



The African Development Bank (ADB) shifts its support to President Ndayishimiye into high gear



On Tuesday March 19, 2024, the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye received in audience, at the Ntare Rushatsi Palace, a delegation from the African Development Bank (ADB) led by Mrs. Nnenna NWABUFO, the Regional Director of East Africa and Dr Nteranya SANGINGA, the Special Envoy of the President of the ADB, who was making a working visit to Burundi.

The Head of State first gave them a briefing on the state of play in the fight for food security, before raising the challenges facing the Burundian people. Among other things, he spoke about the difficulties for some of the sourcing fertilizers and the selected seeds, and the climate change. He nevertheless showed how the Burundian people are trying to adapt by adopting the appropriate strategies so that every mouth has something to eat and every pocket has money.

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“We are doing a lot of things in the development sector because we were able to mobilize 80 million dollars on our side and another development partner International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) which will provide the support of 60 million dollars,” said the Head of Delegation Nnenna NWABUFO, confident that the productivity will be four or five times important in the strategy adopted for 2024-2028.

They mentioned the priority projects that will be supported, including the agricultural compact projects, the integrated development of the Rusizi plain, the support for advice and the technical assistance, the digitaliza-

tion, etc. The latter will make it possible to properly manage the subsidy systems, produce the agricultural statistics and establish a monitoring-evaluation system.

“The country has already adopted a Vision of an Emerging Burundi in 2040-Developed Burundi in 2060 and the strategies are adopted following budgetary the discussions by the priority programs. We plan to organize a Round Table of development partners very soon and everyone will have their choice,” said President Ndayishimiye, proud to be supported in his vast development project in Burundi. **(Presidency)**

The First Lady of Burundi launches the “Zero Waste” movement for the cleaner and more sustainable cities



main axes of the movement will include the public awareness, the organization of waste collection, as well as capacity building of the actors involved.

During the ceremonies, the managers of the banks, Banque Coopérative de Développement Rural (CRDB) and Banque Communautaire et Agricole du Burundi (BCAB), expressed their gratitude to the First Lady for her dynamism in the development of the country. They promised supporting those laudable initiatives aimed at making our cities cleaner. The private companies and civil society organizations have also expressed their support and willingness to join the “Zero

On Tuesday March 19, 2024, the First Lady H.E Angeline Ndayishimiye officially launched the “Zero Waste” movement during ceremonies held at Bujumbura Town Hall. That movement aims to solve the problem of pollution in public spaces, workplaces and homes. The goal is to have a clean, healthy and a sustainable environment for all Burundians.

With that launch, Burundi joins that global dynamic aimed at reducing the pollution levels and preserving the environment, by actively contributing to the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

The First Lady mentioned that that movement is a part of the initiatives already undertaken by the Government for cleanliness and the environmental protection, such as the National Sanitation Policy of 2013 and the 100 days of sanitation announced by the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye. The

Waste” movement.

First Lady H.E Angeline Ndayishimiye also encouraged all Burundians, wherever they are, to actively engage in solving the pollution problem. She underlined the importance of collecting waste and transforming it, thus teaching the population the basics of the circular economy. The First Lady added that every individual has a role to play, whether by adopting the waste reduction practices, recycling or participating in the community cleaning initiatives.

The “Zero Waste” movement represents an important step in the country’s efforts to fight pollution and preserve the environment. The First Lady called on every Burundian to support that initiative and actively contribute in building a cleaner, more sustainable and more prosperous Burundi for all. **(Presidency)**

The First Lady provides a support to the women affected by the obstetric fistula



On Monday March 18, 2024, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, the First Lady of the Republic of Burundi, went to the Urumuri center in Gitega to assess the progress of the obstetric fistula repair campaign which took place there from March 10 to March 21, 2024. That campaign was jointly organized by the Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation, the United States Diaspora Women's Association (AUDIZEMA) and the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS.

Sensitive to the challenges linked to the women's health, the First Lady launched, via the Bonne Action UMUGIRANEZA Foundation, several initiatives to respond to them, including that campaign carried out at the Urumuri center, dedicated to the treatment of the obstetric fistulas. That campaign aimed at treating more than 50 women suffering from that devastating condition.

