

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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Council of Ministers of Wednesday January 22, 2020



A Council of Ministers was held on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at the Presidential Palace of the political capital Gitega under the chairmanship of the Head of State H.E Pierre Nkurunziza.

Nine items were on the agenda, including the bill raising H.E President Pierre Nkurunziza to the rank of the Guide to Patriotism.

Other points that were analyzed by the Cabinet Meeting were, among other things, the draft Ministerial Order fixing the commitment of expenditure for the third quarter of 2019/2020, the Note on the project for implementing a system of electronic monitoring (e-tax) by the Burundian Revenue Office, the Note relating to the construction and operation project of an International Con-

gress Center in Bujumbura. Also studied are the draft decree reorganizing the military construction management (RMC), the draft decree revising decree n ° 100/083 of

July 20, 2018 reorganizing the Ministry of Public Security and Disaster Management, the draft decree revising decree n ° 100/160 of 05th November 2018 on the mission and organization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Finally, the Ministers around the President of the Republic Pierre Nkurunziza analyzed a note on the participation of the State in the share capital of the company Burundi Backbone System (BBS).

Other points were also discussed during this Council of Ministers.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

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The President of the National Assembly receives an EAC delegation in audience



The President of the National Assembly the Right Honorable Pascal Nyabenda received in audience on Monday, January 20, 2020, a delega-

tion of Experts from the East African Community (EAC). Mr. Alexis Badian Ndayihimbaze, Spokesperson for the National Assembly, specified that they came to collect contributions from Burundians for the preparation of the texts of the constitution of the confederation of the countries of East Africa.

The Spokesperson of the National Assembly also said that the members of the National Assembly urged these Experts to also address the issue of the conflicts that exist between Burundi and Rwanda and other member countries of the EAC.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

Exchange of vows for the year 2020 at the National Assembly of Burundi



On the occasion of an exchange of wishes for the year 2020, the National Assembly of Burundi granted on Friday 17th January 2020, 900 health insurance cards (CAM) to vulnerable families in the Bujumbura, Muramvya and Cibitoke. It was to share the joy of the holiday season with vulnerable families in these three Provinces.

In the communes of Mugongo Manga, Mukike and Nyabiraba, the National Assembly of Burundi was represented by its first Honorable Vice-President Agathon Rwasa, where 300 health insurance cards were distributed to the vulnerable in these three communes.

In his speech, Hon. Agathon Rwasa said that this activity was organized to alleviate health care problems for these vulnerable people. Similar work was carried out in Cibitoke Province at Cibitoke hospital under the coordination of the 2nd Vice-President of the Honorable National Assembly Jocky Chantal

Nkurunziza where 300 health insurance cards were distributed to vulnerable families in Cibitoke, Ndora and Mabayi.

She asked the beneficiary population to keep well these health insurance cards so that the names or photos are not erased.

In Muramvya Province, the National Assembly was represented by the secretary general. The vulnerable in the five communes of this Province also received 300 health insurance cards. The beneficiaries welcomed this charitable act on the part of the National Assembly.

The ceremonies continued at the Kigobe hemicycle sharing a glass of the New Year 2020. The President of the National Assembly the Right Honorable Pascal Nyabenda wished to Deputies and other distinguished guests a year of peace, happiness and prosperity.

He said that the National Assembly has achieved many things in peace and serenity and that, has surprised many people.

This was due to the bravery of the office, the standing committees, the Deputies and the Civil servants of the institution because during the past year, the quorum was always reached to vote the Laws, he underlined. He took the opportunity to give prizes to the best workers of the National Assembly and the medals won in the games of Kampala within the framework of the EAC were given to them.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents the assessment of its quarterly achievements for the 2nd quarter of 2019-2020



On Tuesday January 21st, 2020, the Minister of Foreign Affairs His Excellency Ambassador Ezéchiel NIBIGIRA held a press briefing on the quarterly achievements of the Ministry for the 2nd quarter of the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

This press point was articulated around four main points, among others, the strengthening of bilateral and multilateral cooperation with Burundi's partners, the strengthening of diplomatic communication, the consolidation of the strategic partnership with the Burundian Diaspora and the pursuit of routine activities by the Central Administration. Regarding the



strengthening of bilateral and multilateral cooperation with Burundi's partners, the Minister of Foreign Affairs indicated that the Ministry participated in statutory meetings, conferences of sub-regional, regional and international organizations. With the same aim of strengthening cooperation, the Minister of Foreign Affairs also said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also supervised official visits to Burundi by

senior officials from partner countries. He also said that there have been signing of cooperation agreements and memoranda of understanding between Burundi and other development partner countries.

