

# REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and  
Development Cooperation

## MFADC-MAGAZINE

Nr 105 of 24th December 2020

### Official opening of National Highway number 4: Bujumbura-Chanic-Gatumba-DRC



**O**n December 16, 2020, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE and the European Union Ambassador to Burundi His Excellency Claude BOCHU officially inaugurated the National Highway 4 (Chanic - Gatumba) linking the economic capital Bujumbura to the DRC border and built with the support of the European Union.

The official inauguration ceremonies of the National Highway 4 began with a gathering of the population followed by the arrival of the guests at the ceremony site located in Kajaga.

Afterwards, the Minister of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing Mr. Déogratias NSANGANUYUMWAMI gave a brief presentation of the construction of the National Highway 4. He indicated that the rehabili-

tation of the National Highway 4 border axis was carried out in three phases. The first phase involved the rehabilitation of the road with a tar concrete bearing layer and a bilayer induced bearing layer. The second phase was the construction through the Rusizi River. And the third phase was the reinforcement of the road with oil concrete bearing layer and the complete rehabilitation with asphalt concrete bearing layer, the development of the car parks at the border and sanitation in the Gatumba crossing. According to the Ministry of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing,

#### In this Edition:

#### page

Official opening of National Highway number 4: Bujumbura - Chanic - Gatumba-DRC

1

The Head of State leads a Government retreat in Gitega

2

Gitega: exchange of wishes between the defense corps and the presidential couple

3

The President of the Republic of Burundi calls for work in synergy between the Government and civil society to implement the government plan

4

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation participates in the government retreat

6

Media Release no 11 consecutive to the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday 24 december 2020

8

the amount of work is 10,110,000 Euros. This was followed by the cutting of the symbolic ribbon and the unveiling of the commemorative plaque by the President of the Republic H.E. Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE. In his address, the European Union's Ambassador to Burundi H.E Claude BOCHU recalled that over the past 15 years, the European Union has invested 440 billion Burundi francs

in the rehabilitation and construction of 700 km of roads in Burundi. It is important to note that the rehabilitated section covers 15 km and was completed over a period of 29 months by SO-GEA SATOM with the contribution of the Burundi Road Agency, the National Ordering Support Cell and the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning. (MFADC-Newsroom)

### The Head of State leads a Government retreat in Gitega



during the implementation of the Government's action plan and to discuss the strategies or solutions to be pursued, said the President of the Republic.

The Head of State His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye said that the members of the Government are committed to working for the well-being of the population but that all burundians are obliged to give themselves body and soul in the development work.

**T**he Government of Burundi organized in the province of Gitega, the political capital of the country, a two-day government retreat from December 22 to 23, 2020, for members of the Government, senior officials of the Presidency of the Republic, the Permanent Secretaries as well as the Ministers' Assistants. The activities are directed by the Head of State, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye. In his opening speech of this retreat, the President of the Republic indicated that in these two days of the retreat, the members of the Government will self-assess whether in their achievements, they follow the objectives that the Government called responsible and hardworking was set during the recent retreat that took place in the province of Ngozi in the month of July 2020.

The President of the Republic continued his speech by pointing out that that was an opportunity to verify whether the members of the Government are working in transparency, that they are implementing what they have promised to the population. It will also be an opportunity to meet the challenges encountered



After the opening speech delivered by the Head of State, Prime Minister CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni presented the achievements of each Ministry. He said that the Ministries have achieved 85% of the action plan.

(Source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## Gitega: exchange of wishes between the defense corps and the presidential couple



**T**he Defense and Security corps organized Friday, December 18, 2020 in Gitega province, the exchange of vows ceremonies between the presidential couple and these two bodies.

While wishing the best wishes to the Presidential Couple on behalf of the Defense Corps, the Minister of National Defense Mr. Alain Tribert Mutabazi once again congratulated and wished the President of the Republic, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye in his noble functions of lead the country after having won the victory in the general elections of 2020. He thanked the Head of State for having accepted to respond to the invitation of these two Corps to share the joy with them. He said this is an eloquent sign that shows the importance that the President of the Republic attaches to the Defense and Security sector.

