



## The Presidential Couple to enhance the final of the President's Cup, Edition 2025, in Gitega



The Head of State of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by his wife, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, attended the final match that took place on Saturday, May 24, 2025, between Musongati FC and Flambeau du Centre FC. The match took place at the Ingoma Stadium in Gitega Province, creating an electric atmosphere fueled by passionate fans who came from all corners of the country.

The event attracted a large audience, with fans able to access the stands for free, an initiative made possible by the

ruling party, CNDD-FDD, which covered the cost of the tickets. This gesture is a strong sign of national cohesion and the strengthening of Burundi-  
an democracy.

At the end of the match, Flambeau du Centre came victorious with a score of 1-0, thus claiming the prestigious trophy. The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, personally handed over the cup, medals, and a check of 15 million BIF to the champion team. Musongati FC, as the runner-up, received a check of 10 million BIF. **(Presidency)**

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## The Vice President of the Republic of Burundi has returned from an official mission to the Vatican



**T**he Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi, Mr. Prosper Bazombanza, accompanied by his wife, returned on May 21, 2025, from an official mission to the Vatican.

He represented the Burundian President, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye, at the inaugural Mass of the new Sovereign Pontiff, Pope Leo XIV, celebrated on May 18, 2025.

According to the Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi, the inauguration Mass was a solemn ceremony attended by 150 delegations from around the world. It was a significant moment for the Catholic Church, as well as for the leaders who came to greet the beginning

of a new spiritual leadership.

In his speech, he emphasized that the Holy Father took the time to explain the choice of his name: Leo XIV. This name is a direct tribute to Pope Leo XIII, the author of the encyclical *Rerum Novarum* in 1891, which is considered the cornerstone of the Church's social doctrine. Drawing inspiration from this tradition, the new Pope intends to "confront the challenges of our time with a humanistic and social approach."

Pope Leo XIV expressed his desire to build upon the legacy of *Rerum Novarum* to address contemporary issues such as digital revolution, economic inequalities, and the emergence of artificial intelligence. This leadership was welcomed by the Vice-President of Burundi, who sees a convergence of views between the Vatican and his country.

Vice-President Mr. Prosper Bazombanza affirmed that the Pope's progressive vision aligns with Burundi's ambitions to become an emerging country by 2040 and a developed nation by 2060. He highlighted that social justice, innovation, and digital transformation are also at the heart of national priorities. **(RTNB)**

## The President of the Senate visits the Federal Republic of Russia



**O**n Tuesday, May 20, 2025, the President of the Senate of Burundi, the Right Honourable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, flew from Melchior Ndadaye Airport to St. Petersburg, in the Federal Republic of Russia, at the invitation of Her Excellency Mrs.

Valentina MATVIENKO, President of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of Russia, to take part in the 11th International Congress of Ecology which took place in St. Petersburg from May 22 to 23, 2025 at the Tauride Palace under the theme: Planet Earth: harmony between man and nature.

This congress has been held regularly since 2008 to discuss current environmental issues and develop an integrated and equitable approach to climate change resilience. It also provides for exchanges of experience in the field of sustainable environmental protection, adaptation to climate change, and the conservation and efficient management of natural resources.



The President of the Senate of Burundi had the opportunity to share with participants the efforts already

undertaken by the Government of Burundi to protect the environment. **(Senate)**

### Congress on ecology: an invitation to international solidarity



**O**n May 22, 2025, the President of the Senate of Burundi, the Right Honourable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, participated in the opening ceremonies of the 11th International Congress on Ecology held in Saint Petersburg, in the Federal Republic of Russia, at the Tauride Palace, under the theme "Planet Earth: Harmony between Man and Nature."

On this first day, following the opening of the congress activities, the President of the Senate took part in panel discussions organized around two themes: "Food Security in the Context of Climate Change" and "Sustainable Development in Countries such as Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa

(BRICS): How does the Environment Makes the World Better?"

After acknowledging the importance of holding discussions on such a crucial issue, various speakers shared experiences from their respective countries and initiatives already undertaken in the areas of food security, resilience to climate change, and sustainable development.

Following the discussions, it became clear that different countries do not enjoy food security equally, even though the effects of climate change affect everyone.

