

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
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The First Lady receives in audience the winners of Miss Burundi 2021



The First Lady and at the same time President of the Organization of African First Ladies for Development in Burundi (OPDAD Burundi) HE Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE received in audience on Wednesday April 21, 2021, the Miss Burundi 2021 Miss Livia Thiana Iteka in the company of his two dolphins and the popular Miss Uwimana Dative.

In their discussions, the First Lady provided them with advice related to the respect for burundian culture. At the end of the audience, the First Lady Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE told the press that the objective was to express their full support for their very interesting and relevant projects which are in line with the ambitions of the Burundi OPDAD

and its Good Action "Mugiraneza" foundation.

A space in the offices of OPDAD Burundi to hold meetings in order to refine the idea of setting up their cooperative as well as an envelope of encouragement were offered by the First Lady to the laureates of Miss Burundi 2021 edition. H.E Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE indicated to those who do not know, that Miss Burundi is the ambassador and embodies the burundian woman in all her values. She urged these laureates to be role models for burundian youth.

On behalf of the 4 lucky winners of Miss Burundi 2021, Miss Livia Thiana Iteka welcomed the advice given to them by the First Lady and saluted her gesture of granting them a space to implement their cooperative project.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

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Analysis of two bills on ratification between Burundi and Equatorial Guinea



The Deputies of the Lower House of Parliament unanimously adopted two bills during a plenary session held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, namely the bill on the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the trade agreement between the Government of Burundi and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and the bill ratifying the Cooperation Agreement in the maritime and port transport sector between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.

In her explanatory memorandum, the Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism, Mrs. Immaculée NDABANEZE, said that in order to intensify bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation, to further strengthen their bilateral relations, to develop and extend their framework of cooperation, Burundi and Equatorial Guinea signed in Bata on July 21, 2007 the Framework Agreement for economic, cultural, scientific and technical cooperation during the visit by the President of the time in Equatorial Guinea.

This cooperation is a framework and instrument for trade negotiations where it participates in the protection and enhancement of the public and private interests of a nation.

She also reported that another visit was carried out from 1st to 7th November 2020 by the President of the Republic of Burundi to Malabo, on the sidelines of which Sectorial Agreements including the Cooperation Agreement in the maritime and port transport sector were signed on November 2, 2020 between the two States.

Mrs. NDABANEZE said that by ratifying this Agreement, Burundi have facilitated maritime transport and devel-

oped trade between Africa and other regions of the world on the one hand and promoted intra-African trade and trade between African States and other continents on the other hand.

Burundi will also have contributed to the coordination and harmonization of maritime, port and river policies, regulations and procedures both at the level of bilateral relations between the parties and at the level of multilateral relations.

Finally, according to the Minister in charge of Trade, Burundi will have a key role in maritime and port transport for the promotion of economic development and the achievement of sustainable development objectives.

Deputies from the Lower House of Parliament presented concerns about the risk of competition for domestic products or disruption of the trade balance in Burundi.

With that, Mrs. NDABANEZE asserted that there is no risk of competition from domestic products as long as they are competitive.

Our economic operators will have more interest in exporting if our products are competitive. She added that there is no risk of disturbing Burundi's trade balance but rather our economic operators would find a market there for their food products especially.

In order to support importers of perishable products, Mrs. NDABANEZE said that the Government of Burundi is planning facilitation measures in the customs clearance process for perishable products.

Regarding the benefit that Burundi will derive from this agreement, Mrs. NDABANEZE cited the exchange of experience, the training of executives or technical assistance because Equatorial Guinea has greater experience in maritime transport or in port management.

She further explained that Equatorial Guinea also has large port infrastructures in the ports of Malabo and Bata that can serve as a reference for Burundi in the field of port management or in projects for the establishment of adequate port infrastructures.

(Source: www.abpinfos.com)

The Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS sets up an Emergency Operations Center



The Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS in the company of the technical and financial partners of his Ministry including the Ambassador of the European Union in Burundi Mr. Claude Bochou, the Representative of the United Nations System in Burundi Mrs. Nicole Koumassi, the WHO Representative in Burundi Dr Xavier Crispin and many other partners, officially inaugurated the Public Health Emergency Operations Center (COUSP). The COUSP implemented by the Media box team and funded by the European Union to the tune of 300,000 Euros, will play an essential role in the response to Covid_19 by collecting data related to this pandemic and in addition to others response mechanisms already provided for by the programs of the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS.

