



**The Head of State draws up a largely positive assessment of his mission carried out in Washington in the United States**

**O**n Sunday, December 18, 2022, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by the First Lady Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, returned from an official mission to Washington where he had taken part in the United States-Africa summit, which took place from December 13 to 15, 2022. In a press briefing he hosted on his arrival at Melchior Ndadaye International Airport in Bujumbura, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye gave a largely positive assessment of the said mission where he had the opportunity to share the experience and vision of Burundi in terms of promoting the agro-pastoral, environmental, food security, health, education sectors, etc. The President Ndayishimiye also had the opportunity to discuss with several American businessmen who say they are ready to come and invest in Burundi in various fields. In this regard, an American private sector investment fund under-



takes to intervene by agreeing to lend Burundian businessmen approximately 450 million dollars for start-up capital, particularly in the industrial sector, especially processing agricultural and livestock products. The Head of State takes the opportunity to call on Burundian investors to work closely with these American investors in the execution of development projects. The President of the Republic also makes it known that on the sidelines of the said summit, he exchanged with Burundi's development partners, in particular those of the World Bank as well as the International Monetary Fund-IMF who undertake to continue their intervention in supporting the socio-economic development of Burundi. In this respect, the World Bank agrees

In this Edition:	page
The Head of State draws up a largely positive assessment of his mission carried out in Washington in the United States	1
Modernization of the Intwari Stadium, an honor for Burundi	2
The First Lady HE Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE met the Japanese	3
The Senate passes two important bills	3
The principles of democratic governance, an imperative for the smooth running of the municipality	5
Enabel participates in the development process of Burundi	7
The association of women of the Burundian diaspora concerned with consolidating solidarity	7
Musumba Steel company contributes to the reduction of unemployment	8
Media release nr 21 consecutive to the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday 21 december 2022	10

to release an envelope of 150 million dollars for the construction of the Bujumbura-Gitega and Bujumbura-Gitaza roads, and also undertakes to support the programs of the Burundian Government in connection with the development of the soil, energy, etc.

The Burundian Head of State, in his capacity as the current President of the EAC, also indicates that his stay in Washington also allowed him to meet other Heads of State in the region to discuss the security situation in

eastern DRC, since “peace in the region is an absolute emergency”, he said. His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye reveals that all the Heads of State of the region are unanimous that the M23 must begin the disengagement of its forces which will be followed by the process of their reintegration and reintegration, so that a lasting peace is restored to the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo. ([www.presidence.bi](http://www.presidence.bi))

### Modernization of the Intwari Stadium, an honor for Burundi

The modernization of the Intwari Stadium, in the town hall of Bujumbura is an honor for Burundi, an operation of dignity, declared the President of the Republic HE Evariste Ndayishimiye on Thursday December 22, 2022. It was on the occasion of the large-scale community works organized on the site, and in which the Prime Minister, the Vice-President of the Republic and other Senior Executives of the country took part, as well as economic operators and the urban population.



According to one of the site's design engineers and the chairman of the steering committee, after the demolition of the old stadium, the construction work has just lasted three months eight days less and eight-month deadline granted to them to complete the work will be respected if the construction materials are available.

As for the standards, experts from CAF and even FIFA have been closely monitoring this site since its conception and intervene whenever necessary, said one of the designers of this site. And to add that this stadium will therefore meet international standards. Burundian teams will no longer have to travel to play international matches, which was very expensive for the country.

The stadium under construction will have ten thousand seats with 25 gates, entrances, 9 athletic tracks, etc.

For the Head of State, it is a great honor and a huge advantage for Burundi to have a stadium that meets international standards. Reason why each Burundian citizen should take part in this building.

This Saturday's activity was also marked by a call for contributions. Mostly Economic operators promised contributions to advance the work. On the spot, more than 2,539,100,000 BIF and more than 15,320 bags of cement including 12,000 by ITRACOM were promised. The FFB intwari stadium account number 04526120103-52 has been opened at BAN-COBU to receive contributions.

The Head of State's wish is that the stadium be ready to host the Labor and Workers' Day ceremonies on May 1, 2023. ([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## The First Lady HE Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE met the Japanese



**T**he First Lady of Burundi and President of the OPDD-Burundi headed to Japan to participate in the First Economic Summit of Women of Asia, the Pacific and Africa, a summit organized by the Women's Association of Asia, Pacific and Africa Women's Economic Exchange Association (APA).

