



The Ambassador of the Netherlands presents the Burundi-Netherlands cooperation program for four years



The President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye received in audience on wednesday may 24, 2023 at the Ntare Palace the Ambassador of the Netherlands to Burundi H.E Steeghs Jeroen Theodorus, who came to present to him the Netherlands Cooperation Program with Burundi established for a period of four years.

This strategy provides for the training of young Burundians in the field of entrepreneurship and interventions in the field of agriculture and demography, as revealed by the Dutch diplomat who made a point of pointing out the challenges linked to the lack of vast arable land to modernize agricul-

ture.

The Head of State reassured him that the Government of Burundi is committed to guaranteeing food security in the country, in particular through the villagization program and the grouping of farmers into cooperatives in order to increase production.

"Agriculture is a sector that is close to our hearts", hinted the Burundian Number One before entrusting him with the various reforms undertaken by the Government of Burundi to promote good governance, the education system, ensure the youth empowerment and demographic control.

The President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye

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also granted an audience to the Emirati investors of the company "International Holding Company" specialized in the exploitation of nickel. They discussed investment opportunities in the mining sector in Burundi.

The Head of State reiterated to them the desire of the

Burundian State to promote cooperation and partnership with other countries, companies and international organizations at a time when Burundi plans to become an emerging country in 2040 and developed in 2060. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

The President of the Republic receives in audience the investors from the United Arab Emirates



The President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye received in audi-

ence on wednesday may 24, 2023 a group of Investors from the United Arab Emirates. They came to respond to an international call for tenders launched by the Government of Burundi to those who want to invest in the mining sector, as indicated by the Spokesperson for the Head of State, Mrs. Rosine Guilène Gaton.

The Spokesperson for the Head of State, Mrs. Rosine Guilène Gatoni, said that the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, welcomed them and encouraged them in deepening the discussions in all the technical sectors concerned with the study office within the presidency of the Republic and the Ministry having mining resources in its attributions.

During the exchanges, this group of investors specified that beyond the exploitation of the mines, they will also work throughout the value chain and in the reinforcement of the capacities of the technicians with regard to the exploitation of the mining resources, she added.

The President of the Republic also received in audience the Ambassador of the Netherlands to Burundi His Excellency Joroen Maria steeghs. Their meeting focused on strengthening cooperation between Burundi and the Netherlands.

The Spokesperson for the Head of State said that together they assessed the state of play of the programs implemented by the Netherlands in Burundi, in particular support for young people in the field of education, especially in technical schools.

Thanking the Ambassador of the Netherlands for his country's efforts to support Burundi, the Head of State and current President of the East African Community Heads of State Summit took the opportunity to ask for the support of the Netherlands to the regional force in action in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo in the restoration of peace. (www.rtnb.bi)

Ruyigi: The Vice-President warns the perpetrators of the bushfires



The Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi Ir Prosper Bazombanza joined on saturday may 20, 2023, the population of the Rusengo

zone in Ruyigi province, in community development work. These works consisted of the maintenance of the road linking Rusengo and Butezi commune.

After the community development works, the Governor of Ruyigi province Mrs. Emerencienne Tabu said that peace and security reign in Ruyigi province. And to add that the population of his province is working on development work through the cooperatives. Nevertheless,

the Governor of Ruyigi province said that this province is experiencing the challenges related to the impassable roads and bush fires especially during the dry season.

In his speech, the Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi Ir Prosper Bazombanza urged the population of Ruyigi province in fighting against the bush fires especially during the dry season. He recommended that the authorities severely punish the perpetrators of these bushfires which harm the environment.

The Vice-President of the Republic Ir Prosper Bazombanza also called on the population to manage the fruitage glowing and to preserve peace and social security. (www.rtnb.bi)

National Assembly: Evaluation of the projects of the locality cooperative societies



The Speaker of the National Assembly, the High Honorable Daniel Gélase Ndabirabe opened on Monday, May 22, 2023, a three-day workshop to present model communal community development plans and the process of its synchronization with the general state budget fiscal year 2023-2024 in progress by the Committee on Public Accounts and Finance, Economic Affairs and Planning.

The President of the National Assembly specified that the objective of this workshop is to be able to provide the communes with qualified and effective tools to harmonize their communal plans. He underlined that the workshop will also make it possible to collect observations in order to produce a final version of the model communal community development plans.