In her speech, the First Lady warmly thanked the AUDIZEMA association for her unwavering support in the success of that obstetric fistula repair cam-

paign. She also encouraged the association to continue investing in improving the health of their compatriots in Burundi.

She also underlined the importance of national and international solidarity to meet the challenges related to the public health. She said that the collective participation highlights the importance of collaboration between the local and national organizations to find the concrete solutions to the public health challenges, particularly those related to the women's health. Solidarity and mutual assistance between different entities are essential for maximizing the impact of such initiatives. With that in mind, she expressed her gratitude to the UNDP, UNFPA, WFP and the women working at the Presidency of the Republic for their financial support in the success of that campaign.

During her visit, the First Lady provided an assistance to the women in undergoing treatment at the Urumuri center. She provided them with food and non-food items to support their recovery and well-being. She also donated the medicines in order to improve the care provided to women suffering from obstetric fistula at the Urumuri center. Those valuable gestures demonstrate her commitment to the well-being of women and her dedication for solving the public health issues in the country.

The Obstetric Fistula Repair Campaign in Burundi is a vital initiative that highlights the importance of the women's health. Thanks to the collaboration between the different organizations and the support of the First Lady, the significant progress is and will be made for improving the lives of the women affected by the obstetric fistula. **(Presidency)**

The Prime Minister receives the regional director of the African Development Bank

On Tuesday March 19, 2024, the Prime Minister Lieutenant General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca received in audience a delegation from the African Development Bank (ADB) led by Mrs Nnenna Nwabuo, the Director of the East Africa Region on an official visit to Burundi from March 18 to 21. The prospects for cooperation between the ADB and Burundi were at the center of the discussions.

At the end of the audience, the director of the ADB

in the East African region appreciated the evolution of economic, financial, political and social development while indicating that they debated on the contribution of the ADB to support Burundi.

According to Mrs Nnenna Nwabuo, the ADB approved the project to finance the construction of the Tanzania-Burundi-Democratic Republic of Congo railway to facilitate the movement of the goods and people in the sub-region.



She indicated that that banking institution will support Burundi in the agricultural sector and agro-pastoral transformation as requested by the President of the

Republic during the African Forum on Agriculture held in Dakar. She also indicated that that financial institution has already mobilized a sum of 80 million dollars to finance the agricultural sector and 60 million dollars from IFAD, the overall cost of intervention in the agricultural sector will therefore be between 140 and \$160 million.

The Director of the ADB promised to finance the digitalization of the agricultural system to have the good statistics in order to enlighten the partners in agricultural development with all the information necessary for developing that sector.

Mrs. Nnenna Nwabufo appreciated the Prime Minister's involvement in the country's development to the extent that he goes on the ground to inquire about the state of execution and management of the projects financed by the development partners.

The Prime Minister thanked the ADB which continues supporting Burundi even in difficult times under the unfair sanctions of certain partners, particularly in the energy, agriculture, the land transport and other sectors. **(RTNB)**

Pre-Meeting of the Government of Burundi with the development partners



On Friday March 22, 2024, Prime Minister Lieutenant General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca held a pre-Meeting in Bujumbura with various development partners, both multilateral and bilateral.

Prime Minister indicated that the holding of that meeting demonstrates the commitment of the Government of Burundi in establishing the spaces for opening the dialogue with its development partners in order to consoli-

date a climate of reciprocal trust.

Prime Minister Lieutenant General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca indicated that he reaffirms the desire of the Government of Burundi to pursue such a framework of fairly extensive exchanges with the partners of moving together towards the sustainable development of Burundi, with the same understanding of the vision: "Burundi Emerging country in 2040 and Developed in 2060.

During the interventions, the partners committed to continue supporting the Government of Burundi. They congratulated Burundi for its efforts to consolidate the collaboration with those partners

through the open dialogue towards the vision.

