



#### The Head of State meets Provincial Governors



The President of the Republic H.E Pierre Nkurunziza held a meeting with the Governors of the provinces on Tuesday February 04, 2020 in the province of Ngozi. During this meeting, the Head of State and Government has spoken about the assessment of the security during the celebration of the festivities of the end and beginning of the year, the management of garbage and the strong pluviometry, etc. As far as the management of garbage is concerned, the Head of State has invited entrepreneurs to invest in the transformation of it in energy.

At the end of this meeting which was held behind closed doors, the Deputy Spokesperson of the President of the Republic Mr. Alain DiomèdeNzeyimana indicated that all the participants in this meeting were delighted that the end of the year celebrations were celebrated safely across the country. According to

Mr. Alain DiomèdeNzeyimana, to cope with the heavy rainfall which is shaking the East African region in large part, the Head of State first congratulated the Burundians for the level of solidarity that Burundians reached in those days, where effects of heavy rains have touched a part of the population. Regarding the management of garbage, the Governor of Cibitoke said that there are entrepreneurs who have started to transform it into energy. To conclude, the President of the Republic invited the Provincial Governors to follow closely the teachings of different churches as Burundi approaches the general elections of 2020.

On the sidelines of this meeting, the Head of State H.E Pierre Nkurunziza granted food assistance to the center for young people living with a disability called "Jehokuki" located in the locality of Vyerwa in the commune and province of Ngozi. This assistance consisted of 1 ton of rice, 1 ton of potatoes and 500 kg of beans. This center accommodates 89 young people living with disabilities. The Deputy Representative of this association "JehoKuki" Mr. Anatole Ntanyungu, thanked the

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Head of State and the Government who has not stopped showing charitable gesture to this center

since its creation. (Source: RTNB and edited by the MFA-Newsroom)

## Sunday prayer: The Presidential Couple joins the Christians of the Rock Church



The Presidential Couple joined on Sunday 02 February 2020, the Christians of the Rock Church on Buye hill in Mwumba commune in the province of Ngozi during the Sunday prayer. In his preaching, H.E the President Pierre Nkurunziza announced that the leaders who will be elected during the 2020 elections, will be extraordinary leaders, because he said, in 2018, the Burundians gave first place to God in the fundamental law that governs Burundi. In her greetings, the First Lady H.E Denise Nkurunziza revealed to the faithful of the rock church the watchword of this month of February, based on the word of God drawn from the gospel of Matthew 23: 11- 13, she invited the faithful to be servants because according to him, "whoever will rise will be lowered, and whoever will lower will be raised".

In his preaching today, after recalling that so many promises that God promised on Burundi have been raised since 2018 respectively during the prayers organized by the Presidential Family in Buye in Ngozi province and Itaba in Gitega province; the Head of State H.E Pierre Nkurunziza focused on the word of God drawn respectively in the book of Numbers 1: 1-4 and 16-19 and the gospel of Luke 7: 1-3 and 9-10. In the book of Numbers, the Lord spoke to Moses in the Sinai desert, in the tent of meeting,

the first day of the second month, as this Sunday coincides with the second day of the second month of the year 2020, he reminded the Head of State H.E Pierre Nkurunziza.

In this word, God exhorted Moses to enumerate the whole assembly of the children of Israel and the enumeration was done according to the divisions. According to the Head of State H.E Pierre Nkurunziza, Preacher of the day at the church of the Rock, Burundi like Israel at other times, made the count of its population to prepare for the electoral deadlines of 2020. Children having 18 and over have registered to participate in these upcoming elections.

Today, the leaders have entered to be designated in the various political formations. But it was not all the time that Burundians lived these moments, recalled the number one Burundian. According to him, the moments that Burundi is going through are moments guided by the Lord. H.E Pierre Nkurunziza then revealed that the 2020 elections will be extraordinary elections because, the Burundians have placed God in the foreground of the constitution promulgated in 2018. These are elections prepared and counted and guided in the straight line of God a- he clarified.

H.E President Pierre Nkurunziza recalled that statistics occupy a very important place in national life. That is why we do censuses, he said. He also revealed that from top to bottom, the leaders who will be elected in 2020 will be leaders, different from other leaders who have ruled the country, he insisted.

