



The President of the Republic opens the diaspora week, 2023 edition



On thursday, august 17, 2023 at the Magnificat center in Gitega, the President

of the Republic of Burundi HE Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE proceeded to the opening of the diaspora week, Edition 2023. That week has been organized each year since 2014 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation. This year's theme is: "Burundian Diaspora, together with the leaders of our country, let us unite for the development of our homeland".

In the various speeches delivered by the Governor of Gitega, Mr MANIRAMBONA Venant,



the Representative of the Burundian diaspora Mr Eric NIBIGIRA, the Head of Mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Burundi Mrs VIJAYA SOURI, they all returned to the role of the Diaspora in the development of their country of origin. Addressing the member of the



diaspora, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation H.E Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO thanked in general those who responded to the activities of the diaspora week. He said that this 7th edition of the diaspora week is being held at a time when Burundi is in the midst of the fight against the poverty, corruption and all those who sabotage the country's vision of 2040 and 2060 (emerging country in 2040 and developed country in 2060). He also indicated that

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the President of the Republic has prioritized the justice sector, because the country that does not have justice cannot develop. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation said that to succeed in that bet, the Government has favored economic diplomacy. By organizing that week of the diaspora, it is a good opportunity for Burundians to become more active in this new policy of the Government to develop the country and each member of the diaspora is invited to intervene in the development of their dear homeland, informed the Minister Albert SHINGIRO. Being united, members of the diaspora can be good Ambassadors in their respective countries, he added. He asked each member of the Diaspora to bring to Burundi at least two investors a year. He declared that the Ministry in charge of foreign affairs welcomes the achievements of the Diaspora in different sectors of the life of the country and asked them to double their efforts.

In his moralization session, the President of the Republic of Burundi, H.E Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE warmly thanked the members of the Diaspora who participated in that week dedicated to the Burundian Diaspora. He welcomed the theme chosen for this year. He explained that one must always be guided by good leaders and who can show the right direction to follow. Each person must make his contribution so that the country develops by being enlightened by the leaders. It is in this context that he deplored the fact that there are leaders who do not take care of the public good or who do not collaborate with the population to meet their needs.

His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, gave advice to educated people to always contribute to the development of their country by using their knowledge and acquired experience. He also reminded the Burundian diaspora in general to intervene in the development of their country. (MFADC)

The Burundian Diaspora is called upon to contribute to the development of their homeland

The second day of the diaspora week was marked by presentations by representatives of the various institutions of the country working in the country's development sector, including the Bank of the Inhabitant of Burundi (BHB), the National Development Bank (BNDE), the Bank of the Republic of Burundi (BRB), the Youth Support and Investment Program (PAEJ) and the Burundi Revenue Authority (OBR), the Farmers' Credit Bank of Burundi (BCAB), etc. . In all those presentations, members of the diaspora were able to learn about the conditions that facilitate them to set up their projects in Burundi. In the evening, the participants in the diaspora week visited the royal residence of former Burundi in Gishora in Giheta commune, Gitega province. They contemplated different drum dances and the significance of royal court objects.

The diaspora week was closed, at the Hotel Club du Lac Tanganyika, with the reading of the conclusions and recommendations from the diaspora week Edition 2023. Those recommendations generally aim to improve the conditions for participation of the Burundian



diaspora to the development of the country. In his closing remarks, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation H.E Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO reminded the members of the diaspora the new policy of the diplomacy that His Excellency the President of the Republic has put forward. That policy is based on five pillars including: attracting foreign investors, trade between countries, technology transfer, infrastructure development and tourism. Based on those five pillars, H.E Albert SHINGIRO asked each member of the diaspora to actively contribute to the develop-

ment of his country, Burundi. In closing, he thanked all those who responded to the activities of the diaspora week, 7th edition and he closed the diaspora week by handing over the certificates

to the six (6) members of the diaspora who have distinguished themselves in activities and/or development projects in the country.

