



President NDAYISHIMIYE celebrates the 9th Edition of the communal festival in his native commune



more detailed development plan.

President NDAYISHIMIYE thanked the natives who work for the development of their commune citing the example of Mr. Dusabe Libère living in the USA and who promoted mushrooms as well as the drinking water supply in Giheta his native commune.

For his involvement and his contribution to the socio-economic development of his native commune of Giheta, a prize

was awarded to President NDAYISHIMIYE by the communal administrator who then thanked other natives who distinguished themselves in various activities of development of their community.

It should be noted that President NDAYISHIMIYE began the day with the official inauguration in Kibimba in Gitega Province of the Mugiraneza Polyclinic, one of the great works of the Fondation Bonne Action Mugiraneza chaired by the First Lady of Burundi and which has a humanitarian vocation through multifaceted assistance to the most deprived.

On august 6, 2022, the Head of State H.E Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE accompanied the First Lady and his children, joined the natives of Giheta his native town for the celebration of the national day dedicated to the communal holiday 9th Edition 2022.

In his speech for the occasion, President NDAYISHIMIYE at the same time a native of Giheta commune welcomed the speech report of their administrator who cited the progress made during the previous Edition and to mark this 9th Edition of the communal feast the Chief of the state recommended that they draw up a

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Safeguarding the precious ancestral values of social mutual aid



On friday august 5, 2022, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste

NDAYISHIMIYE accompanied by the First Lady and their children, enhanced by his presence in Musama his native hill, the ceremonies marking the day dedicated to national solidarity and invites natives to safeguarding the precious ancestral values of social mutual aid.

The Burundian President recalled certain good ancestral values of mutual aid such as, when a house caught fire the neighbors rush to put it out or when it collapses, they organize themselves to rebuild it.

"Work, take pains to fight against begging which can strongly tarnish the image of our country" said President NDAYISHIMIYE to the natives of his hill, reminding them that the time of manna is over.

In a warm and festive atmosphere, the presidential family was provided with material assistance intended for the most vulnerable of Musama hill, in Giheta commune of Gitega province.

The natives of the same hill as President NDAYISHIMIYE expressed their joy by singing and dancing with the presidential family, and were surprised to hear the President himself who greeted them by calling out their names. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

Evaluation of government action in Burundi



traced the dark path experienced by Burundi during and after colonization and urged the government authorities to make great efforts and work tirelessly so that the people could benefit from the dividends hard-won democracy. The Head of State returned to the new delimitations of the national territory which were received differently, to underline the advantages they offer in terms of decentralization and development of Burundi.

On thursday august 4, 2022 at the Jean-Paul II Major Seminary in the province of Gitega a government retreat, under the direction of the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, which is dedicated to the evaluation of government action was held. In his introductory remarks, President NDAYISHIMIYE

During this retreat, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission presented a presentation entitled: "The TRC at the center of the search for Truth for reconciliation", this to provide an objective look at the state of play of reconciliation in Burundi. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

The relations between the European Union and Burundi are strong



On tuesday august 2, 2022, the Representative of the European Union in Burundi, Ambassador Claude Bochu, during an audience at the Presidential Palace in Gitega, thanked the Burundian Head of State, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, for having granted him a distinction in the order of friendship of the people during the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the independence of Burundi, on July 1, 2022, a gesture which he described as "Solidarity of the links between the European Union and Burundi . »

Ambassador Claude Bochu also congratulated President Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE on his appointment as head of the Community of East African States and discussed the challenges of this community and his role as President.

Claude Bochu made it known during an interview granted to the press, that the European Union is thinking of developing a strategic framework for the Great Lakes Region, hence, according to this European Diplomat, the role that the President has for the moment at the head of this community is very interesting for the European Union and for the consolidation of peace in this region which presents difficulties in the East of the Congo, said Ambassador Claude Bochu.

President NDAYISHIMIYE also congratulated Ambassador Claude Bochu for this "deserved" distinction and intends to strengthen a good dialogue between Burundi and the European Union and define together the results to be achieved, said the Number One Burundian.

At the bilateral level, they discussed major infrastructure projects in Burundi, the rule of law and human rights. (www.presidency.gov.bi)

Towards the establishment of the parliament hemicycle in Gitega



On thursday, august 4, 2022, the President of the Senate Right Honorable Emmanuel SINZOHAGERA received in audience a delegation from the Indian company Shah Technical Consultants PVY.Ltd, which won the construction contract for the parliament chamber in Gitega as well as ministerial buildings. On the menu of exchanges, the updating of the studies which had been carried out in 2019 in relation to the construction of this hemicycle. This delegation also wanted to collect from the President of the Senate the data to be taken into account in the new studies.

