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The coordinators called upon to properly manage the funds allocated to development projects



The Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Development Planning organized in Gitega province, on Thursday October 1, 2020, a meeting for the coordinators of development projects supported by technical and financial partners of the Government of Burundi. The objective of this meeting was to analyze together the step taken in the execution of the projects. The meeting was opened by the President of the Republic H.E Evariste Ndayishimiye. In his welcome address, the Minister in charge of Finance Dr Domitien Ndi-hokubwayo said that this meeting fits well with the Government's vision that each Burundian, especially those responsible at all levels, must be aware of their contribution so that Burundi arrives at the realization of the National Development Plan (PND 2018-2027). The goal being for Burundi to be on the list of rich countries in the world by the year 2027, continued the Minister in charge of Finance. He invited the coordinators to ensure that each project is beneficial

to all Burundians without any discrimination.

In his speech, the President of the Republic H.E Evariste Ndayishimiye informed the participants that this was a self-assessment meeting. He said that it was not only an opportunity to analyze together the step already taken in the execution of their respective projects, but also to assess together the share of these projects in the effective development of the country. The Head of State recommended that these coordinators manage the funds with due diligence in order to help boost the country's economy, as these projects constitute the pillar of development, he said.

The meeting saw the participation of the Ministers in charge of Public Health, Trade, Tourism, Environment, Public Works, Energy and Mines.

Before this meeting, the President of the Republic H.E Evariste Ndayishimiye had launched the extension works of the Urumuri center, a center for the care of obstetric fistulas, within the regional hospital of Gitega. The works of this extension will be financed by the Fondation Bonne Action "Umugiraneza", chaired by the First Lady of the country H.E Angeline Ndayishimiye.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

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Burundi celebrates International Day of Older Persons



Burundi celebrated the International Day of the Elderly on Thursday, October 1, 2020. The ceremonies took place at the Hospice Sainte Elisabeth in Gihanga commune in the province of Bubanza. They were enhanced to the highest peak by the presence of the First Lady H.E Angéline Ndayishimiye. Along with the Minister in charge of Social Affairs and Human Rights and the Minister in charge of the Public Service, the First Lady called on anyone who has an elderly relative to take care of him.

The ceremonies of the International Day of the Elderly were marked by the distribution by the First Lady of food and non-food assistance to the elderly of the Hospice Sainte Elisabeth de Gihanga, to orphans and to the elderly of the Sisters' missionaries of charity Center of Kajaga in the province of Bujumbura as well as to orphans and elderly people of the center of the missionary sisters of Rohero in the town hall of Bujumbura. Each center received 2 tons of rice, 1 ton of beans, sugar, porridge flour and loincloths.



In her welcome address, Sister Revocate Nizigiyimana, Legal Representative of the Hospice Sainte Elisabeth of Gihanga asked the Ministry in charge of Social Affairs to increase assistance to vulnerable people interned in this center. She also expressed the need for the center to obtain new land properties in order to have the possibility of welcoming other elderly people in difficulty.

Speaking, the First Lady expressed her gratitude to the centers that house the elderly and vulnerable. She said that this day offers the opportunity to give joy to the elderly, to show them that they are not abandoned. "The situation of the elderly is a concern of the State. We will always be at your side", said H.E Angéline Ndayishimiye.

The First Lady took this opportunity to ask people who have elderly parents to take care of them and protect them, adding that such an act is a source of blessing.



The activities marking this day continued at the center of the missionary sisters of charity of Kajaga which accommodates 52 elderly people and 29 orphans. An orphan child in her arms, the First Lady went to kneel in the chapel of this center to pray for these vulnerable people. She then distributed milk to these elderly people and to the children of this center before giving rice, beans, porridge flour and loincloths to the center officials.

The activities of this day ended at the center of the Missionary Sisters of Charity of Rohero in the Town Hall of Bujumbura where the First Lady also distributed milk to the orphans and gave to the persons in charge of this center an assistance consisting of beans, rice, loincloths and flour for porridge.

The First Lady congratulated the managers of these centers and encouraged them to continue in this act of charity and promised them unwavering support.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

Some Ministries may have more than one Permanent Secretary



The National Assembly met on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 in plenary session under the aegis of its President, the Right Honorable Daniel Gélase Ndabirabe, and analyzed and unanimously adopted the bill amending law no. ° 1/108 of April 28, 2011 on the general organization of public administration to harmonize it with the new constitution of 2018, including the superstructure, the prime minister. The Minister of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security CPC Gervais Ndirakobuca was the guest of the National Assembly to make the explanatory memorandum and to give clarifications on this bill.