(MFADC)

The Head of State receives in audience various economic operators wishing to invest in Burundi



On wednesday august 16, 2023, the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye received in audience, at the palace of Gitega, various economic operators who express their wish to come and invest in Burundi.

First, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye received Mr. Andrew HUNTER, Director of an Australian consulting company, which seeks and brings together investors to put them in contact with States, in order to invest in different areas. He had come to present to the Burundian Head of State his desire and that of the investors under his coordination to be able to come and invest in Burundi in various development projects, particularly in the field of road infrastructure, mining, education as well as agriculture.

His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye welcomed them and revealed to them that they come at a time when the country is in its initial momentum towards an emerging Burundi in 2040 and a developed Burundi in 2060. He therefore opened the doors to them and above all recommended to get in touch with the technical services which will refine the legal frameworks of collaboration and cooperation to have facilities to come and invest in Burundi.

Burundian Number One then received in audience Mr. Jean-Christian BERGERON, representing the East African Region within the French company Rubis Energy, working in the oil sector and who wishes to cooperate with the Burundian Government in that domain. He had come to present to the Burundian Head of State the will and the wish of their company to strengthen cooperation and investments in Burundi, especially since it already has Kobil service stations that belong to it.

His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye also opened the doors to that company for better collaboration for projects that are mainly beneficial to the Government, particularly in the context of fuel supply in Burundi and above all to support the project of development of a strategic stock fuel where everyone, including private companies, can come and get supplies.

He also directed them to the sectoral ministry as well as the office in charge of strategic studies for development at the level of the Presidency of the Republic to be able to refine a legal framework of collaboration for development projects in that oil sector.

The President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye finally received in audience the Equity Bank Group, led by its Representative Dr James MWANGI. That financial institution working in several East African Community countries wishes to set up a branch in Burundi in order to support Burundians in various development projects.

The Equity Bank Group also supports the States in several projects related to the facilitation of intra-border trade, but also maritime and land trade, the field of insurance, infrastructure projects, the facilitation of technician training, etc.

That bank appreciates the strategic position of Burundi to be able to take advantage of

the opportunities of socio-economic development. The Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye revealed to them that Burundi is full of great potential, enormous natural wealth that needs to be exploited.

“Burundi is also a bridge for the facilitation of cross-border trade”, added the Burundian President, before recommending them to

remain in close collaboration with the technical services including the Ministry having finance in its attributions and that of infrastructures and the Berkeley Software Distribution (BSD); to establish a win-win collaboration framework and to analyze the possibilities of setting up a branch of that bank here in Burundi. (www.Presidence.gov.bi)

The Head of State congratulates the Catholic Church for the step taken in the profession of faith for its faithful after 125 years of evangelization



On Tuesday, August 15, 2023, when he joined Catholic Christians in the celebration of the feast of the assumption which coincided with the closing of the jubilee year of 125 years of evangelization in Burundi, President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, at the sanctuary of the Virgin Mary of Mugera in Bugendana commune of Gitega province, congratulated the Catholic Church of Burundi for the step taken in the profession of faith for its faithful.

In his speech which preceded the related Eucharistic celebration, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, surrounded by other high personalities of the country, various national and international ecclesiastics as well as thousands of pilgrims from all walks of the countries that had gathered on that hill also called “*Lourdes*”, recalled that Mugera has always been a sacred place where Burundians gathered to invoke God.

To that end, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye returned to the important role of Mugera hill in the history of Burundi before colonization. On the origin of the expression “*Imana za Mugera*” he also recalled

that Mugera was also the political, spiritual capital and decision-making center of pre-colonial Burundi.

The Number One Burundian also reports that the Mugera hill has always been the place of pilgrimage where Burundians from all over the country came to talk with their creator. He reveals that it was only the arrival of the missionaries that served to bring Mugera into the modernity of beliefs by consecrating that holy hill as a sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Before concluding his speech, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye welcomed the contribution of the Catholic Church in the socio-economic development of Burundi through several sectors including education and health. He also salutes the good relations between the Government and the Holy See as well as the harmonious coexistence with other religious denominations. Finally, he welcomed and supported the Vatican's wish to build a basilica on that Mugera hill that could accommodate many pilgrims.

