



President Ndayishimiye calls on Burundians to participate in the 2025 elections with complete unity and solidarity



On Friday April 12, 2024, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye officially launched the civic and electoral education campaign for the 2025 elections at the Ingoma Stadium in Gitega Province where he called on Burundians to respond in those elections in the spirit of unity and solidarity.

Those ceremonies were enhanced by the First Lady of Burundi and the various High authorities of the country, the Representatives of the administration, Churches and others.

In his speech, the President of the Republic reminded that the organiza-

tion of the elections testifies to the sovereignty of a State and urges the Burundians to participate massively in the 2025 elections in order to fulfill their right to be elected and especially their civic duty to choose their leaders.

The Head of State also declared that the 2025 elections will be financed by the general State budget and specified that the financial contribution of the population is now voluntary unlike the 2020 elections where the contributions were compulsory taken from the salaries of the state civil servants.

“Friends and development partners are also invited to provide their sup-

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port but without imposing their conditions on us,” continued the Burundian Number One who, referring to the constitution, insisted on the essential role of the administration, defense and security corps as well as that of legal authorities throughout the electoral process to succeed in those elections.

The media were also called upon to fully play their "watchdog" role based on impartiality and accuracy in their media coverage while providing the voters with all the necessary information in relation to the electoral process in order to enable them to make the informed choices.

“Have no fear, the 2025 elections will take place in a

climate of peace and security,” reassured President Ndayishimiye who wanted to warn and announce zero tolerance to rumor mongers and other criminals who have intended to disrupt the public order.

After presenting the results of the activities already carried out since the swearing in of the members of the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) on January 17, 2024, Mr. Prosper Ntahorwamiye, President of the CENI, presented the electoral calendar after having reaffirmed the commitment of the Electoral Commission to ensure the holding of democratic, free, regular, peaceful and transparent elections in the interest of all Burundian citizens. **(Presidency)**

Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation celebrates the healing of children through the surgical care abroad



On Saturday April 13, 2024, the Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation organized a solemn ceremony of celebrating the return and healing of 38 children who benefited from the surgical care abroad, thanks to the commitment of the First Lady H.E Angeline Ndayishimiye and the generous partners.

At the heart of that celebration were 38 children from different parts of the country, all born with birth defects requiring the specialized surgery abroad. For their families, sending those children abroad to receive the necessary care was a distant dream, given that the financial constraints they faced. A dream that became a reality through the personal involvement of the First Lady H.E Angline Ndayishimiye.

In those ceremonies, the parents declared that her kindness and unconditional love towards the most vulnerable will remain forever engraved in their hearts. They wished that she would enjoy a long life and a con-

tinued happiness through her dedication to the cured children.

In their testimonies, those parents highlighted the remarkable progress made by their children since the surgeries abroad. Thanks to that care, the lives of those dear offspring have improved significantly, allowing them to now attend the school and pursue their dreams with optimism. During her speech during the ceremony, the First Lady was happy to meet all the children who have benefited from surgical care abroad. She also wanted to thank the partners of the Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation, notably the Children's Surgical Hospital, the NGO Emergency Onlus in Uganda and the San Vincenzo Hospital through the AIUTIAMO IL BURUNDI association.

Note that the First Lady initiated these humanitarian initiatives after her meeting in 2022 with Daniel, a Siamese child who benefited from exceptional surgical care in Burundi and abroad. Daniel, healed and surrounded by his grateful family, embodies the resilience and hope that can arise from those humanitarian efforts.

The ceremony ended with the sincere thanks to all those who contributed to the realization of that major humanitarian initiative. The Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation and its partners have indicated that they will continue joining the forces in offering hope and medical care to the children requiring specialized surgical assistance. Together, they will continue to make a difference in the lives of these children, offering them a better future.

(Presidency)

The Prime Minister brings together the stakeholders in the collection of the corn harvest



On Monday April 8, 2024, Prime Minister Lieutenant General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca met in Bujumbura with all stakeholders in the collection of the corn harvest. The objective was to discuss about ways and means to successfully carry out that mission conferred by the Government of Burundi on the National Agency for the Strategic food Stock Management (ANAGESSA).

In his introductory words, the Prime Minister indicated that the purpose of the meeting is also to discuss the role of everyone, so that that collection of the corn harvest benefits exclusively the population and not the speculative traders.

During the meeting of the Prime Minister with the stakeholders in the collection of the corn harvest, the participants noted that that activity was characterized by many irregularities including the sale to ANAGESSA of corn imported from the neighboring

countries while only the Burundian farmers should sell the harvest.

