

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



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The Head of State leads a moralization session on the awakening of the patriotic spirit and good governance in Mwaro



On Tuesday, July 6, 2021, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE brought together, in Mwaro province, natives, elected officials and administrative, political and religious officials and other representatives of different services working in this province, in a moralization session on the awakening of the patriotic spirit and good governance.

After the welcoming remarks pronounced by the Governor of Mwaro Mr. Gaspard GASANZWE, the Burundian Number One returned to the vision and the fundamental principles of the current State, in particular the emergency of developing in-depth reform of Burundi through the Promotion of Good Governance in all sectors of national life.

In this session, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE said that Burundi is full of a lot of natural resources of all kinds, favorable for an economic recovery of

our country, once well exploited. He nevertheless regrets that our country suffers from the unconsciousness of certain leaders and "intellectuals" who have not yet had a sense of public service. "The future of our country depends on our ability to organize ourselves without waiting for any external aid because we have sufficient natural and human resources", he said.

As such, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE called on Burundian intellectuals to change mentalities and a renewed awareness, in order to be able to apply the knowledge acquired to explore, exploit and enhance the natural resources of Burundi.

He also called on all Burundians for a patriotic leap and good governance to bring Burundi into a new era of progress in all sectors of national life. He urged the Elected Officials, the administrative and religious officials of Mwaro province to know how to serve the people, the only real holder of power.

In order to be able to guarantee good governance in Burundi, the Head of

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State also made it known that he is committed, on behalf of the People who appointed him, to crack down on all forms of corruption and economic malfeasance.

In order to be able to guarantee this safer approach towards sustainable socio-economic development, he called on all citizens to be vigilant in all sectors, to face the lack of good citizenship and denounce all cases of corruption and other related offenses.

Before closing this moralization session, the Father of the Nation heard the grievances of the natives of Mwaro

province. Many have insisted on the need for reconciliation in order to find a solution to the ethnic divisions that have plagued the country in the past.

His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE invited all Burundians to get involved in the process of national reconciliation to rebuild a new Burundi.

(Source: www.presidence.gov.bi)

The Head of State receives Kenyan Minister in charge of EAC Affairs



On Thursday, July 8, 2021, at the Presidential Palace of Gitega, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE received in audience the Kenyan Minister in charge of East African Community Affairs (EAC), Honorable Adan MOHAMED who carried a message of greetings from President Kenyan, His Excellency Uhuru KENYATTA to his Burun-

dian counterpart and to all the Burundian people. It was also a message of thanks from the Kenyan people who thank His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE for having personally participated in the festivities marking Kenya's national holiday known as "Madaraka Day" in Kisumu.

The two personalities also addressed the point in relation to the strengthening of the bilateral relations already existing between Burundi and Kenya, as well as the socio-economic development of the region. In this vein, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE appreciated the commitment of the President of Kenya, at the same time current President of the Summit of Heads of State of the East African Community for his commitment to promote the development and well-being of Burundian and Kenyan peoples, so that each member country benefits from it.

(Source: www.presidence.gov.bi)

The Vice-President Prosper Bazombanza receives the Ambassador of Kenya



The Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi H.E Ir Prosper BAZOMBANZA received in audience, on Tuesday July 6, 2021, the Ambassador of Kenya in Burundi, Mr. Daniel Waisiko WAMBURA.

During this courtesy visit, the exchanges between the two personalities focused on the relations of friendship and cooperation that unite their countries.

The commitment of the two countries in the implementation of the various memoranda of understanding and other cooperation instruments

was mentioned during their discussions.

The two personalities are committed to strengthening the bonds of friendship between the two countries through the different communities of which they are all members, namely the African Union, the In-

ternational Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the African Community of the East in the fight against terrorism to establish stability in the sub-region.

(Source: www.presidence.gov.bi)

The Vice-President receives the Ambassador of Nigeria



The Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi H.E Ir Prosper BAZOMBANZA received in audience, on Tuesday, July 6, 2021, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Burundi Mr. Elijah Onyeagba.

