



"Everyone is unanimous that with the presidency of the EAC ensured by President Ndayishimiye we are seeing tangible results"



On Saturday December 10, 2022, His Excellence Evariste Ndayishimiye received in audience Mr Xia Huang, the Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations in the Great Lakes Region at Kiriri Palace. Mr Xia Huang highly praised the efforts of the Head of State and President-in-Office of the EAC His Excellence Evariste Ndayishimiye, in the resolution of the conflict in the DRC.

During their exchanges, the Burundian Number One revealed that the situation remains worrying in the East of the DRC, particularly in North Kivu and that it deserves to be managed with delicacy given the different categories of armed groups that are sowing terror and desolation.

"Taking into account the meetings held with the other Heads of State, we are all determined to help Congo regain peace and security," reassured President Ndayishimiye, adding, however, that the regional force will need financial support to succeed his mission.

The Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations in the Great Lakes Region affirmed the commitment of the United Nations to support the peace process in the DRC.

"Today everyone is unanimous that with the chairmanship of the EAC ensured by President Ndayishimiye, we are seeing tangible results and a stronger dynamic with regard to the coordination of the Nairobi and Luanda processes", indicated Mr. Xia Huang who also wished to congratulate the Burundian President for the progress made in the socio-economic development of Burundi.

"President Ndayishimiye is a visionary President who has an ambitious strategy for the prospects of this country. And in his socio-economic development efforts, he will have the unreserved support of the United Nations," the UN diplomat hinted, speaking to the press at the end of the hearing.

This meeting also offered an opportunity to discuss the state of preparations for the High Level Summit of the Regional Monitoring Mechanism on the Addis Ababa Framework Agreement to be held in Bujumbura in February 2023.

The Burundian Head of State said that Burundi is ready to host this summit but that the technical and financial support of the UN would be beneficial for the organization of this event. (www.presidency.bi)

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The Head of State urges all citizens to duly pay taxes and duties and promises to punish mercilessly any form of tax evasion in Burundi



On tuesday december 6, 2022, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye enhanced with his presence the activities marking the Taxpayer's Day in Burundi, edition 2022, in the Town Hall of Bujumbura where he urged all Burundian citizens to duly pay taxes and taxes and promises exemplary sanctions for any form of tax evasion in Burundi.

The ceremonies of this annual meeting which was celebrated under the theme: "Let us proudly pay the taxes and duties due and contribute to the development of the country", took place at the Boulevard de l'Indépendance in the town hall of Bujumbura and were enhanced by the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye.

These festivities began with the visit of the various stands of taxpayers' products by the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, during a fair-exhibition organized on this occasion by the Burundian Revenue Office OBR, in collaboration with different economic operators.

The Commissioner General of the Burundian Revenue Office (OBR) said that several works marked the week of the taxpayer, in particular the awareness and education of Burundians in tax citizenship as well as exhibitions and sales of products of Burundian taxpayers. He also demonstrated that the corrected taxes and duties come mainly from the category of private economic operators producing exportable goods. He asked that

this category be supported in order to claim sustainable development. "Burundi should invest in this currency-generating category," he said.

The Minister in charge of Public Finance indicated in his speech that the celebration of Taxpayer's Day goes beyond a simple ceremony, because it is an opportunity that the Government takes to awaken the conscience of taxpayers and all partners on the major role of tax compliance in the country's economic development. This day was also marked by the presentation of prizes to the most compliant taxpayers, and companies that have supported in one way or another the Burundian Revenue Office OBR, in particular by significantly increasing the volume of taxes paid in the public treasury.

In his speech for the occasion, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye gave various advice in the direction of stimulating Burundian taxpayers who are still dragging their feet in fulfilling their tax obligations and asks them to proudly pay taxes and taxes. He called on all citizens to familiarize themselves with tax citizenship and to denounce fraud, corruption and all forms of economic embezzlement that undermine the country's development.

President Ndayishimiye returned to several opportunities that should be exploited to develop the country. He recalls that Burundi is not as poor as some are convinced. He makes it known that he has sufficient and varied natural resources that must be used wisely to increase production. "There is still a lot of unexploited land in Burundi that needs to be made profitable, he continued, while urging Burundian economic operators to work in the agricultural product processing sector and to work in synergy with producers.

