



## The Presidential Couple takes part in the mass celebrated at the Saint Pierre Parish of Nyabugogo



In order to remain alongside those they lead, the Presidential Couple joined the Christians from the United Methodist Church of Burundi, Saint Pierre Parish of Nyabugogo, Gitega commune and Province for the celebration of the Sunday prayer on Sunday march17, 2024.

During his teachings, the Burundian Head of State His Excellence Evariste Ndayishimiye invited the Christians of that parish to always be grateful to God, and recommended them to persevere in love, cohesion, hope, and above all to work without

release in developing the country.

His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye also urged the population to change the mentalities and promote health in order to improve the image of the country.

Based on the biblical passage taken from Galatians 6:7, the Legal Representative of the United Methodist Church of Burundi, Reverend Pastor Emmanuel Sinzohagera welcomed the presence of the Presidential Couple in that church where he spoke of the support of that church in contributing to the increasing production in

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order to achieve the vision of Burundi, an emerging country in 2040 and a developed country in 2060.

The President of the Burundian Senate, at the same time Legal Representative of the United Methodist Church of Burundi, indicated that this Church is supporting the Government of Burundi by building the hospitals, the health centers and 44 schools already built. He thus revealed the current projects of cultivating and

processing the sunflowers where the industry will be built in the Kumoso region, the construction project in the economic capital of a 10-level building. He also called on the Christians to the sowing of good works.

Finally, Right Honorable Emmanuel SINZOHAGERA briefly spoke about the major development projects that his Church intends to carry out for the well-being of the Burundian population. **(Presidency)**

### The Presidential Couple enhances the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of Umukenyererugamba Day in Gitega



**T**he President of the Republic and President of the Council of Elders of the CNDD-FDD party, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by the First Lady, H.E Angeline Ndayishimiye, during the celebration of the third edition of Umukenyererugamba Day, in Gitega, on Saturday March 16, 2024, called on the Burundians to do everything to achieve the financial independence. That day dedicated to Bakenyererugamba women was celebrated under the theme: "Mukenyererugamba, your contribution to the increasing production is essential for Burundi, an Emerging country in 2040 and a Developed country in 2060".

The Burundian Head of State, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye congratulated the Bakenyererugamba for the successful holding of that festivity, indicating that he was amazed by the parade in which H.E Angeline

Ndayishimiye, other women leaders, the women and the young girls affiliated with the CNDD-FDD from all over the country took part.

His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye reminded that the Burundian women, "Bakenyererugamba" have always played a great role from the first days of the historic struggle for the restoration of democracy.

The Burundian Number One, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye congratulated the Bakenyererugamba for the successful projects they have already carried out, and invited the Burundian women to promoting the social cohesion.

President Evariste Ndayishimiye welcomed the presence of the members of the foreign delegations, the massive participation of leaders of the civil society, the religious denominations, the members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Burundi and the officials of the parties approved in Burundi.

Speaking on the role of the women in promoting the values of peace and security, as a pillar of sustainable development, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye reiterated his call for a change in mentalities so that women also contribute to the vision an emerging Burundi in 2040 and a developed country in 2060, as well as the education of children in the family.

His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye closed his speech by inviting the Bakenyererugamba to intensify their efforts in increasing the production where he called them to do everything for the economic growth of Burundi and he urged the Burundians to fight against laziness and ensure cleanliness throughout the country. **(Presidency)**

## President Ndayishimiye solemnly opened the new academic year at Higher Police Institute



On Friday March 15, 2024, the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye enhanced with his presence the ceremonies of the definitive incorporation of the officer candidates of the 8<sup>th</sup> promotion, the awarding of diplomas to the winners of the 4<sup>th</sup> promotion and the opening of the 2023-2024 academic year, at the Higher Police Institute (ISP), located in Mitakataka, in Bubanza commune.

According to the Director of the Higher Police Institute, Lt Col. Pol Richard Ndayizigamiye, the Institute which has just opened the 2023-2024 academic year, has been providing the graduates with the professional and academic training since 1981. On that day, it has integrated 65 young people including 54 young men including the chaplains and 7

girls. On that same occasion, the diplomas were awarded to 119 officers of the 4<sup>th</sup> promotion.

The said Institute is committed to preparing a very professional police force. That is how it is preparing for it through its extension: 24 classrooms which will accommodate more than 1000 graduates, 2 dormitory blocks, a staff home are being built, in addition to the rehabilitation of the School National Police (ENAPO), with the support of the Ministry of Infrastructure, Equipment and Social Housing.