In this courtesy visit, the exchanges between the two personalities focused on the relations of friendship and cooperation that unite their countries.

They discussed, among other things, the acceleration of the work of the Burundi-Nigeria Joint Commission.

It should be noted that the signing of memoranda of understanding is expected very soon in various fields, namely the promotion of private investment, political consultations, education, agriculture and tourism.

(Source: www.presidence.gov.bi)

The President of the National Assembly visits the FOMI Company



The President of the National Assembly the Right Honorable Daniel Gélase NDABIRABE welcomes the role played by the organo-mineral fertilizer manufacturing company (FOMI) in the development of the country. The Right Honorable Daniel Gélase NDABIRABE expressed it after a visit he made to this company on Saturday, July 03, 2021, accompanied by his Vice-Presidents and some Deputies.

During a guided tour of the FOMI company, the ma-

nagers of this organo-mineral fertilizer production unit explained to the office of the National Assembly the operation of this factory and the different stages of production of the various fertilizers, namely " FOMI Bagara ", " FOMI Imbura "and" Fomi Totahaza ", as well as agricultural lime.

The President of the National Assembly took this opportunity to congratulate and encourage the managers of this company who had the idea of finding an appropriate response to the challenges of agriculture. He also seized the opportunity to ask them to continue teaching farmers how the fertilizers produced by this factory are used to increase agricultural yield.

The Right Honorable Daniel Gélase NDABIRABE indicated that the FOMI Company is of great importance for the Burundians who live from agriculture, before adding that the FOMI fertilizers are adapted to the Burundian soil and that they have rehabilitated the cul-

tures which were endangered, while lime markedly decreases the acidity of the soil.

On this occasion, the President of the National Assembly warmly congratulated the Founding President of this company, making it clear that this economic operator was the first to understand the challenges of the National Development Program (PND) and that he is in the process of to contribute significantly in its implementation.

For the Right Honorable Daniel Gélase NDABIRABE, the FOMI Company is a windfall that gives Burundi a

great image and a prominent place in the concert of Nations. Finally, the President of the National Assembly encouraged officials of the FOMI Company to expand its factories abroad to continue promoting the image of Burundi.

As a reminder, the company FOMI was created in 2019, with the objective of producing organo-mineral fertilizers in sufficient quantities to increase agricultural production. It currently produces 500 tonnes of fertilizer per day, or 150,000 tonnes per year.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

The President of the National Assembly joined the people of Kayogoro commune in the work to draw the contour lines



In the pursuit of his visit to Makamba province (southern of Burundi), the President of the National Assembly, the Right Honorable Daniel Gélase NDABIRABE in the company of Parliamentarians elected in the constituency of Makamba joined the population from Kayogoro commune to Butare hill in the work of drawing the contour lines of about 430 m, the ABP observed on the spot.

In his speech, the Right Honorable Gélase NDABIRABE asked the population to get down to work in

the fields so that the province of Makamba is the breadbasket of Burundi because this province has a lot of untapped arable land. He also asked the population to come together in associations to create jobs, citing for example, training security or sanitation companies.

He called on the hill Chiefs to take the lead in income-generating activities on their respective hills. The Governor of Makamba province, Mrs. Françoise NGOZIRAZANA, in her welcoming remarks, indicated that the population is at work in the drawing of contour lines to protect cultivable land in order to increase production. She said that the province of Makamba collected more than 1000 tons of corn grains, the commune of Kayogoro alone collected more than 600 tons of corn.

(Source: ABPinfos N12390)

The President of the Senate spoke with the President of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission about the evolution of the activities of this Commission



The President of the Senate, the Right Honorable Emmanuel SINZOHAGERA, received in audience on Wednesday July 7, in Gitega (central Burundi), the President of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), Ambassador Pierre Claver NDAYICARIYE, in the company of two commissioners of this commission.