The summit which took place from November 28 to December 1, 2022 saw the participation of some First Ladies of Africa and other delegations representing the First Ladies who were unable to take part in the summit.

In his speech opening the work of the summit, Hon. FUKUYO Nakamori, President of the APA said that this summit is an opportunity for each First Lady, mother of her country, to share, beyond borders and religious beliefs, the unshakeable will to protect the future promise of children.

The First Lady of Burundi who delivered her speech on the first day of the summit declared: "the future of our children is in our hands and the cooperation between our countries and our institutions can contribute to the good management of food stability".

On the second day of the summit activities, the First Ladies exchanged their opinions on the mutual aid system in the event of natural disasters. After the presentations and exchanges between the participants, these First Ladies concluded with the signing of a joint declaration. In this

declaration, the First Ladies pledged, among other things, "to ensure the sustainable production of food products and access to drinking water that children need to survive".

On the sidelines of this summit, Her Excellency Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE gave an interview to the Japanese television channel NHK. It was an opportunity to express herself in relation to her interventions within the OPDD-Burundi and the "Fondation Bonne Action UMUGIRANEZA", mainly about the "Zero Malnutrition" campaign that she launched in October 2020 and the school feeding of which she is Godmother.

The third day of the summit was dedicated to field visit activities including tree planting activity at Minuma Park in Saitama Prefecture and visit to Misonokita Primary School.

At Minuma Park, the Vice-Governor of Saitama Prefecture who had represented the Governor indicated that the planted tree has a triple symbol of which, (1) the friendship between Africa and Japan, (2) a mark of prevention of natural disasters and (3), the symbol of efforts to combat food shortages.

The visit to Saitama Primary School was organized as part of the School Feeding Program. Her Excellency the First Lady who is also Godmother of the said program in Burundi met the students in their classes and spoke with them as a Mother. The students asked her several questions about Burundi, its education system and the school feeding programme.

In her capacity as Sponsor of the School Feeding Program in Burundi, H.E Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE served lunch to the students of the 3rd and 4th grades of this Primary School of Misonokita and she sat down to eat with them, thus making the experience of a balanced diet in sufficient quantity that should be fed to children at school.

On the 4th day of the activities, the First Lady of Burundi Her Excellency Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE visited the Historical Museum of Water Supply to see how this country



has taken the initiatives of research and stabilization of water sources since the 1600s first using wooden pipes, which changed the image of the city of Tokyo and the life of its people as it is today.

On the sidelines of this First Ladies' Summit of Asia, the Pacific and Africa held in Tokyo, Her Excellency the First Lady of Burundi met with some authorities of the country, firstly the Honorable NIKAI Toshihiro, former leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, accompanied by the former Minister of Reconstruction of Japan, Mr. HIRASAWA Katsuei. Their exchanges focused on support for the projects of the Government of Burundi via JICA, including the famous NERICA project "New Rice for Africa" which made Egypt the 1st producer and Tanzania the 3rd producer of rice in Africa. Honorable NIKAI promised to support Burundi in this rice growing sector once the project is presented.

Her Excellency the First Lady also met Mrs. IMOTO Sachiko, Vice-President of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency JICA, together with the Director of Africa Division Mr. EGAMI Masahiko. During this meeting which took place at the headquarters of JICA, Her Excellency the First Lady first thanked the Japanese Government for

its support to the Government of Burundi through the Japanese International Cooperation Agency, JICA. She then briefly presented the areas still in need of funding.

Her Excellency Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE did not fail to present the priority projects of the Office of the First Lady for Development in Burundi (OPDD-Burundi) and those of the UMUGIRANEZA Good Action Foundation. She mainly mentioned the campaign to fight against malnutrition that she initiated in October 2020 as well as the school feeding program in Burundi of which she is the Godmother. Mrs. IMOTO Sachiko indicated that the projects of Her Excellency the First Lady which fall within the line of action of JICA could be financed, especially those related to health, capacity building and education.

The visit to Japan ended with the audience of the Prime Minister of Japan His Excellency FUMIO Kishida with the First Ladies who participated in the First Economic Summit of Women of Asia, the Pacific and Africa and Africa whose First Lady from Burundi Her Excellency Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE.

