



Ascension Day celebration: President Ndayishimiye urges Burundians to display irreproachable behavior



During the celebration of the Ascension Day on thursday may 18, 2023, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye joined the Christians of the Church of the Holy Spirit of the Jesuits of Kiriri where he called on Burundians to have an irreproachable behavior that is the worthy of the children of God.

On that day of the Ascension, which is usually celebrated on the fortieth day from Easter, the Burundian Number One wished a happy holiday to all the Christians and also wished them to carry out well the Novena of prayer for preparing to the Pentecost.

“We must always be aware that Burundi has long time been entrusted to God. Thus, we must behave ourselves like his children and show him that we live with him on a daily basis”, he said.

In his homily taken from Mark 16:19 and Acts 1:2-3, the Pastor of the Church of the Holy Spirit of the Jesuits of Kiriri, Mr Désiré Yamuremye, invited the Christians to love each other according to God's command "You shall love your neighbor as yourself", awaiting the return of Christ.
(www.presidency.gov.bi)

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China, Russia and the World Bank in a new phase of cooperation with Burundi



The President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye received on Wednesday May 17, 2023, at Ntare Palace,

various Personalities from the Russian Federation, China and the World Bank.

The first to be received by the Burundian Head of State is Ambassador Valery A. MIKHAYLOV of Russia to Burundi. He first thanked the Head of State for the audience before positively appreciating the very good diplomatic relations for 60 years.

Ambassador MIKHAYLOV also appreciated the enlightened leadership of the Burundian Head of State, especially with regard to his involvement in the empowerment of the young people. That goes hand in hand, according to that personality, with the program of school canteens that Russia intends to support. On that, the First Lady of Burundi is invited to the economic forum of Saint Petersburg in Russia where she will participate in the plenary session of the debates dedicated to the problems of school canteens.

He then said that the cooperation Agreements in the field of nuclear energy, health, justice and labor between the two countries are also being prepared. The Russian Ambassador to Burundi also indicated that Burundi is also invited to the second Russia-Africa Summit which will be held at the end of July 2023 in Saint Petersburg.

The President of the Republic also received the Chinese Ambassador H.E Zhao Jiangping in audience. The latter

first congratulated him for the holding of the 11th Summit of Heads of State signatories to the Framework Agreement for Cooperation, Peace and Security in Eastern DRC and the region. Ambassador H.E Zhao Jiangping said that China appreciated the role of Burundi in restoring peace in the DRC.

"China will begin the 6th phase of technical cooperation which will place a particular emphasis on the installation of demonstration villages of the selected seeds of rice and maize, and the training of talents", said Ambassador Jiangping, showing commitment of his country to contribute to the achievement of the objective of the Vision Burundi Emerging Country in 2040-Developed Country in 2060.

In the area of infrastructure, she mentioned that the RN1 diversion work will begin in the next three months, and that the two countries are working on the project to rehabilitate the Melchior Ndadaye International Airport.

The Resident Representative of the World Bank Mrs. Hawa Wagué was also received in audience. "We are going to help in the digitalization of the whole chain of public finance, revenue, expenditure, procurement and capacity building in statistics," he said.

She did not forget to congratulate the Burundian Head of State on the economic reforms underway, before promising that the support of the World Bank in this sector will enable Burundi to attract many private investors and consequently increase exports.

The President of the Republic finally received the Apostolic Nuncio H.E Mgr Dieudonné Datonou and the Bureau of the Episcopal Conference of Burundi. Their discussions focused on the government action and the multifaceted support of the Catholic Church. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

Burundi celebrated on Monday May 15, 2023 the African School Feeding Day



The day was celebrated at Fundamental School of Nyamugari in Kabezi Commune in Bujumbura Prov-

ince under the High Patronage of H.E the First Lady Angéline NDAYISHIMIYE under the theme "Boosting local food supply systems and regional value chains". That celebration also saw the participation of the Minister of Education and Scientific Research Dr. François HAVYARIMANA and the Representatives of the United Nations Agencies including the World Food Program and the countries that contribute to the implementation of the National School Feeding Program (PNAS).