In his explanatory memorandum, Minister Ndirakobuca indicated that since the promulgation of the fundamental law in 2018, in relation to the general organization of the public administration, it has itself become unconstitutional as long as it regulates the services of the Vice-Presidencies whereas there is currently only one Vice-Presidency with regard to this fundamental law. This law also does not provide for Prime Ministerial services which were not actually provided for in the 2005 constitution.

Also in the explanatory memorandum, the Minister in charge of Home Affairs indicated that this bill corrects this gap, in order to comply with the new constitution by integrating the organization of the services of the Prime Minister and those of the Vice-Presidency of the Republic. In terms of innovations and with regard to the services of the superstructure, the bill regulates the services of the presidency, the vice-presidency and the prime minister, while the old law provided for the organization of the services of the Presidency of the Republic and of the Vice-Presidencies of the Republic, he continued.

Another innovation, at the level of the central services of the Ministries, the bill provides that each Ministry has at least one Permanent Secretary, leaving the possibility for certain Ministries to have more than one Permanent Secretary. At the level of these same central services of the Ministries, there is a new post of Ministerial Inspector General responsible for carrying out internal audits.

In this regard, the Deputies wanted to know whether there would not be a risk of encouraging an administrative plethora which would negatively impact the State budget if the Government grants the prerogative to the Minister to have more than one Permanent Secretary. The Minister of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security said that the congestion in the number of Ministries dropping from 21 to 15 did not ipso facto lead to a reduction in the Government's missions.

And to specify that certain missions which fell under the Ministries and which are not found in the new nomenclature, have been integrated into the new structure of the Ministries. According to the Minister, it is therefore necessary that for the purposes of efficiency in the coordination of the Ministry, each area of competence of a Minister be endowed with its own permanent secretariat.

The Deputies also wanted to know why in the new bill under analysis, nowhere could be found the functions of the Minister's Assistant mentioned.

Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca indicated that article 12 of the bill defines it by specifying that "each Ministry has a cabinet coordination responsible for assisting the Minister in the performance of his political and protocol functions". However, the responsibility or the coordination of all this cabinet includes the Assistant himself because the Ministerial advisory council and the Secretariat fall to the Assistant, unlike the Permanent Secretary who has the broader technical missions, to coordinate the activities of the Directorates general, explained Minister Ndirakobuca.

After analysis and a series of amendments to certain articles, the National Assembly unanimously adopted the bill revising law n ° 1/08 of April 28, 2011 on the general organization of public administration by 109 Deputies present and 10 proxies.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

Press conference held by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation on the quarterly achievements of the Ministry for the first quarter of 2020-2021



This Wednesday, September 30, 2020, His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation held a press conference on the quarterly achievements of the Ministry for the first quarter of 2020-2021. In his speech, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation expressed his thanks to the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation who continues to strengthen the vision of working together to make the more efficient and dynamic Burundian diplomacy.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation has indicated that these achievements are inspired by the Government Action Plan for the period 2020-2021, the Action Plan of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation for the period 2020-2021 and priority actions. This presentation was structured around four main areas, namely: strengthening of good governance, strengthening of diplomatic communication, strengthening and extension of development cooperation, the consolidation of a strategic relationship between the diaspora and the Government.

Regarding the strengthening of good governance, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation said that the Ministry carried out a census of all the staff and assigned very precise specifications to each from bottom to high level position.

He also pointed out that suggestion boxes to facilitate exchanges between the staff of the Ministry and the beneficiaries of the latter's services have been set up in the buildings housing the central administration services of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Development Cooperation. Online suggestion boxes

have also been created and can be contacted on the Ministry's website, in both French and English versions.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation also said that the said Ministry has also looked into the issue of Foreign Non-Governmental Organizations working in Burundi. He said that in the context of the application of the decrees relating to the activities of Foreign Non-Governmental Organizations which were signed by the President of the Republic in May 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation has just created during this quarter, the Interministerial Monitoring-Evaluation Committee and the one-stop shop in question.