They discussed the state of development of the activities of the TRC and the role of national institutions, such as the Senate, in supporting the activities of the TRC, said Ambassador NDAYICARIYE during an interview with the press.

Regarding the achievements already carried out by the TRC, Ambassador Ndayicariye indicated that this Commission has just completed the work of exhuming the bones of the mass graves of the murdered persons and listening to the witnesses of the 1972 crisis. The Similar activities had previously carried out by the TRC in Gitega, Karusi, Bururi, Rumonge and Makamba provinces.

The President of the TRC said that the conclusion drawn is that in these different provinces, the spontaneity of witnesses on the intelligence of mass graves and other testimonies is not at the same rate.

He thus invited the national institutions, in this case the Senate, to sensitize the population so that they understand the importance of the information that the TRC seeks on these events. "It is a

truth which will help the Burundians to build the pillars of reconciliation", underlined Ambassador NDAYICARIYE, who announced that the TRC will soon continue these activities of exhumation of human bones of the tragic events of 1972 which brought mourning families and listen to witnesses in the province of Bujumbura town hall.

The President of the TRC then announced that this Commission also plans to organize a national investigation to identify people who were murdered and / or disappeared during the various crises that marked Burundi. He added that the TRC will need the increase in financial means, given that the investigators will be nationals of all the provinces, all the communes and all the hills where the investigation will take place.

He therefore called on national institutions to support the activities of the TRC. Likewise, he asked for the involvement of Burundians, in their social and political diversity, in this work of truth and reconciliation. He expressed his thanks to the Senate which organized the five conferences on the events of 1972.

(Source: Abpinfos N12389)

The Ministry in charge of Agriculture plans to finance certain farmers with inputs on credit



The Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock Dr Déo Guide Rurema

hosted on Tuesday, July 6, 2021, a press point on the progress of preparations for the 2020-2021 agricultural season C and the preparations for the 2021-2022 season A.

On this occasion, the Minister Deo Guide RUREMA indicated that to respond to the concern of the responsible and laborious Government to increase production, the Ministry of the Environment, Agri-

culture and Livestock has prepared a reference document says DOPLAL, which will serve as a guide for increased agricultural production, animal husbandry and environmental protection.

To achieve this objective, actions have been put forward such as the continued availability of fertilizers and dolomite at an affordable price, the multiplication and access to selected seeds, the protection of the soil through the fight against erosion and the development of marshes, specified the Minister.

According to Dr. Déo Guide RUREMA, the Ministry now considers the dry season like other seasons and is raising awareness about irrigation using irrigation canals and hill irrigation using motor pumps. The multiplication of fish ponds and fry, the planting of trees through the vast program "EWE BURUNDI URAMBAYE, the protection of water sources, rivers and lakes are other actions

to be carried out to achieve this objective", indicated Dr. Deo Guide RUREMA.

For the Minister Deo Guide RUREMA, the repopulation of the herd through the chain of community solidarity and genetic improvement through artificial insemination, the protection of plants and animals against diseases are the concerns of the Ministry to meet the challenge of the Government.

As part of the preparation for the dry season, the Ministry in charge of Agriculture has redoubled its efforts to sensitize all farmers in order to consider the dry season like other seasons. It is in this perspective that he planned to cultivate 14734.88ha in a modern way. "And to facilitate monitoring, the census of state lands of more than 2ha was made, and 7486.7 tons of fertilizer and 2372.3 tons of dolomite, 80 pumps and seeds of corn, potatoes, beans are available" , said the Minister.

Regarding the preparations for the 2021-2022 A season, activities are being carried out. The Minister Deo Guide RUREMA indicated that the Ministry in charge of Agriculture has set itself the objective of developing cultivable areas which have an area of two hectares or more by Quick Result Initiative of 100 days. Lands covering an area of 15,998 ha have already been identified in this context and will be cultivated in a modern way. According to Minister Deo Guide RU-

REMA, those who join the program will receive the fertilizers they will reimburse after the sale of their production. In addition, those who furnish in a modern way will receive a certificate of merit.

