



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

**Burundi's President calls on elected candidates to work in the interests of the people**



**T**he Head of State, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by his family, cast his vote on Thursday, June 5, for the legislative and communal elections at a polling station set up in his native hill of Musama, Giheta zone in the expanded province of Gitega, where he called on the elected candidates to work fully in the interest of the Burundian people.

"This is a real demonstration of patriotism, the participation of citizens in the life of the country by electing their rep-

resentatives. We are already living democracy today, it's a symbol", declared Burundi's Number One after the polls, before thanking all the citizens who had fulfilled their civic duty, and expressing his delight that the elections had taken place in calm and tranquility, enabling everyone to cast their vote without hindrance.

"Everywhere we went, as here, we noted that the voting was going very well", said Meriton Vincent Emmanuel, an observer from the African Union Mis-

**In this Edition:**

**page**

Burundi's President calls on elected candidates to work in the interests of the people

1

First Lady H.E Angeline Ndayishimiye engages young people in a Health and Nutrition Awareness Campaign

2

Reception of the Chairman of the African Union Election Observation Mission at Melchior Ndadaye International Airport

3

3

Burundi-China: Towards the construction of a new headquarters for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation in Gitega

4

The June 2025 legislative and communal elections in Burundi: a generally successful ballot

4

Burundi approves its Tourism Marketing Plan RINDIRA

6

Press release No. 07/2025 of the meeting of the Council of Ministers of Wednesday, June 4, 2025

7

sion in Burundi, echoing the statements made by other observers, both national and international, who hailed the high turnout at the polls.

In addition to the observers, the national and international media were also mobilized on the ground to cover the voting live from the polling stations and to warn of any irregularities or incidents. **(Presidency)**

### First Lady H.E Angeline Ndayishimiye engages young people in a Health and Nutrition Awareness Campaign



**O**n June 2, 2025, First Lady H.E Angeline Ndayishimiye led an awareness campaign for young teenagers in schools, focusing on the prevention of unwanted pregnancies, HIV/AIDS, MPOX, as well as better nutrition, at Saint Michel Archange School.

School officials, in collaboration with the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health, expressed their sat-

isfaction with the teaching provided by the First Lady, underlining the positive impact of these interventions within the school community.

Mrs Ledet Teka Befecadu, representative of the Organization of First Ladies for Development (OPDAD), affirmed that this initiative, led by the First Lady, testifies to her deep commitment to empowering young people. It provides them with the knowledge they need to better prepare their future.

The First Lady called on young people and teenagers to avoid any act that could lead them to risky sexual relations, which could result in unwanted pregnancies and exposure to HIV/AIDS, while not neglecting other epidemics such as the Mpox virus.

She urged them to behave with dignity and responsibility, avoiding the use of harmful substances that damage their health, and to prioritize a balanced diet to prepare for their future. **(Presidency)**

### Cooperatives supported by the Foundation Bonne action Umugiraneza



**T**he women grouped together in the cooperatives supported by the Foundation Bonne Action Umugiraneza, headed by the First Lady of the Republic of Burundi, are delighted with the progress made both economically and socially, thanks to the support received through this foundation.

These testimonies were delivered on Tuesday June 3, 2025 at the headquarters of the Foundation Bonne Action Umugiraneza, located in Kibimba, Giheta commune, during a visit by a delegation from the Organization of African First Ladies for Development (OPDAD). The delegation had come to see for themselves the tangible impact of funding granted by OPDAD to women's cooperatives through the Foundation Bonne Action Umugiraneza.

During the meeting, Miss Navy Kessia Ndayishimiye, Assistant to the President of the Foundation, expressed her gratitude to the OPDAD guests for their constant support. She pointed out that this aid has enabled many families in Giheta commune to escape poverty and significantly improve their living conditions.

When asked about the effects of the support they have

received, the women who have benefited from the cooperatives say that they are now able to make an active contribution to the family economy. They now assist their husbands in managing household resources, and even their children recognize the positive changes in their daily lives.

During this exchange, Mr. Désiré Manirakiza, coordinator within the Economic Empowerment and Youth Employment Program (PAEEJ), encouraged women to have a good understanding of the society in which they live. He stressed that the funding they receive should not be seen as personal gifts, but as capital to be invested in sustainable projects. He urged them to demonstrate financial autonomy by organizing income-generating activities, thus avoiding dependence or assistance. He advised them to manage cooperative funds rigorously, remembering that they do not belong to them individually, but are at the service of the group as a whole.

Désiré Manirakiza also called for a culture of savings and reinjection of profits into new projects or the strengthening of existing activities, to ensure the growth of the initiatives undertaken.