In his speech, the Head of Program Mr. NIAMKE Kodjo who represented the WFP Country Director, said that the School Feeding Program (PNAS) based on local production has a positive impact not only on the education of the students, but also on farmers and local communities as a whole. Achieving a universal food coverage requires a strengthening integration and synergies between the key sectors, particularly education, agriculture and health, with regard to the different roles of each sector cited, specified the Head of Program. He also praised the courage and leadership of H.E the First Lady for her commitment for fighting against the malnutrition and supporting the PNAS. The Head of Program at WFP ended by reaffirming the commitment of WFP to support the implementation of the PNAS.

The Minister of National Education and Scientific Research, for his part, indicated in his speech that, to succeed in the PNAS, parents must contribute in food, especially during the periods of good harvests. He indicated that the lack of essential infrastructure for school feeding such as canteens, storage spaces, is one of the challenges facing the implementation of the PNAS. He reiterated the sustained support of the PNAS given the benefits that

the program directly induces on the quality of education and the development of the rural world through the farmers and breeders grouped in cooperatives.

As Sponsor of the school canteen program, H.E the First Lady of Burundi welcomed the efforts of each other who are committed to contributing to the success of the National School Feeding Program. She reminded that the objective is to feed all the children who are on the school bench in Burundi and who are today estimated at more than 2.8 million students of the Fundamental School. This is when this program intervenes in favor of more than 650,000 students who are in 7 provinces of the country. The First Lady took this opportunity to ask any Burundian animated by a patriotic spirit, to contribute so that all children are fed at school. She ended her speech by paying a strong acknowledgement to the Government of Burundi, which provides the Ministry of Education with the financial means for the implementation of the School Feeding Program, and urged the Government to review the gradually increasing its contribution to universal school feeding in Burundi. The ceremonies ended with a meal sharing session between H.E the First Lady of Burundi and the school children of ECOFO Nyamugari which hosted the ceremonies. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

The Senate adopts the bill amending the Code of Civil Procedures of Burundi



The Burundian Senate met on Friday May 19, 2023, in plenary session to analyze the bill amending the Code of Civil Procedure.

The Minister of Justice Mrs. Domine Banyankimbona was the Government Representative to provide clarifications to senators in relation to this bill.

In her statement of reasons, the Minister of Justice presented the content of the draft law amending the Code of Civil Procedures and told senators that this Code is currently governed by Law No. 1/10 of May

13, 2004.

Minister Domine Banyankimbona clarified that there are still certain challenges that make access to justice difficult, to which adequate responses must be provided. This is particularly the challenge linked to the slowness of legal proceedings.

Indeed, the Minister in charge of justice said that the Burundian population still laments the interminable trials, the slowness of the procedures, the difficulty linked to the execution of judicial decisions, the remoteness of the courts, the maneuvers court delays, etc. In order to improve the administration of justice, the Minister of Justice has indicated that it is imperative to review the code of civil procedure to adapt it to the imperatives of the moment.

The Senators after having examined this bill amending the Code of Civil Procedures and after having obtained the answers to the many questions asked and with some amendments, they adopted it unanimously. (www.rtnb.bi)

Burundi plans to improve internet accessibility and make electronic communications more efficient



The Ministry of Communication, Information Technology and Media released a statement on the eve of the celebration of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day which was celebrated on wednesday may 17, 2023 under the theme: "The empowerment of the least developed countries through information and communication technologies. »

According to Mrs. Léocadie Ndacayisaba, the Minister in charge of communication, the objective of this day is to raise awareness of the opportunities offered by Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for developing countries and the prospects opened up by the use of the Internet and information and communication technologies in the economic and social fields as well as the means of reducing the digital divide, that is inequality in the use and access to ICT. According to Mrs. Ndacayisaba, the ICT enables the provision of quality goods and services in health, education, finance, trade, governance, agriculture and others. They help reducing poverty, improving health, creating new jobs, mitigat-

ing the effects of climate change, improving energy efficiency and making the cities and communities more sustainable. The latter also contribute to the competitiveness of companies and the efficiency of the administrations and public services.