To achieve all these objectives, farmers were asked to follow to the letter all the instructions and advice given by the agricultural instructors, to change their behavior by considering the dry season as seasons A and B.

Seed multipliers were also asked to redouble their efforts because the cultivable areas have been increased, to register, not to distribute the wrong seed and to respect the prices set by the State.

The Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Dr. Déo Guide RUREMA asked the staff of his Ministry, municipal agronomists and veterinarians and agricultural monitors to provide local supervision. Their offices must be in the field to achieve the Government's objectives.

The Minister Déo Guide Rurema asked the administration to support the Ministry in the implementation of all actions undertaken to sensitize the population in general and farmers in particular.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

Great Lakes Region: towards enhanced regional cooperation to neutralize negative forces



Burundi hosted on July 05 to 06, 2021 in Bujumbura, the fourth meeting of the Heads of Intelligence and Security Services of Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania under the theme: "Confidence building: towards enhanced regional cooperation to neutralize negative forces".

In his welcome speech, the Administrator of the Intelligence Services of Burundi Mr. Ildephonse HABIMANA stressed that this meeting was held after those held successively in Kinshassa, Dar Es Salaam and

Nairobi with the support of the framework agreement. Mr. Ildephonse Habimana further indicated that in Burundi as in other member countries of the Great Lakes countries, peace and security remain prerequisites for stability and sustainable development, without which the stability of the population of these respective States are far from being a reality, hence he asked for the involvement of everyone.

As for the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region, as well as the Head of MONUSCO Mrs. Bintou Kéita, they stressed that the adoption of the action plan of the contact group and of coordination is a demonstration of political will, a big game in the different member countries of the contact and coordination group to move forward. They then recommended to these Great Lakes countries to carry out complementary activities and not duplication.

As for the Head of the Rwandan delegation who read the final communiqué of this meeting, he indicated that the Heads of Intelligence and Security Service as well as the Representatives of the institutions guaranteeing the framework agreement reiterated the imperative of an approach overall for the neutralization of negative forces.

He further mentioned that the mission of the Contact Coordination Group as a key instrument of the said approach is to identify and mention non-military measures complementary to enhanced military action in the region. Participants also underlined the need for the coordination contact group which should work in complementarity and coherence with existing national, regional and international mechanisms.

During this fourth meeting of the Chiefs of Intelligence and Security, they also examined and adopted the action plan of the contact and coordination group for a period of two years, the axes of which are in particular: facilitation disarmament and repatriation action processes of negative forces through an approach involving local communities and civil society, prevention of the resurgence of negative forces through the

fight against networks of supply of weapons, troops and finances, strengthening cross-border cooperation in order to generate economic opportunities aimed in particular at young people, etc.

However, the participants agreed that the adoption of the actions plan constitutes a first concrete step in the implementation of the comprehensive approach aimed at neutralizing negative forces in the Great Lakes region. They also agreed that a technical workshop devoted to the examination of the modus operandi and the financing of the operational unit will be organized in Goma in August 2021 and the Heads of Intelligence and Security Service have agreed to maintain a framework consultation and decided to hold their meeting in Kigali, Rwanda on a date to be determined after consultation.

Note that this meeting also saw the participation of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the United Nations for the Great Lakes Region, the Representative of the African Union, the Head of MONUSCO, the Executive Secretary of the ICGLR, etc.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

Bujumbura City Hall: Judicial and ethical moralization



For Mr. Nestor KAYOBERA, what the President of the Republic was saying on the occasion of the 59th anniversary, was to challenge the provisions of the EAC treaty in articles 6 and 7 which stipulate fundamental principles which must govern, among other things social justice, the rule of law as well as social justice. Magistrates are called upon to respect the law, say the law and implement the EAC action plan, continued the President of the EAC Court of Justice.