The Right Honorable Emmanuel SINZOHAGERA took this opportunity to ask this team to speed up

the work so that the project could start in a year at most.

The members of this delegation agreed to do everything in their power to start the work as soon as possible. Nevertheless, they requested facilities from the Burundian Office of Urban Planning, Housing and Construction and exemption of construction equipment that will be imported for this purpose.

To conclude, the President of the Senate Right Honorable Emmanuel SINZOHAGERA recommended to plan the construction on the same site of a luxury hotel in related works, which will generate funds which will be used to refund the debt which will have been contracted for the construction of this hemicycle.

It should be mentioned that this Indian delegation was accompanied by the Commissioner General of OBU-HA and the President of the Management and Monitoring Unit of this project. (www.rtnb.bi)

Celebrating the World Hepatitis Day



On Friday August 05, 2022, Burundi joined the whole world in celebrating the World Day Against Viral Hepatitis, which is normally celebrated on July 28 of each year. The theme for this year is: "Bringing hepatitis treatment within your reach".

This celebration aims to better know "this silent killer" who causes about 125,000 deaths in Africa every year. According to Dr Denise NKEZIMANA, who represented World Health Organisation at the ceremonies, the theme chosen this year also aims to highlight the need to bring hepatitis care services closer to primary health care establishments and, therefore, to the communities that need it, in order to improve access to treatment and care.

According to World Health Organisation figures, at the African level, more than 90 million people live with hepatitis, or 26% of people suffering from this disease worldwide. The transmission of hepatitis from mother to child remains high in the region, with a prevalence of 2.5% in children under 5, said the World Health Organisation Representative Dr Denise NKEZIMANA. As for the world report on hepatitis in 2021, it is reminded that only 2% of people living with hepatitis B in Africa know their status and that less than 1% receive treatment. In the case of hepatitis C only 5% of patients know their status, with an alarming treatment rate of 0% and only 6% of babies receive a dose of the hepatitis vaccine at birth.

World Health Organisation has adopted for the African region the 2021-2030 framework for an inte-

grated multisectoral response to tuberculosis, HIV infection, sexually transmitted infections and hepatitis. This framework aims to support major milestones such as the introduction of vaccination against hepatitis B at birth in 35 Member States, the diagnosis of at least 30% of people with chronic hepatitis and the trafficking of 30% of people suffering from hepatitis B and C concluded the WHO representative.

As for the representative of the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, Dr Oscar NIHABOSE, said that according to a study carried out in Burundi, it showed that between 5 to 10% of people suffer from hepatitis B and that approximately 10 % of people suffer from hepatitis C. Despite raising awareness about hepatitis during the celebration of the World Day Against Viral Hepatitis since 2017 in Burundi, this hepatitis disease remains unknown to the public because of certain challenges between other screening structures which remain insufficient and are mostly confined to towns and large urban centres, the lack of specialized doctors, the materials and treatment technologies which are only available in a few hospitals, the lack of information on the disease and research, the high cost of tests and drugs, the inadequacy of laboratory platforms, etc.

All these challenges form a counter to achieving the global objective of eradicating viral hepatitis by 2030. To celebrate this world day, the Ministry of Health through its PNLS/IST program has organized activities aimed at raising public awareness. such as voluntary and free screening for the inhabitants of the city of Bujumbura and its surroundings, sensitizing people who have tested positive to the benefit of starting treatment as soon as possible, the organization of sensitization workshops and the media to reach the large number. These activities of the celebration of World Hepatitis Day began with a march.

Towards the improvement of public transport in Bujumbura



The Van Transport company brought 30 public transport buses to Bujumbura to help improve the circulation of people in Bujumbura Town Hall. From Monday August 08, 2022, these buses begin the activities of moving the population of Bujumbura. The axes most in need will be the first served, indicated Alain Franck Pacini, Managing Director of Van Transport.

The Managing Director of the company Van Transport Alain Franck PACINI has indicated that they have responded to the call of the Minister of the Interior to invest in public transport in the city of Bujumbura. Since today, public transport has become a headache for city dwellers in addition to the glaring lack of fuel and the wear and tear of the road networks of the Town Hall.

According to the Managing Director of Van Trans-

port, 20 public transport buses are en route from Dar-Es-Salaam to Bujumbura. And the objective is to bring 100 buses to Bujumbura Town Hall.

The Managing Director of Van Transport Alain Franck PACINI indicated that the tickets will be sold in advance by the agents of the company Van Transport. In the future, the company intends to digitize the electronic payment of tickets.