Convinced that the pressure of climate change heavily impacts food security, participants from several African and Asian countries agreed on the need for shared responsibility and international solidarity; to build international partnerships and collaborations in the fields of science, technology and innovation; to strengthen investments; and to practice sustainable, organic agriculture that is resilient to climate change.

All these efforts would help address climate change, ensure food security, and align with the dynamics of sustainable development. **(Senate)**

### The President of the Senate invites Russian investors to invest in Burundi



**O**n the sidelines of the Congress on Ecology, in the afternoon of May 22, 2025, the President of the Senate, the Right Honourable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, met with his counterpart, the Chairwoman of the Federation Council of

the Federal Assembly of Russia, Her Excellency Madame Valentina MATVIENKO.

During their discussion, those officials expressed their satisfaction with the bilateral relations between their countries. The President of the Senate of Burundi emphasized the desire to strengthen these relations through economic cooperation, highlighting that Burundi offers numerous opportunities, particularly in the mining and agricultural sectors, among others. He therefore invited Russian investors to bring their capital to Burundi for investment.

The President of the Upper House of the Parliament of

Burundi indicated that they have initiated a process to sign a cooperation partnership between the Senate of Burundi and the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of Russia.

Chairwoman Valentina MATVIENKO agreed to various commitments, including sending experts during elections and continuing to support Burundi whenever needed. **(Senate)**

### Celebration of the 77th Independence Anniversary of the State of Israel in Burundi



strong relations of friendship, brotherhood and cooperation since 1962, the year of Burundi's independence. The Government of Burundi is pleased with the good friendship and cooperation relations that exist between the two countries, as well as the relevance of the partnership programs between them. The areas of cooperation in health, agriculture, and new technologies align with the national priorities of the Burundi National Development Plan 2023-2027.

**O**n May 22, 2025, the Embassy of the State of Israel in Burundi organized a ceremony marking the 77th independence anniversary



of Israel. This event was an opportunity to celebrate the history and fundamental values of the State of Israel. The ceremony was honoured by the presence of Mr. Ferdinand Bashikako, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

Mr. Ferdinand Bashikako extended warm congratulations to the Government and people of Israel, expressing wishes for prosperity, peace, and well-being. He pointed out that Burundi and Israel have maintained

Mr. Ferdinand Bashikako mentioned the Vision of Burundi, under the leadership of His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi. He emphasized that Burundi aspires to become an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. To achieve this, Burundians rely on their own efforts and the support of reliable partners, such as the State of Israel.

Mrs Einat WEISS, Ambassador of Israel to Burundi, emphasized the growing international cooperation in vital areas such as agriculture, health and education, which has been established since 1958 and is essential for the well-being and development of both peoples. She stated that the two governments will continue to explore new areas of collaboration. She also highlighted the importance of education for the empowerment of Burundian youth, indicating that education remains one of the most powerful tools for empowerment. She expressed her gratitude for the increasing interest of Burundian students in pursuing higher education in Israel. She informed that Israeli universities are open to Burundian youth who wish to acquire world-class skills. **(MFADC)**

## The Integrated Development Project Burundi-Rwanda, a hope for satisfactory agricultural production



**O**n Tuesday, May 20, 2025, the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock launched the Integrated Development Project Burundi-Rwanda (BRIDEP) in Bujumbura.

The project aims to increase productivity in priority sectors such as rice, maize, and the breeding of pigs and poultry, as reported by the Burundian Press Agency on-site.

During the project launch, the BRIDEP Coordinator, Mr. Bonaventure Gakukwe, indicated that the project includes components aiming at improving productivity through the development of marshlands, hillside irrigation, and the establishment of processing and marketing infrastructure for agricultural products. He further explained that the integrated development project incorporates several innovations, with efforts particularly focused on developing agro-poles in Karusi and Cibitoke, specifically in the expanded provinces of Bujumbura and Gitega.

Regarding the agro-parks, Mr. Bonaventure Gakukwe mentioned that there will be complementary processing units, while additional service units will be created. He also added that these units will serve as a hub for producers, both public and private, who will bring their products to these centers for processing, which he described as a novelty for the country and the region.

Concerning other innovations introduced by this project, he noted the development of a public-private partnership approach, which represents a new concept in the agricultural sector, along with the estab-

lishment of new institutions and legislation to operationalize various activities involving different stakeholders.

