



The Burundian head of state invites the population to support the general census of the population, residence, agriculture



During the moralization session held for the pig breeders on Friday January 12, 2023, in Gitega, the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye called on the population to support the general census of the population, residence, agriculture and breeding which soon begins by honestly answering the questions of the enumerators agents in order to let the country holding a reliable data for planning. "You cannot plan your future when you do not know its present," said Burundian Number One after urging the pig breeders to work for the realization of the vision of Burundi Emerged in 2040 and Developed in 2060.

During that meeting, which aimed to chat with the pig breeders in order to find the solutions to the problems that

limit the development of that activity, an opportunity was given to the latter in order to raise the difficulties they encounter in the exercise of that profession and thus present their complaints to the Head of State.

Among the challenges raised, there is a lack of the flow markets, the high cost of pig food, the insufficient life centers capable of generating pure breeds, and the lack of knowledge necessary for the breeders and veterinarians. "When there is a national confederation, the flow of the products becomes easy," said the President of the Republic of Burundi who suggested that the pig breeders come together in cooperatives in order to create the value chains to take care themselves of the production, processing and marketing of the pig products.

On the recommendation of the Head of State, the provincial federations and a national confederation of the pig breeders have been set up to ensure their representativeness and the better coordination of actions.

The Burundian President closed the meeting by ordering the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock Mr. Dieudonné Dukundane to organize quarterly the meetings with the pig breeders and provide an annual assessment meeting within the framework regular monitoring of the activities in that sector. **(Presidency)**

In this Edition:	page
The Burundian head of state invites the population to support the general census of the population, residence, agriculture and farming	1
Validation of the National Assembly Strategic Plan for the period from 2024 to 2029	2
The agreement between Burundi and Cuba on the reciprocal exemption from visas: a main diplomatic advancement	2
Court of auditors: controlling Government action is not easy	3
Oral questions addressed to the Minister responsible for the public health and national solidarity	4
The Ministry of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing marks its trace in indelible ink in the annals of Burundi	5
The well-being of the population should be a priority for different authorities	6
Victims of bad weather in Buganda commune assisted by the Government	6

Validation of the National Assembly Strategic Plan for the period from 2024 to 2029



The Bureau of the National Assembly of Burundi validated the strategic plan for the period from 2024 to 2029. That activity took place during a meeting held on January 11, 2024, and which was chaired by the President of the National Assembly, Very honorable Gélase Daniel Ndabirabe. That strategic plan is inspired by the 2040 and 2060 vision of the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye.

The presentation of the plan was made by the Secretary General of the National Assembly, who indicated that the National Assembly has already reached 80% of the objectives set in the 2040 vision during the 2020-2025 legislature.

That strategic plan focuses on three main axes. The first axis concerns the organizational and institutional development of the National Assembly. It aims at

strengthening the institution's capacities and improving its internal functioning. The second axis concerns the accomplishment of the constitutional missions devolved to the National Assembly. Those include the development and adoption of the laws, control of the Government action and the representation of the citizens. Finally, the third axis concerns supporting in awareness and mobilization of the population to peace.

During that meeting, the observations were issued by the participants in order to improve the said document. After the constructive exchanges, that strategic plan of the National Assembly for the period from 2024 to 2029 was validated with some amendments proposed. It will be a roadmap for that parliamentary institution and will guide its actions and initiatives in the coming years for the well-being of the country. **(National Assembly)**

The agreement between Burundi and Cuba on the reciprocal exemption from visas: a main diplomatic advancement



During a plenary session of Friday January 12, 2024, at the hemicycle of Assembly National, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Development Ambassador Albert Shingiro announced that the opening of a Burundi Embassy in



Havana on the one hand, and the repatriation of the representation of the Cuba from Kampala to Bujumbura, on the other hand, are logical consequences of the consolidation of the bilateral cooperation relations between Cu-

ba and Burundi reinforced by the reciprocal exemption from visas for the holders of diplomatic, official and service passports. The bill on that cooperation Agreement was adopted unanimously by the deputies present at that session.

Minister Albert Shingiro said that the removal of visas for the holders of diplomatic, official and service passports will enable the faster exchange, regularity and fluidity of the trips of managers of the two respective administrations, called day to collaborate and to exchange with a view in bringing the relationships of friendship and cooperation at the higher

levels. He indicated that those relations would create the promising conditions to the activities of economic, commercial and investment cooperation between the two countries.

The Government Representative at that session informed that the cooperation between Cuba and Burundi, fifty years old, polarized in the health field, since Cuba occupies the world's leading in terms of doctor/population ration. He also said that Cuba also has a special place in regional groups, in the non-aligned movement and in the southern countries with China (G77+China). **(MAECD)**

Court of auditors: controlling Government action is not easy



Starting the recovery of the improvements granted to the local cooperatives for the 2019-2020 budget year is a reiteration of the recommendations made by the Court of the auditors at the end of a performance audit carried out respectively in seven municipalities.

