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On Wednesday, March 12, 2025, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, was welcomed with honors at the Palace of Serbia by his counterpart, His Excellency Aleksandar Vučić, President of Ser-

bia. This meeting marks a new step in strengthening diplomatic and economic relations between Burundi and Serbia. During a one-on-one meeting, the two Heads of State reviewed the main areas of cooperation between their countries, expressing their mutual willing-

ness.

This political will was manifested by the signing of nine agreements and memoranda covering several strategic sectors, including agriculture, economic development, tourism, education, sports, information technology, as well as visa exemptions for certain types of passports. A framework for regular consultations was also established to ensure ongoing dialogue between the two nations.

The President of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, took this opportunity to share his vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060, while emphasizing the importance of international partnerships for the realization of this ambition.

As part of strengthening economic exchanges, the Burundian President encouraged Serbian investors to explore the numerous investment opportunities that Burundi offers. He also invited President Vučić to make an official visit to Burundi, with the date to be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

During a joint press conference, the two heads of state reaffirmed their commitment to a mutually beneficial

strategic cooperation, both economically and diplomatically. They also agreed on reciprocal support on the international stage to defend the interests of their respective countries.

As a country that respects the cardinal principles of the 1945 United Nations Charter, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye announced that Burundi reaffirms its position on the territorial integrity of Serbia concerning the Kosovo issue.

Finally, the Burundian delegation was invited to a working lunch hosted by the Serbian Prime Minister, His Excellency Miloš Vučević. This meeting allowed both parties to exchange experiences in governance and leadership while exploring new avenues for cooperation.

A very friendly dinner, hosted by the President of the Republic of Serbia, His Excellency Aleksandar Vučić, in honor of his distinguished guest, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by the First Lady of the Republic of Burundi, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, concluded the first day of the Burundian President's official visit to Serbian soil.

(Presidency)

President Evariste Ndayishimiye strengthens bilateral relations and explores technological advancements



On the second day of his official visit to Serbia, on March 13, 2025, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye met with the President of the National Assembly of Serbia, Her Excellency Mrs. Ana Brnabić. The discussions focused on topics of mutual interest, both at the bilateral and multilateral levels,

aimed at strengthening cooperation between Burundi and Serbia.

As part of this visit, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, also explored the Belgrade Assembly, a historic building erected in 1936 under the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. He learned about the history of this palace and the symbolism of the ornaments that adorn the building, representing the three main religious confessions of Serbia: Orthodoxy, Catholicism, and Islam.

Continuing his program, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye visited the Belgrade Science and Technology Park, an incubator dedicated to young entrepreneurs and innovators. He was accompanied by Mr. Dejan Ristić, Serbian Minister of Information and Telecommunications. The Head of State of Burundi took this opportunity to

share his experience and remind that the PAEEJ (Youth Economic Empowerment and Employment Program) has been established to encourage entrepreneurship and innovation in Burundi.

In the field of new technologies, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye also visited the Vlatacom Institute, a multifunctional center specializing in the development of technology related to security, ranging from software development to modern equipment. The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, then learned

about the "Waterfront" project, an ambitious urban modernization initiative aimed at reshaping the landscape of Belgrade. This large-scale project plans to construct modern infrastructures, thereby contributing to the prominence of the Serbian capital.

Concluding this second day of the official visit, the Burundian President was invited to a gala dinner held in his honor by the high Serbian authorities. This special moment of exchange and conviviality reflected the excellence of the bilateral relations between the two nations. **(Presidency)**

Discovery of a new titanium ore in Burundi



the exploitation and exportation of this ore.

Mr. Jean-Baptiste Ntakarutimana stated that titanium is used in several sectors, including energy, health, and the aerospace industry. Regarding the exploitation of the ore, FANALEK Company is preparing to acquire the necessary equipment to separate impurities from the pure ore.

The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, expressed his satisfaction with this discovery, welcoming the efforts of FANALEK Company. He recommended that they continue research to discover other potentially rich areas in titanium.

A new titanium ore has just been registered among the mineral resources being exploited in Burundi. The management of FANALEK Company was received in audience on Monday, March 10, 2025, by the President of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, to present this discovery located in the provinces of Cibitoke and Rumonge.