During this workshop to assess the adequacy of the projects of the hill cooperative societies compared to those included in the communal commu-

nity development plans, it was noted that the hill cooperatives face several challenges including the variability of a commune to the other.

During the analysis by the parliamentary committee in charge of public accounts, the latter found that cooperatives face certain challenges such as the withdrawal of certain members because of their bad leaders.

With regard to communal community development plans, participants recommended developing a better taxation strategy for communes and the Office Burundais des Recettes (OBR).

The Speaker of the National Assembly, the Right Honorable Daniel Gélase Ndabirabe indicated that the communal plans face several challenges from one commune to another, hence this situation makes the implementation, monitoring and evaluation the difficult. municipal plans.

He added that to find a way out, the finance commission has drawn up a model communal basic community development plan which will serve as a model in the development of their communal plans, there will be a harmonization of documents and monitoring and evaluation.

This workshop was attended by the members of the Government, the executives of the Presidency of the Republic of Burundi, Parliamentarians as well as the other executives from the various Institutions. (www.rtnb.bi)

The Speakers of Parliaments of the East African Community countries recommend the creation of a General Secretariat of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)



On May 21, 2023, the Speakers of the Chambers of Parliament of Burundi returned from a working mission carried out in Arusha, in the United Republic of Tanzania where they had taken part

in the 15th meeting of the Bureau of Speakers of Parliaments of member countries of the East African Community.

Speaking to the Press, the President of the National Assembly, in his message, indicated that during this meeting, the Presidents of these Chambers recommended to the Executive to amend the Treaty governing the EAC, because it currently has shortcomings.

The Speakers of Parliaments of EAC member countries also recommended the creation of a General Secretariat of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) to facilitate the work of this institution and the collaboration of the national Parliaments. . On the same occasion, they discussed the situation of the economy and the use of French within the EAC. (www.senat.bi)

Visit of the Burundian Ombudsman to Bujumbura Province



The Burundian Ombudsman Mrs. Aimée Laurentine Kanyana

carried out on Tuesday may 23, 2023, a working visit to Bujumbura province where she met with the population of the province in the capital of Isare commune.

In his welcoming address, the Governor of Bujumbura province Mr. Désiré Nsengiyumva indicated that the province is secure and that the population is taking the opportunity to increase production in agriculture and livestock so that "every mouth has something to eat and every pocket of the 'agent' ". However, he added, the lack of arable land due to the increase in population is causing land problems. To deal with this problem, the administration is working to raise awareness about birth control, he said.

In her speech, the Ombudsman Mrs. Laurentine Kanyana indicated that that visit is a part of making known her Institution, how it works and talking with the population of Bujumbura province to respond to their grievances as recommended by the President of the Republic.

Indeed, Ms. Kanyana specified that the Institution of the Ombudsman is an emanation of the Arusha agreements, it is responsible for seeing how the Government and the institutions resulting from it work, to ensure that the population has access to what she is entitled to with the administration.

The Burundian Ombudsman also indicated that shortly, the

institution will put in place five volunteer municipal people, who will be responsible for collecting the grievances of the population and ensuring that the latter is received by the administrators, at the image of the institution of the Ombudsman. She also spoke about the vision of the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye stipulating that by 2040 Burundi will be an emerging country and in 2060, a developed country. To achieve this, Ms. Kanyana recommended that this population to engage themselves in development work.

During the presentation of the grievances to the Burundian Ombudsman, the local mediators asked for a salary and work tools, the land disputes were also mentioned, among other people who bought the plots in Mutimbuzi commune.

Responding to questions addressed to her, Ms. Kanyana said that local mediators know what they are committed to that they must continue to work tirelessly.

With regard to those who have bought land in Mutimbuzi commune and who have not yet obtained it, she asked them to make sure that they have contacted the real owners with the involvement of all the beneficiaries. She recommended all participants in the meeting to always check before buying any land property.

To end her remarks, Mrs. Kanyana asked the Governor of the province of Bujumbura to collaborate with the administrator of the commune Mutimbuzi, to prepare his visit to the Mutimbuzi commune. (ABP)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation organizes an Open Doors



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation organized from may 23 to 24, 2023 an Open Doors dedicated to all people.

The year's theme was "Economic Diplomacy for Development in the era of the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA)".

