



Burundi and Saudi Arabia, towards a new momentum for cooperation



The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, received in audience on Tuesday October 1, 2024, at Ntare Rushatsi Palace,

the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Burundi, Yahya Bin Ahmed, who had come to strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation.

The ambassador was the bearer of a message of invitation from His Royal Highness and Head of the Saudi Government Salmane Ben Abdelaziz, to take part in the Future Investment Initiative Forum to be held in Riyadh in 2024.

It also reflects the shared desire of the two leaders to further strengthen their win-win partnership for development. They expressed their determination to work together to achieve their respective visions, i.e. Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 and Burundi's Vision of an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. **(Presidency)**

Official launch of the PRETE-NYUNGANIRA project in Burundi: Towards an emerging future

On Friday October 4, 2024, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, officially launched the activities of PRETE-NYUNGANIRA project, supported by the World Bank. The event was held in Mpanda Commune, in Bubanza Province, in the presence of Mrs Hawa

Cissé Wague, the World Bank Resident Representative in Burundi, where she urged the population to take ownership of the vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060.

During the ceremony, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellen-

In this Edition:

page

Burundi and Saudi Arabia, towards a new momentum for cooperation

1

Official launch of the PRETE-NYUNGANIRA project in Burundi: Towards an emerging future

1

President Ndayishimiye received in audience the Secretary General of the EAC

2

The President of the Republic is pleased by the calm political environment in the run-up to the elections

3

Compliance with accounting procedures: a priority for the National Assembly

4

President of the Senate departs for N'Djamena

5

The Prime Minister receives in audience the Ambassador of the European Union to Burundi

5

Ambassador of Burundi in Abuja presents credentials to the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States

6

The Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock takes the seeds delivery

6



cy Evariste Ndayishimiye, emphasized the importance of people taking ownership of the vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. He urged Burundians to become actively involved in this transformation process, highlighting the importance of collaboration between the government, local stakeholders and the international community.

PRETE-NYUNGANIRA project aims at improving people's living conditions by developing infrastructure and promoting access to essential services. By mobilising resources and strengthening local capacities, the project aims at acting as a catalyst for the country's socio-economic development.

The launch of this project is part of a wider framework of reforms and initiatives aimed at making Burundi an emerging country, with a particular focus on sustainability and inclusiveness. He recalled that the success of this vision will depend on the commitment of all Burundian citizens, urging them to work together for a prosperous future.

Inviting the population to become financially independent, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye reminded the World Bank of the importance of supporting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to achieve these objectives.

He went on to encourage Burundians to engage in income-generating activities, and called on them to show brotherly love, change their mentality, promote development and respect institutions.

This moment marks a significant step in Burundi's efforts to position itself on the path to development and resilience.

The Head of State of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, also inaugurated a new fruit-based wine production industry run by the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of Notre Dame del Monte in the commune of Muzinda, in the province of Bubanza, where he revealed that it is an important step towards local development and sustainable agriculture. **(Presidency)**

President Ndayishimiye received in audience the Secretary General of the EAC



On Friday October 4, 2024, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, received in audience at the Palace of Ntare Rushatsi the new Secretary General of the East African Community, Mrs Veronica Mueni Nduva.

Having taken up the reins on June 7, 2024 to replace Ambassador Peter Mutuku Mathuki, she has just made her first visit to Burundi, one of the States of the EAC whose executive body she is responsible for coordinating.

Their discussions focused mainly on the social, political, economic and security situation in the Community. He promised that Burundi would do everything in its power to contribute to the integration of this great community, which is so important to their respective citizens.

He also took the opportunity to inform the Burundian Head of State of the organization of the Summit of Heads of State of the East African Community scheduled for the end of November. **(Presidency)**

The President of the Republic is pleased by the calm political environment in the run-up to the elections



On Thursday October 3, 2024 in Bujumbura, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, chaired a morale-boosting session for the leaders of Burundi registered political parties, according to local sources.

