



**BANQUE DE LA REPUBLIQUE
DU BURUNDI**

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

- I. The Bank of the Republic of Burundi (BRB) notes new cases of contracts and payments of goods or services, in foreign currency, on the national territory, in violation of the provisions of articles 4 and 58 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation. These transactions include, in particular, the renting of houses, consultancy, school fees and the purchase of goods and services. These payments in foreign currency are made either in cash or by bank transfer to the accounts of suppliers resident in Burundi.

In this regard, the BRB reminds, once again, the public of the following:

- The only monetary unit having legal tender in the Republic of Burundi is the Burundi Franc (BIF);
 - All monetary transactions concluded locally and concerning goods located in Burundi or services rendered in Burundi are invoiced and settled in BIF;
 - Services rendered to non-residents by airlines, travel agencies, international transport companies and agencies, freight forwarders, border and foreigners services, port and airport services and the Tax Authority may be invoiced and settled in foreign currency. However, it is forbidden to require residents to pay in foreign currency;
 - Loans or guarantees to residents in foreign currency are prohibited, unless waived by the BRB provided that those loans are for payment of imports in foreign currency;
 - The facility offered to residents to hold accounts in foreign currency is not an authorization to conclude transactions in foreign currency between residents for the payment of goods located in Burundi or services rendered in Burundi.
- II. The BRB reminds that offenders are subjected to the sanctions according to the laws and regulations in force.
- III. The BRB takes this opportunity to clarify article 18, paragraph 3, of the Foreign Exchange Regulation, which stipulates that the validation of an Import Declaration is not required for ***cross-border commercial transactions***.

“***Cross-border commercial transactions***” means good-neighbourly or retail commercial transactions, carried out between inhabitants of the Burundi's borders, whose Free On Board (FOB) value is less than USD 3,000 for chemicals, food and pharmaceutical products and USD 5,000 for other products.

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Jean CIZA

Governor.-