When there is a crying lack of fuel, the managing director of the company Van Transport pleads with the government to help them to supply themselves with fuel in order to help the population of Bujumbura in their displacements. (www.rtnb.bi)

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REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat-General of the State**MEDIA RELEASE N° 14 CONSECUTIVE TO THE CABINET MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 03 AUGUST 2022**

A Cabinet meeting was held in Gitega on Wednesday 03rd of August 2022, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Major General Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, President of the Republic of Burundi.

After the presentation of the agenda, His Excellency the President of the Republic invited the Prime Minister to present the summary of the observations resulting from the preparatory meeting of the Council of Ministers which the Prime Minister chaired on Wednesday 27 July 2022, and which was devoted to the analysis of the same files on the agenda.

After restitution by the Prime Minister to the President of the Republic, the following items were analyzed:

- 1. Summary of projections of the number of retirees, the share of financing from the INSS, the ONPR and the share from the State, respecting the scenario of increasing the pension to 30% for retirees before 2020**, presented by the Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender.

On September 8, 2021, the Council of Ministers analyzed a note on the file relating to the reforms of the social security sector, retirement pension component and made several recommendations, in particular:

- To the Ministry in charge of the Public Service, to provide data showing the State employees who will retire in the next ten years to project the budgetary impact;

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- To the Ministry in charge of Finance, to make calculations to see among the three scenarios proposed, namely the increase in the pension of 30%, 40% or 50% which the State can choose for the increase in the pension of retirees before 2020 and that no retiree receives a pension of less than 30,000 Bif.
- To show the part of the INSS and ONPR institutions and that of the State in the implementation of this reform after taking into account retirees before 2020;
- Set up a Fund that will sustainably support the reform.

As a reminder, the reform concerns public sector pensioners.

To respond to the recommendations of the Council of Ministers mentioned above, the calculations were made and the results were analyzed by the Council of Ministers.

After analyzing the responses to these concerns, the Council of Ministers reached the following conclusions:

- Beneficiaries will begin to receive the revalued pension as soon as this summary note is adopted;
- The INSS and the ONPR will release at least 30% of their investments to finance the reform, and the State will support it by setting up a Fund for its sustainability;
- The General State Inspectorate is called upon to check whether all the assets of the INSS which generate assets (infrastructure, investments, assets, etc.) are well managed and whether all the funds go to the account of the INSS;
- In collaboration with ISTEEBU, the ministries concerned will redo projections so that each year we know exactly who is retiring and who is no longer on the list of beneficiaries;
- The ministries concerned will redo the statistics to see each month the contributions collected and the amounts of pensions disbursed;
- Political and public officials are not concerned by this reform because there are texts governing the institutions in which they are or their institutions of origin.

2. Bill amending Law No. 1/04 of January 27, 2010 on the reorganization of pension and occupational risk schemes for civil servants, magistrates and agents of the judiciary, presented by the Minister of National Solidarity , Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender.

The Government of the Republic of Burundi has launched a vast project of social reforms with the aim of improving the well-being of its population. These reforms are observed, on the legal level, in the promulgation of laws such as the Code of Social Protection in Burundi as well as the Labor Code.

The reform that will have the greatest impact on the future of public sector employees and their families is Law No. 1/09 of March 14, 2022 amending certain provisions of Law No. 1/12 of May 12, 2020 on the Code of social protection in Burundi. Indeed, this law has come to put an end to the anxiety of this category of people approaching or entering retirement by guaranteeing them all of their last net salary.

With the promulgation of this law, Law No. 1/04 of January 27, 2010 on the reorganization of pension and professional risk schemes for civil servants, magistrates and agents of the judicial order is no longer in line with it.

It is therefore necessary to review the law on pension and occupational risk schemes for civil servants, magistrates and agents of the judiciary to adapt it to the current legislative dynamics.

Compared to the 2010 law under amendment, the following innovations are made by the bill:

- The share of the insured and that of the State-employer which were expressed in points are expressed as a percentage;
- The project provides for an early retirement at 10 years before the legal retirement age if the insured person in activity suffers from premature wear and tear of his physical or

mental faculties, contrary to the current law which provides for such an early retirement at 5 years before retirement age.

- Early retirement for personal convenience 5 years before retirement age is not granted automatically. It is now subject to the assessment of the employer who can accept or refuse it in the interest of the service.
- The monthly amount of the pension is calculated in such a way that it is equal to the last net salary of the month preceding that of retirement;
- The medical care provided abroad to an insured person, including the repatriation of the remains in the event of the death of the insured person, is borne by the social security body;
- The bill provides for sanctions against the employer whose declaration is rejected by the organization for reasons of delay, fault or negligence.

