



**Commemoration of the 63rd anniversary of the assassination of the Hero of National Independence**



**O**n Monday October 14, 2024, Burundi commemorated the 63rd anniversary of the assassination of the hero of national independence, Prince Louis Rwagasore, which is normally celebrated on October 13 each year.

On the occasion of the commemoration of the 63rd anniversary of the assassination of Prince Louis Rwagasore, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by his wife, laid a wreath of flowers at the mausoleum of the hero of national independence, on Vugizo hill in Mukaza commune in Bujumbura town hall.

Following the laying of the wreath, the ceremonies marking the 63rd anniversary of the assassination of Burundi's independence hero, Prince Louis Rwagasore, continued with a mass in memory of the hero, attended by the country's highest authorities, led by the presidential couple, at Regina Mundi Cathedral.

The Regina Mundi Cathedral parish priest, Father Fupi Félix, who celebrated the mass on behalf of the Archbishop of Bujumbura, called on Christians to repent in order to establish good relations with the Eternal God.

Father Fupi Félix asked the authorities present at the mass to overcome sin, and to live in humility and love of neighbour, so that the country may be blessed. The Regina Mundi Cathedral parish priest invited all Burundians to safeguard the legacy of Prince Louis Rwagasore, who advocated unity, reconciliation and the development of the country.

In Gitega, the political capital of Burundi, the ceremonies commemorating the 63rd anniversary of the assassination of the hero of national independence began with a prayer, followed by the laying of wreaths at the monument to Prince Louis Rwagasore, by the provincial governor, the municipal administration of Gitega, the blood relatives of Prince Louis Rwagasore and representatives of Burundi's registered political parties.

The Commemorative ceremonies of the 63rd anniversary of the assassination of the independence hero ended with a speech by Prince Louis Rwagasore, delivered at the time of the victory. **(RTNB)**

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## The Head of State officially launches the 2024-2025 A growing season



On Thursday October 17, 2024, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, the provincial Governors and the communal administrators of the province of Gitega, officially launched the 2024-2025 A cropping season on the Muremera hill in Giheta commune, Gitega Province. The Head of State of Burundi first implored the Lord, asking him to bless the Burundian soil and seeds, so that the land would be productive and feed all Burundians.

In his opening remarks, the Head of State expressed his delight that the people of Burundi have already understood that if every mouth is to be fed and every pocket is to be provided with money, all the hills must be cultivated and sown.

He took the opportunity to recommend the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, the minis-

try's executives, communal agronomists and agricultural instructors to position themselves as true leaders in the battle against hunger and in increasing agricultural production.

The Head of State also asked development partners to train Burundian farmers in modern farming techniques to help them achieve high agricultural production.

In order to increase production, the Head of State recommended that economic operators who do not have enough time to devote to farming activities should enter into win-win partnerships with landowners who need agricultural inputs. According to the President of the Republic, one of the parties could provide the capital and the other the land and labor. "In this way, both parties will have a large production to share", explained the Head of State.

At the same time, he pointed out that Burundi's development vision envisages Burundians living in villages to free up arable land, and thus increase production.

After the official launch of the 2024-2025 A cropping season, Burundi's Head of State visited the Vaso cooperative on the Mashitsi hill in the same commune of Giheta, where he joined members of the cooperative in potato sowing activities. The Burundian leader then visited the Mutobo communal forestry and pastoral center in the same commune of Giheta, a center that will provide farmers with training in agriculture and livestock.

On this occasion, the Burundian Head of State recommended that all communes set up similar centers, to make the task easier for farmers. **(RTNB)**

## Inauguration of the Inter pack packaging plant



On Monday October 14, 2024, the Burundian President, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, inaugurated a factory producing

cardboard packaging, labels and plastic blowtorches in Mutimbuzi commune in the Maramvya zone.

The plant, built at a cost of 30 billion Fbu, will meet a need for packaging and blowtorches, following the establishment of the Imena Soma Usubire Company in Kayanza, which manufactures beer.

Anicet Nduricimpa added that the plant would also enable local and foreign users to obtain supplies of cardboard for packaging in Burundi, before pointing out that the residues would be recycled in the future.



