



**President Ndayishimiye receives in audience Madam Mary Porter Peschka, Director of the IFC in East Africa**



**O**n Tuesday November 28, 2023, the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye received in audience at the Donatus Conference Center, Mrs. Mary Porter Peschka, Managing Director of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in East Africa. That is a branch of the World Bank which is particularly involved in supporting the private sector.

The General Director of the International Finance Corporation in East Africa came to take part in the work of the National Private Sector Forum, called UMUZINGA DAY second Edition, initiated by His Excellency the President of the Republic and which brings together around a dialogue, the private sector and the public sector in

order to discuss the necessary reforms to be implemented so that Burundi can achieve its development.

On that occasion of the audience, the Director General said she was amazed by the richness of the discussions and the commitment of everyone to make their contribution to the building of Burundi's economy.

To that end, she clarified to the Head of State that the International Finance Corporation is ready to support the private sector, a pillar of development, so that it can develop and execute its projects for the development of the country in general. She pointed out that the International Finance Corporation has already injected the funds into certain Commercial Banks so that the small and medium-sized busi-

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nesses can access to the credit easily. It also intends to intervene in the mining and energy sector because one of the challenges that was taken up during the Forum by the private sector is the lack of energy to work properly. The Company also plans to support the agricultural sector, particularly in the cultivation of tea, coffee, sugar cane, etc., especially since those crops are likely to be exported and bring in foreign currency to the countries.

The International Finance Corporation opened a branch in Burundi six months ago in order to help, support and easily finance the private sector.

The Head of State thanked the Director General for supporting development by supporting the private sector and reassured her that the Burundian Government will spare no effort to work in close collaboration with all development partners who support Burundi towards an emerging country in 2040 and developed in 2060. **(Presidency)**

## The First Lady distributes the school supplies and encourages the student success



**O**n Monday November 27, 2023, the First Lady of Burundi visited the Mutwenzi Fundamental School, located in the commune of Kirundo. The mission of that visit was to distribute the school supplies to 1000 students, as well as 125 kg of dried mushrooms, as part of the School Canteens Program, of which she is the Godmother. Those mushrooms are a contribution from His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, the President of the Republic of Burundi who wanted to support that program as a mushroom cultivator, a philanthropic gesture which was of great importance to promote the success of children by offering them the means necessary for quality education.

During her visit to the Mutwenzi Fundamental School, the First Lady expressed her deep gratitude to the Chinese Foundation for Rural Development and the Chinese Ambassador to Burundi, Mrs. Zhao Jiangping. She indicated that it was thanks to their invaluable support for the education of Burundian children that she was able to provide that valuable assistance to that school. Their involvement demonstrates a fruitful partnership between Burundi and China, aimed at improving the learning conditions of the younger generations.

Beyond the distribution of the school supplies, the First

Lady provided advice to the parents, teachers and students present. She encouraged parents actively supporting their children in their studies, as their commitment plays a determining role in academic success. To teachers, she reminded the importance of being effective in their responsibility to educate and transmit the knowledge to the students. As for the students, she urged them to cultivate discipline and values because they are the foundations of their academic and personal success.

Thanks to the involvement of the First Lady in the School Canteens Program, the 1000 students of the Mutwenzi Fundamental School in Kirundo will now be able to benefit from the nutritious and balanced meals, allowing them to study with a full stomach and to concentrate fully on their learning. In addition, the distribution of school supplies guarantees students have the necessary materials to successfully complete their studies.

The parents, the educators and the students present during that visit expressed their deep appreciation for that very laudable gesture of the First Lady who is at the same time President of the Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation. Her commitment to the education and well-being of Burundian children is a source of inspiration for the educational community and for the entire country. Those concrete actions contribute to creating an environment conducive to the learning and development of the younger generations, thus paving the way for a promising future for Burundi.

The First Lady of Burundi reiterated her dedication to the education of children, by implementing the initiatives that promote their development and fulfillment. His exemplary commitment makes him an inspiring figure and a model for all those who aspire to make a positive difference in society. **(Presidency)**

## “All together against Violence against women and girls”



**O**n Monday November 27, 2023, the First Lady of Burundi, Her Excellency Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE launched the 16-day campaign of activism against violence against women and girls in the province of Kirundo under the theme “All together: Investing to prevent violence violence against women and girls.” She underlined the importance of that period to reflect on the women and girls who suffer that violence, sometimes to the point of losing their lives, and who are also affected psychologically.