The Minister in charge of communication indicated that to respond to the theme mentioned above, Burundi plans to deploy the broadband connectivity and to develop the ICT applications to facilitate the provision of free or low-cost digital access for the benefit of schools, hospitals and underserved populations.

The Technological progress increases economic production and well-being by improving productivity, that is by making it possible to produce more with the same resources, and by promoting more innovation and development, Minister Ndacayisaba added. .

She pointed out that one of the challenges that Burundi is facing is the coverage of telephone networks and high-speed internet, access to expensive terminals and a digital culture, particularly in public administrations. Despite this, the State is striving to strengthen the existing telecommunications infrastructure through several projects that are being implemented. She gave the example of the PAFEN project (Tool wall storage system) which should extend and improve accessibility and make the electronic communications more efficient in Burundi in general and in underserved rural communities in particular. These significant investments should, in the near future, enable Burundi to benefit from good quality internet speed at affordable prices for the majority of citizens. (www.rtnb.bi)

Muyinga: gold cooperatives called to use modern and industrial methods



Prime Minister Lieutenant

General Gervais Ndirakobuca held a gold cooperatives assessment meeting on tuesday

may 16, 2022 in the capital of Muyinga province. The meeting was attended by the Minister in charge of energy and mines, the Minister in charge of the interior

and public security, the Vice-Governor of the BRB, the regional police commissioners, the governors, the administrator's councils and representatives of gold mining cooperatives.

In his welcoming address, the Governor of Muyinga Mr J.Claude Barutwanayo indicated that the activities in the mining sector are taking place normally in the various localities.

Nevertheless, he lamented that there are people who continue to exploit gold clandestinely and whose illicit extraction often causes the fatal accidents. And to clarify

that five gold cooperatives are authorized to mine gold in Muyinga province in addition to SOTB, he added.

Prime Minister Lieutenant General Gervais Ndirakobuca thanked the administrators who, in collaboration with the police, are working to ensure the proper coordination of the mining sector. He asked the mineral operators to respect the law while avoiding theft and fraud of the mines because the latter constitute a national and not an individual wealth.

Prime Minister Lieutenant General Gervais Ndirakobuca said that the meeting was also an opportunity to analyze together the actions to be taken to increase gold production. Gold miners must re-

turn all the gold they have exploited to the counter of the BRB, underlined the Prime Minister. He recommended that gold cooperatives use modern methods to reduce accidents during mineral extraction work.

After the evaluation meeting of cooperatives working in the exploitation of gold, Prime Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca and the Minister in charge of energy and mines Ir Ibrahim Uwizeye visited the company SOTB which industrially exploits gold on Nyungu hill in Gasorwe commune of Muyinga province.

The Prime Minister positively appreciated the work of the company SOTB to see its methods and its laboratories and called on the other gold cooperatives to follow suit. (www.rtnb.bi)

Descent of Ministers to Bujumbura Town Hall



The members of the Government began on Monday May 15, 2023, a campaign of field visits to various municipalities in the country to inquire about the grievances of the population.

For this first day, the Ministers in charge of home affairs, defense, justice and infrastructure listened to the grievances of the inhabitants of Ntakangwa commune in Bujumbura Town Hall.

As for the Ministers of Communication, Information Technology and the Media, that of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture as well as the Minister of Public Service and Employment were at the Scheppers high school in Nyakabinga to collect the concerns of the population of the Mukaza commune and to provide solutions, as part of the descents of the Ministers of the Government of Burundi to meet the population.

