



The President of Burundi took part in the African Energy Summit in Dar Es Salaam



The Head of State of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by the First Lady, H.E Angeline Ndayishimiye, returned on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, after participating in the African Heads of State Summit on Energy, "Mission 300" held in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania from January 27 to 28, 2025. This summit, which aimed to connect 300 million people in Africa to electricity by 2030, was an opportunity for the Heads of State and Government to present the state of energy production in their respective countries, Mr. Sébastien Ntahongendera, Deputy Spokesman of the President of the Republic of Burundi, told the press. For his part, the Burundian Number One said that Burundi plans "the construction of hydroelectric power plants on 30 sites with a capacity of 396MW, the construction of solar power plants on 13 sites that will provide 460MW, in addition to the Rusumo falls project already operational, the 20MW KABU

16 power plant as well as the Jiji and Mulembwe power plants currently being finalized" to achieve its Vision of an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. In addition, the interconnection with the Renaissance Power Plant of Ethiopia whose flow line will connect RWANDA and Burundi via the NGOZI and IZEGE substations is under construction and will provide Burundi with 200MW without forgetting the connection to the Tanzanian grid in order to take advantage of 200MW of the Julius NYERERE hydroelectric power plant, revealed the Deputy Spokesman of the President of the Republic, among others. This summit was sanctioned by the signing of a "Dar es Salaam Declaration on Energy" in which the African Heads of State and Government commit to producing reliable, affordable, clean and sustainable renewable energies that will also benefit Burundi. On the sidelines of this summit, the Burundian Number One had exchanges with some of his counterparts, including President Denis Sassou-Nguesso of the Republic of Congo, with whom they discussed issues related to bilateral and sub-regional cooperation. The Head of State of Burundi also met with his Tanzanian counterpart Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan. The meeting focused on the challenges of regional

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integration, with particular emphasis on the upcoming Tanzania-Burundi Railway and the Democratic Repub-

lic of Congo. **(Presidency)**

Muremera: launch of the agro-forestry tree planting campaign



On Friday, January 31, 2025, the Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi, Mr. Prosper Bazombanza, officially launched the campaign to plant agro-forestry trees on the hill of Muremera, located in Giheta commune, in Gitega province. This event marked an important step in the Government's efforts to reconcile agriculture and preserve the environment.

The Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi, Mr. Prosper Bazombanza, welcomed this initiative by stressing the importance of agroforestry in sustainable rural development. The trees currently planted on this vast expanse of 180 hectares of varied agricultural crops are mainly of two species: grevillea and carian-

dra. These trees are integrated into a space cultivated by several agricultural cooperatives, which aim to improve production while preserving the local ecosystem.

In his speech, Mr. Prosper Bazombanza insisted on the fundamental role of sustainable agriculture. He recalled that the sacrosanct principle in agriculture is to increase agricultural production while protecting the environment. He also encouraged local farmers and cooperatives to adopt environmentally friendly practices, particularly by planting fixing grasses and fodder grasses to feed livestock, in reference to the practice of permanent stalling, common in Burundi.

The Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi, Mr. Prosper Bazombanza, also stressed the importance of fiscal responsibility for the economic development of the country. "Once the crops are sold, it is imperative that cooperatives fulfill their tax duties to contribute to collective development," he said, warning the cooperatives involved.

On this occasion, he suggested that the hill of Muremera, which extends over 340 hectares, is a model of sustainable management of natural resources, combining agriculture, livestock and reforestation. According to the Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi, this initiative reinforces the Government's efforts in terms of food security and the fight against climate change, while supporting the development of local agricultural cooperatives. **(RTNB)**

The cooperative society of Deputies and staff of the National Assembly hopes for a better tomorrow



The Right Honorable Gélase Daniel Ndabirabe, Speaker of the National Assembly, expressed satisfaction with the potato harvest and the flourishing state of a large area of the maize field of the SICODEPAN cooperative during the visit on Thursday, January 30, 2025 to Nyamugari, Buhiga commune, Karusi province.



He took this opportunity to indicate that the Member Deputies of SICODEPAN, on the sidelines of their missions to vote on the law and to con-

trol government action, are concerned, through the work of this cooperative, to lend a hand to the Government in its mission to achieve the vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and developed by 2060, by highlighting the leading role of the agricultural sector.

On this, he adds, the Deputies want to support the State in its plural mission. He stressed that this was the first

time that such an initiative had been taken by Members of Parliament, and subsequently called for other institutions to follow the example of these representatives of the people.

The Right Honorable Gélase Daniel Ndirirababwaho said that a livestock project is in perspective so that the fields are equipped with organic manure. He expressed the wish to see the site become a center of influence based on agro-pastoral activity. He also hopes that the new province of Gitega, through the activities of SOCODEPAN, will have, in the coming days, a seed center, and if necessary, an agropole. He did not forget to thank the State warmly for deigning to grant SOCODEPAN a plot of land with

an area of one hundred (100) hectares.