According to the General Director of FANALEK Company, Mr. Jean-Baptiste Ntakarutimana, this ore has a yield of 80%, which translates to 1,600 tons of titanium per hectare, depending on the soil concentration. He specified that he came to present this discovery to the President to seek guidance regarding

ing the efforts of FANALEK Company. He recommended that they continue research to discover other potentially rich areas in titanium.

The Head of State of Burundi also encouraged all Burundians to report any mineral discoveries in order to better understand the country's natural resources and benefit from them before launching large-scale mining operations. He promised to convene the relevant institutions to define the necessary guidelines for exploitation and to grant an operating license to the mining company FANALEK Company.

This discovery opens new prospects for the mining sector in Burundi, with potential economic benefits in various industrial and technological fields, concluded the Head of State. **(RTNB)**

Strengthening Diplomatic Ties: The First Lady of Burundi Explores the Cultural Treasures and Social Initiatives of Serbia



on education and personal development.

The afternoon was marked by a visit to the majestic Saint Sava Temple, one of the largest Orthodox places of worship in the world. The First Lady of Burundi, H.E. Angeline Ndayishimiye, appreciated the beauty of this emblematic site, highlighting its importance as a testament to Serbia's spiritual and cultural heritage.

On the sidelines of the official visit of the presidential couple from Burundi to Serbia, the First Lady of Burundi, H.E. Angeline Ndayishimiye, had the opportunity to discover the cultural and historical riches of this country.

Accompanied by her Serbian counterpart, Mrs. Tamara Vučić, the First Lady of Serbia, the two First Ladies explored several emblematic sites and visited institutions dedicated to social welfare.

On March 12, 2025, their day began with a visit to the Kalemegdan Fortress and the Military Museum of Belgrade, which trace the military history of Serbia through an impressive collection of military objects, including weapons, uniforms, and accessories. This was an opportunity for the two First Ladies to discuss the importance of preserving the historical heritage of each nation.

They then headed to the Child Protection Center, an establishment that supports young mothers in difficulty, with the aim of providing them with a better future for themselves and their children. The First Lady of Burundi, H.E. Angeline Ndayishimiye, delivered a message of hope to the beneficiaries of this program, encouraging them to invest in their future by focusing especially

On March 13, 2025, the First Lady of Burundi continued her cultural discoveries by visiting the African Museum of Belgrade, a place that showcases African artworks. In a gesture of fraternity, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye offered traditional Burundian items to enrich the exhibition and strengthen cultural ties between the two nations.

During her visit, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye also explored the Museum of Yugoslavia and the House of Flowers, where she paid tribute to Marshal Josip Broz Tito, the former president of Yugoslavia and a major figure in the liberation of Serbia.

To conclude her visit, the First Lady of Burundi discovered the Early Childhood Development Center, an initiative established by the First Lady of Serbia, Her Excellency Tamara Vučić. This center, which will soon open its doors, will focus on the well-being of children in Serbia, symbolizing an important step towards a better future for the young generations of Serbia.

This visit not only strengthened diplomatic ties between Burundi and Serbia but also highlighted significant initiatives in the cultural and social fields, marking a historic moment in the bilateral relations between the two nations. **(Presidency)**

The Ministry of Finance, Budget, and Economic Planning receives a donation of computer equipment



On Wednesday, March 12, 2025, the Ministry of Communication, Information Technology, and Media granted a donation of computer equipment to the Ministry of Finance, Budget, and Economic Planning. This donation is valued at 1,414,230,000 Burundian francs and includes 216 laptops and five photocopiers.

These equipment will be used in the five departments of the Ministry of Finance, Budget, and Economic Planning to improve the management and digitalization of public services. In this case, 26 laptops are designated for the General Directorate of Reforms; 40 laptops are allocated to the Expenditure Commitment Controllers (CED) and the payroll control actors; 20 laptops are intended for the increase in staff for the expenditure commitment controllers following the decentralization of the ordering and accounting functions; 30 laptops are assigned

to the Directorate of Information Systems for the maintenance and support of the platforms for the expenditure commitment controllers; and 100 laptops are allocated to the General Directorate of Reforms to strengthen the Critical Mass Initiative of Professionals (IMCP) in development programs and projects.