In Muha commune, these are the Ministers of public health and the fight against AIDS, that of national education and scientific research, that of national

solidarity, social affairs, human rights and gender. as well as hydraulics, energy and mining.

Among the concerns expressed by the inhabitants of the Ntakangwa commune, the local notables need the equipment, the inhabitants of Buterere complain of the recurrent floods as well as the lack of fences and drinking water at certain schools.

In Mukaza commune, the concerns of the population are, among other things, the lack of capacity building to set up bankable projects, the departure of civil servants who are not replaced, the national television which is watched via the distributors of pay channels.

The persistent lack of water from REGIDESO is the great concern of the population of the southern districts of the capital of Bujumbura, they fear the pure during the next dry season and the resurgence of diseases of dirty hands.

To the question of the lack of equipment for the locality notables, the Minister in charge of justice, Mrs Domine Banyankimbona replied that the file is advanced and will find an adequate solution before the end of June, but these notables are called upon to understand that it is not a salary.

Regarding the issue of the lack of fence and delimitation at certain schools, the Minister Dieudonné Dukundane in charge of infrastructure asked that the directors formulate written requests via the Ministry in charge of education. As for the lack of water, the request must be addressed to Regideso, he continued.

The Minister of home affairs added that the administration must get involved in the delimitation of schools and other public infrastructures as well as in obtaining their administrative documents.

Regarding the people who blocked certain avenues, particularly in Buhinyuza district, the Minister of Infrastructure asked the applicants to give all the information to the OBUHA and the ARB so that the necessary corrections can be made.

Minister Dieudonné Dukundane confirmed that the section of the RN9, along the Mutakura district will soon be rebuilt, the company which won the contract is preparing to carry out the work.

Responding to concern over soaring food prices, the Minister of home affairs said that the solution is to increase the production.

But Minister Martin Niteretse said that there will also have to be a change in behavior among some traders who speculate by hiding the food products to resell them at a higher price or abroad.

And to increase the production, the Minister of home affairs Mr Martin Niteretse explained that the inhabitants of Bujumbura who want it, can go through the Town Hall and ask for arable land inside the country.

He called on the administrators to ensure that the prices

of Brarudi products, sugar and Buceco cement are respected.

Speaking of road traffic, the home secretary warned those who hit public lighting poles, saying that they must repair the damage caused to these poles, because we cannot continue to build when others destroy.

On the question of the embellishment and sanitation of military camps, the Minister of Defense Mr Alain Tribert Mutabazi specified that the rehabilitation plan for the camps exists but its implementation depends on the means available at the level of the State budget. .

The Minister in charge of defense has promised to support the projects of veterans who come together in cooperatives. As for their rights, the Minister said that we are waiting for the implementation of the new law that governs them.

On the questions relating to justice, the Minister of Justice Mrs Domine Banyankimbona took the numbers of the files to follow up on them, and for others, she recommended to her collaborators. (www.rtnb.bi)

Launch of the European Union support program of the justice sector



The Minister of Justice Mrs Domine Banyankimbona accompanied by the Ambassador of the European Union (EU) in Burundi His Excellency Claude Bochu and the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Burundi, His Excellency Jeroen Steeghs launched the support program for the justice-sector in Burundi (PASJ) fully financed by the EU in Burundi.

This support program for the justice sector entirely financed by the EU in Burundi to the tune of 15 million euros consists of three components and will be implemented by the Belgian Development Agency Enabel, the Embassy of the Low through the NGO CORDAID,

Library without borders in collaboration with other partners from the civil society.

According to the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Burundi H.E Jeroen Steeghs, this project will continue to work alongside the different stakeholders in contributing together to the promotion of human rights and access to fair justice.

The Netherlands supports Burundi through two projects which are executed by CORDAID, a Dutch NGO and have focused on justice, the inclusion of women in the peace and security process.

