



**The International Monetary Fund intends to support Burundi towards its development**



**O**n Wednesday September 11, 2024, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye received in audience, at his residence in Kiriri, a delegation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) led by Mr. Costas Christou, Deputy Director of the Africa Department. They discussed the support of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the implementation of the National Development Plan to achieve the Vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060.

"It was a good opportunity to learn from

him about the situation in the country and the challenges ahead and we discussed how we can further strengthen our commitment in Burundi," said Mr. Costas Christou in an interview with the press at the end of the audience. "

The Head of State insisted on the IMF's support so as to be in line with the National Development Plan and projects and programs financed by this fund be oriented towards meeting the needs of the population," added Mrs. Rosine Gatoni, Spokesperson of the President of the Republic.

During this visit to Burundi, the Interna-

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tional Monetary Fund reiterated its commitment to work jointly with the Burundian authorities to consolidate co-

operation relations with the Republic of Burundi. **(Presidency)**

### Burundi: The Burundian Volleyball Federation organizes a global competition



World Beach Pro Tour Bujumbura Futures".

In his speech, the President of the Burundian Volleyball Federation, Mr. Brigadier General of Police Serges NTAKAVURA indicated that this kind of game was introduced in Burundi around the 1950s by white missionaries in Catholic convention schools, the first Club was created in 1968 and was formed by laureates from 10 schools.

In 1991, the Burundian Volleyball Federation was created and automatically affiliated to the International Volleyball Federation. It was in 1992 that we started to practice beach volleyball in Burundi, adds Serges Ntakavura, the President of the Beach Volleyball Federation in Burundi.

After the creation of the Burundian Volleyball Federation, Burundi has already participated in a number of international competitions. These include the 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2022 competitions. The boys' and girls' teams raised the flag of Burundi in the international space, recalled the President of the Volleyball Federation in Burundi.

The opening match was between Germany and Burundi. Germany beat Burundi by 2 sets to 0. Germany won the first seven by 21 points to 16. Burundi lost 18 points to Germany's 21. **(RTNB)**

**U**nder the high patronage of His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi, the Burundian Volleyball Federation, supported by the Ministry of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism organized, on September 11 2024; a World Competition named: "Volleyball

### Second Deputy Speaker of the Senate flies to Yerevan



Parliamentary Union (IPU) to be held from September 12 to 14, 2024, organized by the IPU and the National Assembly of Armenia, under the theme:

**O**n Tuesday September 10, 2024 the Second Deputy President of the Senate, Hon. Fabrice Nkurunziza, traveled to Yerevan, Republic of Armenia. He will take part in the 10th World Conference of Young Parliamentarians of the Inter-

"Avoiding lost generations: preserving education and employment in all circumstances." **(Senate)**



## 10th Inter-Parliamentary Union Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians to be held in Armenia



On Thursday September 12 2024, the Second Deputy President of Burundi Senate, Hon. Fabrice Nkurunziza, participated in the opening ceremonies of the 10th Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), held in Yerevan, Republic of Armenia.

Shortly after, he took part in various presentations by representatives of International Organizations on the countdown to 2030 focused on the global outlook and national assessments.

In the afternoon of the same day, Honorable Fabrice Nkurunziza had the opportunity to present the results of the activities put in place to provide quality education and decent work in Burundi.

He insinuated that the Government of the Republic of Burundi has understood that education, quality training and the guarantee of decent employment are real keys to success and youth socio-economic integration.

Indeed, the Second Deputy President of the Senate indicated that where the right to quality education is not guaranteed, young people are deprived of professional and productive skills necessary for their empowerment. "They then grow up with a feeling of being useless to themselves and to society because they have no way to employment," he added.

He therefore said that in order to deal with this situation, the Government has undertaken many initiatives aimed at giving youth maxima opportunities to benefit from quality education and decent employment.

