



The Head of State shares the pleasure of successful agro-pastoral initiatives with the American Ambassador to Burundi



On Wednesday, January 22, 2025, the Head of State of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye welcomed Mrs. Lisa Peterson, US Ambassador to Burundi, for a visit to several agro-pastoral projects in the provinces of Gitega and Karusi. The initiative aimed at highlighting efforts to improve the daily lives of rural communities through agricultural development.

On the Kigoma hill in Buhiga commune of Karusi province, the Head of State and Mrs Peterson visited two rice model fields cultivated in the mountains and in the Gisuma marshes. Farmed by the 550-members of Sangwe Karuri and Muhweza cooperatives, these fields cover 10 hectares.

The visit continued on Nyamugari hill, to two 16-hectare maize model fields and a 15-hectare potato field belonging to the Cooperative of Members of Parliament. These crops are intended to

provide improved seeds to boost agricultural production and reinforce local food security.

In the same Karusi Province, on Gashanga hill, Bugenyuzi Commune, the Head of State set an example with his 19-hectare maize field and other crops such as taro, beans, etc., as well as cow breeding. The organic manure from these cows is used as the soil fertilizer.

Still in Bugenyuzi commune, on Canzikiro hill, the Head of State and Mrs Peterson visited one of the 13 ponds set up for fish farming. These ponds are home to a variety of fish species, including tilapia, cimmyne carp and clarinas.

Rusamaza and Gihogazi communes were other highlights of the visit. There, a cornfield of over 200 hectares, farmed using modern irrigation techniques, bears witness to the efforts made to ensure agricultural production even in times of drought. The Burundian Head of State also presented his greenhouse cultivation project in Bitare, highlighting the production of modern tomatoes and the recent success of the cucumber harvest.

In Gitega Province, on Muremera hill, of Giheta commune, the Vaso Cooperative warmly welcomed the diplomatic

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caravan. Cooperative members proudly presented their agro-pastoral initiatives, the fruit of their collective work and their vision for local development.

On Murayi hill, the Delegation visited the Société de Valorisation de l'Espace Rural et de Transformation (SOVERT) created by the Head of State. The company specializes in mushroom processing, especially drying using modern machinery.

The day ended with a visit to the Umugiraneza Polyclinic in Giheta Commune. She was welcomed by the

First Lady of Burundi, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye-Ndayubaha, in a spirit of collaboration and friendship between the two nations.

While strengthening bilateral relations between the United States and Burundi, this visit will certainly mark a historic turning point in terms of the country's image, as only some quarters of Bujumbura were known before.

(Presidency)

Umugiraneza polyclinic equipped with a mortuary service



On Tuesday January 21, 2025, the First Lady of Burundi H.E Angeline Ndayishimiye, legal representative of the Umugiraneza Foundation, received a donation of cold rooms from the Chinese company China First Highway Engineering Company Ltd for the Polyclinique Umugiraneza in Kibimba, Giheta Commune, in the province of Gitega.

The First Lady of Burundi, H.E. Angéline Ndayishimiye, thanked the Chinese company for its support to Burundi, the Foundation Bonne Action Umugiraneza and the Umugiraneza Polyclinic. She called on the managers of the Umugiraneza Polyclinic in Kibimba to maintain the equipment properly.

She also took the opportunity to inform the population surrounding the Umugiraneza Polyclinic, as well as the local health structures, that the Umugiraneza Polyclinic already has a functional mortuary. The Director of the Umugiraneza Polyclinic in Kibimba, Mr Innocent Ntakarutimana, expressed his satisfaction at the opening of a mortuary service at the polyclinic.

According to him, this service comes at the right time: "If a patient dies here at the Umugiraneza polyclinic, we were obliged to transfer the body either to the Kibimba hospital or to the Gitega regional hospital," he explained. China First Highway Engineering Company Ltd reiterates its commitment to continue collaborating with Burundi in the execution of projects of public interest.

China First Highway Engineering Company Ltd Director DENG YI thanked Burundi's First Lady H.E. Angeline Ndayishimiye for her charitable activities via the Fondation Bonne Action Umugiraneza, particularly those focused on promoting human health. DENG YI pointed out that China First Highway Engineering Company Ltd had just spent 4 years in Burundi, and had already completed various projects. The Umugiraneza polyclinic's mortuary includes 15 cold rooms (RTNB).

Burundi-Zambia cooperation: visa exemption agreement for diplomatic passport holders



An agreement on visa exemption for holders of diplomatic passports has been signed between Burundi and Zambia. A draft ratifying this agreement was analyzed and unanimously adopted by the Honourable Members of Parliament during the plenary session of January 22, 2025. The Government had sent the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Albert Shingiro, to give the explanatory statement for this draft.

