of Burundi in the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe presents his credentials



On June 13, 2023, the Ambassador of the Republic of Burundi in the Democratic Republic of

Sao Tome and Principe with Residence in Kinshasa, Brigadier General Agricole Mwamba Ntirampeba presents his credentials to His Excellency Carlos Manuel VILA NOVA, President of the Democratic Republic from Sao Tome and Principe.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Burundi in the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe His Excellency Agricole Mwamba Ntirampeba indicated

that the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe is a country which has a hospitable people and this country has a very attractive tourist destination.

It should be noted that until now, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe have not yet had diplomatic relations between them. **(MFADC)**

The new Permanent Representative of Burundi presents her letters of Credence



On Wednesday June 14, 2023 the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Burundi to the United Nations Office in Geneva Mrs. Elsa Nkerabirori presents her credentials to Mrs. Tatiana Valovaya, Director General of the United Nations Office in Geneva.

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The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Burundi to the United Nations Office in Geneva is happy with her new functions since she was from April 2023, Ambassador of Burundi in Switzerland. She also pointed out that in addition to the functions she had in the areas of human rights, social affairs and gender, she was assigned to Geneva as an Advisor-attached for Legal Affairs.

It should also be noted that the Republic of Burundi and its representation at the United Nations Office in Geneva dates a long time. **(MFADC)**

Only the collection of food products is done at the market



On Monday June 12, 2023, the Governor of Cankuzo province Mr. Boniface Banyiyezako announced during a meeting on safeguarding the harvest and the fight against fraud that he held for communal administrators and traders and that the collection of non-perishable food products is done at the market.

During this meeting, he recalled that each trader must have the commercial register and the NIF to contribute to the construction of the country.

As for the safeguard of the national economy, he indicated that the fixed calendar for the collection of non-perishable crops must be respected from June 20, 2023.

The wholesale traders and the quantity stored must be known at the level of the administration, specified the

Governor. He added that the retention of these products to be sold later at excessive profit is prohibited.

According to Mr. Banyiyezako, in the event of non-compliance with this measure, the quantity conserved will be shared with the population.

Regarding those who sell it in other provinces, he indicated that they must obtain permission from the province of destination. Also, the provincial administration of origin must be aware of the quantity transported as well as the license plate of the transport vehicle in order to inform the administration of destination to ensure that the quantity has arrived in full.

The Governor of Cankuzo also said that circulation with scales or cups in different localities other than the market is prohibited. The same is true for cases of pre-harvest sale commonly referred to as imigwazo. He also called on traders to cut short any form of fraud, otherwise they will be exemplarily sanctioned. **(ABP)**

Towards the eradication of the illegal slaughter of domestic animals



The Director of the Provincial Office of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock in Rutana, Mr. Pierre Claver Bagorikunda, held on Monday June 12, 2023, in the provincial capital, a meeting for husbandry and livestock Officials

The Director of the Provincial Office of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock in Rutana, Mr. Pierre Claver Bagorikunda, held on Monday June 12, 2023, in the provincial capital, a meeting for husbandry and livestock Officials

at all levels.

In his speech of the day, Mr. Bagorikunda deplored cases of slaughter of domestic animals outside officially known slaughterhouses. He specified that these cases continue to appear in various localities of the province, in particular in the communes of Rutana, Bukemba and Giharo. He called on butchers who still practice this practice to stop, while inviting the administrative authorities to col-

laborate with the forces of order and security to reassure themselves that any slaughter of a domestic animal is done in respect of the law.

The Director of the provincial office of the Environment Bagorikunda also reminded all the population of the province of Rutana to pursue the appeal of the President of the Republic inviting him to have a

cultivated kitchen garden of at least twenty square meters during this summer period.

He also invited farmers to prepare well for the growing season which will soon begin, and to draw contour lines, in order to protect their arable land against erosion. **(ABP)**

Girls victims of unwanted pregnancies should be treated in the same way as boys in school reintegration



Long periods that girls who are victims of unwanted pregnancies spend at home before their reintegration into school can be sources of dropping out of school altogether. Did we learn on Tuesday June 13, 2023, during a three-day workshop for the consultation of civil society organizations to propose amendments to the incomplete articles of the school

regulations for the school reintegration of young girls who are victims of non-pregnancy led by the National Network of Young People Living with HIV/AIDS (RNJ+), via its Right here Right now project.

Indeed, there are shortcomings in Ministerial Ordinance No 620/1078 of 19.6.2020 revising Ministerial Ordinance No. 610/1076 of 17.7.2017 harmonizing school regulations for preschool, basic and post-secondary schools, public and private fundamentals.