The President of the Republic of Burundi appreciated the degree of vision of this businessman which,

according to him, has a great vision, recalling that he built this factory after helping the people of Kayanza by giving them a market for their bananas.

He called on Burundian businessmen to work together and find ways of building a factory to process iron metal and other minerals for export.

He pointed out that the 2040 vision could be achieved in 2030, and that of 2060 in 2040, if we worked at this pace. **(ABP)**

## Burundi's First Lady takes part in the First Ladies' Salon of the Economic Community of Central African States



**O**n Wednesday October 16, 2024, the First Lady of the Republic of Burundi, H.E. Angéline Ndayishimiye, boarded a plane for the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, where she was to take part in the first edition of the Salon of First Ladies of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), scheduled for October 17 to 18, 2024, in Malabo.

As a reminder, the vision of the Economic Community of Central African States is to promote "a common future, in an environment of peace, security

and stability, ensured by sustainable development, good governance, the growing improvement of citizens' living conditions, freedom and justice".

As for ECCAS' missions, this community aims at promoting cooperation and the consolidation of regional integration in Central Africa in all areas of political, security, economic, monetary, financial, social, cultural, scientific and technical activity, with a view to achieving collective autonomy, raising the standard of living of its populations, increasing and maintaining economic stability, strengthening and preserving the close peaceful relations between its member states, and contributing to the progress and development of the African continent.

It is important to remember that the Economic Community of Central African States is made up of eleven member states: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe, according to its official website. **(ABP)**

## The Right Honorable Emmanuel SINZOHAGERA calls for the suspension of Burundi's contributions to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie during the sanctions

**D**uring his working mission to Geneva in Switzerland, on the occasion of the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the President of the Senate of Burundi, the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, accompanied by his delegation, took part on Monday

October 14, 2024 in a meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF) chaired by Mr Nicolas Walder, Vice- Chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie.

Mr Walder presented the achievements and future prospects of this Assembly. During the discussions,



the President of the Senate of Burundi drew the attention of the leaders of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF) to the trend towards the disappearance of the French language. For him, the disappearance of French would lead to the dissolution of this Francophone Assembly.

“You have to preserve French and do everything you can to integrate it into other communities. For example, you can contribute to the official integration of French

into the East African Community (EAC) and the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)”, he insisted.

The Right Honourable Emmanuel Sinzohagera also called on the APF to review its statutes with regard to the suspension of countries from the Assembly. He pointed out that Burundi was unjustly suspended from membership in 2015, but membership fees were not suspended. In his view, the abolition of duties should take place at the same time as the abolition of obligations.

After the meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie, the President of the Senate of Burundi took part in the opening ceremonies of the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which took place in the plenary hall of the Assembly under the chairmanship of the Right Honorable Tulia Ackson, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and of the Parliament of Tanzania.

The Speaker of the Upper House of the Burundian Parliament also took part in a parliamentary experience-sharing lunch. **(Senate)**

### Burundi's parliamentary diplomacy on the sidelines of the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union



On Tuesday October 15, 2024, on the 2nd day of the work of the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the President of the Senate of Burundi, the Right Honourable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, accompanied by his delegation, was received in audience by the Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (IPU), Mr Martin Chungong, in Geneva, Switzerland.

In a productive discussion, they exchanged views on strengthening cooperation between this institution and the Parliament of Burundi, especially in the field of communication. Another audience took place between the



Right Honourable Emmanuel Sinzohagera and the Vice-President of the Russian Senate, the Hon. Konstantin Kosachev (Ph.D.). Their discussions focused on exploring ways and means of cooperation between the two institutions.

The President of the Senate of Burundi and his delegation also took part in the work of the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, marked by the continuation of speeches by the Speakers of the Parliaments on the themes of the Assembly and the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Common Principles on Assistance to Parliaments. **(Senate)**

## Closure of the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union



**A**s part of his working visit to Switzerland, the President of the Senate, accompanied by his delegation, continued his activities on the second and final day, Thursday October 17, 2024.