Regarding access to decent employment and youth

unemployment reduction, Hon. Fabrice Nkurunziza said that the Government of Burundi has set up a national youth council to allow their more effective participation in the definition and orientation of the Government's programs in their favor.

He also pointed out that the Government has initiated a Youth Economic Empowerment and Employment Program (PAEEJ) whose objective is to support all policies in terms of job creation, unemployment reduction, poverty alleviation and professional integration in order to stimulate the country's economic growth.

In the same continuation of this afternoon's activities, the Second Deputy President of the Senate participated in the second session entitled: "Youth Lives Turned Upside Down: Impact of Crises on Rights and Socio-Economic Empowerment of Youth".

Here, discussions focused on disruptive effects of global crises, including wars, economic recessions, pandemics and climate change, education and youth employment.



Participants reflected on legislative, political, budgetary and oversight measures that young MPs can take to defend youth education and employment, especially in times of crisis.

Finally, he took part in the presentation of case studies by some parliamentarians. These illustrated the impact of crises and policy measures taken to empower youth in such circumstances. **(Senate)**

## The President of the Senate receives in audience the Ambassadors of Belgium and the United States of America to Burundi



On September 09, 2024, the President of the Senate, Right Honourable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, received in audience, respectively; the Ambassador of Belgium to Burundi Michael Wimmer and the Ambassador of the United States of America to Burundi Lisa Peterson at the Liaison Office of the Senate located in Bujumbura City Hall, the Economic Capital.

After their exchanges, the Spokesperson for the President of the Senate, Honorable Denise Ndadaye indicated that the Ambassador of Belgium to Burundi announced that Belgium is taking new measures to renormalize relations between the two countries and is ready to support Burundi in health, education and politics sectors.

As far as the Right Honourable Emmanuel Sinzohagera is concerned, Belgium would do concrete activities such as repairing roads, namely Astrida which was



built by Belgians in the past and was the most important part of strong both countries historical relations. The President of the Senate also appreciated the visit of Belgian Deputies to Burundi and expressed his hope to see Belgian Senators visit Burundi as well.

As for the Ambassador of the United States of America to Burundi, she said that she had come first to make contact and mentioned their exchanges were based on strengthening cooperation ties. She welcomed activities carried out by the Burundian Senate as well.

The Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament expressed his hope that American entrepreneurs would come to invest in Burundi and pointed out that measures to facilitate foreign investment in Burundi have already been taken. **(Senate)**

## Second Deputy Speaker of the Senate participates in sessions focused on the promotion of education and youth employment in Armenia

On Friday September 13, 2024, in Yerevan, Armenia, the Second Deputy President of the Senate, Hon. Fabrice Nkurunziza, followed the presentations of international experts on the marginalization of vulnerable groups, and representatives specialized in the protection and empowerment of marginalized groups or people in vulnerable situations.

During this session, participants in this meeting exchanged on issues aimed at identifying vulnerable and marginalized groups, and defining needs of vulnerable groups of young people in order to identify initiatives and policies for an education and employment de-



signed specifically for these groups. Subsequently, the Second Deputy President of the Sen-

ate, Hon. Fabrice Nkurunziza participated in a group work session on the theme: "Protecting the Empowerment of Youth in Times of Crisis: The Action of Young Parliamentarians." During this ses-

sion, participants discussed widely aspects of youth education and employment in times of crisis, and reflected on initiatives that young people can undertake for self-development. **(Senate)**

### Prime Minister chairs meeting to assess preparations for A growing season



**T**he Prime Minister of Burundi Mr. Gervais Ndirakobuca met with Directors of Provincial Offices of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock (BPEAE), Governors of provinces, communal administrators and communal agronomists in order to analyze the report on the progress of C growing season as well as preparations for A growing season.

Regarding the past C season, most of the Directors of Provincial Offices of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock pointed out many quantities of fertilizers and dolomite from that season which have not yet been distributed due to fuel shortage.