The President of the Court of Justice of

The President of the Court of Justice of the East African Community (EAC) Mr. Nestor KAYOBERA held on Monday, July 5, 2021, a judicial and ethical moralization session with the magistrates of the jurisdiction of the town hall of Bujumbura. They also exchanged views on the relations of the East African Community and the supreme jurisdictions in respect of the treaty establishing the EAC.

The President of the EAC Court of Justice Mr. Nestor KAYOBERA said that he had the opportunity to speak with the President of the Supreme Court as well as the Presidents of the three chambers of the Supreme Court, the chamber of cassation, administrative and judicial chamber. They discussed the collaboration between the East African Community with the Supreme Court but also with national courts.

For Mr. Nestor KAYOBERA as President of the Court of Justice of the EAC, he wanted to implement the speech of the President of the Republic H.E Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE that he launched on the occasion of the celebration of the 59th anniversary of independence of Burundi on things that the population must respect.

The President of the Republic insisted on respect for the land, national sovereignty and the law, said Mr. Nestor KAYOBERA.

the EAC launched a message to the magistrates: that of respecting the sovereignty of the country, of the citizen, to respect the law as well as the conventions that Burundi has ratified.

(Source: www.rtnb.bi)

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REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat-General of the State**MEDIA RELEASE NO 22 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 07 JULY**

A Cabinet Meeting was held in Gitega on Wednesday 7th of July 2021, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi.

After the presentation of the agenda, His Excellency the President of the Republic invited the Secretary General of the State to present the summary of the observations resulting from the preparatory meeting of the Council of Ministers which the Prime Minister chaired on Monday 05 July 2021, and which was devoted to the analysis of the same files on the agenda.

After restitution by the Secretary General of the State to the President of the Republic, the the following items were analyzed:

1. Sector strategy of the Ministry of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture, presented by the Minister of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture.

Burundi has adopted a National Development Plan which is currently the national reference document for development planning.

In order to involve all sectors in the implementation of this Plan, it was recommended that sector strategies should be developed.

It is within this framework that the Ministry of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture has developed its sector strategy.

This strategy constitutes a tool for the operationalization of the National Development Plan 2018-2027 through its axes related to the sectors of intervention of the Ministry, namely:

- Integration into the East African Community,
- The Youth
- The Sports
- The Culture.

It intends to contribute to the development of the country through projects integrating the framework of the East African Community, the improvement of the well-being of the youth, the preservation of culture and the promotion of sports which have an important role in social cohesion and peacebuilding, but also in improving the health of youth, becoming a determining factor of human capital for better performance.

The vision of the strategy is **‘A prosperous Burundi, actively engaged in the East African Community, taking advantage of opportunities for a better future, for the benefit of the citizens of Burundi, for the promotion of the well-being of the youth, for the development of sport and the preservation of cultural heritage’.**

After discussion and debate, the Council of Ministers adopted this Strategy and formulated among others, the following recommendations:

- The wording of the Vision of the Ministry is very long, it must be synthesized;
- To ensure the feasibility of this Strategy, it must be accompanied by an Action Plan specifying the necessary financial means;
- This strategy should refer to the overall integration strategy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation;
- There is a need supervise closely young people;

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- The Ministry in charge of Youth and that in charge of National Education must work together to achieve the economic empowerment of young people so that the funding from partners granted in this context is really a capital that brings added value and over a short period;
- The implementation of this Strategy must be made concrete through the development of projects.

2. Draft decree relating to the Internal Regulations of the Government of the Republic of Burundi, presented by the Services of the Prime Minister.

Prior to the Cabinet Meeting, the Prime Minister leads a preparatory meeting to analyze the files which will be debated in the Cabinet Meeting as provided by article 133 of the Constitution which stipulates that "The Prime Minister animates and coordinates government actions. The Prime Minister chairs the preparatory meetings of the Council of Ministers".

Article 134 of the same Constitution indicates that "The Government's internal regulations specify those who lead and coordinate the action of the Government in the event of the Prime Minister's impediment".