For those operating in the field of telecommunications (mobile telephony), he also asks them to work to ensure that their revenues are well channeled for the benefit of the public treasury in order to be used in the development of the country. He also castigated the unpatriotic behavior of certain factories which produce products harmful to the health of the population, and those which refuse to pay the dividends of the State until seeing their operating license cancelled. (www.presidency.bi)

Relations between Burundi and Equatorial Guinea are in good shape



On Friday December 9, 2022, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by the First Lady HE Angeline Ndayishimiye, arrived in Bujumbura after a mission to Equatorial Guinea where he enhanced with his presence the investiture ceremonies of HE Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, held in Malabo on Thursday December 8, 2022. Through his spokesperson, Mr. Alain Diomède

Nzeyimana, the President of the Republic congratulated the Equatorial Guineans for the holding of free and peaceful elections, "an eloquent sign that testifies to the maturity of the people of Equatorial Guinea in matters democracy and a good example for other African countries", he said.

He also added that the Burundian Number One wanted to make the trip to show his support for his Equatorial Guinean counterpart with whom he has good brotherly relations.

"On the sidelines of these ceremonies, the President of the Republic had the opportunity to meet with his counterpart to discuss subjects of common interest and the strengthening of bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation between Burundi and Equatorial Guinea"

With 43 years in power, President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo was re-elected on November 20, 2022 for a new term of 7 years. (www.presidency.bi)

The Vice-President BAZOMBANZA urges contracting countries to honor their commitments to the Lake Tanganyika Authority



On Thursday December 08, 2022, on behalf of the Head of State of Burundi, the Vice-President of the Republic HE Ir Prosper BAZOMBANZA enhanced with his presence, at the Hotel Club du Lac Tanganyika in Bujumbura, the opening ceremonies of the works of the 10th ordinary meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the Lake Tanganyika Authority.

In his speech, the Vice-President of the Republic HE Ir Prosper BAZOMBANZA said that the Lake Tanganyika Authority was set up with the aim of properly coordinating all interventions on the lake

jointly with development partners and that the Government's wish is that efforts be made particularly in the field of legislation and the development of protocols which constitute tools to guarantee good collaboration. "We are committed to doing our best to implement all these tools". The legal instruments reinforce the efforts that are being carried out in the sub-region.

"We are aware that the secretariat is currently working with difficulties, this leads us to request all countries to honor their commitments by paying contributions on time and has cleared all arrears", he insisted, declaring that Burundi will continue to contribute regularly as provided for in the agreement signed between the four countries.

The Vice-President BAZOMBANZA further specified that the Government of Burundi has put in place the integrated development plan for the Lake Tanganyika coastline, which plan will guide decision-makers, local and international investors as well as other partners so that the coastline of Lake Tanganyika is enhanced and protected taking into account environmental, tourist and economic aspects.

Before closing his speech by wishing the outcome of these meetings to measures and large-scale actions related to the sustainable management of Lake Tanganyika with the aim of ensuring the well-being of the local populations and socio-economic development, the Vice- President BAZOMBANZA pointed out that

this conference follows the 11th meeting of the management committee which lasted three days, during which they finalized the key messages, which messages will serve as a guide during the formulation of recommendations. (www.presidency.bi)

The ombudsman visits Ngozi commune



On Saturday december 10, 2022, the Ombudsman of the Republic of Burundi Aimée Laurentine Kanyana participated in the construction work of the office of the Rural Ngozi Zone, in Ngozi commune and province. The administrative staff and the local population also took part in this work.

The administrator of Ngozi commune specified that this zone chief's office will be very useful, because the population will no longer have to go to the provincial capital to obtain administrative services, and the zone will be free of rental charges. The Governor of Ngozi province congratulated the

ombudsman for his appointment to this noble post of mediator and for having chosen his native province as the first destination for his field visits.