According to the Minister of Communication, Information Technology, and Media, Madame Léocadie Ndacayisaba, this donation aims primarily to strengthen the digitalization of public services, particularly in the management of state finances. She specified that the Ministry of Finance, Budget, and Economic Planning is the first beneficiary of this project, due to its key role in coordinating public expenditures. The funding for this equipment comes from the World Bank, through the Project to Support the Foundations of the Digital Economy in Burundi (PAFEN).

Minister Léocadie Ndacayisaba urged the beneficiaries to make responsible use of this equipment to ensure better management of public finances through digitalization. She emphasized the importance of this process in modernizing state services and improving the efficiency of public institutions. **(RTNB)**

The Ministry of Finance, Budget, and Economic Planning signs a grant agreement



On Thursday, March 13, 2025, the Minister of Finance, Budget, and Economic Planning, Mr. Nestor Ntahontuye, accompanied by the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research, signed a grant agreement

amounting to 9,000,000 euros with the Ambassador of France to Burundi, Mr. Sébastien Minot, at the City Hall of Bujumbura. This agreement pertains to a project for the construction of a vocational training center in Cankuzo Province.

Minister Nestor Ntahontuye stated that this grant aims at strengthening vocational training and promote the integration of young people who have not had access to higher education, so that these young individuals can acquire skills to enhance production, whether in agriculture and livestock, housing, or agricultural processing.

He specified that this project consists of strengthening the training offer in line with employment opportunities, fostering cooperation between schools and businesses, enhancing institutional capacities, empowering women economically, and promoting social inclusion.

Ambassador Sébastien Minot indicated that this project, funded by France, will last for 5 years, from 2025 to 2030. According to him, this center will become the third professionalization center for students in the future province of Buhumuza, following the Rusi Center and the one in Cibitoke Province, which is currently under construction.

During the signing of the said agreement, the Ambassador of France to Burundi, Mr. Sébastien Minot, em-

phasized that this center will offer programs in agricultural production and processing, cooperative management, entrepreneurship, and building and construction. This initiative aims to equip the country with young people capable of increasing production in various sectors that Burundi needs to achieve its vision of becoming an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060.

The Ambassador of France to Burundi mentioned that the signing of this agreement materializes the exchanges between the President of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, and the President of France, His Excellency Emmanuel Macron, during the Francophonie summit in November 2022, where the two leaders identified education and agriculture as priority sectors in the cooperation between Burundi and France. (RTNB)

Burundi launches the introduction of the malaria vaccine



Burundi takes a decisive step in the fight against malaria with the official introduction of the vaccine against this disease. During a national mobilization workshop held in Gitega on Thursday, March 13, 2025, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, Mr. Olivier Nijimbere, announced the start of vaccination next week for children aged 6 to 11 months.

The official national launch of the activities for the introduction of the malaria vaccine took place on March 17, 2025, in the Mpanda district, Bubanza province, under the presidency of the First Lady of the country, H.E. Angeline Ndayihimiye. In the nine provinces involved in this first phase, Governors and health officials simultaneously led launch ceremonies on the same day.

Furthermore, a supervision of the activities for the introduction of the malaria vaccine will be conducted from March 17 to 21, 2025. This mission will be carried out by the officials of the Expanded Vaccination Program (PEV), the Governors of the concerned provinces, and the heads of health districts.

This vaccine, aimed at strengthening efforts to prevent malaria, will be administered in four doses. Children will receive their first dose at 6 months of age, followed by a second dose one month later, a third dose two months after that, and a final dose six months after the third dose.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS emphasized the importance for parents to take their children to health centers to receive this vaccine. "We urge parents with children aged 6 to 11 months to go to health centers starting next week for vaccination," he stated, clarifying that this is not a one-time campaign, but an integration into routine vaccination.

The Permanent Secretary reminded that complementary interventions are already available, including the distribution of long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets in several health districts. A national campaign for the distribution of

bed nets is also planned for the coming months.

Other strategies such as indoor residual spraying, effective management of malaria cases, and improvements in hygiene and sanitation will continue to be implemented to fight against the disease.

According to recent health data, malaria remains a major public health concern in Burundi. However, authorities have identified 25 health districts in nine provinces where the incidence and mortality related to malaria are particularly high, especially among children under five years old.

“Although malaria is a public health problem at the national level, this first phase targets the districts where the disease causes the most deaths. However, we are already working to expand this vaccination to the entire country in the near future.”

The Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against

AIDS has called for widespread mobilization for the success of this initiative. It urged parents to vaccinate their children while seeking the involvement of administrative authorities, religious leaders, and the media to raise awareness among the population.

The Government of Burundi, through the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, thanked the international organization Gavi for its support in acquiring the malaria vaccine for children aged 6 to 11 months. Representatives from Gavi, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), who were present at this workshop, also called for a general mobilization for a mass vaccination starting next week.

Burundi thus becomes the 18th African country to introduce the malaria vaccine, marking a significant advancement in the fight against this disease, which remains one of the leading causes of infant mortality in the country. (RTNB)

Mining Sector: Towards a National Strategy for Gender Equality



The Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy, and Mines, in collaboration with the Burundian Office of Mines (OBM), organized a workshop to validate the national gender strategy in the mining sector in Burundi. This workshop, held in Gitega on March 13, 2025, aims at promoting the inclusion of women and youth in a male-dominated sector while aligning efforts with the country's sustainable development goals.

The opening speech of the workshop was delivered by the Assistant to the Minister of Hydraulics, Energy, and Mines, Mr. Paul Ndarihonyoye. He indicated that through the National Development Plan (PND),

aligned with the new Vision of Burundi, the country is committed to an economic liberalization process. This process aims at strengthening Burundi's competitiveness, attract national and foreign investments, and create an economic environment conducive to business growth.

Furthermore, Burundi has shown its determination to make the mining sector an essential lever for growth and sustainable development. This aligns with the Vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060.

He noted that the mining sector is dominated by artisanal exploitation of cassiterite, gold, coltan, and wolframite. These activities are primarily carried out by mining cooperatives. Currently, around 200 mining cooperatives and buying offices operate throughout the country.

The Assistant to the Minister of Water, Energy, and Mines, Mr. Paul Ndarihonyoye, lamented that only

about ten of these cooperatives are led by women. Furthermore, women are often assigned secondary tasks: fetching water from far away sites, preparing food, or performing basic treatments, and these jobs are less well-paid.

According to Mr. Paul Ndarihonyoye, integrating gender equality into the development of the mining sector is crucial. However, it faces significant challenges. These obstacles present entry points to promote women's participation in this sector.

Currently, efforts are underway to reduce disparities in the mining sector in Burundi, including a non-discriminatory mining policy and a new mining code

established in 2023. Additionally, the Women's Bank and various programs support the economic empowerment of youth and women. Moreover, the Sectoral Chamber of Mines and Quarries is raising awareness about the importance of considering gender in mining cooperatives.

Since 2023, national consultations and analyses have been conducted to identify gender gaps in the mining sector. Furthermore, regional exchanges have allowed for learning from gender strategies implemented in other countries. Thus, the goal is to develop a strategy and action plan to promote the participation of women and youth in the Burundian mining sector. These initiatives aim at strengthening inclusion and draw lessons for the effective implementation of the gender and youth strategy. **(RTNB)**

A gesture of solidarity towards women of the central prison of Mpimba



In her speech, Madame Véronique Barindogo reminded everyone of this year's theme: "Women, Pillars of Development: Let's Support them to Achieve Burundi's Vision of an Emerging Country by 2040 and Developed by 2060." She highlighted the progress made by the Government of Burundi in protecting women's rights, including free healthcare for pregnant women and the establishment of the Women's Investment Bank (BIDF).

As part of the International Women's Rights Day celebrated on March 8 each year, the women of the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights, and Gender donated food and non-food items to women inmates at the central prison of Mpimba on Monday, March 10, 2025.

According to the Assistant Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights, and Gender, Madame Véronique Barindogo, these donations included 1,500 kg of rice, 200 kg of beans, 50 kg of sugar, 100 kg of salt, 42 kg of flour, five 20-liter jerrycans of oil, 1,000 bars of soap, and 14 pieces of fabric intended for women with children.

She also encouraged the inmates to adopt exemplary behavior in order to contribute to the country's development after their release.

The Director of the central prison of Mpimba, Mr. Frédéric Niyubahwe, expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights, and Gender for this initiative and encouraged similar actions in favor of prisoners.

Madame Alodie Niyonkuru, one of the inmates, praised this gesture of generosity and advocated for their release in order to resume active lives and participate in the country's development. **(RTNB)**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

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