It should be noted that the project implemented by SOCODEPAN in Karusi province provides several advantages to the population, according to the Governor of this administrative entity, Mrs. Dévotte Nizigiyimana, because there have been jobs given, creation of a market for the sale of the production of this cooperative, not to mention that the cultivation techniques of this company serve as an inspiration and lesson for the population of Karusi. Also, added the Governor of Karusi province, this population will have easy access to the selected seeds that this cooperative will produce.

(National Assembly)

The Senate of Burundi wants the crimes committed under colonization to be exposed



Under the auspices of the Speaker of the Senate, Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, the Senate of Burundi organized a public conference on the results of research on the German colonial period and the effects of the 1925 administrative reform in Burundi, on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at the Donatus Center in Bujumbura City Hall.

This Conference was attended by two deputy speakers of the Senate, Honorable Denise Ndadaye and Honorable Fabrice Nkurunziza, parliamentarians, former Head of State Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, members of the Independent National Human Rights Commission (CNIDH), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), representatives of the diplomatic and consular corps, the United Nations System and NGOs, representatives of religious denominations, representatives of the judiciary, representatives of political parties, representatives of defense bodies, security corps and others.

In his opening speech, the Speaker of the Senate of Burundi first reminded the participants that the Senate of Burundi has an important role to play in working for reconciliation among Burundians and that it cannot carry out this task without resorting to the past.

He then said that the Senate of Burundi wants the crimes committed by the settlers to be exposed and recalled that before the arrival of the Germans, Burundi was a well-hierarchical country with a solid social fabric, as evidenced by the way they carried out their tasks, whether in mutual aid during work or ceremonies. The Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera said that the colonists have monopolized all the wealth of the country including gold, quarry, etc.

Continuing his speech, the Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament asked to record this report in an anthology of the facts that have truly marked the history of Burundi.

After the opening speech, the experts who conducted this research had time to explain to the participants the consequences of colonization in all sectors of the country's life, among others, the ethnicization of Burundian society, inter-community hatred, socio-political crises, the destruction of cultural, political and social foundations, etc.

In his closing speech, the President of the Senate called for lessons to be learned from the report that will be taught to students in schools and to Burundians. He asked to keep in mind that it is their duty to build their nation **(Senate)**

Launch of the 2024-2029 partnership between Burundi and the World Bank

On January 31, 2025, Prime Minister Police Lieutenant Gervais Ndirakobuca opened, in Bujumbura City Hall, the process of preparing the new Country Partnership Framework (CPF) between the World Bank Group and Burundi, covering the period 2024-2029. This Country Partnership Framework (CPF) between the World Bank Group and Burundi aims to strengthen cooperation and support Burundi's development priorities for the years to come.

In his speech, Prime Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca stressed that this new partnership framework for the period 2024-2029 comes at an opportune time because, he said, Burundi is resolutely committed to the path of emergence and sustainable development. This partnership with the World Bank is essential to support the implementation of Burundi's vision as an emerging country by 2040 and developed by 2060.

The 2024-2029 partnership framework will be aligned with national planning tools, including the Burundi Emerging Country Vision in 2040 and developed in 2060, the National Development Plan 2018-2027, and the National Peace Capitalization Program, the Burundian Prime Minister stressed.



According to the Prime Minister, the government's new priorities, such as improving agricultural productivity, diversifying the economy, mining and tourism, will be taken into account in this partnership with the World Bank to support the sustainable growth of the country.

The World Bank Representative in Burundi, Mrs. Hawa Cissé Wagué, said that this new partnership framework will intervene in 18 priority programs of the National Development Plan (NDP) of the Government of Burundi. These priorities include investment in energy, railways and human capital, to support the country's sustainable development. **(RTNB)**

Burundi: Towards the stabilization of telephone networks throughout the country



On Tuesday, January 28, 2025, the Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security Mr. Martin NITERETSE and the Minister of Communication, Information Technology and Media Mrs. Léocadie NDACAYISABA organized a joint meeting in Bujumbura City Hall for the Governors of the Provinces and Operators in the telecommunication sector

These companies include Econet-Leo, Vietel Burundi and Onatel. It was in the context of finding lasting solutions to the problems of weak connections that are observed.

The heads of these telecommunication companies have committed to transmit to the Ministry of Communication, Technology, Information and Media until Friday of this week, a plan to extend network areas and rehabilitate non-functional sites, with a view to stabilizing networks throughout the country.

The Minister of the Interior, Community Development and Public Security, Mr. Martin NITERETSE, recalled that communication is a key factor in the security of the population because, if communication is cut off, the security of the population is automatically disrupted, not to mention the disruption of certain development activities.