Although the Constitution provided for it as such, the analysis of the texts in force, in particular decree n ° 100/031 of July 28, 2020 revising decree n ° 100/54 of September 24, 2005 related to the internal regulations of the Council of Ministers has not provided for the one who animates and coordinates the action of the Government in the event of the Prime Minister's impediment.

This draft decree fills this gap.

Taking into account the order of precedence of the Ministers, the project provides that in the event of the Prime Minister's impediment, the Minister in charge of the Interior leads and coordinates the action of the Government.

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted with the recommendation of:

- Add a provision specifying that in the absence of the Minister of the Interior, another member of the Government may be appointed to lead and coordinate government action;
- Prune from the text, the provisions relating the sanctions to acts taken by members of the Government in the course of their duties because they are found in other texts.

3. Bill on the organization of the diplomatic service, presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

The Constitution of the Republic of Burundi provides, in article 164, paragraph 3, that the organization of the diplomatic and consular service is a matter of law.

It should be noted, however, that the Diplomatic Service has so far been governed by scattered and incomplete decrees, orders and memoranda. This situation does not favor a clear management of the Diplomatic Service and the careers of civil servants in the Diplomatic Service.

This project complies with the Constitution and addresses these gaps.

It guarantees the development of a diplomatic career in accordance with the principles of efficiency, stability, transparency, continuity and mobility.

This project was developed after the adoption by the Government of Burundi's Foreign Policy Document.

This project had been analyzed in the Council of Ministers and had been returned to integrate the contributions and observations of the members of the Government.

After verification, the Council of Ministers noted that the project took into account the concerns of members of the Government and adopted it with slight adjustments.

4. Sector policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

Among the missions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation as taken up by Decree No. 100/053 of September 01, 2020 organizing the Ministry, is that of designing and executing the country's foreign policy.

It is in this context that on December 24, 2020, the Council of Ministers analyzed and adopted the foreign policy document of the Republic of Burundi. It is therefore necessary for the ministry to clearly chart the path for the implementation of this policy.

The present draft sectoral policy of the Ministry is proposed to address this imperative.

This project highlights the main tasks that fall to the ministry in order to establish a more dynamic and more efficient diplomacy, responding to the main concern of defending and safeguarding the national sovereignty and the dignity of the Burundian people.

In this regard, the project lists the main challenges facing the ministry as well as the actions to be taken in order to meet them.

After discussion and debate, the Council of Ministers adopted this policy with, among other recommendations and following observations:

- Prune aspects related to limited financial means as this is not a challenge for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs only ;
- Develop an implementation plan for this policy and evaluate it periodically;

- The ministry in charge of cooperation being a gateway for the various development partners, the other ministries must collaborate with this ministry to reduce the cases of swindling of certain companies or people who pretend to be investors;
- To the various ministries, avoid receiving any request whatsoever that has not gone through the Ministry in charge of Foreign Affairs;
- Study the strategies to fight against international scams;
- To the various ministries, to closely monitor the technical services under their jurisdiction and to flush out the officials who block investors for commissions reasons;
- In principle, the ministry's sector strategy should have been adopted before this sector policy;
- There needs to be an annual evaluation of each diplomatic representation of Burundi abroad to see what it has brought as added value to the country.

5. Draft fair wage policy in the Burundian public sector, presented by the Minister of Public Service, Labor and Employment.

The diagnosis made with regard to the remuneration of civil servants of the State shows that it contains many disparities caused by:

- A multiplicity of bonuses and allowances granted categorically and which do not often comply with those provided for by the Staff Regulations ;
- The existence of index advantages granted to certain categories of civil servants upon recruitment ;
- The case of personalized state administrations which, in the name of their autonomy, are free to set the remuneration of their agents.

This situation created frustrations for certain categories of civil servants which led to repetitive demands for a harmonization of salaries. Faced with this situation, a temporary solution was found with the creation of a wage adjustment

compensation in 2016 with a budget of 20 billion per year, for a period of four years.

The deadline of 2020 has been set for a salary policy that re-establishes the basis for fair and sustainable remuneration to definitively resolve the issue. It is this Policy that is offered here.

