



Celebration of the International Women's Day: "Let's walk together with the women in development by increasing production"



On March 8, 2024, Burundi joined the whole world in celebrating the International Women's Day. The ceremonies marking that day took place in Gitega at the Ingoma stadium and saw the participation of the Presidential Couple, surrounded by other High Authorities of the country, the Senior Executives and the Executives of the State and several Burundian Women from all the corners of the country.

Those festivities began with a rich parade headed by the Minister re-

sponsible for gender, followed by the women from different socio-professional backgrounds including police and military personnel representing the Defense and Security Corps.

In the speeches given by the various speakers including the president of the Burundian Women's Forum, the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Burundi, all congratulate the Burundian Government for the step already taken in terms of promoting female leadership.

In his speech, the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye called to order certain men who do not value the women, who often devalue them in the family and in the professional spheres. He urged them to recognize the inestimable value of the women in society, to support them in their daily tasks because anyone who spends the day without working will die with a debt to their family and to God. "A man must work tirelessly to provide for the needs of his family," he said.

Talking about the theme: "Let us move together with the women in development by increasing the production", the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye called on the

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Burundian men to revalorize the social position of their wives and to honor their dignity so that they contribute to the development of the country. He also urged the young girls avoiding the sexual laziness and vagrancy, unwanted pregnancies and not to get carried away by the foreign traditions and cultures.

Closing his speech, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye reiterated the commitment of the Government

of Burundi in supporting the Burundian women in their personal development, because without a doubt, that will have an impact on the development of the families and the entire country.

The ceremonies ended in a jovial atmosphere of the rhythms of the Burundian drums, the dances and the traditional songs. **(Presidency)**

President Evariste Ndayishimiye calls on the population for the financial independence



On Thursday March 7, 2024, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi held, a meeting for the administration and the security officials at the base of the Bujumbura Town Hall, on the role in supervising the population and monitoring the compliance with the law, where he urged them achieving the financial independence and cleanliness in the city of Bujumbura to restore the image of Burundi.

The Burundian Head of State, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, reminded those administrative officials of the role of principal supervisors of the population to promote the development of all citizens, instead of working as the commission agents.

During that meeting, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye called on the Burundian population to the self-development and the exchange of experiences for the development of the country in order to achieve an Emerging Burundi in 2040 and Developed in 2060 where it also called on the Burundian population to create the wealth from the Burundi's natural resources.

President Evariste Ndayishimiye also called on the administrators to integrate the production system where he suggested the creation of a partnership between those who own the land and those who are capable of providing the selected seeds and chemical fertilizers, and the transformation of production. He also ordered

the population of Bujumbura Town Hall to use the public lighting.

The Burundian Number One recommended to those administrators to restore order in the city of Bujumbura with regard to the sanitation and the anarchic constructions. He also urged the Mayor of the city of Bujumbura to adopting restrictive measures on the side of households and companies involved in this sanitation sector, with the aim of protecting the lives of citizens.

The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye pleaded for the Rapid Results Initiatives (RRI) which should be executed one after the other, to be able to restore order in the city of Bujumbura while promoting the peace progressive fight against the unsanitary conditions, the drugs, the prohibited drinks, and the unwanted pregnancies for the young adolescents and a rigorous evaluation should follow.

After the meeting with the Administrators and the Heads of the Services, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye made a field visit to the Ruvumera market, located in the Buyenzi zone, for the kick-off to zero waste in the city where he dismissed the commissioner from the Ruvumera market, Élysé Ngayempore and his deputy Cimpaye Frédéric for the dirt observed in this market.

President Evariste Ndayishimiye finally visited the COTE-BU market and invited the population to maintain cleanliness in the surrounding area. He also stressed that the company used to collect waste at Ruvumera market will be taken to court for the funds already collected.

The Head of State Evariste Ndayishimiye announced that that campaign related to the health will take one hundred days. He also recommended the Bujumbura City Hall administrators returning the looted public spaces. **(Presidency)**

The Head of State inaugurates the social infrastructures in the commune of Isare



On Wednesday March 6, 2024, the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye proceeded to the official inauguration of several works created in the Isare commune of the Bujumbura Province.

He began with the new building housing the Bujumbura Provincial Directorate of Education in Isare commune of Bujumbura province, a project initiated by local education officials with the support of the population.

The Burundian Number One also inaugurated a BANCObU agency established in Isare commune of Bujumbura province, a banking institution built to

allow the population to easily access banking services during the implementation of development projects such as 'said one of the managers of that bank.

Still in Isare commune, His Excellency President Evariste Ndayishimiye also inaugurated the Provincial Gîte of Bujumbura erected under the initiative of the natives of the province with the technical support of the Presidency of the Republic of Burundi.