The activities of these Open Doors began with a briefing to the participants on the missions of the Ministry. After, these participants made a guided tour of all the Departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation. Each Managing Director had to ensure the reception of the visitors in the Department for which he is responsible. The President of the commission responsible for organizing the Open Doors, 2023 Edition Mrs. Ancile NTAKABURIMVO informed the press that the objective of the Ministry in organ-

izing the activity was to inform the Burundian public and the Ministry's partners on various services offered by the Ministry.



The second day of the Open Doors was marked by the presentations on different topics related to the central theme; characteristics of intra-African trade and the future prospects under the ACFTA; Burundi's mechanism to promote the trade and attract the foreign direct investment within the framework of the ACFTA; towards a successful implementation of the ACFTA agreement for Burundi: Trade arrangements, programs and institutional reforms put in place; Towards a successful implementation of the ACFTA agreement for Burundi: Adjustment and support measures put in place.

The presenters of the different themes showed in general the

advantages that Burundi can derive from the ZLECAF, they cited in particular the expansion of trade following the reduction of the tariffs and the elimination of non-tariff barriers on the continental market. representing 55 countries; the expanded market which will attract the cross-border investment with the significant benefits such as the technology and skills transfer; the implementation of the ACFTA protocol on trade in services which will enable Burundi to achieve its ambition of becoming a services hub on the continent in areas such as transport, financial services and ICT; the ACFTA's commerce approach which will fuel the integration into regional and continental value chains; Thanks to the ACFTA, Burundi can build the skills and the capacities as well as develop the trade networks through the regional and continental value chains, etc.

In his speech for the occasion, His Excellency Albert SHINGIRO, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, indicated that the holding of the Open Doors stems from the Government's desire for strengthening the system put in place and to maintain the achievements of the democratic revival in Burundi on the one hand, and on the other hand to firmly establish good governance which is based on the universal ethics of responsibility which implies in particular a duty of transparency and accountability. With regard to the future prospects, the Minister reminded that today's world is a globalized world, an increasingly complex world with multiple

challenges, a world more interdependent than ever and in a perpetual change. It is in this perspective that the Government has put in place the new tools and a new approach to defend the strategic and the vital interests of Burundi, said HE Albert SHINGIRO. "Faced with the local, regional and global challenges, Burundi has decided to act, to chart the path that seems best to it in order to promote the emergence and prevalence of the harmonious ties with the entire international community, hence its abstentionist position, of non-alignment and neutrality on certain highly burning global issues of the hour while contributing positively to them according to the guidelines drawn by the Charter of the United Nations, a universally recognized instrument which must be taxable to all the States of the same way without a policy of double standards," said the Head of Burundian Diplomacy.

Speaking of the theme of the Open Doors, Edition 2023, HE Albert SHINGIRO indicated that the theme was a part of the components of economic diplomacy and essentially it concerns the promotion of trade. The African Continental Free Trade Area is an intra-African project that the member States have committed to execute in union and to succeed. We believe in it and we will succeed, he added.

In a comfortable atmosphere, the activities of the Open Days ended with a lunch offered by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. (MFADC)

Bururi: Descent of five Ministers in Songa commune



In the continuity of the process of listening to the grievances of the population for providing the adequate solutions, five members of the Burundian Government went to Songa commune in the province of Bururi, on Friday May 26, 2023. This is the Minister in charge for the Integration of Burundi into the East African Community, Ambassador Ezéchiel Nibigira, the Minister of Public Service, Labor and Employment, Mr. Deo Rusengwamihigo, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Ambassador Albert Shingiro, the Minister of Communication, Information and Media Mrs. Léocadie Ndacayisaba as well as that of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism Mrs Marie Chantal Ndacayisaba.

Addressing the Minister of Communication, Information Technologies and the Media, Mrs. Léocadie Ndacayisaba, the young people of the Songa Commune grouped together in the Economic Empowerment and Youth Employment Program (PAEEJ) in particular and all the inhabitants in general, lament the weak connection of the Internet in that commune. This constitutes a major handicap in carrying out their daily activities.

To this question, Minister Léocadie Ndacayisaba said that that problem is known but that it is linked to multiple parameters. She affirmed that the Ministry having the communication in its attributions is at work so that the connection is effective on all the national territory. The Minister in charge of communication asked them to wait a bit because, she explained, the project to extend the connection is underway.