“Professionally trained and responsible officers are a source of pride for the population in terms of peace building and citizen protection. Therefore, the latter freely tackle development work,” said President Ndayishimiye while appreciating the trust and collaboration between the security corps and the population, the eye of the latter.

“Every police officer is called upon to work as a model while respecting the ethics and the professional conduct,” said President Ndayishimiye.

“Respect for the rights and laws in force, the principle of necessity, justice, order with dignity, integrity must characterize the good officers,” insisted the Burundian Number One, reminding that those values constitute the basis of the patriotism. **(Presidency)**

## The President of the Republic meets the officials of the Ministry of Commerce, Transport, Industry and Tourism



On Thursday March 14, 2024, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye brought together at the Kiriri Palace senior executives from the Ministry of Com-

merce, Transport, Tourism and Industry for an exchange session on the ways and means of increasing the revenues in the areas of their attributions with a view to the propelling of the national economy towards the 2040-2060 vision.

In his speech, the President of the Republic of Burundi reminded those officials that they are not the employees in the service of the State but that they are servants of the people.

“You must think above all about the country before thinking about your own interests”, insisted the Burundian Number One who, based on the proverb “Science without conscience is only ruin of the soul”, reiterated his call in changing the mentalities and promote the patriotic love.

“We cannot develop a country we don't love! We are up for it, but our children will inherit that country; what will they live on?” he asked.

The President of the Republic, who believes that the Ministry of Commerce, Transport, Tourism and Industry is the engine of the national economy, recommended to those responsible to promote the good governance by combating the slowness of the administrative procedures, the speculation, the fraud, the sabotage and any other behavior constituting an obstacle to the development of the country.

Drawing attention to the leakage of money in the tourism sector and the cases of corruption which slow down

investment projects, the Burundian President invited those leaders to promoting the initiatives with the rapid results achievable in particular within a period of 100 days. On that subject, he gave the suggestions on the projects that can be initiated in that Ministry which could contribute not only to increasing the revenues but also to improving the image of the country.

During this session, Minister Mrs. Chantal Nijimbere informed the Head of State on the strategies already put in place or in progress to boost the country's economy, among others, the removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers and the implementation of laws in the tourism and industry sectors to stimulate private investment. **(Presidency)**

## The Burundian Head of State officially launches the Crop Season B



**T**he President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye launched on Tuesday 12 March 2024, the Crop Season B in Bubanza Province through the sowing of beans.

Before joining the farmers who were working in the fields on his 12-hectare land, located in Mpanda commune, President Ndayishimiye first prayed for the blessing of the seeds.

Rejoicing over the good corn harvest of the crop sea-

son A, the Burundian Head of State, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye thanked the Burundian population in general and State the officials in particular for the agricultural development, an essential factor in economic growth of the country.

Referring to the change in mentality and consideration of the farmer, the Head of State is confident that the Burundian people are already taking the momentum to lead their country to development according to the well-defined vision of the country.

During that field trip, the Burundian Number One made an encouraging visit to the Terimbere Mpanda Cooperative, led by Florida Niyonizigiye and bringing together more than 225 members, the majority of whom are women and who are involved in rice cultivation. .

With the same intention, President Ndayishimiye also visited the Mitakataka Agro-Pastoral Cooperative, (CAPMI) in acronym, located in Gihanga. A farm rich in diversity of activities including the breeding of cows, pigs, rabbits and fish.

It was a good opportunity for the Burundian Head of State to interact with the inhabitants of the locality, who came in high number to meet him. **(Presidency)**

### The Senate organizes a national launch of the exchange meetings for the religious denominations



**O**n Tuesday March 12, 2024, the Senate of Burundi organized a national launch of exchange meetings for the religious faiths at the Royal Palace Hotel on the theme “The role of the religious faiths in the consolidation of justice in Burundi”

In his opening speech, the President of the Burundian Senate, Right Honorable Sinzohagera, stressed that the objective of that meeting is to collectively analyze the role of the religious confessions in the establishment of equitable justice for all. He also affirmed that the Senate, as an Institution representing the people, could not remain indifferent to the challenges facing justice.

The President of the Upper House of Parliament then reminded that the equitable justice finds its source in divine will, referring to the Holy Scriptures. He spoke of the role of Moses, chosen by God to select honest and uncorrupted men capable of ren-

dering justice. He also expressed concern about the fact that many people prefer to address the President of the Republic rather than the judges to submit their complaints, a sign of a lack of confidence in the latter. He therefore called on representatives of religious faiths to work for a change in behavior and mentality within their communities, in order to establish the fair justice.

