



A Mass in memory of Pope Benedict XVI



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On Friday January 06, 2022, the highest authorities of the country, including the President of the National Assembly of Burundi the Right Honorable Mr. Gélase Ndirakobuca, the Prime Minister Lieutenant General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca, the Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi H.E. Ir Prosper BAZOMBANZA as well as other Executives of the country joined the Christians of the Catholic Church in the Eucharistic celebration in memory of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI at the Cathedral Regina Mundi. Thus, the Apostolic Nuncio of the Catholic Church in Burundi, Monsignor Dieudonné Datonou indicated that the death of Pope Benedict XVI is a reminder of three mysteries. Monsignor Dieudonné Datonou in his homily based himself on the story of the Apostle John the Baptist by show-

ing the foundation of the Church of the Lord through Jesus Christ, taken from the Gospel of Saint Mark. He thus made a connection with the choice of Jesus Christ by God at the head of the Church and his succession in order to show the journey of Pope Benedict XVI to the representation of the Church. The Nuncio thus made it known that the Catholic Church was built on Jesus Christ, Unique Son of God to show his love by the sacrifice of his Unique Son. He thus indicated that the purpose of the Eucharist in memory of Benedict XVI is an occasion that helps to understand that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life that leads to God. And to point out that Pope Benedict XVI has, in his life, chosen the Path that leads to the Lord.

To this end, he indicated that the death of Pope Benedict XVI is a reminder of three mysteries, namely, the mystery of Christmas, the mystery of the Church and the Paschal mystery. As for the mystery of Christmas, he made it known that God became a child to bear witness to God's love for

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Man. For the mystery of the Church, Msgr. Datonou indicated that God chose his Son Jesus Christ to found his Church before entrusting it to Saint Peter. He then made it known that the paschal mystery refers to the death of Christ to remind us that God, through his Son, wanted to offer eternal life to man. The Nuncio thus indicated that the life of Pope Benedict XVI was

marked by dialogue and love.

At the end of the Eucharistic celebration, the President of the Conference of Bishops of Burundi and Archbishop of Gitega, Monsignor Bonaventure Nahimana, read the Spiritual Testament of Pope Benedict XVI. **(The Renewal of Burundi)**

National Assembly: Senate amendments to the bill on the general status of civil servants adopted unanimously



Under the sponsorship of the President of the National Assembly the Right Honorable Gélase Daniel Ndabirabe,

meeting in plenary session in the hemicycle of Kigobe, the elected representatives of the people analyzed the amendments of the Senate submitted for adoption to the National Assembly on the project law amending the law on the general status of civil servants. Thus, the deputies adopted the Senate amendments unanimously after analysis. **(The Renewal of Burundi)**

Covid-19: Travelers now have free entry to Burundi



On Thursday January 5, 2023, the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, Dr Sylvie Nzeyimana, in a statement she released, informed the general public and travelers in particular that screening for Covid -19 is no longer required at the entrance for travelers.

The Ministry in charge of Public Health has informed the public that Covid-19 screening is no longer required for travelers entering Burundi via the various entry points, namely the air, land and lake ways.

The said press release clarified that outbound travelers, the negative PCR test is only required for those who travel to countries that require it before entering their territory. The Ministry noted, however, that community screening for Covid-19, disease surveillance

and compliance with barrier measures remain in force throughout the national territory.

Regarding this press release, the daily press contacted the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, Ms. Chloé Ndayikunda for clarification regarding screening for Covid-19. Regarding the strategies that the Ministry in charge of Public Health will take so that the public does not get tired of the barrier measures against the said disease, Ms. Ndayikunda specified that all the measures that had been taken remain in force except screening at the hospital entry: "We will continue the campaign "Ndakira, sinandura kandi sinanduza Corona virus". We continue to inform the population about the existence of the corona virus vaccine so that those who want it can be vaccinated,"she said. Ms Ndayikunda added that in-house testing remains in effect as testing sites will remain open for those with symptoms of the corona virus.

As for the information circulating that there is another and new variant of Covid-19 in Burundi, the Spokesperson of the Ministry in charge of Public Health clarified that so far in Burundi, there are no reported cases. .

Ms. Chloé Ndayikunda took the opportunity to remind everyone that Covid-19 still exists. She asks to observe the barrier measures and to be tested if someone has the symptoms of the said disease. She finally recalled that vaccines exist in all district hospitals for those who wish to be vaccinated. **(The Renewal of Burundi)**

Ngozi: The Minister in charge of National Defense carries out development activities and listens to the grievances of the population



On Thursday January 5, 2023, the Minister of National Defense and Veterans Ir Alain Tribert Mutabazi visited the Ruhororo and Tangara communes of Ngozi province where he joined the population in various activities. On Gitamo hill in Ruhororo commune, he participated in tree planting activities as part of the Thursday dedicated to the Environment. And in the Nyaruteke valley in Tangara commune, he launched corn harvesting activities.