Regarding the strengthening of diplomatic communi-



cation, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation reported that the said Ministry has prepared and adopted a document of the Ministry's internal and external Communication Strategy. He said that this communication strategy is useful for the Ministry in several sectors, etc.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation also spoke of the strengthening and extension of development cooperation where he said that at the bilateral level, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation ensured the monitoring of agreements and projects with various partners.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation continued his presentation on the consolidation of a strategic relationship between the diaspora and the Government where he informed that a tripartite project (Government of Burundi-IOM-ADB), entitled "Reduction of youth unemployment by capacity building and the involvement of the Diaspora 2020-

2021" has just been launched by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation. In conclusion, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation said he is satisfied with the results achieved despite the sporadic difficulties encountered, and that the Ministry will continue to work with dedication and determination to normalize cooperation relations with the partners of the European Union who had taken unilateral

sanctions against Burundi, remove Burundi from the agenda of the United Nations Security Council, seek new partners, conclude new agreements and improve the working conditions of the staff of the Ministry Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

Commemoration of the 71st anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China



This Wednesday, September 30, 2020, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Burundi organized the festivities to commemorate the 71st anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. This celebration coincided with the award ceremony of the photography competition under the theme: "Despite the great distance, the hearts of Chinese and Burundians are coming closer."

In his remarks for the occasion, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Burundi HE Li Changlin first thanked the delegation of the Government of Burundi for agreeing to join them in these ceremonies.

Then, he said that 2020 was a special year because of the Covid 19 pandemic that hit China. Ambassador Li Changlin said China has taken serious steps to eradicate this pandemic. These measures have enabled China to stop this disease and the country is resuming its economic activities. Speaking about the state of cooperation between Burundi and China, HE Li Changlin said the two countries enjoy good relations of friendship and cooperation. He pointed out that China intervenes in different fields including Health, Agriculture,

Education etc. He cited large-scale projects that will soon begin, notably the project to renew the airstrip of the Melchior NDANDAYE International Airport and the Building Construction Project of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

The Ambassador, Bernard NTAHIRAJA, Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, who represented the Government in these ceremonies, extended warm congratulations to the Government and to the brotherly Chinese people on this important and significant national holiday. He also thanked the organizers of the photography competition and congratulated the winners. He indicated that the chosen theme reflects a lived reality.



He indicated that the Government of the Republic of Burundi welcomes the current state of the excellent relations of friendship and bilateral cooperation between the two countries, both qualitatively and quantitatively. He said that in the difficult times that Burundi has gone through since independence, China has remained alongside Burundi, thus carrying out development projects and spontaneously responding to the requests of the affected

populations.



Ambassador Bernard NTAHIRAJA recalled, in his speech that on May 20, 2020, the Burundian people organized, with their own means, presidential, legislative and communal elections which were free, fair, democratic, transparent, inclusive and peaceful. That Burundi is now endowed with new institutions from the high summit of the State to the hilltop level. He then reassured the Chinese Ambassador to Burundi

that this new legislature will further consolidate the gains already made in terms of Sino-Burundian cooperation and friendship.

He announced that the Government of Burundi expresses its high appreciation for the results of China in the fight against COVID 19, he congratulated the Chinese Government for its bravery and determination in the fight against this pandemic.

He indicated that the Government of Burundi expresses its gratitude to the Chinese Government for its support of inputs and diagnostic kits and individual protection as part of the prevention of the fight against COVID-19 in Burundi.

The Ceremonies continued with the presentation of prizes to the winners of the photography competition under the theme "Despite the great distance, the hearts of the Chinese and Burundians are getting closer".

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

Validation session of the Ministry's Communication Strategy



On September 28, 2020, in the conference room of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, a working meeting was held to enrich and pre-validate a Communication Strategy draft of this Ministry. The opening of this meeting was enhanced by the Minister's Assistant, Ambassador Bernard NTAHIRAJA.

The Minister's Assistant warmly congratulated the Director of Communication and her team for the activities already carried out in the development of this Communication Strategy draft. He also wished to the participants, a fruitful work and assured them that their interventions were appropriate for the enrichment of this document.

A presentation session of the Communication Strategy by Mrs Inès Sonia NIYUBAHWE, Director of Communication and Spokesperson, proceeded.

According to the Speaker, the communication strategy document of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation aims as a priority to improve internal and external diplomatic communication, and communication for development. It is a document that is organized around seven main parts:

- The first is the general introduction which describes the politico-diplomatic and socio-economic contexts in which the Communication Strategy was developed, its usefulness and the methodological approach that was used during its elaboration,



- The second part presents the conceptual and theoretical framework which presents the state of play of communication in Burundi in general, and in the Ministry in particular, as well as the analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT),
 - The third part is dedicated to the strategic axes and orientations translated into communication objectives, the priority actions in order to improve diplomatic communication,
 - The fourth part develops the timetable for the implementation of communication actions as well as the budgetary framework for the Communication Strategy,
 - The fifth part shows the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of the 2020-2027 Communication Strategy,
 - The sixth part is the implementation plan of the Communication Strategy and the related budget,
 - The seventh part presents the general conclusion which brings out the summary of the previous parts.
- Internally, the Communication Strategy must first

of all help to motivate the staff, to unite them around common values and commitments as prescribed in Law No. 1/28 of 23rd August 2006 on the General Statute of Civil Servants. In addition, it must make the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation attractive to partners.