Right Honorable Sinzohagera reminded the participants that the new law on religious denominations will come into the force in May 2024.

During that event, two themes were addressed: the role of justice in development and the role of religious confessions in the consolidation of justice in Burundi. At the end of that meeting, the participants formulated the recommendations in a declaration addressed to the Government, the Senate, and the Minister of Justice as well as to religious denominations. **(Senate)**

### The President of the Senate takes part in the retreat of the pastors of the United Methodist Church of Burundi (EMUBU)



**F**rom March 14 to 16, 2024, the President of the Senate of Burundi at the same time the Legal Representative of the United Methodist Church of Burundi (EMUBU), Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, participates in the retreat of the pastors of the United Methodist Church of Burundi. The retreat took place in Ngozi Province

and had the following theme “An effective leader, a pillar of a living Church accomplishing the God’s Mission to the world”.

In his welcoming remarks, the Governor of the Ngozi Province indicated that the Province he leads is honored to host that retreat. He said that the Province is calm and that the population goes about their daily activities. He said that the corn harvest was good and that the province of Ngozi is the second largest producer of the corn after the province of Kayanza.

In addition, he announced that the province of Ngozi is committed to the fight against the cohabitation and that it plans to completely eliminating the illegal marriages by the end of June 2024.

In the area of justice, he indicated that all the decisions rendered were executed before the end of 2023 and that in 2024, the trend is to reduce up to 30% the number of people who resort to justice courts by prioritizing understanding and reconciliation.

In the economic field, he noted that he encourages the work in cooperatives in order to increase the production and thus export the surplus. He also indicated that he has already attracted three private investors by

granting them land for the implementation of the development projects in the province.

He asked the pastors to raise the awareness among those around them in order to eliminate the harmful practices such as cohabitation. In addition, he hoped that the National Stock Management Agency (NAGESA) could take the population's harvest so that the latter can have the financial means to obtain what they need. **(Senate)**

### The President of the Senate Visits the Mutambu Commune



On Tuesday March 13, 2024, as part of the continuity of the implementation of the activities planned by the Senate during the parliamentary holiday of March 2024, the President of the Senate, Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera visited the Mutambu commune of the Bujumbura Province, on Wednesday 13 March, for assessing the imple-

mentation of the projects that that municipality has set for the current budget year. Among those projects are the construction of a two-story school with 8 classrooms and a modern market.

Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera noted that the Mutambu commune has a problem linked to the lack of financial means to carry out those large-scale projects. For that, he called on all the municipalities in general, and the Mutambu municipality in particular, for developing, in the future, the feasible projects according to the means available.

To deal with that financial problem, the President of the Senate requested the intervention of His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi to relaunch the support program for municipal initiatives by granting them the construction equipment. He also invited the natives of the Mutambu commune to make their contributions in finalizing the construction work of that school. **(Senate)**

### The President of the Senate visits the Nyabiraba commune



On Monday March 11, 2024, Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, President of the Senate, paid a visit to the commune of Nyabiraba, in the province of Bujumbura.

That visit was part of the launch of the public policy evaluation campaign by the senators during the parliamentary holidays in March 2024.

He stressed that those holidays are an opportunity for the Senate to carry out the visits to the various municipalities and the institutions in order to assess the progress of the public policies in accordance with the new program budget policy recently put in place by the Government of Burundi.

In that regard, he specified that the new program budget policy will allow the Parliament to effectively fulfill its mission of controlling the Government action. Right Honorable Sinzohagera urged all the municipalities in the country to develop the feasible projects based on the available resources, in avoiding the projects spanning the several budget years.

Regarding the commune of Nyabiraba, he indicated that the progress of the projects developed is satisfactory. He noted that regarding the given resources available to that municipality, it would be difficult to complete the activities within the planned deadlines. Among those projects, he visited the Nyabiraba the technical school as well as the Nyabiraba modern

market, currently under construction. He appealed to the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research to intervene in favor of that school, as well as to the National Commercial Investment Fund (FONIC) for the market, with the aim of finalizing those activities. **(Senate)**

**Administrative authorities invited to plan activities carefully**



**A**ccompanied by a Senator elected in the constituency of Mwaro, the First Vice-President of the Senate, the Honorable Denise Ndadaye, paid a visit on Thursday March 14, 2024 to the commune of Bisoro, located in the province of Mwaro. The aim of that visit was to learn about the progress of the projects undertaken by that municipality as part of the implementation of the Government policy focused on the program budget.

