



Avowal of the Ombudsman and Commissioners of the TRC



“Before the President of the Republic and before Parliament, I... as a member of the Truth and Reconciliation Commis-

On tuesday november 22, 2022, the third Ombudsman of Burundi and the Commissioners of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission declared at the Kigobe hemicycle, before the President of the Republic and the Burundian Parliament. “I, Aimée Laurentine Kanyana, Ombudsman of the Republic of Burundi, declared loyalty to the President of the Republic, obedience to the Constitution and the Laws of the Burundian people. I declare and assure to discharge my functions with honesty and impartiality and not to reveal any secrecy which I would have obtained during and after the exercise of my functions”; such was the assurance of the third Ombudsman of the Republic of Burundi and former Deputy Head of the Civil Cabinet of the President of the Republic.

sion, I declare to accomplish my mission with complete independence, impartiality, dignity and without any discrimination whatever, with the aim of discovering the truth in order to encourage and promote national reconciliation. I undertake to respect the obligation of confidentiality prescribed by the Law on the creation, mandate, composition, organization and functioning of the CVR”; was the oath of the 13 Commissioners of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The avowal ceremonies also saw the participation of the Prime Minister, the Vice-President of the Republic, Parliamentarians, the Defense and Security Corps, the Diplomatic Corps, political parties approved in Burundi and civil society. (www.presidency.bi)

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President Ndayishimiye says he is satisfied with the mission carried out in Tunisia



On Monday November 21, 2022, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye returned after a working mission from Tunisia where he took part in the 18th Summit of the International Organization of La Francophonie, held in Djerba on November 19 to 20, 2022.

This conference, which saw the participation of 31 Heads of State and Government of countries with French in common, was mainly devoted to exchanges with the aim of meeting the challenges observed in the digital field and in the integration of women and children in development pro-

jects, revealed the President of the Republic. He also mentioned that it was an opportunity to point out some obstacles to the learning and increased use of the French language in Burundi and in the East African Community, in particular the lack of modern libraries. On the sidelines of this summit, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye had several fruitful meetings with various political leaders, some of which resulted in the signing of cooperation agreements.

“Following our meeting with the Tunisian President, His Excellency Kaïs Saïed within the framework of the strengthening of relations, cooperation agreements were signed in the economic and ICT fields”, said the Burundian Number One adding that a head together with His French counterpart, His Excellency Emmanuel Macron allowed him to seek the support of the European Union in the resolution of the conflict in the DRC. He also indicated that the French President congratulates Burundi for the efforts invested in the recovery of peace in South Kivu.

“The local communities are delighted that since the arrival of Burundian troops in South Kivu, there is peace and tranquility. This means that the Burundian contingent has proven to be of paramount importance in this region”, declared the Burundian President.

He made a point of specifying that a mixed technical team responsible for drawing up the roadmap for the application of the agreements resulting from this meeting will soon be set up as agreed with his French counterpart, who has promised not only to intervene in the peace process in the DRC but also by providing support in the promotion of the education and agriculture sector in Burundi.

Other fruitful meetings mentioned include his meeting with Mr. Francis Drouin, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie to discuss ways and means of strengthening relations with the

Parliament of Burundi, in particular through the exchange of experience and expertise.

Finally, the Burundian Head of State suggested that in a videoconference which brought together the mediator in the Nairobi peace process, the Angolan President, the President of the DRC and himself, current President of the EAC, they agreed to convince the M23 to return to its former territory pending the outcome of the negotiations which they undertake to speed up. (www.presidency.bi)

Vice-President Bazombanza enhances the launch of the work of the 7th Annual Congress of Professional Accountants of Burundi



On Wednesday November 23, 2022, on behalf of the

Head of the State of Burundi, the Vice-President of the Republic His Excellency Ir Prosper Bazombanza proceeded, in Bujumbura, to the opening of the works of the 7th annual congress of the order of professionals accountants of Burundi, under the theme: "The Transparency of the Financial System; source of growth and economic development in Burundi".