Externally, it must then make it possible to inform the external public and all the actors who can exert an influence on what Burundi does. The Ministry must be able to explain, not only Burundi's policy towards other countries but also its views in regard to the actuality, as it is useful in making Burundi be known beyond clichés.

In the development sector, the Communication Strategy will serve as a promotional tool with partners in relation to the axes of intervention found in the PND 2018-2027 in order to give direction to cooperation accordingly.

After the presentation, it was an appropriate moment for the participants to make comments, which really contributed to the enrichment of this Communication Strategy. They appreciated the work and suggested that some adjustments be made before the final validation.

(Source: MFADC-Newsroom)

The Kingdom of Belgium grants computers to the Ministry in charge of Public Health



The Kingdom of Belgium, via its Embassy in Bujumbura, granted, on Tuesday September 29, 2020, to the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, a donation of 50 laptops intended for 13 hospitals in the country, as part of the project support for the national health information system of Belgian cooperation in Burundi. The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium in Burundi Mr. Alain Van Gucht indicated that his Government attaches great importance to the consolidation of relations between Burundi and Belgium

and is absolutely keen to continue promoting cooperation in the health sector.

In order to help improve Burundi's health system, Ambassador Alain Van Gucht said that since 2015, the health sector digitization program has made it possible to computerize hospitals at different levels including 4 national hospitals, 3 regional hospitals, 6 district hospitals, similar actions will continue to be carried out, underlined Ambassador Alain Van Gucht.

He specified that these current and future interventions in the digitization of the health sector fall within the more general framework of the decision taken at the end of 2019 by the Belgian Minister for Cooperation to extend all the interventions in progress until 2022 in Burundi, with a total budget increased of 25 million euros, including 11 million in the health sector.

The Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS Dr Thaddée Ndikumana said that the computerization of hospitals allows improvement in the efficiency of patient care, better management of resources and availability of quality health information such as patient and disease identification.

While thanking the Kingdom of Belgium, Minister Thad-

dée Ndikumana asked Belgium to switch in the near future to bilateral cooperation which has always characterized the 2 countries instead of remaining in an emergency situation. Regarding laptops intended for hospitals, he asked users of these devices to manage them well as a

father, with the aim of perpetuating good governance in different healthcare structures.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

Official launch of the project: "50 million African women have the floor"



The Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender in collaboration with the Ministry of East African Community Affairs proceeded on Monday, September 28, 2020 in Bujumbura to the official launch, at the national level, of the platform "50 million African women have the floor" (50MFAP) under the theme: "the economic empowerment of Burundian women".

In her speech, the Minister in charge of Gender Madam Imelde Sabushimike indicated that this project was developed in line with the provisions of the EAC treaty, for the socio-economic development of the region in general and of women in the trade in particular. In relation to the African Union's agenda 2063, it is also based on the objectives of sustainable development, said the Minister.

She further pointed out that the objective of the project is to contribute to the economic empowerment of women by creating a very strong network of information exchange among women entrepreneurs, through a digital platform.

Certainly, this project comes mainly to alleviate the burden of Burundian women engaged in trade through the sharing of information with women from across borders, through the digital platform set up and already operational: "www.womenconnect.org", explained Minister Imelde Sabushimike.

The Minister in charge of gender lamented, however, that all women who wish so, will not be able to easily enter this platform because they are limited by a lack of knowledge in telecommunications or do not have smartphones. Hence Minister Imelde Sabushimike asked the African Development Bank (AfDB), which financed this project, to strengthen its support in order to increase the adhesion to this platform by the majority of willing women, especially rural women who do not use any Smartphones yet.

Mrs. Mary Makoffu, Director of the Department of Social Affairs within the EAC, for her part, indicated that this network will allow the connection of all the women who will frequent the platform by sharing experiences, information and knowledge of the business world, both at country level and between countries in the region and across the African continent.

The Representative of the Secretary General of the EAC for this activity indicated that this project contributes to the economic and social empowerment of women in 38 countries of the African continent, by setting up a network providing access to information on financial and non-financial services.

The 50MFAP project is financed by the AfDB and is implemented by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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