According to the Head of the European Union delegation to Burundi Ambassador Claude Bochu, the COUSP is one of the main results of the project "Coordination and support for public health emergencies" funded by the EU to the tune of EUR 1.18 million and implemented work by the World Health Organization.

The establishment of the COUSP is part of the strengthening of national capacities in terms of coordination, preparation and response to public health emergencies and to contain critical events that threaten health security, as said the Ambassador of the European Union to Burundi Mr. Claude Bochu.

He also recalled that EU funding is the product of the generosity of European citizens and their member States. They should be used efficiently and

sparingly.

As for the WHO Representative Dr Xavier Crispin, the COUSP is a centerpiece in the management of public health emergencies which ensures rapid operational and event-specific decision-making using the best available elements in terms of information.

The COUSP is an instrument for ensuring health monitoring and coordination of the response to health risks and emergencies in order to face epidemics and other health threats. The COUSP is now part of a comprehensive prevention, preparedness, response and repair program, said Dr Xavier Crispin WHO Representative in Burundi. The operationalization of COUSP will help strengthen the capacities of the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS to respond more effectively and proactively to public health emergencies, including Covid-19, which currently haunts the world.

WHO Representative Dr Xavier Crispin reiterated WHO's commitment to remain available to support COUSP in the effective operationalization of this center. He added that WHO will provide the necessary technical assistance. He asked the technical and financial partners present in these ceremonies to support this nascent center so that it fully plays its role of coordinating the response to all public health emergencies.

In his speech, the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, Dr Thaddée NDIKUMANA thanked the European Union, WHO and other technical and financial partners who have contributed so that this center can be operational.

This center will make it possible to ensure the surveillance of cases of COVID-19 at the community level. He also thanked the Media box team for its support to the Ministry in charge of public health from the start by issuing free biometric certificates for Covid-19 screening, which testifies that there are patriotic Burundians.

Dr Thaddée NDIKUMANA reassured the technical and financial partners that the Ministry has already assigned emergency personnel in the COUSP with rapid intervention teams deployed at the health district level.

The Minister Thaddée NDIKUMANA in the company of the United Nations Representative in Burundi Mrs.

Kouassi Nicole and that of the WHO also inaugurated the care center for patients suspected and / or suffering from COVID-19, erected in the premises of the Prince Louis RWAGASORE Hospital with funding from technical and financial partners.

This Covid-19 case management center is made up of a triage and isolation unit and two hospitalization units for men and women, equipped with ventilators. This center, built according to WHO standards, can accommodate a hundred patients and will serve as an example for any partner who would like to support

the government's policy with regard to the decentralization of the care of COVID-19 at the level of communes.

The Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS took the opportunity to distribute breathing apparatus to all national public and private hospitals. This modern equipment will allow the management of complicated cases of COVID-19 and will also be used for routine resuscitation.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

Coffee campaign 2021-2022: the price of cherry coffee revised upwards



The price of coffee to the producer is revised upwards and goes to 700fbu / kg for cherry A and to 350fbu / kg for cherry B. This announcement was made by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Breeding, Dr Déo Guide RUREMA, in a press briefing he hosted in Bujumbura on Monday, April 19, 2021, on the achievements of the 2020-2021 coffee campaign and the preparations for the 2021-2022 coffee campaign.

During this press briefing, the Minister in charge of Agriculture specified that for the 2020-2021 coffee campaign, the process of marketing the green coffee produced is almost finished, before adding that the overall quantity of green coffee exported until April 12, 2021 is 14,646.590 tonnes for a value of 34,632,696 USD, i.e. BIF 66,667,536,029.

The Minister Déo Guide RUREMA also informed that ODECA has initiated activities for the establishment

of industrial plantations specific to the State. In this regard, he indicated that an area of 67 ha has been identified and acquired in Cankuzo, Ruyigi, and Mwaro provinces and 53 ha are already sown with coffee plants. For the Minister, the work of identifying other sites continues in the provinces of Muyinga, Ngozi, Karusi and Cibitoke. "Activities to set up nurseries for the multiplication of coffee plants are underway in various provinces of the country", he explained.

Regarding the 2021-2022 campaign, the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock suggested that preparations are underway. He specified that the expected production is estimated at 43,401,828 tonnes of cherry coffee including 19,550 tonnes from ODECA.