According to the Head of State H.E Pierre Nkurunziza, God will bless all the leaders who will be elected in 2020 from the bottom to the top. And to point out that among the leaders who were chosen in Israel, Moses was not one of them, his job was to guide the Jewish

people to cross the Red Sea, he said. He then exhorted the Christians of the Church of the Rock to elect by first trusting in God. Before participating in each poll, H.E Pierre Nkurunziza advised these Christians to pray first and to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit in order to choose a good leader. You will hear words from different leaders during the propaganda, but keep in yourselves, that you will choose in communion with God, keeping in your minds that you have entered to perform an action guided by the Lord, announced the Head of the State H.E Pierre Nkurunziza.

The prayer was closed by the Head of State H.E Pierre Nkurunziza where he implored the Almighty to

bless all the work of the country's leaders: parliamentarians, members of Government, Leaders of political parties, members of civilian societies, cooperatives, businessmen, entrepreneurs and all the population in general so that the country remains prosperous in all sectors of national life. He also prayed to God to guide Burundians to elect the right leaders in the 2020 elections.

To close, he promised to grant a ton of potatoes to the church of the Rock of Buye, as a way of thanking God for the good harvest that God granted to the Presidential Family during this past growing season.

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

### Ngozi: the Head of State thanks the Almighty for the harvest of his fields



The Head of State H.E Pierre Nkurunziza with his family proceeded on Saturday February 01, 2020 to harvest his fields located at the agro-pastoral complex of Rutanga in Gashikanwa commune in the province of Ngozi. Songs of thanksgiving marked these activities of the harvest of these potatoes. In his word of circumstance, the Head of State thanked the Almighty for this good harvest, he specified that they harvested more than 20 times what they sowed. May this good harvest be the source of blessings for Burundians in general and the Presidential Family in particular, he said. The Head of State also gave thanks to God for the good climate which characterized this growing season throughout the country despite the fact that there were a few places where the vagaries of the weather caused some damage.

According to the Head of State H.E Pierre Nkurunziza, all Burundians are called upon to contribute to the development of the country. It is in this context that President Pierre Nkurunziza announced that this good harvest is an eloquent sign which testifies that if the Burundian population works diligently, it can boost the national economy in a short period of time. At the time when God granted petroleum resources in other countries, H.E President Pierre Nkurunziza announced that for Burundi, God granted 9 months of cultivable season while there are other countries which spend 5 months or more without seeing a drop of rain. He invited the Burundians to work diligently and each time give thanks to God for so many benefits that he continues to grant to the country.

Note that apart from the harvested potatoes, various other crops are ready to be harvested in this agro-pastoral complex. (Source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))



**A delegation led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs met a delegation led by the President of the Configuration-Burundi of the Peacebuilding Commission in an exchange session.**



**T**his Monday 03<sup>rd</sup> February 2020, a delegation led by His Excellency Ambassador Ezéchiel NIBIGIRA, Minister of Foreign Affairs and composed by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Development Cooperation, the Minister of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender, the Minister of Justice, Civil Protection and Keeper of Seals, and the Minister of Youth, Posts and Information Technologies, met in a working session, a delegation led by His Excellency Ambassador JürgLauber, President of the configuration-Burundi of the Peacebuilding Commission accompanied by Mrs. Bintou Keita, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations for Africa.

These two delegations discussed the political situation, the security situation, socio-economic development and the voluntary return of Burundian refugees. According to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the political situation in the country is loaded by the preparations for the 2020 elections. Burundi is committed to the organization of free, transparent and democratic elections scheduled for May 20, 2020 as well as its determination to strengthen democracy, consolidate

peace and stability and achieve sustainable, harmonious and inclusive socio-economic development for the benefit of the people of Burundi.

For the liquidation process of the office of the Special Envoy, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Ezéchiel NIBIGIRA said that the Government of Burundi intends to initiate the procedure to determine together the duration of liquidation of this office through consultations with the competent services of the United Nations.

In the area of security, the Government of Burundi has made remarkable efforts to improve security conditions in the country. The security situation in Burundi is calm and stable throughout the national territory. The restoration of peace, stability and confidence in the country is transforming the national landscape. In order to prepare for securing the elections, a plan to secure the 2020 electoral process has been drawn up and training programs in several areas related to the elections are being implemented. Today all Burundians in their rich diversity feel safe and protected, participate freely in the po-

litical process, without restriction or fear, political and social discourse is conducted with mutual respect and with tolerance and acceptance of others, the Minister added.