After the discussions with the administrator, the Honorable Denise Ndadaye visited the various construction sites, notably ETS Bisoro and ECOFO

Katazimiza. She noticed the significant progress in certain activities, while others experienced delays due to the lack of the financial resources and the failure of the entrepreneurs who won the markets. She advised the administrative authorities to plan the activities carefully taking into account the means available.

On the sidelines of that visit, the First Vice-President of the Senate went to Kibumbu hospital to congratulate and provide the support to a woman named Emelyne Nizeyimana, who gave birth to triplets. She gave him an envelope as well as other various gifts. **(Senate)**

**The Second Vice-President of the Senate satisfied with the achievements of the Mpinga-kayove commune**



**O**n Thursday March 14, 2024, on the second day of his visit to Ru-

tana province, the Second Vice-President of the Senate, Honorable Fabrice Nkurunziza visited one of the different projects carried out by the Mpinga-Kayove commune, in the Mpinga zone. That is the

extension of the Muganza Basic School. He stressed that he is satisfied with the step reserved in those achievements. He asked the administrators of that locality to educate the young people to continue their studies, instead of looking for the work in Tanzania.

He appealed to the Government to grant the municipalities the necessary means for the rehabilitation of the old infrastructure. **(Senate)**

## The Second Vice-President of the Senate appreciates the achievements of the Giharo commune



**O**n Wednesday March 13, 2024, as part of the monitoring of the Government action, the Second Vice-President of the Senate, Honorable Fabrice Nkurunziza, accompanied by a Senator elected in the constituency of Rutana visited the Giharo commune of that province, for inquiring about the pro-

gress of the projects for that current budget year which is part of the new program budget policy.

After following a brief presentation of the municipality's achievements, Honorable Nkurunziza visited some of those projects. That concerns the construction of the Rubaho Secondary Technical School, built at height, the Murehe Fundamental School, 2 bridges in the Butezi zone as well as 2 rehabilitated standpipes, in the same locality. The Second Vice-President of the Senate appreciated the progress of the municipality's achievements.

He deplored the delay in completing the drinking water supply project, and called on the leaders of that commune to contact the organizations operating in that area, so that they can support that project, because its budget exceeds the economic capacity of the municipality.

He urged the municipalities in developing the projects that do not exceed the financial means available to them. **(Senate)**

## The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation is organizing an awareness workshop on legal and regular migration



**O**n Wednesday March 13, 2024, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation organized an awareness workshop on legal and regular migration for administrative staff at the Hôtel les Plateaux in the Ngozi province. That workshop was held as part of supporting the implementation of the agreement signed between the Republic of Burundi and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on October 3, 2023 on labor migration.

The participants in the workshop were the administrators of all the communes of the provinces of Ngozi, Karusi, Muyinga, and Kirundo, the municipal commissioners in charge of migration, an executive from the anti-trafficking commission, an executive from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public security as well as some executives from the Ministry in charge of Foreign Affairs.



The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation Mr. Ferdinand Bashikako who opened the activities indicated that the Government of Burundi, by signing the agreements on labor migration with certain countries destination, wanted the emergence of Burundi fully integrated and competitive on the regional and international level in which the free movement of goods and services is easy beyond the national borders. With that free movement, the socio-economic development of the country becomes easy to achieve an Emerging Burundi in 2040 and Developed in 2060. The objective of the workshop was the popularization of legal texts relating to safe and secure regular migration so that the population knows how labor migration is organized. That is why that workshop

was organized The Chief of Staff of the Governor of the Ngozi Province thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation for organizing this workshop.

At the end of this workshop, the participants expressed their concerns and suggestions. They suggested the decentralization of recruitment agencies so that the project is understood and facilitated at the national level, severely. punish those who recruit children under 18, punish those who carry out fraudulent actions relating to it, and create a broad platform - trains in all sectors of the country to learn about fraudulent actions on labor migration. They also suggested the creation of a diplomatic mission from the country of Saudi Arabia to facilitate the

work.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation Mr. Ferdinand Bashikako, in

his closing speech, gave an explanation on the creation of a diplomatic mission of Saudi Arabia, saying that the relations between Burundi and the Saudi Arabia are normally good although Saudi Arabia has not yet created its diplomatic mission in Burundi. (MFADC)



### **Presentation of the letters of credence by the Ambassador of Burundi to Tanzania to the President of the United Republic of Tanzania Her Excellency Madam Samia SULUHU**



On Monday March 11, 2024, the Ambassador of the Republic of Burundi to the United Republic of Tanzania Madame Léontine NZEYIMANA presented her letters of credence to the President of the United Republic of Tanzania Her Excellency Madame Samia SULUHU HASSAN.