In order to ensure effective diplomatic communication with the partners, the Minister of Foreign Affairs said that 27 audiences were granted to bilateral and multilateral partners during the second quarter of 2019-2020. In order to communicate on the activities carried out by the various structures of the State, he pointed out that twelve magazines were produced and sent to the Diplomatic and Consular Missions of Burundi Abroad and to the Diplomatic and Consular Missions and International Organizations accredited in Burundi. Regarding the consolidation of the strategic partnership with the Burundian Diaspora, he noted that the Ministry organised a staff training on capacity building of bilateral labor migration agreements. He also informed that the services of the Ministry also took part in the organisation of two tripartite meetings (CENI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Burundian Diaspora) within the framework of the improvement of the electoral system of the Burundian Diaspora.

In conclusion, the Minister of Foreign Affairs His Excellency Ambassador Ezéchiel NIBIGIRA pointed out that he and all the departments of the Ministry are satisfied with the results achieved despite the difficulties encountered. He said he was confident that the departments of the Ministry which he coordinates will be able to achieve the objectives they have set themselves in the action plan of the institution. To this end, he made a point of emphasizing that the services of the Ministry will continue, during the current quarter, with full zeal, in order to allow the total lifting of the misunderstandings with certain partners, the withdrawal of Burundi on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council, the search for new partners, the conclusion of new agreements as well as the improvement of the working conditions of the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

(Source: MFA-Newsroom)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs held a meeting with all the staff of the Ministry



This Thursday, January 23rd, 2020, the Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Ambassador Ezéchiel NIBIGIRA held a meeting with all the staff of the Ministry.

In his introductory speech, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Isidore NTI-RAMPEBA first welcomed all the staff of the Ministry and recalled that this meeting is part of the ordinary activities of the Ministry.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs began his speech by wishing everyone the best wishes for the year 2020 and said that 2019 had ended in beauty. Thereupon, he indicated that he was extensively satisfied with the



results achieved by the services of the Ministry during the first semester of the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

For this purpose, he invited the staff of the Ministry to always keep in mind that the respect of the hierarchy

is the only base on which rests the administrative work, this in order to avoid any insubordination which would hinder the smooth progress of work within the Ministry.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Ambassador Ezéchiel NIBIGIRA also recalled that Burundi is moving towards the 2020 elections and that this should not in any way disturb the work done in the Ministry. He invited all staff to keep a spirit of cohesion and to continue to get on with their daily activities.

On behalf of the personnel of the Ministry, the Director of Human Resources at the Ministry of Foreign



Affairs Mr. Jean Pierre UWITONZE thanked the Minister of Foreign Affairs for his concern to always ensure the improvement of the working conditions of his staff.

In his closing remarks, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Isidore NTI-RAMPEBA thanked the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for having responded to this meeting and invited everyone to take on board the advice provided by the Minister of Foreign Affairs to increase job performance.

(Source: MFA-Newsroom)

Sixth Meeting of Senior Burundian and South African Officials

On Wednesday January 23, 2020, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Isidore NTIRAMPEBA, proceeded to the opening of the 6th Meeting of Burundian and South African Senior Officials which was held at the Best Outlook Hotel. The proceedings of this meeting took place over two days, from 22nd to 23rd January, 2020.



In his welcome address, the Permanent Secretary noted the importance of the relations between Burundi and South Africa. He did not fail to appreciate the leadership of the late President Nelson Mandela in the resolution of the conflicts in Burundi. He mentioned that Burundi is today participating in peacekeeping missions in Somalia, Côte d'Ivoire, and Central African Republic; and that it is a way of giving back to the International Community the support given to Burundi during its hard time.



He also encouraged experts from the two countries to exchange views, to further consolidate this ever-growing relationship through cooperation in different

sectors. He recalled that consideration should also be given to holding the first Joint Commission between Burundi and South Africa.