The Vice-President of the Republic His Excellency Ir Prosper Bazombanza indicated that the objective of these meetings is the continuous improvement of the quality of financial information, essential to the achievement of the development objectives of our country, such as included in the National Development Plan.

Vice-President Bazombanza further clarified that the congress of accounting professionals is the most appropriate framework where finance

and accounting professionals meet with users and beneficiaries of financial information, including the Government, to exchange on the quality of the financial information produced and on the state of play of the profession.

The Vice-President of the Republic reminded that Governments need appropriate financial information systems, on which the decision-making procedure can be based, but that in the absence of these systems, governmental efficiency is significantly reduced, which can increase the risk of corruption and thus reduce national economic growth and development. "As a result, the financial statements provide tangible proof of good accounting and improve transparency and good governance within the state," he said.

The Vice President of the Republic HE Ir Prosper Bazombanza also pointed out that professional accountants are considered the main guarantors of financial security and that their mandate contributes to the building of a prosperous nation, and to reaffirm the will of the Government Burundians to support their initiatives, in order to enable professional accountants to continue to fully play their role as key players in the economic development of Burundi.

www.presidency.bi

The Prime Minister contributes to the production of seeds



On Monday November 21, 2022, the Prime Minister Lieutenant General

Gervais Ndirakobuca harvested first generation potato seeds, mini-tubers, in a greenhouse fitted out at ISABU Munanira in Muruta commune, Kayanza Province, as part of a seed production project.

Gervais Ndirakobuca revealed to the press that he initiated this project because the Head of State had asked that anyone who wants it and has the means to invest in the production and multiplication of seeds in order to contribute to the increase

in production. In this greenhouse there were 4 varieties erected namely Shangji, Magome, Mabondo and Victoria.

These mini tubers will go through other stages before reaching farmers by 2024. They will be multiplied to become strains, the strains will be multiplied to give pre-bases always at ISABU level. The pre-bases will then be given to seed multipliers to produce bases.

The bases will be given to other seed multipliers who will produce the so-called certified seeds. These certified seeds are then given to farmers to produce potatoes for consumption. All stages of the production of these seeds are done under the supervision of the Institute of Agronomic Sciences of Burundi ISABU.

The Prime Minister took this opportunity to call on economic operators to invest in the seed sector, to contribute to the increase in seeds and therefore production.

In this way the objective of the Head of State, that every mouth has food and every mouth has money, will be achieved.

Addressing ISABU, the Prime Minister challenged this institute to follow this project closely, and even all the seed producers in the country, because if the seeds are not of good quality, they cause problems within Popula-

tion.

The Director General of ISABU Mr. Alfred Niyokwishimira welcomed this contribution of the Prime Minister in the production of seed potatoes in the country. He called on any investor who has the means to get into the seed industry to approach ISABU which is ready to provide all the necessary guidance. (www.rtnb.bi)

Judges and magistrates called upon to avoid influence peddling in judgments



On
wednesday
november
23, 2022, the
Minister of
Justice

Domine Banyankimbona met in the capital of Muyinga province, the personnel of the judiciary of this province, the administrators and the population to discuss the problems related to justice in this province.

In his welcoming address, the Governor of the province of Muyinga, Mr. Jean-Claude Barutwanayo indicated that his province is experiencing disputes as in other provinces because 60% of the grievances that reach him are mainly related to land disputes.

The Minister of Justice, Mrs Domine Banyankimbona asked judges and magistrates to use intelligence, wis-

dom and submit to God in the exercise of their profession which is delicate and essential for the safeguard of peace and security.

The Minister, Mrs Domine Banyankimbona asked judges and magistrates to no longer give in to influence peddling, nepotism and clientelism in the judgment of disputes. She advises judges and magistrates each time confronting the parties in conflict.

Minister Domine Banyankimbona urges the jurisdictions concerned to empty all the judgments rendered and exhausted to eradicate tensions between the parties in conflict because it has been shown that tensions can degenerate.

The Minister of Justice closed the meeting with a session to listen to the concerns of the population.

