



**The Association of the Episcopal Conferences of Central Africa (ACEAC) would like to get involved in peace initiatives in the**



**D**uring an audience granted to them by the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, on Thursday June 01, 2023 at the Kiriri Palace, the members of the Standing Committee of the Association of Episcopal Conferences of Central Africa (ACEAC) expressed their willingness to contribute to peace initiatives in the sub-region.

After three days of gathering in an ordinary session which took place in Bujumbura, these Bishops from the Catholic Churches of Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of

Congo wanted to meet the Head of State of Burundi and President-in-Office of the East African Community (EAC) to inquire about the progress of the talks on peace in the sub-region and demonstrate their willingness to contribute to the social cohesion and peaceful coexistence, revealed the Abbot Jean Pierre Badidike, the Secretary General and Spokesperson of ACEAC, after the audience.

“His Excellency the Head of State informed them that the armed groups from outside have already laid down their arms and that the M23 which rages in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo has also agreed to stop the hostilities”, said the Spokes-

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person for the President of the Republic, Mrs. Rosine Gatoni Guillène, before adding that we are studying the modalities of making this ceasefire effective.

In addition, the Number One Burundian told them that many Burundian refugees who were in exile in the countries of the sub-region have been repatriated and that several others have already expressed their wish

to return home, she continued.

The President of the Republic appreciated the contribution of the Catholic Church in the development of the countries and urged the Bishops grouped in ACEAC to bring their moral and spiritual support in particular to the population which suffers from the consequences of the war, added Ms Rosine Gatoni. ([www.presidency.gov.bi](http://www.presidency.gov.bi))

## Bujumbura hosts the 21<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Summit of the EAC



**T**he 21<sup>st</sup> Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the East African Community was held on Wednesday May 31, 2023 in Bujumbura, the Economic Capital under the patronage of the Head of State of Burundi and current President in office of the East African Community, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye.

These meetings were enhanced by the Kenyan Head of State, Dr. William Ruto, other Heads of State were represented. Indeed, His Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan of Tanzania was represented by her Vice-President, His Excellency Dr Philippe Mpango, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda was represented by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Prime Minister, Mrs Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga, His Excellency Paul Kagame of Rwanda was represented by the Prime Minister, Mr Edouard Ngirente, His Excellency Antoine Félix Tshisekedi was

represented by Mr Christophe Lutundula Apala, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Congo and finally His Excellency Salva Kiir of Sudan was represented by the Honorable Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin, the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

This Extraordinary Summit of the East African Community was devoted to the appointment and swearing in of two Deputy Secretaries General and the Judge at the First Division of the East African Community Court of Justice. They are Mrs. Semuwemba Annette Marie of Ugandan nationality and Mr. Malueth Andrea Aguer Ariik of South Sudanese nationality, while the post of Judge in the First Division of the Court of Justice goes to Hon. Justice Kayembe Kasanda Ignace.

During the Summit, the Heads of State and Government also considered the question of the integration of Somalia into the East African Community as well as the analysis of the evolution of the security situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Burundian Head of State and President-in-Office of the East African Community congratulated those who have been appointed to serve the community and wished them much success in fulfilling their duties.

"Making the East African Community a peaceful community is our common responsibility," stressed the Burundian Number One who invited the member countries to spare no effort to continue building this organization. ([www.presidency.gov.bi](http://www.presidency.gov.bi))

## Burundi and Russia committed to strengthening cooperation for a win-win partnership



**T**he Head of State His Excellency, Evariste Ndayishimiye received in audience on Tuesday May 30, 2023 at the Kiriri Palace the Russian Minister

of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Sergey Lavrov. They pledged to strengthen the bilateral cooperation for a win-win partnership.

"During this year 2023-2024, Russia has decided to double the number of scholarships granted to Burundian students", suggested the Head of Russian diplomacy before

also revealing that his country is ready to support Burundi in the field of health by contributing to the eradication of infectious and epidemiological diseases, in the agricultural sector by the availability of fertilizers and finally to ensure capacity building in the sector of the use of peaceful nuclear energy.

The President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye thanked the Russia for its support to the various sectors of national life and particularly for having defended Burundi at a time when it was suffering from unjust sanctions from the West."We are satisfied with our relations which have

existed for times", indicated the Burundian Number One who insisted on informing that Burundi is at the start-up stage of its socio-economic development and that it will need a support from partners and friendly countries.