Burundi and Tanzania have maintained the relations of friendship and cooperation since the 1960s, which evolved positively during the fight against colonialism. In 1993. Those relations also continued to evolve in step with the progress of the negotiation process which led to the signing of the Arusha Agreement in August 2000. With the installation in

Burundi of the transitional institutions in 2001, issues of the Arusha Agreement, those relations began to improve. They have even become excellent since the establishment of the new institutions resulting from the democratic elections organized from June to August 2005. It should be remembered that Tanzania played a major role in the inter-Burundian peace negotiations since 1995 until the signing of the Arusha Agreement and even after.

Political cooperation between Tanzania and Burundi is at the level of the reciprocal visits by the High-ranking personalities from the two countries. The Heads of State met regularly during the working visits, at sub-regional Summits and other regional and international conferences. On the government level, the consultations at the ministerial level take place whenever there are problems to be resolved in different sectors of the common interest. Likewise, the Governors of the provinces bordering Tanzania meet regularly to cement good neighborliness. Since the establishment in Burundi of the Transitional Government resulting from the Arusha Agreement and the other Institutions that followed, the political and diplomatic relations of the two countries have further improved. Indeed, the Embassy of the United Republic of Tanzania which had closed in 1996 reopened its doors in February 2003 and the New Ambassador of Tanzania presented his credentials in September 2003.

Relations between Burundi and Tanzania have already materialized, among other things, through the ex-

changes of delegations, the joint cooperation commissions and the signing of the Agreements and Memoranda in the fields of diplomacy, education, culture, transport. , commerce, communication, tourism, justice, etc.

Tanzania is a country which gives an opening to Burundi given that it touches the Indian Ocean so that Tanzania presents the advantages to the Burundian people in the field of trade.(MFADC)

### Presentation of the letters of credence by the Ambassador of Burundi to Ankara to His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye



**O**n Tuesday March 12, 2024, the Ambassador of the Republic of Burundi to Ankara, Türkiye Mr. Didace Ntureka presented his letters of credence to His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye. The relations of friendship and cooperation between those two countries are based on pragmatism, trust and mutual re-

spect.

The opening of the Burundi Embassy in Ankara in 2014 and that of Türkiye in Bujumbura in 2018 contributed to the strengthening and development of the relations between the two countries, particularly in terms of the mobility of people and goods. The relations of friendship and cooperation are materialized through the signing of agreements in different areas of common interest between the two parties, mainly in the areas of diplomacy, education, trade, defense, security, agriculture and livestock.

In fraternity, when an earthquake struck Türkiye leaving thousands dead and missing, the Burundian Government deployed a "specialized" team of ten people in Türkiye to help in rescuing and recovery operations and they will be deployed by the Turkish authorities in the areas where they are most needed. Note that the devastating earthquake which caused several damages and killed more than 28,000 people in Türkiye and neighboring Syria, is one of the worst in humanity.(MFADC)

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**The Ambassador of the Republic of Burundi to the State of Israel presents his letters of credence to the Israeli President His Excellency Mr. Isaac Herzog**



**O**n March 13, 2024, the Ambassador of the Republic of Burundi to the State of Israel His Excellency Mr. Willy Nyamitwe presented his letters of credence to the Israeli President His Excellency Mr. Isaac Herzog. Burundi and the State of Israel maintain the good diplomatic relations. Israel supports Burundi in the education sectors, especially the University of Bu-

rundi, by opening a STEM center (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), in the field of agriculture, in the field of defense, in the field of energy production through the installation of the photovoltaic electricity production plants, the social entrepreneurship, the community development, health, hydrometeorology, etc. via the channel of the Israeli Agency for International Cooperation and Development (MASHAV) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As part of the evaluation of the bilateral cooperation between Burundi and Israel, certain cooperation agreements were signed in different areas, the reciprocal visits by the Ministers, the Ambassadors and the delegations of different nature. Note that the Israeli Ambassador to Bujumbura is based in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital and he recently presented his letter of credence to the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye.(MFADC)

**The Ambassador of Burundi in Rome presents his letters of credence to the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

