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The Head of State visits various development projects of the population in Gitega



his Tuesday, February 23, 2021, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE visited various development projects of the population supported by the World Bank, on different hills of Mutaho, Bugendana and Giheta communes of Gitega province.

On Gitongo hill in Mutaho commune, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE realized the achievements of projects financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development IFAD, through PRODEFI and PAIFAR-B, which support the population in various self-development projects, especially in agriculture, breeding and trade. He had the opportunity to meet with certain groups of the population united in associations and supported by the PAIFAR-B project, financed by IFAD. He recommended that the operators of these projects strengthen financial education among the populaion.

After Mutaho commune, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye visited a maize plantation and another of banana trees belonging to an association of farmers from Cishwa hill in Bugendana commune. The project is supported by the PRODEFI program. After the Cishwa hill, the Burundian Number One also visited the agricultural achievements of an inhabitant of the Bitare hill of the same commune supported by the Merankabandi project. He recommends that the local population go and learn from this modern farmer who started his project based on 120 thousand Burundian francs.

His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye closed this series of visits of the population's projects to the communal model field on Gisuru hill in Giheta commune where he participated in plowing activities. This project is supported by the PAIFAR-B program.

After this visit, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye informed the press that, given all he had just seen on the ground, it is quite possible that all Bu-

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rundians are rich. According to him, the reality he had just seen on the ground could help the recovery of certain minds and the change of mentalities among certain Burundians who believed themselves to be poor, while their poverty is only to be found in their consciences.

As such, the Head of State finds that there is often abuse of language, when people speak of "Ntahonikora" in Kirundi as one who is vulnerable, unable to do anything. According to him, everyone is capable of self-

development and nothing is impossible for anyone who wants to.

His Excellency closed by urging the Burundians to wake up and especially to take advantage of this new found peace to initiate development projects, in order to have a prosperous Burundi.

(Source: www.presidence.gov.bi)

The Head of State encourages various projects carried out by agro-pastoralists in the Mbuye and Rutegama communes of Muramvya



his Wednesday, February 24, 2021, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Nday-ishimiye continued his field trip to inquire about the achievements of projects supported by the World Bank in Burundi.

In the capital of Mbuye commune, the Head of State visited the "Uhirazikamwe" dairy cooperative, supported by the "PRODEFI" sector development program. Inaugurated in October 2014 by the late President Nkurunziza, the "Uhirazikamwe" cooperative specializes in the collection, sale and processing of milk into cheese and other products derived from milk. After a guided tour, the Head of State recommended that the managers of this cooperative buy adequate equipment and clean up so that this processing unit is well rated to be competitive.

The President also visited a modern agro-pastoralist known as Félix Simbarokoka, on Bigwana hill in the same commune. Starting from a single cow granted to him by the PRODEFI program, Mr. Félix Simbarokoka currently owns 3 cows and a very productive banana plantation. The Father of the Nation wished him to go ahead and asked him to help in sensitizing other cohabitants on self-development.

The Burundian Number One then visited a rice farm in the valley in the Gasura zone of Mbuye commune, a marsh straddling Mbuye and Rutegama, spanning 170 ha and supported by the PRODEFI program. He encouraged the population to put fertilizers there to increase production.

Also in Mbuye, the Head of State visited a Munanira II irrigation dam, built on the Mubarazi River, with the capacity to irrigate two communes at the same time, Rutegama and Mbuye. For this dam that irrigates rice crops, the Head of State recommended using the water to irrigate other fields as well, especially during the dry season

After the Mubarazi dam, the President of the Republic visited the achievements of an agro-pastoralist on Nyarunazi hill in Rutegama commune. Supported by PRODEFI, this agri-breeder has a heifer, a very productive banana plantation and a vegetable garden.

You will know that during all these visits to the various agro-pastoral achievements of the population, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye encouraged them and invited other citizens to be inspired by these techniques used in order to increase production.