The Coordinator of the Integrated Development Project Burundi-Rwanda also stated that this project will benefit the country and its population, with both sides gaining from the results.

The population will work under better conditions and will receive support in terms of knowledge, inputs (seeds, fertilizers, etc.), and the provision of new, more productive and resilient breeds of pigs and poultry that are well-suited to the region. He also assured that during the duration of the project, production will increase, particularly that of potatoes, which will be intensified using genetic material and selected seeds.

It is worth noting that this project will create support mechanisms such as infrastructure focused on developing value chains, including 2 agro-poles, 7 processing units, storage areas and hangars, the development of marshlands (6,000 hectares), the protection of watersheds (18,000 hectares), and the rehabilitation of roads (60 km) to facilitate market access and cross-border transport.

The project will also support the digitalization of fertilizer distribution systems, he noted. **(ABP)**



## 911 students from schools of health sciences took the 2025 edition of the knowledge assessment exam



**T**he Assistant to the Minister of Public Health and the Fight Against AIDS, Dr. Inès Roselyne Nduwimana, inaugurated an evaluation exam for students trained in specialized health science schools on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, in Bujumbura. This exam was organized by the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight Against AIDS.

Dr. Nduwimana stated that the exam aims to improve

the quality of education in health schools and to verify whether the students truly deserve to receive their certificates after completing their studies. She noted that these students come from 24 schools, including 7 public, 2 religious, and 15 private institutions, and have completed their training in 2025 in various fields of health sciences. Among them, 663 studied in the nursing section (Nursing A2), 186 in medical analysis (Laboratory A2), 50 in pharmacy (Pharmacy A2), and 12 in public sanitation (Sanitation A2).

The exam is taking place in 15 centers spread across the country, with 2 located in the city of Bujumbura and 13 in other provinces. The Assistant to the Minister of Public Health and the Fight Against AIDS urged the students to work calmly, to avoid any form of cheating, and to ask questions if they have any doubts about certain wording in the questionnaire. It is worth noting that this exam will take place over 9 days, from May 21 to May 30, 2025. (ABP)

## Voter card distribution: CENI calls for final mobilization



**O**n Tuesday, May 20, 2025, the spokesperson for the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), Mr. François Bizimana, called on all citizens who have not yet collected their voter cards to go to the nearest Independent Communal Electoral Commission (CECI) office by June 2, 2025, at the latest.

In a press briefing, Mr. François Bizimana indicated that, in general, the distribution of voter cards has been suc-

cessfully carried out across the entire national territory. Out of a total of 5,963,917 cards prepared, 5,914,498 have been effectively collected, resulting in a distribution rate of 99.17%. He noted that there are still 39,419 cards (or 0.83%) to be retrieved.

According to the spokesperson for the CENI, the results of the card distribution at the provincial level are encouraging: Buhumuza 98.58%, Burunga 98.58%, Butanyera 99.28%, Bujumbura 99.45%, and Gitega 99.66%.

Regarding voters who have lost their cards, he stated that they must present their registration receipt in order to receive a new card. The Independent National Electoral Commission congratulated all citizens for their mobilization and encouraged those who are delayed to complete this process as soon as possible so that they can

participate in the legislative and communal elections

scheduled for June 5, 2025. (ABP)

### Towards Better Management of Tourist Sites in Burundi



**O**n Tuesday, May 20, 2025, the Director General of Tourism in Burundi, Mr. Jacques Bigirimana, called for better management of the country's tourist sites to transform them into genuine drivers of economic development.

The Director General proposed that the sites currently managed by local municipalities or the Burundian Office for Environmental Protection (OBPE) be transferred to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Tourism. According to him, this reorganization would enhance the value of these locations and increase their attractiveness.

This statement was made during a meeting dedicated to the development of a marketing plan for tourism in Burundi, a strategic document aimed at promoting the country's image internationally. The plan seeks to unveil Burundi's tourism potential, its natural and cultural wealth, and to provide concrete solutions to the current challenges facing the sector. "It is time for tourist sites to be managed by competent structures so that they can be valued appropriately, in line with the vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060," stated the Director General of Tourism.

He expressed his surprise that some tourist sites remain outside the management of the relevant Ministry, which hinders their development. A unified management approach would not only attract more tourists but also generate foreign currency revenue for the country.