In this regard, Mr. Gervais Ndirakobuca recommended drawing up a list of beneficiaries for an effective related resolution as soon as possible.

Regarding the A growing season, Directors of the Provincial Offices of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock pointed out that projected needs for fertilizers and seeds at the provincial level are not yet met because of fuel shortage.

About strategies to implement so that fertilizers reach farmers on time, the Director of Soil Fertilization said that fuel shortage still a challenge so *FOMI* (Organo-Mineral Fertilizers Industries) delays in

delivering those fertilizers.

The Representative of Organo-Mineral Fertilizers Industries (FOMI) said that fertilizers are available in sufficient quantities, but that this company is facing challenges in terms of fertilizers transport to provincial storage sheds.

As rainfall is essential growing season effectiveness, the representative of the Geographical Institute of Burundi (IGEBU) announced that natural regions of Imbo, Mirwa, Buyenzi, Mugamba and part of Bugesera will have 10 -20 days rainfalls during September while other natural regions will have 20 days rainfalls during September and a 10 days rainfall in October.

For his part, the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Mr. Prosper Dodiko, said that fertilizers production is currently being accelerated in FOMI Company and that related stocks are available.

The Minister took this opportunity to urge that company for contract respect. The Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock encouraged seed multipliers to focus on local composite maize varieties in order to avoid external dependence.

The Prime Minister recommended to the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock contact the Water and Electricity Production Company (*Regideso*) and the Burundi Oil Company (SOPEBU) for fuel supply in order to send fertilizers and dolomite to farmers. The Prime Minister also recommended that *FOMI* be given priority to supply seed multipliers so as to avoid seed shortages during the B agricultural season.

In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged the administrative personnel, in particular those of Bujumbura City Hall and those of Gitega to cooperate with enumerators and continue raising awareness for the ongoing census success. **(RTNB)**



## The National Committee for the Orientation of the Census assesses the state of the RGPFAE main enumeration



On Friday September 13, 2024, the members of the National Census Orientation Committee (CNOR) met, under the leadership of Prime Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca and President of this committee to conduct a mid-term evaluation on the progress of the main enumeration of the General Census for Population, Housing, Agriculture and Livestock (RGPFAE) 2024.

The National Committee for the Orientation of the Census (CNOR) is pleased with the progress of this work of the main enumeration of the RGPFAE 2024, which

after 11 days of data collection, has already reached 61.4% of households at the national level. The CNOR is therefore confident that the deadlines of September 22, 2024 will be met.

According to Mr. Nicolas Ndayishimiye, Secretary and Spokesperson of CNOR on the 11th day of the main enumeration of the RGPFAE 2024, it has already reached a satisfactory level according to the new administrative division: Buhumuza 65.4c/o, Burunga 61.8c/o, Butanyerera 61.6c/o, Gitega 60c/o and Bujumbura 59.5c/o.

At the commune level, the top five are Isale with 73.6c/o of surveyed households, Bubanza 70.4c/o, Bukinanyana 70c/o, Butaganzwa 68.8c/o and Butihinda with 67.9c/o.

The National Committee for the Orientation of the Census (CNOR) warmly thanked the population for having responded to this main enumeration of the RGPFAE2024.

He also thanked the local administration for its involvement and the field agents of the Central Census Bureau (BCR). He asks them to make more efforts to achieve their goal on time. (RTNB)

## Constitutive charter of the Group of Seven Plus (g7+): Together against post-conflict poverty



Lobbying and global advocacy to reform development policies and practices is one of the four (4) pillars on which the Group of Seven Plus (g7+) has made considerable efforts since its existence, noted on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, Mr. Audace Niyonzima as he was defending the draft ratification law of the Constitutive Charter of the Group of Seven Plus (g7+) by the Republic of Burundi. Seven Plus (g7+) which was voted for by one hun-



dred and ten (110) Honourable Members of Parliament out of the one hundred and eleven (111) present including one (1) abstention.