In terms of development, Burundi is in the fight against poverty and the achievement of the sustainable development objectives. The Government of Burundi has prepared and finalized the new national development plan over a ten-year period from 2018 to 2027. The UN, through the country team and the configuration-Burundi and its partners are asked to support it in mobilizing the resources necessary to complement national efforts in the implementation of the new development strategy for Burundi.

With regard to the voluntary return of Burundian refugees, the Government of Burundi welcomes the massive and voluntary return of Burundian refugees who fled the country in 2015. Thousands of Burundians return by themselves without the assistance of the High Commissioner for Refugees from Tanzania, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo, which means the obvious manifestation of peace, tranquility, confidence and stability in the country.

In concluding, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Ezéchiel NIBIGIRA said that since Burundi is not a threat to peace and international security, the Burundian people once again reiterate their legitimate call to remove Burundi from the agenda of the United Nations Security Council. The Minister of the Foreign Affairs has also noted that arbitrarily keeping Burundi on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council, is in violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and that it is not a good attitude for the credibility of the Council. In Burundi, peace and security are stable and no longer something to demonstrate, he has added.

His Excellency Ambassador JürgLauber, President of configuration-Burundi of the Peacebuilding Commission and Mrs. Bintou Keita, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General for Africa commended Burundi's efforts to stabilize the peace and security in the country as well as the good preparations for the 2020 elections and they promised that they will be good Ambassadors for Burundi and that the United Nations will continue to cooperate with Burundi.



## Audience between H.E Gamaliel NKURUNZIZA, Ambassador of the Republic of Burundi and Hon. Jan Anthony Bruijn, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands



The 05<sup>th</sup> February 2020, the Ambassador of Burundi to the Netherlands H.E Gamaliel NKURUNZIZA, has paid a courtesy visit to the President of the Senate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Hon. Jan Anthony Bruijn.

During the visit, the Ambassador of Burundi to the Netherlands, H.E Gamaliel NKURUNZIZA explained the current political by putting a particular stress on security and the 2020 elections in Burundi. In addition, he has spoken about the relations between Burundi, the Netherlands and the European Union on the one hand, and between Burundi and the Region of the Large Lakes on the other hand.

After explaining to the Hon. Jan Anthony Bruijn, President of the Senate, that peace and security is a reality throughout Burundi, which allows the population to go for their daily activities in all the hills of the country, the Ambassador Nkurunziza insisted on political alternation at the top, initiated by the party



CNDD FDD, and this is a historical act of highest democratic value. Evidently, it is the first time in Burundi to see alternation on the top of the political party on Power. Indeed, on January 26<sup>th</sup> the CNDD-FDD EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS resulted in peaceful election of Mr. Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE as their candidate to the presidential election. Mr. Evariste

NDAYISHIMIYE is believed to be the right candidate for the party and for the country for many reasons: he is a man of integrity who promotes unity, justice and development, he said. His strong professional experience as a Minister of Interior, as Chief of the Office of the President and as Secretary General of the Ruling Party, all this increased his skills and knowledge to rule efficiently the country.

Coming back to elections, the Ambassador of Burundi reminded that the 2020 elections in Burundi will be more peaceful, more transparent and more inclusive. The increasing number of candidates justifies it. Indeed, for the first time since the coming of the democratic era has never happened before.

That was the result of the legal and organizational framework that the Government established. Indeed, the Electoral Code and its structures of coordination and executions on all the levels are established, as well as a consensual Roadmap between the political parties for the 2020 have been put in place.

H.E Gamaliel NKURUNZIZA also indicated the electoral process is progressing smoothly and successfully while allocated budget is available since that budget was financed by Burundians themselves, another historical event in Burundi history.

As far as relations between Burundi, the Netherlands and European Union concerned, the two authorities appreciated the cooperation and friendly relations which exist happily between Burundi and the Netherlands, we asked for the contribution of the Kingdom of the Netherlands so that the European Union removes all the sanctions which were taken wrongfully against Burundi and to support our country in order to implement our National Development Plan (PND 2018-2027). Burundi is a country full of opportunities in a varied range of domains, we need investors to come to Burundi and work together on a win – win basis.

Indeed, the motivations of these sanctions are unjust in the way that the elements referred to by the European Union are wrong comparatively to the real situation on ground in Burundi, because the respect of



Human rights, Good Governance, Freedom of Expression, democratic values and political space are but a reality.