The agreement provides for the simplification of travel formalities for Burundian citizens and Zambian nationals holding diplomatic passports who travel to the territory of the other Party. According to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation His Excellency Ambassador Albert Shingiro, this agreement marks a new milestone in the consolidation of their bilateral relations. He added that the agreement would facilitate high-level exchanges with a view to further strengthen diplomatic relations and cooperation between the two countries, while respecting the principles of equality and reciprocity. Lastly, the government envoy reassured the audience that the agreement would be

advantageous for Burundi, as it would open the way to economic, commercial and tourism opportunities, promoting contacts between the peoples of the two countries.

The deputies requested that the visa exemption also apply to citizens who do not hold diplomatic passports. To this request, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Albert Shingiro, replied that the extension of this visa exemption to other types of passport would be examined at a later date by mutual agreement between the Republic of Burundi and the Republic of Zambia. It was also requested that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation closely monitor and support, through diplomatic representations, Burundian nationals travelling to foreign countries in search of jobs.

Finally, the members of Parliament wished that the adoption of the project relating to the visa exemption agreement be preceded by that of a project ratifying a general cooperation agreement between Burundi and Zambia. The President of the National Assembly requested that Burundi's diplomatic representations follow international immigration policy very closely, so that Burundian nationals can be assisted in a timely and effective manner. **(National Assembly)**

Presentation of research findings on the German colonial period and the administrative reform of 1925 in Burundi

On Wednesday January 22, 2025, at the Matergo Hôtel located in Gitega Province, the President of the Senate, the Right Honourable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, opened the

presentation of research findings on the German colonial period and the administrative reform of 1925 in Burundi. The presentation was attended by members



of the Senate Bureau, Senators and senior staff of the institution.

The President of the Senate, Rt Hon Emmanuel Sinzohagera pointed out that this research is a long process that began with the 2015-2020 legislature.

The aim of this work is to make known to the world in general and to the Burundian people in particular the harmful and destructive consequences that colonization inflicted on Burundi. Continuing his speech, Rt Hon Emmanuel Sinzohagera asked the experts to finalize their research and publish a book on the country's history.

The experts pointed out that before the arrival of the colonists in Burundi, the country had a well-organized administrative structure, beliefs and customs. In short,

they demonstrated that Burundi was a nation in its own right. These experts showed how the colonists destroyed Burundian unity. Apart from humiliating them, they killed them en masse and pillaged their material possessions.

They demonstrated that, after independence, the unfortu-



nate consequences of the colonial division of the Burundian people persisted, with a succession of killings, cyclical crises and the exclusion of certain sections of the population from some of the country's institutions.

Concluding their presentation, the experts urged the entire Burundian population to rediscover its roots in order to eradicate and cut short the practices of division. **(Senate)**

The leaders called upon to serve as a good reference, towards the Vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060

Leaders from various strata of the population in the extended commune of Bubanza (North-West Burundi) are called upon to serve as a good reference and to encourage the population they lead to act in favor of the achievement of the National Vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. That was said by the Minister of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security, Mr. Martin Niteretse, during a moralising session for representatives of the various strata of the population living in the new commune of Bubanza on Tuesday January 21, 2025.

During the meeting, the Minister of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security, Martin Niteretse, invited these leaders to strengthen their patriotism, to unite and transcend all their differences, and not to be distracted by financial speculation in the

face of their task.

He urged them to encourage their leaders to exploit their individual talents and take advantage of the assets of the Bubanza commune, such as its fertility, in order to achieve household development and the success of the Vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. Leaders at all

levels are also called upon to work in compliance with laws and regulations, to double their vigilance, with the aim of banishing fraud, mutual respect and love of work. On Wednesday, January 22, 2025, the Minister of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security



continued the moralisation session in the extended commune of Mpanda, comprising the former communes of Gihanga, Mpanda and Rugazi. The new

commune of Bubanza is made up of the former communes of Musigati and Bubanza. (ABP)

Bujumbura: the Minister of Justice hosts a morality session



On Tuesday, January 21, 2025, the Minister of Justice, Domine Banyankimbona, led a moralising session for the population of Bujumbura Province. It was an opportunity to hear the concerns of litigants dissatisfied with the judgments handed down by the various courts in the province.

After talking to the litigants, the Minister of Justice handed out copies of responses to those who had asked for court rulings to be reviewed or cancelled. In her speech, the Minister of Justice, Mrs Domine

Banyankimbona, recalled that justice is the pillar of peace and development. With this in mind, she urged the population of Bujumbura province to have confidence in the judicial authorities, and to concentrate on development activities, instead of resorting to different courts for unfounded appeals.

She called on the population of Bujumbura province to cut short Burundian proverbs that are contrary to humanism, such as “Umugabo n’uwurya utwiwe n’utwabandi” (An real man is one who eat his own food and others’food) or “akaruta akandi karakamira” (The law of the strongest), as well as the expression “Havuga inoti”(Money has the last word), so that Burundi can achieve its vision of becoming an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060.