In developing this salary policy, the concern is, on the one hand, to rebuild a dynamic equity system for the remuneration of civil servants and, on the other hand, to support the reforms already under way. Indeed, this policy is based on the performance management policy in the public sector adopted by the Government in 2014 as well as on the classification of jobs, functions and professions in the public administration provided for by the National Reform Program of the Administration which constitutes the basis of the innovations that the Policy proposes.

The Council of Ministers analyzed this file and adopted the technical structure of this Policy with the recommendation to continue with the other stages particularly in the financial package.

The proposed financial package is based on setting the employment point, normally obtained by dividing the payroll for bonuses and allowances by the sum of the employment points and which is a value of "28".

According to the unions, this value does not make it possible to find a solution to the issue of wage disparities since the bonuses and allowances are granted to a tiny minority of civil servants and they propose the value of "45".

This value of "45" will have a budgetary impact of one hundred and twenty five billion nine hundred and ninety four million two hundred and sixty two thousand seven hundred and eighty eight Burundian francs (125,994,262,788Fbu) which can be spread over five years. During the discussions, the following observations were made:

- The note does not show the number of those who benefited from the salary adjustment allowance and at what level ;
- The value of the employment point "45" has not been set on any basis and has not been the subject of a consensus ;
- The index 28 should be used because the index "45" would allow those with high wages to rise further;
- This policy must be implemented on the basis of the budget that has been provided for this purpose, namely 34 billion this year, to raise the salaries of civil servants, which still remain low;
- The implementation of this policy must be preceded by the signing of performance contracts by civil servants, having defined precise specifications for each civil servant;
- The salary should take into account the job actually held and not just the qualification;
- Make sure there are no fictitious officials;
- The unblocking and fictitious career advancement of officials affected by the financial freezing of records since 2016 would generate double remuneration for some because they have benefited from the salary adjustment allowance since 2016 ;
- The document should show salaries at the level of all ministries rather than being limited to certain sectors only ;
- Questions related to INSS and ONPR contributions should not be dealt with under this policy because an option has already been taken in connection with pensions;
- There is a need to separate unions in the public sector and those in the private sector;
- In terms of career management, the system of advancement must be harmonized for everyone;

- Mathematics and computer experts must be associated to develop easy-to-read calculation tables;
- The implementing texts of the Social Protection Code must be drawn up;
- The principle of acquired rights must be qualified because there are rights which have been ill-acquired or illegally acquired.

The reworked draft salary policy will be brought back to the Council of Ministers.

6. Note on the issue of liquidation of Washing Station Management Companies (SOGESTAL) and of the Coffee Breaking and Conditioning Company (SODECO), presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

Despite the reforms put in place by the Government in the coffee sector following the Structural Adjustment Program initiated by the World Bank since 1986, the Coffee Sector did not show the expected performance and difficulties in the sector persisted.

The main difficulties identified are in particular :

- structural difficulties linked to a weak technical and management capacity ;
- organizational difficulties from the production stage to the coffee export stage, with as a corollary the financial difficulties in being able to pay the price to the producers, which obliged the State of Burundi to intervene through its assistance in the form of endorsements during coffee campaigns ;
- non-compliance by SOGESTAL and SODECO with contractual obligations, resulting in the non-payment of rents, the lack of upkeep and maintenance of the rented goods, the remuneration of staff, -payment of taxes, etc.

Following these difficulties and considering that the coffee sector remains the lung of the national economy, the Council of Ministers in its meeting of December 1, 2019 took the decision to re-engage the State in the Coffee Sector by adopting the recovery strategy, revitalization and sustainability of the Coffee Sector.