That is what emerges from the general public report for the year 2022 presented on the sidelines of the plenary session of Monday January 8, 2024 by the President of the Court of auditors. Madame G n roise Kiyago deplored that in the country's 119 municipalities, only 60 have filed their accounts with the Court during the year 2022 that is a filing rate of 51%. Madame G n roise Kiyago lamented that at a time when almost all the public services other than the municipalities have not filed their accounts with the Court, in the category of the public companies, only the Imbo Rice Development Company (SRDI) submitted its accounts for the 2020-2021 financial year on June 10, 2022.

She added that in the category of the personalized administrations, the public establishments of an administrative nature and the projects and programs financed by the public funds, only five (05) entities have fulfilled that duty. Alongside the Independent National Human Rights Commission of Burundi (CNIDH) and the Gitega Regional Hospital, there is also the Independent National Electoral

Commission (CENI), the Karusi Fiftieth Anniversary Hospital and the Institute of the Statistics and Economic Studies of Burundi (ISTEEBU).

Madame G n roise Kiyago was surprised by the situation which presented itself as follows, and bearing the law n 1/002 of March 31, 2004 relating to the creation, missions, organization and operation of the Court of auditors (article 18) enjoins all public services to communicate to the Court the accounts relating to the previous financial year. What is even more unfortunate is that the provisions of that law do not keep up with the current developments. And to implore the updating of the legal framework of the Court of auditors.

The parliamentarians were informed about the situation and even listed a series of measures for remedying the situation. In addition to the establishment of the manually procedures, the organization chart and the budget in program mode, the parliamentarians also placed an emphasis on the capacity building throughout the country, the consolidation of the accounting relations between the Ministry of Finance, Budget, and Economic Planning, and sectorial ministries, the establishment of a national data center, the increase in the budget allocated to the Court of auditors and the duty to report.

Note that the parliamentarians set out to analyze from top to bottom the ins and outs of the practice of exemption. The question is whether to favor the investors or

remove the exemptions. The parliamentarians lamented saying that the country has a choice; before demonstrating that the exemptions which cause a shortfall in incoming for the country, a facilitating condition to the investors who increase the country's fissure by ceding a third of their revenues. The problem is known but its

resolution remains impossible.

Certainly, the treasury bills via the central bank are the loans. But the parliamentarians judged that those loans register a low interest rate which causes the harm to the national economy. **(National Assembly)**

Oral questions addressed to the Minister responsible for the public health and national solidarity



On Tuesday January 9, 2024, two ministers, namely the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS Dr. Lyduine Baradahana and that of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, Ms. Imelde Sabushimike, were invited to the plenary session of the Upper House of the Burundian Parliament to answer the questions from senators.

During that Session, the senators wanted to know why those days there is a massive departure abroad of a multitude of the specialists and general practitioners.

In response, minister Baradahana pointed out that the departure of the specialist doctors abroad is due to the low salary they receive in the health structures of the State. According to her, those doctors are looking for a better treatment, because Burundi is the only country in the region where the remuneration of the doctors is too low.

For that purpose, she pointed out that a specialist doctor who works in a public hospital earns approximately 650,000 BIF, while in Rwanda, he earns 1,300. 000 Frw, 3,000 dollars in Kenya and 1,300 dollars in Tanzania.

The senators also asked the minister Baradahana why there are still the healthcare structures that refuse to treat people who do not have a deposit for emergency care. minister Baradahana indicated that the 2019 decree provides that an emergency patient is authorized to seek for the treatment within 48 hours without requiring a deposit. She pointed out that that decree provides

that the deposit must be requested after 48 hours.

Regarding the equipment, minister Baradahana reported that the Government of Burundi continues to provide the funds for the purchase of the medical equipment. She reported that currently the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS has ordered 100 ambulances, including 20 medical ones, which will be distributed to the different health structures at the national level. She further noted that the ministry is training those who will use those ambulances so that they are well maintained. That is when the senators reported that some ambulance drivers are stealing equipment from them.

In that oral questions session, the senators asked the minister in charge of national solidarity why there is often a lack of medicines in the pharmacies of the Civil Service Mutual Society. minister Imelde Sabushimike said that it is due to the ordering procedures, made with the Central Purchasing of Essential Medicines of Burundi CAMEBU, which takes too long. She indicated that the ministry is very concerned about that issue as well as that of updating the list of medications that the public service mutual offers to its members.

On the gender side, minister Sabushimike admitted to the senators that gender-based violence has become worrying in recent times. She indicated that her ministry is doing everything to eradicate that scourge through the awareness and by setting up other awareness and the supporting centers for the victims of that gender-based violence, as well as a system early warning. She called on the Burundians to denounce the perpetrators of that

violence.