It was also an opportunity to make the presentations on the revised National Development Plan 2023-2027, the vision of Burundi, a country Emerging in 2040 and Developed in 2060 so that the development partners support the country based on the Government's priorities and the needs of the population. **(RTNB)**

The Second Vice-President of the Senate visits certain sectors under the supervision of the Ministry of Energy and Mines



Among the responsibilities of the Senate is the control of the government's action. It is in this context that on Tuesday March 19, 2024, the Second Vice-President of the Senate, Honorable Fabrice Nkurunziza, accompanied by the Minister responsible for Energy and Mines Ir. Ibrahim Uwizeye, visited certain sectors under the supervision of that Ministry to see the status of execution of the projects they had planned for the current budget year.

He indicated that that visit falls within the missions of parliament, in controlling the government action. Given that the Government recently implemented a new program budget system, the Senate of Burundi wanted to evaluate the implementation of the latter. He also stressed that that evaluation will allow the Senate to properly analyze the 2024-2025 budget law.

Concerning the Burundian Rural Electrification

Agency, it had planned purchasing the equipment for the electrification of 20 centers in the country for the current budget year. After discussion, the Second Vice-President of the Senate was informed that that budget has not yet been used following the long process related to the award of the contract. With the equipment that that agency had in its stock, 15 centers are being electrified. Honorable Nkurunziza encouraged the concerned authorities and asked them to make an effort to the electrify remaining five.

As for the Matyazo health center, it was chosen as a pilot center by the Nyakiriza sun project which intends to provide the solar energy for more than 250 health centers. After the visit, the Second Vice President appreciated that project.

During the visit to ECOFO Randa, Honorable Nkurunziza noted that the Nyakiriza sun project has another project that it is carrying out in schools with the school canteens, called "institutional kitchen shelters and improved homes" for reduce the quantity of the firewood and that school is among the beneficiaries of that project. That project was also well appreciated by the Second Vice President of the Senate because with the reduction of firewood, the environment will also be protected.

Regarding the visit to the pumping station which is of the capital importance for the country, it was noted that it is under the threat from the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika. **(Senate)**

Visit of the Second Vice-President of the Senate to the University of Burundi



Senate, Honorable Fabrice Nkurunziza, accompanied by the Minister in charge of education, Dr. François Havyarimana visited the University of Burundi on Monday March 18, 2024.

That visit aimed to evaluating four of the main projects that

In continuation of the activities organized by the Senate of Burundi during the March parliamentary recess, the Second Vice-President of the

the University of Burundi had planned for the current budget year according to the new program budget policy. After discussions with the officials from the Uni-

versity of Burundi, it was noted that only one project among the four is currently being implemented. Following the technical problems within the Burundian Office of Town planning, Habitat and Construction "OBUHA" which was responsible for executing those projects, the other three were postponed for the following budget year.

The Second Vice President of the Senate also asked those officials to develop, in the future, feasible projects according to the means available. He thanked the University of Burundi for having welcomed two promo-

tional groups both for the current academic year and for the quality teaching that the latter provides.

As for the multiple concerns of the University of Burundi, in particular the unblocking of the annals and the electricity problem, he indicated that the Senate is closely following the question of unblocking the annals, as for the electricity problem, he indicated that he will discuss it with the Minister concerned, and if possible assign the University its own line.

After the discussions, he visited the premises of the University of Burundi. **(Senate)**

ICGLR leads a meeting of the legal experts on amendment of the pact on security, stability and development in the Great Lakes region



On Tuesday March 19, 2024, the National Coordinator of the coordination mechanism of the International Conference on the Great Lake Region (ICGLR) Ambassador Bernard Ntahiraja opened a meeting of the legal experts of the ICGLR on the amendment of the pact on security, stability and development in the Great Lake region, at the Royal Palace Hotel in Bujumbura, the economic capital of Burundi.

Congratulating and thanking the national coordination mechanism and the Executive Secretariat of the ICGLR



for organizing that two-day meeting. Ambassador Bernard Ntahiraja wished the full success to the activities through which the recommendations will be identified in order to achieve the objectives set within the framework



of the promotion of peace and development.