First of all, the President of the Senate, the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, and Honorable Madame Spès Caritas Njebarikanuye took part in the meeting of the Governing Council of the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Several decisions were taken at the meeting, includ-

ing the election of 3 nationals from Serbia, Mongolia and Uganda to the Parliamentarians' Committee on Human Rights. Several reports from various IPU committees were also presented, in particular the Secretary General's report on IPU activities and that of the Committee on Middle East Questions.

In addition, the Burundian delegation led by the Right Honorable Sinzohagera took part in the General Assembly that closed the work of the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. At this Assembly, parliamentarians adopted amendments to certain articles of the IPU Statutes. They also adopted resolutions, notably those proposed by Argentina and France.

On the sidelines of the 149th IPU Assembly, the President of the Senate, the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, received in audience a delegation from the Belgian Parliament.

Their discussions focused on strengthening cooperation ties with Burundi, given the long-standing historical links between the two countries. **(Senate)**

## Gitega: the Minister for East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sport and Culture answers Senators' oral questions



**T**he Senators met on Tuesday October 15, 2024 in Gitega, in a plenary session

reserved for oral questions with debate to the Minister for East African Community Affairs (EACA), Youth, Sport and Culture, Mr Gervais Abayeho. The session was chaired by the 1st Vice-Speaker of the Burundian Senate, Denise Ndadaye.

During the meeting, the key issues raised by the senators related to the common market protocol, the low number of Burundians among EAC staff, the construction of stadiums and playing fields that meet international standards, and agreements on the mutual recognition of academic and professional qualifications.

Among the recommendations made by the senators

are the rehabilitation and proper management of the Bujumbura Arts Center, so that it can be used solely for the promotion of Burundian culture. Another recommendation concerns the availability of a basketball court that meets international standards. The monitoring and protection of the Ministry's own land, which is often taken over by private individuals.

The protection of Burundian emigrants to EAC member countries, notably South Sudan. The senators also recommended the promotion of sporting disciplines at a time when some of these are poorly managed, leading to poor results in international competitions.

With a view to facilitating the entry of goods into the country, the senators recommended that the relevant ministries work together to resolve the problem of lorries spending long periods at customs barriers, which causes losses for traders. They also called for customs staff to be on duty 24 hours a day. Finally, they recommended that the French language be included among those used within EAC as agreed. **(RTNB)**

## Prime Minister departs for Equatorial Guinea



**O**n Wednesday October 16, 2024, Prime Minister Lieutenant General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca travelled by plane to Malabo, where he represented the Head of State at the 25th ordinary session of the Heads of State and Govern-

ment of the member states of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

He pointed out that this session is of vital importance for ECCAS member countries in general, and Burundi in particular, as they will be looking at issues such as peace and security within the community's member countries, given that security is one of the cornerstones of the charter governing ECCAS.

He also announced that the heads of the member states' delegations would be reviewing the regulatory texts governing the community. In this respect, certain texts are due to be improved, notably those governing decision-making positions and those relating to customs regulations (taxes and duties) between member countries. **(ABP)**

## The Head of Burundian diplomacy on an economic tour to prepare for an economic round table to be held in December 2024



**S**ince October 03, 2024, His Excellency Ambassador Albert Shingiro, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi, has begun an economic tour on the sidelines of the 45th Ministerial Conference of the

Francophonie, with a view to meeting potential public and private investors face-to-face to present business opportunities and invite them to a Round Table scheduled to take place in Burundi from December 5 to 6, 2024.

From France to Morocco, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Albert Shingiro, visited Belgium, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. This tour is also a good opportunity to meet his counterparts and discuss ways of strengthening bilateral cooperation.

In December 2021, the Head of State of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, organised a mini-round table at the Ntare Rushatsi Presidential Palace with the diplomatic corps accredited to Bujumbura and technical and financial partners. **(MFADC)**

## 6th Regional Seminar of the International Francophone Social Dialogue

**A**s part of the preparations for the 6th seminar of the International Francophone Social Dialogue (IFDS), the National Social Dialogue Committee (CNDS) held a press conference on Wednesday October 16, 2024 to announce that the 6th IFDS regional seminar is scheduled to take place in Bujumbura from November 19 to 22, 2024, under the theme: "the role of social dialogue in the dynamics of the coalition for social justice in Africa".