(Source: www.presidence.gov.bi)

Karusi, third province visited by the Head of State, during his visits to assess agropastoral projects carried out by the population with the support of the World Bank



In Gitaramuka commune, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye visited, this Thursday, February 25, 2021, a 15 hectare corn field on Maramvya hill, an area belonging to the population of this locality united in association and a rice field of 166 ha supported by PRODEFI, in the Gashayura swamp.

He took the opportunity to encourage this good initiative of the population to come together in association for a better production, returning to the slogan "Turi kumwe twese birashoboka". His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye did not forget to congratulate BPEAE Karusi for its efficiency in mentoring farmers.

His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye then visited his 19 ha landholding on Gashanga hill in

Bugenyuzi commune, an estate with corn fields, with plows waiting to be sown. He continued his journey on the Canzikiro hill in the same municipality, where he raises cows, accompanied by growing corn. He also visited his farm and fish farm in the Ndurumu valley, where new varieties of fish have been introduced into ponds. He welcomes his plans and encourages citizens to learn from the techniques used to increase production.

The Burundian Number One visited the "Garukirinka" dairy cooperative, supported by PRODEFI in the capital of Bugenyuzi and an agro-pastoralist from the Rusasa hill. He encouraged him for this project to develop agriculture and livestock and asked the administrators to supervise the beneficiaries of the cows granted by PRODEFI for a better yield.

On the Rusamaza hill in Gihogazi commune, the Head of State visited corn fields on 33 ha under the support of PRODEFI, before ending his descent in Karusi province with a visit to the site of the regional multidisciplinary learning center., on Rusi hill in Shombo commune. He recommended to those responsible for this work to finish the work in August.

(Source: www.presidence.gov.bi)

The Head of State calls on Burundian youth to like technical fields in order to be able to self-develop and develop the country



hile His Excellency the Head of State, along with the First Lady, joined the population of Gitega, the political capital of Burundi, in community development work at the Polytechnic University of Gitega, he called on Burundian youth to embrace technical and professional sectors, in order to be able to self-develop and develop their country.

President Ndayishimiye said that the construction project of the Polytechnic University of Gitega came at the

right time, knowing that it coincides with the national technical and vocational training program aimed at training Burundian youth for self-development.

The Burundian Number One also encouraged the Polytechnic University of Gitega for its ability to train laureates capable of honoring the country, given the knowledge and skills already noted among those who have graduated from this academic establishment and who are hired in different technical sectors of the country.

Let us point out that the townspeople of the political capital, other natives of Gitega coming from different corners of the country and the friends of Gitega had gathered massively around this community work which consisted in concreting the 3rd level of another building for extension., which will serve as classrooms for this University erected on Tankoma hill.

After these works, the Presidential Couple went to Kayokwe commune of Mwaro province to realize the damage caused by the bad weather where the roofs of the Kibumbu parish church and the Convent of Priests were blown away by violent winds. To support the Kibumbu parish in these hard times, the Father of the Nation promises metal sheets to cover the buildings of the Convent of Priests.

(Source: www.presidence.gov.bi)

The Head of State urges Burundians to repent and restore relations with God in this Lenten period



n this first Sunday of Lent, the Presidential Couple was in the Mungwa zone of Gitega commune, for Sunday prayer in Gihiza Parish. In his message of greeting to Christians, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye urged the Burundians to repent and especially to take advantage of this period of Lent to truly restore their relations with the Lord.

The Head of State thanked God who continues to protect Burundi against the COVID19 pandemic and said that the number of positive cases has been reduced very significantly in recent days. However, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye called on the population to always respect the barrier measures.

The Father of the Nation also called on the parishes of the Catholic Church to take the lead in framing Christians in development. Christians, he asked them to avoid wasting family goods and to engage in development work relentlessly, so that they could increase production.

The Head of State His Excellency Evariste Nday-ishimiye closed his message by once again urging the Burundians to draw love, mercy, solidarity and unity from Christ, so that together they can build a peaceful Burundi and prosperous. Finally, the project to extend the parish church of Gihiza, the Father of the Nation promises to lend his support.