In his remarks, H.E the Japanese Prime Minister encouraged these African First Nations for their development initiatives. He reiterated the will of the Japanese Government to strengthen diplomatic relations with Africa. ([www.presidence.bi](http://www.presidence.bi))

### The Senate passes two important bills

The Burundian Senate analyzed on Thursday, December 22, 2022, two bills, one ratifying the trade agreement between the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Government of the Republic of Burundi, the other amending Law No. 1/28 of 08/23/2006 on the general status of civil servants.

The two sessions were marked respectively by the presence of the Minister of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing and that of the Public Service, Labor and Employment, who had represented the Government to present these bills and clarify the senators on the most important aspects.

In his explanatory memorandum, the minister in charge of infrastructure, Mr. Dieudonné Dukundane, indicated that the DRC, which has 90 million inhabitants, constitutes a large potential market for Burundian exports and could restore Burundi's trade balance, which still remains in deficit.

The Minister in charge of infrastructure specified that to facilitate cross-border trade with the DRC, the country intends to build a large modern market and 4 bridges on the common border with the DRC and rehabilitate those already existing.

After analyzing this bill on the ratification of the trade agreement between the DRC and Burundi, and having obtained the neces-

sary clarifications, the senators unanimously adopted this bill.

For his part, the Minister in charge of the Public Service M. Déo Rusengwamihigo indicated that this bill aimed at revamping the general status of civil servants will integrate the reforms provided for by the National Program for the Reform of the Administration. Objective: to resolve certain irregularities in the Public Service, in particular the formulation of a performance management policy in the public sector which serves as the basis for the recognition of merit and the sanction of inefficiency by replacing the current system of scoring, job classification which is a return to pay equity tool as well as the formulation of a new salary policy. This could allow both a return to fairness and a partial differentiation of remuneration according to results.

The senators as representatives of the peo-

ple suggested that this bill should be presented for adoption after finding a solution to the demands of the unions of the Ministry of Public Health.

In response to this observation, Minister Déo Rusengwamihigo said that the claims of these unions of the Ministry of Public Health are unfounded, explaining that they are making a last minute reversal when they were satisfied with the clauses of this bill in the explanatory sessions to which they were invited. He also specified that the Government will stick to the framework and the general interest but that these unions will continue to be heard.

After the amendments of substance and form and after having obtained clarifications on the most important aspects, the senators adopted this bill unanimously. ([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

### The principles of democratic governance, an imperative for the smooth running of the municipality

The consultation sessions organized by the Burundian Senate throughout the country with the Governors of provinces, the municipal administrators and the members of the offices of the municipal councils on the principles of democratic governance at the local level ended this Wednesday, December 21, 2022. These consultation sessions aimed to establish more good governance in the municipal administration.

According to the 2nd Vice-President of the Burundian Senate, the municipalities are faced with several challenges that they are invited to take up and calls on the municipal administrators and the offices of the municipal councils to improve their missions.



In the northern provinces, the 2nd Vice-President of the Senate Honorable Cyriaque Nshimirimana believes that the members of the communal councils need capacity building on the administrative and financial procedure manual of the commune, capacity building on the law municipal and on the local elected official's guide.

He explained that with the exception of the president of the municipal council and his vice-president as well as the municipal administrator who received training on these administration tools, the members of the municipal council have not been trained so far. "This tends to encourage the members of the communal councils

to take up their missions more effectively. He also emphasized the need for training on the administrative and financial procedure manual of the commune, capacity building on the law municipal and on the local elected official's guide.

not to get along with the communal administrators because they do not know what the specifications of the communal council are and what the specifications of the communal administrator.

This often leads to overlaps, one tending to accomplish the missions of the other, and this creates misunderstandings", underlined the 2nd Vice-President of the Senate.

Another challenge noted is related to the fact that the members of the communal councils who live far from the communes they represent experience difficulties in participating in the meetings of the communal councils by distance, by unsafe means of transport and by the insufficiency of the presence token which does not allow to pay the going-return ticket.

The last challenge noted, according to the 2nd Vice-President of the Senate, concerns certain activities of the municipality which

are not included in the municipal AWPBs.

This leads to problems for municipal administrators to spare them, because it requires a budget revision which is difficult with the program budget approach. In this regard, the 2nd Vice-President of the Senate promised to submit this question to their hierarchy for a better solution.