According to the former President of the Republic of Burundi, Mr Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, and Chairman of the National Social Dialogue Committee, the 6th IFDS regional seminar will focus on the contribution of social dialogue to the dynamics of the coalition for social justice in Africa. It will also provide a forum where partners can join forces to devise individual and collective actions in favor of social justice and decent work. The aim is to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in support of



national priorities, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

The coalition's mission is to promote cooperation and multilateral partners, accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It serves as a platform for political commitment, investment and concrete measures in support of social justice, in line with national priorities,' said Sylvestre Ntibantunganya.

The ultimate goal is to achieve a better balance between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, to significantly reduce inequality and poverty, to open up opportunities for people around the world and to meet their basic needs.

Among the expected outcomes of this seminar is an advocacy for the integration of social justice issues into the political debates of French-speaking African countries, as emphasized by Mr. Sylvestre Ntibantunganya. (ABP)

## Administrative staff called upon to take ownership of all the activities planned for the 2025 elections



**O**n Tuesday October 15, 2024, the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) organized a meeting in Bujumbura with its partners to present the national register of Voter Registration Centers (CI), the electoral calendar and voter registration for the 2025 elections.

The Chairman of CENI, Prosper Ntahorwamiye, told the press that the main aim of the meeting was to inform the public of these important events and to ask everyone concerned to prepare accordingly.

The meeting also aimed to raise awareness among administrative staff of the need to make it easier to obtain the documents required for voter registration, and to encourage the public to register in massive

numbers. Voter registration will take place from October 22 to 31, 2024, said the Chairman of CENI. He pointed out that the IC is located in an infrastructure and bears the name of the infrastructure that houses it. It consists of two or more registration offices. The registration office is located within a registration center and constitutes the registration unit. There are a total of 4,246 registration centers, which are home to 15,633 registration offices, while the total number of supervising agents to be recruited is one per registration center, reported Mr. Prosper Ntahorwamiye.

He also specified that the elections for deputies and communal councils will take place on the same day, June 5, 2025; the Senate elections will occur on July 23, 2025; and the elections for councils and hill/quarter chiefs will be held on August 25, 2025.

For the Senate in 2025, there will be only 13 senators, including 10 elected and 3 co-opted from the Twa community. For the National Assembly in 2025, there will be 103 deputies, with 100 elected and 3 co-opted from the Twa community, added Mr. Ntahorwamiye. For his part, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Interior, Community Development, and Public Security, Mr. Théophile Ndarufatiye, urged territorial administrators to familiarize themselves with all activities planned for the 2025 elections. He assured

that the Ministry, in collaboration with the CENI, will organize awareness sessions to help them understand their roles during the electoral period.

Mr. Théophile Ndarufatiye took this opportunity to urge political party leaders to demonstrate their patriotic spirit by educating their supporters about proper behavior during the electoral period, ensuring that none of their members commits any violations, whether out of ignorance or disobedience.

Regarding some concerns raised by participants at this meeting related to the 2025 elections, the president of the CENI noted that with dialogue, nothing is impossible. He urged those involved to adhere to the electoral schedule by providing all necessary documents for participating in the elections.

He called on all Burundian citizens to participate mas-

sively in the 2025 elections. He also encouraged everyone who plans to submit their candidacy for the election to accept the results that will arise from these elections.

It should be noted that this meeting was attended by the wife of the late President Pierre Nkurunziza, members of Parliament and the Senate, representatives from the Ministry of Interior, Community Development, and Public Security, representatives from the Presidency, the Vice President, and the Prime Minister, as well as representatives from the diplomatic and consular corps. Additionally, representatives from UN agencies, CENI commissioners, various ministries, high-ranking state officials, representatives of governors and administrators, approved political party representatives in Burundi, civil society representatives, religious organizations, and representatives from various associations of the Batwa community were also present. **(ABP)**

## The Minister of Public Service, Labor, and Employment answers questions from the senators



**T**he Minister of Public Service, Labor, and Employment, Mr. Venuste Muyabaga, was the guest of the Senate on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, to answer oral questions from senators regarding the employment sector and related issues.