At the end of the meeting which continued the behind closed doors, the recommendations were conveyed by the Prime Minister. The collection of the corn harvest concerns not only ANAGESSA but also all the administrative staff at all levels, all accounts through which the money intended for the purchase of the corn passes must have the approval of the State official such as the Governors in the provinces and the administrators in the communes. The ANAGESSA must repay the entire debt of 26 billion contracted from the farmers in the collection of the corn, within a period not exceeding one week. The establishment of a multi-sectoral Commission to monitor the collection of the corn harvest will be implemented.

The Astakeholders in that sector must get involved in transporting the harvests from the areas to the storage sheds and checking the humidity state in order to keep the corn dry. The Government of Burundi collects the corn harvest for the benefit of the population and must be vigilant to denounce all the fraudsters and their accomplices with a view to flushing them out.

The Prime Minister asked the participants to already raise awareness among the population about the C growing season.

He calls on all actors in the production chain to adopt all the necessary strategies so that the production already achieved does not decline as was observed in previous years. (RTNB)

Celebration of the festival of Id El Fitr

On Wednesday April 10, 2024, the Prime Minister Lieutenant General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca accompanied by the Secretary General of the CNDD-FDD party Mr. Reverien Ndikuriyo joined the Islamic community of Cibitoke in the celebration of the Id El Fitr festival to close the month of Ramadan. In his teachings, Imam Salum Nayabagabo pointed out to the Muslims who participated in the prayer that beyond fasting during the month of Ramadhan, one must live righteousness at all times.

The Deputy Representative of the Islamic Community of Burundi (COMIBU) said that COMIBU is



committed to contributing to the community development work that will lead Burundi to its vision of an

emerging country in 2040 and a developed country in 2060.

The Prime Minister Lieutenant General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca was delighted that the Islamic community of Burundi is currently stable and congratulate her because she remains in the logic of Burundian culture.

Lieutenant General Gervais Ndirakobuca asked the Islamic community of Burundi to tackle development work and safeguard the hard-won peace and security, the basis of sustainable development. He calls on the Muslims of Burundi to share the Id El Fitr festival with their neighbors without considering religious affiliation. He promised on behalf of the Government of Burundi to support the commitment of the Islamic community of Cibitoke to build a two-story school in the locality of

Mparambo. He also promises to support them with a sum of 10 million and 3 million to support Muslim women in the construction of a party hall.

The Secretary General of the CNDD-FDD Party Mr. Réverien Ndikuriyo also encouraged the Islamic community of Cibitoke in community development work. He promised to contribute 11 million for the construction of the upstairs school and 100 bags of cement for the completion of the work on the Muslim women's community hall in Cibitoke.

Mr. Reverien Ndikuriyo advised all the state and non-state organizations that have construction sites by referring to the vision of Burundi 2040-2060.

The ceremonies ended with a visit to the school construction site and the sharing of a meal. **(RTNB)**

The 2025 elections are on the horizon: the Electoral Code is available



“ In order to facilitate declarations of candidacy for the elections, a deposit of two hundred thousand Burundian francs (200,000 BIF) is established for the candidacy for the position of the municipal councilors (article 185), of two million for the senator candidates (article 166) and deputies (article 135) and one hundred million for the Presidential candidate (article 104).” That is one of the innovations brought by the Electoral Code. The plenary session of Tuesday April 9, 2024 was devoted to the analysis of the organic bill amending the law no. 1/11 of May 20, 2019 on the electoral code, a bill which was adopted by 98.3%, that is 115 votes For, 0 votes Against, and 2 votes Abstention.

Others believe that Burundi is a poor country. However, certain honorable deputies have put forward that pretext of poverty in order to demonstrate that the deposit of one hundred million for the Presidential candidate is exorbitant. That opinion was not shared by the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public

Safety, the Honorable Martin Niteretse. The statistics which classify Burundi among the poorest countries are false, and whoever claims that supreme candidacy must be surrounded by at least two hundred members for whom the contribution for this guarantee. Then, there is enough time to prepare for when the presidential elections are scheduled for 2027. Finally, this deposit goes into the state coffers to contribute to the preparations for the electoral vote. Among the innovations is that relating to the extension of the electoral campaign: “The electoral campaign is opened on the sixteenth day preceding that of the election and closed 48 hours before the election, means that it lasts two weeks at instead of three weeks” (article 25). This innovation was the subject of the amendments, to the great satisfaction of the Honorable Members who saw the electoral campaign extend to three (3) weeks.

Among the list, we also find that innovation: “The candidate member of the locality or neighborhood council must know how to read and write (article 173)”. But for the case of the member of the Municipal Council, the bill simply mentions an adequate level of training.

The municipal councilors, explained, are political agents. As for that category of dignitaries the level of training is not specified, the bill preferred to be broad. However, the level of training must be high, given that the municipal administrator must come from the municipal council.