(Source: www.presidence.gov.bi)

The First Lady invites all Burundians and partners in the country to work more for early childhood development



er Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, First Lady of the Republic of Burundi, enhanced with her presence, on February 24, 2021, at the Royal Palace Hotel, the activities of the 3-day workshop, which aims to raise awareness and mobilize leaders in grassroots social sectors on the importance of directing investments and directing resources in early childhood development, from conception to age 8.

She recalled that the development of the child from conception until the age of 8 is a crucial stage in the good growth of the child. If this period is not handled with care, there is a way that the child's future will be ruined. This is also the period when the child is at high risk of suffering from diseases linked to malnutrition.

Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye returned to the efforts already made by the Government of Burundi to ensure better early childhood development, in particular the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of certain International Agreements which advocate the development of childhood. Also, the Government of Burundi has established free health care for children under five, pregnant women and women in childbirth, free basic education to name a few.

The First Lady stressed that even if Burundi has made a giant leap in improving the conditions for early childhood development, challenges still exist, including poverty in families, the lack of sufficient information on feeding children and pregnant women and

early childhood rights, and parents who do not take care of their children during this period of infancy. She urged those in charge of health care structures to reinstate sensitization sessions on various issues related to the health and nutrition of infants and pregnant women. It should be mentioned that these sessions have long been intended for mothers who come for vaccination and prenatal consultation.

Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye also invited the Ministries in charge of Health, Solidarity, Education, Security, Justice and the Ministry in charge of Water as well as that of Finance, increase actions in favor of better early childhood development.

The First Lady thanked the partners of Burundi who work for early childhood development including UNICEF, WFP, WHO and the World Bank. She asked them to continue this support. Much more, she invited everyone to make their contribution to the well-being of early childhood.

Finally, it reiterated its commitment to the well-being of children, through the Organization of African First Ladies for Development (OPADAD-Burundi), given that its strategic axes include the health and development of children and young people in general.

(Source: www.presidence.gov.bi)

Kayanza - Development The President of the National Assembly participated in the earthworks of a land that will host the KAYANZA Provincial University



Right Honorable Daniel Gélase Ndabirabe, in the company of parliamentarians elected in the constituency of Kayanza province (northern Burundi), the Honorable Burundian Ombudsman Édouard Nduwimana and the Minister in charge of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Dr. Déo Guide Rurema joined the population of Matongo commune on Saturday February 20, 2021 in the preparation of land that will house the Provincial University of Kayanza. This University provisionally called "Higher Polytechnic Institute of Kayanza" will

be erected on the hill and Ruganza area of Matongo commune, ABP learned on the spot.

In his speech addressed to the participants at the end of the works, the Right Honorable Gélase Ndabirabe indicated that five engineers will be recruited to supervise the construction works of this Institute, which will have six sectors including the Faculty of Hospitality, the Faculty of Geology and Mines, the Faculty of Metallurgy, Agrifood, Nutrition and Electromechanics.

To properly carry out the construction work of this community-based Institute, he specified that each municipality will be represented by the population of one of its hills each working day and invited the population of Kayanza to combine their efforts in order to get off to a good start and complete its construction on schedule. He also urged economic operators, especially the natives of Kayanza, to erect decent buildings in the vicinity of this Institute to facilitate student accommodation.

(Source: www.abpinfos.com)

Plenary session of senators on oral questions to the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research



he President of the Senate of Burundi, the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera led Wednesday February 24, 2021, at the hemicycle of Gitega a plenary session of Senators on oral questions addressed to the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research, Mr. Gaspard Banyankimbona on the functioning of fundamental

and post-fundamental schools and the strategies adopted to meet the challenges which haunt the Burundian education sector.

The Senate Speaker indicated that senators' questions fall under the findings of their field trips during the parliamentary recess to soak up the state of play of schools. The main oral questions of the Senators concerned in particular the strategies envisaged by the Government to rehabilitate dilapidated or destroyed school infrastructures, to make up for the insufficiency of classrooms and their equipment, observed in some schools which face the overcrowding of students.

They asked for the mechanisms put in place to make up for the shortfall in teaching staff in certain municipalities.