In his speech, Burundian Head of State announced that he had brought these political party leaders together to discuss national life in general and the national vision 'Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060' that Burundi has set for itself.

He said he was pleased with the calm that prevailed on the eve of the elections, which had not been the case before.

The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, pointed out that the country cannot develop without a vision. For this reason, he toured the country to explain the merits of this vision to the people, so that they could embrace it.

This vision does not belong to the Head of State but to every Burundian: "The national vision does not belong to me as some people think, but it belongs to you, it belongs to the entire Burundian population. Because, otherwise, the vision would end with my mandate but my successors will continue to work for its achievement," he stressed.

He invited these political leaders to do the same by explaining to their supporters the principles of this national vision.

The Head of State spoke on various subjects dur-

ing this moralization session. He said that during his visit to Zambia, he found that the price of maize seeds is affordable. For this, he took the decision that Burundi should get its supplies from this country: "Before, maize seeds cost 25000 BIF per kg but now, 1 kg costs only 4500 BIF, which is a sigh of relief for the population," he said.

However, the President of the Republic regretted that Burundi sources such seeds from abroad, while the country has seed centers that were supposed to take care of it. He deplored the fact that there is currently a glaring lack of potato seeds, while the population has prepared enough for its cultivation. "I took enough time to raise awareness among the population to exploit empty land by growing potatoes. My call was widely heard but, to my surprise, I have just noticed the scarcity of potato seeds, while the country has centers like ISABU," he regretted.

The Head of State of Burundi also returned to some elements that constitute the capital of development where he cited leadership, education, security, environmental protection etc.

Regarding the environment, the President of the Republic of Burundi stressed that environment is an irreversible wealth that must be carefully guarded and maintained. This is possible thanks to certain actions such as the tracing of contour lines (radical tracing) to facilitate water retention and avoid soil degradation, reforestation and others.

He also encouraged these leaders of the political parties to remain united around the national vision and to prepare for the next elections. Everything will be possible thanks to the education they have instilled in their fans, he said.

The Minister of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security, Mr. Martin NITERETSE, had in his speech informed, that the members of the various Political Parties coexist peacefully throughout the national territory.

He also pointed out that activities of political parties are going smoothly even if there are a handful of ill-intentioned administrative officials at the grassroots who sometimes try to disrupt them.

However, he had to specify that, when these officials inform this situation in time, the problem is automatically solved without disrupting activities.

He invited the leaders of the Political Parties to keep this responsible behavior that characterizes them in

these last days and especially to sensitize their members not to be distracted by the elections. He recommended to these same leaders of the political parties to prepare their representatives in time, even if it means that on Election Day they will have their role to play. (ABP)

Compliance with accounting procedures: a priority for the National Assembly



The National Assembly recommends compliance with the manual of administrative, financial and accounting procedures. This was demanded by the Honorable Deputies in the plenary session of October 02, 2024, led by Honorable Mrs. Sabine Ntakarutimana, First Vice-President of this parliamentary chamber. On the agenda of the plenary session was a presentation of analysis reports on the follow-up implementation of the recommendations of the Court of Auditors by the communes of Ngozi, Kayanza, Kayogoro, Rutana, Makamba and Kirundo, following its audit on the compliance of the activities, financial transactions and information of these communes.



The Minister of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security, Mr. Martin Niteretse, was invited to answer oral questions with debate addressed to him by the Honorable Members of Parliament at the end of the presentation of the said reports.

At the time the Court of Auditors' audit was carried out



in these communes in 2018 and 2019, most of the recommendations had not been implemented. Indeed, the rate of total implementation of the Court's recommendations by the communes of Ngozi, Kayanza and Kayogoro represents an average of only 27.5%. The communes of Kirundo, Makamba and Rutana recorded an average of 24.15%.