In the light of this positive evolution, H.E Gamaliel NKURUNZIZA solicited the European Union again to stop these unilateral and unjust sanctions of which the needy population is the victim. He also asked the Netherlands in particular and the EU in general to reconsider their view on the security in Burundi. The 2015 events should not be their references anymore and Burundi should be removed from UN Agenda.

Concerning relationships within the Great Lakes Region, the Ambassador of Burundi in Holland ex-

plained to the Hon. President of the Senate, that Burundi lives in perfect harmony with all the countries of the region except with Rwanda. H.E Gamaliel NKURUNZIZA deplored this conflict situation with Rwanda. Rwanda continues to destabilize Burundi by setting up of social media to sow panic within the Burundian population.

Finally, this audience was also an opportunity to exchange on domestic and external policies for the common interests of Burundi and Holland. (**Source: Embassy of the Republic of Burundi of the Kingdom of the Netherlands**)

### The Ministry in charge of Human Rights presents an assessment of achievements



The Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender presented on Friday January 31, 2020, the assessment of the achievements of the year 2019.

As indicated by the Minister responsible of Social Affairs, 30,832 vulnerable patients were assisted, 86,843 vulnerable households and other victims of natural disasters were assisted with food and food supplies and

25,000 people in integrated rural villages which is health, the Ministry provided the service of access to health care to 5000 elderly people on the one hand. Also, 10,000 vulnerable households have benefited from health insurance cards.

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

### Burundi is ready to face the coronavirus epidemic

The Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS Dr. Thaddée Ndikumana gathered on Monday February 03, 2020 the partners in the field of health in particular the WHO, the UNICEF and the Chinese delegation to exchange on how to fight against Coronavirus epidemic in the event of the onset of this disease in Burundi. For prevention, the

Ministry in charge of Public Health recommends washing your hands especially in places where many people rub shoulders such as schools, markets etc.

The Minister Thaddée Ndikumana said that Burundi is ready to face this epidemic because the equipment used to detect and raise the temperature is the same



as that of the Ebola virus disease on site in Burundi.

He said China has taken steps to isolate foreign nationals who want to return to Burundi for 14 days. In case the passenger has symptoms like high temperature, coughing and runny nose, they should also spend 14 more days at Prince Regent Charles Hospital.

These measures taken by the WHO as the global emergency will help in the prevention of this disease, said Minister Thaddée Ndikumana. He said that Burundi would reactivate surveillance and hygiene measures by recommending washing their hands at least 3 times a day. (source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

### Preventive measures against the invasion of locusts



**T**he Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock hosted a press conference on Tuesday 04 February 2020. During this conference, Dr. Deo Guide Rurema, the Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Livestock made public the preventive measures against the invasion of the locusts already observed in the countries of the region.

Among the various prevention measures are the establishment of a multisectoral commission to coordinate interventions, made up of senior Ministry officials and partners actively involved in the agricultural sector, as well as the establishment of an alert system early for communication on possible invasions on said locusts. The Ministry in charge of Agriculture has already identified a few control methods, including mechanical control by collecting, chemical control using phytosanitary products. The Government of

Burundi through the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock would like to inform the Burundian population that this type of locust has not yet arrived on the national territory at present.

However, it calls on all technical services in this area as well as the Burundian population to remain vigilant and report any attack to the nearest Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock services.

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



## Local administrators called to familiarize themselves with ICTs



The Ministry of Youth, Posts and Information Technology organized on February 03, 2020 in the province of Rutana, a workshop to popularize and raise awareness of the National Policy for the Development of Information and Communication Technologies at the intention of the local Administrators of the provinces of Rutana, Makamba, Rumonge, Bururi and Ruyigi. The Government of Burundi initiated, in 1999, then adopted in July 2011 in the Council of Ministers the national policy for the development of ICTs for the period 2011-2025.

According to the Ministry of Youth, Posts and Information Technology Hon. Evelyn Butoyi, the National ICT Development Policy revolves around the objectives of the National Development Plan 2018-2027. She added that ICTs are a reality that materializes in the life of Burundians and undoubtedly become the catalysts of socioeconomic development through the administration.

The ultimate objective of the National ICT Development Policy is to create conditions conducive to the harmonious economic and social development of all regions, of all sectors of national life through ICTs, said the Minister in charge of ICTs.