You will know that at the end of that Eucharistic which was celebrated by the Archbishop of Kigali in Rwanda, Cardinal Antoine Kambanda, the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, the Vice-President Prosper Bazombanza, the Prime Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca and all the Catholic Bishops of Burundi, renewed the act made on August 15, 1961 in the same place by Prince Louis Rwagasore, that of consecrating Burundi to the Virgin Mary so that she protects it eternally. (www.Presidence.gov.bi)

Senate: three members of the Government explain the current socio-economic situation



On wednesday, august 16, 2023, three Government Ministers were before the Senate to provide clarifications to the concerns of the population.

The Senators wanted to know why the prices of certain products such as meat, cement and Brarudi products must be the same throughout the national territory while the distance and the means of supply are not the same for all traders in the different corners of the country. The Senators pointed out that that measure leads to the shortage of those products in certain regions of the country and speculation for certain traders who seek to recover their transport costs and who come up against the rigor of the administrative authorities.

The senators also wanted to know the merits of the measure prohibiting the purchase in neighboring countries of products that are not found on the national territory and raised the grumbling of traders linked to the increase in the cost of rents for stalls in some public markets in Bujumbura.

When asked by Senators why the prices of basic necessities have increased by 30% over a period of one month, the Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism, Mrs. Marie Chantal Nijimbere said that since the outbreak of Covid-19, commodity prices have risen in the regional and international market.

This affects the production and distribution chains and consequently the rise in consumer prices on the national market.

The Minister in charge of Trade, Mrs. Marie Chantal Nijimbere adds that the industries are affected by the increase in the price of

fuel and the shortage of currencies because of the trade balance which is in deficit, which has the effect of soaring prices on the local market.

The Senators suggest the diversification of less expensive means of transport which would favor the reduction of prices on the market. In that regard, the Minister in charge of trade indicated that the State is currently investing in the project to build a railway. In addition, the traders are now starting to turn to the exploitation of the less expensive sea route compared to the road route, she explained.

Regarding the shortage of sugar produced by SOSUMO, the Minister in charge of trade recalled that the Government has given the green light since 2022 to importers to import sugar, which has not been done. And the Minister in charge of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security, Mr. Martin Niteretse, added that the small processing units that used a lot of sugar will now find other sources of supply other than SOSUMO.

Assuming that imports are beginning to decline, the senators recommend that the Ministry in charge of trade conduct consultations with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry to diagnose the problem and attempt a solution.

Concerning the discontent of the population linked to the increase in the cost of renting stalls in certain public markets in Bujumbura, the minister in charge of finance replies that the State must increase revenue in order to be able to meet its obligations and the needs of the population.

Concerning the traders who have had their stands taken away from them unduly but who had built stalls there themselves, the Minister in charge of the Interior replies that an ad hoc commission will be set up to check whether they are entitled to reimbursement of the costs used. **(RTNB)**

Official launch of the rehabilitation of the port of Bujumbura



On thursday, august 17, 2023, the Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism, Mrs. Marie Chantal Nijimbere officially launched the rehabilitation works of the port of Bujumbura phase 1 as well as its access roads as a roundabout section of the United Nations at Pk 7 800 of the Bujumbura road on the RN9 axis with a length of 7.8 km, the section from the Metalusa roundabout to the United Nations roundabout with a length of 1.8 km, the section from rue kanzigiri du port to boulevard Melchior Ndadaye with a length of 0.30 km, the section rue du Phare joining the entrance to the port; the section from rue des Marais to the roundabout on boulevard Melchior Ndadaye.

The Representative of the African Develop-

ment Bank (ADB) and the Ambassador of the European Union (EU) who are the Representatives of the technical and financial partners and the Director of the Maritime Port Authority of Burundi participated in this activity.