The 2nd Vice-President of the Senate advises municipal administrators to consult each time the manual of administrative and financial procedure of the municipality and the municipal law.

In case of difficulty, he invites them to contact the office of the municipal council so that they can have a common reading and to be in regular contact with the governors of the provinces for certain orientations

([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

### Enabel participates in the development process of Burundi

As part of monitoring and evaluating the achievements of Enabel in Burundi, the cooperation agency between Burundi and the Kingdom of Belgium, the Government of Burundi, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation development, sent a delegation to carry out field visits. The delegation was guided by a Senior Executive of the Ministry responsible for monitoring European issues and International Organizations based in Europe, Ambassador Ernest NIYOKINDI.

During the first visit which was carried out on December 20, 2022 in the province of Muramvya, the delegation visited the Kiganda health center, the Muramvya health center and the Kiganda hospital which were established by Enabel. As it was indicated by the Medical Director of the Health Province of Muramvya Dr. Polycarpe



NDAYIKEZA, Enabel contributes concretely in the public health sector in the province of Muramvya.

As for the second visit carried out on 21/12/2022 in the province of Cibitoke, the delegation noticed many achievements of Enabel in this province.

The delegation first visited the Professional Center of Karurama with the sector of mechanics, masonry, sewing, welding, plumbing, carpentry, TIAA and electricity. Then





the delegation went to the water intake on the Nyamagana river where Enabel installed an irrigation dam in order to water the fields of the population of the province of Cibitoke near this Nyamagana river. The delegation finally visited the ABAJAMU-GAMBI Cooperative. This cooperative deals with rice cultivation. This cooperative welcomes Enabel's donation of a very modern machine for peeling rice and its support in terms of building and the presence of irriga-

tion canals from this dam for their rice fields, which facilitate access to water even during the summer. It should be noted that the relations of friendship and cooperation between Burundi and Belgium date from 1963 with the signing of the General Convention and Technical Assistance and that they are going on well.(MFADC)

**The association of women of the Burundian diaspora concerned with consolidating solidarity**

**A**s it highlighted solidarity and social cohesion, the Burundian Diaspora Women's Association organized, on December 22, 2022, an activity to help some needy families of Muha commune in Bujumbura Town Hall. In this activity, this association, represented by Mrs. Sonia Ninahazwe, granted Health Insurance Cards (CAM) to 300 needy families. In her word for the occasion, Mrs. Sonia indicated that this association decided to organize this activity as part of participating in the process of development in Burundi, since a good health of the population is one of the foundations of sustainable development of the country. She also indicated that this association decided to act in this way in order to share the joy of Christmas with the needy sisters in Burundi by offering them the possibility of benefiting from health care for a period of one year.

On behalf of these needy families and in her own name, the Administrator of MUHA Commune, Mrs. Devotte Ndayisenga warmly thanked this association for its good initiative to support the indigent. She also indicated that she was satisfied that these women were implementing what she had asked of them at the time of the official opening of their association. Mrs. Ndayisenga did not fail to encourage them to always show solidarity with their Burundian brothers and sisters in general, and especially with the population of the MUHA Commune, since this association has a residence in Kinanira district of this Commune. .(MFADC)

**Towards the revitalization of the Agriculture and Rural Development sector group**

**T**he Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock in collaboration with the Embassy of the Netherlands in Burundi organized on Friday December 16, 2022, a technical meeting of development partners who intervene in the field of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock for the revitalization of the Agriculture and Rural Development sector group.

According to the Minister in charge of Agriculture Dr. Sanctus Niragira who opened this meeting, the agricultural sector is of great importance for



the Burundian economy at a time when the agricultural sector contributes 39.6% to GDP, offers 84% of jobs, provides 95% of the food supply and is the main supplier of raw materials to the agricultural industry. However, he said, the development of the environmental, agricultural and livestock sector in Burundi has long been characterized by poor performance linked to low productivity, the mismatch between agricultural production and the food demand of the population, constantly growing, the weak involvement of the private sector and the administration, the lack of post-harvest technologies and infrastructures, as well as the weak consideration of environmental aspects.

In view of these challenges, the Government of Burundi, through the Ministry in charge of agriculture, has adopted an Orientation Document for the Agricultural and Livestock Environmental Policy (DOPEAE) in order to promote innovations and make agriculture the lever for the development of other sectors.