The Executive Secretary of the ICGLR, Ambassador Joao Samuel Caholo, expressed his gratitude to the Government of Burundi for facilitating the holding of that meeting. According to him, "the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lake Region serves as a key legal framework and agenda for the ICGLR with mission to promote sustainable peace, security and development in the Great Lakes region. Big Lakes. Although it was amended in 2012 to include South Sudan, it has not been fully reviewed since its creation two decades ago. However, he added that much has changed in the region over the past 18 years, and it is essential to review the pact to ensure that it fits the regional context. **(MFADC)**

Bubanza: 159 detainees released



As part of the implementation of the policy of the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye of decongesting prisons, the Ministry of Justice Madame Domine Banyankimbona proceeded on Thursday March 21, 2024, to the release of 159 prisoners who had benefited the provisional release or conditional release at Bubanza prison.

That Bubanza prison which, when it was built, had a capacity to accommodate 200 inmates, currently has 454 inmates including 400 men, 50 women and 4 children.

According to the Attorney General of the Republic

Mr. Léonard Manirakiza, the public prosecutor's office, in its routine inspection work, organized an inspection campaign in detention centers and detainee files. That campaign resulted in the release of some of them.

The provisional and conditional release concerns the prisoners who have served 1/4 of their sentence, those who have committed the minor offenses and those who have completed their sentence, said the Attorney General of the Republic Mr. Leonard Manirakiza.

The Minister of Justice, Madame Domine Banyankimbona, advised the released detainees to behave well in those around them so as not to reoffend and return to the prison. She recommended that the locals welcome them and integrate them positively. The Minister asked the released prisoners to join the cooperatives to help in increasing the production with a view for achieving the vision of Burundi as an Emerging country in 2040 and a Developed country in 2060.

Minister Domine Banyankimbona called on judicial police officers and prosecutors to only take a person into the preventive detention if there is no other recourse or for the protection of the victim and the accused.

The Minister of Justice finally asked those responsible for the courts and tribunals to do their best for following up the cases so that the preventive detention is not long. **(Senate)**

The Ministry of Justice launches a project for the management of the land conflicts



On Friday March 22, 2024, the Ministry of Justice officially launched in Makamba, the new project "Justice for all in the management of the land conflicts", a project which results from collaboration between the Government of Burundi and the Kingdom of the Netherlands through its development agency RVO, and LADEC (Land Development Expertise Center) in charge of

implementing the project.

According to the Managing Director of LADEC Séverin Nibitanga, LADEC is a social enterprise working in the field of land governance for almost 6 years. Through all its research, capacity building or community development projects, LADEC serves the Burundian communities in search of equitable and secure access to the land and other natural resources, in search of development, dignity, harmonious cohabitation, in short in search of social peace.

The new project "Justice for all in the Management of Land Conflicts" (JTT-GCF) which will be managed by LADEC will cover the provinces of Makamba and Rutana and aims to contributing in the peaceful and optimal management of the land conflicts through the local mechanisms. , formal and informal.

That project also aims to contributing to the construction of a peaceful society, a society mobilized around

the vision of an Emerging Burundi in 2040 and Developed in 2060, and is in the perfect alignment with the National Development Plan of Burundi PND2018_2027 specified the Managing Director of LADEC, Severin Nibitanga. He reminded that that phenomenon of the land conflict manifests itself particularly at the level of the residence courts where the land conflicts represent around 70% of the cases handled. The Councils of Notables, recently established community structures, will also be confronted with that phenomenon.

As part of the "Prevention and Resolution of the Land Conflicts" project, LADEC supports the Supreme Court in setting up a collection of land case law. That legal tool for justice professionals and litigants will be popularized in the provinces of Makamba and Rutana.

In his official launch speech of the "JTT-GCF" project, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice Mr. Gervais Hajayandi indicated that the project has the

ambition and ultimate objective of contributing significantly to the strengthening of peace and social cohesion by strengthening the local mechanisms responsible for managing the land conflicts on a daily basis. He specified that the activities of that project will mainly focus on information-training of justice actors involved in the management of the land conflicts, in particular the councils of the notables, courts and lawyers concerning the land theme and the content of that land jurisprudence. The project will also raise the awareness among the population on the functioning of the land conflict management mechanisms and provide the legal and judicial assistance to the vulnerable people.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice Mr. Gervais Hajayandi ended his remarks by thanking all the development partners who continue contributing in building a lawful and peaceful country, particularly the Kingdom of the Netherlands for that new project. (RTNB)

Celebration of the International Francophonie Week, 2024 edition



The Agence" Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF)" in Burundi in collaboration with the University of Burundi, under the patronage of the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research, organized a public conference on March 19, 2024 in Bujumbura. , as part of the celebration of the international week of the Francophonie.