Dr Déo Guide Rurema took this opportunity to remind everyone that it is strictly forbidden to pulp coffee at home since any pulper must receive both cherry coffee A and cherry coffee B at the same time.

However, the Washed coffee that will be produced for reasons independent of the coffee growers will only be purchased by ODECA for its valuation, said the Minister. He also specified that the cherry coffee collection centers in the areas covered by the washing stations is strictly prohibited.

At the same time, Minister Dr Déo Guide RUREMA reminded all depulpers that the first payment will be made in May and the second and last payment in August. He urged each depulper to take all necessary steps to ensure that these deadlines are met.

Finally, the Minister in charge of Agriculture challenged the Burundian population on its role in the fight against fraud, recalling that it is the work of everyone. For this, Dr Déo Guide RUREMA called

for the patriotism of all Burundians to safeguard coffee production.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock: the achievements report largely positive



The Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock Dr Déo Guide RUREMA presented, on Tuesday April 20, 2021, the report of his Ministry's achievements in the third quarter for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. For the Minister, the results are largely positive: the activities were carried out at 82.56% of the annual forecasts.

According to the Minister Dr Déo Guide RUREMA, the activities carried out in the third quarter fall within different sectors of activity. These include the increase and enhancement of agricultural and animal production, the protection and improvement of agricultural inputs, the increase in the production of export crops, the development of research on different plants, the layout of water sources etc.

On this occasion, the Minister Dr Déo Guide RUREMA recalled that the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock is responsible for ensuring a large agricultural and animal production so that "each mouth has to eat and each pocket has money". He indicated that in the third quarter, the Ministry carried out a lot of activities in order to achieve this goal. He mentioned in particular the distribution of agricultural inputs to agro-sylvo-pastoral model centers and cooperatives working

in this sector.

For seeds, 288.184 tonnes of maize and 19.021 tonnes of rice were distributed. For the potato, 10 tons were distributed against 225,232 tons of the bean.

For sweet potato, 54,327,700 cuttings were distributed while for market garden seeds, 936 kg were distributed.

He also pointed out that the Ministry has distributed fruit tree seedlings through the "Ewe Burundi urambaye" project and through other Government projects, including 90,000 plum trees, 40,000 apple trees and 330,000 maracuja plants. The Minister also mentioned the distribution of 24,000 mango plants, 125,000 avocado plants and 39,420 citrus plants (orange plants, lemon trees, mandarin trees).

Regarding fertilizers, 14,529.2 tonnes of FOMI (Organo-Mineral Fertilizers Industries) were distributed against 1,193.2 tonnes for lime.

The Minister also said that insecticides and protective equipment have been made available and distributed. Regarding the development of marshes, Dr Déo Guide Rurema indicated that 1,072.55 ha have been developed.

As indicated by the Minister in charge of Agriculture, storage sheds have been fitted out. 100 tons of corn and rice are kept in these sheds which will continue to receive agricultural production, especially corn grains.

In the livestock sector, 3,500 cows were distributed, 2,200 cows were born and 1,200 of them were distributed. Also, 6,885 goats and 4,715 pigs were distributed.

In order to enhance production, 4 sheds have been fitted out and 3 well-equipped milk collection and processing centers have been built.

For the future, the Minister indicated that the activities that were carried out during the third quarter will be continued to maximize results and achieve the objectives that the Ministry has set for itself.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

Investment in social sectors for teenagers in Burundi



this, it must improve the health and education of its adolescent population, develop their skills, without forgetting access to new technologies and the strengthening

The Ministry in charge of Youth in collaboration with UNICEF organized on Monday, April 19, 2021 in Ngozi a workshop to disseminate the study on investment in social sectors for adolescents in Burundi.

At the opening of this workshop, the Minister in charge of Youth Ambassador Ezéchiel NIBIGIRA indicated that this study on the estimation of the impacts and investment opportunities in the social sectors for teenagers in Burundi aims to update available to decision-makers and partners in the country, a modeled framework for investing in adolescents. This Monday the popularization was made with the administrative officials and youth organizations of the North region, the same activity has already taken place for the other regions of the country except the West region where it will be organized soon.