**O**n Monday March 11, 2024, the Ambassador of Burundi in Rome His Excellency Mr. Ernest Ndashinze presented his letters of credence to the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Mr. Qu Dongyu. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO in acronym) was created in 1945

in Quebec. Its headquarters is in Rome, Italy. The Republic of Burundi has been a member of the FAO since 1963, and the Representation Office opened its doors in the country on November 19, 1982. The FAO is based in Bujumbura and has a sub-office in Gitega. FAO Burundi is working hard in order to ensure the food security and to reduce hunger and malnutrition



among the most vulnerable populations, through the Representation's program. FAO Burundi also provides the specialized technical support to the Burundian Government and partners dedicated to promoting food security through the better agricultural practices. FAO's activities in Burundi revolve around four main axes arising from the mandate of the organization which is essentially for providing the technical assistance to the member countries in the sector of agriculture, livestock, forestry, fishing, the environment, par-

ticularly through the development of the policies and strategies necessary for the community recovery; by the implementation of the projects, either with the funding from the FAO Technical Cooperation Program (TCP), or with the funding from bilateral or multilateral development partners; through the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on the rural sector and through the emergency agricultural assistance to the vulnerable populations, in the countries affected by the war or faced with the climatic hazards such as Burundi. All FAO actions and interventions are carried out within the integrated global, regional and national frameworks, notably the Action Plan, the regional framework for prevention and the management of disaster risks, the sustainable improvement of food and nutritional security by increasing an agricultural, animal, forestry and fisheries production, the sustainable management of the natural resources and by strengthening the resilience to climate change, the National Agricultural Investment Program (PNIA), the Strategic Framework for the fight against poverty, etc..(MFADC)

### Holding of the International Conference of Burundian Women, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition



**O**n Friday March 15, 2024, the women from the Burundian diaspora in collaboration with those in Burundi organized an international women's conference in the Kamenge University Hospital Center (CHUK) meeting room under the theme: "No

to the obstetric fistulas ». The Conference was based on three main points which are: improving the treatment of the obstetric fistulas, empowering the reintegration of mothers, and strengthening the medical infrastructure. The objective of holding the conference was for raising the awareness and understanding the causes and consequences of the obstetric fistulas, the preventive methods and the assistance to the patients. The guests of the day were the Rector of the University

of Burundi Dr. Audace Manirabona, the Director General of Kamenge University Hospital Center Dr. Stanslas Harakandi, certain doctors and specialists in gynecology, and certain women from different institutions as well as the diasporas who are in Burundi.

The activities were characterized by the on-site and the video-conference presentations by the doctors of gynecology. All the presentations focused on the risk factors (age, obstetric history, pathologies, vaginal bleeding, pre-eclampsia and eclampsia, diabetes, anemia, viral infections, signs of fetal hypoxia, etc. ) and the effective strategies for the prevention of the obstetric fistulas which are: raising the awareness among the young women about the causes of the obstetric fistula and the consequences of the obstetric fistula, prevention of the obstetric fistula, the diagnosis of obstetric fistula, the treatment effective, and the support for the affected women.

The obstetric fistula is the abnormal communication between a woman's lower or upper genital tract and the bladder and rectum. The consequences of that abnormal communication is the permanent and uncontrolled passage of the urine and feces through the female genital tract for the multiple causes among them Obstetrics (Neoplastic, Infectious, Iatrogenic, Traumatic, Radiotherapy, etc.).

The pregnancy and the childbirth are the high-risk periods for the women. More than a third of women experience a lasting health problem after the childbirth, including the obstetric fistula.

The fistula of the obstetric origin represents the drama of the childbirth in the developing countries including Burundi. The treatment of those women in a fistula center at the Kamenge University Hospital Center (CHUK) is carried out.

In Burundi, the treatment of the women who had the childbirth complications such as the fistula began in 2006 by a Dr. Gynecologist after having received the training outside the country. That activity was initiated by the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) called Gynecology Without Borders, the Services France Group (GSF) supported by the Minis-



try of the Public Health and the Fight against AIDS in Burundi and the United Nations Fund for the population (UNFPA) as part of relieving women with obstetric fistula and training a Gynecologist for the continuity of care for those women in a fistula center at the Kamenge University Hospital Center.

The obstetric care includes all care given to the women during pregnancy, the childbirth and the postpartum, as well as care for the newborns is essential and indispensable. They aim to preventing the health problems during pregnancy, detecting the abnormal conditions, providing the medical assistance if necessary and putting in place emergency measures if that is lacking. That is why it was concluded that the obstetric fistula remains the public health problem in Burundi and deserves the primarily preventive rather than the curative care. All healthcare personnel, especially those responsible for monitoring pregnancy in general and childbirth in particular, should combine their efforts to eradicate the obstetric complication. There is also the need to train the gynecological doctors at CHUK on fistula surgery, and create a fistula center at CHUK for teaching the future general practitioners how to manage the obstetric fistula before going into the field.