During the inauguration of those infrastructures, the President of the Republic of Burundi suggested everywhere he went that he supports those development initiatives which show that the population is working hard in contributing to the achievement of the vision of the Burundi Emerging in 2040 and Developed in 2060.

With the same aim of encouraging and supporting the development projects, the Burundian Head of State traveled to Benga locality in the same Isare commune where he visited a modern farm "Magenzi Farm SPRL" invested in the production, processing and marketing of agri-food products, thus contributing to the development of the local community.

"We plan to create a real value chain in order to obtain the finished products from the raw materials," revealed Dr. Pierre Claver Ngenzebuhoro, the Legal Representative of that company, before specifying that through the breeding of the pork, the chickens and the exploitation of the oil palm contributes to the job creation, offers a sales market for other oil palm producers. (Presidency).

The Head of State committed to making the energy and mining sectors main factors of socio-economic change in Burundi

During a meeting that he animated on Tuesday March 5, 2024 for the senior executives of the Ministry of Energy and Mines at the Ntare Rushatsi Palace, the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye reiterated his firm commitment of making that sector one of the main factors of the socio-economic change in Burundi, a sector that can sufficiently attract the foreign investment.

In that session organized as part of a self-assessment for a common vision on the role of the energy, the mining and the quarrying sector for an Emerging Burundi in 2040 and Developed in 2060,

President Evariste Ndayishimiye reminded those responsible for the energy and mining sector in Burundi of their responsibility and their role in the development of the country, given that it is a sector constituting a lever for creating foreign currencies.

In contributing to the economic growth of the country, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye urges the stakeholders in the mining sector to do a lot of research on the existence, location and efficient extraction of the minerals so that the Burundians can benefit from them given that the country is full of many varied minerals.

During that meeting, the various Representatives of the State institutions working in that area, notably



Regideso, the Burundian Office of Mines and Quarries (OBM), Onatour, etc., had the opportunity to express themselves in relation to the projects and programs in their sectors, the strengths and the challenges encoun-

tered, challenges particularly linked to the lack of the foreign currency for the purchase of the adequate equipment, recovery, irregularities linked in particular to the sabotage of certain people which causes one or other dysfunction, etc.

The Burundian Number One called on them to awaken the patriotic spirit in their sectors of responsibility, otherwise the implementation of the 2040-2060 vision would only be an illusion without the promotion of the key socio-economic sectors including the energy and the mining. "A real engine for the development of a country".

The Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye urged them working in synergy and recommended that they organize monthly meetings in each direction, with a view of setting the objectives in each area. **(Presidency)**

Burundi and South Africa intend strengthening the economic cooperation



On Tuesday March 5, 2024, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye received in audience at the Ntare Rushatsi Palace Mr Jeff Radebe the Special Envoy of the President of the Republic of South Africa in the Great Lakes Region who brought the message from His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa to his Burundian counterpart for the strengthening economic cooperation relations between the two countries.

"I made that courtesy visit with the aim of establishing the solid economic relations between our two countries," suggested the special envoy who continued by announcing the message from President Cyril Rama-

phosa inviting his Burundian counterpart to make a state visit to South Africa after the holding of elections scheduled for May 2024.

"We are happy to maintain the good relations with South Africa and we recognize your country's support during the Burundian peace process," declared the Burundian Number One before responding positively to his counterpart's invitation to go to South Africa.

Still on the subject of the consolidation of the cooperation relations, President Ndayishimiye shared with him the economic potential of Burundi thanks in particular to the natural resources with which it abounds and to the successful mobilization of the population to invest in agriculture according to the slogan of the

Government "every mouth must have something to eat and every pocket some money". He also invited the South African investors to come and explore the investment opportunities in Burundi.

During that meeting, the two High Personalities also addressed the issues related to peace and security in the Great Lakes Region, particularly in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo. They displayed the common desire to help in restoring peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo in the interest of the countries of the Great Lakes Region. **(Presidency)**

President Ndayishimiye granted a joint audience to the Special Envoy of the United Nations' Secretary General and Ambassador of Switzerland to Burundi



On Wednesday March 6, 2024, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye received in audience jointly the Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the United Nations in the Great Lakes Region, Mr. Huang Xia and the Ambassador of Switzerland to Burundi, Mr. Valentin Zellweger, who had come to present to him the conclusions of a 2-day retreat held in Bujumbura on the security situation in the Great Lakes Region.