For the Minister in charge of Youth Honorable Ezéchiel NIBIGIRA, it is of real interest that the involvement of youth and adolescents in all development processes is well articulated and supported by national policies and partners so that the number of young people and adolescents should not be a burden for the country but a factor of development.

For its economic development, Burundi must improve the productivity of its agricultural sector, develop the service and manufacturing industries. And to achieve

of social protection.

The study on investment in social sectors for adolescents in Burundi was carried out by the Ministry in charge of Youth in collaboration with its technical and financial partners: UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, UNWOMEN.

According to the deputy Representative of UNICEF in Burundi, adolescents represent a quarter of the population, they can be a great wealth for the nation, provided that, they are given the means to realize their potential and therefore invest in their future. It is therefore necessary that adolescents are healthy and have skills to thrive in the modern world.

The study currently being disseminated encourages the Government and its development partners to use its content to inform decision-making and the development of programs for adolescents. The Governor of Ngozi province has promised that administrative Officials will take the results of this study into account in development plans at the local level.

This workshop was an opportunity to sensitize leaders of youth organizations and administrative Officials to give young people opportunities to exchange knowledge and experiences in entrepreneurship.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

“Connecting girls, improving future prospects”



The Ministry of Communication, Information Technologies and Media in collaboration with the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, proceeded on Monday April 19, 2021 to the official launch of the week dedicated to the International Day of Young Girls in the ICT Sector, 2021 edition, under the theme: " Connecting young girls, improving future prospects ".

In her speech, the Minister in charge of Information Technologies Madam Marie Chantal NIJIMBERE indicated that girls and women are numerous in the world and in particular in Burundi, from where they must be supported by offering them opportunities in ICTs so that they contribute to development.

She stressed that the girls who presented their ICT projects during the competition organized as part of the celebration of this week dedicated to ICTs will contribute to the empowerment of women and girls. For the Government, the Minister Marie Chantal NIJIMBERE underlined that Burundi recognizes the place of ICTs in different sectors of national life: health, agriculture and livestock, trade, research, administration, etc.

She also recalled that the National Development Plan 2018-2027, the Government gave pride of place to ICTs. Infrastructures and communication channels will be established so that the rural population has facilities to use ICTs to a satisfactory degree. The Government has also put in place the national policy

for the development of ICTs, and this policy no longer spares the place of a girl and a woman because, it occupies a place of choice in the development of the country. The Government has also put in place the national policy for the development of ICTs, and this policy no longer spares the place of the girl and the woman because, she occupies a place of choice in the development of the country. "Let this week dedicated to young girls in the ICT sector be an opportunity to help girls and women to actively connect in the fields of ICTs", insisted the Minister.

As for the Minister in charge of Gender Mrs. Imelde SABUSHIMIKE, she praised the place that the Government has reserved for women and girls especially in the Burundian constitution, the 30% quota, the creation of the Youth Bank and the creation of the Bank for women. This is to empower the woman and the young girl.

She further urged girls to get involved in ICTs so that they occupy a prominent place in decision-making bodies.

The UNDP Representative in Burundi said that the celebration of the International Day of the Girls in ICTs is an opportunity to learn about the progress to date, while welcoming the efforts of women and girls who are in this sector. She further asked everyone to think about the girls and women who have completed their studies in the ICT sector and who have access to the same employment opportunities as men and boys.

The Representative of the UNDP in Burundi is delighted that cooperation with the Government has resulted in the implementation of a favorable political framework, in particular with the UNDP and all the sectoral and programmatic policies resulting from it in the area of gender equality. She then said that the empowerment of women and girls through ICTs will offer new opportunities for this group often neglected, in order to become fully involved as engineers, developers and producers of content.

For the United Nations, the UNDP Representative in Burundi said new technologies hold incredible possibilities for improving the well-being of humanity. However, they can also generate more inequality. "We are convinced that without bridging the digital divide based on gender equality, it will be difficult to structurally

transform the economy and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Connecting young girls is offering them opportunities to share and develop the experience", she concluded.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The rising of waters in Lake Tanganyika: the Director General of IGEBU warns



The Director General of the Geographical Institute of Burundi (IGEBU) Mr. Augustin NGENZIRABONA spoke on Monday, April 19, 2021 following the rising of waters in Lake Tanganyika. Mr. Augustin NGENZIRABONA recalled that the rise of waters in Lake Tanganyika occurs periodically and it has been like that for a long time. He recalled that in 1878, the level of Lake Tanganyika reached the height of 783.35 meters. At that time, the places where the airport and the port of Bujumbura are located were occupied by Lake Tanganyika and the water also arrived at 7th avenue of the Buyenzi area south of Bujumbura and at national road number three.