On the occasion of the meeting, the two High personalities undertook to strengthening solidarity between Burundi and Russia. Minister Lavrov also has invited Burundian businessmen to take part in the Economic Forum to be held in Saint Petersburg with the aim of strengthening cooperation in the field of business. ([www.presidency.gov.bi](http://www.presidency.gov.bi))

**The Prime Minister receives in audience the regional coordinator of the International**



Burundian Prime Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca received in audience on Tuesday May 31, 2023, the regional coordinator of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Mr. Malick Fall. At the end of the hearing, Mr. Fall told the press that the meeting with the Burundian Prime Minister

focused on the progress of the IFC program for the development of the private sector in Burundi. He indicated that his first meeting with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Burundi took place in Septem-

ber 2022 following the publication of the report on private sector development that the IFC had carried out with the World Bank. Mr. Malick Fall also specified that the IFC plans to work on a certain number of subjects, in particular access to bank financing and the latter will lend more and better to investors in order to create jobs. It was also a good opportunity to inform him that the IFC has seen quite significant progress in the private sector. He further indicated that the IFC makes itself available to discuss priority issues for the Government of Burundi. Its commitment is to support the development of private sector investment in agricultural value chains because it is a sector with a strong impact on the country's economy, particularly in job creation and food security, hammered the coordinator regional of the International Finance Corporation. (ABP)

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation visits Burundi**



**O**n Tuesday May 30, 2023, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation HE Sergey Lavrov paid a working visit to

Burundi. At Melchior Ndadaye International Airport, HE Sergey Lavrov was welcomed by his Burundian counterpart HE Albert Shingiro. In a press briefing granted to journalists at the end of a meeting between the Russian and Burundian delegation, HE Albert SHINGIRO indicated that it is the first time in the history of relations of 60 years of existence that the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation visits Burundi. He indicated that this visit comes following a visit that HE Albert Shingiro made to Russia in March 2023 to exchange and further deepening the relations of friendship, solidarity and brotherhood between the Russian people and the Burundians. HE Albert Shingiro affirmed that his exchanges with his

counterpart Sergey Lavrov were fruitful. They explored the ways and means of strengthening the bonds of solidarity, fraternity and cooperation in various fields. The two authorities also reviewed the regional dimension in the management of conflicts and paradoxes on the African continent but also the global issues facing the world at the moment.

For the bilateral cooperation, HE Albert Shingiro said that they reviewed the tangible progress already recorded and identified the challenges. He said that they looked ahead to see how to further diversify the areas of cooperation. Minister Albert Shingiro reported that the draft of cooperation agreements are being prepared and will be signed during the next Russia-Africa Summit which will be held in Russia in July 2023. These agreements will be in the field of common interests such as education, health, public service, energy, justice but also the use of nuclear.

Regarding the regional dimension, in the management of the conflicts and the paradoxes on the African continent, HE Albert Shingiro indicated that he explained to him what the President of the Republic of Burundi is doing in the sub-region for restoring peace, not only with the Democratic Republic of Congo but also beyond the borders of Burundi, in particular, in Somalia and the Central African Republic. "As current President of the East African Community, also President of the Monitoring Mechanism of the Cooperation, Peace and Security Framework Agreement in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the sub-region but also the Champion of the African Union for the Youth Peace and Security agenda, he is in the process of getting involved to restore lasting peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo with the support of his peers in the sub-region", he added.

With regard to global issues, the two Personalities spoke of the conflicts that we currently have in the world. Regarding the situation in Ukraine, HE Albert Shingiro said that Burundi has chosen to be on the side

of solutions and not on the side of problems. "We have taken an abstentionist position, a position of neutrality, a position of non-alignment for preventing the conflict from reaching other regions, in particular the African continent," said Minister Albert Shingiro. He added that Burundi calls on all parties to the many conflicts that are tearing the world apart at the moment to highlight the tools for the peaceful resolution of disputes that preventive diplomacy makes available to them, such as dialogue, cooperation, good offices, negotiation and consultation, to prevent conflicts from arising, and when they arise, preventing them from spreading like the bushfires, and when they do spread, prevent them from being devastating. This is why Burundi advises the parties in conflict, whether in Ukraine or elsewhere, to take the path of dialogue as quickly as possible because there is no one who wins in terms of war. He added that the wars leave behind them the ruins, the desolation, the orphans, the widows etc,

In closing, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation indicated that under the guidance of the Head of State, Burundi has adopted a foreign policy that opens up to the world and takes into account the specificities of each partner.