Regarding the issue of people who disseminate false information to tarnish the image of certain people, Mrs. Ndacayisaba said that this is a behavior to be banned. She promised to work so that this inappropriate behavior is combated and dismantled. The populations of Songa commune have asked that the road leading to the Jiji-Murembwe dam be rehabilitated. To this question, the Minister Ambassadeur Ezéchiel Nibigira promised them to transmit their grievances to his colleague in charge of infrastructure.

The populations of Songa commune asked the Minister of Commerce, Transport, Industry and Tourism Mrs. Marie Chantal Ndacayisaba why it was forbidden to sell the agricultural products from one commune to another. Mrs. Nijimbere said that this is a measure that has been taken to prevent the commissionaires who want to take advantage of the result of the sweat of the producers. Anyone who

asks for permission to sell their crops elsewhere will get it without any problem, she said.

For the Brarudi products whose prices are becoming exorbitant, the Minister in charge of trade indicated that the competent administrative authorities must ensure the well-being of the local population and regulate prices according to the standard of each entity. It meant that the one who made investments should not sell the Brarudi products at the same

price as the one who did not. Nevertheless, even the one who has made the investments, to increase the price of Brarudi products, must seek an authorization at the provincial level.

Regarding the high cost of sugar, the Minister Mrs. Nijimbere prohibited the local chiefs to trade in sugar, because, she said, they do not have a tax identification number, neither the trade register. (<https://lerenouveau.digital>)

Exchange on the external information system for managing the employment of migrants



On Monday May 22, 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation in collaboration with the International Organization

for Migration (IOM) welcomed a Ugandan delegation at NDADAYE Melchior International Airport. This team of five (5) people came for a mission to exchange experience on the design of a monitoring and management platform for the Burundian workforce abroad. This team stayed in Bujumbura, Burundi from 22 to 26 May 2023 for this purpose.

On Wednesday May 24, 2023, this Ugandan team, accompanied by the Employment Promotion and Labor Migration Committee, paid a visit to the four migrant worker recruitment agencies to inquire about the recruitment of the Burundian migrant workers and exchanged experiences.

On Thursday May 25, 2023, in the small room of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, there were experience sharing sessions and three presentations were made by the Ugandan side on the process of recruitment and recording of data in the electronic system put in place by the Government of Uganda called the External Employment Management Information System (EEMIS) to manage and track agency recruitment.

To this end, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation in close collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) organized this mission with

the aim of sharing experiences in the field of labor migration of Burundian migrant workers going to the Gulf countries and more particularly to acquire the necessary notions and information that would allow the Burundian team (Directorate for the Promotion of the Employment of Migrant Workers) to develop a platform for the management and monitoring of Burundian migrant workers abroad and also put transparency in the whole process of the recruitment of the migrant worker (from the recruitment, during the deployment and during the execution of the employment contract) thus allowing the worker in action to request an urgent help in case of need via this platform.



It should be noted that Burundi has already signed

the bilateral agreements on labor migration with certain destination countries, in particular the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and has officially opened this movement of labor migration since May 17, 2023 with fourteen workers (women and girls) who left legally for Saudi Arabia.

It is also reported that seventeen private recruitment agencies are already authorized and have been trained in the use of Saudi Arabia's electronic system called MUSANED as of January 2023. (MFADC)

Towards the effective establishment of a house of culture in Burundi



The Ministry of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Culture and Sports organized on Wednesday May 24, 2023, in the capital of Karusi province, an awareness workshop on the importance of Place de la Maison de la culture burundaise, for municipal administrators and presidents of municipal councils in Karusi province.

In her opening speech of the sensitization workshop, the President of the cell in charge of setting up the Maison de la culture in Burundi, Mrs Rose Nzobambona indicated that the objective of the workshop was to exchange with the administrators on the organization, the functioning and the missions of the house of culture of Burundi.

As indicated by Rose Nzobambona, the Maison de la culture has the particular missions of executing, controlling and monitoring the effective implementation of the national language policy, protecting and promoting Run-

di literature, codifying standards and values of Kirundi, ensure the sovereignty of the Rundi language and culture, promote human and cultural values, perpetuate the memory of the past, protect and promote memorial sites, create linguistic, artis-

tic and cultural works, create a national drum center , classify and enhance traditional dance and recover the looted cultural heritage found abroad. (www.rtnb.bi)

Climate Action Transparency Training Workshop



The Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock organized on Tuesday, May

23, 2023 a national training workshop for stakeholders on the transparency of climate action and consolidation of a national action plan for improvement in this area in Burundi.