The g7+ is the first self-organized intergovernmental group of countries affected by war, conflict and fragility, established in 2012 by seven (7) founding member states to collectively express their priorities at the national and global levels. In addition to Afghanistan, the Central African Republic and Côte d'Ivoire, he also mentioned the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, Haiti and Timor-Leste among the founding countries of the g7+, which currently has 20 member states including Burundi. The plus sign (+), he explained, finds its purpose in this openness.

The objectives of the g7+ can be summarized in three (3) main points which are: facilitate peer-to-peer learning and sharing of experiences among conflict-affected countries in terms of peace building; state-building and development ; to assist an effective country-owned and country-led cooperation, in the areas of peace and state building, humanitarian commitment and development, which promotes the establishment of resilient state institutions capable of serving citizens ; promote local peace through national dialogue and reconciliation based on principles of national ownership.

In addition, he continued, the g7+ aims at receiving full international recognition and ensure its functioning through its bodies including the ministerial forum, the advisory council and the secretariat. In addition, he was pleased with the g7 + observer status at the United Nations. By the resolution of 74/186 of the United Nations General Assembly of 18 December 2019 also constitutes an effective platform for the advocacy of the voiceless (Fragile States) at the United Nations.

Not long ago, he illustrated, bad practices were beginning to take hold where budget support provided by development partners was channeled through Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and/or civil society due to mistrust of country leaders, most often leading to the fragmentation of this support.

The g7+, he said, will contribute to reforming policies of bilateral and multilateral donor support in order to better meet real needs of Burundi by highlighting national ownership through the reaffirmation of the essential role of the State in the management of conflicts and public affairs.

Is Burundi not in danger of withdrawing from the g7+ as it slammed the door to the Independent Provincial Commission when it saw its hope disappointed ?, the plenary asked.

At that time the Independent Provincial Commission had to judge and sanction, the g7+ purpose is harmony in terms of sustainable development, the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning nuanced before recalling that membership of groups is voluntary, as its withdrawal. **(National Assembly)**

## The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation receives in audience the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Burundi

**O**n Tuesday September 10, 2024, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Albert Shingiro, received in audience, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Burundi, His Excellency Michael Wimmer, who had come with a delegation composed of Mr. Abou El Mahassine Fassi-Fihiri, Resident Representative of the Belgian Cooperation Agency Enabel, who came both for farewell and introducing the new Resident Representative of this agency, Mr. David Leyessens.

Burundi and Belgium have long-standing cooperation relations and intend to strengthen mutually beneficial development cooperation in terms of the implementation of the Vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and developed country by 2060.

Cooperation between Belgium and Burundi evolved positively since both sides signed the General Convention on Cooperation and Technical Assistance on July 29, 1963 in Brussels. Following the political context of 2015, direct bilateral cooperation was suspended and



Burundi fell victim to European sanctions.

It should be noted that before 2015, direct bilateral cooperation was carried out on the basis of the Indicative Cooperation Programme (ICP) spread over a period agreed upon at the end of a joint commission bringing together the two parties.

On December 13, 2019, during the meeting between His

Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs at the time and the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Burundi, the latter said that in order to consolidate and sustain underway projects within the framework of the ICP, Belgian Government decided to make available an additional budget for an additional extension and a budget increase. The concerned interventions are carried out by ENABEL, the Belgian Development Agency in health, agriculture and education sectors.

During the period of 2015, the member countries of the European Union decided to lift sanctions they had taken against Burundi and warmed up cooperation relations. In addition, on August 31, 2023, Mr. Michael WIMMER presented the figurative copies of her credentials designating her as Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Burundi, during an audience granted to her by His Excellency Ambassador Albert Shingiro.

Burundi will spare no effort to work together with Enabel as it plays an important role in health, education and food security. (MFADC)

### Analysis of the general public report carried out by the Court of Auditors for the year 2023



The President of the Court of Auditors G n rose Kiyago was invited to Kigobe hemicycle on Monday September 9, 2024, to provide clarifications on the 2023 General Public Report of the Court of Auditors.