For each case, the Minister has given guidance to justice personnel and promises to follow up. She also helped in the reading and interpretation of certain judgments which seem difficult to judges and magistrates with a view to executing them. (www.rtnb)

Karusi: Judicial Staff urged to change behavior



On
tuesday
november
22,
2022,
the
Minister of
Justice
Mrs
Domine
Banyankim-

bona met, in the capital of Karusi province, judges, magistrates, prosecutors, clerks, support staff in the prosecution, courts and courts and the population of Karusi to discuss the problems that haunt the judicial system in this province.

These exchanges are organized across all the provinc-

es of the country and follow the recent judicial re-entry which was organized under the theme: "equitable justice source of sustainable development", followed by the recommendations of the last government retreat.

According to the Minister of Justice, Mrs Domine Banyankimbona, the unfair justice is due to some people among the population who have means and want to mistreat their neighbors by filing the appeals on the pretext that they will not succeed, the senior administrative officials who meddle in the affairs of justice and officials of corrupt courts and tribunals.

It is in this perspective that the Minister of Justice asked all stakeholders to change their mentality, because, she said, unfair justice can be a source of destabilization of the country and lead to poverty in the country.

She also urged prosecutors, judges, clerks and magis-

trates to break with bad behavior including corruption, slowness in processing cases or in executing judgments, decisions that do not promote peace or difficult to perform.

Mrs Domine Banyankimbona reminded judges and magistrates that their profession is more of a vocation than a job, so you have to sacrifice yourself in the service of the litigants, she insisted.

She also said that the government is committed to supporting the courts and tribunals to make effective the judgments rendered in the context of estab-

lishing peace and security in the country.

This session of call to order to the personnel of the judicial apparatus of the province of Karusi was followed by a session of listening to the concerns of the population.

On each case, the Minister gave guidance to judges and prosecutors and promised to follow up. Mrs Domine Banyankimbona recommended to the judges to ensure each time that the decisions taken are wise decisions that promote social cohesion. (www.rtnb.bi)

The Ministry in charge of the media organizes the Estates General of Communication, 3rd edition



On thursday november 24, 2022, the Vice-President of the Republic Ir Prosper Bazombanza proceeded to the opening of the work of the assizes of the States General of Communication and the Media, 3rd edition, organized by the Ministry in charge of Communication and the Media in collaboration with the National Council of Communication (CNC), under the theme: "Never without the Media". These two-day works are taking place in the province of Gitega, the political capital of the country.

In her speech, the Minister in charge of Communication and Media Léocadie Ndacayisaba indicated in her speech that the meeting of the States General of Communication is organized for the third time, after the second edition which took place in 2011. They aim to bring together all stakeholders to reflect on the major challenges and think about strategies leading to useful reforms in the commu-

nication and media sectors. They also aim to bring the media, journalists and communicators of the different institutions to play their role correctly, to adopt professional practices and to take into account the effects generated by the digital revolution, she added.

Still according to the Minister, the organization of these meetings will also make it possible to evaluate the state of implementation of the recommendations resulting from the 2nd edition of the States General of Communication and the Media.

The Vice-President of the Republic Ir Prosper Bazombanza, in his speech at the launch of the 3rd edition of the assizes of the States General of Communication, on behalf of the Head of State, congratulated media professionals for their commendable work.

According to the Vice-President of the Republic, the Government of Burundi recognizes the work carried out by the media and salutes the bravery of the journalists who give themselves day and night to provide the public with quality information, allowing them to take their own decisions for its future.

The Government also recognizes the professional work done by the media in various national events, including media coverage of the 2018 constitutional referendum, coverage of the entire 2020 electoral process, raising public awareness of the fight against the pandemics that have shaken the world in recent years, especially COVID 19, etc., underlined Ir Prosper Bazombanza, the Vice-President of the Republic. (www.rtnb.bi)

Kirundo: Magistrates must be characterized by integrity



On thursday november 24, 2022, during her tour of the northern provinces, the Minister of Justice, Mrs. Domine Banyankimbona, met in the capital of Kirundo province, with court officials, judges and magistrates, administrative officials and the population to discuss legal issues.