The Minister in charge of trade has appealed to all stakeholders in this project to combine all efforts to ensure that that project is executed within the 24-month period provided for in the contract.

Marie Chantal Nijimbere asked the surveillance company to ensure its missions, especially the quality and durability of the infrastructures. She said that the rehabilitation of the port of Bujumbura as well as the access roads to that port will be an opportunity to boost the country's economy.

On the side of the technical and financial partners, all the Representative of the African Development Bank and the Ambassador of the EU, insisted that the Khoury contracting company, holder of the contract, use its technical and financial capacity and its competence so that the work is completed on time and make the port of Bujumbura one of the sustainable and exemplary quality infrastructures. (RTNB)

The Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS calls on parents to have their children vaccinated against poliomyelitis

On wednesday august 16, 2023, the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS Dr Sylvie NZEYIMANA released a statement on the occasion of the second round of the response vaccination campaign against the poliomyelitis epidemic coupled with vitamin A supplementation and Albendazole deworming from august 17 to



22, 2023.

To deal with the poliomyelitis epidemic which was declared in Burundi on march 17, 2023, the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS has planned, in accordance with the Standard operational procedures of the Global Eradication Initiative of Poliomyelitis, a national polio vac-

cine response campaign in three rounds which was officially launched by the First Lady of Burundi HE Mrs. Angeline Ndayishimiye during the first round which took place from June 10 to 13, 2023.

From 17 to 22 August, 2023, the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS will carry out the second round of the vaccination response campaign against poliomyelitis throughout the national territory. That vaccination campaign against poliomyelitis will be coupled with vitamin A supplementation and Albendazole deworming except in three provinces, namely Bujumbura Mairie, Kirundo and Karusi, where vitamin A and Albendazole are administered in routine vaccination. The targets for that second round are: Children from 0 to 7 years old for vaccination against poliomyelitis; children 6 to 59 months for vitamin A supplementation; children from one year to 7 years old for Albendazole deworming.

The vaccinator teams will visit each household and places of public gatherings such as churches, mosques, markets, train sta-

tions, etc to vaccinate all those target children.

The Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS took the opportunity to invite the parents to welcome the vaccinators in their households and to respond massively to that campaign, for the strengthening of the immune system of their children.

The vaccine is the only way to save the child from Poliomyelitis. Vitamin A supplementation and Albendazole deworming of children ensure good health for every child, said the Minister in charge of public health.

It should be noted that that campaign was organized under the theme: Together, let's mobilize for the success of that vaccination campaign against polio coupled with vitamin A supplementation and deworming of children aged 0-7 years to strengthen the protection acquired during the first pass. **(RTNB)**

The increase in the number of street children worries the administration

On Monday, August 14, 2023, the Governor of Canakuzo, Mr. Boniface Banyiyezako held in Mishisha commune, a security meeting for communal administrators and heads of decentralized services.

During that meeting, the administrative authorities were concerned about the number of children in street situations, which is increasing day by day and could be a source of insecurity, said.

Cases of street children are recorded at both provincial and municipal levels, according to reports from the provincial directorate of family and social development.

According to the deputy head of that department, Mr. Anatole Karabumba, those cases, even small children, are constantly increas-



ing in the provincial capital, four children under the age of 10 having recently been found. That direction announced, during that meeting, that 16 volunteer foster families for those children have already been chosen at the provincial level and one for each municipality, with sufficient training. But, that management deplored that some children removed from the street, instead of taking advantage of that supervision, they steal and leave illegally. Others hide their true identities, making it difficult to find their real families.

Those cases worry the administrative authorities who fear that those children can be a source of insecurity. Indeed, the Governor of that province called on the participants to intervene, by informing the administration of each known case, for the reintegration of those children into their respective families. (www.abpinfos.com)

Coffee farmers claim the increase in the price of coffee



On Monday August 14, 2023, the Office of the Governor of Bujumbura (western Burundi) in collaboration with the services of the provincial directorate for the environment, agriculture and livestock and the Coffee Development Office (ODECA) launched the coffee pruning and mulching campaign in a coffee field located on Mayemba hill, in Nyabiraba commune. After a demonstration to the population, pruning and mulching, the Governor of that province, Mr. Désiré Nsengiyumva urged communal agronomists and agricultural

monitors to continue that activity in the communes and hills, in order to increase production. To the population, he asked to increase the sowing for that crop which provides foreign currency to the country.