"We have noted that there is an urgency in relation to the humanitarian crisis which is observed especially in the East of the DRC in the regions of Goma and Sake and that there is a need to work with the actors of the Region to stop the hostilities", revealed

Ambassador Valentin Zellweger wishing to inquire about what the international community would do to provide the support for the stabilization of the Region, particularly in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

"The conflict in the DRC does not only concern the Congolese but the entire Region because it risks becoming the stronghold of terrorism," stressed the Burundian Number One, speaking as the current President of the Framework Agreement of Addis Ababa on Peace and Security in the DRC and the Region.

He also indicated that the security situation in the DRC remains worrying given that the other armed groups had until then agreed to lay down their arms and join the DDR (Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration) program but that the M23 supported by the Rwanda still refuses to join, fearing for its security.

"Together, in full solidarity, the international community and the Region must join the forces to annihilate the foreign armed groups in the East of the DRC and thus reassure the Congolese and subsequently guarantee the security for Rwanda," proposed President Ndayishimiye who also recommended that those diplomats approach other Heads of State of the countries in the Region to try finding out their point of view on the issue. **(Presidency)**

The Head of State calls on the Officials of the Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines of energy to produce a lot in order to generate the foreign currency that the country needs

On Tuesday March 5, 2024, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye held at the Ntare Rushatsi Palace, an awareness and awareness meeting for the Officials of the Ministry of water sectors can contribute effectively to the development of the country, by bringing the foreign currency into the public treasury.

The Minister in charge of Energy and Mines, Mr. Ibrahim Uwizeye, first presented to the Head of State the inventory of all sectors of his Ministry. He recalled that the absence of water and electricity negatively impacts the lives of citizens and in this way, no development is possible.

In the electricity sector, the Minister indicated that a lot of efforts are being made to have sufficient electricity. He cited the Kabu 16 and Rusumo Falls dams which are ready to provide a lot of electricity and that we are preparing to accommodate this electricity. He also cited the rehabilitation of the old network and the installation of transformers which are works aimed at improving the electricity sector.

For the water sector, Minister Uwizeye indicated that despite many challenges, the competitive services are searching how to capture water from rural areas to be able to supply the city of Bujumbura. In the mining sector, he specified that Burundi has a lot of mining potential, the majority of which is not yet known or



others known but not yet exploited. He deplored the fraud which manifests itself in the exploitation of certain minerals. He gave the example of cooperatives that exploit gold which declare less compared to what they exploit. Regarding the challenges, the Minister also pointed out the difficulty in having foreign currency to import the equipment we need such as pipes, wires, meters, transformers, and others. There is also insufficient staff.

The Director General of Regideso (Public Company of Water and Electricity distribution) Albert Manigomba, during his speech, to the anarchic constructions in Bujumbura Town Hall which causes problems during the water and electricity connection, the sabotage at the Regideso site which is explained by the theft of installed equipment, destruction of pipes, aging of networks and others. According to the Director General of Regideso, \$102 million is needed for the project to build another drinking water treatment station in Kanyosha which will put an end to the water shortage in Bujumbura town hall.

In turn, the Head of State asked them to have a spirit of patriotism in everything they do. Afterwards, he urged executives in the water and electricity sector to serve the public. "The absence of water and electricity is not something to be taken lightly. You must develop projects going in the direction of increasing these two products which Burundian citizens very much need as a key to development," insisted the Burundian number one.

Regarding the mining sector, the President of the Republic of Burundi deplores the low production presented by the cooperatives which exploit gold. He asked the Director General of the Burundian Office of Mines and Quarries to rigorously monitor these cooperatives to avoid fraud.

For the mining sector to generate the foreign exchange that the country needs, investors must be encouraged to invest in it but while making win-win contracts to prevent the State from continuing to record losses. Contracts will be terminated for investors who do not provide a better return. All the minerals contained in the Burundian sub-soil must be exploited and sold to earn foreign currency. He gave the example of iron, peat and marble which can be exploited and transformed to generate money.

He invited the executives of the Ministry in charge of energy to manage the Ministry like good fathers of families and to be creators of wealth by producing a lot. The latter must be diligent at work, do good planning, hold evaluation meetings every month, to move towards a Burundi developed in 2040 and developed in 2060. All natural potential must be exploited to export in order to have foreign currency necessary in the importation of certain products that the country needs for the well-being of its citizens. "The energy and mining sectors must be the engine of economic growth," insisted the Head of State.

For the question related to the insufficiency of personnel in that Ministry, he asked the Ministry to identify the profiles of the personnel needed. Besides the activities of the Ministry, he invited them to take care to the primary and secondary sectors (Agriculture and the Livestock) to increase the production so that every mouth finds what to eat and every porch finds money.(ABP)

The Prime Minister exchanges greetings with the natives of his native commune



On Saturday March 9, 2024, the Prime Minister Lieutenant General of the Police Gervais Ndirakobuca accompanied by his Spouse joined the natives of the Bukinanyana commune, his native commune in the Cibitoke province, in a greeting exchange party.