As part of the implementation of the National ICT Development Policy, the Government of Burundi has implemented the fiber optic backbone over a distance of 800km to allow interprovincial connectivity in order to integrate ICTs into the local administration. It has also set up 5 provincial pilot single windows of Ngozi, Mwaro, Gitega, Bururi and Muyinga. According to the expert Mr. Pierre Ndamama, another step will be taken in terms of connectivity with 5 other one-stop shops.

According to him, the COMGOV (Government Communication) project was initiated in October 2013 with funding from the Government of Burundi with the support of the World Bank. He was then placed under the supervision of SETIC.

This project executed by BBS consisted of connecting 46 public institutions to BBS fiber optics and providing 100Mbps of internet capacity and 440Mbps of national capacity. Unfortunately, these are not yet used for lack of applications. Now there are 66 connected institutions, including universities, hospitals, ministries, provincial capitals (source: [www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

## Closing of the meeting of the General Commissioners of the revenue offices of the EAC countries



The meeting which brought together in Bujumbura the General Commissioners of the revenue offices of the countries of the East African community (EAC) since January 30, 2020 ended on Friday January 31, 2020. Several measures were taken during this meeting to improve revenue collection in member countries of this community.

The declaration sanctioning the work of this meeting was read by the Commissioner General of the Burundian revenue office, Mr. Audace Niyonzima. The statement said that meeting participants assessed the performance of the revenue offices of the five EAC countries that participated in the meeting.

In terms of performance, participants found that in all EAC countries, revenue collection increased on average by 11%. This is a good performance for all the countries of the community, continues the declaration.

The statement clarified that the challenges faced by EAC member countries that require joint efforts include the integrated computer system. To find a solution to this challenge, the meeting participants agreed to set up a joint team from the 6 countries to develop

an integrated IT system. This will reduce acquisition and maintenance costs but also facilitate the exchange of information between partner countries, the statement said.

The final declaration also indicated that the meeting had analyzed the problem of the single customs territory. Participants noted that there are cases of misappropriation of transit declarations. They found it necessary to set up a joint team to analyze how to deal with this fraud that is carried out in the single customs territory to maximize revenue. According to the content of this statement, the meeting also discussed the data that is used by the revenue offices and found that a joint team is needed to develop a data policy that will allow informed decisions.

Finally, the statement said that the meeting participants also analyzed questions related to the internal audit of the staff of the revenue offices. Kenya's experience has shown how investigations of tax and customs personnel are carried out. If there are diversions, the diverted assets are recovered and returned to the treasury. They agreed to set up a common strategy which would allow this type of investigation to be carried out on the staff working in the revenue of-



fices.

After analyzing the challenges that prevent offices from maximizing revenue within the East African community, participants found it necessary to create a joint committee to always analyze these issues, a

committee that will be inserted in the organization chart of the various EAC committees. They requested the assistance of the secretariat of this community for the establishment of this committee.

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

## The API calls on local and foreign investors to invest on Tanganyika Lake



The Investment Promotion Agency (API) organized on Friday January 31, 2020, in Bujumbura, a stakeholder and potential awareness workshop for investors on the investment opportunities offered by Lake Tanganyika.

API Director Mr. Désiré Musharitse said the workshop is part of an appeal to both local and foreign investors to invest in transportation and tourism on Lake Tanganyika. He also indicated that this lake offers several opportunities in terms of transport, including that of people and goods. "Dar-es-Salaam is the port of shipment for goods coming to Burundi," said Mr. Musharitse, explaining that the road route is more expensive compared to the lake route.

This is a great opportunity for investors to put their technical and financial sources in this lake transport sector, said the Director of the API.

In terms of tourism, Lake Tanganyika offers many opportunities in the sense that it connects Burundi and several bordering countries to this lake, and this could in some way facilitate trade between these

countries, he added.

Since Lake Tanganyika is an ecosystem teeming with many living things, the press wanted to know if the API has thought about protecting them. In this regard, Mr. Musharitse said that in their role as investment promotion facilitation agency, the projects that are presented take into account environmental and social standards. In addition, he said, there are, at the API level, specialists in charge of environmental aspects who study the projects before it is validated.

"We understand that if the environment is not protected, the lake will disappear and the investments we have made on the lake will be useless," said Mr. Musharitse.