As for the Minister in charge of National Security

Corps CPC Gervais Ndirakobuca, he wished the Presidential Couple best wishes for the new year on behalf of the National Security corps. On behalf of these security bodies, Minister CPC Gervais Ndirakobuca reiterated his commitment to support and obey the President of the Republic by ensuring the security of the population as well as that of their property.

Taking the floor, the President of the Republic His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye also wished the Corps of Defense and National Security best wishes. "May the year 2021 be a year of peace and prosperity", wished the President of the Republic. He thanked these corps for their bravery in maintaining the peace and security of the country.

The President of the Republic, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye invited the members of the Defense and Security Corps to always maintain discipline, cohesion and to be exemplary in the fight for the sovereignty of the country, peace and security.

As a thank you, the two Corps gave the Head of State four cows. To signify that the President of the Republic is the guarantor of the sovereignty of the country and the supreme commander, they also gave the Head of State a shield, a spear and a bow with 3 arrows. (source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## The new members of the Constitutional Court take the oath

**T**he President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, presided over the swearing-in ceremonies of the new members of the Constitutional Court, ceremonies which took



place, this December 21, 2020, at the Kigobe hemicycle, in Bujumbura Town Hall.

They took an oath before God the Almighty, before the President of the Republic and the representatives of the people, in the presence of other high dignitaries of the country including the Vice-President of the Republic, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Burundi, the diplomatic corps, senior officers of the defense and security

corps and others.



By decree No 100/118 of December 18, 2020 appointing the President, the Vice-President and members of the Constitutional Court, the President of the Republic appointed Mr. Valentin Bagorikunda and Mr. Emmanuel Ntahomvukiye, respectively President and Vice-President of this court for a principal of 8 years.

By the same decree, he appointed Mr. Li-boire Nkurunziza, for a term of 8 years, Mrs. Jeanne Habonimana and Mr. Salvator Ntibazonkiza, for a term of 5 years.

Messrs Bède Mbayahaga and Jean Pierre Amani were also appointed members of the said court for a three-year term



([www.presidente.gov.bi](http://www.presidente.gov.bi))

### The President of the Republic of Burundi calls for work in synergy between the Government and civil society to implement the government plan



**T**he Head of State, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye launched an appeal, Sunday December 20, 2020, to civil society to work in synergy with the Government in order to implement the Government's action plan in the interest of the Burundian people that both serve. It was on the occasion of the inauguration ceremonies of the Free Methodist Church, Carama-Gahahe Parish, located in the Province of Bujumbura.

The Head of State made the appeal after praising the efforts of the Free Methodist Church in Burundi to contribute to the coun-

try's development through health and education. He then asked this Church to extend its intervention to embrace other sectors of national life and thus to make a significant contribution to the development of the population in particular and that of the country in general.

His Excellency the President of the Republic took this opportunity to wish a Merry Christmas and the best wishes of happiness, peace and prosperity to the members of the Free Methodist Church of Burundi for the year 2021.

In his preaching from the book of Matthew Chapter 21: 12-17, and in 1 Corinthians 6:19, Bishop Deogratias Nshimiyimana, Bishop of the Free Methodist Church of Burundi, emphasized the importance of the temple of God. According to him, the house of God is a place of prayer, of praise and where divine strength is manifested. But for this to be possible, Christians must be converted and completely change their bad behavior, he stressed.

The Free Methodist Church, Carama-

Gahahe Parish, was established for 4 years with funding of 500 Million Bu Francs from the members and friends of this Church.

It is fitting to point out that the people who

have contributed greatly to the building of this Church have received certificates of honor in recognition of the noble task accomplished. ([www.presidence.gov.bi](http://www.presidence.gov.bi))

### The President of the Senate joins the people of Nyambuye in the development



**T**he President of the Burundian Senate, the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, joined on Saturday, December 19, 2020, the population of Nyambuye hill, his native hill in Bujumbura province in community development work. The work consisted in making the concrete for the elevation of the columns of the office of the Chief of the Colline Nyambuye, a building which will be of two levels.

On the sidelines of these community development works that he carried out alongside the population of Nyambuye, the President of the Senate invited the inhabitants of this hill to redouble their efforts in building the office of the Chief of Hill and to distribute the work by sub-hills to involve everyone.

On this occasion, the Senate Speaker asked the population of Nyambuye to participate massively in the construction of this building to complete it as soon as possible. The Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera specified that anyone who does not have material time to participate in the construction work of the office of the Chief of Colline Nyambuye is required to give his contribution in cash.

