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Burundi acquires new Presidential Office: "NtareRushatsi House"



On Friday, September 27, 2019, the President of the Republic H.E Pierre Nkurunziza inaugurated the new presidential office called "NtareRushatsi" located on the Gasenyi hill in Mutimbuzi commune in the province of Bujumbura. The ceremonies took place in the presence of several high personalities of the country as well as diplomats accredited in Bujumbura. The ceremonies began with a guided tour of the buildings housing the new Presidential Office.

In his introductory statement, the Head of the Civil Cabinet at the Presidency of the Republic, Mr. Gabriel Nizigama, paid tribute to the Head of State for having undertaken and realized the project of the construction of this Presidential Office which he dedicated to the first King of Burundi Ntare Rushatsi Cambarantama. Mr. Gabriel Nizigama said that this office will be considered as a monument that will serve as a model for all the Presidents of the Republic who will succeed the current

President, HE Pierre Nkurunziza.

According to the Head of the Civil Cabinet at the Presidency of the Republic, the President of the Republic H.E Pierre Nkurunziza is the first visionary, humble Burundi Head of State who achieved what the other Heads of State had not yet achieved. Burundian Heads of State worked in rented offices after 57 years of independence.

As for the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Burundi who invested in the construction of this Presidential Office, Ambassador Li Changli, he was satisfied with the good bilateral relations between Burundi and his country, which is injecting significant support in many sectors of life in Burundi, including health, education, agriculture and many others.

Ambassador Li Changli referred to other activities carried out by China in Burundi, activities that are part of supporting Burundi in development and the construction of dams. Ambassador Li Changli said that his country will always remain at the sides of Burundi. The official inauguration speech of this new building was delivered by the President of the Republic of Burundi HE Pierre Nkurunziza. He praised the bilateral relations between Burundi and China, a friendly country of Burundi that contributed a lot to the construc-

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tion of this Presidential Office.

The Head of State returned to the qualities of King Ntare Rushatsi Cambarantama to whom we dedicated this building, the king of the wrens, a king whom the Head of State considers as the true father of the nation and the guarantor Burundian justice.

According to HE Pierre Nkurunziza, the Government will continue to build buildings that will house the administrative offices from the base to the summit. He took the opportunity to thank those who are already at work.

The Head of State recalled that Burundi is today the result of the bravery and valor of King NtareRushatsi and other Burundians who gave themselves

body and soul so that Burundi has the image that he has today.

The President of the Republic HE Pierre Nkurunziza recommended to those who will succeed him to erect on this same site other infrastructures that will house the Presidential Palace.

Several high officials of the country had taken part in the inauguration ceremonies of the Presidential Office of Gasenyi. These include the President of the National Assembly, the President of the Burundian Senate, the 2nd Vice President of the Republic, the Burundian Ombudsman, Diplomats accredited in Bujumbura, and son on. (source: www.rtnb.bi)

The President of the Republic inaugurates various infrastructures in Gatumba



The President of the Republic HE Pierre Nkurunziza proceeded on Thursday, September 26, 2019 at the inauguration of various infrastructures in the Gatumba Zone of the Commune of Mutimbuzi in the province of Bujumbura, as part of the celebration of the 57th anniversary of the independence of Burundi.

The inauguration of these infrastructures began on the Vugizo hill in Mutimbuzi commune where the Head of State inaugurated infrastructures, including a center for the transit and quarantine of cattle coming from abroad and a modern slaughterhouse, located on this same site.

This transit center was built by the project of rehabilitation and strengthening of livestock infrastructure with funding from BADEA (Arab Bank for Economic

Development in Africa).

After this transit center, the Head of State HE Pierre Nkurunziza inaugurated the Gatumba Hospital of the sanitary district of Isale, erected on the Warubondo hill in Mutimbuzi commune of the province of Bujumbura. According to the Provincial Medical Director Dr. Joël Nibigira, this hospital is equipped with consultation rooms, maternity, hospital rooms and a transit and isolation center in case of epidemics.