In this new justice sector support program, the Netherlands in partnership with the CORDAID will implement component 3, namely the project to improve access to justice, the right to justice for vulnerable.

The EU Ambassador to Burundi H.E Claude Bochu indicated that this support program for the justice sector marks a new way of working between the EU in Burundi and the Government of Burundi because its development took into account the democratic commitments precise and the ambitious of the Government of Burundi.

This program is a real opportunity to advance the rule of law and ensure the accountability of the Government, to increase the confidence of citizens in their institutions and to keep the promise of improving the living conditions of

the populations, underlines H.E Claude Bochu. The Minister of Justice, Mrs Domine Banyankimbona indicated that this program will contribute to the implementation of the sectoral strategy of the Ministry of Justice 2023-2027 which is a strategic document which translates the political vision of the Government of Burundi in correlation with the frame of reference and international commitments of Burundi.

According to the Minister, Mrs Domine Banyankimbona, this program aims to strengthen the judicial services so that they can provide the quality services to the population, contribute to improving the conditions of detention, to promote access to justice for the poor.

This program also aims to digitize the justice sector in the pilot provinces of the projects: Bujumbura, Ngozi, Cibitoke, Muramvya, Mwaro, Cankuzo, Makamba, Muyinga, Kirundo, Ruyigi and Karusi.

The launch of the program also saw the participation of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Neth-

erlands, the Representatives of Enabel and Libraries without Borders as well as many participants from ministerial departments, the sector and civil society.

The participants followed the important talks and presentations on the program, the sectoral strategy of the Ministry and the activities and objectives of the three PASJ projects.

These presentations and exchanges will allow the optimal implementation of the program so that it benefits the most vulnerable and contributes to the justice that guarantees the dignity of the people and the human rights, is independent, impartial, and gender-sensitive, digitized and responds to the expectations of Burundian citizens as well as national or international investors.

The official launch activities of the justice sector support program were closed with the signing of the Terms of Reference by the Minister of Justice Mrs-Domine Banyankimbona on the side of the Government of Burundi and H.E Claude Bochu on the part of the European Union. (www.rtnb.bi)

The Government of Burundi sets the price of coffee cherry A



The Office for the Development of Coffee in Burundi (ODECA) organized on Tuesday May 16, 2023, a press conference

during which the Director General of ODECA Mr Kayobera Leonard brought to the attention of the general public and coffee growers in particular that for this 2023-2024 coffee campaign, the minimum purchase price for cherry A coffee, set by the Government, is 1280F per kg. For coffee cherry B, the Council of Ministers instructed the ad hoc committee to also rule on it.

The CEO of ODECA launched a strong appeal to the population in general and to coffee growers in particular to redouble their efforts in increasing the production and quality of coffee because the price has been considerably increased.

During this press conference, the pulpers were asked to respect the price set by the Government as well as the provisions of the regulations for the collection of cherry coffee, the production of Parche

coffee FULL washed, natural and honey in force while recalling that 'It is strictly forbidden to depulp coffee at home because any depulper must receive cherry coffee A and cherry coffee B at the same time, specified the D G of ODECA.

He indicated that the cash payment when purchasing the cherry coffee is strictly prohibited, any time an advance may be granted to the coffee growers who request it without exceeding 50% of the quantity of cherry coffee already received; the cherry coffee centers in areas covered by pulping-washing stations are prohibited. Each station must be provided with sheets for coffee growers supplying the cherry coffee and with a reliable, calibrated and flawless weighing system.

Mr Kayobera Bernard said that the total quantity exported until May 5, 2023 is 16,103.536 tons for a value of 66,377,819 dollars.

FOR ODECA, the green coffee produced is 5640.436 tons. The quantity already sold is 5118.020 tons for a value of 22492168USD.

THE Director of ODECA called on the administration, the police and all the players in the coffee sector and the population in general to continue to work in close collaboration in the fight against coffee fraud towards neighboring countries (www.rtnb.bi)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

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