The Assistant to the Minister in charge of the environment Mr. Emmanuel Ndorimana indicated that the purpose of this workshop was to discuss the results of the assessment of gaps and needs in terms of transparency of climate action at the national level. and update the existing climate action transparency framework.

The Director General of the Geographical Institute of Burundi (IGEUB) Mr. Augustin Ngenzirabona indicated that this workshop follows others which

have been organized in almost all the countries of the Community of Central African States, on the measures that have been taken in terms of adaptation and mitigation of risks related to the disasters due to the climate change.

He said that each country has made the collections in different documents including the document on climate change, a document called the contribution determined at the national level in the fight against the climate change. In this document are the projects and programs of the country that have been developed for the establishment of the mechanisms for mitigating and adapting to climate change.

The Representative of the Liaison Office of the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC) Mr. Jean Jacques DAMAFOUTA explained for his part that the transparency framework aims to providing a clear picture of the measures relating to climate change by enlightening and tracking each country's progress towards meeting its nationally determined contribution. (www.rtnb.bi)

Gitega: The National Defense Force of Burundi FDNB organizes the military championship 2023-2024 Edition



The National Defense Force of Burundi (FDNB) closed the military championship, 2022-2023 Edition, organized at the Commando Center in Gitega from may 19 to 23, 2023. The closing ceremonies were enhanced by the

presence of the Chief of the FDNB, General Prime Niyongabo.

This championship was organized under the theme: "Instruction and training at the FDNB, pillar of the professionalization of this body for the success of its missions".

The 2023-2024 military championship was made up of different disciplines including the obstacle course, rope track, vertical rope, orienteering course, 17 km race, 8 km race plus shooting.

Regarding the general ranking by unit during the military championship Edition 2023-2024, the second military division was ranked first, the second place went to the Special Brigade for the Protection of Institutions BSPI and the third place was occupied by the unit of support arming. The Chief of the FDNB, Gen-

eral Prime Niyongabo, presented the trophies to the latter. He congratulated the military competitors in the championship for their bravery, technique, discipline

and fraternity which characterized them in the various events. (www.rtnb.bi)

Towards the community access to the solar energy via the Soleil-Nyakiriza project



The coordination unit of the “Soleil-Nyakiriza” project, a solar energy project in local communities in Burundi, organized a training session for the journalists on Tuesday may 23, 2023, on the activities of the project. A project, whose objective is to expand access to the energy services for households, businesses, schools and health centers in rural areas of Burundi.

For Mr. Sylvestre Nshimirimana, the monitoring and evaluation officer who represented the project coordinator during this session, the Soleil-Nyakiriza project is not new. It dates from 2020, and is in progress. Currently, it is at the finishing stage of the studies, while noting that the constructions will start. According to him, the Soleil-Nyakiriza project is focused on three technical components. He explained that the first component was de-

signed to address issues related to capital development at the level of health centers and schools. At the health center level, provide them with lighting and allow equipment to operate. Similarly, at school level, provide them with lighting to allow students to study in the evening, educators to use other tools including computers, but also to improve energy-based cooking. solar for schools with school canteens.

Mr. Sylvestre Nshimirimana specified that the project is advanced for the electrification of the health centers. The first phase has been launched around 160 health centers which will be lit up in two months, he said. With regard to schools, he pointed out that the construction of improved cook stoves and kitchen shelters is at a more advanced stage. In this regard, some 122 schools have already benefited, he said.

The second phase consists in the electrification of the

locality centers, the secondary schools grouped around the centers and far from the REGIDESO networks. In this regard, Mr. Nshimirimana, informed that this component is the most important at 37% of this project. He added that it was necessary to initiate the mini-networks to enlighten these households and help them in the development of the related activities. In terms of achievements, he said that the studies are advanced, and that the closing of the preliminary environmental and social impact studies will correspond to the launch of the calls for tenders in early June.

As for the third component, it takes care of the households outside these circuits, in other words, those who are not on the centers. The project has designed, according to Mr. Nshimirimana, the portable solar panels that can be used independently. Thus, the private sector has been called upon. He

indicated that this project will subsidize the private partners who will invest in it and the households "at a subsidized price". The beneficiaries will be the distant households not eligible by the REGIDESO but also outside these centers.