The administrator of the Bukinanyana commune, Mr Christian Nkurikiye, said that peace and security reign in that commune. He also presented the results of the major achievements of the last year. He cited the construction of the communal lodge, the first place occupied by the Bukinanyana commune in the national competition and the 3rd at the national level.

The Prime Minister called on the population of Bukinanyana to no longer listen to the rumors that

prevent them from the tackling development work, to avoid the ligalas but rather to work assiduously for achieving the vision of the country.

Prime Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca invited the entire population of Bukinanyana commune to continue safeguarding peace and security. He definitely asked all those who have engaged in deforestation and in the mineral exploitation in the Kibira forest, ignoring the law, to stop that but rather to get down to work in the fields instead of spending the whole day and coming home empty-handed.

The Prime Minister recommended to all the administrative Staff at the base to inform the entire population of Bukinanyana commune that entering the Kibira forest is strictly prohibited. Those who ignore that measure will be considered disruptive to the security, the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister also congratulated the entire commune, especially those who work in the education sector, for the place received in the national competition and asked the Steering Committee to sit down together for evaluating and improve for that they can even have the 1st place in the national competition at the national level when they had the 3rd place last year.

In the health sector, the administrator of the Bukinanyana commune said that among the future prospects that he intends extending the Ndora hospital in that commune and equipping it with the necessary equipment, which the Prime Minister encouraged because, he said, the good health of the population goes hand in hand with the development of the country, underlined Prime Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca. (RTNB)

The Christians of the Bunogera parish are invited to collaborate with the administrative authorities.

The Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, President of the Senate, accompanied by the Honorable Senator Cyriaque Nshimirimana, the Ambassador of Burundi to South Africa, Ambassador Bukuru Alexis and the administrative Officials of the Ruyigi Province, joined the faithful of the Methodist Church United Burundi, Bunogera Parish, during the Sunday celebration of March 10, 2024.

In his speech, the Right Honorable Sinzohagera invited the Christians of that Church for collaborating closely with the administrative authorities and for properly managing the corn harvest. He also encouraged them to work hard in order to contribute to the development of the country.

He specifically asked pastors to implement projects aimed at helping church members increase their production, while being models in rational crop manage-



ment.

As the legal representative of that Church, the Right Honorable Sinzohagera spoke about the activities that the latter intends to carry out, particularly in the areas of health and education, and requested the support of



the administration. During his preaching, he relied on the books of Micah 6:8 and Matthew 5:8 and exhorted the faithful by demonstrating the holiness towards God. **(Senate)**

The population of Muyinga urged to effectively manage the maize harvest



On Saturday March 9, 2024, the President of the Senate, Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, joined the population of Muyinga province, alongside the Senators elected in that community, for filling the potholes on the National Road 6 , in the province capital.

In a message addressed to the population, the President of the Senate first wished a happy international day to the women of Muyinga, while reminding them of the importance of behaving with dignity and taking advantage of the initiatives put in place by the Government in their favor, such as the creation of the Investment and the Development Bank for the women. He then asked them to work diligently in order to increase the production, because the value of the currency will depends on it. He also encouraged ensuring the cleanliness of their neighborhoods, in order to contrib-

ute to the implementation of the city cleaning campaign launched by the President of the Republic of Burundi, as well as fighting against polygamy. He finally advised them to have a personal vision that will allow them to achieve the opulence by 2040.

Regarding the farmers who complain that the National Agency for the Strategic Food Stock Management (ANAGESSA) has not purchased their corn harvest, Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera indicated that he has already contacted the competent organizations and that the



problem is being resolved. In addition, he invited them to carefully manage that harvest by avoiding any form of embezzlement. **(Senate)**

The resident notables challenged to be integrated and avoid corruption



On Saturday March 9, 2024, the Second Vice-President of the Senate, Honorable Fabrice Nkurunziza, accompanied by a Senator elected in the Makamba constituency, joined the population of Biniganyi hill, Kazirabageni zone, Nyanza-Lac commune in Makamba province, during the contour tracing work.

In his speech, Honorable Nkurunziza called on the population of that province to continue preserving peace and security, to adopt the modern agricultural practices and avoiding the rumours. He encouraged them registering their land properties with the land



title service, properly maintaining the public infrastructure and closely monitoring the education of the young people.

The Second Vice-President of the Upper House of Parliament asked the resident notables to be honest and fight against corruption, and urged the young girls to avoid the unwanted pregnancies.