Mrs. Aimée Laurentine Kanyana addressing the population and the various leaders present, she explained the role of the institution she heads. It is an institution responsible for mediating between citizens and the public administration, with a view to resolving conflicts, but also which has the prerogatives of observing the provision of state services and giving reports to whom it may concern failures are observed. But for the Ombudsman, prevention is better than cure, so it is important for the various leaders to find strategies to avoid conflicts. And when there are real failures, the ombudsman advises the population not to amplify the problems by exposing them on social networks, before having contacted all the competent authorities so that they can find solutions. (www.rtnb.bi)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation meets the Diplomatic Corps



On tuesday december 6, 2022, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO held a briefing meeting with the diplomatic corps accredited to Burundi. At the start of his Briefing, the Head of Burundian Diplomacy indicated that he was therefore delighted with the opportunity offered to him to be able to share with them the absolute priorities of the Government in the current context marked by the con-

sequences of covid-19 and the conflict situation in Ukraine. He also shared with them some major aspects of his diplomatic action during the period under review before addressing some global challenges facing the world at this critical moment when multilateral-

ism is literally threatened.

His Excellency Albert SHINGIRO reminded that today the time to build a definitively reconciled nation has arrived. He indicated that Burundi is currently capitalizing on the hard-won



peace. "The Truth and Reconciliation Commission is working to help Burundians and the international community better understand the country's tragic and painful past", he added.

Speaking, the dean of the diplomatic corps accredited in Burundi, Ambassador General Major Matayo Kyaligonza thanked the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation for the organization of this briefing of diplomats. He said that the latter

allows diplomats to know in an official way the general situation of the country. He also congratulated the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE for his contribution to have peace and security in the region of the East African Community.

During the exchanges that followed, the ambassadors who took the floor welcomed the organization of this Diplomatic Briefing. **(MFADC)**

Burundi has regained its rightful place in the concert of nations



On tuesday tecomber 06, 2022, in the Briefing that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation held for the entire Corps of Diplomats His Excellency Minister Albert SHINGIRO indicated that Burundi has returned to peace and stability and has resumed its rightful place in the concert of nations.

According to him, the return of Burundi on the regional and international scene is the pride of an entire people. As for diplomatic actions, the head of Burundian diplomacy cited some achievements, in particular the signing of the framework plan for cooperation for development between Burundi and the United Nations system, dialogue with the European Union which resulted in the lifting of sanctions against Burundi, etc. Mr. SHINGIRO thus indicated that the Burundian Government and the Burundian people are delighted with the support of the European Union in the sectors of agriculture, infrastructure, health, gender, education, nutrition, etc. Albert SHINGIRO continued to show the actions carried

out on the aspect of diplomacy in Burundi, while welcoming the partnership between African countries, Asia, Eastern Europe, etc. He notably cited among the said actions carried out, the signing of certain Cooperation Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding between Burundi and the partner countries.

Minister Albert SHINGIRO added that Burundi now chairs the East African Community and plays the role that suits it in the Nairobi process

before citing the organizations in which Burundi has a prominent place, including the vice-presidency of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Burundi is a member of the United Nations Statistical Commission, the United Nations Commission for Social Development, the Commission of NGOs, the Board of Directors of UN-Women, the Board of Directors of MAP, the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Board of Directors of the Heritage Fund World Africa (FPMA), of the Central Africa sub-group within UNESCO as well as the presidency of the 18th and 19th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests. This substantial contribution and the presence of Burundi in UN action improves the image of Burundi in the concert of Nations. **(MFADC)**

Burundi is determined to promote good neighborly relations



On tuesday tecember 06, 2022, during the Briefing that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation held for the entire Corps of Diplomats on the point of good neighborly relations, Minister Albert SHINGIRO announced that the promotion of relations good neighborliness is one of the priorities of Burundi's foreign policy document. This document acts as a compass for Burundi's diplomatic action.

The Government of Burundi continues to take diplomatic steps aimed at normalizing relations with its northern neighbor Rwanda. The relations with this sister country are at a satisfactory level. The point of fall of this warming will of course be the delivery of the putschists on the run in this brotherly and neighboring country. Relations with the countries of the region are marked by visits to the summit and at ministerial level and the organization of joint cooperation commissions, which are followed by the signing of several cooperation agreements, particularly with the DRC, Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa and Uganda.

Good neighborly relations are also characterized by the pooling of efforts to restore peace in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo struggling with the activism of armed and terrorist groups, local

and foreign. It is within this regional framework that Burundi has sent a military contingent to South Kivu in the DRC, to fight against the armed and terrorist groups which abound in the East of the DRC within the framework of the Nairobi process led by President Evariste. NDAYISHIMIYE in his capacity as President of the East African Community. Minister Albert SHINGIRO launched a vibrant appeal to the international community, in particular the European Union and the United States as well as other partners who so wish, to provide political, diplomatic, financial and logistical support to the Nairobi process which has already the strong support of the African Union and other sub-regional organizations.