In her speech, the First Lady referred to the recent cases of sexual rape that occurred in Burundi, notably the case of little Kelsey Iteka who was sexually raped and murdered. She emphasizes that that violence persists and must be fought with determination. However, she stressed that not all men are guilty and encouraged them to denounce and fight against this violence. Likewise, she recalled that not all women are innocent and advised those who engage in reprehensible behavior to pull themselves together. She also called on administrators to get involved in this fight against gender-based violence. The First Lady stressed that strict justice will help

punish and eradicate these bad practices.

Madam Clara Anyangwe, Representative of UNO-FEMMES in Burundi, who was also present, declared that according to the latest global estimates, every year, 245 million women and girls around the world suffer physical and/or sexual violence from of an intimate partner. Additionally, more than four in five women and girls (86%) live in countries where there are no strong legal protections against violence.

She stressed the urgency of action to put an end to this violence. Clara Anyangwe praised the efforts of the Government, donors and the women and men champions who work daily to prevent violence and guarantee that victims of this violence regain their rights. She stressed that much remains to be done, referring to two recent cases, that of little Kelsey and the 3 year and 9 month old girl from Muramvya province.

The UNWOMEN Representative concluded her speech by citing the recommendations of the Secretary General of the United Nations System, which consist of supporting comprehensive laws and policies strengthening the protection of the rights of women and girls, strengthening investments in prevention and support for organizations defending the rights of women and girls, to listen to survivors and to end the impunity of perpetrators of violence, wherever they are, and to support activists and to highlight the key role of women at all stages of decision-making.

The First Lady called for unity and collective expression, urging us to build a Burundi that refuses to tolerate violence against women and girls. She highlighted the existence of a cruel movement against women and girls and invited all stakeholders to mobilize to put an end to it. She concluded her speech by thanking all the partners and other stakeholders engaged in this fight against gender-based violence. **(Presidency)**

## The Prime Minister receives in audience distinguished authorities

On Thursday November 30, 2023, the Prime Minister Lieutenant General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca received in audience respectively the Regional Director of the IFC (International Finance Corporation), the Ambassador of Belgium in Burundi, that of the Netherlands in Burundi and the Director General of the mobile telephone company Iumitel.

Prime Minister Lieutenant General of Police Ger-

vais Ndirakobuca thanked certain authorities from the IFC and the World Bank group who work to stimulate investors to come and operate in different sectors.

The Regional Director of the IFC, Mrs. Mary Porter Peschka, came to meet with the Prime Minister to review the achievements of that company in Burundi.

That company has already granted the credit support to the various commercial banks in Burundi. An enve-

lopes of 5 million euros for each of the banks so that they grant the credit to the small and medium-sized businesses that want to invest mainly in the import of goods.

The Regional Director indicated that that company is currently carrying out four in-depth studies to see the ways and means of stimulating investors to come and operate in the different sectors, namely the energy sector, agricultural sector, digitalization so that there is transparency in the business environment, etc.

The audience with the Belgian Ambassador to Burundi, Mr. Winner Michael, is part of a courtesy visit since he took the office, it is the first time that he has spoken with the Prime Minister.

As for the audience with the Ambassador of the Netherlands, she had come to speak with the Prime Minister when she took office as the new Ambassador.

Ambassador Houben Lianne Helena returned to a program which began that year of 2023 with a four-year deadline which will concern the four areas, namely the field of food security and nutrition with an envelope of 54 million euros, education, youth employment and entrepreneurship with an envelope of 14 million Euros, the rule of law and human rights with 30.5 million euros, and the sexual and reproductive health and the related rights with an envelope of 36 million euros.

As for the interview with the General Director of Lumitel, Mr. Nguyen thuc Nam, he came to express his pride for the good partnership that exists between that company and the Government of Burundi at a time when on the 15<sup>th</sup> of that month, that company will cele-



brate its 10 years of existence in Burundi.

The General Director of lumitel indicated that today that company has a turnover of 60 million dollars in the investments and that it has more than three million subscribers throughout the national territory.

The Prime Minister, thanking Lumitel for its ten years of the existence in Burundi for its interventions in different areas especially in education by providing the teaching materials, he gave it order to improving the quality of its services in moment when some customers complain about the quality of the connection. **(RTNB)**

### The UNDP Resident Representative received in audience by the President of the Senate



**O**n Wednesday November 29, 2023, Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, President of the Senate, received in audience the Resident Representative of the United Nations Devel-

opment Program (UNDP) in Burundi, Mr. Mathieu Ciwela.

Their discussions focused on the achievements of the UNDP in Burundi during the period from 2019 to 2023, some of which include assistance to the vulnerable, in that case the women and the orphans as well as the computerization of the health services. Civil status in the municipalities.