Shortly after that work, he listened to the complaints relating to the land conflicts and promised transmitting those concerns to the hierarchical authorities with a view to find a lasting solution. **(Senate)**

Holding of the 9th national multi-stakeholder Consultation on the Vulnerability Assessment (VAS) Methodology of the COMESA early warning System in Burundi



From March 4 to 7, 2024, the 9th multi-stakeholder national consultation on the Vulnerability Assessment (SVA) Methodology of the COMESA early warning system (comalert) was held in Bujumbura. The Director General of the Multilateral Relations at the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation Ambassador Gaudence Sindayigaya proceeded to the official opening of the activities on Monday March 4, 2024. That consultation was held as part of the widely disseminating the report of the Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessment (SVRS) of Burundi to stakeholders, and formulat-

ing a national response strategy.

The participants in the consultation were the Representatives of the different Government Ministries and Departments, the constitutional Corps, the civil society



organizations, the African Union Continental Early Warning System (AU-CEWS), the EVRS Office of the Zambia, and the COMESA Staff.

In his speech, Ambassador Gaudence Sindayigaya informed the participants that that activity was orga-



nized for identifying the endogenous conditions and the factors of resilience in order to face the challenges impacting the efforts in achieving the peace, the security, the stability, the development which prevent the achievement of the objectives that the COMESA has set for itself in the region and in Burundi to develop the solutions adapted to the realities. The Director General noted the challenges that have hampered the efforts in maintaining peace and security at the national, the regional and the continental levels. Those are linked to the wars, the violent conflicts, the epidemics, the effects of climate change and the resulting natural disasters, the maritime piracy and the terrorism, the economic crises, the terrorism, the maritime piracy, etc. To ensure peace, security and stability in the region, a particular look at the root causes and the structural fac-

tors of instability including unemployment, the social inequality, corruption, etc.) is necessary.

The Director of the Governance, Peace and Security Division at COMESA Dr Oita Etyang wished to those activities every success while emphasizing the role of the Burundians in building the country and preventing the structural

conflict; the actors like COMESA and the African Union will only support the efforts of the Burundians providing the technical and the financial assurance.

The activities from March 4 to 7 were marked by the presentations aiming at peace and security for the sharing of experiences on the country's areas of the development, the exchanges, the group work on the interpretation of the main forecast factors for Burundi and including the laws, the policies and the programs in place to address some of those key factors, reinforced the participants thoughtful.

Note that the last day of March 8 was reserved to the meeting of the Permanent Secretaries of the different Ministries for the validation of the response strategy which was developed from March 4 to 7. (MAECD)

Retreat of stakeholders and the experts on the Great Lakes region



On Monday March 4, 2024, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation His Excellency Ambassador Albert Shingiro opened the 6th retreat of the Great Lakes stakeholders and the experts organized by Switzerland, the Office of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region in collaboration with the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum (CPPF), in Bujumbura.

In the speeches delivered respectively by Mr. Xuang Xia, the Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the United Nations for the Great Lakes Region, Mr. Valentin Zellweger, Ambassador of Switzerland to Burundi with residence in Nairobi, Mr. Chasper Sarott, Ambassador of Switzerland in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Dr. Tatiana Carayannis, Director of the Forum on Peace and Conflict Prevention, they all returned to the point of dy-

namics in matters of peace, security and economy in the region, particularly in regarding the cross-border implications, the development of a shared analysis identifying entry the points for the concerted support to the ongoing political and peace processes, with an emphasis on the joint initiatives and the common messages that could contribute to the resolution of the current crisis in the Great Lakes region especially in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan etc.

In turn, His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation noted that the fact that Burundi hosts that retreat testifies to the confidence placed in Burundi and its Government, under the leadership of His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi, and President of the Regional Mechanism for Monitoring the implementation of the Framework Agreement for Peace, Security and Cooperation for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Region, to contribute significantly to the effective implementation of that Agreement which still remains relevant more than ten years after its signature.

Minister Albert Shingiro pointed out that despite the laudable efforts made and the good initiatives undertaken by or thanks to those organizations, the major challenges persist in the sub-region. Those include, among other things, the challenges linked to the recurring conflicts in the East of the DRC, the increased presence of the local and the foreign armed groups which threaten peace in the region, the management of the natural resources which fuel conflicts

and external greed, the bad governance which continues to put a brake on the progress to which the people of the region aspire, the fight against poverty and youth unemployment, the lack of integrative infrastructural projects capable of contributing to the sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development of the region, the deficit in judicial cooperation, the interference in the internal affairs of other States, the non-respect of the principle of the territorial integrity at times as well as the humanitarian situation which is one of the most worrying of our time. Minister Albert Shingiro also said that the Great Lakes Region, of which Burundi is a part, is a region endowed with the abundant natural and the human resources, a strategic region for Africa and for the world, faced with many difficulties linked to the peace and development whose causes go back decades or even to the pre-colonial and colonial period and still persist, hence the need for the combined and united efforts of all the stakeholders to meet the challenge of peace, security, stability, cooperation and development in the DRC and the region. He thus called on the stakeholders of the Great Lakes Region to draw more inspiration from the visions, strategies and programs freely adopted in Africa and in the Region in order to contribute effectively and significantly to peace and development in the region, taking into account the political, social and economic realities specific to each country, to sow seeds of peace and development, which will place them on the right side of history.(MAECD)