Burundi places in the unwavering support and in the full dimension of cooperation and partnership to support peace, democracy, good governance, social progress and employment and finally the choice to wage war on poverty, common enemy of all the people of Burundi. Burundi will very quickly reposition itself to once again become a model and modern country, creator of wealth and economic prosperity, and to be an emerging country by 2040, a country respected and respectful of others, underlined Minister Albert SHINGIRO. (MFADC)

Kirundo: Arbor Day Celebration



On friday december 9, 2022, the celebration of the 2022 edition tree day took place on the Marembo hill The ceremonies saw the presence of

the Minister in charge of the Environment Dr Sanctus Niragira, the Minister in charge of National Defense Ir Alain Tribert Mutabazi, the executives at the Ministry in charge of the environment, the Governor of Kirundo as well as the population of the Busoni commune.

The Governor of the province of Kirundo indicated that among the projects of this province is that of the protection of the environment by planting trees on the shores of the lakes of this province. And to add that they have already protected Lake Rweru, Gitamo and Gacimirinda. The Governor explained that this environmental protection around these lakes has already proven itself because it is possible to catch a fish weighing more than 20 kg. He said that the Busoni commune collects more than 40% of the taxes that enter the coffers of the province.

The celebration of this day began with a planting of *Cassia sicimea* plants on the shores of Lake Cohoha. The theme chosen for this day is "forests, sustainable production and consumption."

In his speech, the Minister in charge of the Environment Dr. Sanctus Niragira indicated that forests play a great role especially in the protection of the environment, floods, drought, landslides and provide a

good climate, there are natural medicines, etc.

The Minister of Environment said that the Government of Burundi has taken the lead in protecting the environment through the "Ewe Burundi Urambaye" project, a project to plant trees on high mountains and on the edges of lakes.

Since 2015, the government of Burundi plans to plant trees on 4,000 ha with the state's own funds and on 12,000 ha with the support of donors.

Dr. Sanctus Niragira criticizes the behavior of some who practice deforestation with bush fires and asks them to rather get into the habit of always planting trees in order to have fertile soil.

Dr. Sanctus Niragira ended his speech by promising to support the province of Kirundo in order to enable it to protect other lakes in this province.

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16 Days of GBV Activism: Assessing Achievements



As part of the 16 Days of activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), the Ministry of National

Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender organized from december 09 to 10, 2022 in the provinces of Muyinga and Rutana, a field visit to inquire about the main achievements of the ministry in order to promote the empowerment of rural women.

In the province of Muyinga, the Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender Mrs. Imelde Sabushimike planted cassava cuttings and sowed corn as part of the implementation of the new government policy, seed and fertilizer assistance to the detriment of food assistance. This new approach of the Government of Burundi is applied to the vulnerable of the village of Nyaruhengeri in Buhinyuza commune on a 10ha field exploited by 110 households composed of Batwa and returnees who have not found their origin.

Minister Imerde Sabushimike was delighted with the good coexistence that characterizes this village and welcomes the idea of coming together in an associ-

ation, which facilitates the intervention of the Ministry to support the vulnerable. The Minister in charge of social affairs also granted rabbits, loincloths, notebooks and pens to women of the Batwa ethnic group in training for the improvement of their lives, literacy at the center of the Missionary Sisters of the Love of Christ of Mukoni in the capital of Muyinga province.

According to Minister Imelde Sabushimike, this visit is part of the 16 Days of activism against GBV and support for the empowerment of women. In the same province of Muyinga, a delegation from the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender led by Assistant Auntie Ncutinamagara visited the Center for Orthopedic Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy Saint Jean Bosco du Catholic Diocese of Muyinga. This delegation distributed motorbikes to communal agents for family and social development (CDFS), motorbikes and sewing machines to the most needy people. Auntie Ncutinamagara said that these motorcycles granted to CDFS will facilitate their access to the most remote corners and advised them to make good use of them.

In Rutana province, the next day, Permanent Secretary Mr. Pontien Hatungimana made a follow-up visit to the "Duterintambwe" project bringing together repatriated and local women from Karibu hill in Rutana commune and province.