According to a diagnosis made, Mr. Nshimirimana indicated that three months ago, the project is not known, and that even the expectations are not known. To solve this problem, he informed that the project would like to involve journalists, and expects them to contribute to the acceleration of the appropriation of this project. For him, the purpose of this session was to make the journalists aware of the project so that they can then inform other stakeholders about the opportunities that await them. He concluded that the project expects media professionals to sharpen the expectation of the population for the use of sustainable energy solutions. **(ABP)**

Leaders pledge to contribute to the family planning



The administrative officials, the Heads of sanitary centers, education,

religious denominations, and others have pledged to contribute to the promotion of the family planning, with a view to reducing the rate of population growth. It was on Wednesday May 24, 2023, in the capital of Cibitoke province, during a meeting of community leaders, for sexual reproductive health advocacy.

In this meeting organized by the NGO Twitezimbere, as a part of the project "Multi-stakeholder engagement for family planning in Burundi", the participants discussed the obstacles related to family planning, and proposed solutions, with actions to bring.

For the provincial doctor in Cibitoke, Dr. Jean Claude Habiyaemye, the development of the country depends on the health of its population in general, and the sexual reproductive health of young people, in particular. He said that family planning (P F) decreases the number of maternal and child deaths. He added that family planning promotes poverty reduction with an increase in gross domestic

product (GDP).

For the Chief of the Staff of the Governor of Cibitoke Province, Mr. Anicet Saïdi, who opened the meeting, community leaders must each make their contribution to the promotion of family planning.

As for the coordinator of the Twitezimbere project, Ms. Sonia Akimana, the leaders of the province must work in synergy, for advocacy in sexual reproductive health.

The participants spoke about the barriers related to the family planning including ignorance, rumors around contraceptive methods, cultural and religious beliefs, some breaches of the law, and others. As solutions to the challenges, we must continue raising awareness about the family planning, providing the civil status service with the computer tool to be able to detect attempts at polygamy.

The participants also recommended advocating for a law requiring men married to several wives to consider the first wife when registering the marriage in the civil registry. The participants in the meeting also committed themselves, with actions to be carried out, each in their sector, to promote the family planning, and to subscribe to the Government instruction limiting the number of children per couple to three children. **(ABP)**

- Review the decree which fixes the advantages granted to the President of the Supreme Court and to the Attorney General of the Republic to specify those granted to the Vice-President of the Supreme Court and to the First Deputy General. It is the same for the decree which fixes the advantages of the President of the Constitutional Court but which says nothing with regard to the advantages granted to the Vice-President.

2. Bill on the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the agreement between the Government of the State of Qatar and the Government of the Republic of Burundi concerning the regulation of the employment of Burundian workers in the State of Qatar, presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

International migration has now become a global phenomenon whose scale and complexity are constantly increasing.

The Government of the Republic of Burundi, aware of the advantages of migration but also anxious to meet the challenges that arise, is at work to regulate this movement of labor through a legal framework with the countries of destination.

It is within this framework that a bilateral agreement concerning the regulation of the employment of Burundian workers in the State of Qatar was drawn up.

The ratification of this agreement aims not only at the entry into force of the regulation of the movement of Burundian labor who wishes to go to Qatar to work there, but also at the strengthening of the good relations of friendship and cooperation that maintain the two countries.

It will contribute to the fight against unemployment among young Burundians.

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted with the recommendation that all legal texts be presented with their version in Kirundi.

3. Bill on the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the framework agreement on cooperation in the Nile River Basin, presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

Burundi is part of several regional and sub-regional groups, including the Nile River Basin Initiative.

The Nile Basin Initiative is a sub-regional organization created on February 22, 1999 and composed of 11 countries, namely the Republic of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Eritrea, the Republic of Ethiopia, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Uganda, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Among these countries, six have signed the Framework Agreement on Cooperation in the Nile River Basin including Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Ethiopia and these last three countries have already ratified it.

It should be noted that in 1929, the Treaty on the exclusive use of the waters of the Nile was signed between Egypt and Sudan and renewed in 1959, the countries upstream finding themselves excluded from the agreement, thus becoming mere spectators.

The ratification of this agreement aims to lead to the fair and reasonable sharing of these waters of the Nile because these other countries currently also need them for their development.

At the end of the analysis, the project was adopted.

4. Draft decree revising Decree No. 100/011 of February 06, 2018 on the missions, organization, composition and functioning of the General Staff of the National Defense Force of Burundi and its components, presented by the Minister of National Defense and Veterans Affairs.