In the presence of the Governor who enhanced the activity with his presence, a coffee grower indicated that people no longer devote themselves to growing coffee because the price per kilogram of cherries remains low and young people prefer to grow amaranths, maize and beans to the detriment of coffee, considering that their price per kg exceeds that of coffee.

A woman coffee grower did not contain her anger by saying that 1280 Fbu per kg of cherry coffee is very little considering the maintenance work required by this culture, and picking, which are very expensive. For her, it is unthinkable that the price of coffee is lower than that of corn, beans or even amaranths, when we know that coffee is an export crop. (www.abpinfos.com)

The 95% target for the first polio vaccination campaign has been largely exceeded in Ngozi province



According to the medical director of the health province of Ngozi, Dr Jean Bosco Niyonzima, the objective of 95% that the health province of Ngozi had set itself, during the recent vaccination campaign against poliomyelitis, last June, has been largely exceeded, according to the national ranking.

That was declared on Monday August 14

during a provincial social mobilization workshop for the preparation of the second national polio vaccination campaign which will start on Thursday August 17, 2023. Dr. Niyonzima welcomed the results recorded but deplored a number of challenges including travel difficulties due to lack of fuel. It is also the resistance of some people who do not understand the importance of vaccination.

Dr. Nizigama requests the full involvement of the administration so that the next campaign is 100% successful.

The workshop was attended by the representatives of the administration, religious denominations, education, health and civil society. (www.abpinfos.com)

The association of military and police officers supports the vulnerable



The native military and police officers of Kirundo province (North) grouped within their association, called AS-SOREKI-INTORE, made a gesture of solidarity towards vulnerable people, by granting aid consisting of rice and sugar to the three centers of the Kirundo province hosting vulnerable children and old people, namely the center of the Missionaries of Charity of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the center for the disabled of Kanyinya and the

center of Makombe, in Bwambarangwe commune.

Police Colonel Evariste Rwemera, who represented the delegation, said they chose those centers because they house many vulnerable people. He invited any charitable soul to approach these centers in order to support these children and old people who live there.

The Provincial Governor, Mr. Albert Hatungimana warmly thanked these officers for that gesture of charity, specifying that they implemented the wish of the President of the Republic, that all Burundians show solidarity and help each other, wish translated recently in fact, throughout the country, with the celebration of the day dedicated to solidarity.

It should be noted that those native officers also contribute in other sectors, namely education, health, and in the various development works. (www.abpinfos.com)

Social mobilization for the 2nd round of the poliomyelitis vaccination campaign in Mwaro province



In the health, in Mwaro province, 92,616 children are expected for the poliomyelitis response campaign, 2nd passage, coupled with the administration of vitamin A and albendazole to children under eight years old.

In the health district of Kibumbu, 48,696 children are expected against 43,920 children in the health district of Fota. That was

stated by the medical director of the health province of Mwaro, Dr. Ezéchiel Nzuwonsaba, during a social mobilization meeting of that campaign scheduled for August 17-22. He said that the evaluation of the last campaign of its kind, the first round, which took place in the month of June, it turned out that the vaccination coverage reached 103.5%, while the objective was to 95%. In the health district of Kibumbu, vaccination coverage reached 110.4% and that of Fota, 95.7%.

Dr. Nzuwonsaba asked the population of Mwaro to respond massively to this campaign and to follow related lessons throughout the vaccination period.