Dr. Joël Nibigira said that this hospital nevertheless faces a need for equipment including maternity service where an anesthesia machine and operating table for caesareans are missing. He reported that these devices are more than necessary because this Gatumba hospital is remote from Rushubi District Hospital where patients can be referred.

(source: www.rtnb.bi)

The Senate of Burundi unanimously approves 4 draft laws



Burundi's Senate met in a plenary session in Gitega on Thursday, September 26, 2019 under the aegis of its President, the Very Honorable Révérien Ndikuriyo. The Senate analyzed and adopted four bills, all of which were presented by the Minister of Trade and Industry, Jean Marie Niyokindi.

The first bill analyzed is the draft law ratifying by the Republic of Burundi the agreement establishing the free trade zone between COMESA, EAC and SADC, signed in Sharm El Shikh in Egypt on June 10, 2015.

In his explanatory memorandum, the Minister of Trade and Industry told the Senators that Burundi has a clear interest in ratifying this agreement to allow it to have access to the market of the 26 countries of the tripartite region and thus have a legal basis for continuing negotiations and seeking funding for tripartite projects and programs of its interest.

Secondly, Senators analyzed the draft law ratifying by the Republic of Burundi the amended Article 24.2 (a) of the Protocol Establishing the Customs Union of the East African Community. The Minister in charge of Trade recalled that Burundi began the implementation of the customs union of the East African community, on July 10, 2009.

The Senators, in third place, treated the bill, ratifying by the Republic of Burundi, the protocol amending the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization.

Finally, the Senate analyzed the draft law ratifying by the

Republic of Burundi the protocol amending the agreement on aspects of intellectual property rights relating to trade.

After the clarifications provided to Senators by the Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr. Jean Marie Niyokindi, the Senators unanimously approved all these bills ratifying by the Republic of Burundi.

Before analyzing the bills presented by the Minister in charge of Trade, the senators approved the list of Candidates to the Superior Council of the Judiciary sent by the Head of State at the same time President of this Council. The Curriculum Vitae of the members were presented by the Minister in charge of Justice, Madam Aimée Laurentine Kanyana.

This team is composed of ten people including six men and four women. Amongthem, seven are Hutu and three are Tutsi.

The Superior Council of Magistracy is composed of 13 people. The President of the Council is the Head of State, his Vice is the President of the Supreme Court, the Minister in charge of Justice is Secretary of this Council.

(source: www.rtnb.bi)

The National Assembly analyzes and adopts the draft law amending the agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation (WTO)



The National Assembly met on Tuesday 24 September 2019 at the Kigobe Chamber, under the chairmanship of the Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, the Very Honorable Pascal Nyabenda. It was to analyze the bill to ratify the Protocol Amending the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The Minister of Trade and Industry Jean Marie Nyokindi was the guest of the day to give explanations on this bill.

In his explanatory memorandum, the Minister in charge of trade has stated that the World Trade Organization was established by the agreement concluded in Marrakesh on April 15, 1994. It is the framework for negotiations between members about multilateral trade relations with respect to matters covered by the agreements contained in the Annexes to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements.

It was in 2004 that the WTO members agreed to launch the trade facilitation negotiations, the Minister for Trade explained, noting that these negotiations were also aimed at increasing technical assistance and trade capacity-building and to improve effective cooperation between customs authorities and other authorities involved in trade facilitation and compliance with customs procedures.

At the level of the East African community (EAC), the EAC member countries are working in synergy and a regional trade facilitation committee has already been set up at the EAC secretariat. Thus, all EAC member countries have already ratified the agreement with the exception of Burundi.

Burundi therefore has the advantage of ratifying this agreement, he said, because it has a considerable impact on the simplification and harmonization of international trade procedures that a developing country like Burundi needs to accelerate movement and clearance of these goods. Hence, there is an urgent need for Burundi to ratify this protocol.

After analysis and exchange, this bill ratifying the Protocol amending the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization was unanimously adopted by 100 Deputies who were present at the Kigobe Chamber.