They deplored the insufficiency of desks noted in most schools, drinking water, electricity, libraries, computers, textbooks for teachers and undergraduate students of ECOFO. They raised questions about the functioning of vocational schools and their equipment. They also called for strategies adopted to reduce the high rate of school dropouts and unwanted pregnancies in schools.

They expressed the need for the extension of school canteens in the various provinces of the country as a solution to the cases of school dropouts linked to the poverty of many families. They conveyed the wish of the population regarding the orientation of part of the municipal budget towards education.

Regarding the inadequacy of school infrastructure and the need for their extension, rehabilitation and equipment, the Minister in charge of National Education recognized the efforts made by the population since 2005 to increase school infrastructure. He then said that 50% of existing schools were built by the population, specifying that 33% of these schools are in good condition, 44% are in poor condition while 23% require their rehabilitation.

For desk benches, the Government of Burundi has granted a fund of one billion to the Ministry of National Education but this budget will not be able to meet the expressed needs of one hundred thousand (100,000) desk benches. While the rehabilitation of infrastructure needs an estimated amount of one hundred and seventy billion (170,000,000,000 BIF), the state has already made available a fund of two hundred million (200,000,000 BIF).

Regarding the insufficiency of drinking water and electricity in many schools, Minister Banyankimbona indicated that projects are underway to improve schools' access to water and electricity so essential for the communities especially in this campaign to fight against Covid 19. He pointed out the challenge of certain schools which record unpaid debts

to REGIDESO. Equipment and teaching materials will be available as and when financial resources allow. Minister Banyankimbona stressed the need for the involvement of different actors in society for the proper functioning of schools.

He thus approved the proposal of the population relating to the orientation of part of the municipal budget to education. Communal community development plans should also integrate education actions. The reduction in the school dropout rate deserves the involvement of the various education partners in raising public awareness of the education of all children or even the establishment of a law on the education of all children.

As for the mechanisms put in place to reduce the cases of pregnancies in schools, he indicated that the Menya Umenyeshe project was initiated and the strengthening of the supervision of students by aunts and uncles in order to achieve goal of zero pregnancy cases. He also indicated that the school canteens initiated in some provinces will be able to gradually expand to all provinces.

Regarding the situation of vocational schools, Minister Banyankimbona underlined the will of the Government to promote these schools but deplored the low attendance of these schools by students who show little interest in them. He also appreciated the efforts made by the populations but deplored their slackness in equipping them. Thus, he said, out of 321 trade schools built, 105 are operational but some have small numbers of students.

The Senators asked further questions and made recommendations. They recommended in particular to follow closely the solutions for the school infrastructure in poor condition and for the insufficiency of equipment and teaching materials; continue to apply preventive measures against covid 19; to increase the number of teachers to be recruited in order to make up the deficit, to sensitize the municipalities on their crucial role in supporting schools.

(Source: www.abpinfos.com)

The Prime Minister recommends strengthening the committee to monitor the work of the Special Economic Zone (SEZ)



Prime Minister CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni, accompanied by the relevant Ministers of the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and the promoters of the latter, carried out on Monday February 22, 2021, a field trip to assess the progress of the work of development of SEZ, at Gatumba in the Warubondo sector in Mutimbuzi commune in Bujumbura province.

After the guided tour by the promoters of the company PROSERV of the place intended for the SEZ, Prime Minister CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni met in Gatumba the sector ministers, the promoters of the area and all the stakeholders concerned by the development of the SEZ.

In his introductory remarks, Prime Minister Alain Guillaume Bunyoni said that the primary objective of this area was to make it a large shopping center where Burundian businessmen can get their supplies instead of going to abroad. But also, this zone should be an industrial space that would house activities aimed at creating employment in Burundi.

During the exchange meeting on the evolution of the project to develop the SEZ, the observation is that according to the Prime Minister, work is slowing down because of climate change and the global health crisis of the Covid -19 pandemic consequently the company PROSERV could not make the construction plan available on time.