This draft decree implements Organic Law No. 1/21 of June 27, 2022 on the missions, organization, composition, instruction, conditions of service and functioning of the Burundi National Defense Force and its components.

This law introduces new components of the General Staff of the National Defense Force of Burundi such as the Reserve and Development Support Force as well as a Special Operations Unit.

This draft decree details the missions of these new components. Other adjustments are proposed at the level of certain services of the General Staff of the National Defense Force for their proper functioning.

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted with the following recommendations:

- Instead of creating a training session for non-commissioned officers at Service G1 level, entrust it to Service G7 which is responsible for the various training courses;
- Enrich the missions of the Service responsible for training by extending it to other training missions specifically oriented towards production, with regard to the missions of the Reserve Force and Development Support;
- Ensure that these new components are not treated differently from other units.

5. Draft joint ministerial order determining the subsistence and operating expenses of Burundian military experts who are members of the Joint Intelligence Teams (ECR) of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) and the National Defense Force of Burundi (FDNB), presented by the Minister of National Defense and Veterans Affairs.

This draft order sets the scales of monthly living expenses for a Burundian military expert who is a member of these joint teams.

For a team based in Uvira these costs are expressed in US dollars, while for that based in Bujumbura, they are expressed in Burundian Francs.

After analysis and debate on this draft order, it was adopted with the following recommendations:

- Reformulate the title by replacing the word "operation" by "intelligence";
- Avoid specifying the number of officers as well as the city of assignment by limiting yourself to the name of the country only, since the number and location may change according to the needs of the moment;
- Remove the retroactivity of this order.

6. Roadmap for the implementation of the program budget in Burundi (period 2022-2026), presented by the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning.

With the start of program budgets in the 2022-2023 financial year, the Ministry in charge of Finance conducted numerous consultations with many Burundian experts and development partners for their advice and technical support for the implementation of the program budget.

At the end of the technical assistance mission conducted in January 2022, a roadmap was proposed, based on the effective switch to program budget mode from the 2025-2026 financial year.

Having considered this horizon too distant, the Ministry in charge of Finance took the option of initiating a few preliminary actions, before developing a roadmap taking into account the orientations of the various experts consulted, with a view to establishing a good articulation of the public policies to budget programs.

These actions include:

- The state of affairs and perspectives on the management of public finances;
- The mid-term evaluation of the National Development Plan;
- The establishment and use of a results-based budgeting tool;
- The preparation of an architecture of budget programs in perspective of the program budget.

The analysis of the program budget implementation process led to the need to develop a roadmap in three (3) complementary components, namely:

- ❖ Component 1: Establishment of technical premises conducive to the development of the program budget;
- ❖ Component 2: Development of the program budget and gradual transfer of its content to the appropriate tools of the budget preparation-execution chain;

- ❖ Component 3: Development of monitoring and evaluation tools and gradual transfer of its content to the appropriate tools of the results management and performance measurement chain.

For the roadmap of each component, it is specified the axes, the actions, the period of execution, the state of implementation as well as the responsible person.

At the end of the analysis of this file, the observations made are in particular:

- In the preparation of the round table and investment forum, ensure that all sectors (private sector and public sector) feel involved in the mobilization of funds and that this mobilization is a continuous action;
- Inventory the implementing texts of the budget law so that they are signed before June 30 of the year
- Identify, in the ministries, the texts requiring an update and communicate them to the Ministry in charge of Finance;
- The indicators must be designed taking into account the Burundi Vision 2040, and an annual evaluation of the step taken must be made.

7. List of program budgets, presented by the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning.

In application of the provisions of the organic law relating to public finances of June 20, 2022, the structure of the program budget has been developed with the support and technical assistance of partners, and the involvement of the Permanent Secretaries of various ministries.

As prescribed by this organic law, budget programs can only be created by a budget law. To this end, the program structure thus developed must be submitted for adoption by the Council of Ministers, to allow its stabilization, so that it can be used by the various ministries to gradually undertake the process of switching to the program budget.

For the fifteen (15) ministries, a total of sixty-two (62) program budget are formulated, broken down into two hundred and fifty (250) actions.

At the end of the analysis, the file was adopted with the following recommendations:

- Improve the reformulation of certain actions and communicate them to the Ministry in charge of Finance;
- Recruit a firm with skills in program budgeting to train technicians called upon to train technicians from the various institutions in this area;
- Each Ministry must provide before the end of June 2023 two technicians for training and who in return, will train others;
- Organize in June or July 2023, a program budget training retreat for members of the Government;
- Show the current status of program budget implementation objectively.

