

Ease doing Business in Burundi

The report of Doing Business of 2014 for Burundi has raised a table with a set of key indicators, which measures how ease is to do business in Burundi in comparison with other countries in Africa. The rest of the tables summarize the key indicators for each topic and benchmark against regional and high- income economy (OECD) averages.¹

The table have like key indicators:

1. Starting Business
2. Dealing with construction permit
3. Getting electricity
4. Registering property
5. Getting credit
6. Protecting investors
7. Paying taxes
8. Trading across borders
9. Enforcing Contracts
10. Resolving insolvency.

All of these set of key indicators are good factors to measure how to do business.

Let's take a look of what is needed, or the process for a foreign to come and invest in Burundi

¹ <http://www.doingbusiness.org/data/exploreeconomies/burundi>

1. Steps of investment

First of all a foreign investor needs a visa to come in Burundi, an entry visa, which is provided by the Burundian Embassy of his country, and after arriving in Burundi, a staying visa which cost 70 US dollars a month and the Burundian government provide a staying visa for three month. To be established in Burundi, it applies an establishment visa which cost 500 US dollars with a deposit of 1,500 US dollars as a guarantee, and whenever an investor needs to leave Burundi whether for vacation or for business purpose, the Burundian government provides an exit – entry visa for 30 US dollars. Meanwhile, to work in Burundi an investor needs to have a work permit, which is free for only the main investors, the investor's employee have to pay for it.

3. Doing Business

The **Doing Business** project provides objective measures of business regulations for local firms in 189 economies and selected cities at the sub national level²

Doing Business sheds light on how easy or difficult it is for a local entrepreneur to open and run a small to medium-size business when complying with relevant regulations. It measures and tracks changes in regulations affecting 11 areas in the life cycle of a business: starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts, resolving insolvency and employing workers.³

Doing business has done a tremendous work in the development of businesses; and it has report on which we can rely whenever one wants to start a business anywhere in the world.

Still there are a lot of improvement needed even in the areas proposed as key indicators, like getting electricity and registering properties etc..

² <http://www.doingbusiness.org/>

³ <http://www.doingbusiness.org/data/exploreeconomies/~media/giawb/doing%20business/documents/profiles/country/BDI.pdf?ver=2>

My suggestion is to add the immigration process which is a key factor, because there will not be any investor who will register a company without a visa, there is a need of plenty considerations of all the immigration process, why not make on stop shop like for the registration of companies, for the whole immigration process?

Besides, there should be easy for foreign investors to have multi- entry visa with a validity of ten years paid once and for all.