The other observation according to the Prime Minister is the unavailability of the roadmap and that of the members of the joint monitoring commission to conduct evaluation meetings of the SEZ project. Speaking on this situation, all the Ministers and Managers concerned by this project indicated that the non-availability of the work plan and of the information on the project slowed down the progress of the development works of the area,

among others the water supply, the extension of electricity as well as the improvement of the road which leads to the site.

Among the recommendations resulting from the meeting of the stakeholders for the development of the SEZ are: the expansion of the joint monitoring committee by including the Permanent Secretaries of the sectorial Ministries to accompany and support the committee which was in place; the availability of the joint monitoring commission, the reworking of the partnership agreement between the Government of Burundi and the company PROSERV for its updating in time and space; the availability of the general construction plan for the area, the design of the road map for discussions and possible alterations by the Government of Burundi; a period of one week was granted to hold a preliminary meeting of the joint supervisory committee to prepare the meeting in 15 days of the committee reinforced by the Permanent Secretaries of the sectoral ministries for support and accompaniment.

The other recommendations made to the Government of Burundi, to commission immediate studies for the extension of electricity in the area and the water supply, to conduct studies to develop the Gatumba-Vugizo road to make the special economic zone accessible.

Prime Minister CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni ended the

meeting by urging all stakeholders to collaborate, communicate and work transparently in order to stem the problems that arise in the implementation of this project.

This project concerns 7 sectoral ministries including the Ministry of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism, the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Eco-

nomic Planning, the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Tourism. "Livestock, the Ministry of Infrastructures, Equipment and Social Housing, the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security, the Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines, the Ministry of Justice of Burundi.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The Minister in charge of the Interior calls on municipal administrators to ensure sound administrative and financial management



he Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security, CPC Gervais Ndirakobuca calls on the communal administrators and the Presidents of the Communal Councils of Burundi to do everything possible to ensure good administrative and financial management of the communes. The appeal was made at a meeting he held on Monday February 22 in Gitega for these municipal administrative authorities. He thus announced that the entire month of March 2021 will be a witness month for the collection of municipal taxes and levies on all the markets of the various municipalities of the country.

The objective of this new procedure for collecting municipal taxes and levies is to verify the financial potential of each municipality. This will allow the Government to realize the financial capacities of the various communes, and therefore to distribute the financial support according to the communal financial capacities, indicated the Minister in charge of the Interior. Minister Gervais

Ndirakobuca welcomed the positive results already recorded during the witness collection weeks organized recently in 13 municipalities in certain provinces where the new tax collectors have collected revenues far greater than those previously received during the same period. He then underlined that the perception of the test month will be made by new tax collectors recruited among the young unemployed identified recently in the hills and neighborhoods. The supervision of this perception of the witness month will be carried out by 9 teams from the Ministry in charge of the Interior which will cover 2 provinces each, specified the Permanent Secretary in charge of the Interior, Mr. Martin Ninteretse.



The Minister in charge of the Interior indicated that the desired result is that all municipal revenues return to the public treasury for the well-being of the entire population. He invited the municipal administrators to ensure the administrative management as good fathers of families in accordance with the recommendations of the responsible and hard-working Government. They must listen to the complaints of the population without distinction and find

solutions. They are also called upon to ensure the good management of the municipal heritage, to make a regular and efficient follow-up of all the personnel, to ensure a good maintenance of the infrastructures such as the roads and the gutters of their respective municipalities. They were also invited to mobilize the population to carry out development work while serving as a model. They are invited to follow up with the civil status services to remedy certain irregularities that generate family conflicts.

The Minister in charge of the Interior winked at the municipal administrators for the slowness observed in following up on the correspondence that the Ministry had addressed to them since last year. He recommended that they always make sure to give quick answers to the various correspondence of the Ministry. Reports from the various areas of communal life must be transmitted in good time.

The participants asked questions, in particular those relating to the new procedure for collecting municipal taxes and levies. The Minister invited all municipal authorities to appropriate this new collection method and ensure rational management in favor of the well-being of the entire population.