Asked why this low rate of implementation of recommendations, Minister Martin Niteretse replied that the Court of Auditors' audit was carried out towards the end of the legislature, i.e. in September 2019. As a result, the administrators at the time did not have time to implement the recommendations and, unfortunately, failed to pass them on to their successors. In addition, he adds, some administrators, such as those of Kayanza and Kayogoro, did not live up to their terms of reference and were replaced. So far, 94.53% of the recommendations have been implemented by the new administrators. Thus, negligence and notorious incompetence are the causes of the failure to implement the Court's recommendations.

The plenary, anxious to know what the Ministry has done to ensure that these recommendations are implemented, was reassured by the Government Envoy that rigorous follow-up has been envisaged through controls, and that sanctions are taken in the event of non-compliance. In addition, capacity-building is being provided for accountants and those in charge of the authorizing officer's ac-

counts. In addition, the introduction of harmonized Community Development Plans (CDPs) and Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWBPs) is extremely useful. In addition, communal accounting has been digitized, competent communal staff have been recruited to support the administrators, and severe penalties have been imposed for mismanagement of communal funds.

Before closing the session, Honorable Sabine Ntakarutimana placed particular emphasis, by way

of recommendations to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security, on the implementation of all the recommendations of the Court of Auditors by the communes, binding measures to ensure that administrators respect the content of the manual of administrative, financial and accounting procedures, capacity-building for communal administrators resulting from the 2025 elections and the digitalization of communal accounting, which must be a concern of the State. **(National Assembly)**

President of the Senate departs for N'Djamena



mentary Assemblies of the African Parliamentary Union, to be held in N'Djamena from October 5 to 6, 2024.

At this session, participants will be discussing two themes, one dealing with the challenges of peace and security, in particular by promoting the involvement and empowerment of young people in African countries, and the other with economic development of African countries through

The President of the Senate, the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, travelled to the Republic of Chad this afternoon, October 3, 2024, where he will take part in the 82 nd Session of the Executive Committee and the 46th Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parlia-

the exploitation of natural resources, economic diversification and industrialization.

During his stay in Chad, the President of the Senate, the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, will have the opportunity to exchange views with various delegations on issues of common interest. **(Senate)**

The Prime Minister receives in audience the Ambassador of the European Union to Burundi

On Thursday October 3, 2024, the Prime Minister of Burundi, Lieutenant General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca, received in audience the Head of Delegation of the European Union (EU), Ambassador Elisabetta Pietrobon, to discuss the strengthening of bilateral cooperation between Burundi and the EU since 1978.

Mrs Elisabetta Pietrobon indicated that many subjects of common interest between the EU and Burundi were dealt with during this audience. She mentioned agriculture, transport and electricity, as



According to Pietrobon.

As for Mr Moïse Nkurunziza, the Spokesman at the Prime Minister's Office, the two senior figures also discussed good governance, trade and the development of the private sector.

The Prime Minister expressed his appreciation of the cooperative relations between Burundi and the European Union, and hoped that these relations would be strengthened.

They also talked about regional security, said Mr Moïse Nkurunziza, with Ambassador Elisabetta Pietrobon emphasizing that the EU is concerned about regional security.

She went on to say that a special envoy for the security of Great Lakes countries had recently been appointed, and could visit Burundi soon, she promised. **(ABP)**

Ambassador of Burundi in Abuja presents credentials to the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States

On September 30, 2024, the Ambassador of Burundi in Abuja, Mr. Eduard Nduwimana presented his credentials to the President of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), His Excellency Mr. Omar Alieu TOURAY. This presentation is an important ceremony that evidences Burundi's commitment to regional cooperation and the strengthening of bilateral relations with the Economic Community of West African States.

The Chairman of ECOWAS, His Excellency Mr. Omar Alieu Touray, congratulated the Ambassador of Burundi in Abuja, Mr. Eduard Nduwimana for his accreditation and promised a solid cooperation of ECOWAS during the exercise of his functions. He stressed that this accreditation would not only be a symbol of commitment, but also play a crucial role in accelerating regional integration.