The president of the Senate seized this opportunity to remind the inhabitants of Nyambuye that the image of their hill will be whatever they want it to be. "The development of your locality will depend on your attendance at work", announced the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera.

On the occasion of this community development work, the Speaker of the upper house of Parliament also recommended to the inhabitants of his native hill to maintain the Bujum-



bura-Nyambuye road and to plant trees along this road with a view to the keep in good condition.

Finally, the President of the Senate wished the people of his native hill a happy New Year and invited them to reconnect with the traditional value of sharing that has always characterized Burundians. (source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## The TRC submits its report to the Senate



**T**he President of the Senate, the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, received in audience in his office in Gitega, the President of the Truth Reconciliation Commission (CVR) Ambassador Pierre Claver Ndayicariye.

Ambassador Ndayicariye came to submit the progress report of the CVR during the year 2020. As indicated by the President of the CVR, This report is a document required by the law of November 2018. It is submitted to the National Assembly, the Senate, the Presidency of the Republic, the Prime Minister but also the Vice-President of the Republic.

After it is planned a programming of the solemn session at the Kigobe convention center in front of the parliamentarians gathered in congress, to present in detail the activities of the year 2020 of the CVR, hammered Pierre Claver Ndayicariye ([source: www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation participates in the government retreat



**T**he Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO participated in the government retreat in Gitega, Tuesday, December 22, 2020, launched by the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE. The objective of this retreat was to first assess the new government in-

stitutions, six months after their establishment and then to assess the implementation of the recommendations resulting from the government retreat of July 2020.

Also invited to this retreat were the institutions attached to the Presidency of the Republic, the Senior Executives of the various Ministries including the Permanent Secretaries, to the various Ministries as well as the Ministers' Assistants.

The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE took this opportunity to remind participants of the merits of the said retreat and asked everyone to make a self-assessment on the recommendations resulting from the previous retreat which took place in Ngozi from July 21 to 23, 2020 . ([MFADC-Newsroom](#))

## Airport services in charge of the fight against Covid-19 in the process of being improved

An evaluation meeting of the campaign to fight against Covid-19, was held behind



closed doors in Bujumbura on Monday, December 21, 2020. The multisectoral committee responsible for the implementation of this campaign has decided to increase the staff of the Airport services who intervene in the fight against Covid-19, to avoid long waiting times for passengers.

At the end of the meeting, the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, Dr Thaddée Ndikumana told the press that this meeting followed complaints from passengers related to the slowness of the services responsible for implementing the fight against COVID-19 at Melchior NDADAYE International Airport.

According to Dr. Thaddée Ndikumana, this long wait stems from the insufficient staff at the payment counters for Covid-19 screening but also at the OBR level to put the stickers. There was also a shortage of staff at the level of the Laboratory of the National Institute of Public Health (INSP).

After analyzing the situation, the multisectoral committee responsible for implementing the campaign to combat Covid-19 took the decision to increase the staff of the Airport services which intervene in the fight against this pandemic, to avoid long waiting times for passengers.

Regarding the transport from the Melchior NDANDAYE International Airport of Bujumbura to the quarantine hotels, the decision was taken by the Implementation Committee of the campaign to fight against Covid-19, ordering the quarantine hotels to take now in charge of transporting passengers from outside without the intervention of private carriers. In addition, the services of the

quarantine hotels will be responsible for the passengers in quarantine from Bujumbura Airport until the exit from the quarantine.

For the group of indigent people who come from Oman and Saudi Arabia and who have no means, it was decided that these people be taken care of like any repatriated by the services of the Ministry in charge of Public Security. .

The Covid-19 Campaign Implementation Committee has made a decision to sue hotels that allow people to visit quarantined passengers and impose fines of up to two million to avoid obstacles to the control of this pandemic.

For traders who pass through Melchior NDANDAYE International Airport in Bujumbura and who return via the Kobero and Mugina border posts, the Monitoring Committee of the campaign against Covid-19 finds that these people are required to observe a 7-day quarantine in the border provinces of Tanzania.