This policy is inspired by the National Development Plan (PND2018-2027) and is based on the principle that "Each Burundian must have enough to eat in quality and quantity and have surpluses for marketing", without compromising the environment, continued Minister Niragira Santus.

This revitalization meeting of the Agriculture and Rural Development Sector Group (GSADR) is very beneficial for the country since this group constitutes a framework for coordination and exchange allowing synergy for more impact in their interventions.

As for the Ambassador of the Netherlands in Burundi Mr. Joroen Steeghs, he thanked the Government of Burundi which trusted them in the revival of the activities of the GSADR. He said that the purpose of this meeting is to make contact and guide the missions of the GSADR, which must be enriched with contributions.

According to Ambassador Joroen Steeghs, the sector group is, in the spirit of the Paris Declaration agenda within the framework of effective aid management, the basic con-

stituent element of the coordination group of partners (GCP).

It is within this frame of reference through which they can monitor the implementation of national development strategies and policies through the sectors of intervention.

The Ambassador of the Netherlands in Burundi also indicated that the GSADR deals with all technical aspects related to the development and monitoring of sector strategies. The meeting would take place for the technical team once every two months and at the coordination level once every 3 months.

The Ambassador of the Netherlands in Burundi welcomed the renewed confidence in the co-chairmanship of this group. The Netherlands already played the role before GSADR meetings were suspended in 2015. The Ambassador of the Netherlands to Burundi Joroen Steeghs reiterated his firm commitment to work with his development partner colleagues in order to walk together in the proper coordination of interventions in order to create synergy for the effective accomplishment of their missions. During this meeting, the participants set up the sectoral sub-groups where the presidency must be ensured by the executives of the ministry while the co-presidency is ensured by one of the intervening development partners. They also led exchanges and debates on the feasibility of this sectoral revitalization Agriculture and rural development and reached a compromise on 5 sectoral sub-groups.

In the miscellaneous, the participants wanted to know the position of the government in the face of the worrying rise in food prices on the local market. The minister in charge of agriculture replied that the first solution is to increase production but that before adopting strategies to this end, the government is in the process of adopting strategies with a view to lowering the prices of foodstuffs on the local market, including the zero-rating of certain food products. ([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))



## Rutana/Makamba: the ministry in charge of national solidarity supports certain cooperatives

The Ministry in charge of National Solidarity proceeded on Friday, December 23, 2022 to the distribution of pigs to cooperatives in the Rutana and Makamba provinces. These activities



were led by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry in charge of National Solidarity Mr. Pontien Hatungimana who had represented the Minister.

In Rutana province, the Intwari Women's cooperative received 30 pigs and in Makamba province, the cooperative called "Shariza Igisagara" from Makamba obtained 30 pigs.

In his word for the occasion, the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry having national solidarity in his attributions indicated that the objective of the ministry is to support the model cooperatives so that after production,

they create other cooperatives bringing together vulnerable people through a chain of solidarity. He then asked the beneficiaries to work in collaboration with the administrators and the veterinarians to ensure the health of these animals.

As for the beneficiaries, they expressed their feeling of gratitude and their commitment to respond to the call launched by the ministry in charge of solidarity to multiply the pigs on all the hills of their localities.

Mr. Pontien Hatungimana ended his descent by visiting the "Uwimana Makamba" orphanage in order to wish a happy Christmas and New Year 2023 to the orphans of this establishment.

He had provided himself with an aid of 300 kg of rice, 200 kg of beans, 50 kg of sugar, juice, etc. ([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## Musumba Steel company contributes to the reduction of unemployment



The Musumba Steel Company presented Friday, December 23, 2022

professional internship certificates to 28 young people who spent 6 months of internship in various departments: IT, maintenance, production, human resources, electricity, accounting, invoicing, sales, etc.

Musumba Steel, a member of Musumba Holding, is a company that produces metal building materials. The Managing Director of Musumba Steel, Mr. Donatien Ngendakumana said that by organizing these professional internships, the company has set itself the task of strengthening the capacities of graduates from universities and secondary schools in search of job, with a view

to increase their competitiveness in the labor market. And to specify that it was also a question of supporting the government in its program to reduce unemployment among young people.

On the Government side, Mr. Vital Niyonkuru, Director of the Burundian Agency for Youth Employment ABEJ, thanked and encouraged the Musumba Steel Company for these professional internships that it organizes for young people, and called on other companies to do the same, so that young people can acquire the knowledge and experience required to be hired or create jobs themselves.