The senators further reported that the children taken from the streets and transferred to Cankuzo live in uncomfortable conditions and that the administration laments the fact that they steal from the entourage. Minister Sabushimike did not deny that, but noted that it is difficult to immediately transform a person

who has spent several years on the street. She noted that the Government of Burundi plans to teach them trades so that they can contribute to the development of the country in order to jointly achieve the vision of an Emerging Burundi in 2040 and Developed in 2060. **(ABP)**

The Ministry of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing marks its trace in indelible ink in the annals of Burundi



More than 300 projects have been undertaken at the same time thanks to the country's own funds for the very first time in the history of Burundi. That compliment comes from Captain Dieudonné Dukundane, the minister in charge of infrastructures who presented on the sidelines of the plenary session in the hemicycle of the National Assembly on Tuesday January 09, 2024 the audit report for the budget management capacity of the Ministry of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing.

He indicated that, carried out by the Court of auditors under the Organic Law No. 1/20 of June 20, 2022 revision of Law No. 1/35 of December 4, 2008 relating to the public finances and in accordance with its program activities, the objective of that audit is to propose the necessary improvements in the budgetary management so that the ministry is up to the new management method instituted by the organic law relating to the public finances concerning the program budget.

Even if the mission was limited to the central administration of the ministry and could not cover its regional and provincial offices or personalized administrations as the Burundian office for the town planning, Housing and Construction And Burundi road agency (Obuha and ARB), it was rather to note that the deputies were interested in those two personal-

ized administrations. They proposed that the Court of auditors returns there. Minister Dieudonné Dukundane encourages those kinds of exercises that enable putting the things back in order as soon as possible.

The minister Dukundane also talked about the sites of Nyabugete and Kizingwe Biharo on the one hand, and the spontaneous constructions on the other hand, have caused a lot of saliva. After having demonstrated the vagueness that hovers around those sites where in some cases proclaim the owners claim an area greater than that real, the minister said they put the question to the hierarchical authority. As for the risk of seeing Bujumbura become a champion city by dint of anarchic constructions, to remedy it, the law must be applied. No one should no longer build without authorization to build. But the best is the height construction.

After the discussions on other subjects falling within the framework of that ministry, the president of the National Assembly advised minister Dieudonné Dukundane to note the recommendations of the deputies. Next time, the minister will have to present his achievements by following the Budget-Program canvas by highlighting the following wording: objectively verifiable indicators (IOV); the amount; the unit cost; totals; the amount affected; the work carried out; unable to work; the remaining amount ; observations; and the next step. **(National Assembly)**

The well-being of the population should be a priority for different authorities



On Tuesday January 9, 2024, the Minister of the Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security Mr. Martin Niteretse indicated that the administrative officials, the Heads of the provincial services and the Heads of various institutions are called upon for carrying out the synergistic work to the well-being and satisfaction of the beneficiaries of their services, during a meeting held with the Heads of the provincial and administrative services and the representatives of religious denominations of the Bubanza province (North-West of Burundi).

Some obstacles to the well-being of the residents noted during that meeting are, among others, the beneficiaries of free medical care are not those who deserve it, the cohabitation which persists, the torrential rains mixed with the violent winds which destroyed 1546 houses and damaged fields on 453 hectares, in Gi-

hanga and Mpanda communes. They also spoke of the destruction, in Rugazi commune, of forests by batwa, coming from Muramvya province, the RN9 (Bujumbura-Bubanza), in poor condition, and which does not facilitate the movement of goods and people, as well as the imperfections in the functioning of justice.

The Minister of the Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security Mr. Martin Niteretse, called on the Heads of different services, religious denominations, administrative and others, to act in a complementary manner for the well-being of the inhabitants of that province. That by prioritizing the safeguarding of peace and security, the good governance, the fight against poverty, as well as the sustainable development.

Note that the Minister of the Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security also met the police force, working in Bubanza province. **(ABP)**

Victims of bad weather in Buganda commune assisted by the Government



Two days after the bad weather on the night of January 6 and 7, 2024, the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender granted on Tuesday January 9, 2024, aid consisting of five tons of rice to the victims of the Ndava zone, Buganda commune, in Cibitoke province. Those are 225 households from Nyamitanga locality, 57

households from Ndava locality, and 10 households from Mwanguzi locality, whose houses were completely destroyed, according to the provisional lists sent to the said Ministry by the Governor's office.

According to the Permanent Secretary Mr. Pontien Hatungimana, the ministry saw fit to come to the aid of the vulnerable who lost everything following the recent bad weather, as soon as possible. He called on the population to show local solidarity, to accommodate those who no longer have shelter, and to help each other while waiting for other responders. He indicated that that assistance was based on the provisional data that reached him.

Regarding the other priorities such as the students' school materials washed away by rainwater, he prom-

ised that the ministry will always do the best in order to provide the assistance to the most needy, and will continue to knock on the partners to find something helpful to the victims of that harsh climate in order to get out of their unfortunate situation.

The Governor of Cibitoke province Mr. Carême Bizoza thanked the ministry in charge of solidarity

for that emergency aid intended for the households whose houses were completely destroyed. He pleaded for the students whose school materials were flooded by the rainwater, but also for other households whose houses continue collapsing, and for those who have lost the crops, the list of which is being established. **(ABP)**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

www.mae.gov.bi

Twitter: @MAEBurundi