Regarding the current situation of Covid-19 in Burundi, the Minister in charge of Public Health has indicated that 768 cases have been tested positive until December 20, 2020 and 701 have already been cured and discharged. 65 patients are under medical follow-up and the Ministry deplors 2 cases of death including 1 from Uganda with other pathologies of asthma and diabetes.

Minister Dr Thaddée Ndikumana clarified that for all these cases of positive tests, many come from outside. He recommended great vigilance with respect to those returning to Burundi.

Finally, the Minister in charge of Public Health called on the population to continue to observe hygiene measures, that is to say to wash their hands regularly, as many times as possible, not to shake their hands while greeting one another and respect the physical and social distancing of 1m in large gatherings. ([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

1

## REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC  
Secretariat-General of the State**MEDIA RELEASE NO 11 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24 DECEMBER 2020**

A Cabinet Meeting was held in Gitega on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> of December 2020, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi. The following items were analyzed:

**1. File relating to the fusion process of AIR Burundi and SOBUGEA, the companies, presented by the Services of the Prime Minister.**

As part of the revival of air transport, the Government of Burundi has undertaken to mobilize the necessary funds and take other accompanying measures aimed at the recovery of Air Burundi.

It is with this in mind that the Government of Burundi commissioned an audit to carry out an in-depth diagnosis of Air Burundi and extended to SOBUGEA, with a view to determining the discounted value of their assets and to propose the recovery strategy for these two companies' assets.

The work was entrusted to the BCAP International-PROSAFE AVIATION CONSULTING LTD consortium.

To monitor the proper execution of this contract, a Technical Commission was set up and, after analyzing the report of the audit mission, it supported the proposed strategy of merging Air Burundi and SOBUGEA.

On May 27, 2020, the Council of Ministers adopted the fusion strategy of these two entities and recommended to propose concrete actions in connection with the implementation of this fusion and the establishment of a national company.

It is within this framework that the Prime Minister has set up an ad hoc committee to carry out this work.

In addition to other innovations proposed as part of this reform, notably the creation of a new company called "Burundi Airlines", the Committee's report includes:

- The draft fusion contract of Air Burundi and SOBUGEA
- The draft decree authorizing the State of Burundi to participate in the share capital of the Burundi Airlines company
- The draft statutes of the Burundi Airlines company
- The structure and organization chart of Burundi Airlines
- The roadmap for the creation of the new Burundi Airlines company.

It is proposed that the shareholders of this company be formed by the State of Burundi (92%), SOCABU (4%) and bankrupt SABENA (4%).

After discussions, the Council of Ministers adopted the proposal to create the new company with, among other recommendations, to take the necessary and urgent measures allowing the good management of the assets of these two entities, especially in this transitional period, and to accelerate all the remaining steps while respecting the roadmap. The Council especially recommended to proceed with the recovery, even forced, among Air Burundi staff who owe money to this company and who do not want to reimburse, if necessary in collaboration with the other competent ministries in this case the one in charge of public security and the one in charge of justice.

It was also recommended that state contributions be carefully assessed to ensure that they were not underestimated.

In addition, the Council recommended to thoroughly study the methods and procedures for the dissolution of these two companies and the creation of the new company to avoid a legal vacuum. It will also be necessary to study the liability management mechanisms of Air Burundi. A team has been set up to support the Minister in charge of transport to study these mechanisms together so as not to put the new emerging company in difficulty

## 2. Foreign Policy project of the Republic of Burundi, presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

By definition, foreign policy is the policy of a country vis-à-vis other countries in order to promote its geostrategic, geopolitical and economic interests.

Foreign policy is a text of reference and guidance for government departments in general and for diplomatic executives in particular in matters of foreign policy. It corresponds to the strategic and political choices of a country in terms of external relations.

With the implementation of this tool, the highest authorities, Burundian diplomats and other state actors on missions, in discussions and / or in negotiations with bilateral or multilateral partners will have a reference document that will serve as a guide.

This is a very important reference document, which is dynamic and must be adjusted according to the evolution of global issues and Burundi's interests.

By adopting this foreign policy document, the Government will have put on track a quadruple ambition which constitutes an essential dimension of authority and legitimacy, that is to say:

- Have a strengthened brand image and unfailing credibility vis-à-vis partners;
- Be a committed and consulted actor on issues of sub-regional and regional interest;
- Be a model in the Comity of Nations in terms of consolidation of democracy and peace, respect and promotion of human rights and respect for the international commitments to which it has subscribed;
- Be more involved in international relations beneficial to its economy and guarantors of its prosperity.