In its analysis of the report updated by the Court of Auditors for the year 2023, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, Finance, Economic Affairs and Planning noted that at administrative and communal levels, recent data are back to 2021-2022 financial year: 30 communes out of the 72 provided this data on the financial inventory for 2021-2022 financial year. This is



at a time when oldest data are from 2011-2012 fiscal year and shows the financial statement of Kabezi commune of Bujumbura province.

At the level of Public Enterprises, out of 25 listed companies, more than half, i.e. 13 companies, have never filed their accounts with the Court, including the National Telecommunications Office of Burundi (ONATEL), the Burundi Housing Bank (BHB) and the National Bank for Development (BNDE). The Soci t  Rizicole de D veloppement de l'Imbo (SRDI) is the one that recently filed its financial inventory, its filing dates back to the 2021-2022



fiscal year, others are their financial statements between 2004 and 2019.

At the level of Budgetary and Financial Affairs, the Court of Auditors, the most recent dates back to the 2021-2022 financial year, 67 financial entities have filed their accounts; 55 financial entities filed their accounts between 2004 and 2019. While 4 financial entities have never filed their accounts with the Court.

In view of these results, the President of the National Assembly Gélase Daniel Ndabirabe called on the President of the Court to organize a retreat with her colleagues in order to discuss on strategies to be

adopted to carry out their missions. As soon as there are delays in the declaration of financial statements, he urged the Court of Auditors to take up this challenge and all institutions to file their financial statements on time.

Mr. Gélase Daniel Ndabirabe, insisted on increasing collaboration between the Court of Auditors and public and para-public institutions. For him, it is necessary to get rid of collaboration by correspondence but rather to visit the institutions, in order to ensure the regularity of the deposit of their accounts. This will help draw up recommendations to audited institutions and allow to meet encountered challenges, he noted. **(ABP)**

## Administrators and religious leaders are urged to raise awareness on the recruitment of officer candidates



**T**he Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security has launched in Mwaro, the enrollment activities of candidates who wish to integrate into the security corps. This was in an awareness session

on the recruitment of police candidates that was organized on Monday, August 9, 2024 for administrative officials, religious leaders, and communal directors of education and representatives of civil society in Mwaro province.

During this session, Nadia Kamikazi recalled required documents for registration. As a result, she called on administrators and school officials to facilitate applicants for the required documents. She said that the enlistment of officers and brigadiers will be done in the capital of Mwaro province. As for the candidate agents, their registration will be done in respective communes. She urged the communal registrants to do their job of enrollment well and to stay away from any attempt at corruption or cheating. **(ABP)**

## Official Launch of the Media Contest on Family Planning

**T**he Ministry of Public Health and Fight against AIDS and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) jointly organized, on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 in Bujumbura, a media workshop to officially launch the media competition on family planning under the theme "Family planning, one of the keys to sustainable development of Burundi".

The Director of the National Reproductive Health Program (PNSR), Dr. Ananie Ndacayisaba, who represented the Ministry of Public Health and Fight

against AIDS at this workshop, said that one of the objectives of Burundi's vision "emerging country by 2040 and developed country by 2060" in family planning is to achieve the use rate of modern contraception methods of 60% and reach 85% by 2060.

"If we consider the results of the last demographic and health survey of 2016-2017, the contraceptive prevalence rate among women in union is 29%, that of 'unmet' family planning needs is 30%," noted Dr. Ananie Ndacayisaba, stressing that efforts must be combined to achieve the objectives of the vision.



He also recalled that Family Planning (FP) is sets of means and services allowing couples and individuals to choose to have a desired number of children, time and spacing of births. Family Planning (FP) is one of the most effective and proven strategies in fighting against maternal and child mortality.