ECOWAS was established by the Treaty of Lagos signed on May 28, 1975 by fifteen West African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

In a world where regional integration is essential for



development, this approach represents a significant step towards a better future for all States in the region. **(MFADC)**

The Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock takes the seeds delivery

On Monday September 30, 2024, the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Mr Prosper Dodiko, took delivery of 120 tons of improved maize seed (PAN 53) from Zambia at the port of Bujumbura.

The Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Mr Prosper Dodiko, said that the PAN 53 maize seed was the result of cooperation agreements signed between Burundi and Zambia during a recent working visit to Zambia by the Head of State of Burundi, His Excellency



cy Evariste Ndayishimiye.

PAN 53 is a high production seed for low and medi-

um altitudes.

He pointed out that 1kg of this seed costs 25,000 BIF on the market, and thanks to the Government's efforts to promote agriculture, 1kg of maize from this seed will cost 4,200 BIF.

The Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock has just received 400 tons of this seed as the first batch, out of an order for 800 tons.

He called on the Provincial Offices for Environment, Agriculture and Livestock (*BPEAE*) to apply equity in the distribution of these seeds so that all farmers can have easy access to them.

Léonidas Nimpagaritse, the representative of Papa Dangote Company responsible for transporting the maize seed, said that by October 2, 2024 at the latest, all the provinces would have received their seed in accordance with the Ministry's allocation (**RTNB**).

Evaluation of the implementation of the recommendations of the General Estates



On Monday, September 30, 2024, the Ministry of Justice organized a workshop in the province of Gitega to reflect on and validate the report on the assessment of the level of implementation of the recommendations from the 2013 Estates General on Justice. The activities were opened by the Minister of Justice, Mrs Domine Banyankimbona.

In her speech, the Minister of Justice indicated that in order to address the dysfunctions in the judicial system, the Ministry of Justice organized the Estates General on Justice in Gitega from August 5 to 6, 2013, under the chairmanship of the Head of State and Supreme Magistrate.

She recalled that this was a truly national dialogue, marked by a strong political will and attended by

more than 500 personalities from executive, legislative and judicial institutions, diplomatic and consular missions, the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, political parties, bar associations, notaries' offices, civil society, religious denominations.... 220 recommendations were made during the 2013 Estates General.

According to Mrs Anne Marie Nkeshimana, Inspector General and Spokesperson for the Ministry of Justice, participants at the workshop noted that implementation had reached a satisfactory stage.

With regard to the challenges encountered in implementing the recommendations of the 2013 Estates General on Justice, the Spokesperson for the Ministry of Justice pointed out that the challenges were not very alarming, as implementation required the support of several stakeholders.

She indicated that the Ministry of Justice will try to call on everyone to intervene in this sector so that implementation is effectively carried out.

The spokesperson for the Ministry of Justice has reassured the Burundian population, particularly litigants and users of the justice system that the Ministry of Justice will spare no effort to ensure that justice is delivered in a satisfactory and fair manner. (**RTNB**)

National Communication Council: New President meets media executives



On Monday September 30, 2024, the National Communication Council organized a meeting in Gitega with the heads of the public and private media operating in Burundi. The aim of the meeting was to make contact with the new President of the CNC and to discuss the Burundian media landscape.

On this occasion, the President of the National Communication Council, Mrs Espérance Ndayizeye, praised the work carried out by the media while respecting the legal texts governing the profession of journalism. She nonetheless lamented the escalation observed in certain media, on subjects that are not of public interest.

The President of the National Council for Communication also recommended that media managers respect the balance of information by giving the floor to all par-

ties concerned. She also reminded them to give a voice to all sections of the population.

She took the opportunity to recall the role of the media in implementing the vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060, and invited media managers to take ownership of this vision and initiate programs to support it.