After discussions and debates, the bill was adopted.

3. Draft decree amending Decree No. 100/52 of March 31, 2010 on the creation, organization and functioning of the National Authority for Pensions and Occupational Risks for Civil Servants, Magistrates and Agents of the Judicial Order, presented by the Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender.

The modification of this decree is dictated by the following innovations:

- The extension of social protection by adding other categories of affiliates including public and political officers as well as ONPR staff;
- To improve the services of the ONPR, a new Department of Studies and Planning has been created;
- The precision of the deadlines for drawing up the lists of candidates for retirement with their last net monthly salaries;
- The insertion of a representative of retirees on the voluntary appeals committee;
- Specification of the mode of appointment of the Complaints Committee.

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted with, among other things, the following observations and recommendations:

- The existing texts do not allow ONPR staff to be affiliated with this institution
- The decisions of the Board of Directors are sent to the supervising Minister and the latter seizes the Regulatory Authority for Social Protection Programs and Systems for an opinion;
- Reshape the Board of Directors:
 - o By including two representatives of retirees;
 - o By removing the representative of public and political representatives and that of the staff of the ONPR;
 - o By including a representative of the Ministry in charge of National Education in place of a representative of the most representative union of teachers;
- Delete the categories of public and political representatives because they are governed by other texts.

4. Draft decree on the terms and conditions for the implementation of Law No. 1/09 of March 14, 2022 amending certain provisions of Law No. 1/12 of May 12, 2020 on the Code of Social Protection in Burundi for the public sector, presented by the Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender.

The promulgation of Law No. 1/09 of March 14, 2022 amending certain provisions of Law No. 1/12 of May 12, 2020 on the social protection code in Burundi has the merit of revaluing pensions initially for the benefit of the public sector. This revaluation consists of granting a monthly pension equal to the last net salary of the insured person and raising the level of the minimum pension to 30,000 Fbu.

It is with a view to making this revaluation operational that this draft decree on the terms of application of the law cited above was initiated.

It aims first of all to define clearly among its policyholders, the beneficiaries of this revaluation, who are: political or public representatives, members of the defense and security corps and public sector agents whose salaries come from the budget of the 'State.

The draft decree also specifies the amount of the revaluation, its practical financing methods and the pension floor.

After discussions and debates, the project was adopted with the following recommendations:

- The purpose of the decree must show that the retiree will receive the last net salary last received;
- Remove from the categories concerned the political or public representatives because they are governed by other texts;
- Indicate all the categories concerned by the draft decree;
- Add a provision specifying that this social security reform will be financed by these institutions (INSS and ONPR) and that the State will support by setting up a Fund for its sustainability.

5. Draft joint ordinance raising the pensions received by public sector retirees retired before January 1, 2020, presented by the Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender .

This draft ordinance implements Law No. 1/09 of March 14, 2022 amending certain provisions of Law No. 1/12 of May 12, 2020 on the Social Protection Code in Burundi.

It specifies that the monthly pension for old age, invalidity or early retirement received by the civil servant, magistrate, political representative or public representative who is a national of the public sector, executive or public sector employee, the judiciary, the member of the defense and security corps or of another entity, retired before January 1, 2020, and whose salary comes out of the State budget is increased by thirty percent (30 %).

It also specifies that no old age, disability or early retirement pension received by a beneficiary of the public sector before January 1, 2020 may not be less than thirty thousand Burundian francs (30,000 FBu).

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted with, among other recommendations, the insertion of a provision specifying that the reform of social security will be financed by social security institutions and the State will support them by setting up a Fund for the sustainability of this reform;

6. Draft memorandum of understanding between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the company Frontier Holdings Limited of India for the installation of a solid waste treatment and management plant in the City of Bujumbura, presented by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock.

In the current context of rapid expansion of cities and strong population growth, especially in the City of Bujumbura, the volume of waste, whether solid or liquid, continues to increase. Hence, their effective management is of paramount importance to improve the living conditions of the populations and to protect the environment.

Despite the efforts made by the Government, by adopting the National Sanitation Policy and by setting up technical services to maintain cleanliness in the city of Bujumbura, sanitation remains precarious and more particularly with regard to solid waste.

Beyond the direct consequences on health and the environment, the lack of sanitation constitutes an obstacle to the development of foreign investment and in particular to tourism.

Faced with the magnitude of the challenge to be met, the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock is trying to mobilize public and private funding at significant

levels. Frontier Holdings Limited of India has submitted a request for expression of interest for the installation of a solid waste treatment and management plant in Burundi.