The Director General of IGEBU specified that the causes of this rise of waters in Lake Tanganyika are multiple. The Director General of IGEBU cited in particular the heavy rainfall which causes floods and the erosion which swells the Lake Tanganyika from the sub-region of the countries bordering the Lake. The Director General of IGEBU also cited the Rukuga river which is today unable to evacuate the water in large quantities from the Lake because it is now almost overflowed.

As mentioned by the Director General of IGEBU Mr. Augustin NGENZIRABONA, the data that this institution holds in its database shows that this year 2021 looks like the year 1964. These years are almost similar, even the rainfall of that era was the same as it is today.

For reasons of prevention, the Director General of IGEBU asked the occupants of the areas of Kajaga, Kibenga and the port of Bujumbura to leave the place and seek refuge elsewhere to escape the damage that may be caused by this rising waters' level. He called on the population to respect the water code which calls for the respect of the buffer zone, that is to say the 150 m that separate the Lake from the place where we must build. He advised people not to occupy this area because it is an area that presents a great danger to the population. He explained that the areas of Kibenga, Kajaga, the port of Bujumbura and part of the airport are at an altitude lower than that of Lake Tanganyika.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The CNC grants certain radio and television stations the authorization to broadcast



Regarding the Startimes company, Mr. Laurent Kaganda informed that this company suspended the CNC subscription for a period of more or less than 3 weeks. During this period, the CNC monitoring services could not follow the media content on the Startimes channels.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The extraordinary assembly of the National Communication Council (CNC) was held on Monday, April 21, 2021 to analyze 3 points, namely the application files for authorization to work from certain press bodies, professional misconduct or professional faults committed by certain bodies and an information note on the progress of the implementation of the recommendation given to the CNC to sit down with those responsible of the suspended or closed media. Four radios and televisions had the right to broadcast, namely: the voice of reconciliation radio, the Burundi Bwiza radio television, the Isanganiro television, the kazoza radio as well as “ijwi ry’ukugwiza umwimbu” online television.

During this extraordinary meeting, the CNC analyzed the failings of two media, the newspaper Iwacu and the Startimes Company.

The CNC President Mr. Laurent Kaganda said that the newspaper Iwacu published on March 6, 2021 on its site, an article that was poorly designed. It was an article in connection with a public conference by videoconference, in which the political actors of the opposition had participated, said Mr. Laurent Kaganda. Contacted about this failure, the Director General of the newspaper Iwacu replied that the article had been posted by a journalist who is not on Burundian soil and promised to correct this error, as explained the Chairman a.i of the CNC. And to add that the CNC is continuing the investigations for more information on this file.

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REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat-General of the State**MEDIA RELEASE NO 17 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL 2021**

A Cabinet Meeting was held in Bujumbura on Wednesday 21th of April 2021, under the chairmanship of His Excellency 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 chaired by the Prime Minister on Friday 16 April 2021, and which was devoted to the analysis of the same items on the agenda.

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

- 1. National Program for the Capitalization of Peace, Social Stability and Promotion of Economic Growth “PNCP-SS-PCE”, presented by the Services of the Presidency of the Republic.**

This program is one of the operationalization strategies of the National Development Program.

Its overall objective is to contribute to the economic growth of the country and to the improvement of the living conditions of the population as a whole.

It is based on the Government's priorities which are:

- Good governance
- Public health
- Agriculture and livestock as well as socio-economic infrastructure
- Youth employment in the industrialization of the country
- Social protection for retirees and other vulnerable people
- Peace and reconciliation

The implementation strategy for this program will focus on:

- The participatory approach where the population is effectively involved in development actions with a view to empowerment and sharing initiatives and costs,
- The decentralized approach, through which special attention will be paid to building the capacities of decentralized structures and entities,
- The consultation approach which consists of programming interventions with the stakeholders concerned and which takes into account the time and means factors,
- The inclusive approach which reflects a common vision and a feeling of belonging to a community with which we feel united and we share interests.

In the organization of the implementation of this program, an interministerial steering committee is planned, which is the body for guidance, planning and monitoring-evaluation. It is also the decision-making body.