It should be noted that Musumba Steel organizes this kind of internship twice a year, each internship lasts six months, and sometimes it hires some of these interns. ([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

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## REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC  
Secretariat-General of the State**MEDIA RELEASE N° 21 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 DECEMBER 2022**

A Cabinet meeting was held in Bujumbura on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2022, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Major General Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, President of the Republic of Burundi.

After the presentation of the agenda, His Excellency the President of the Republic invited the Prime Minister to present the summary of the observations resulting from the preparatory meeting of the Council of Ministers which the Prime Minister chaired on Wednesday 26 October 2022, and which was devoted to the analysis of the same files on the agenda.

After restitution by the Prime Minister to the President of the Republic, the following items were analyzed:

1. **Draft decree implementing Organic Law No. 1/02 of January 23, 2021 amending Organic Law No. 1/13 of June 12, 2019 on the organization and functioning of the Superior Council of the Judiciary**, presented by the Minister of Justice.

The Superior Council of the Judiciary is a body that oversees the proper administration of justice. It is the guarantor of the independence of the magistrates in the exercise of their functions.

The Superior Council of the Judiciary is the highest disciplinary body of the judiciary. It hears complaints from individuals or the ombudsman concerning the professional behavior of magistrates as well as appeals by magistrates against disciplinary measures or complaints concerning their career.

Thus, in order to operate the Superior Council of the Judiciary, Organic Law No. 1/02 of January 23, 2021 amending Organic Law No. 1/13 of June 12, 2019 on the organization and functioning of the Superior Council of the Judiciary was promulgated. Among the missions of the Superior Council of the Judiciary are those of:

- Decide on complaints from individuals or the Ombudsman concerning both the professional behavior of judges and manifest misjudgments that have become final;
- Control the quality of the judgments, judgments and other judicial decisions denounced or brought to the attention of the Council as well as their execution measures.... ;

It is in accordance with these missions that individuals have massively seized the Superior Council of the Judiciary by invoking the evil deemed manifest in judicial decisions cast in the force of *res judicata* which they have attacked.

The question that arose relates to the practical arrangements to be undertaken to rule on these complaints from individuals.

Indeed, adjudicating on complaints from individuals in relation to manifest wrongdoing amounts to doing justice, which involves bringing into play the fundamental principles that should guide a fair trial, including the holding of public hearings to hear the parties to the trial, the hearing of witnesses in public hearing, the completion of the formalities required for public hearings to be held, etc.

However, the Superior Council of the Judiciary has no legal competence allowing it to function like the Courts and Tribunals.



It is for this reason that the need to put in place a decree which determines the nature and form of the decisions of the Superior Council of the Judiciary is essential.

After analysis, the Council of Ministers noted that the file required a much more in-depth technical analysis and returned it.

2. **Bill on the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the agreement relating to the exemption of visas for holders of diplomatic, service and special passports between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco;**
3. **Bill on the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the agreement establishing the Joint Cooperation Commission between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco.**

These projects were presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

The draft law on the ratification of the agreement relating to the exemption of visas for holders of diplomatic, service and special passports is proposed in order to strengthen bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation, to develop and extend their field of cooperation, in accordance with the Cooperation Framework Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, signed on October 25, 2010, in Rabat, Morocco.

This agreement relating to visa exemption for holders of diplomatic, service and special passports was signed on October 19, 2022.

By ratifying this Agreement, Burundi will have contributed to the implementation of the 1991 Treaty establishing the African Economic

Community, of which Burundi and Morocco are members, as well as in the implementation of the aforementioned Framework Agreement.

With regard to the agreement establishing the Joint Cooperation Commission between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, its ratification will serve as a basis for negotiations and the conclusion of sectoral agreements with a view to developing balanced relations for the benefit of both peoples.

After discussion and debate, the two projects were all adopted.

4. Note on the inspection of Faculties of Medicine in Burundi by the East African Community, presented by the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Inspection of the Faculties of Medicine and University Hospitals of the Republic of Burundi was carried out by a joint team of technical experts from the National Councils of the Order of Physicians of the EAC Partner States from 2 to 3 November 2022. Such a joint inspection had already been carried out in the Republic of Uganda, the Republic of Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Rwanda.