He called on these telecommunication company officials to take ownership of this year's slogan; "A year of laborious" in order to make available throughout the country a maximum connection. Thus, the lamentations within the population will stop, according to him. **(RTNB)**

The digitization of legal information, a winning bet



On Friday, January 31, 2025, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice, Mr. Gervais Hajayandi closed the "access to digital legal information" project, a project carried out in Makamba province by the consortium made up of NGOs, Cordaid, AUFIN Burundi and Library without Borders under the funding of the Embassy of the Netherlands.

This project, which was carried out from August 15, 2021 to December 31, 2024, was financed to the tune of 2,816,640 euros.

73,000 households have benefited from this project; 1,445 tablets with up-to-date legal content as well as 25 digital legal libraries have been distributed, according to Mr. Pamphile Nyandwi, coordinator of justice programs at Cordaid.

He added that during this project, 2055 members of the councils of hill notables were trained on conflict resolution, while 695 of them, including 278 women, received training on the use of the "legal coach" application.

During a closing workshop of this project which took place this Friday in Bujumbura City Hall, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice, Mr. Gervais Hajayandi said that this project has brought significant innovations and that it has contributed significantly to access to justice.

He hopes that this project will be carried out in all the other provinces of the country, to continue to facilitate access to legal information.

This project has allowed easy access to the law because we no longer leaf through the books. He also contributes to the rapid drafting of trials, says Mr. Juste Bizimana, Vice-President of the Makamba Court of Appeal.

Mr. Emmanuel Ntakirutimana, a resident of Nyankara hill in the Nyange zone in Makamba commune and province, said that the "legal coach" application has allowed his entourage to have various information related to the law and to know when to resolve conflicts peacefully and when to resort to the courts. **(RTNB)**

The negative impact of mercury on human health and the environment



As part of the project to support institutional capacity building and increased awareness of key stakeholders on mercury-related issues for the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Ministry of

Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, through the Burundian Office for Environmental Protection (OBPE), organized from January 28 to 29, 2025 in Bujumbura City Hall, a technical workshop to raise awareness and educate health professionals and dentists on the negative impact of mercury on human health and the environment. It was also an

opportunity to discuss how to fight against products that are dangerous to human health and the environment.

According to an environmental health expert, Mr. Prosper Muyuku, small-scale gold mining activities are a major source of mercury emissions into the environment. In Burundi, the artisanal gold mining (ASM) sector is an important resource for the country. At the national level, Mr. Prosper Muyuku said that small-scale artisanal mining constitutes 70% of all small-scale gold mining.

He said that when separating gold from mercury by heating, mercury, as it is a liquid at ordinary temperature, volatilizes easily. These vapors make the entire food chain dangerous by bioaccumulating the heavy metal mercury. Plants, fish and the environment, ecosystems and consequently human and animal life in

general are under serious threat.

According to this expert, mercury vapors can cause memory problems, tremors, irritation and cognitive impairment. Prolonged exposure to mercury can lead to kidney failure. Prolonged inhalation of mercury vapors irritates the respiratory tract. Mercury can cause birth defects and weaken the immune system.

According to him, the management of physical, biological, chemical, physiological and psychological risks requires an integrated approach combining alternative technologies, strict regulation and community awareness. Given that the Minamata Convention serves to

reduce the adverse impacts of mercury, he stressed that its implementation depends on international support, political will and the active participation of local stakeholders. The implementation of this convention also presupposes, according to him, that minors are informed of the common suffering they may suffer when exposed to mercury and cyanide. It should be noted that this workshop was attended by doctors, laboratory technicians, pharmacists, dentists from the Bujumbura City Hall and those who work in the mineral exploitation regions. **(ABP)**

Gitega: the promotion of women's rights, a priority



The Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, Mrs. Imelde SABUSHIMIKE organized on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 in the capital of Gitega Province, a workshop to disseminate the 6th national report on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and to popularize the recommendations accepted by Burundi of the Universal Periodic Review for the fourth cycle of 2023. The workshop was organized for women leaders in different sectors of national life.

During the opening of the activities of this workshop, the Assistant to the Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, Mrs. Véronique Barindogo, said that the popularization of this report is in line with the principle of the Burundian government that the rights of the human person and especially those of women in particular must be respected, because if not, it turned out that it is the country and the

families that suffer the consequences.

Thus, according to this authority, the Burundian Government has already carried out many actions, including the establishment of the bank for women and the integration of women into decision-making bodies.

For their part, the participants in this workshop plead for capacity building for women on human rights and related laws, for the creation and implementation of printing and cyber printing houses as well as school canteens without ignoring the capacity building sessions of texts protecting women from the bottom to the top and ended by asking for the development of the Communal Plan Community Development Program (PCDC) for projects aimed at the protection of girls and women.

To close this meeting, the Director General of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, Mr. Gérard Hakizimana recommended that the participants popularize to their peers the lessons they have just benefited from and the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender promised unwavering support to promote human rights in general and those of the United States. women in particular. **(RTNB)**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

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