In addition, the two High Authorities discussed the prospects of UNDP projects from 2023 to 2027, which are notably in the area of the food security, strengthening good governance, combating natural disasters and environmental protection. **(Senate)**

## Participation of the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation at the National Forum in the Private Sector "Umuzinga Day 2"



**O**n Monday November 2023, at the Donatus Conference Center the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation participated to the National Forum in the Private Sector "Umuzinga Day 2" of Burundi.

The Ministry was represented by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry Mr. Ferdinand Bashikako who was one of the panelists on the theme: "The tourist potential of Burundi at the service of development."

In his presentation, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation spoke of the major elements of the International Cooperation Strategy for the Promotion of Tourism, including the Ministry's tools. He also talked about the initiatives that have been carried out to promote the tourism in Burundi.

Regarding the Ministry's tools, Mr. Ferdinand Bashikako said that the Ministry has promoted the tourism one of the five pillars of economic diplomacy. He said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, through economic diplomacy characterized by the transfer of technologies, the attraction of foreign investments, the promotion of trade as well as tourism and infrastructure, tries to do his best so that he can promote the tourist potential of Burundi and the image of the country abroad.

Ferdinand Bashikako said that, in each diplomatic mission, the Ministry provides for a service for cooperation, Economic and Commercial Affairs. That service will be responsible for the commercial prospecting and investment; documentation has an economic and commercial character; promotion of the commercial sector and the research of information on behalf of the competent services of Bu-

rundi including tourism and others.

Another tool for the promotion of tourism in Burundi, which Mr. Ferdinand Bashikako said is the booklet published in September 2022 on the promotion of tourism which constitutes an instrument of materialization of the Government's will in the matter.

He also said that the Ministry produced a documentary film released in the same period in September 2022 entitled "Burundi, tourist and investment destination". That film can be viewed on the Ministry's website, on its Twitter account and on its Facebook page. The global objective pursued through the production of the documentary film as well as the development of the Burundi booklet was to make available to the international community the audiovisual instruments capitalizing on Burundi.

He added that the documentary film and the booklet are used in the honor fair of Diplomatic and Consular Missions of Burundi abroad, in Diplomatic and Consular Missions accredited in Burundi, in public places much frequented by the international partners like the Melchior Ndadaye International Airport, the Honor Airport, the Ministry's waiting Room, etc.

Regarding the initiatives to promote tourism in Burundi, the Permanent Secretary Mr. Ferdinand Bashikako spoke of the Diplomatic Week and the Week of the Diaspora organized each year with the objective of promoting the image of Burundi with a strong coloring of praising the tourist products of Burundi.

The Diplomatic Week is an activity of the Ministry organized each year on the eve of celebration of the Burundi National Day. It brings together all the Senior Executives and Executives involved in Burundian diplomacy as well as the resident and the non-resident Ambassadors accredited to Burundi and the Honorary Consuls

of Burundi abroad. The activities and visits organized inside the country give the guests an opportunity to know Burundi deeply and participate in the celebration of the National Day on July 1. The Diaspora Week gives the opportunity to the members of the Burundian Diaspora around the world to show the Burundi and the tourist potential of their country.

He also talked about the creation and the strengthening of the partnerships with the operators around, in partic-

ular, our Diplomatic and Consular Missions. The Ministry also organizes the regional and international meetings in Burundi so that the participants in those meetings can seize the opportunities to visit Burundi and at the same time know the existing tourist opportunities. The Ministry also pursues the contacts with the tourism officials in the sub-region so that Burundi can act in the regional tourist circuit. **(MAECD)**

### Sub-regional conference “Youth for Peace” on issues of peace consolidation in the Great Lakes sub-region



**O**n November 28, 2023, in the Porta Sion/ Mont Sion Gikungu Room, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation Mr. Ferdinand BASHIKAKO proceeded to the official opening of the sub-regional conference of two (2) days “Youth for Peace” on issues of peace consolidation in the Great Lakes sub-region.

In his speech, the Permanent Secretary announced that the official opening of the Peace and Reconciliation Program in Burundi and the Great Lakes Region under the theme “Youth for Peace” on issues of peace consolidation in the sub-region -Great Lakes region for the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, arrives at the right time. Certainly, the Great Lakes region has been plagued by the perpetual conflict for decades and has experienced some of the worst wars on the continent. That is therefore appropriated to creating a common space for the dialogue, sharing of knowledge and discussing the major challenges linked to the conflicts in the sub-region and the possibilities for lasting peace through the effective and active involvement of the young people. In decision-making and peace processes at all levels. He also indicated that that meeting resonates in a particular way

for Burundi which has a great attachment to the inclusion, participation and promotion of the young people. The President of the Republic, at the same time, the Champion of the African Union for the promotion of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, has always considered the youth as an opportunity for the continent, he added.