(Source: www.abpinfos.com)

The Ministers in charge of Public Health and National Education express themselves on the poor management of morgues observed in hospitals



The Ministers having Public Health and National Education in their attributions, respectively Dr Thaddée Ndikumana and Mr Gaspard Banyankimbona, held Monday February 22, 2021, in the precincts of the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, a meeting on the mismanagement of public morgues in the various national hospitals, we learn from the minutes released on the sidelines of this meeting.

The participants in this meeting were the heads of the Natwe Turashoboye hospitals in Karusi, the National Police Hospital, the Prince Regent Charles Hospital, the Kamenge Military Hospital, the Kamenge University Hospital Center, the Prince Louis Rwagasore Clinic, as well as other executives at the level of the various technical services concerned.

During this meeting, the Minister in charge of Public Health evoked, forthwith, that the meeting followed the various laments of the population about the accessibility and availability of cold rooms in the various hospitals in general., and particularly in the Prince Régent Charles hospitals (HPRC), Hôpital Militaire de Kamenge (HMK) and the Kamenge University Hospital (CHUK) referred to in an audio circulating on social networks from Friday February 19, 2021.

After the presentation of one of the cases on the poor management of public morgues made to a victim, the executives and the managers of the various morgues spoke about their management in general and on the audio circulating on social networks in particular, continues the minutes, specifying that the said managers of the morgues were heard separately.

After hearing all the hospital mortuary agents available to them, the manager of the Natural Flower funeral director and the opinions of the various participants, certain decisions were taken.

This involves making the agents of the morgues of the three hospitals (HPRC, HMK and CHUK) available to the Commissioner of the Judicial Police for an in-depth investigation with a view to clearing the responsibilities,

taking administrative sanctions against certain workers assigned to the morgues of the CHUK, HMK and HPRC pending the conclusions of the investigations, and reorganize the morgues department of public hospitals in order to allow business continuity.

It is also a question of inviting the Directors of hospitals to become more involved in the daily management of the morgues by instructing the manag-

ers of the latter to transmit a daily report on the entries and exits of bodies, to computerize the management of the services of the morgues, and invite the City of Bujumbura to set up a public morgue for the management of home deaths as well as road accidents, given that hospital morgues are in principle reserved for patients who die in hospitals.

(Source: www.abpinfos.com)

Reopening of Bonesha-FM radio



he President of the National Communication Council (CNC), Ambassador Nestor Bankumukunzi, organized on Monday February 22, 2021, in Bujumbura, a press point to inform the public of the lifting of the sanctions that had been taken against the radio RSF-Bonesha FM. The CNC president indicated that on February 19, 2021, the CNC's executive board took the measure to lift decision N ° 100 / CNC / 011/2017 of September 28, 2017 withdrawing the operating license from RSF-Bonesha FM radio.

He also recalled that the measure follows the desire expressed by the Burundian Head of State, H.E Evariste Ndayishimiye, to see the closed media reopen. It was during the meeting held on January 28, 2021 with media officials.

The Head of State had also asked the CNC to sit down together with those responsible for the media under sanctions and to explore ways to lift these sanctions. Still according to Amb. Bankumukunzi, the CNC reacted quickly by bringing together, on February 1, 2021, those responsible for these media under sanctions. He reported that during their meeting, the members of the CNC Executive Board noted that the "Radio Sans Frontières" association, owner of the radio station, held its general assembly on August 26, 2017 and renewed the governing bodies of the radio, appointing at the same time Mr. Léon Masengo as Director of radio Bonesha-FM, replacing Mr. Patrick Ndikumana prosecuted by the Burundian justice.

The Chairman of the CNC took this opportunity to clarify that the new management of Bonesha-FM radio has signed a new set of specifications and has undertaken to take all the relevant measures in order to avoid any professional misconduct that would contradict each other. with the laws and regulations in force in Burundi, as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, especially in its article 20 prohibiting any propaganda in favor of war and any appeal to hatred and violence. Dialogue will continue with officials of other media under sanctions, he added.

The Director of Bonesha-FM radio, Mr. Léon Masengo, told the press that he welcomed the decision that has just been taken by the CNC and took this opportunity to thank the President of the Republic of Burundi.

(Source: www.abpinfos.com)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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