There will also be a National Implementation Committee which is responsible for planning and developing the projects identified in the Program.

Finally, there will be provincial, communal and village execution cells.

The implementation of this Program requires the intervention of several actors, namely state and non-state actors, the Burundian diaspora and international actors.

To finance this Program, it will be necessary to draw on all possible sources of financing: the public sector, the private sector, technical and financial partners, innovative financing mechanisms, etc.

At the end of the debate, the Program was adopted with, among other recommendations, to the ministries concerned by the main lines of intervention to come together to develop an action plan for the operationalization of this Program.

For better ownership and easy understanding by the population, it was recommended to translate this Program into Kirundi.

2. Public Investment Program (PIP) 2021-2024, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning

Burundi has equipped itself with a planning tool, namely the National Development Plan 2018-2027 as well as its Priority Action Plan 2018-2022.

Its execution requires multisectoral efforts, but also the support of Burundi's development partners.

The Ministry in charge of economic planning has, within its remit, the mission of preparing annually the Public Investment Program which translates the strategic orientations of the National Development Plan into operational programs and projects.

This 2021-2024 Public Investment Program has been aligned with the National Development Plan and is much more interested in sectors than in ministries because, even if the ministries change their name, the sectors or areas of intervention included in the National Development Plan remain intact.

4

Given the Government's desire to prioritize high impact programs and projects, the 2021-2024 Public Investment Program has placed great emphasis on projects under study and projects in preparation. The idea is to set up a bank of projects per sector, so that it can serve as an advocacy tool with partners.

The projects and programs eligible for the first year are:

- Projects included in the National Development Plan with feasibility studies;
- Projects and programs that have been the subject of agreements and compatible with the Government's priorities;
- Projects of more than 5 years having been the subject of an evaluation justifying their maintenance;
- Projects with well-informed project sheets.

The cost of the 2021-2024 Public Investment Program is estimated at 2.869 billion BIF.

During the debate, the Council made the following observations, among others:

- It is necessary to equip the Department in charge of Planning in the Ministry of Finance so that it is able to build the capacities of the staff in charge of Planning in the ministries;
- The department responsible for planning in a ministry must be stabilized and monitor the preparation of the PIP on a daily basis. The Planning Service should be placed at the level of the Office of the Minister;
- It must be ensured that the projects submitted by the different ministries are found in this PIP if they are eligible;
- It is necessary to show the concrete achievements in the last Public Investment Program;
- Each Ministry must develop its sector investment plan;

•It is necessary to ensure that each ministry is present in each municipality of the country to follow the activities concerning it for an effective decentralization of the Ministries.

The Council asked that the document be brought back to the Council of Ministers after integration of the elements concerning the Ministries which would have been omitted.

3. Draft decree on the creation, missions, organization and functioning of the institutional framework for the implementation and monitoring-evaluation of the National Development Plan (PND Burundi 2018-2027), presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

This draft decree aims to set up the bodies for coordination and monitoring-evaluation of the implementation of the National Development Plan in order to clarify the responsibilities of each other.

The institutional framework for coordinating the implementation of the National Development Plan provides for two bodies, namely:

- The National Steering and Coordination Committee for development policies and programs under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister.
- Ministries and operational technical structures for sector and local implementation and monitoring-evaluation.

These bodies will carry out their missions in collaboration with the various partners involved in various sectors of national life.

The National Steering Committee will have a technical secretariat that will work with the various existing units in charge of planning, programming and monitoring-evaluation.

The monitoring of the National Development Plan is carried out by the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning through the Technical Secretariat.

The Ministry in charge of Community Development will ensure the execution of the National Development Plan at the local level while the ministries and sectoral structures will implement it while ensuring regular monitoring in their respective sectors.

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted after having undergone some alterations.

4. Note on the eligibility criteria and procedures for granting the guarantee from the Impulse, Guarantee and Support Fund (FIGA), presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

Through Decree No.100 / 038 of February 18, 2021 amending Decree No.100 / 116 of April 21, 2015 creating the Impulse and Guarantee and Support Fund (FIGA), the Government wanted to demonstrate the commitment to support innovative projects submitted by young people and women in growth sectors.

Indeed, one of the main challenges encountered by the project promoter in Burundi is the lack of collateral to be granted a bank loan.