Presentation of the Letters of Credence to His Majesty Willem Alexander, King of the Netherlands

On Wednesday March 6, 2024, the Ambassador of the Republic of Burundi in the Hague H.E Isabelle Ndahayo presented her letters of credence to His Majesty Willem Alexander, King of the Netherlands.

Burundi and the Netherlands have maintained the long-standing relations of friendship and cooperation through the several bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements. As an example, we can cite the Heineken Group of Dutch origin which has operated in Burundi since 1955 within the framework of the public and private partnership (P.P.P) in

the production and sale of beer by the large company BRARUDI. The Heineken group has been and remains a very important economic partner for Burundi. Burundi strengthens solidarity with the Dutch in general and Investors in particular in Burundi's development projects and programs mainly in the areas of agriculture, livestock, health, defense and security, the industry of transformation, the energy production, the state and the private infrastructure, the education based on the needs of the labor market, the strengthening of the human capital, and the rational exploitation of the natural resources and tourism.



The Government of Burundi has a good intention of building the diplomatic relations based on the mutual respect between those two Gov-

ernments. In its mission, it favors mutually beneficial and respectful cooperation. The Government of Burundi spares no effort in promoting the foreign investment through the projects aligned with the priorities of the National Development Plan 2018-2027 with the vision, "a democratic, united and the prosperous nation through a structural transformation of the national economy in order to put on a new trajectory of the strong growth by profoundly reducing the social inequalities and the rural and the urban poverty.

Burundi always remains open to all the initiatives from the Dutch companies and the organizations that wish to work more with the Burundian investors, in establishing or maintaining the complementary relationships for the interest of those two countries. **(MFADC)**

A workshop on prevention and adaptation to the weather risks



On Monday March 5, 2024, the Ministry in charge of the Environment, the Agriculture and the Livestock held in Bujumbura, a workshop for reflection and planning of the actions for prevention and adaptation to the weather risks.

The Minister in charge of the environment, Mr. Prosper Dodiko, said that the aim of this workshop is to immediately see what experts in climate change are capable of doing to prevent, adapt and reduce the effects and impacts related to the climate change when the precipitation is above normal.

The climate change expert indicated that there will be the excess precipitation between March and May 2024 in the natural regions of Mugamba, Buyenzi and the part of Mirwa and Imbo and normal precipitation with

excess tendency for the rest of the country's natural regions.

According to Mr. Isaac Nzitunga, advisor to the Cabinet of the Ministry in charge of agriculture, given the forecast rainfall with a tendency to excess, there will be a risk of destruction of the irrigation infrastructure due to the torrential rains, flooding in the plains and marshes, a risk of proliferation of the fungal crop the diseases following the high humidity.

Because of the excess precipitation, farmers were advised to promote the agricultural practices aimed at the water and soil conservation,

and to adjust the agricultural calendar

according to the regions. The Farmers should be informed of that climatic trend for that season B 2024 and thus develop the associated crops where possible.

During the interventions, the participants suggested that the faced with the rise in the waters of Lake Tanganyika more than a meter from its normal position, the Government of Burundi, in collaboration with the sectoral Ministries, must draw up a report and inventory of the victims, help them as much as possible. They also suggested that there must be a fund set aside to help the victims of the natural disasters as soon as possible. **(RTNB)**

Gitega: the Minister of Commerce meets the economic operators



On Thursday March 7, 2024, the Minister of Commerce, Transport, Industry and Tourism Madame Marie Chantal Nijimbere held a meeting in the capital of the political capital Gitega for the economic operators in Gitega province. The Objective is to discuss the challenges encountered in that sector and propose the solutions to them.

Among the challenges raised is the withdrawal of the stalls from certain owners who had rented them out, for the benefit of their tenants in the public mar-

kets.

On that subject, the Minister in charge of trade indicates that those people are not really the traders. According to the Minister, no one is authorized to rent a stall in a public market.

Concerning the discontent of certain shopkeepers about the seizures of the KIKE drink made by the police, the Minister in charge of trade reminded that that drinking has an alcohol content of more than 16% and that it must be sold only in category B and C bistros.