Following the analysis of this foreign policy document, the Council of Ministers adopted it with certain adjustments and with among other recommendations to ensure that the persons appointed to the posts of extraordinary ambassadors and plenipotentiaries are people of integrity of

Burundian nationality, except for a punctual and precise mission, where a foreigner can carry the title of Ambassador of Burundi for this circumstance only.

It was also recommended that the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs follow the day-to-day current international issues to inform the competent authorities in time, in order to adjust.

### **3. National Development Communication Strategy in support of the National Development Plan**, presented by the Minister of Communication, Information Technologies and Media.

In 2018, the Government of Burundi adopted a National Development Plan. It is a reference document for all development actors in Burundi. Therefore, significant changes will result from the level of information, education, support of the population and its active participation in the desired changes.

Thus, the many development actions that will be undertaken to improve the quality of life of the population need to be supported by communication for development. Hence the need for a national communication strategy for development, focused on the entire National Development Plan.

After exchanges, the Council of Ministers recognized the importance and the opportunity of this strategy document and adopted it with, among other things, the recommendation to develop an action plan for its implementation.

It was also requested that the Government website be regularly updated by communicating on the actions that are carried out or to be carried out in the various ministries. To this end, it was recommended that the ministers be in permanent contact with the spokespersons of the ministries so that they are aware of the activities and programs of the ministries and that in turn they have something to feed the website of the Government.

Finally, it was recommended that the private media be made partners of the ministry in charge of communication so that they too can communicate on the development activities taking place in the country.

**4. Draft decree amending Decree No. 100/116 of April 21, 2015 creating a Public Establishment of an administrative nature called “Impulse, Guarantee and Support Fund”, presented by the Minister of Finance, of Budget and Economic Planning.**

The Impulse, Guarantee and Support Fund (FIGA) was created with the mission of promoting access to funding for promoters of projects working in priority sectors and carriers of economic growth to develop micro, small and medium companies. These indeed encountered difficulties in finding funds, in particular bank loans, due to their lack of collateral acceptable to lenders.

For the moment, the decree setting up the Impulse, Guarantee and Support Fund (FIGA) suffers from shortcomings because it does not take into account key partners which are among others the Investment Bank for Young People, the Investment Bank for Women and ANACOOOP, due to the fact that at the time of its establishment, these institutions had not yet been created.

The revision of the current project is proposed to address these shortcomings in order to support the current policy of the Government aimed at promoting access to credit, by granting guarantees for project promoters experiencing financing difficulties due to lack of collateral.

After discussions, the project was adopted after having undergone some alterations and with the recommendation that the managers of this Fund be far-sighted in order to avoid supporting projects without a future that risk putting the Fund in difficulty.

**5. Bill on the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the agreement establishing the African Free Trade Zone (ZLECAF), presented by the Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism.**

The African Free Trade Area has, among other objectives, to create a single market for goods and services, facilitated by the movement of people and goods at the African level.

It will contribute to the movement of capital and individuals and facilitate investments. It will also resolve the challenges of belonging to a multitude of

sometimes overlapping organizations and accelerate the processes of regional and continental integration.

During the discussions, certain concerns that had been raised in previous meetings of the Council of Ministers regarding the ratification of this agreement by Burundi were re-expressed:

- Burundi risks losing a lot because there will necessarily be taxes that it will waive when there are contributions it will have to pay;
- There should be a prior study to weigh what Burundi will lose and what it will gain;
- It is necessary to organize ourselves first so that Burundian products are competitive;
- First of all, the Compensation Fund for losses suffered in the context of inter-African trade must be set up and the modalities for implementing this compensation must be known;
- Burundi's experience in COMESA deserves to serve as a lesson;

On the other hand, ratification of this agreement is necessary because:

- The agreement is already in force because only 22 ratifications were needed and currently 34 countries have already ratified the agreement. Burundi has no interest in isolating itself;
- Burundi is in the process of producing and you have to enter this African zone to seek the market in time.
- Entering this area will be a stimulus for the Burundians to produce a lot, process and sell in other African countries.

After discussions, the Council found that there are many more advantages than disadvantages to joining this platform and endorsed the bill.

