



UNIVERSAL
POSTAL UNION

Berne, 19 November 2007

International Bureau Circular

362

Burundi – Illegal postage stamp issue

Dear Sir/Madam

The postal administration of **BURUNDI** wishes to inform the postal administrations of UPU member countries of the following:

"We have recently been informed of the existence of several stamp issues in the name of the Republic of Burundi, particularly stamps featuring World War II fighter planes, Indian chess, ornate chess sets, great erotic painters, etc.

"Having not been authorized, these stamps are illegal and some stamps even carry images which run counter to the good morals of the Burundi people and tarnish the country's image.

"The postal administration of Burundi denounces and condemns such practices and recalls that illegal issues not only harm the reputation of Burundi Post, but also that of other Universal Postal Union member administrations' philately services.

"These stamps are issued in flagrant violation of the national legislation on the production and sale of stamps, and are contrary to the provisions of article 8 of the Universal Postal Convention as well as Bucharest Congress recommendation C 51/2004, aimed at safeguarding the image of a country and its postal service conveyed by postage stamps.

"The postal administration of Burundi is counting on all other postal administrations to help it identify the perpetrators of these acts and bring them to justice.

"We sincerely thank our philatelic partners who have always taken a keen interest in Burundi's stamps, and who continue to observe the regulations covering the circulation of philatelic products, and ask them to contact postal administrations whenever necessary to alert them of possible irregularities in stamp issues.

"The postal administration of Burundi would also like to take this opportunity to inform the postal administrations of Union member countries that only three issues were released in 2004, featuring domestic animals, mushrooms and butterflies respectively."

Yours faithfully,

K.J.S. McKEOWN
Director of Markets Development