This activity was organized in accordance with a directive of the 19<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Sectoral Council of Ministers of EAC Member States having Health in their attributions.

The inspection exercise aims to establish compliance of universities with the standards and guidelines governing schools of medicine and dentistry in the East African Community, with a view to improving services and promoting harmonization education and university training in the region.

In addition, the inspection aimed to verify the status of implementation of the recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> joint inspection.

The inspectors used an assessment tool pre-established and signed jointly by the EAC Member States and which notably includes the following main areas of assessment:

- Governance and management;
- Academic programs;
- Infrastructure and equipment;
- Human resources;
- Student life;
- Program monitoring and evaluation;
- Research and innovation.

The assessment criteria are as follows:

- A score below 50% means that there is no compliance with the standards and the recommendation is the closure of the Faculty.
- A score between 50% and 80% means that there is partial compliance with the standards and the recommendation is a re-inspection in three to six months.
- A score between 80% and 100% means that there is compliance with the minimum standards and the recommendation is to continue improving and maintaining the standards.

As results at the three Universities of Burundi inspected:

- Hope University of Africa won 62.5%
- The University of Burundi won 58%
- The University of Ngozi won 50.5%

These Universities have partially complied with the regional standards and guidelines for the inspection and recognition of medical schools and teaching hospitals in the EAC Partner States. They will be reassessed in 6 months at the expense of these Universities.



## 6

During the analysis of the note, the Council of Ministers made the following observations and recommendations:

- Draw up an inventory of the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission as well as a plan for their implementation, starting with the easiest;
- List the evaluation tools used by the Commission, in particular the texts, and update those that need to be updated;
- Identify all structures with laboratories and other useful equipment for the country to make use of them if necessary;
- In addition to the Faculty of Medicine to provide laboratories, proceed in the same way for the other faculties which need them to comply with the required standards;
- Develop plans for modern laboratories so that at the next inspection, there has been at least a start of execution;
- Use retired specialist teachers to make up for the shortage of teachers;
- Activate diplomacy to have cooperating teachers;
- Look for teachers in the regional framework, in this case the East African Community, as a solution to the lack of teachers;
- Make the University Hospital Center of Kamenge a truly university hospital, by revising the texts that govern it;
- Identify people who meet the required profile to head the departments at the Faculty of Medicine;
- Advocate with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to implement the promise to rehabilitate the Kamenge University Hospital Center;
- Seek more scholarships abroad in key fields for the country and study strategies to bring in Burundians who study abroad and who tend to stay there.

5. **Note on the organization of the ordinary session of the Council of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC)**, presented by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock.

The Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) is an intergovernmental institution born of the will of Heads of State and Government to manage the forest resources of their respective countries in a sustainable and concerted manner.

COMIFAC is chaired by one of the institution's member countries for a two-year term.

The Republic of Burundi is preparing to assume the presidency of COMIFAC for the second time. Indeed, Burundi held this presidency during the period from 2015 to 2016.

In accordance with its Constitutive Treaty, the financing of COMIFAC is ensured by an obligatory contribution from the Member States. Any State which does not fulfill its financial obligations loses its right to vote as well as all support from the Organization, until the regularization of the arrears.

Even though Burundi has already contributed a significant amount to COMIFAC, it has arrears. The Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock has already concluded an agreement to liquidate these arrears over a period of 10 years, starting from the 2022-2023 budget year.

The current President of the Central African Forests Commission convened the eleventh Council of Ministers of COMIFAC on January 13, 2023 in Bujumbura.

It is planned that on the sidelines of the ordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers, there will be a handover between the outgoing President-in-Office, the Minister of Forests and Wildlife of the Republic of Cameroon and the incoming President-in-Office, the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Burundi.

For the success of the event, an organizing committee must be set up.

After discussion on the Note, the Council of Ministers recommended the following:

- Collaborate with the Ministry in charge of finance for the staggered repayment of arrears of contributions due by Burundi;
- Involve the National Festival Committee for the success of the event;
- Make a detailed budget on the expenses that Burundi is called upon to bear and express them in Burundian Francs.
- Ensure that hotels do not exaggerate in raising room prices when such activities are organized in the country.

**6. Note on the ABUTIP file and the continuation of the "TWIGE NEZA" project implemented by ABUTIP, presented by the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security**

ABUTIP was created within the framework of the execution of public works in order to generate jobs with high intensity of labor and involve national small and medium-sized enterprises.