The Minister of Justice Domine Banyankimbona reminded magistrates that they must serve the population with integrity, in order to be seen as leaders. She emphasized that an unfairly decided case can lead to problems within the community. (RTNB)

World Bank: three financing agreements signed

The Minister of Finance, Budget, and Economic Planning, Mr. Nestor Ntahontuye, signed three financing agreements on January 20, 2025, in Bujumbura with the World Bank Representative in Burundi, Ms. Hawa Cissé.

These signed agreements include financing projects worth \$168.3 million. The projects include the Climate Resilience Project for Hills in Burundi (PRCCB); additional financing for the project to accelerate the transformation of access to clean and sustainable energy in Burundi (ASCENT BURUNDI), as well as additional financing for the Jiji and Murembe project.



The Climate Resilience Project for Hills in Burundi aims to increase land productivity and the climate resilience of communities in the targeted hills. The funding amount for this project is \$88.30 million, with \$70 mil-

lion financed by the IDA project and \$18.30 million financed by the Global Environment Facility, over a period of 6 years.

The project to accelerate the transformation of access to clean and sustainable energy in Burundi will extend Medium Voltage and Low Voltage lines and connect all households and public institutions on the 95 hills overlooking the city of Bujumbura. This will eliminate illegal connections in these areas, provide access to reliable electricity, enable national dispatching, and strengthen distribution substations, with the aim of increasing energy capacity throughout the country.

The additional funding for ASCENT BURUNDI amounts to 50 million dollars, which is added to the initial funding of 100 million US dollars from the World Bank, aimed at extending energy services to populations outside of Bujumbura over a period of 5 years.

The additional financing for the Jiji and Murembwe pro-

ject will conclude in June 2026. It amounts to 30 million US dollars, funding that will help bridge the financing gap to complete the construction of the two hydroelectric power plants at Jiji and Murembwe. Its goal is to increase the supply of clean and low-cost electricity in the national hydroelectric production.

The Minister of Finance, Budget, and Economic Planning, Mr. Ntahontuye Nestor, expressed his gratitude to the World Bank and all the ministries that contributed to securing this grant, aimed at contributing to the achievement of Burundi's vision of becoming an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. He urged the ministries responsible for overseeing the implementation of these projects to work diligently to ensure everything proceeds smoothly. **(RTNB)**

The Minister of National Education and Scientific Research answers questions from senators.



During the oral question session held on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, in the Senate, Mr. François Havyarimana, Minister of National Education and Scientific Research, answered senators' inquiries regarding the education sector in Burundi.

One of the key questions focused on the criteria for selecting beneficiaries of scholarships for studies abroad. Senators asked why provincial balance was prioritized over academic excellence. In response, the minister explained that as long as learning conditions remain unequal across the national territory, it is necessary to consider both provincial balance and excellence. According to him, these two criteria help ensure

a certain equity in access to educational opportunities abroad.

Regarding the directors of primary schools, whose salaries have decreased following the adoption of the new salary policy, Minister François Havyarimana assured that the majority of cases have been reviewed. However, he acknowledged that some isolated cases are still being processed.

When asked about the measures being taken to improve the quality of education, the Minister highlighted the reforms undertaken as part of the vision "Burundi, an emerging country by 2040 and developed by 2060." Among these reforms, he emphasized the focus on technical fields due to the opportunities they offer at the job market.

The Minister of National Education and Scientific Research also mentioned the increase in teaching materials and school textbooks in educational institutions. From now on, every student from the first to the fifth year of primary school will have their own book, a visible advancement to strengthen learning.

These discussions highlighted the government's efforts to address the challenges in the education sector while pursuing long-term development goals. **(RTNB)**

Minister of Public Service, Labor, and Employment: Providing good service is an obligation

On Monday, January 20, 2025, the Minister of Public Service, Labor, and Employment, Mr. Venuste Muyabaga, held a meeting with the staff of the Career Management Directorate of the said ministry to encourage them to work towards satisfying the population. The Minister of Public Service, Labor and Employment reminded employees and employers that a processing time of 5 days for files must be respected. "Any civil servant who approaches this service should receive a response within 5 days," he recommended.

He urged the career management staff to serve the users who seek their services well. He emphasized that providing good service is mandatory for the personnel of the Career Management Directorate.

During the meeting, the issue of insufficient personnel and equipment raised by the employees of the Career Management Directorate was identified as the main cause of the delays in processing civil servants' files.



The Minister of Public Service, Labor and Employment specified that the necessary personnel reassignment would be done shortly, and the ministry would do everything possible to ensure that the necessary equipment is available so that this service functions effectively for users.