In articles 27 and 35, it is enumerated the faults which deserve an expulsion for the remainder of the current school year but they do not show the process of reinstatement. In addition, Ministerial Ordinance No620/1078 of 19.6.2020 revising Ministerial Ordinance No610/1076 of 17.7.2017 harmonizing

school regulations for public and private pre-school, fundamental and post-basic schools presents a kind of discrimination based on gender in its Articles 70 and 71.

Mrs. Kelly Remesha, a female lawyer, pointed out that article 70 specifies that the girl victim of the unwanted pregnancy returns to school in another establishment as soon as the child is at least 12 months old whereas article 71 authorizes the boy who impregnated the girl to reintegrate into the next school year.

According to Mrs. Kelly Remesha, these articles violate the constitution of the Republic of Burundi which says that men are born free and equal in rights and dignity to say that the girl should also return to the following school year.

During the open debate, the participants want the harmonization of the school reintegration process for all. For them, the 12 months that a girl must wait after childbirth is a long period that can cause disinterest and permanent abandonment of school. At the request of the girl's parents, she can return to school during the next school year like the boy.

In addition, the obligation to change the establishment during reintegration is also a major challenge for both the boy and the girl who are victims of the unwanted pregnancy. The latter may suffer while searching for the same section they were frequenting. **(ABP)**

A DNA test, the only sure way to eradicate the qualifier of unknown father



On June 17, 2023, the Deputy Na-

tional Director of Youth Solidarity for Peace and Childhood (SOJEPAE-Burundi), Mr. David Ninganza indicated, during a three-day workshop

organized in Bujumbura by the National Youth Network living with HIV/AIDS (RNJ+) in order to advocate for young girls who are victims of unwanted pregnancies during school reintegration, that being born to unknown fathers is not the children's fault.

According to Mr. Ninganza, the responsibility is assigned to the Government on the one hand and to the community on the other hand. In recent days there has

been a great problem in the search for paternity.

For Mr. Ninganza, it is a shame for the Government that there are children of unknown fathers. The State is in need to introduce as soon as possible a DNA test in all health districts and at an affordable price to facilitate families to identify the perpetrators of unwanted pregnancies. This is the only sure way to no longer declare certain children of unknown fathers.

The consultant-educator of the Bafashebige coalition, Mr. Cassier Gashirahamwe approaches in the same

direction. For him, there are even senior officials responsible for pregnancies but who are afraid of being dismissed and punished with penal servitude. In this case, they do everything possible so that pregnancies are attributed to student friends who do not have the capacity to refuse, without forgetting that they are punished only by school regulations.

Mrs. Kelly Remesha, the woman lawyer enriched saying that the Burundian justice should meticulously treat the files of unwanted pregnancies in schools and punish the perpetrators in accordance with the law without any distinction. **(ABP)**

The PAIOSA program has contributed to the development of agriculture



On Friday June 15, 2023, the Institutional and Operational Support Program for the Agricultural Sector of Burundi (PAIOSA) organized, in the capital of Kirundo province (northern Burundi), a meeting to present the achievements of this program. This meeting also aimed to hand over these achievements to the administration and technical services of the provincial office for the environment, agriculture and livestock (BPEAE).

PAIOSA, which spent eleven years in this province, focused on the intensification of agriculture in the communes of Kirundo, Ntega, Busoni and Bugabira.

The Head of Office Mr. Bernard Bizoza said that we have trained a lot of farmers on agricultural techniques to intensify the cultivation of banana trees, corn, beans, rice, etc., as well as on the revaluation of watersheds. The other objective was to ensure that the neighbors of the beneficiaries could adopt these agricultural techniques, the beneficiaries of the program having been

recommended to popularize these techniques learned among their neighbors. Mr. Bizoza did not fail to let it be known that this program has also shown the beneficiaries the importance of pooling their properties for block crops, so that they can practice these techniques at the same time and benefit agricultural inputs easily.

Program beneficiaries have testified that the PAIOSA program has instilled in them knowledge that has enabled them to increase production. One of them testified that he harvests 80 kilograms of beans, but after learning these techniques, he is able to produce 250 kilograms in the same property. The other

who invested in the cultivation of banana trees on 5 hectares indicated that he now has a monthly income of around one million, and that he benefited from a banana processing unit for draw drinks.

The Advisor to the Governor in charge of development, Mrs. Virginie Cimpaye hailed the achievements of the PAIOSA program and recommended that the beneficiaries of the program popularize the techniques learned among their friends and neighbours, even in other municipalities, in order to face up to famine and poverty, while moving on to the Government's vision of an emerging country in 2040 and a developed country in 2060. The day before this meeting, PAIOSA agents visited the achievements of the administrative and technical services of BPEAE, installed in Kirundo and Busoni communes. Finally, the best farmers benefited from different prices. **(ABP)**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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