According to him, this awareness-raising session was organized after noting the total ignorance of people about the opportunities that Lake Tanganyika can offer. (source: [www.abpinfo.com](http://www.abpinfo.com))



## CNS organizes meetings to revitalize joint safety committees



The National Security Council (CNS) organized on Friday, January 31, 2020 security meetings in the urban municipalities of Mukaza and Ntahangwa in order to call the joint security committees to be more vigilant in their neighborhoods to fight against all kinds of insecurity in this pre-electoral period.

As the Permanent Secretary of the CNS, Colonel Pierre Claver Nzisabira and the Assistant to the Minister of Home Affairs, Patriotic Training and Local Development, have indicated, there are people who, during the pre-electoral period, engaged in the propagation of rumors to destabilize the population.

The administrative and security officials as well as the members of the joint security committees therefore are called to fight against these rumors and any other form of crime including the so-called prophets who circulate in the city and who destabilize the population by their false prophecies, have- they -specified. In the urban commune of Mukaza, the population is facing an upsurge in banditry and criminals housed in a locality called Camp Musinga located between the Bwiza and Nyakabiga area. The speakers asked for the authorities' involvement in putting an end to this

situation.

The other strange situation is the large number of people who go looking for national identity cards. Sector leaders have been asked not to give it to anyone and to tell them that it is not imperative to have an identity card issued in Bujumbura to vote.

A similar meeting was organized in the urban commune of Ntahangwa to revitalize the joint security committees, where the observation is that in certain localities, those committees are almost non-existent.

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

## The CNC presents the monitoring report of the press organs working in Burundi



The National Communication Council (CNC) organized a meeting for media managers on Friday January 31, 2020. The objective of this meeting was to present to them the monitoring report of emissions for the last quarter of 2019 and to discuss the quality of their services in terms of collecting and processing information, in particular on respecting the balance some information.

The President of the CNC, Mr. Nestor Bankumukunzi urged the media to take into account the balance of information and to work in strict compliance with the law. He said that despite several pieces of advice, some media have turned a deaf ear to respecting the law governing the press. He cited in particular certain media which do not care about respect for morals.

He therefore invited the media to remain professional and to bear in mind that press freedom is essentially based on respect for the law, the contrary being rather detrimental to this freedom. Mr. Nestor Bankumukunzi also spoke of the delay in the distribution of press cards. He said that a commission had been set up to look into the matter so that each journalist had his card before the 2020 elections were held. He took the opportunity to challenge the journalists to prepare well for a good election coverage.

He told them that they will only be up to the task by mastering the rele-

vant provisions of laws and regulations, perfect knowledge of general techniques and those specific to media coverage in the broad sense of the word as well as psychological preparation and taking of awareness of the delicacy of the profession.

According to the Executive Secretary of the CNC Mr. Jacques Bukuru who presented the monitoring report, the Burundian media have generally recorded an improvement in the way of collecting and processing information. However, he stressed that some cases of information imbalances still persist in certain media.

The same report specifies that certain sectors are more privileged than others. Corporate facts come first with 13.7% followed by politics with 11.7%. The economy ranks third with 9.7%, culture 6.2%, security and justice 5.9%, while information on elections and sport occupied 5.2%.

The president of the Burundian association of women journalists (AFJO) Mrs Diane Ndonse, for her part, stressed on the fact that the gender balance is not respected in the exercise of the profession of journalism. So she wanted this aspect to be taken into account in order to integrate the gender dimension in their activities.

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

## UPRONA party chooses 2020 presidential candidate



The UPRONA party organized on Saturday February 01, 2020 an extraordinary congress to approve Mr. Gaston Sindimwo, current first Vice-President of the Republic as candidate of the party in the presidential elections of 2020. Party officials up to the level of the communes and dignitaries were invited to this congress. There were other guests from other political parties such as the representative of the CNDD-FDD, MSP-Inkinzo, the COPA coalition, FNL and many others. There were also delegates from the Chinese Embassy in Burundi.

The President of the UPRONA party Mr Abel Gashatsi indicated that Mr. Gaston Sindimwo was chosen by

the executive committee of the party because he fulfilled the criteria required by the latter including having served the party with loyalty, being a member of the party, having a card voter etc. In his speech, Mr. Gaston Sindimwo thanked the Badasigana who placed confidence in him and promised to give himself body and soul in the image of Prince Louis Rwagasore to lead this party to victory.

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

## Chinese Ambassador Speaks About Actions Taken Against Coronavirus Outbreak



The Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Burundi H.E Li Changlin spoke on Monday February 03, 2020 on the measures taken against the epidemic of the new Coronavirus which has struck his country.