While the municipal administrator was automatically Secretary of the Municipal Council, the innovation in that bill

under consideration is that, as soon as he is elected, as soon as the municipal administrator leaves the institution of the Municipal Council.

Regarding the Batwa community, the Government Envoy favored the principle of acquired rights. The Batwa keep the same seats in the National Assembly and the Senate.

The Government has adopted the national biometric identity card program, the census for identification will begin on August 15 and close on September 6, 2024.

The changes that have occurred since the promulgation of organic law n°1/11 of May 20, 2019 have militated for the modification of that organic law, continued Minister Martin Niteretse before citing the promulgation of organic law n°1/05 of March 16, 2023 modifying and delimiting the provinces, the communes, the zones, localities and/or the districts of the Republic of Burundi. In addition to materializing the recommendations resulting from the evaluation of the 2020 electoral process, that organic bill under consideration also puts an end to the discrepancies between the Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) and the penal code in force. **(National Assembly)**

The Senate adopts a bill that enshrines the increased energy resilience



On Tuesday April 10, 2024, two members of the Government were invited to the Senate. Those are the Minister of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing, Mr. Dieudonné Dukundane and the Minister of Communication, Information Technology and Media Madame Léocadie Ndacayisaba.

Minister Dieudonné Dukundane came to present a bill ratifying by the Republic of Burundi the additional financing agreement for the Jiji and Mulembwe hydroelectric project.

According to the Minister in charge of infrastructure, that financing which amounts to 102 million US Dollars of which 50 million will be disbursed by the World Bank, 25 million will be given by the European Investment Bank, 25 million by the European Union, while the remaining US 2 million will be granted by Regideso. Minister Dukundane specified that the overall amount for the execution of the Jiji and Mulembwe project amounts to 372 million US dollars.

Minister of Communication, Information Technologies and Media Léocadie Ndacayisaba who came to answer oral questions from the Senators was also

invited to answer certain questions including that concerning positions.

Concerning the question of knowing the level of involvement of the communication sector in the implementation of the promises kept by the Head of State during the electoral campaign, Minister Ndacayisaba indicated that the media, especially public media, remain very active in coverage and publication of state activities.

Regarding the challenge of the National Radio which is not able to broadcast throughout the national territory, the Minister indicated that the equipment has already been received for the Mweya and Kayanza sites and that others are expected to eliminate the gray areas, particularly in the west of the country.

She explained, for example, that the Burundian press agency has a dense network of provincial correspondents who share sound elements on national radio and who feed the newspaper Le Renouveau in French.

Regarding the desire of senators to decentralize public media services, particularly RTNB, for reducing the costs used in raids within the country, Minister Léocadie Ndacayisaba indicates that public media are considering establishing, in addition from the Gitega audiovisual production center, other centers in the provinces of Butanyerera and Burunga.

On that occasion, the senators deplored the backward movement of the National Telecommunications Office (ONATEL) unlike the new mobile telephone operators. On that subject, Minister Léocadie Ndacayisaba announced that among the strategies recommended to recover ONATEL is the provision of modern equipment to have the high-speed internet.

Finally, the senators recommended that the Ministry of Communication, Information and Communication

Technologies (TIC) and Media become more involved in accelerating the process of implementing the salary policy by preparing all the constituent elements. Those

elected representatives of the people also recommended that all state civil servants sign performance contracts without delay. (RTNB).

The President of the Senate receives in audience the Vice-President of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and Armed Forces in the French Senate.



On Wednesday April 10, 2024, the President of the Senate, Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, received in audience Mr. Olivier Cadic, senator representing French people established outside France, Vice-President of the Committee on

Foreign Affairs, Defense and Armed Forces in the French Senate, and the member of the Board of Directors of the French Development Agency, at the Senate Liaison Office in Bujumbura.

Their meeting focused on strengthening the already existing cooperative relations between Burundi and France. They agreed on the need to sign a memorandum of cooperation between the Senate of Burundi and the French Senate, and the President of the Senate indicated that he is willing to work together.

Honorable Olivier Cadic promised that he will transmit to the President of the French Senate the report of this meeting, while placing a particular emphasis on the need for France's intervention in the field of health as well as support for the Senate of Burundi, for the training workshops for the senators and the Senate staff. (SENATE)

The President of the Senate participates in the World Parliamentary Forum in Washington D.C



On Wednesday April 10, 2024, the President of the Senate, Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, took the plane to Washington

D.C, in the United States of America where he is leading a delegation which will participate in the World Parliamentary Forum 2024, organized jointly by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, under the theme: "Multiple global challenges: acting to have impact".

That forum will be held from April 15 to 16, 2024, and will be an opportunity to discuss the essential role in efforts to end the extreme poverty and promote the shared prosperity.