The Assistant to the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research, Mr. Herménegilde Burikukiye, indicated that the Ministry is delighted with the step taken for the promotion of education in Burundi. He specified that Burundi is a country of a thousand residences and a thousand facets with a particular emphasis on the French-speaking world, adding that the French lan-



guage is an official educational language, taught at all levels of education in the said Ministry. Mr. Burikukiye also reminded the missions of the Ministry centered, among other things, on the design, planning and execution of a coherent national policy in terms of education, technical and professional training, as well as the organization of higher education in accordance with the sectoral population in terms of education and training.

The representative of the AUF in Burundi, Mr. Fulgence Nahayo, said that the AUF is an association of the universities throughout the world, and that Burundi has 11 higher education establishments that are members of the AUF, providing training in French. He added that the AUF is alongside those universities by exploiting the method of the adapted standard, which does not come

from the dictatorial form but which comes in a consensual form with those universities in the implementation of the structural projects for the improvement of the education system in Burundi.

He also revealed that that agency has a digital campus with the training programs in French for bachelors and masters' degrees, but also research programs, and a French-speaking employability center. According to him, the AUF 2021-2025 strategy highlights five axes, namely digital transformation and university governance, employability and entrepreneurship through university youth, networking and the international cooperation, the training trainers and the educational innovation as well as the research and the valorization of the research results.

For that, he announced planned competitions, including a competition called "my thesis in 180 seconds" 2024 edition open to the students where the winners will receive the prizes at the national level, an interregional competition entitled "my idea, my business" also open to the students in activity, which must end with the award ceremony at national and regional level in terms of business projects. It is in that context that he challenged the students to design the good projects linked mainly to the environment for that year.

In his presentation on "the situation of French in educational environments and perspectives", the teacher-researcher of the French department at the institute of applied pedagogy and at the same time president of the Burundian association of French

teachers, Mr. Pierre Nduwingoma, indicated that after independence the teaching of French was done in parallel with the teaching of Kirundi, therefore two languages in the educational environment. He affirmed that French is used in the administration, stressing that the daily use of this language would be around 20%.

Compared to the old college, Mr. Nduwingoma indicated that French has lost a large number of hours in the basic system. According to a work written in 2018 by researchers Mr. Athanase Nsengiyumva and Mr. Merchior Ntahondiriye on classroom practices, it was only noted that the teaching of French was carried out mainly in rural and semi-rural environments without electricity, hence the exploitation of audiovisual documents is not possible and the teaching and learning conditions are difficult. Another observation, according to that same work, is that the day school system limits the cultural initiatives such as French clubs, therefore no linguistic reinforcement. According to that research, 43.42% of teachers are neither experienced nor qualified in that study, which imposes the need for qualified teachers to teach the French language. In most schools, only one teacher taught 4 languages, which leads to the overload and the frustration. Concerning the pedagogical relationship (the relationship between the learner and the trainer), it has been observed the existence of the authoritarian type teacher where a failed learner is scolded and tends to remain silent in class. As a result, Mr. Nduwingoma pointed out the active and participatory pedagogy is not used. **(ABP)**

Ruyigi: Women's Forum celebrates the International Women's Rights Day



On Wednesday March 20, 2024, the province of Ruyigi celebrated the International Women's Rights Day 2024 Edition. The festive ceremonies took place in Gisuru commune and were enhanced by the presence of the

Governor of the province Mr. Emarancien Tabu and the provincial representative of the women's forum. The ceremonies began with a visit to the Gisuru municipal hospital where the provincial women's forum provided food and non-food assistance to the sick and women in childbirth.

Those ceremonies were also marked by a long parade carried out by the provincial women's forum, women from the international organizations as well as the women from the civil society.