In response to the issue of ghost employees, the Minister indicated that to put an end to this phenomenon, the Ministry will collaborate with all other ministries to update personnel records monthly. He also emphasized that the digitalization of services, currently in its final phase, will help fight against this type of public fund embezzlement.

Regarding civil servants who have not been treated fairly under the new salary policy, the Minister acknowl-

edged that there have been errors affecting some civil servants in the University of Burundi, as well as those in primary schools who were classified as having a D7 diploma despite holding a bachelor's degree. He reassured that the individuals concerned will soon be regularized.

Regarding the issue of ghost employees who have caused a loss of revenue to the State, the Minister of Public Service, Labor, and Employment stated that an ad hoc commission has been established to identify the fraudsters and recover funds from those involved in this embezzlement case.

Concerning civil servants who were forced to retire at 60 instead of 65 and are struggling to repay their loans, he clarified that the early retirement measure is due to the new law reducing the retirement age to 60 for all civil servants. He added that the measure regarding pensions being equal to their last salaries will help retirees repay their debts.

Regarding certain graduates from the Institute of Applied Pedagogy (IPA) 3 and the Higher Normal School (ENS) 3, who, after additional training, are compensated according to the new diploma while others are not, Minister Venuste Muyabaga suggested that the difference in treatment depends on the position held within the supervising ministry. When asked about the timeline for the classification of job types in institutions governed by

special statutes, the Minister indicated that the matter is currently being processed.

In conclusion, the senators recommended that the Minister of Public Service, Labor, and Employment

accelerate the digitalization of public services and recover funds embezzled through fraud. They also urged the Minister to take legal action against all civil servants involved in cases of public fund embezzlement to deter any future attempts. (RTNB)

### Third edition of the Renewable Energy Access Days



The Ministry of Water, Energy, and Mines, in collaboration with various organizations and associations engaged in renewable energy, including the World Bank Group, the Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE), the European Union (EU), and the French Development Agency (AFD), organized the third edition of the Renewable Energy Access Days in Burundi from October 15 to 16, 2024.

In his speech, Minister Ibrahim Uwizeye stated that the main objective of this meeting is to present the government's strategy for achieving universal energy access by 2030 and to define a detailed roadmap for the sustainability of the sector. It is also an opportunity to gather funding commitments from development partners to support its implementation. Minister Uwizeye informed that the strategy for renewable energy access aims to achieve goals such as improving the operational and commercial performance of REGIDESO, ensuring the financial viability of REGIDESO and the sector as a whole, strengthening electricity access for all, and facilitating private investment in the energy sector.

Several ongoing projects were outlined during these discussions. In this regard, a rural electrification project has been implemented by the private sector, with an interim phase that will provide energy access to over 45,000 households by 2026. The Nyakiriza solar project is currently underway, which will enable electricity access for more than 800 infra-



structures in the country, including 400 schools and 400 health centers, benefiting 60,000 households and 300 households for clean cooking. Minister Ibrahim Uwizeye noted that several projects are in preparation, with studies being developed. The project "Accelerating the Transformation of Access to Clean and Sustainable Energy (ASCENT)" aims at connecting 2.4 million people, 1,200 public institutions, and 6,000 small and medium-sized enterprises to electricity by the end of the five-year project.

According to Mr. Uwizeye, by 2027, Burundi will achieve an available energy capacity of 2,013.95 MW, compared to an installed capacity of 107.1 MW in 2019. He stated that to meet the country's needs by 2040, a total budget of \$3 billion is required. At the end of these two days of meetings, he revealed the expected outcomes from the Burundian government, namely a universal electricity access strategy by 2030 known to all government partners, energy sector stakeholders, local communities, and Burundian civil society, serving as a reference for the entire electrification project.

Regarding the World Bank representative in Burundi, Ms. Hawa Cissé Wague, she noted that access to energy remains relatively low in Burundi. However, with joint efforts, she indicated, electrification can be accelerated. She congratulated the Burundian government for improving the regulatory framework of the sector to encourage both public and private investment. During this third edition, Ms. Hawa Cissé Wague high-

lighted that the discussions would focus on strengthening reforms to address certain challenges that require special attention to advance the universal access agenda. She promised that the World Bank Group is

fully committed to supporting the government in achieving this ambition, which has a transformative impact on the country. **(ABP)**

## Celebration of World Food Day



**B**urundi joined the rest of the world on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, to celebrate World Food Day 2024. The ceremonies began with the sowing of maize on 64 hectares at the Burundi Institute of Agronomic Sciences (ISABU) on Bugiga Hill, Bukemba Commune in Rutana Province.