Participants will have the opportunity to address the issues related to the opportunities and challenges of artificial intelligence, climate and fragility, debt and growth, governance, the defense of gender equality and job creation green towards young people, and many others. (SENATE)

The rise in water levels of the Lake Tanganyika is higher than normal

On Tuesday April 9, 2024, the Geographical Institute of Burundi (IGEBU) carried out a raid on its manual and automatic hydrological stations which transmit data to the IGEBU server in the Gatumba zone, at the port of Bujumbura and that of

Saga Resha in Minago in the province of Rumonge to inquire about the rising waters of the Lake Tanganyika.

According to the Director General of IGEBU Mr. Augustin Ngenzirabona, the rise in the waters of the Lake Tangan-



yika is much higher than normal because according to the figures, the level of the lake is 777.01 m, those figures are comparable to those of 1964 where the lake level reached 778m.

Mr. Augustin Ngenzirabona said that the waters of the lake have continued to rise in recent months. He indicated that since the start of the rainy season, the waters of the lake have risen by 20 to 22 mm per month.

According to the weather forecasts, the cause of the rising waters of the Lake Tanganyika is heavy rainfall in the region which is causing the rivers that feed the Lake Tanganyika basin to overflow.

According to the Director General of IGEBU, the main mission of the Geographical Institute of Burundi is to collect the data which it will transmit to the national platform in charge of the management of natural disasters which will manage this disaster of the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika.

The Director General of IGEBU, Mr. Augustin Ngenzirabona, suggests the services in charge of town planning to consider each time the hydrological data at the time of construction next to the lake by making columns and building the infrastructure above to tame the water like other countries which are experiencing the same growth such as Gabon and India. **(RTNB)**

Gitega: Capacity building on arms marketing



From April 10 to 12, 2024, the Permanent National Commission to Combat the Proliferation of the Small Arms and the Light Weapons (CNAP) organized in Gitega province, a capacity building workshop for supporting the universalization of the treaty in the arms trade for senior state officials and civil society. The activities were opened by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security, Lieutenant General of Police André Ndayambaje.

In his opening speech, the Permanent Secretary at

the Ministry in charge of the Interior indicated that the objective of that workshop was to present the Universalization of the Arms Trade Treaty project, so that the participants take note of it and analyze it in depth, particularly targeting its advantages, its added value and its contributions to the security of the country. The expectation at the end of the workshop is that a road map which will clearly define the process of Burundi's accession to the Arms Trade Treaty will be defined, he concluded.

According to the President of the Permanent National Commission to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (CNAP), Major General of Police Générose Ngendanganya, the arms trade treaty mainly focuses on the modalities of importation and export of conventional weapons from the country of origin to the country of destination.

Major General of Police Générose Ngendanganya, President of the CNAP, specified that particular emphasis is placed on this treaty on the arms trade to regulate conventional weapons so that they do not fall into the hands of criminals who destabilize countries. .

If Burundi ratifies the Arms Trade Treaty, that would be an advantage because it is one of the measures of regulating the weapons entering a country. That would also strengthen cooperation between the countries, especially in the context of communication to discuss the transfer, identification and traceability of weapons, in-

sisted the President of the CNAP.

Major General Générose Ngendanganya also indicated that that measure contributes to the fight against the proliferation of the light weapons and the small arms because they are easy weapons to hide. (RTNB)

Cibitoke: grumbles from the population having sold the corn harvest on credit



On Friday April 12, 2024, the farmers in Cibitoke province who sold their corn harvest to the Agro-pastoral Investment Cooperative (CIAP), a subcontractor of the National Strategic Food Stock Management Agency (ANAGESSA), indicate that they did not receive the amount corresponding to the harvest sold on credit to that cooperative. The situation is like that at the time when the Prime Minister instructed ANAGESSA to pay all the amount it owes to the population.

The farmers met by the RTNB editorial staff at the Cibi-

toke provincial office and who had gone there to claim their dues, let it be known that they are experiencing the problems linked to that late payment. They cite in particular the salaries of laborers to be paid and other credits taken out here and there. And to ask for the return of their harvest so that they can resell it elsewhere.

According to the director of the provincial office of environment, agriculture and livestock (BPEAE) Madame Béatrice Nyandwi, that delay in payment for the corn harvest had an impact on the work of farmers. Some of them could not find the funds to pay for the last tranche of fertilizer for the growing season B, others were unable to afford the seeds for the same season.

The Governor's chief of staff Mr. Saidi Anicet reassures that the population having sold their corn harvest to the Agro-pastoral Investment Cooperative (CIAP) on credit, specifying that soon, they will receive their money. He stressed that he contacted the president of the board of directors of CIAP, who promised him that from Friday, April 12, 2024, that money will already be available. (RTNB)

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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