(source: www.rtnb.bi)

Start of construction works for Jiji and Murembwe plants



The 2nd Vice President of the Republic HE Joseph Butore, accompanied by the Minister in charge of Energy, laid the first stone on Monday, September 23, 2019 for the construction of two hydroelectric power plants in Jiji and Murembwe. It was on Muheka Hill in Songa Commune in Bururi Province.

According to the Minister in charge of Energy Mr. IrCôme Manirakiza, this is a project of the Government of Burundi that aims to increase hydropower

generation capacity, a promising solution to the problem facing the country in energy. He said the supply of electricity in Burundi is extremely limited. Experts in this sector estimate that the current demand is estimated at more than 70 MWT while the supply does not exceed 35 MWT for the moment, said Mr. IrCômeManirakiza.

He pointed out that these Jiji and Murembwe plants will have a combined capacity of 49.5 MWT, which will double the national supply and many Burundians would benefit from this project of such great importance.

In his speech, the 2nd Vice-President of the Republic H.E Joseph Butore said that thanks to this gigantic project, the population of this locality will be able to benefit from the employment, which will contribute to decrease the rate of unemployment. He requested that the work be completed within

the agreed deadlines.

The 2nd Vice-President of the Republic also pointed out that this project of construction of the Jiji and Murembwe plants falls within the framework of the National Development Plan, in its chapter relating to energy growth. And remember that access to energy is essential for development.

The partners that contributed to the construction of these two dams are the World Bank, the European Investment Bank, the African Development Bank, the Government of Burundi .

Construction work on the Jiji and Murembwe plants will be carried out by two Italian and Egyptian companies. According to forecasts, this work will end in 2023.

(source: www.rtnb.bi)

Evaluation of political party and administration commitments for peaceful elections



The leaders of the approved political parties in Burundi and provincial governors met in Bujumbura on Wednesday, September 24, 2019 under the auspices of the Minister of the Interior, Patriotic Training and Local Development Mr. Pascal Barandagiye, to evaluate the implementation in accordance with their commitments, for a favorable environment for the 2020 elections.

During the meeting, political party leaders and provincial governors shared the state of play of political party coexistence and relations between political parties and the administration.

Provincial governors have indicated in turn that the meetings they held since June 2019 with provincial leaders of political parties have borne fruit. According to provincial governors, political party cohabitation is generally good.

Nevertheless, most of them have indexed members of the CNL party of the Honorable Agathon Rwasa, accusing them of indulging in acts of provocation and non-compliance with the law governing political parties.

Political party leaders, for their part, said that clashes between members of their political parties have diminished since meetings between political parties and the administration were organized.

Some leaders of political parties have praised the attitude of administrative staff who intervene quickly when clashes erupt between supporters of different political parties. Others have rather denounced the biased character of the administrators who favor the party in power at the expense of other political formations.

In provinces where misunderstandings exist between political parties or between political parties and the administration, the Minister in charge of Home Affairs has recommended to provincial governors and political party leaders to meet as soon as possible to find common ground.

He also recommended holding such evaluation meetings once a month at the provincial level and twice a month at the communal level.

In order to put an end to clashes between members of political parties, the Secretary General of the CNDD-FDD ruling party, Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye proposed to

severely punish anyone guilty of segregation or discrimination based on belonging to such or to another political party.

As for the executive secretary of the CNL, a party that was cited during this meeting as being at the root of the difficulties encountered in political parties, he asked the participants to avoid globalization and to consider criminal responsibility as being personal and individual.

For the Minister of the Interior, Patriotic Training and Local Development, the preparation of the peaceful elections of 2020 is a watchword that guides the administrative and explains the holding once a month of a meeting between the high-level administration with political party leaders. He welcomed the fact that since June, the situation has completely changed.

He said the clashes between members of different political parties have decreased by 98%, reserving the 2% to isolated cases of people who get drunk and who, as a result, commit abuses. "Apart from isolated cases, the situation is normal," said the Minister in charge of Home Affairs.

"The bottom line is that the political parties have agreed that the person who commits an offense is punished according to the law and individually and treated as such instead of pretending that it is his party of origin who is targeted", continued the Minister.