The provincial representative of the women's forum, Mrs. Kwizera Jeannine, took that opportunity to thank the Government of Burundi for allowing the women to elect and be elected to the different levels of responsi-

bility and the increase in quotas for women in the authority's decision making.

According to the provincial representative of the women's forum, the celebration of International Women's Day in the province of Ruyigi constitutes an opportunity to set the development objectives for their households in order to contribute to the vision "Burundi Emerging Country in 2040 and Developed country in 2060".

In her words for the occasion, the Governor of the province of Ruyigi Madame Emerancien Tabu indicated that that day is celebrated at the provincial level and at the municipal level to share with women who were not able to celebrate that day at the national level the

theme: "let's walk together with the women in development". She asked the parents to fight against the child malnutrition and to make the personal and the clothing hygiene a daily priority.

Concerning the battle for development, Madame Emerancien Tab called on the male partners to support their women in the development work and to accompany them in the promotion of the maternal health.

On the sidelines of the celebration of International Women's Day in Ruyigi province, the provincial women's forum provided assistance consisting of a loincloth and laundry soap to 215 vulnerable people in Gisuru commune. (RTNB)

Gitega: Launch of the "Gitega, clean city" campaign



On Thursday March 21, 2024, the administration of Gitega commune launched the "Gitega, clean city" campaign.

The sanitation and hygiene rehabilitation activities took

place at the central market square in the town of Gitega. The participants were the civil society organizations whose specifications include the hygiene and sanitation aspects.

All sides of the market were affected, the center and the surrounding areas where restaurants and refreshments are located. In those places, we were busy cleaning the gutters blocked by pestilent organic matter as well as clearing objects covering the roads bordering the market. The Administrator of the Gitega commune, the doctor Mr. Jacques Nduwimana, also appealed to the townspeople of Gitega to make hygiene their daily priority. He invited everyone to clean up their land on a daily basis without waiting for the mobilization of the masses by the administration. (RTNB)

Banana wine processing units required to comply with standards



On March 19, 2024, the Director General of the Burundian Bureau of Standardization

and Quality Control (BBN) Mr. Séverin Sindayikengera held a meeting with the responsible for the processing

units of banana products in order to discuss the compliance with the quality standards.

Mr. Sindayikengera indicated that among 36 samples submitted for control, only six samples complied with the standards with regard to alcohol content, given that those producers were taught on technological procedures. It is in that context that the BBN organized that meeting for announcing to them that they must comply with the standards in the manufacture of that alcohol-based drink, adding that they will close the companies which have not respected standards.

According to Mr. Sindayikengera, any banana-based product that does not comply with standards, after April 19, 2024, the processing unit concerned will be permanently closed, hence the managers of these units are called upon to arrange their work in accordance with the alcohol level standards varying between 6.5 to 16.5%.

The president of the association of actors in the

to their members to tell them what they must do to work better.

He further indicated that the doors are open to other units which have not yet joined that association. He took advantage of that opportunity to ask the Ministry in charge of commerce to collaborate with them before giving work permission to new processing units, arguing that the latter could put the bad products on the



artisanal and semi-industrial sector (ASSASIBU) of Burundi, Mr. Apollinaire Manirakiza, thanked the BBN which has just warned them of the measures it will take in the event that one or other of those processing units will not be able to meet the standards. He promised to be exemplary in their projects. Among the projects they have put forward is that of collecting plastic containers in all markets to prevent them from being used twice. He asked the BBN to always give them advice and support them in order to work well and reach far. He also promised that they will increase such meetings within the association's office to challenge their members on compliance with the standards in the processing of that product, also respecting the percentages of alcohol as they have just been announced. Mr. Manirakiza indicated that they could even issue a press release

market which would give a bad result reputation for all processing units. During the discussions, the participants, in turn, promised to collaborate and bring to the market the best products that meet the standards. They asked the Director General of the BBN to seek the solutions to the challenge of insufficient staff which is noticeable in that institution so that the grievances are responded to in time. Mr. Sindayikengera promised them that that problem will be resolved very soon, adding that they have submitted a recruitment file for the new staff. **(ABP)**

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