The marketing plan also aims to correct the negative image often portrayed on social media. For Mr. Jacques Bigirimana, it is urgent to showcase a different, more positive side of Burundi by highlighting its tourist assets and positioning the sector as a pillar of the national economy. (RTNB)

### A team from the steering committee of the multisectoral platform for food security and nutrition is visiting some communes to assess the progress of the malnutrition prevention project



**O**n Wednesday, May 21, 2025, a team from the steering committee of the Permanent Executive Secretariat of the Mul-

tisectoral Platform for Food Security and Nutrition (COPIL/PMSAN) conducted a field visit to assess activities carried out at the community level in the communes of Ndava and Gisozi, as part of the project "Prevention of Malnutrition among Children, Adolescents, and Women in Burundi," funded by the Dutch Government through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as reported by the Burundi News Agency on-site.

During this visit, the representative of the Permanent Executive Secretariat of the Multisectoral Platform for Food Security and Nutrition, Mrs Béatrice Nday-

ishimiye, stated that the country is strongly committed to enhancing food security and nutrition for the population through synergistic multi-actor interventions that can yield tangible results, ensuring the country has a human capital capable of producing for sustainable socio-economic development.

In Ndava commune, members of the steering committee of the Permanent Executive Secretariat of the Multi-sectoral Platform for Food Security and Nutrition (SEP/PMSAN), along with officials from non-governmental organizations, visited a school nutrition club at the Fota Communal High School, where they engaged with student members. Various testimonies were shared regarding the importance of these school nutrition clubs and their impact on nutritional behavior as well as their

families'.

The students reported noticeable changes in their respective families and communities. They also visited a savings and credit association called "Kamaro k'ingaburo ibereye" on Bugera Hill, which received laying hens for the campaign as well as various seeds. At this site, a culinary demonstration was organized to teach the members of this association how to prepare a complete meal that promotes good health.

The visit concluded with a stop at the savings association "Tugarukire ibibondo" on Kiyange Hill in Gisozi commune. It is noteworthy that the project has a duration of six years (2023-2028) and aims to improve access to nutritious, safe, affordable, and sustainable diets. **(ABP)**

### Brarudi launches a new product, "Sprite Zero"



**B**rarudi announces to the public that it has launched a new product, Sprite Zero, a refreshing carbonated beverage with no added sugar, according to a press release issued on

Wednesday, May 21, 2025, by the company.

According to the same press release, this beverage is available nationwide as of the release date and is offered in a 30-centiliter format at a recommended price of 1,600 BF per bottle.

Brarudi took the opportunity to inform the public that this launch is part of its commitment to continue innovating and diversifying its products to meet the needs and preferences of its clients. **(ABP)**

### Breastfeeding a child should be a concern for every parent



**P**arents are encouraged to breastfeed their children for proper growth, according to advice from Mrs Sylvie Habarugira, a nutritionist cook, during an interview with the Burundian Press Agency on Monday, May 19,

2025. According to Mrs Habarugira, some mothers are

unavailable due to current life circumstances, which prevents them from breastfeeding their children adequately. Additionally, insufficient breast milk and poor-quality breast milk may lead parents to resort to cow's milk, which is widely accessible.

According to this nutritionist, cow's milk can serve as a complementary food starting at a certain age, typically around one year. However, some effects may be observed, including allergies, as some children may develop an allergy to cow's milk proteins, resulting in skin rashes or digestive issues due to lactose intolerance. This can also cause bloating, abdominal pain, or diarrhea, not to mention anemia if milk consump-



tion is excessive.

Iron deficiency may also occur since milk does not contain enough iron and can interfere with its absorption. Nutritionist Mrs Sylvie Habarugira urged parents to watch for any signs of allergy or intolerance (such as skin rashes, abdominal pain, or diarrhea) that arise after drinking milk.

If a child cannot tolerate cow's milk, parents are advised to use alternatives such as almond, soy, or

oat milk, ensuring they are fortified with nutrients and that the child's diet is diverse and balanced, including healthy proteins, carbohydrates, and fats.

In cases where a child experiences issues related to cow's milk consumption, it is advisable to consult a pediatrician or allergist for an accurate diagnosis and tailored advice. Some foods, such as leafy green vegetables, legumes, nuts, and seeds, are rich in calcium and iron and support the proper growth and development of the child. **(ABP)**

## Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

### Department of Communication

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