Speaking, HE Sergey Lavrov indicated that the Russian Federation will continue cooperation in the field of Health, in particular the fight against infectious diseases and in the field of peaceful nuclear energy. In the field of education, he indicated that the Russian Federation has increased the scholarship quota for Burundian students in Russia in the year 2023-2024". He said that even other points will be analyzed during the next Russia-Africa summit to be held in July this year.

Recall that on the evening of this same Tuesday, May 30, 2023, HE Sergey Lavrov was received in audience by the President of the Republic HE Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE. (MFADC)

## East African Community Defense Ministers meeting on the security situation in Eastern Congo



It was held in Bujumbura on Saturday May 29, 2023 at the Panoramic Hotel, an extraordinary meeting of East African Community Defense Ministers on the regional security situation in eastern Congo. The Minister in charge of National Defense Mr. Alain

Tribert Mutabazi, indicated that the situation in eastern Congo requires a strong involvement of stakeholders to stop the suffering of Congolese citizens. This risk spreading in the region where negative forces such as the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), the Red Tabara and the M23 are carrying out attacks and killings causing thousands of displaced civilians, said the Minister in charge of national defense.

The Minister Alain Tribert Mutabazi said that even if the East African Community deployed the regional force to stabilize the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, difficulties still remain hence regular assessments are still necessary. During the activities, the participants in the Council of Ministers analyzed and adopted the report of the Heads of Defense and General Staff of the East

African Community on the situation in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), to make the recommendations which will be submitted to the Heads of State of the East African region.

This meeting was attended by delegations from Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya, DRC, South Sudan and Uganda. ([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

### National competition: more than 75,000 candidates expected in 907 centers



**T**he Finalist students in the fundamental school did the national competition

allowing them an access to post-basic education. The award of the Edition 2023 competition took place from may 30 to june 1, 2023.

The Minister in charge of National Education Dr

François Havyarimana launched on tuesday may 30, 2023 the start of the national competition at Ecofo Muriza in Butaganzwa commune of Ruyigi province.

About 75,510 candidates were expected in 907 examination centers for this post-basic education certification and orientation competition, which ended on june 01, 2023. The subjects concerned are Mathematics, Entrepreneurship, Languages composed of French, English, Swahili, and Kirundi) Human Sciences and Sciences and Technologies subjects. ([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

### Development partners called for collaboration with the Provincial Platform for Food Security and Nutrition (PPSAN), in the choice of priority projects



**T**he Governor of the province of Cankuzo, Mr. Boniface Banyiyezako, called on the development partners of his province to collaborate with the steering committee of the provincial platform for food security and nutrition, PPSAN in the selection of the priority projects. This appeal was launched to them on Tuesday May 30, 2023, during a meeting, which he held towards the members of the platform. During the meeting to approve the internal regulations of the platform and to develop the action plan for the month of june 2023, the Governor and the chairman of the steering committee of the Province Platform for Food Security and Nutrition (PPSAN),

said that he was satisfied that these partners are working in all the municipalities, but expressed on wish that all the localities be covered. He also wishes to multiply the areas of intervention. However, he lamented that there are still seed suppliers intended for the vulnerable population, who justify that these seeds are selected, when they are all comers. For this, the Governor, Mr. Boniface Banyiyezako called on the development partners to be cautious and, in case of doubt, collaborated with the technical services, such as the Office in charge of agriculture and livestock, for verification. In connection with the distribution of livestock, the Governor Banyiyezako recommended that the stakeholders import them outside the province to ensuring the restocking. He also called on the responders to first gathering the animals for three days in one place in order to monitor their state of health, before distributing them to the beneficiaries. According to him, it has already been observed that a large number of animals die a few days after the distribution. He did not fail to challenge the partners to collaborate with the provincial platform in the choice of projects to be implemented, according to the order of priority. (**ABP**)

## The Tubura program at the service of the crop intensification in the Muyinga and Ngozi provinces



The Officials of Muyinga and Ngozi provinces say that they are satisfied with the achievements of the