It is within this framework that the said Memorandum was prepared.

The objective of this memorandum of understanding is to ensure the rational management of solid waste in the city of Bujumbura by producing organic fertilizer in particular.

After discussion and debate, the Council of Ministers noted that this project, although interesting, should not be the subject of a memorandum. A letter from the Minister in charge of the Environment containing the content of this Memorandum will be sent to the company.

It is necessary to inform them that the project is good but to indicate the environmental standards to be respected. In order to measure their degree of commitment, they will have to pay a guarantee to the Central Bank.

For the rest of the procedures, the promoter will have to contact the Ministry in charge of Industry.

7. Note on Burundi's arrears of statutory contributions to international and regional organizations, presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning

This note provides an inventory of arrears in contributions to international organizations, along with proposed solutions to the related funding difficulties.

Currently, the financing requirement amounts to one hundred and forty-seven billion, seven hundred and seventy-two million, eight hundred and twenty-four thousand, three hundred and eighty-two Burundian francs (147,772,824,382 Fbu).

This situation is due to a multitude of international organizations to which Burundi is a member without necessarily taking into account the benefit that the country will derive

from them. In the meantime, the financial resources available to the country do not allow it to honor the financial commitments under the statutory contributions.

The note makes a series of proposals for measures to try to remedy this, in particular:

- Make a rational choice of the international organizations to which Burundi must adhere, taking into account not only the interests of the country but also the budget credit available for contributions to regional and international organizations,
- To withdraw from certain organizations from which Burundi does not derive the expected economic, political and financial benefits;
- Prioritize payments for contributions and outstanding payments to consume the available budget;
- Involve the Ministry in charge of finance in the negotiations of the arrears clearance plan;
- Take into account, each time, the budgetary and financial impact of new commitments at international or regional level.

After discussion on the note, the following observations and recommendations were made:

- Sectoral Ministries, including parastatal institutions, must update the list of organizations to which the State of Burundi is a member and a staggered regularization plan for all arrears;
- The Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs will update and bring back for analysis by the Council of Ministers the file relating to the identification of the Organizations in which Burundi must remain a member and those it can leave;

8. Note on the issue of the scarcity of products such as those of BRARUDI, BUCECO AND SOSUMO, presented by the Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism

This note relates the problem of shortage of BRARUDI, SOSUMO and BUCECO products. It comes after multiple attempts to raise the prices of some of these products but also following the shortage and speculation surrounding these products.

There are discrepancies between the reference prices and the real prices on the market. This is so at a time when the Ministry of Commerce in collaboration with the local administration continues to deploy their efforts to enforce the official prices but in vain.

In the meantime, BRARUDI and BUCECO have continued to send requests to the Ministry in charge of trade to increase the prices of their products since 2021 for reasons in particular of soaring raw material costs, transport but also the need to increase investment to meet demand.

The Ministry in charge of trade wishes to share this information while offering solutions in relation to this situation.

- For Brarudi, the price increase offered varies between 200 and 600 Fbu per bottle and depends on the type of product.
- For BUCECO, the proposed price increase is 3000 Fbu/bag on the Cement 32.5R product.

After discussion and debate on the note, the following observations and recommendations were made, in particular:

- The common point for all three products is that the demand is far greater than the supply. Given the production capacities of these Companies, it is not clear that these products will be available even after the price increase;
- For BRARUDI and BUCECO products, it is important to analyze production costs to offer realistic prices;
- The BRARUDI and BUCECO companies must show a plan to increase production so that these products are available before considering the price increase;
- For SOSUMO and BUCECO products that are insufficient, allow other operators with sufficient financial capacity a door to import these products;
- Accelerate the SOSUMO Rehabilitation, Modernization and Extension Project, whose business plan is already available.

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- Concerning BRARUDI which wants to grow sorghum, the Ministers having Trade, Community Development and Agriculture in their attributions will get together to see how to respond to this request.
- The administration must enforce the prices in force because the prices increase while the taxes remain the same;
- The Ministry in charge of Industry as well as the Burundi Development Agency are called upon to find mechanisms to encourage industrial promoters who want to invest in Burundi.

9. Any Other Business

The Council of Ministers has noted that there are executives who do not want to take the pace of work of the Government and rather want to torpedo its action.

For this kind of executives, changes will be made to bring in new blood.

Done at Gitega, 04 August 2022
Prosper NTAHORWAMIYE

Secretary-General and Spokesman.-

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
Development Cooperation
Department of Communication**

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