To this end, ABUTIP has already carried out several projects in the construction of cobblestones, schools, health centers, markets, youth centers, river protection, etc.;

On June 15, 2022, the Council of Ministers analyzed a Note on the status of ABUTIP and its supervision and made the following observations:

- In view of the laws in force in the country, ABUTIP exists irregularly;
- It is necessary to supervise ABUTIP so that it closes its activities;
- ABUTIP will be supervised by the Minister of the Interior supported by the Ministers of Finance, Infrastructure and Justice. The Prime Minister will coordinate;
- The supervision of ABUTIP will end with the closing of the last project in progress;



- All contentious files must be collected to carry out the necessary investigations and establish responsibilities.

It is in this context that a team has been set up to monitor the implementation of these recommendations. During its work, the team put in place came to the following conclusions:

- With regard to the legal framework, ABUTIP exists in an irregular manner because its composition violates the law on the organic framework of non-profit associations.

- ABUTIP has a single source of financing, namely fees collected on the cost of financing projects financed by Development Partners. Considering that ABUTIP currently has only one project, its monthly expenses, in addition to salary arrears, the fees for the single "TWIGE NEZA" project financed by the French Development Agency will not be sufficient to cover them.

- The fear that was expressed that the cancellation of ABUTIP could lead to the cessation of funding from partners is no longer relevant because even the French Development Agency is willing to enter into talks with the Ministry of Education National for a change of operating mode for the implementation of the constructions delegated to ABUTIP. Also, ABUTIP anticipated by welcoming the possibility of identifying another delegated contracting authority capable of implementing the constructions within the time limits of the project.

Taking into account the legal and financial situation of ABUTIP and the repercussions that this situation may have on the execution of projects on the one hand, and the responsibility of the State on the other hand, the following measures are proposed:

- Instead of ensuring the supervision of ABUTIP until the closure of the activities of the last project in progress, the Ministry in charge of the management of non-profit associations should proceed to the immediate suppression of ABUTIP from

the list of these associations registered in Burundi by the withdrawal of its approval and the cessation of all its activities;

- Immediately suspend all withdrawals from ABUTIP accounts in order to avoid over-indebtedness or possible embezzlement;
- Immediately initiate the liquidation procedure;
- Terminate the contract that the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research has signed with ABUTIP to control part of the work of the "TWIGE NEZA" project, financed by the French Development Agency (AFD) and that the UNICEF takes charge of the continuation of the work.

## 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- The Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock presented a note on the demand for electric poles by the construction company on behalf of REGIDESO and ABER. He indicated that this company had requested a quantity of 7,000 poles but that it turned out that the OBPE to which the request had been addressed could not have this quantity in the woods it manages.

In view of the current situation of State woodlots, trees meeting the characteristics required for poles are becoming increasingly rare, hence the note suggests considering other avenues such as the use of metal poles or reinforced concrete or use private woodlots.

Given the fact that the file requires an in-depth debate and a decision, the Council of Ministers asked the Minister concerned to bring the file as an item to be included on the agenda in due form.

- The Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning informed the Council of Ministers on the eligibility of Burundi for the Fragility, Conflicts and Violence (FCV) Window of the World Bank.

He indicated that in addition to the IDA allocations and windows to which Burundi had access, a new window to which Burundi is eligible was brought to the attention of the Government. This is the “Fragility, Conflict and Violence (FCV)” window, which offers significant additional IDA resources to a small number of countries that have public policies/strategies and development programs that address the factors of fragility, conflict and violence.

Burundi is working to meet the essential criteria for its eligibility and is on the right track, which will make it possible to mobilize additional resources of approximately 240 million dollars for a period of 3 years.

- Finally, His Excellency the President of the Republic announced that the end-of-year religious crusade will be organized from December 26 to 31, 2022 in Vumbi Commune in the Province of Kirundo.

He also spoke about the construction works of the Intwari Stadium and called on everyone to contribute according to their possibilities so that this stadium is operational as planned from June 2023.

Finally, His Excellency the President of the Republic wished the members of the Government a happy Christmas and the best wishes for the New Year 2023.

**Done at Bujumbura, 21 December 2022**  
**Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE**

**Secretary-General and Spokesman.-**

# Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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