After a brief presentation by the Governor of Kirundo Albert Hatungimana on the security and judicial situation in his province, the Minister of Justice Mrs. Domine Banyankimbona insisted on the integrity which must characterize the magistrates. The latter must know how to listen to all the parties in litigation and, if necessary, seek advice before rendering judgments and above all go into the field to confront the people in conflict and the witnesses.

During this meeting, Minister Domine Banyankimbona listened to the concerns of the population. For the most part, these concerns were related to long-standing land disputes involving multiple families. She took her time to do

the proofreading in front of the public and each time give directions for each file.

The Minister of Justice, Mrs. Domine Banyankimbona, also provided responses to litigants who had requested the intervention of the Ministry of Justice until 2020. For the other citizens who had sent their requests for intervention to the Ministry, they were informed that the files are being processed, "we will have to wait", and for those who had files at the National Commission for Lands and Other Property (CNTB), they have been informed that these files will be transferred to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CVR), she said. (www.rtnb.bi)

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REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat-General of the State**MEDIA RELEASE N° 20 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2022**

A Cabinet meeting was held in Bujumbura on Wednesday 16th of November 2022, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Major General Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, President of the Republic of Burundi.

After the presentation of the agenda, His Excellency the President of the Republic invited the Prime Minister to present the summary of the observations resulting from the preparatory meeting of the Council of Ministers which the Prime Minister chaired on Wednesday 11 November 2022, and which was devoted to the analysis of the same files on the agenda.

After restitution by the Prime Minister to the President of the Republic, the following items were analyzed:

1. **Bill on the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the agreement between the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of the Republic of Burundi on visa exemption for holders of diplomatic and service passports**, presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

In order to strengthen bilateral relations and cooperation, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of the Republic of Burundi, signed on September 22, 2022, in New York, the Agreement on visa exemption for holders of diplomatic and service passports.

The Government of Burundi concludes this type of Agreement with States with which it has long maintained good relations.

Holders of diplomatic or service passports will thus benefit from increased freedom of movement in both countries.

This agreement responds to the concern to see the two nations further develop their friendly relations and to facilitate the movement of their respective nationals, in compliance with the principle of equality and reciprocity.

The ratification of this agreement will facilitate the signing of other bilateral agreements, in particular the agreement on the prevention of double taxation and the protection of investments, in order to encourage the increase of investments between the two countries.

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

- Ensure that Burundi benefits from this agreement with this country which has developed very rapidly;
- Consider signing sectoral agreements in the priority areas of our country such as agriculture, education, economy, information and communication technologies, trade, etc.
- Ensure that diplomacy is more active in protecting the interests of Burundian nationals who are defrauded, particularly when importing goods when Burundi has signed agreements with these countries.

2. Information note on the rationalization of Burundi's participation in regional and international organizations, presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

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Currently, Burundi is a member of more than 160 organizations. This membership of Burundi in several regional and international organizations implies respect for rights and obligations of a legal, financial, etc. nature.

The annual statutory contributions inherent in this multi-membership weigh heavily on the Burundian economy, which manifests itself in several organizations by the accumulation of arrears of contributions.

For lack of enough budget to honor its commitments, Burundi remains in a situation of irregularity in several organizations.

As a result, the arrears of annual statutory contributions continue to grow, hence the need for a careful choice of organizations to keep, in order to take full advantage of them.

It should be emphasized that:

- Some reasons that militated in favor of belonging to certain organizations are no longer relevant;
- Membership of certain organizations is obsolete because the strategic interests that were targeted are no longer there or are otherwise compensated;
- Some organizations ask for large amounts in terms of contributions while Burundi does not derive much benefit from them;
- Even if Burundi does not actively participate in certain organizations, requests for payment of statutory contributions do not stop, thus inflating the amounts of arrears of contributions as long as Burundi has not yet notified its withdrawal.