He took the opportunity to urge justice to crack down

on all violators of the peaceful coexistence of political parties. For the Minister, anyone who engages in acts of violence by considerations that take into account differences in membership of political parties should be tried in flagrant proceedings.

During the meeting, some governors and leaders of political parties lambasted the Catholic Episcopal Council's statement to the Christians, saying that the situation described in this letter does not prevail and recommended that religious leaders be invited to participate in this kind of activity meetings to keep them abreast of developments in the political situation.

In this regard, the Minister Pascal Barandagiye said that the content of this letter is really out of touch with reality on the ground, saying that the Bishops worked on the basis of the reports of two or three years ago.

Minister Pascal Barandagiye who considers these prelates as disconnected from reality has nevertheless promised to associate them now if they wish, in this dynamic towards peaceful elections.

(source: www.rtnb.bi)

Burundi / UNHCR: Burundi is ready to welcome all refugees who want to return



The Minister of the Interior, Patriotic Training and Local Development Mr. Pascal Barandagiye animated on Thursday, September 26, 2019, a press briefing to discuss the results of the mission he carried out in Tanzania as part of the repatriation refugees.

Mr. Pascal Barandagiye said that in the visit to the refugee camps, 7000 have registered to return and Burundi is waiting for the UNHCR to provide ways to return them.

This voluntary repatriation movement of an average of 2,000 refugees per week will therefore start no later than the beginning of October 2019, concluded Mr. Pascal Barandagiye. (source: www.rtnb.bi)

Spokespersons of different state institutions host a public broadcast in Rumonge province



Spokespersons of the various institutions of the country animated on Wednesday, September 25, 2019 in Rumonge province, a public program to express on the various issues of journalists and the population, issues concerning different sectors of national life.

In the introduction, the Spokesman of the President of the Republic, Mr. Jean Claude Karerwa Ndenzako, conveyed the greetings of the President of the Republic H. E Pierre Nkurunziza to the population.

He said that the President of the Republic thanked the youth for the development work carried out in the summer camps. He urged the students who have just finished the holidays to acquire the knowledge that will enable them to get a job and advised them not to repeat the unworthy behavior at the end of the school year, citing as example those who have torn their clothes in public.

The President of the Republic, HE Pierre Nkurunziza also urges the population to get down to development work, to work in cooperatives and especially to be

wary of the reports produced by the detractors of Burundi and its leaders.

To the question related to the message of the Catholic Church about political intolerance in Burundi, the spokesman of the Government Mr. Prosper Ntahorwamiye said that if the Church speaks about the life of the country, it is a sign that democracy exists in the country. "Both have expressed themselves, the turn of the Government has not yet arrived, the relations between Burundi and the Catholic Church are good," he said.

Presidential Spokesman Mr. Jean Claude Karerwa Ndenzako took the opportunity to ask the Church to participate actively in the organization of the 2020 elections, through the contributions and observation of these elections.

Regarding the various reports produced by various committees, Mr. Prosper Ntahorwamiye said that these are false reports that taint Burundi and stressed that peace and security are a reality in the country.

Asked if there would have been a meeting between the Government and members of CNARED, Mr. Prosper Ntahorwamiye mentioned that the dialogue on the sharing of power will no longer exist, and those who want to return can do so like other refugees and join existing political parties or create others.

With regard to the issue of the freezing of the annals and other allowances, the spokesman of the Government specified that the file was analyzed in the Council of Ministers but that the commission has not yet completed its work.

On the question of political intolerance of young people affiliated with political parties, the spokesman for the Ministry of the Interior, Patriotic Training and Local Development said that this phenomenon has been noticed in different parts of the country. He said that these young people appeared in court and said that the barbarity committed was not sponsored by their parties.

Regarding the controversial establishment of the Independent Provincial Electoral Commissions, the spokesman of the Independent National Electoral Commission, Mr. Philippe Nzobonariba, reminded that members of this commission should not necessarily be members of political parties.