In turn, the Head of the South African delegation, Ambassador Ndumiso NTSHINGA, Deputy Director General responsible for African Affairs in the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, particularly welcomed the legendary hospitality of Burundians and the beautiful landscape that characterize our country. He also praised Burundi's solidarity with countries in conflict such as Somalia.



After the official opening of the work of the 6th Meeting of Burundian and South African Senior Officials, the experts from the two delegations worked together to explore the situation of the cooperation between Burundi and South Africa in the various sectors, and also consider new opportunities for cooperation. Several Ministries of Burundi and South Africa were represented as well as the private sector; and the Representatives of these Ministries have negotiated projects relating to Health, Education, Justice, Sport, Art, Security, Defense, Social Affairs, Transport, Trade, Tourism, Mines, Human Rights, and capacity building for state officials. The two parties have agreed that the drafts submitted will be examined once transmitted to the higher authorities of the two parties so that they can be carried out for both parties.

Fruitful exchanges were made on draft Agreements and Agreements to be renewed, and the two sides were able to assess the cooperation and thus strengthen the bases of future relations.

A welcoming dinner was also offered by the Government of Burundi in a friendly and warm atmosphere.

The work of the 6th Meeting of Burundian and South African Senior Officials ended with the closing remarks of the two heads of delegations, Mr. Ferdinand BASHIKAKO, Director General of Bilateral Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Burundi and Ambassador Ndumiso NTSHINGA, Deputy Director General responsible for African Affairs in the Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa. The Head of the South African delegation Ambassador Ndumiso NTSHINGA thanked the Burundian delegation for its welcome and the good organization during the bilateral deliberations.

The Head of the Burundian delegation Mr. Ferdinand BASHIKAKO, in turn, thanked the South African delegation for their visit to Burundi and their participation in the 6th Meeting of Senior Burundian and South African Officials.



The two Heads of delegations said they were satisfied with the good results obtained in such a short time in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, cordiality and fraternity. They also congratulated the experts who participated in the work for their dedication and professionalism.

(Source: MFA-Newsroom)

Karusi: The Ministry of Good Governance is involved in the good management of cooperatives



The Ministry of Good Governance organized on Thursday, January 16, 2020 in Buhiga Commune of the Province of Karusi, a capacity building workshop for cooperative leaders and women leaders on good governance and the fight against corruption in the management of cooperatives. The objective of this meeting with the managers of the cooperatives and the women leaders was to discuss good governance in the management of cooperatives.

The Minister, Mrs. Jeanne d'Arc Kagayo who led

this workshop, indicated that her Ministry is concerned with the satisfaction of the citizens who are today faced with an important policy, a policy for the promotion of cooperatives.

The Minister in charge of Good Governance Mrs. Jeanne d'Arc Kagayo said that the Burundian Government has long understood that the development of the population must start from the bottom; mainly within households and on the hills. Thus there was the promulgation of the law which governed the cooperatives and it was decided to grant 10 million Burundian francs as repayable credit on each hill of the country through the cooperatives to finance their development projects, she added.

Regarding the awareness phase on the Law governing cooperatives, the Minister of Good Governance explained that the members of his Ministry go to the field to check whether the managers and members of cooperatives have mastered this Law. It is also an opportunity to see if the members of the cooperatives know the rights and responsibilities defined in this law, continued the Minister of Good Governance.

According to Minister Jeanne d'Arc Kagayo, it is also an opportunity to talk about embezzlement and the fight against corruption in cooperatives and to sensitize women leaders to get actively in-

involved in cooperatives because development is a question that concerns everyone.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The Ministry in charge of Public Health presents the half-yearly report on achievements



The Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS Dr Thaddée Ndikumana presented on Friday, 17th January 2020, the semi-annual report on achievements. Among the

achievements of this Ministry are the fight against malaria and mother-child health components, and the efforts of the Government in the fight against the epidemics of Ebola and Cholera. He indicated that more than 1000 cases of cholera were treated in Bujumbura City Council and in Rugombo Municipality of Cibitoke Province. To combat malaria, the Ministry of Public Health organized a campaign to distribute long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets. The Minister Dr Thaddée Ndikumana calls on the population to make proper use of these mosquito nets.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The Ministry of Commerce presents the results of its achievements



The Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism Mr. Jean Marie Niyokindi presented on