Faced with this situation, it is suggested in particular that:

- That Burundi withdraws from organizations deemed unnecessary for the country;
- To seek and plan sufficient means to be able to honor its financial commitments and thus be always up to date in the payment of the annual statutory contributions;

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- To instruct public and private institutions that are members of certain regional and international organizations to include in their budget allocations statutory contributions to these organizations
- Negotiate plans for the staggered clearance of arrears of contributions for all the organizations selected;
- To negotiate staggered payment plans for the arrears already recorded within the organizations not retained, and to officially notify the withdrawal of Burundi.

After discussion and debate, the Council of Ministers assessed the content of the Note and made the following observations and recommendations:

- The table showing the different organizations lacks a column showing the advantages and disadvantages of staying or withdrawing from a particular organization as well as the reasons for joining;
- The sectoral ministries are called upon to communicate to the Ministries in charge of foreign affairs all the organizations that may have been omitted so that the list is exhaustive;
- Burundi should remain in all organizations because the interests pursued can change at any time;
- It is necessary to put in place a framework for monitoring the organizations of which Burundi is a member in order to make the most of it;
- The organizations of which Burundi is a member must be classified by priority in order to budget, by priority, the contributions for those which are more strategic than others;
- It must be ensured that the people who sign the membership of Burundi in an organization have the quality.

3. Expenditure commitment ceilings for the second quarter of 2022/2023, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

Expenditure commitment ceilings are subject to regulations prescribed in certain texts, in particular the decree on budgetary governance, the decree on general regulations for the management of public budgets, etc.

They also comply with the law fixing the general budget of the Republic of Burundi for the 2022/2023 financial year which provides that the quarterly commitment ceilings for expenditure which must be validated by the Council of Ministers.

These commitments are made on the basis of receipts and therefore constitute an essential tool for regulating expenditure. They are in accordance with the State cash flow plan, concern all State expenditure, except those which are compulsory and incompressible, such as salary and debt expenditure.

Thus, during the 2022/2023 budget management, the rate of commitments will depend on the rate of collection of revenue.

After analyzing these expenditure commitment ceilings for the second quarter of 2022/2023, the Council of Ministers adopted them with the following recommendations:

- Consider increasing the budget allocated to food for boarding students for the 2023-2024 budget year;
- Supervise and monitor the execution of budgets allocated to projects financed by development partners;
- That all ministries get involved to increase revenue.

4. Note on additional considerations on the draft decree on the creation, missions, organization and functioning of the National Agency for Urban Planning and Infrastructure Construction (“ANURI”), presented by the Minister of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing.

The National Agency for Urbanism and the Realization of Infrastructures (“ANURI”) is a structure which was to result from the merger of OBUHA

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(Burundian Office for Urbanism, Housing and Construction) and of the Road Agency of Burundi (ARB).

The proposed merger was mainly dictated by the concern for complementarity of interventions to improve the performance of the two Entities.

But as there is not yet a quality assurance mechanism for constructions in Burundi, both the structures in place and the one proposed will not promote good practice in the construction sector as the experience can be observed in other countries, especially in the sub-region.

OBUHA, ARB or ANURI would control themselves, while elsewhere there are internationally recognized structures for quality assurance.

The merger of these two structures would risk drowning the visibility of each of them at the level of the sub-region and vis-à-vis some of our development partners;

It is then proposed to:

- Temporarily postpone the approach to merging OBUHA and ARB;
- Technically and financially strengthen these agencies so that they further improve their performance within the framework of the new dynamics of works under management;
- Put in place a mechanism or structure to control the quality of constructions, as is the case in other countries, particularly those in the sub-region.

After discussion and debate, the Council of Ministers supported these proposals with the following recommendations:

- Ensure that the construction quality control body is transversal and covers all infrastructures;

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- Set up a political and technical structure for the coordination of OBUHA and ARB decentralized at the provincial level, if necessary at the municipal level, especially in view of the administrative division project;
- Reinforce the strategy for the execution of works under force account.

**Done at Bujumbura, 16 November 2022
Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE**

Secretary-General and Spokesman.-

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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