This World Food Day is celebrated under the theme: "Right to food for a better life and future, leaving no one behind."

The Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in Burundi, Mr. Dademano Pissang Tchangai, stated that while farmers around the world produce enough food to feed the global population, hunger persists. He noted that approximately 800 million people face hunger.

According to Mr. Dademano Pissang Tchangai, this ongoing hunger is primarily due to conflicts, repeated climate shocks, and economic slowdowns. He emphasized that this situation affects the poor and vulnerable, many of whom are farming households, reflecting the worsening inequalities both between countries and within them.

The FAO Representative in Burundi stated that realizing the right to food will require a number of actions at each component of the agri-food systems. A holistic or systemic approach necessitates collective effort to develop

a set of actions capable of driving large-scale sustainable change, he added.

To address this, it is essential to empower the most vulnerable, particularly small producers, by investing in more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agri-food systems. In Burundi, the FAO contributes to achieving national sustainable development goals, notably through the intensification of agricultural, livestock, and fish production, inclusive and sustainable development of strategic value chains, integrated and sustainable management of natural resources, and strengthening resilience to climate change, as well as enhancing institutional and organizational capacities.

In his speech, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock stated that this year's theme calls for increased production to ensure that everyone has enough to eat. It is widely recognized that the agricultural sector is the engine of sustainable development, as it provides everyone with regular access to sufficient and nutritious food in both quantity and quality. According to Permanent Secretary Mr. Dimède Ndayirukiye, the vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and developed by 2060 will be achieved when every Burundian has enough to eat and social disparities are reduced.

To achieve the government's priority of eradicating hunger in Burundi, actions must be taken, such as restocking cattle to obtain organic fertilizer, subsidizing agricultural inputs, developing hillside irrigation, consolidating land for monoculture, building storage facilities, protecting arable land by planting agroforestry trees, and avoiding food waste.

The celebration of World Food Day concluded with the distribution of agricultural materials and cows to cooperatives that have significantly contributed to increasing agricultural production. **(RTNB)**

## Gitega: Young journalists in training on the fundamental principles of journalism



The National Communication Council organized a capacity-building workshop for young journalists in Gitega Province from October 17 to 18, 2024. In her opening speech, the Chairperson of the CNC, Mrs. Espérance Ndayizeye, stated that the workshop aims at enhancing the skills of new journalists in best journalistic practices, enabling them to work professionally and produce quality programs that add value to the lives of the community. According to the Chairperson, this workshop is an opportunity for new journalists to learn and understand best journalistic practices.

The expansion of the media landscape in Burundi has been accompanied by an increase in the number of journalists, often with little knowledge or no background in the field, emphasized Espérance Ndayizeye. She noted that this situation affects media work and sometimes serves as an excuse for media leaders when it comes to accountability for the missteps of journalists under their responsibility. She reminded that the organic law of this Council grants it, among other missions, the promotion of a free and responsible press. She indicated that it is in this context that, in its 2023-2027 Five-Year Strategic Plan, the CNC has initiated a series of activities aimed at achieving this objective, including or-

ganizing capacity-building workshops for journalists on various topics, awareness sessions for public authorities to facilitate media access to information sources, and media coverage of the electoral process, as well as activities related to the implementation of the Vision 2040 and 2060 for the emergence of Burundi.

By organizing these trainings and workshops, the Chairperson of the CNC stated that this body aims at promoting professionalism in the media, so that citizens not only have the right to express themselves on all matters concerning national life but also have the right to receive comprehensive and balanced information on all topics.

The National Communication Council hopes that this training will provide young journalists with an opportunity to enrich their professional skills, enabling them to enhance their performance upon returning to their respective newsrooms.

During the two days of training for young journalists, two presentations will serve as the basis for reflection and discussion: the fundamental principles of journalism and common professional mistakes in the media. (RTNB)

# Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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