In conclusion, the Minister of Public Service, Labor, and Employment, Mr. Venuste Muyabaga, reminded that respecting time is mandatory for all employees and employers in order to achieve sustainable development goals. (RTNB)

Burundi Records Remarkable Progress in Controlling the Spread of Mpox



The Ministry of Public Health and the Fight Against AIDS, with financial support from the World Health Organization (WHO), organized a three-day intra-action review workshop of the Mpox response plan starting on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, in Gitega (the political capital and center of Burundi), as reported by ABP on-site.

During this meeting, which brought together various stakeholders in the health sector in Burundi, the Minister of Public Health and the Fight Against AIDS, Mrs Lydwine Baradahana, stated that the workshop was organized to assess the progress of their efforts, analyze the results obtained in detail, evaluate weaknesses, identify challenges encountered during this first phase of intervention, and formulate recommendations for the coming months.

Dr. Lydwine Baradahana noted that since July 25, 2024, the day the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight Against AIDS declared the first case of Mpox in Burundi, the country has already recorded remarkable progress in controlling the spread of this disease, thanks to the combined response efforts of all stakeholders.

She reported that as of January 19, 2025, Burundi had recorded 3,236 cases of Mpox and only one death. Among these cases, 207 individuals are still undergo-

ing treatment while 3,029 have recovered. She indicated that the trend shows a decline across all health districts, as 46 health districts in Burundi were affected by this disease, but currently, only 15 health districts are active. She further specified that the disease remains concentrated in five health districts, primarily in the municipality of Bujumbura and the city of Gitega.

The Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, Mrs Lyduine Baradahana, warmly praised the involvement of partners and the administration in raising awareness among the population about this disease. She specifically encouraged the mayor of the city of Bujumbura, Mr. Jimmy Hatungimana, who has taken concrete measures, including the closure of some hotels that were contributing to the spread of this disease.

The Governor of Gitega Province, on his behalf, stated that the health situation in his area of intervention is improving significantly thanks to the medical teams deployed in Gitega Province to provide healthcare to the population. He indicated that as of Wednesday morning, Gitega Province has only 8 hospitalized cases, whereas this province had recorded several cases of contamination during the initial days of the disease's emergence. According to him, most of the cases were children, but currently, they are mostly adults. He also noted that despite this success, they have observed that people on the ground are not adhering to the prevention guidelines against Mpox. **(ABP)**

Validation of a Trade Facilitation Project



Great Lakes Region will support six value chains, namely maize flour, cassava flour, pineapple juice, palm oil, onions, and processed tomatoes, announced Mr. Gérard Niyokindi, Assistant to the Minister of Commerce, Transport, Industry, and Tourism, who was present at

Validation on January 21, 2025, in Bujumbura, of the analysis report on the state of agricultural value chains, as part of the Trade Facilitation and Integration Project in the Great Lakes Region (PFCIGL).

The Trade Facilitation and Integration Project in the Great Lakes Region, fully funded by the World Bank with an amount of 90 million dollars, is coordinated at the regional level by COMESA and involves Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The components of this project include improving the regulatory environment for cross-border trade; enhancing basic trade infrastructure; supporting the marketing of cross-border value chains; and supporting implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

The Trade Facilitation and Integration Project in the

this validation workshop for the analysis report on the state of agricultural value chains.

The Trade Facilitation and Integration Project in the Great Lakes Region aims to facilitate exchanges and improve the marketing of selected value chains, primarily targeting small traders and women traders in the border areas of the Great Lakes region.

The Assistant to the Minister of Commerce, Transport, Industry, and Tourism, Mr. Gérard Niyokindi, emphasized that the PFCIGL aligns with the strategic planning documents of Burundi, particularly the Vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and developed by 2060. **(RTNB)**

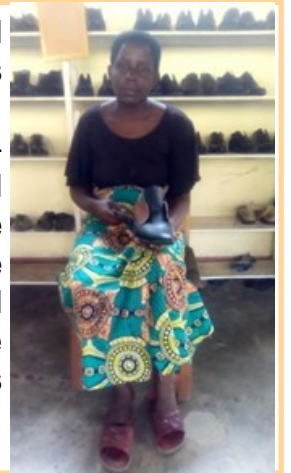
Trade allows women to empower themselves

The involvement of women in trade significantly contributes to the development of their families. This was stated by Mrs. Félicité Ndayisenga, a shoemaker and entrepreneur at the leather products manufacturing company (SOFAPROC) in the municipality of Bujumbura, during an interview with ABP on Monday, January 20, 2025.

She revealed that she decided to learn the trade of shoemaking to provide for her family's needs and to avoid being sidelined in financial decision-making within her household. After mastering this trade, she be-

came financially independent and greatly contributes to her family's well-being.

For her, the beginning of her business was not easy due to social and cultural norms that reserve certain trades for men. Despite these challenges, she persevered and she is now recognized as one of the quality shoe manufacturers in Kigobe.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

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