Asked what is causing the shortage of certain products such as sugar, cement and Brarudi products, Minister Marie Chantal Nijimbere explained that that shortage is artificial because according to her, it is created by the speculation of certain traders at the level of the distribution chain. Madame Marie Chantal Nijimbere also recommended that the committees responsible for defending the interests of the traders follow up and denounce the speculators.

Finally, the Minister in charge of trade invited the economic operators in the private sector to invest massively in the primary sector which ensures the production to contribute significantly to the vision of Burundi as an Emerging Country in 2040 and a Developed Country in 2060. (RTNB)

Soon a bridge connecting the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi through Kavimvira



On Monday March 4, 2024, the Minister of the Environment, the Agriculture and the Livestock Mr. Prosper Dodiko and the Minister of the Infrastructure, the Equipment

and the Social Housing, Mr. Dieudonné Dukundane jointly visited the Kavimvira bridge in reconstruction on the Rusizi River between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo at the level of transversal 6 in Buganda commune in the province of Cibitoke. The objective was to see the progress of the work.

That bridge, whose reconstruction began on October 2, 2023 for a period of 13 months and 15 days, is financed by the World Bank via the regional PRDAIGL program (Regional Integrated Agricultural Development Project in the Great Lakes). Once the work is completed, that bridge will facilitate the free movement of the goods and the people. The works are being carried out by the Chinese company China Highway Engineering Co. Ltd. (FHEG).

The two Ministers noted that the work is progressing

but with a delay due to long negotiations linked to the planned budget which was currently lower than the market budget. The execution rate is 15% with 32% of time consumed according to the Minister of the Environment, the Agriculture and the Livestock Mr. Prosper DODIKO.

That 130 m long bridge with a total cost of approximately 24 billion Fbu will connect Burundi via the locali-

ty of Kaburantwa, Transverse 6 of the Buganda commune to Cibitoke and the East of the DRC via the locality of Sange just 24 km from the border with Burundi.

The Minister of the Infrastructure, the Facilities and the Social Housing, Mr. Dieudonné Dukundane, suggests that there be a temporary bridge which will facilitate the workers and engineers in fixing the final works. (RTNB)

Only 1% of the companies have affiliated their employees with the INSS, according to a survey carried out in 2022



larly employees.

According to the president of the Employers' Association of Burundi, Mr. Theodore Kamwenubusa, the results of the survey conducted by the INSS during the year 2022 are weak. The number of companies affiliated with the INSS is estimated at only 1%. If this estimate is correct, it is indisputable that the membership situation is extremely weak, he said. To that end, he asked the partners concerned to reflect on the causes and recovery strategies.

On Tuesday March 5, 2024, the National Institute of Social Security (INSS) organized a workshop for discussions with social partners on worker rights, employer obligations and synergy work for the promotion of Social Protection.

In the context of social protection and affiliation to the INSS, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of the National Solidarity, the Social Affairs, the Human Rights and the Gender, Mr. Pontien Hatungimana indicated that the State recommended that the INSS specify the number of the employers working in Burundi. The INSS organized censuses across the entire country at the end of 2022 and at the beginning of 2023.

The results showed, according to him, that many employers do not send their employees' contributions to the INSS.

To deal with that problem, Mr. Hatungimana said that the INSS organized awareness-raising activities for the employers in October 2023, recommending that they affiliate and affiliate their employees. Despite that opinion, there were the employers who did not want to follow the rule. As a result, Mr. Hatungimana warned employers, adding that the strict measures will be taken in order to respect the labor legislation and to properly protect the population in the general and more particu-



Concerning the affiliation strategy of the companies, he indicated that their census is the first essential and essential step. Currently, he added, the INSS knows the number of the companies to affiliate and their location. He congratulated the INSS services which carried out that activity. To carry out a good affiliation, the president of the said association indicated that it would first be necessary to further the knowledge of these companies and to group them according to their characteristics, the level of income, their regularity and sustainability. According to him, for companies that do not have regular income or seasonal businesses, it is necessary to agree with them in advance on the terms of payment of contributions. And to affiliate well, you have to dialogue and convince.

In order to promote the affiliation in the difficult economic context of Burundi, Mr. Kamwenubusa suggested that the INSS leave its offices where it peacefully waits for employees to arrive because they are obliged to apply the law. He added that small businesses ignore social legislation and particularly the social protection code. To do that, the INSS should organize information and awareness campaigns on the legislation and regulations governing social security.

Kamwenubusa did not fail to emphasize the need for the INSS to develop and improve the quality of services to employers and workers using its offices.

The Director of Services at the INSS, Mr. Jean Petit Ndikumasabo, in his presentation indicated that the dynamic currently developed by the INSS, in terms of the protection of workers' rights, has accelerated following one of the recommendations of the 7th general assembly of the national social protection commission held on December 20, 2022, which decided to ensure that all the employers respect the labor legislation.