Saturday, January 18, 2020, the semi-annual assessment of achievements in his Ministry. He said that the services of this Ministry have encountered certain challenges and constraints, including the insufficient technical and financial means for the supervision of commercial activities. He also specified that during this second semester, the said Ministry will continue the activity of market surveillance and monitoring of economic activity.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

Soon, the Higher Institute for Military Executives (ISCAM) will join the Baccalaureate – Master-Doctorate (BMD) system



The Higher Institute of Military Executives (ISCAM), proceeded on Wednesday, January 22, 2019 to the validation session of teaching programs at ISCAM. The Higher Institute of Military Executives is recognized as the center of excellence in the sub-region. It is therefore necessary that it integrates the Baccalaureate - Master - Doctorate (BMD) system as stipulated by law number 1/22 of December 30, 2011 reorganizing higher education in Burundi.

Since 2015, ISCAM has integrated the BMD system without, however, having a legal framework for the provision of training at ISCAM. The head of military training at the Ministry of National Defense and Veterans Affairs Mr. Rémy Nduwayo, clarified that soon ISCAM intends to issue baccalaureate diplomas after having fulfilled all the requirements and directives emanating from the Ministry having Higher Education in his attributions, and this is the main reason of the imminent holding of this validation session of teaching programs at ISCAM, he said.

Regarding the promotion of the BMD system which has not yet graduated, the Head of Service of Academic Training at the Ministry of National Defense and Veterans Affairs indicated that these laureates are busy training the commando center, therefore, that did not disturb anything, he said.

Lt Col Prime Niyongabo, the Head of Service for Academic Training at ISCAM, said that the time available for obtaining this document will not be long. According to him, the commission responsible for analyzing the content of ISCAM's training offer and giving recommendations will go through the training offer and will try to correct errors of content and forms, coding problems, titles and put in the appendix specimens, bulletins, diplomas and list of teachers.

He also announced that the commission responsible for analyzing the content of the training offer will perfect this document. As soon as these documents are available, the winners of the first class will have their diplomas, he said.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

Salary adjustment: COSESONA welcomes the Government's decision



The teachers' unions grouped within the COSESONA coalition (the Teachers' Special Account for National Solidarity) organized a press briefing on Thursday, January 23, 2020. The objective was to express their feelings of satisfaction and gratitude to the Government of Burundi through the response to their request for a 5th phase of salary adjustment.

As COSESONA Vice-President Emmanuel Mashandari said, the coalition had asked the Government to extend the salary adjustment allowance for the remaining 6 months so that the 2019-2020 budget law

does not end.

This was dictated by the fact that the 4-year period that was recommended for this allowance had just expired with the month of December 2019 when the study on fair salary policy in the Burundian public administration was not yet completed, added Mr. Emmanuel Mashandari.

Mr. Emmanuel Mashandari says that these unions are once again asking the Government to instruct the services responsible for monitoring this study to redouble their efforts and complete the work entrusted to them on time so that the preparations for the budget law 2020-2021 can take into account its implications. This will allow answering the various questions related to the question of harmonizing salaries and reducing the lamentation of certain sectors linked to the freezing of records and other allowances.

"We ask the teachers to take note of the response that the Government has just given to their request in connection with the salary adjustment and to have confidence in their Representatives as regards to the monitoring of the fair salary policy", concluded Mr. Emmanuel Mashandari.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
Government General Secretariat**PRESS RELEASE OF THE CABINET MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 22nd JANUARY 2020**

The Cabinet meeting met this Wednesday, January 22, 2020 under the chairmanship of His Excellency the President of the Republic, Mr. Pierre NKURUNZIZA. After a prayer led by one of the members of the Government, His Excellency the President of the Republic first thanked the almighty because the year 2019 ended and the year 2020 began in peace and tranquility, with the entire Government team. He wished the Government team a New Year's greetings, while congratulating them on the dedication, spirit of solidarity and collaboration that has marked Government work over the past year. He asked them to maintain momentum until the next election. He wished them success and good health in the year 2020.