The Director General of the Kamenge University Hospital Center Dr. Stanslas Harakandi concluded the conference by asking the participants to combine their efforts to fight against this disease by making women aware that they must have the regular prenatal and postnatal consultations, during pregnancy, during childbirth and even postpartum.(MFADC)

### The Governor concludes on the conflict between the Imena Soma Usubire Company and its ex-employees

**O**n Monday March 11, 2024, the Governor of Kayanza province, Mr. Rémy Cishahayo, surrounded by his advisors

in charge of socio-cultural and legal affairs, concluded the conflict which brought, for a certain time, 117 em-



employees recently fired by their employer, the Imena Soma Usubire Company, for economic reasons. During that third confrontation, the manager of the Imena Soma Usubire company, Mr. Evariste Ngayempore, stressed that the 117 recently dismissed the employees were rehabilitated in their rights, benefiting from severance pay calculated taking into account the base salary and that, in accordance with article 153 of the the labor code which stipulates that an employee with less than three years of seniority automatically receives half of the average monthly remuneration as severance pay. In addition, those employees also benefited from the housing and social security benefits. For their part, the representatives of those employees reported that those compensations were incorrectly calculated. They expressed that they should benefit from their notice compensation for an economic unemployment and dismissal.



In his conclusion, the Governor of Kayanza province, stressed that as the eye of the Head of State, he must be impartial, protecting the population and the societies, because they help boosting the national economy. According to him, the employees fired by the Imena Company received their compensation, namely severance compensation, social security compensation and the housing compensation. From all of the above, he asked those who have not been regularized to confide in the directors of the said company so that their compensation is correctly calculated and paid into their accounts.

As for the representative of the Imena Soma Usubire Company, he promised to welcome the employees who consult it.

The employee representative, Mr. Léonce Irabaruta, expressed his dissatisfaction with that sentence, promising to refer the matter to the competent Corps of the Presidency of the Republic.

Remember that those employees have been fired from the Imena Soma Usubire Company since February 1, 2024. **(ABP)**

### Muyinga: The Burundi Revenue Office (OBR) relaunches the process of signing the contracts in the markets



**O**n Wednesday March 13, 2024, the Commissioner General of the Burundi Revenue Office (OBR), Mr. Jean-Claude Manirakiza,

relaunched the process of signing the contracts with the trader's tenants of the stands in the markets built by the State. The activity took place at the Muyinga central market.

The Commissioner General of the OBR Mr. Jean-Claude Manirakiza indicated that the relaunch of the process of signing the contracts with the trader's tenants of the stands in public markets was carried out following the joint order signed by the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Safety, and the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning to review the rents to be paid monthly.

Mr. Jean-Claude Manirakiza pointed out as the new features in that order, the reduction in rents as well as the fact that the traders will pay the rents electronically which will allow them not to waste time in banks and in the offices of the OBR for the acquisition of receipts.

The Commissioner General of the OBR clarified that the measure which prohibits the subletting of the shops and stands in markets built by the State is still valid.

On behalf of the administration, the Governor of Muyinga province, Mr. Jean-Claude Barutwanayo welcomed the measure which lowers rents in public markets. He promised the collaboration between the administration and the OBR to maximize tax

collection. He also indicated that there is a plan to build the new stands at the Muyinga central market to avoid the conflicts that arise between the people fighting over the same stall.

As for the traders using the Muyinga central market who signed the contracts with the OBR, they say they are satisfied with the lower rents compared to the time when they were under sub-lease. **(RTNB)**

### Mwaro: the young graduates trained by the technicians from the Burundian Youth Employment Agency (ABEJ) in agro-pastoral entrepreneurship



**O**n Wednesday March 13, 2024, the Ministry of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture, through the Burundian Youth Employment Agency (ABEJ) organized in Mwaro province, a training workshop in agro-pastoral entrepreneurship for young graduates, beneficiaries of the first job internship in that

province.

The objective of that entrepreneurship training is to enable the young people from Mwaro to be able to each choose an activity that they should implement in that sector and to learn how to write a business plan.

In his opening speech, the Director of Burundian Youth Employment Agency (ABEJ), Mr. Vital Niyungeko urged the young people of Mwaro to roll up their sleeves to undertake especially in the agro-pastoral sector that that sector increases the economy households and the country.