Tubura program in the provinces, in relation to the capacity building of farmers. The Program was executed by the Agricultural Productivity Support Project in Burundi (PAPAB). During a harvest raid that took place on Tuesday May 30, 2023, in Gasorwe commune on Buringa locality. The Chief of the staff of the Governor of Muyinga province, Mrs. Denise Ndaruhekere, indicated that the farmers visibly improved their farming techniques. She recommended that the Tubura program also think about the supporting cropping season C to cultivate all seasons, and therefore increase the agricultural production. The administrative authority also reminded the Government's program related to the breeding of rabbits, saying that each household must raise at least five rabbits. One of the beneficiaries of the Tubura program said that he previously did not exceed 200 kilograms of maize, but that with this program, he is able to harvest more than 600 kilograms. The com-

munication officer within the Tubura program, Mr. Ivan Marre Intungane, indicated that their organization focuses in this province for the intensification of the cultivation of corn and beans, as well as the protection of the environment, by planting the agro-forestry species. He added that they also grant the agricultural inputs so that these farmers can harvest enough. In Ngozi province, the farmers from Karungura locality, in Mwumba commune, claim to have the significantly increased maize and the bean production in the same year, thanks to support from the foreign organizations (ENGO) One Acre Fund Tubura. The latter trains them in modern farming techniques and offers them reimbursable seeds and mineral manure. Mrs Rosette Ndikumana, one of the farmers on the locality, said that the maize and bean harvest has increased by three or even four times. The Governor of Ngozi province, Mr. Emmanuel Ntaconsanze, who visited on Tuesday May 30, 2023, the fields of peasants under the supervision of Tubura on the locality, said he was very satisfied with the level of the supervision and the harvest. He asked the farmers benefiting from the supervision to perpetuating the experience even after the departure of this Organization. He also urged the farmers to preserve the acquired harvest well and not to waste it. (ABP)

## Official launch of the "AMAGARA YACU" project



The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, Dr Olivier Nijimbere officially launched, on tuesday may 30, 2023 in Bujumbura, the "AMAGARA YACU" project led by a consortium made up of the French Red Cross, the Burundi Red Cross, Amref Health Africa, the Mériex Foundation and benefits from the financial support

of France via the French Development Agency (AFD) to the tune of 10 million euros for a period of three years. According to the President of the Burundi Red Cross, Mrs. Christine Ntahe, the objective of the said project is to improve the quality of the supply of primary health care and epidemiological surveillance, by strengthening, on the one hand, human resources in health with the National Institute of Public Health (INSP) and by consolidating, on the other hand, the epidemiological monitoring capacities thanks to the strengthening of the National Public Health Laboratory. She also added that this project is also oriented in the blood transfusion sector, through the optimization of collections, blood management and the production of blood products in collaboration with the National Center for Blood Transfusion (CNTS). Particular attention will be paid to gender inequalities hindering the right to health and access to care, said Ms. Ntahe. She did not fail to point out that the Burundi Red Cross is delighted with the good relations it maintains with the various partners and more particularly

the partners of the Government of Burundi. According to him, the Burundi Red Cross also appreciates the various interactions it has with the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS. According to Dr. Olivier Nijimbere, the said project comes at the right time, because Burundi has just adopted a vision of an emerging Burundi in 2040 and a developed country in 2060. According to him, in the priorities related to health, there are two objectives including improving access to basic health care for all and developing state-of-the-art hospital services. He did not forget to mention that this project is the result of good collaboration between the Republic of Burundi and its development partners through the various Ministries including that of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS. He also thanked the

Burundi Red Cross, which continues to support the Ministry in charge of health through health-related programs. For his part, the Ambassador of France to Burundi, His Excellency Jérémie Blin said that the project strengthens the relations of friendship and cooperation between France and Burundi. It is a part of the various strategies of the National Development Plan of Burundi (PND2018-2027), and the health is one of the main priorities of the Government of Burundi. He pointed out that France intervenes a lot in the field of health, especially in the fight against pandemics, tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS. The Ambassador of France in Burundi also promised that this country will continue to carry out other activities in other fields, especially the vocational training and energy. (ABP)

### Team Europe is committed to remain a reliable partner for the long term in the health and energy sector



The Europe team is committed to remaining a reliable, secure and transparent partner, for the long term, in the health and energy sector, both in infrastructure and technologies, reforms and governance, during the presentations marking the Immersion Day in the initiatives of the Europe team in Burundi. The Team Europe initiatives are implemented in close collaboration with the partner countries while taking into account their priorities and capacities, in order to ensure the sustainable results that benefit the local communities, underlined the Head of Cooperation of the European Union (EU) in Burundi, Mr. Antonio Capone. He specified that the initiatives of the Europe team bring together the best possible combination of the tools, methods, financing and the partners in order to produce the visible and lasting effects on the ground. In Burundi, the initiatives of the Europe team are anchored in the National Development Plan (PND 2018-2027) and in the recent vision to make Burundi an emerging country in 2040 and a developed country in 2060. For his part, the Deputy Head of the Cooperation at the Embassy of Belgium in Burundi, Sanne De Mayer, pointed out that the Belgium contributes effectively in the imple-