According to him, for the preparatory work, the first step was that relating to the development of a conceptual note relating to the production of the general census of employers in the structured sector to have a single definition of that sector. They considered a formal company to be one which has a taxpayer number, which pays taxes, which keeps written accounts within the meaning of the chart of accounts.

The census took two stages, the desk census where all the Ministries and the state institutions provided data relating to the formal sector employers for which they have the data. They also carried out the field censuses where all the district heads of Bujumbura Town Hall were trained to carry out that work. The same goes for all CDS and municipal assistants

in all municipalities in the country.

According to Mr. Ndikumasabo, the results of data from the Ministries and other institutions showed that foreign NGOs numbered 105, employers in commerce 133, cooperatives numbered 12,225, churches 812, trucks and vans 2973 etc.

In total, the data collected on the ground, in collaboration with the Ministry in charge of territorial administration, which made its municipal staff available to the INSS, the Institute was able to identify 14,373 employers including 8,587 in Bujumbura Town Hall, and 5,786 inside the country. He said that experience has shown that the protection of the workers' rights is almost impossible without the intervention of the territorial administration, the general labor inspectorate, the employers' organizations, the workers and the media.

The Director General of the INSS, Mr. Emmanuel Miburo, asked for the frank collaboration with the aim of protecting the population in general and employees in particular. He asked the media to always broadcast such programs, in order to raise awareness among the entire Burundian population of the importance of the adequate social protection.

The participants in that workshop recommended that the territorial administration provide its contribution so that employers working in all sectors of activity in its locality can affiliate their employers.

The General Labor Inspectorate, for its part, has been called upon to contribute effectively to the protection of workers and to employer organizations, to contribute to the identification of the employers and to raising awareness of their obligations.

The workers' organizations were recommended to raise the workers' awareness of their rights, and the media to promote the services of the INSS through their broadcasts. (ABP)

Gitega: the municipal administration calls on the women to work in cooperatives

On Tuesday March 5, 2024, the administrator of the Gitega commune Mr. Jacques Nduwimana carried out a visit to the different women's cooperatives grouped within the Mukenzezi Terimbere Project.

The administrator of the Gitega commune said that the association of the cooperatives grouped within the Mukenzezi Terimbere Project is the initiative of

the Gitega commune. The idea was born after noticing a movement of women who were going to request the food aid from the town, he explained. The administrator said that the overall objective of that project is to teach the women notions of entrepreneurship and inspire in them the spirit of working in cooperatives.

Among the activities carried out by those women are sewing, shoe making, basketry, modern pottery, etc. And to make that project sustainable, an integrated



development center for the women in the Gitega com-

mune is being built. That center will facilitate the women grouped in cooperative societies to carry out their projects, added the municipal administrator.

Mr. Jacques Nduwimana calls on women to take more interest in entrepreneurship to create income-generating activities. He raises awareness among the population to use those items manufactured by those women's cooperative associations. **(RTNB)**

Celebrating the World Hearing Day



“Changing the mentalities: let's make ear and hearing care a reality for all”.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), nearly 2.5 billion people, or one in four people, will suffer from the hearing loss to varying degrees by 2050. Ear and hearing the disorders Hearing problems are among the most common health problems, affecting the individuals of all ages.

The deafness in Burundi has a proportion of 14.4% for the age group of 0-4 years compared to 4.4% for those aged 70 and over. The integration of ear and hearing care into the primary care services represents an effective strategy to move closer to the goal of universal health coverage.

On Thursday March 6, 2024, Burundi, through the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, joined other countries in the world to celebrate the World Hearing Day 2024 edition which is normally celebrated on March 3 of each year. The ceremonies took place at the EPHPHATA deaf-mute school in Maramvya, Mutimbuzi commune in Bujumbura province.

According to the Director General of the Supply of Modern and Traditional Medicine Care, Food, Dr Oscar Ntihabose, the delegate of the Minister in the ceremonies, that day provides an opportunity to the raising of the public awareness on the prevention of the deafness and the hearing loss to promote the hearing care around the world. The theme chosen that year is:

At the EPHPHATA School for the deaf in Maramvya, that day was organized around the screening activities and the provision of the hearing aids for those who have indications of wearing them. On that occasion, 204 hearing aids worth 510 million Fbu were distributed to the hearing impaired.

Dr Oscar Ntihabose thanked the managers of the KALE-B audiology center who provided those hearing aids to the hearing impaired who have the indications to wear them and asked all the stakeholders in the health sector to get involved in those diseases hearings. **(RTNB)**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

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