8. Note on performance management, presented by the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning.

The law on the General Statute of Civil Servants, in its innovations, introduced performance evaluation. Performance evaluation, depending on the score obtained, gives the right, on the one hand, to a performance part and, on the other hand, to a step.

For good performance management, the note offers:

- Align the performance management policy with the program budget reform;
- To align the evaluation period with the budgetary year for all State civil servants and for all institutions with special statutes operating on the State budget or on equity from July 1, 2023.
- Have individual and institutional performance contracts consistent with the 2023/2024 program budget signed before the start of the 2023/2024 budget year;
- That the Ministry in charge of the Civil Service put in place all the technical performance management tools consistent with the program budget reform.

At the end of the analysis of the note, the Council of Ministers recommended the following:

- Commute the note into a regulatory text for the application of the General Statute of Civil Servants and bring it as quickly as possible to the Council of Ministers;
- Complete all the phases allowing the effective implementation of the Salary Policy;
- Sign the performance contracts before the end of June 2023;
- Check at the level of each ministry whether the software housed there cannot contribute to this work.

9. Note on the pilot project of the company MUSUMBA STEEL for the production of sponge iron on the Bikobe site of the Nyange-Songa perimeter in Makamba Province, presented by the Minister of Hydraulics, Energy and Mining.

MUSUMBA Steel is a Burundian company operating in the field of steel processing to produce construction materials, including sheets, nails, reinforcing bars, tubes and profiles of all kinds.

It is supplied with rolls of steel on the external market, which generates a large sum of foreign currency leaving the country.

To deal with this situation, MUSUMBA Steel has undertaken efforts to produce steel in Burundi with locally available materials. This is how it was granted an authorization to prospect for iron and associated minerals on the Nyange-Songa perimeter.

On March 27, 2023, MUSUMBA Steel submitted an application file for an authorization to operate an industrial quarry on a pilot basis for the production of sponge iron. The MUSUMBA Steel pilot project aims to substitute imported iron with locally mined and processed iron. Mining will take place on the Bikobe site with an area of approximately 12 hectares, within the Nyange-Songa perimeter.

The project aims to build a pilot sponge iron production unit with a capacity of 50 tons per day.

After analyzing this note, the Council of Ministers approved this request and made the following recommendations:

- The Ministry in charge of Mining is called upon to set up a committee responsible for monitoring the extraction of this iron by MUSUMBA Steel;
- The procedures required by mining laws and regulations must be respected;
- Study the methods of collaboration with companies that come to operate in the mining sector so that they train Burundian technicians;
- Encourage investment in the energy sector because the availability of energy is important for mining;
- Other projects deserve to be encouraged, namely the Marble Production Project, the Soteb company which plans to produce 100 kg of gold per month, and the industrial peat production project.

10. Any Other Business

The Minister of Public Service, Labor and Employment informed the Council on the payroll control process within the ministry for which he is responsible.

He mentioned:

- A list of 432 civil servants, at least two of whom share the same payment account;
- A list of 66 civil servants paid from two different accounts;
- A list of civil servants who, according to their date of birth (1900-1930, etc.), should have left the civil service a long time ago.

On analysis of the documents received and after comparison with the information collected in the physical files of the civil servants, the commission which was set up for this purpose found that the sharing of accounts was done according to the following groups:

- Married civil servants whose salaries pass through the joint account of the couple.
- Married civil servants whose salaries pass through the account of one of the spouses;

- The Sisters and Brothers of the congregations whose salary transits on the account of the congregation.
- Civil servants paid through microfinance. Many accounts are joint accounts of these microfinances with commercial banks through which salaries pass before arriving in their real accounts.

He indicated what is being done so that there is no more confusion, but that the work of verifying cases of fraud in the ministry continues, because this is a reality. For the verification phase of the list of civil servants with doubtful ages, the work is being done.

It was recommended to sanction the officials at fault and, if necessary, to bring their names to the attention of the authorized authorities for an appropriate follow-up.

Ministries that have not yet done so have also been asked to send the lists of civil servants who have reached the retirement age.

**Done at Bujumbura, 25 May 2023
Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE**

Secretary-General and Spokesman.-

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

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