mentation of the project on biodiversity through the "Dukingire ibidukikije" program, which aims to protect and preserve the environment, to conserve and enhance the natural ecosystems and their biodiversity. She specified that the program is implemented under three components, namely the preservation of protected areas such as the Kibira and Rusizi national parks, the restoration and the protection of the land and the water resources, as well as the drinking water supply. "Only 11% of the population have access to the electricity and 95% of the population use the biomass for their energy needs," lamented the head of the rural development, environment, and energy and economy section at the European Union in Burundi, Mr. Arnold Jacques of Diksmuide. Arnold pointed out that the Europe-Energy team allows joint and strengthened coordination to effectively contribute to the achievement of the Government of Burundi's objective of universal access to electricity by 2030. The Ambassador of the Netherlands in Burundi, His Excellency Jeron Steeghs, for his part, pointed out in his presentation that the support program for the justice sector, financed by the European Union, is an integral part of the team Europe. This program is implemented by the Dutch Embassy through Cordaid, Enabel and the NGO Library without Borders, in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and other partners from civil society. All the presentations that were made, especially those related to the health and energy, were accompanied by related questions that were answered by those who are concerned. Asked about the

difference between the European Union and the Team Europe, Mr. Antonio clarified that the Team Europe brings together the European Union, Germany, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Italy as well as Switzerland and Norway which are not the members of the European Union. The Europe team was delighted with the active participation of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines, Mr. Selmani Hamisi and that of the Ministry responsible for Health, Dr. Olivier Nijimbere, in the activities of the day of immersion in the initiatives of the Europe team, an eloquent sign that testifies to the importance that the Government of Burundi attaches to the health and energy sectors. On the sidelines of the activities, a visit led by the head of European Union cooperation in Burundi, Antonio Capone, was made to Rwibaga hospital, in Mugongo-Manga commune of Bujumbura province. This hospital was formerly threatened by erosion and was always in quarrels with the surrounding population, following the rainwater, coming from its enclosures, which threatened the fields of culture and the houses,

according to the doctor director of the hospital, Dr Gratien Makebuko. He pointed out that the erosion problem has been solved thanks to the synergy of actions of the Europe team which, in addition to the rehabilitation and extension of the enclosures of the Rwibaga hospital, has equipped and digitized almost all its services, including the operating room and the maternity ward, by providing the laptops and desktop computers. He informed that the Staff has also been trained. Nevertheless, Dr. Makebuko, lamented that the hospital lacks a medical Staff, a high-speed connection for the proper functioning of digital equipment, and a vehicle for transporting medicines. He has, for all intents and purposes, asked for the involvement of everyone to remedy this, so that this hospital, which receives a good number of patients, including those who come from Mwaro province, can function well. The participants finally paid a visit to Rwibaga hospital. (ABP)



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### Gitega: Reflection workshop on the operational performance of the National Municipal Investment Fund (FONIC)



The National Municipal Investment Fund (FONIC) organized on Tuesday May 31, 2023 in Gitega province a workshop for reflecting on its operational performance. The activities were opened by Colonel of Police Gervais Niyibizi, the Director General of FONIC and saw the participation of the Representatives of the Investment Bank for Youth (BIJE), Investment Bank for the Development of Women BIDEF, the National Agency for the Promotion and Regulation

of Cooperative Societies in Burundi (ANACOOOP) as well as the FONIC Staff.

In his opening speech of the workshop, the Director General of FONIC indicated that the workshop aims to make the participants understand the mechanism of FONIC; its missions, its operation, the main challenges and the solutions for their recovery, exchanging the experiences with the beneficiaries of the funds of the joint ordinance for the financing of the initiatives emanating from specific groups, leading the reflections on the improvement of performance of services of FONIC in general and regional agencies in particular and in order to master the new budget

-program management procedures.

The workshop was also organized as part of the implementation of FONIC's 2022-2023 annual action plan, added Colonel of Police Gervais Niyibizi.

During the three days of the workshop, the Director General of FONIC specified that they will evaluate the achievements on the ground, examining together the challenges and the future prospects in order to improve the services on the ground. ([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))



# Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

## Department of Communication

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