As a result of this decision to re-engage the state, three measures were taken, in particular:

- the creation of the Office for the Development of Coffee in Burundi (ODECA) ;
- termination of lease contracts with SODECO and with five (5) SOGESTALs (MUMIRWA, KAYANZA, NGOZI, KIRUNDO-MUYINGA, and KIRIMIRO) ;
- the provision to ODECA, for the general interest, of the State's heritage of the coffee sector, coffee pulping and washing stations, buildings, rolling stock, office furniture, computer equipment and spare parts in stock which belonged to SOGESTAL and SODECO.

The difficulties were encountered during the liquidation of SOGESTAL and SODECO, and are due to two reasons:

- Upon termination of the rental contracts for State assets, the financial statements of SOGESTAL and SODECO already showing a very alarming financial situation, with a lack of operating resources for liquidation commissions ;
- With the requisition by the State of the own assets of SOGESTAL and SODECO, the latter were deprived of assets / corporate assets to be realized with a very heavy liability to liquidate.

Regarding the exit routes, such as the expert reports on SOGESTAL / SODECO assets allocated to ODECA are already available, the following measures could be considered :

- The Government should agree to buy them back at present values ;
- Equipment or assets not retained by ODECA should be handed over to SOGESTAL / SODECO in liquidation for possible public sale ;

- The State shareholder should be treated in the same way as the other shareholders during the liquidation.

During the discussions, the following observations and recommendations were raised in particular:

- With the taking over of the sector by the State via the Coffee Development Office (ODECA), coffee growers are paid on time ;
- Taking into account the material and financial resources that the State had made available to these companies, there must be an audit in order to calculate all the values of the leased assets ;
- In the calculations to be made, it is necessary to take into account the advances that the State has released on its own to pay the coffee producers ;
- The liquidation should be carried out transparently with shared responsibility at all levels because they were mixed companies according to the contributions of each.

The Ministries in charge of Finance and Agriculture will collaborate to establish what these companies owe to the State and to proceed with the recovery, even if forced is necessary. If necessary, the Ministry of Justice may be engaged.

7. Draft ministerial order establishing a Field Artillery Specialization School

8. Draft ministerial order establishing a Marine Specialization School

9. Draft ministerial order establishing an Aviation Specialization School

These three projects were presented by the Minister of National Defense and Veterans Affairs.

In order to safeguard its independence, one of the elements that Burundi needs is a professional and modern army.

The latter must constantly improve to face the daily challenges related to the accomplishment of its missions, geopolitics and constant evolution of other armies in the world in general and the sub-region in particular.

The best strategy to achieve this is through training, focusing on the specialization of the military.

Moreover, even the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi provides that members of the Burundi National Defense Force must receive technical trainings.

It is within this framework that the Burundi National Defense Force wanted to fulfill this constitutional duty by creating these three specialization schools (field artillery, marine and aviation).

In the past, the military's specialization in these areas was done abroad and was very expensive so that a small number of military personnel benefited from it.

The creation of these schools in the country will allow the National Defense Force to train a large number of soldiers.

After discussion and debate, these projects were adopted with slight alterations.

10. Any Other Business

- The Minister of National Education and Scientific Research presented a Note relating to the organization and seating of the State Examination, Edition 2021 which began on July 6, 2021 and which will end on July 09, 2021. He said the number of candidates is 53,078, of which 53,057 are in Burundi and 21 in Nairobi, Kenya. There are 106 examination centres, including 83 in the interior of the country, 22 in Bujumbura Town Hall and 1 in Nairobi. He said the activity is going smoothly.

•His Excellency the President of the Republic spoke about the project to digitize government services. To this end, the Minister in charge of Information Technology was asked to develop a plan and the related needs.

He took the opportunity to ask that in the context of infrastructure construction, national experts should be used as a matter of priority when they are available.

In this same context, the various ministries were asked to show the necessary human resources needs according to the fields, so that the Ministry in charge of National Education can search for scholarships for the fields not available here in Burundi.

To conclude, His Excellency the President of the Republic asked members of the Government to be more present on the field for greater visibility and take the necessary measures against defaulting officials, and not wait for the initiative of Higher Authorities.

Done at Gitega, July 8th, 2021

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

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Communication Department

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