The core of FIGA's activities is the granting of guarantees to bankable projects through the Youth Investment Bank and the Women's Bank.

As the FIGA Board of Directors has not yet been set up to be able to validate the products and services offered by the Fund and that the 2020-2021 budget year is advanced, it is necessary to propose the criteria for eligibility for guarantees from FIGA to the authority for validation so that the Youth Bank can start granting loans to young people who need a guarantee.

There are three types of guarantee, namely:

- The so-called “individual” guarantee model, in which there is a direct relationship between the Guarantee Fund, the beneficiary of the guarantee and the Bank,
- The so-called "portfolio" guarantee model where the Guarantee Fund agrees with the bank to act as guarantor for a global amount and for a specific type of potential borrowers,
- The “mediated” guarantee model of a microfinance organization, in which a microfinance organization obtains the guarantee from the Guarantee Fund and borrows from a bank to lend in the form of micro-loans to micro-borrowers or peasants.

This is the subject of this Note.

After discussions and debate, the Council adopted the portfolio guarantee model. In the same vein, and in order to make all the parties, namely the beneficiaries and the Bank, accountable, and to bring the Bank to more vigilance in the processing of files and to get involved in collection, guarantees will be granted from the following way:

- Projects of one (1) million to 10 million will be covered by the guarantee at 100%.
- Projects of 10 million to 30 million will be covered by the guarantee at 80%, the 20% being borne by the beneficiary and the Bank at a rate of 10% each.
- Projects of 30 million to 50 million will be covered by the guarantee at 50%, the Bank and the beneficiary bearing 25% each.

5. Draft decree amending decree n ° 100/082 of 12 October 2020 on the missions, organization and functioning of the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security, presented by the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security.

Decree No. 100/082 on the missions, organization and functioning of the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security establishes the list of institutions attached to or under the supervision of the Ministry.

This decree failed to mention the Rural Micro-Credit Fund (FMCR) among these structures.

This project corrects this shortcoming.

In addition, the decree in force had provided for two Directorates, namely the Directorate for the Mobilization of Communal Resources depending on the Directorate General for Community Development and Decentralization and another Directorate for Municipal Finance within the Directorate General of Administration and Management.

It was noted that these two Departments have the same missions.

In order to avoid overlaps, this project proposes to retain a single Directorate, namely the Municipal Finance Directorate.

After the debate, the draft was adopted with some corrections.

6. Draft decree amending Decree No. 100/158 of 23 September 2008 on the organization and functioning of the Rural Micro-Credit Fund (FMCR), presented by the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security.

The financing of production activities in rural areas is an acute problem. The peasants especially experience three kinds of difficulties:

- Very low design capacity for bankable projects
- Lack of collateral that may be of interest to banks and financial institutions
- Inability to cope with the exorbitant interest rates charged by conventional financing systems

However, it is difficult to initiate an increase in rural production without promoting the creation of micro-projects that allow the monetization of the countryside.

To resolve this problem, the Government has set up a credit system that takes these constraints into account, in this case the Rural Microcredit Fund created in 2002, and reorganized in 2008.

The Ministry which supervised the Rural Microcredit Fund no longer exists. To this end, the decree organizing this Fund must be reviewed, specifying that it is placed under the supervision of the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security.

In addition, the project proposes that the departments that make up the Fund be changed to Services in order to reduce costs for rational management, and thus integrate the maximum of the population into the financial circuit.

After analysis, the project was adopted after having undergone some alterations.

7. Draft decree on the creation, structure, missions, organization and functioning of the Provincial Directorates of Family and Social Development, presented by the Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender.

The Family and Community Development Centers have undergone, over the last decades, significant changes on the institutional and structural levels which have not allowed them to function in a stable manner.

However, experience has shown that the success of the ministry's programs and activities largely depends on the action of these centers.

Considered as promoters of community initiatives and called upon to constantly ensure the promotion of community and social development, it is necessary that the missions, role and responsibilities of these centers be redefined to make them more effective.

It is within this framework that decree n ° 100/084 of October 12, 2020 on the missions, organization and functioning of the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender has set up these centers into Directorates. Provincial of Family and Social Development as decentralized structures of the Ministry. This project determines their organization and functioning.

The Council of Ministers had analyzed this project and returned it with, among other things, recommendations to comply with the organizational chart of the Ministry and to ensure that this structure does not induce additional budgetary impact.