With regard to the issue of Congolese expelled, the spokesperson of the Ministry of Public Security OPP1 Pierre Nkurikiye replied that it is a routine Police work to expel people who are irregulars in Burundi as other countries such as Zambia, Tanzania and the DRC that have recently done so for Burundian nationals residing in these countries without residence docu-

ments.

At the question to know if Burundian refugees from Tanzania will be repatriated by force, the Spokesman for the Ministry of Interior, Patriotic Training and Local Development stressed that those concerned had applied for asylum but have not had a favorable response.

Regarding some songs that asked the President of the Republic H.E Pierre Nkurunziza to continue to lead the country during the passage of the torch of peace across the country, Mr. Jean Claude Karerwa Ndenzako said that the President will not be elected; he said it several times even recently when the torch was closed in Rumonge.

For students who tore their clothes, Mr. Juma Edouard, Spokesperson for the Ministry in charge of Education, said that the commission has completed the investigation. Mr. Jean Claude Karerwa Ndenzako stressed that the file is treated by the different institutions starting with the Presidency of the Republic who deplored this behavior and the National Security Council.

(source: www.rtnb.bi)

Distribution of piglets to the population in Gitega province



On Monday 23rd September 2019, the natives of the Gitega province distributed 185 piglets to the Sangwe cooperatives on the hills of the Buraza and Bukirasazi communes.

In Buraza commune, 95 piglets were distributed to 19 sangwe cooperatives. Each cooperative received 5. This distribution took place also in Bukirasazi commune. 90 piglets were granted to the 18 cooperatives of this commune.

The Honorable Georges Nshimirimana, who represented the natives of Gitega Province, said that this

project is an initiative of the natives of this province who wanted to support the population grouped into cooperatives. The goal is to help them fight against poverty, said Honorable Georges Nshimirimana.

He appreciated the work in groups of the population which has a lot of advantages related in particular to the fight against famine. He urged the beneficiaries to take good care of these piglets to form chains of solidarity. The beneficiaries warmly thanked the natives of Gitega province for this support, which will allow them to fertilize their fields. These beneficiaries, for their part, appealed to the inhabitants of these communes who have not yet done so, to join cooperatives to contribute together to the development of their localities.

This piglet distribution project will cover all the municipalities of Gitega province. 9 out of 11 municipalities have already benefited from this aid.

(source: www.rtnb.bi)

Cardiovascular disease: a threat to health (Dr C. Nyamuzangura)



On the eve of International Heart Day, celebrated on September 29th of each year, the President of the Burundian Society of Cardiology (SBC), Dr. Constantin Nyamuzangura, co-hosted a press briefing with the Program Director on Tuesday, September 24, 2019. Integrated National Chronic Non-Communicable Disease Control Program, Ministry of

Public Health and AIDS, Dr. Niyonzima Étienne. The theme chosen this year is "Let's be the heroes of the heart".

During this press briefing, Dr. Constantin Nyamuzangura revealed that this international day of the heart will be celebrated on 28th September 2019 in Karusi province.

Dr. Nyamuzangura said that cardiovascular disease is more than a threat at a time when 31% of patients in hospital beds suffer from these diseases and more than 17.9 million people die from these diseases every year worldwide.

In Karusi, the ceremonies marking this celebration will be characterized by several activities including physical walking, screening. It will also be an opportunity to raise the awareness of the leaders, the populations and the authorities of the Ministry for more awareness of these pathologies.

(source: www.rtnb.bi)

The AFJO for the extension of judicial assistance for vulnerable people



The Burundian Association of Women Journalists (AFJO), in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, organized a workshop for media officials on Friday, September 20, 2019 in Bujumbura. The aim was to explain to the media the Ministry in charge of

Justice's program on legal aid for vulnerable people. Speakers told reporters the content of the Ministry in charge of Justice's program on legal aid to vulnerable people. Some people are victims of ignorance of the law or lack of means and are not able to defend themselves before the courts, which is why they need lawyers to defend themselves, said the speaker. Journalists are therefore called upon to popularize the content of this program so that litigants are aware that the Ministry in charge of Justice could give them lawyers. (source: www.rtnb.bi)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Communication Department

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