Then followed the analysis of the following points:

1. Bill proposing the elevation of His Excellency President Pierre NKURUNZIZA to the rank of Guide to Patriotism, presented by the Minister of Justice, Civil Protection and Keeper of the Seals. His Excellency President Pierre NKURUNZIZA is a very important personality for Burundi. Indeed, it shows unequaled self-denial, exceptional commitment and devotion to the defense of national sovereignty, the awakening of the conscience of the Burundian people and the love of the fatherland. He materialized his wise ideology by traveling the whole country to instill the patriotic spirit in all citizens in general and in youth in particular. His Excellency President NKURUNZIZA is an exemplary President in the consolidation of the political and economic independence of the Republic of Burundi. Finally, His Excellency President NKURUNZIZA initiated and cemented culture and democratic discipline in Burundi in addition to the multiple and praiseworthy works he designed and finalized in the country. His Excellency President NKURUNZIZA deserves special respect for the services rendered to the Burundian people who decide to raise them to the rank of Guide to Patriotism. It should be noted that this bill is an initiative of the National Assembly. After discussions and debate, the Cabinet meeting highly appreciated this bill and adopted it after enriching and strengthening it by proposing the title of "Supreme Guide to Patriotism in Burundi".

2. Draft ministerial ordinance fixing the commitment to expenditure for the third quarter of 2019/2020, presented by the Minister of Finance, the Budget and Economic Development Cooperation. The Government of Burundi has undertaken reforms in the management of public finances which flow from the law of December 2008 relating to public finances. These reforms mainly concern the preparation and execution of the State Budget, public accounting, as well as the control of the use of the State Budget. As part of the implementation of the law of December 2008, the budgetary law of 2019/2020 provides for the development of ceilings for quarterly expenditure commitments which must be validated by the Cabinet meeting. These commitment ceilings, which are in line with the State's cash flow plan, concern all expenditure except that which is compul-

sory and incompressible, that is to say expenditure on salaries and debt. This is the subject of this draft ordinance. At the end of the analysis of this project, the Council adopted it.

3. Note on the project for the implementation of an electronic invoice tracking system (e-tax) by the Burundian Revenue Office, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Development Cooperation. Since its creation, the Burundian Revenue Office has always evolved into a modern tax administration, and this modernization could not be conceived in a non-computerized environment. With the aim of improving and adapting the revenue collection strategy through the complete computerization of the Burundian Revenue Office (OBR), the Ministry of Finance approached HUAWEI for its technical expertise, which proposed a turnkey solution for online and automatic VAT collection and taxpayer income control. A related Strategic Note was presented in May 2016. In June 2017, the Council of Ministers gave a new orientation to the project which was to cover in particular all aspects of revenue. This Note follows this recommendation. The execution of the project will bring a clear improvement of the controls carried out by the OBR in matters of VAT in particular but also in terms of turnover declared to income tax in general, and therefore will contribute to the increase domestic resources to finance the state budget. The approval of the contents of the Note by the Council of Ministers will allow the OBR to immediately proceed to the stages relating to the implementation of the project which has obvious advantages. After discussion and discussion, the Council recognized the obvious interest in this project but noted that the cost remains relatively very high. Additional information to make an efficient decision was still necessary, especially with regard to the cost of this project compared to the equipment already existing at the OBR and the comparative experience with other countries, especially neighbors, presenting almost the same level of IT infrastructure than Burundi. A team has been appointed to look into the matter and the matter will be brought back to the Cabinet meeting within a month.

4. Note on the project for the construction and operation of an International Congress Center in Bujumbura, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Development Cooperation. The project to build an International Congress Center in Bujumbura was initiated by the Director General of the Club du Lac Tanganyika. In view of this expressed and expressed interest, an ad hoc Commission was appointed to analyze the feasibility of the Project. The Commission concluded that the project deserved to be encouraged and supported. In terms of the management of this Center, the promoter proposes the creation of a mixed company called "Burundi Congres and Business Center" and whose contributions would be distributed, respectively in 20% for the State of Burundi, 80% for the private sector. The Council of Ministers had analyzed this note and had accepted the principle of the realization of this project It had, for this purpose, designated a team to lead the negotiations of the terms of the partnership in this Project so that the interests of the State are safeguarded. The proposed new note indicates the conclusions of these negotiations and reiterates support for this project. It retains the proposed option, public-private partnership, with the recommendation to take precautions during the negotiation of the partnership agreement before the construction of said complex, at the creation phase of the mixed company "Burundi Congres and Business Center" and during the operation of the Center to prevent the Government from being harmed at one time or another. After discussion and discussion, the Cabinet meeting adopted the content of the Note and recommended that the project be quickly implemented.