The Director of Burundian Youth Employment Agency (ABEJ), Mr. Vital Niyungeko asks the young people of Mwaro to put their know-how to good use by creating the small businesses in their locality of origin to create the jobs and help the other young people to get back on their feet. **(RTNB)**

### Payment of the rental tax revenue is necessary



**O**n Thursday March 14, 2024, the Burundian Revenue Office (OBR) organized an exchange meeting for the administrators of Bujumbura Town Hall on the collection of the rental income taxes. For the delegate of the OBR commissioner, Mr. Stany Ngendakumana indicated that the meeting was held with the objective of transmitting to the officials of the Bujumbura Town Hall, a message intended for the taxpayers who have the houses or other infrastructures for rent,

that the deadline for payment of the rental tax is on March 31, 2024. That concerns the payment of the rental tax revenues for the 2023 financial year. That message must be communicated to the grassroots administrators, at all levels. A presentation session had been planned. In his presentation on the Relative Income Tax (IRL) module, Mr. Ruben Niyomwungere indicated that people subject to IRL all receive the rental income from the buildings rented out and the benefit from the subsidy total or partial rental of buildings. Those exempt from the IRL are the state and public establishments of an administrative nature, the rental of buildings under an international convention ratified by Burundi subject to the reciprocity, income from the rental of the accommodation school and the university infrastructures as well as the hospitals and the health centers. The newly constructed buildings for a period of

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two years from the date of first rental and income from the rental of the newly constructed collective housing according to the standards set by the competent authority for a period of 10 years are also exempt. Mr. Niyomwungere mentioned that for people benefiting from the reduction, those are among others minor or adult children currently in school up to the age of 25, orphans of father and mother, the widower, the retiree and the demobilized not in public, private and elective office. Regarding the filing of the declaration and payment of the IRL, he specified that any person receiving rental income must prepare a declaration and pay the corresponding tax no later than March 31, 2024 following the collection of rent. After that declaration deadline, filing that declaration will be punishable by a fine. Concerning

the fixed fines for the absence of declaration, he specified that the average taxpayer who has not earned 100 million, pays 100,000 fbu in fines that the average taxpayer who has received between 100 and 700 million, pays 300,000 fbu fines and the large taxpayers pay the fine of 600 thousand fbu. The penalty for the late payment, he added, in the event of the failure to file a declaration, an automatic imposition is applied with an increase of 75% of the tax that should be paid and a fixed fine. Mr. Niyomwungere asked the representatives of the grassroots administration to work closely with the tax administration, in locating and taxing the new taxpayers, to increase the IRL revenues given that the municipalities receive 60 % of IRL revenues. **(ABP)**

### ONPR employees called upon to prevent the professional risks



**O**n Wednesday March 13, 2024, the Services Director at the National Office of Pensions and Occupational Risks (ONPR) of the civil servants, the magistrates and the judicial officers, launched, in Bururi province, an appeal to all affiliates

of that institution to prevent the professional risks, during a professional risk prevention workshop. The issues of professional risks are illness, disability, work stoppage and the death of the victim. As a result, the ONPR must pay more incapacity pensions. Mr. Bernard Biromo, an ONPR executive, said that the safety of the worker depends primarily on himself. The ONPR compensates the victims of the professional risks provided that the declarations are correct, well formulated and presented within the allotted time frame not exceeding four days. He recommended that the members of the social security services respect all the safety instructions and precautions in the professional environment. Dr. Jean Bosco Sinzinkayo, executive of the ONPR, for his part, indicated that the costs generated by a work accident are passed on to all citizens, both taxpayers and consumers, hence they are called for the prevention. **(ABP)**

### Towards the strategic, optimal and operational governance of the university system



**O**n Thursday March 14, 2024, the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) in Burundi, in collaboration with the Université Lumière de Bujumbura (ULBU) organized, in Bujumbura, a public conference under the theme: "university governance and resource mobilization". It was as part of the celebration of Francophonie Week which takes place from March 12

to 19, 2024. In an interview with the press, the Representative of the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) in Burundi and university professor, Mr. Fulgence Nahayo indicated that that agency has eleven academic members including ULBU. He indicated that the good governance at the university level is based on the provision of quality teaching in all departments to bring out the students who are capable in the field of work. He also added that that governance must focus on the control variables to promote the lessons learned. But he pointed out that there are the challenges linked to the lack of the certain educational tools which means that those universities cannot develop properly, given that

even Burundi is a developing country. Mr. Nahayo also stressed that if universities are well organized, they can also give their contribution to achieve the Government's vision of an Emerging country in 2040, Developed country in 2060. He said that the teachers are in the process of do everything possible to train the students who honor the country and

who are competent in the field of work to join other developed countries. the Representative of the AUF and the university professor launched an appeal to the Government to give its contribution to training those students, while explaining that a student who has received the quality teaching completes his studies with the sufficient intellectual capacity. **(ABP)**

## Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

### Department of Communication

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