As Minister Alain Tribert Mutabazi pointed out, the descent was part of the implementation of the recommendation of the Head of State who calls on the Ministers to join the populations on the ground in order to listen to their grievances. Being the supervising Minister of the "Ewe Burundi urambaye" program, he started his program on Gitamo hill in Ruhororo commune where he joined the population in tree planting activities as part of the Thursday dedicated to the Environment. On this occasion, nine thousand eucalyptus plants were transplanted. In his speech, he encouraged the residents present to continue the process of environmental protection by planting trees, especially those that are associ-

ated with crops and fruit trees. Mr. Mutabazi did not fail to call on the population of this locality to improve their agro-pastoral practices to find something to eat and pocket money.

Minister Ir Alain Tribert Mutabazi also clarified that in addition to joining the population in various activities, he also wants to listen to their grievances. He thus gave the population present the opportunity to address their grievances to him. But, it was found that there are no questions related to this Ministry because even the only question that was raised concerned Justice. The Minister thus advised the population of Ruhororo commune to always address their grievances to close leaders before resorting to the Head of State. As for the Administrators, he asked them to always put forward the well-being of their leaders by trying to find solutions to their questions and submit to higher levels those that seem difficult to them.

After Ruhororo, Minister Ir Alain Tribert Mutabazi went to Tangara commune where he launched the corn harvest in the Nyaruteke valley. This valley extends over 50ha and the farmers have pooled their land. **(The Renewal of Burundi)**

Burundi Tennis Federation: Five countries will participate in Zone IV tournaments



On Thursday January 5, 2023, in a Press Conference he held, the President of the Burundi tennis federation, Mr Gilbert Nibigirwe warmly greeted the leaders of the international tennis federation (ITF) and those of the African confederation of tennis (CAT) for having placed the confidence in the federation of tennis of Burundi for the organization of this competition.

The Burundi Tennis Federation (FTB) will host from January 7 to 15, 2023 at the Bujumbura Sports Entente, the ITF / CAT individual and team championships for young people in the East African region 2023. These tournaments are organized for the under 14 and under 16 categories. Five Zone IV countries including Burundi (Host Country), Tanzania, Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda have already confirmed their participation.

"We hope that we will host other tournaments on the professional circuit in the near future. This soon-to-be-

opening Zone IV (Zonals) tournament brings together young boys and girls under 14 and under 16. Burundi will thus be in the spotlight of African and even world sports news for 10 days each time from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.," said Mr. Nibigirwe, affirming that these competitions are of capital importance insofar as they qualify for this year's African competitions. He specified that the ideal is not only to win the competition but to go further in the African championships.

Before reiterating his sincere thanks to the partners who continue to support the federation in the 2023-2025 tennis development project in Burundi, the President of the FTB called on fans of the yellow ball to come in large numbers to support Burundian youth. He did not fail to point out that medals and cups will be awarded according to performance.

As for Mr. Allan Terry Gatoto, the young Burundian playing in the tennis academy in South Africa, he reassured the public by promising Burundian tennis fans to expect good results. "We have been preparing since last year and we hope to win the tournament to open doors to other international competitions," he explained. **(The Renewal of Burundi)**

The level of women's football in Burundi is satisfactory despite some constraints



Burundian women's football has already reached a satisfactory level. This emerges from an interview that the daily *Le Renouveau* conducted on Thursday January 5, 2023, with the president of the commission in charge of women's football within the Burundi Football Federation (FFB), Ms. Eugénie Kabura.

"Burundian women's football has already reached a higher level. The proof is that the women's national team has just participated in the Women's African Cup

of Nations which took place in Morocco. This gives us a considerable place in the sub-region. It was our first participation in the history of women's football in Burundi. We would like to inform you that we have been chosen among 52 African federations to be part of a commission responsible for the organization of women's competitions at the level of the Confederation of African Football (Caf). It is a great honor for the FFB in general and for the commission in charge of women's football in particular. It is also a great sign that shows that Burundian women's football is experiencing a great pace of evolution," said Ms. Kabura. She said that in the A division as in the B division, there are ten women's teams that play in the regular championships alongside the other women's teams that play in different provincial associations.

As part of developing Burundian women's football, Ms. Kabura indicated that the commission will carry out visits to all the provinces of the country to detect new talents, supervise young players to form a solid national team (U17, U20 and U23) able to defend the national colors well.

Regarding the challenges, Ms. Kabura said that women's football comes up against Burundian custom which hinders its development. The other difficulty is related to the lack of funds to organize many competitions and increase the required level of players. In the case of the Rain Bow team, which conceded a lot of goals, she said that the commission will sit down together with the staff of this club to see together the problem that there is to finally find a solution.

In order to achieve a good development of women's football in Burundi, the president said that the

women's football commission is looking for national partners to popularize and work with women's associations and to encourage girls to join football. She then challenges the latter to take and integrate the women's teams and to prepare their future after their football career.

"For the Burundian players who play abroad especially in Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, Egypt and Europe, our interlocutor confirmed to us that they are doing well, added Ms Kabura". **(The Renewal of Burundi)**

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