5. Draft decree reorganizing the Military Construction Authority (RMC), presented by the Minister of National Defense and Veterans Affairs. The missions, the organization and the functioning of the Régie Militaire de Construction (RMC) are, to date, governed by decree n ° 100/028 of February 22, 1990. Nearly thirty years later, the missions of the Régie Militaire de Construction have evolved and some of the nomenclatures and

certain provisions of this decree have become anachronistic. There is therefore a need to review this decree in order to adapt it to the current context. The Council of Ministers had analyzed this project and returned it to be reworked in order to strengthen the Military Construction Authority and extend its missions to make it competitive with other large companies operating in the construction sector. After analyzing the reworked project, the Council adopted it with a few corrections.

6. Draft decree revising decree n ° 100/083 of July 20, 2018 reorganizing the Ministry of Public Security and Disaster Management, presented by the Minister of Public Security and Disaster Management. The Ministry of Public Security and Disaster Management is currently organized by decree n ° 100/083 of July 20, 2018. Although it is recent, it is necessary to revise it for the proper functioning of the Ministry. Indeed, certain structures of the Ministry no longer correspond strictly speaking to the missions they exercise. There is therefore a need to change their names to adapt them to their missions. The National School of Civil Protection, as a public establishment, must be placed under the supervision of the Ministry and not in the General Directorate of Civil Protection and Disaster Management. Finally, certain appointments which were within the competence of the Minister must be made by decree. These are the main innovations brought by this draft decree. After discussion and debate, the project was adopted.

7. Draft decree revising decree n ° 100/160 of November 5, 2018 on the mission and organization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is currently organized by decree n ° 100 / 160 of November 5, 2018. A year later, there is a need to improve its structure and its missions. Indeed, it turns out that migration for employment and its link to development is a question which concerns most nations and which occupies a large place in international relations. Burundi should therefore pay particular attention to migrant workers from Burundi, whose numbers are constantly increasing. The present project establishes, within the Ministry, a Directorate exclusively responsible for promoting the employment of migrants. This will put an end to the scattered and uncoordinated processes that we are currently seeing in this sector. It aims to wipe out the negative effects of clandestine recruitment of Burundian migrant workers and to defend their interests in the countries of destination. At the end of the analysis of this project, the Cabinet meeting adopted it with a few corrections.

8. Note on the participation of the State of Burundi in the share capital of the company Burundi Backbone System (BBS), presented by the Minister of Youth, Posts and Information Technology. BBS was created in 2008 as part of the public-private partnership. In this partnership, the Government of Burundi was represented by the Permanent Executive Secretariat for Information and Communication Technologies (SETIC) and the private sector was made up of telecommunications companies Africell, Onatel, U-Com, Econet and Cbinet. Faced with the shortcomings of BBS in the execution of this partnership contract, SETIC terminated the contract in 2017. These shortcomings were due to the fact that these shareholders were at the same time customers. In view of the interest that BBS represents in national life, the note proposes the creation of a mixed company in which any former shareholder who has not repaid all of his debt before the opening of the capital will be excluded in the new BBS shareholders. As a contribution to this capital, the Government will give two lots, namely the one that currently houses BBS offices, as well as another piece of land located in Muramvya. Appraisal has shown that the market value of these two plots is 3,475,475,052 Burundian Francs. After analyzing the Note, the Council authorized the State's participation in the capital of the BBS.

9. Other information

- The Minister of Transport, Public Works, Equipment and Regional Planning spoke of the state of progress of the railway project which will link Tanzania, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- The Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock has denied information and images of dead animals that they are suffering from an epidemic. These are actually cows that have been struck by lightning. He also spoke of the caterpillars that attacked the corn but said the situation is being brought under control.
- The Minister of Youth, Posts and Information Technology informed the Cabinet meeting of the attempts to manipulate the youth especially in this pre-electoral period. She recalled that any organization wishing to bring young people together must collaborate with the departments concerned.
- The Minister of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines deplored the threats directed against REGIDESO agents, especially in the Nyabugete district because the inhabitants are not yet connected to electricity for lack of meters. He indicated that these counters will be available soon.

Gitega, January 23, 2020

**The Secretary General of the Government and
Government Spokesperson**

Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Department of Communication

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