Women and couples who have access to family planning and especially modern contraception methods can avoid unwanted pregnancies and space their births. Thanks to these methods, he continued, women are much less likely to die in childbirth, or to be exposed to long-term health problems.

According to Dr. Ananie Ndacayisaba, when women and couples are given the opportunity to decide whether or not to have children and when, women have more autonomy within their homes and can earn a better living. « Yet, thousands of women want to avoid pregnan-

cy but do not have the opportunity to use effective family planning methods, either because they do not have access to the necessary information and services, or because they are not supported by their partners or communities," he said.

For her part, Dr. Yolande Magonyagi, Reproductive Health Program Officer at the United Nations Population Fund, called for a self-mindset change.

She also deplored the fact that among consequences of refusing or ignoring family planning is demographic pressure, which is at the origin of some challenges such as high unemployment namely youth unemployment; children malnutrition, environmental degradation (deforestation), quality of education (the plethora of students or pregnancy in school followed by dropout), land conflicts and high maternal mortality.

In terms of the media competition, UNFPA Communications Officer, Mrs. Queen Belle Monique Nyeniteka, said that this competition is open to any journalist working in Burundi and is recognized by the National Communication Council (CNC). The deadline for submission of applications began on September 10, 2024, while the deadline is November 9, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. Applications will be submitted online and the terms of reference are published on all UNFPA communication channels (UNFPA LinkedIn, Facebook and X), she said, asking journalists to be creative in their media productions. **(ABP)**

## The Minister of National Solidarity calls for environment protection

**T**he Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender Mrs. Imelde Sabushimike visited on Tuesday September 10, 2024; Butihinda commune in Muyinga province. The purpose was the assistance to 22 families in Kamaramagambo zone, victims of climate change. On this occasion, she distributed aid consisting of iron sheets, hoes, rice, loincloths and notebooks.

In her speech, the Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, Mrs. Imelde Sabushimike said that this visit also aimed at raising awareness of the population on environment protection in order to avoid damages caused by climate change and that affect the well-being of the population.



The Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, Mrs. Imelde Sabushimike took the

opportunity to indicate that this phenomenon of climate change has affected several countries throughout the world, while stressing that Burundi is not the only country that has been affected. This is why the population must change its mentality to always move towards the national vision, added the Minister of National Solidarity.

And to win the bet, Mrs. Imelde Sabushimike urged the local administration to get started by supporting

the population in their development projects, including those related to environmental protection.

In this period of undergoing General Census of Population, Housing, Agriculture and Livestock, Minister Imelde Sabushimike urged the population to answer correctly census related questions because the results will contribute to the development of the country. (RTNB)

### The University of Burundi organizes an International Workshop for Women Mathematicians



**L**ed by the Institute of Applied Statistics "ISTA" in collaboration with the Organization of Women in Sciences for Development in Burundi and the Association of African Women Mathematicians, the University of Burundi organized on September 9 2024, an International workshop under the theme: "Women in sage Burundi workwoshop".

Dr. David Nahimana, Director of Research and Innovation at the University of Burundi said that the African Women in Mathematics Association (AWMA), an association of women mathematicians created in July 2013 in Cape Town, aims at

promoting mathematics and networking of women mathematicians in Africa.

The workshop aimed at bringing together African women mathematicians, sharing their motivations and discovering women from different countries at different career levels, launching new research projects and collaborating between mathematicians from different African countries.

That workshop saw the participation of women mathematicians from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Cameroon, DRC, France and Tanzania. Dr. Janvière Ndirahisha, mathematician, said that mathematics is not at all com-



plicated rather it is necessary to review the teaching methods for more practical than abstract. "Maths is the life sciences, how can they not be loved by our young people in general and girls in particular?" asks Dr. Janvière Ndirahisha.

She added that to encourage girls to enrol in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) courses, it is necessary to help them overcome their apprehensions and have self confidence. (RTNB)

## Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

### Department of Communication

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