**6. Note relating to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Burundi and the International Labor Organization on the implementation of the Country Program for the promotion of decent work 3<sup>rd</sup> generation, presented by the Minister of Public Service, Labor and Employment.**

## 7

The country program for the promotion of decent work is a reference framework through which the International Labor Organization provides support to its constituents, i.e. Governments, employers' and workers' organizations at the national level.

It contains strategies that achieve the ILO's strategic objectives or pillars of work, namely

- Promote full, productive and freely chosen employment,
- Promote and implement standards and fundamental principles and rights at work,
- Increase the scope and effectiveness of social protection for all and strengthen tripartism and social dialogue around the priorities identified by the national tripartite constituents

This program follows two others which were carried out in the periods 2006-2011 and 2012-2015 respectively.

Through this new version of the Program, the parties undertake to implement three priorities identified for Burundi which are:

- Promotion of productive and decent jobs in a diversified economy;
- Strengthening social protection;
- Promotion of social dialogue and the application of national and international labor standards.

After discussions and debate, the Note was adopted with, among other things, the recommendation to reserve the signing of the Protocol to the Government and the ILO, especially since the union and the employers' association are not subjects of International Law and to indicate, on the question of social protection, the field of demarcation between the Ministry in charge of Labor and the other ministries concerned, in particular that in charge of Social Affairs.

#### **7. Note on the development of the land housing the AFB stadium, presented by the Minister of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing**

This note is presented after the observation that the TOYOTA Company, which bought this land since February 2013, has not developed it, while the contract

## 8

stipulates that the construction work had to begin within a period not exceeding one month.

The members of the Government recommended to the ministry concerned to immediately initiate the administrative procedure of formal notice to the purchaser of this land, in this case TOYOTA BURUNDI, by referring to the clauses of the contract and to keep the Government regularly informed on the evolution of the case.

### 8. Any Other Business

▪The Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security informed the Council on the movement of young Burundian girls and women to leave for the Gulf countries in search of work.

The movement that had diminished following the border closures due to the coronavirus is gaining momentum. Private companies approved in Burundi collaborate with recruitment agencies in Arab countries to help Burundian youth to obtain employment contracts.

Following reports of inhuman and degrading treatment, slavery and other abuse against these young girls, and that the protection of Burundians is a State responsibility regardless of where they are, this work of placement of the labor should not be left to the sole responsibility of private individuals at the risk of being accused of trafficking in human beings.

Awaiting the establishment of structures responsible for monitoring Burundians going to work abroad from the start of the recruitment process to the host countries, the note proposes, among other things, to:

- Immediately suspend all recruitment agencies until further notice;
- Suspend the licensing of new recruitment agencies and the registration by the Investment Promotion Agency;
- Redouble vigilance in the granting of passports in order to detect in time the people likely to be victims of this human trafficking.

9

The Council of Ministers supported the proposals by further recommending that the companies involved in this trafficking be deregistered and punished according to the laws and regulations in force, and prosecute those involved in this affair.

▪ His Excellency the President of the Republic congratulated the members of the Government for the work accomplished during this year, despite the problems that the country has gone through.

He informed members of the Government that the country will organize a prayer crusade from December 28 to 31, 2020 to close the year. This prayer will take place in Mutaho Commune, Gitega Province. He asked those who will not be able to make it to Mutaho to associate with others spiritually.

He also informed them that the government leave will begin on January 02, 2021.

Finally, he wished them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2021.

**Done at Gitega, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE  
Secretary-General and Spokesman.-**





*A l'occasion des fêtes de Noël et du Nouvel an 2021,  
Son Excellence Monsieur le Ministre des  
Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération au Développement  
Ambassadeur Albert Shingiro, sa famille  
et le personnel dudit Ministère  
Vous Présentent leurs meilleurs Vœux  
de paix, de bonheur, de bonne Santé  
Et de prospérité.*

*On the occasion of Christmas  
and the New Year Of 2021,  
His Excellency the Minister Of Foreign Affairs and  
Development Cooperation  
Ambassador Albert Shingiro, his Family  
and the staff of the Ministry would like to extend  
to you their best wishes Of peace , happiness,  
good health and prosperity.*



# Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

[www.mae.gov.bi](http://www.mae.gov.bi)

Twitter: @MAEBurundi