Mr. Ferdinand BASHIKAKO reminded the participants that the transformative force of the young Africans is essential to the economic recovery of the continent. However, peace and security are a prerequisite for any sustainable development ambition. The Job creation and the support for the youth then constitute an essential bulwarks for the consolidation of peace and security.

As for the speeches of Monsignor Salvator NICITERETSE, Bishop of the Diocese of Bururi and Herménégilde COYTUNGIYE, the Father Superior of the Community of the Fathers of Shoenstatt and the President of the Steering Committee of the Peace and Reconciliation Project all pointed out that the Catholic Church of Burundi since 2004, has undertaken a culture of peace and reconciliation project until today with a view to consolidating the social cohesion in the country and in the sub-region with a view to having a peaceful, prosperous and peaceful

country or countries reconciled. According to Monsignor Salvator NICITERETSE, they organized the training workshops at the national, diocesan and even parish level for leaders of political parties, leaders of the administration and the different services, security and defense forces, forums for thousands of young people, apostolic workers (priests, religious and lay people). They certainly receive those initiatives which support the efforts of the Government, their Churches and all civil society organizations and other churches and

religious denominations which work for peace and reconciliation.

Note also that that conference was organized by the Community of Fathers of Schoenstatt of Mont Sion Gikungu via the Coordination Office of the Peace and Reconciliation Project in Burundi and the Great Lakes region in collaboration with the University of Burundi and the Diocese of Bururi with the financial support of the State of Baden-Württemberg, the Diocese of Rotenburg-Stuttgart and the Archdiocese of Freiburg in Germany. (MAECD)

### The OBR celebrates the Taxpayer's Day with a novelty



In a press conference hosted on Tuesday November 28, 2023, by the Commissioner General of the Burundian Revenue Office (OBR) Mr. Jean Claude Manirakiza announced that the celebration of the day dedicated to taxpayers will be celebrated on December 5 at the Ingoma stadium in Gitega. That day dedicated to the taxpayers will be celebrated under the theme: "let's use modern technology for the online payment of taxes and fees, let's support the development of the country". The Commissioner General of the OBR indicated that that year's theme corresponds to a vast project undertaken in August 2023 to create an online declaration and payment system for taxes and fees "umutangakori portal".

The electronic declaration and electronic payment system is a part of the process of the digitalization of the OBR services and operates 24 hours a day, it is carried out wherever you are and the receipt is delivered electronically.

According to Mr. Jean Claude Manirakiza, Commissioner General of the OBR, the advantages of that system are multiple and all focus on the security of

operations and data.

In other words, the taxpayer who uses that system securely keeps the history of his declarations and payments, and consequently, reduces the risks of theft and loss of time and money.

The Commissioner General indicated that the taxpayers who were targeted are those falling into the category of Large and Medium Taxpayers, that is to say those with an annual turnover of 100 million Fbu and more.

The system also concerns the non-governmental organizations, non-profit associations, and companies in the education sector, taxpayers with the houses and land rented as schools and universities, not to mention all the public and parastatal establishments.

Manirakiza

He specified that since the initiation of that reform, on August 1, 2023, 2,833 taxpayers have been included in the database. Until September 2023, the workforce stood at 3,000. Among them, 2,896 have already joined the system, or 81% membership.

As a result, 168 taxpayers had not yet joined for multiple reasons, among the most official being difficulties linked to the use of this system.

He indicated that, to remedy that, the OBR quickly provided several training courses for users, notably auditors, taxpayers, banks and members of the Professional Order of Accountants (OPC.).

And to add that technical assistance was provided to taxpayers and auditors in charge of receiving declarations.

As positive results, the Commissioner General announced that, for the first time in Burundi, from August 1 to 31, 2023, taxes and duties for the month of August 2023 were declared online to the tune of 36,108,117,444 BIF.

The second month, that is, September 2023, was significant. Taxes and duties were declared online at the order of 63.5 billion BIF, which represents a difference of 27.4 billion BIF compared to the declarations for the month of August.

For the month of October, on the monthly revenue forecast which was 163.33 billion Fbu, the OBR was able to collect 165.10 billion Fbu, i.e. a collection rate of 101.08% while in September the collections were 185.7 billion against 172.3 billion expected. (RTNB)

# Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Coopera- tion

## Department of Communi- cation

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