In his presentation, the health coordinator in Mwaro, Théogène Nizirazana indicated that poliomyelitis does not cure and that the best way to eradicate it remains the vaccine. He recalled that poliomyelitis is caused by the

poliovirus, favored by unsanitary conditions. The value of vitamin A supplementation is to reduce the rate of blindness linked to vitamin deficiency, and other clinical manifestations linked to vitamin deficiency, it has been reported.

Regarding the good practices to be shared in order to make that campaign a success, we mentioned, among other things, real-time communication between campaign ac-

tors at all levels, the redeployment of teams who have finished vaccinating to support others behind as well as the good collaboration with the administration and the police in the management of cases of refusal, and the recovery of lost bottles. (www.abpinfos.com)

Children who have properly observed the vaccination schedule are concerned by the vaccination campaign against poliomyelitis



A child who has observed the current schedule well needs to participate in that vaccination campaign against poliomyelitis, including the 2nd round of the vaccination campaign which begins on August 17, 2023. Those are the words of Mrs. Aline Ndayishimiye, the President of the Burundian Association of Pediatricians, during an exchange meeting between pediatricians and the authorities of the Expanded Vaccination Program on this campaign.

Ms. Ndayishimiye explained that in the current program, a vaccine is administered that only protects against 2 sero-types of poliomyelitis while there are 3 sero-types. Sero-types 1 and 2 are in the current program but serotype 2 is not. Hence vaccination for all children, even vaccinated, is essential. Ms. Ndayishimiye goes on to say that the mission of the campaign is to protect against

sero-type 2 because the other 2 sero-types 1 and 3 do not protect against sero-type 2. "We need to be protected against the 3 serotypes so that we can say that the child is correctly protected against poliomyelitis". At the time when there are 3 vaccines (1st, 2nd and 3rd rounds), Ms. Ndayishimiye explains that when you give a dose the body produces antibodies, with the consequence,

the fall of antibodies which protects the body. The second and third doses strengthen the body by raising the level of antibodies to its maximum, which will protect the child for several years.

Compared to the side effects that vaccinees can have, Ms. Ndayishimiye said that the side effects are minimal. She explained that there is more benefit than risk in having your child vaccinated: a child who has not been vaccinated is at risk of paralysis and that paralysis can be irreversible.

As a pediatrician, Ms. Ndayishimiye calls on all parents who have children who are in the range targeted by the vaccination campaign, to respond massively. (www.abpinfos.com)

The Synergy of Partners for the Promotion of Women's Rights (SPPDF) leads a public debate for evidence-based advocacy



The Synergy of Partners for the Promotion of Women's Rights (SPPDF) in acronym, with the support of the African Fund for the Development of Women "AWDF", organized from August 9 to 10, 2023 in the province of Cibitoke, a public debate for evidence-based advocacy.

That activity brought together key decision-makers identified at the communal and provincial level as well as members of the peace network of that province of Cibitoke.

The objective of the session was to report on the identified challenges preventing women from accessing effective participation in decision-making bodies so that the contribution of women is considered during the development and implementation of the policies and the community and the national development programs.

According to the Legal Representative of the SPPDF Mrs. Goreth MANIRAMBONA, gender equity is an essential condition for the sustainable socio-economic development of a country. It is in that context that the synergy of partners for the promotion of women's rights (SPPDF) has put into its program the effective participation of women in decision-making bodies so that men

and women contribute the same way to the development of the country.

Mrs. Goreth MANIRAMBONA said that the most influential challenges that block women from active participation in the life of the country and which were identified during the forums organized in the six municipalities of the CIBITOKÉ province are in particular:

- Women's ignorance of the laws that define their rights and duties,
- Lack of equity in the management of family property and women's lack of control over the household property,
- Discrimination in the designation or appointment in the decision-making positions,
- Cultural barriers that hinder women's participation in economic life,
- Concubinage,
- Girls dropping out the school when those who continue to go to school do not go on to higher education...

At the end of the session, the key decision-makers identified by the SPPDF who had attended the session took ownership of all those challenges before developing an action plan to be implemented so that the participation of women is effective and that from base to top. (RTNB)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

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