These 50 women grouped within the Duterintambwe project received 120 thousand each of initial capital to start income-generating projects with UNDP funding executed by IRC and have more than 25 goats and crops of cassava and corn.

Permanent Secretary Mr. Pontien Hatungimana called on rural women to follow in the footsteps of these women to leave no one behind in development.

He promised to support them by giving them animals to increase organic manure and to lobby the local administration to lend land instead of renting it.

The Governor of Rutana province for his part promised that in consortium with the local administration, they will decide on the case to lend them state land so that these women can expand the agri-livestock project. (www.presidency.bi)

Karusi: CNDD-FDD members called upon to respond to the program of the President of the Republic



Members of the ruling party CNDD-FDD, Abagumyabanga of Bugenyuzi

commune in Karusi province organized ceremonies of demonstration of force of this party in this commune of Bugenyuzi.

The ceremonies began with a long parade by CNDD-FDD members grouped in different leagues. The ceremonies were enhanced by the Provincial Secretary of the CNDD-FDD of the Karusi province, the deputies and the native executives of the Karusi province.

In his welcoming address, the communal secretary of the CNDD-FDD in Bugenyuzi commune indicated that the members of this party are united and live in harmony with the members of other political parties.

He said that they are hard at work in the development works and continue to build dwelling houses for the vulnerable.

The Provincial Secretary of the CNDD-FDD of Karusi Mr. Médard Mbazabahizi in his speech first congratulated the members of the CNDD-FDD of Bugenyuzi for their achievements in the development and consolidation of the party. He urged them to love one's neighbor and help each other in society.

The Provincial Secretary of the CNDD-FDD in Karusi province Mr. Médard Mbazabahizi called on the members of the CNDD-FDD in Karusi to respond to the program of the President of the Republic which requires each household to raise at least 5 rabbits so that each mouth has to eat and every pocket has money.

The CNDD-FDD show of force ceremonies in Bugenyuzi commune, Karusi province were marked by the reception of 85 new members of this party by CNDD-FDD Provincial Secretary Médard Mbazabahizi. (www.rtnb.bi)

The trade union federation COSESONA, satisfied with the adoption of the General Staff Regulations



After the adoption of the bill on the general status of civil servants, the COSESONA trade union federation congratulates the Government

for the step taken in terms of restoring social peace in the workplace.

For Mr Victor Ndabaniwe, president of COSESONA,

civil servants in general and teachers in particular welcomed the act taken by the elected representatives of the people during the plenary session of december 8, 2022,. Monsieur Ndabaniwe affirms that on thursday december 8, 2022, the elected representatives of the people were able to bring happiness in the socio-professional environment. It is a feeling of satisfaction because the implementation of the salary policy had been blocked by the absence of this very important document in the restoration of social peace in the workplace.

Since 2021, the Government had planned a budget allocated to the implementation of the wage policy, but due to the lack of availability of a general statute adapted to the wage policy, this budget was not used, it was necessary that the civil servants in general and teachers in particular are waiting.

The budget of 25 billion which had been planned since 2021, the Government has renewed it for the 2021-2022 budget year, will soon be used as part of the implementation of the fair wage policy.

According to Mr. Victor Ndabaniwe, the new reform on remuneration has four components, namely, the index part, the employment part, the performance part and the family allowance.

With regard to the fundamental element, which is the employment share, it had been blocked by the fact that the general status of civil servants had to undergo adjustments with a view to eliminating all the bonuses and allowances which were at the origin of the injustices which observed in the workplace.

With regard to advancement in grade, there is one aspect that civil servants should not minimize, be-

cause sometimes when we talk about salary policy, all civil servants count on what will be added to their salaries, but without taking into account their performance at the level of the profession. However, according to Mr. Victor Ndabaniwe, remuneration is considered as compensation for the work provided. It is therefore a question, with regard to what this reform provides, that civil servants make an effort, change their mentality given that there are performance contracts that they will be forced to sign at the start of each financial year, and which will be assessed at the end of the exercise, they will have grades, and it is these grades that will allow them to advance annually in grades and steps.

The president of COSESONA points out that we have not yet agreed on what will be given to the civil servant after having been noted and evaluated his performance. The same is true for the family allowance, it will be a question of the partners coming together in order to be able to determine the amount which will be allocated to the family allowances (www.rtnb.bi)

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