At the end of the debate, the project was adopted with certain alterations with, among other things, the recommendation to strengthen the Provincial Directorate with units which deal with the areas covered by the Ministry, namely: national solidarity, social affairs, human rights and Gender, under the coordination of the Provincial Director. There will be no recruitment of staff as redeployment will be carried out at the Ministry level, or such staff will be sought in other ministries, if necessary.

8. Draft decree on the reorganization and functioning of the Central Purchase of Generic Essential Medicines, Medical Devices and Laboratory Materials of Burundi "CAMEBU", presented by the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS.

Created in 2000, the main mission of CAMEBU was "to ensure a good supply of essential generic drugs, medical devices, products and laboratory materials necessary for the proper functioning of public and private health facilities and pharmacies".

Today, several reasons militate in favor of changing the decree creating CAMEBU:

- Its name, which only entrusts it with the supply of generic drugs, whereas now it is called upon to import other non-generic products
- Several changes that have taken place since 2000 in the pharmaceutical sector in which CAMEBU operates, in particular the establishment of the pharmaceutical law, the creation of ABREMA, etc.
- The concern to align with the standards of other purchasing centers that are members of the Association of Central Purchasing Centers for Essential Medicines (ACAME), of which CAMEBU is also a member. Thus, the Technical Department was split into two Departments, namely: the Pharmaceutical Supply Department and the Stock Management Department.

This project takes all these elements into account to reorganize CAMEBU.

After the analysis, the project was adopted after having undergone some alterations.

It was recommended, among other things, that the drugs obtained in the form of donations be used mainly for free healthcare.

9. Any Other Business

▪ Council members discussed the issue of decentralization of the administration of public services.

After having toured the Ministries on the state of play of this decentralization, it is observed that the situation is as follows:

- There are ministries where decentralization has already reached the level of the Communes, and where they only need strengthening in terms of staff and resources.

- There are Ministries where decentralization is conditioned by the nature of the activities that take place in the Province or in the Municipality.

- There are Ministries where decentralization is necessary but where it has not yet started. In this case, these ministries would have to mobilize the necessary resources and give themselves a timetable to make this decentralization effective.

To this end, the members of the Council were informed that a study is underway at the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security to see how to make the decentralization of the administration effective, so that each ministry is found in the Commune.

This was an opportunity to recall that parastatal companies or personalized state administrations are assimilated to decentralized state services, and that Ministers must ensure that they carry out their missions correctly.

▪ The Council of Ministers has taken cognizance of the accusations of certain organizations tending to involve state structures in acts of trafficking in human

beings, starting from cases of women and girls intercepted in the direction of the Gulf countries.

After analyzing the situation, the Council of Ministers noted that there is no trafficking in human beings in Burundi. However, as the right to freedom of movement (coming and going) is recognized in Burundi, the Council of Ministers recognizes that there are people who go to the Gulf countries in search of work. They are of three categories:

- Those who go there in due form with regular documents;
- Those who go there without documents or with false documents;
- Those who benefit either from the complicity or the lightness of certain State agents in the processing of cases, to obtain documents when they are not entitled to them.

The Council of Ministers recalled that there are no state structures involved in such acts. If one or the other agent of the state is guilty of such or such breach, he is strictly punished on an individual basis, according to the law.

The Council of Ministers urged the Ministry of Justice to be careful and vigilant in characterizing this kind of offense.

The Council of Ministers also reiterated its commitment to respect for human rights in general, and in the fight against trafficking in human beings in particular. This is evidenced by the related international instruments that it has ratified, as well as the implementation of Law No. 1/28 of 29 October 2014 on the prevention and repression of trafficking in persons and the protection of victims of human trafficking.

▪ Finally, the Council of Ministers was informed about an underground campaign orchestrated by certain organizations to discourage the population

from being tested for the coronavirus so that it spreads so that, in the end, the Government is forced to proceed with the vaccination campaign.

The Council of Ministers reiterated its conviction that the only way to prevent yourself against the coronavirus is screening as well as compliance with barrier measures. Vaccination can only be considered when the World Health Organization has officially confirmed its effectiveness. Indeed, until now, even in countries where vaccination has been carried out, vaccinated people are still confined in the same way as others.

Done at Bujumbura, April 22nd, 2021

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

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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