In an interview with the National Broadcasting Corporation, H.E Li Changlin said that China is currently in a crucial period in the fight against the epidemic.



H.E Li Changlin said the Chinese Embassy in Burundi has set up its own organization to prevent and control the virus. H.E Li Changlin said the Embassy asked Chinese people on leave from China not to return to Burundi. The embassy also recommended that Chinese people traveling to Europe isolate themselves for 14 days upon their return to Burundi.

H.E Li Changlin also advises Burundian students and businessmen to postpone their trips to China until further notice. The Chinese Ambassador to Burundi reassures, however, that it is a preventable, controllable and curable disease, also specifying that the embassy works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the services of the 'Bujumbura International Airport.

Ambassador Li Chaglin also welcomes the measures taken by the Ministry in charge of Public Health to strengthen temperature control at Bujumbura International Airport and the availability of the hospital reserved for the care of patients in the event of an emergency of this disease. H.E Li Changlin believes that borderless collaboration will help stop the spread of this virus.

The Chinese Ambassador to Burundi remains confident and believes that China, in collaboration with WHO and all nations of the world, will be able to win this battle against the epidemic of Coronavirus.

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

## Cancer: a major public health challenge in Burundi



On the occasion of the celebration of the world day of fight against cancer, under the theme "I am and I will", the collective of associations working in the fight against cancer and associations of cancer patients organized in Bujumbura on Tuesday 04 February 2020, a conference on the issue of cancer care in Burundi.

According to Dr. J. Marie Harimenshi of the association "Bujumbura Pathology center", a structure which deals with screening and diagnosis of cancer, this disease constitutes a great public health challenge. He explains that there are many cases of cancer which unfortunately are diagnosed late with a treatment that does not exist on Burundian soil. For the

doctor, action is needed on the part of the Government and the public to save this situation, which he describes as dramatic.

Dr. J Marie Harimenshi deplores the fact that on the medical side there are no significant advances to take care of patients diagnosed with cancer. According to this doctor, there are types of cancer that can be treated in Burundi and others that require sustained action on the part of the Government to initiate treatment.

As for Dr. Gabriel Nahayo of the association "Burundi activity against cancer" (BURACA), the most frequent cancers are cervical cancer, skin cancer, human pros-

tate cancer, breast cancer in women and cancer of the large intestine and rectum. Dr. Gabriel Nahayo says the most common cancers are cervical cancer, prostate cancer and breast cancer and account for more than 50% of the cancers discovered in black Africa.

For Dr. Nahayo, the diagnosis is possible in Burundi but the care that is accessible is surgical care if the cancer is diagnosed early. "Unfortunately, the diagnosis of cancer in Burundi is often late when the disease is beyond the possibilities of surgery. He remains hopeful, however, that chemotherapy will accelerate with the increase in products that stabilize or destroy cancer cells. Dr. Gabriel Nahayo said that only screening for cervical cancer is free and that the screening for other types of cancer is chargeable.

For the causes of cancers in Burundi as in neighboring countries, Dr. Nahayo cited viral infections caused mainly by the HPV virus responsible for cervical cancer, the HH8 virus responsible for skin cancer and the ElicobacterPirori responsible for stomach cancer. These viruses can be prevented by vaccines and treatments which can be offered in the event of illness, specifies the doctor.

Besides infections, continues Dr. Nahayo, the other causes are tobacco, among which the particularity and that it enters into the genesis of all types of cancers and which can be abandoned by a change of mentality. To reduce the risk of getting cancer, Dr. Gabriel Nahayo recommends quitting smoking through behavior change. He also recommends a balanced diet, rich in vegetables and fruits and low in fat. This diet, coupled with sufficient sports practice could help avoid being overweight and would prevent a large number of types of cancer including breast cancer, rectal colon cancer, ovarian cancer etc.

To conclude, Dr. Gabriel Nahayo indicated that the role of the Government in the fight against cancer is to supervise the actors in the matter, to take large-scale initiatives by bringing for example vaccination against viral infections, enact laws against tobacco and alcohol etc.

The activities of this day were also marked by the visit of cancer patients to certain health structures in Bujumbura, but they also shone by the absence of Representatives of the Ministry of Public Health and the fight against AIDS.

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

# Ministère des Affaires Etrangères

## Direction de la Communication

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