During the meeting, media leaders stressed the need for certain media to produce reports that respond to the concerns of the population and avoid inciting messages. They recommended journalism for development and to avoid developing only negative aspects.

To ensure that the profession of journalism runs smoothly, the members of the National Council for Communication recommended that journalists show humility when gathering information. They also invited resource persons to deliver information to the media in the interest of the population.

With the multiplicity of media, media managers were invited to develop solution journalism and journalism for development instead of focusing only on subjects that do not respond to the concerns of the population.

In response to a request from media managers for a code of conduct during the election period, the members of the National Communication Council recommended that the Burundian Press Observatory (RTNB) strengthen self-regulation during this period. (RTNB)

Mutimbuzi: overcrowded classrooms to be reduced in two schools

On October 3, 2024, the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research, Mr. François Havyarimana, in collaboration with the United Nations Children Fund, organized a visit to ECOFO Gasenyi I and II, located on Gasenyi hill in the Rubirizi zone, Mutimbuzi commune, to assess the worrying situation of overcrowded classrooms.

Ecole Fondamentale Gasenyi I and II have around 5,000 pupils in 22 classrooms. According to the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research, these schools should be accommodating 1,100 pupils, but currently have an excess of 4,000 pupils. He

stressed that this situation requires urgent action on the part of the Ministry and UNICEF.

According to the Director of ECOFO Gasenyi I, Mr Juvénal Havyarimana, the excess number of pupils is caused by families from neighboring districts moving to this locality, and families from Gatumba moving after the floods. He explained that these families have unexpectedly enrolled their children in these schools.

As far as emergency measures are concerned, the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research, François Havyarimana, has given assurances that the



Ministry, in collaboration with UNICEF, will build two

temporary classrooms to relieve the overcrowding.

Apart from overcrowding, the classrooms at the Gasenyi I and II basic schools suffer from a crying lack of desks.

He announced that the desk benches from the flooded schools in Gatumba would be used in this emergency situation to relieve the overcrowded classrooms.

The Minister of National Education and Scientific Research, François Havyarimana, called on the population to regulate births to help the government cope with the overcrowding of pupils in schools and guarantee a good education for all. (RTNB)

Towards a harmonized and a standardized management of the MPOX epidemic



national guidelines for managing the Mpox epidemic.

Dr Joseph Nyandwi, who represented the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, said that the validation of this document marks a crucial stage in efforts to strengthen the capacity of the health system to deal with this pandemic.

These guidelines will ensure that patients are treated in a harmonized and standardized way throughout the country, and will thus enable equal access to healthcare wherever the person affected is,' added Dr Joseph Nyandwi.

He added that health workers in hospitals and community health centers will be informed of these recommendations so that they can treat patients effectively and limit the spread of the virus. (RTNB)

On Thursday October 3, 2024, the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, in collaboration with the United States Agency for Development (USAID), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) Burundi, organized a workshop to validate a document setting out

Burundians urged to take preventive measures against the Marburg virus

On October 2, 2024, the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, Mrs Lydwine Baradahana, informed the population that the World Health Organization had already confirmed that Rwanda, a neighboring country of Burundi, had experienced an epidemic of the Marburg Virus Disease.

In view of the high risk of the Marburg epidemic spreading to Burundi, particularly in the provinces

bordering Rwanda, the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS called on the Burundian population to strictly reinforce the application of preventive measures to avoid contamination.

With regard to the prevention of the Marburg virus, the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS called on the Burundian population to follow the preventive measures, namely: avoid direct contact, wash hands regularly with soap or disinfectant, report sus-



pected cases, avoid all contact with bodily fluids and consult the health services if symptoms appear.

With regard to the symptoms of the Marburg virus, the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS has indicated that the disease is characterized by fever; very severe headaches; chills; generalized faintness; subcutaneous hemorrhaging; vaginal, nasal and gingival bleeding; blood vomiting and bleeding in the stools. (RTNB)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

www.mae.gov.bi

Twitter: @MAEBurundi