With regard to the profitability of projects, he recommended that women choose activities that meet the needs of the local market, in order to guarantee secure outlets for their products.

In conclusion, he invited cooperative members to actively engage in good management, to seek new markets for their productions, and to ensure the expansion of their activities with a view to sustainable development.

The beneficiary women expressed a desire for additional support, particularly to access stable and expanded commercial opportunities. **(RTNB)**

## Reception of the Chairman of the African Union Election Observation Mission at Melchior Ndadaye International Airport



**O**n Monday June 02, 2025, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Mr. Ferdinand Bashikako, warmly welcomed to Bujumbura's Melchior Ndadaye International Airport the Chairman of the African Union's Electoral Observation Mission, His Excellency Mériton Vincent Emmanuel Angelin, and former Vice-President of the Seychelles, who had come to supervise the May 05, 2025 elections.

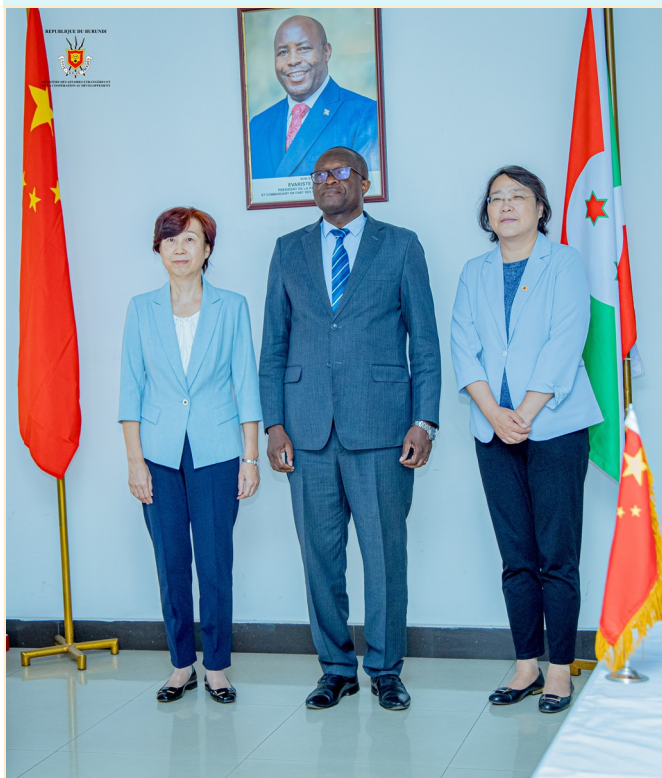
In a press briefing at Melchior Ndadaye Airport, the Chairman of the African Union Election Observation

Mission, His Excellency Mériton Vincent Emmanuel Angelin, said he had been sent by the African Union to supervise the election of deputies and communal councilors in Burundi, which will take place on June 5, 2025



His Excellency Mériton Vincent Emmanuel Angelin appreciates the democratic process that the Government of Burundi is adopting during the organization of free and transparent elections. **(MFADC)**

## Burundi-China: Towards the construction of a new headquarters for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation in Gitega



**O**n June 2, 2025, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Mr. Ferdinand Bashikako, received in audience Mrs. FAN Wenjie, Deputy Director General of the International Economic Cooperation Agency of the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China. She was leading a Chinese delegation on an official visit to Burundi.

Discussions focused on the progress of the construction project for the new headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Gitega, a project supported by China. Work is scheduled to start in 2026 and be completed in

2028.

As a reminder, in September 2024, the President of the Republic of Burundi, H.E. Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye, met his Chinese counterpart, H.E. Mr. Xi Jinping, on the sidelines of a meeting of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). The two Heads of State reaffirmed their shared desire to further strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation between their two countries.

China has already completed a number of structuring projects in Burundi, notably in the infrastructure, agri-food and energy sectors. These include, but are not limited to, the construction of the Ruzibazi hydroelectric dam, the Ntare Rushatsi House presidential palace, and the Gihanga agricultural pilot center, a specialized center for research into the production of hybrid seeds for maize, rice, etc.

Following their meeting with the Burundian authorities, the Chinese delegation plans to visit some of these emblematic



ic projects, which bear witness to the concrete and fruitful cooperation between Bujumbura and Beijing (MFADC).

## The June 2025 legislative and communal elections in Burundi: a generally successful ballot

**O**n Saturday June 05, 2025, Burundi held legislative and communal elections, a double ballot that mobilized over six million voters across the country. A total of 2,909 candidates took part in the legislative elections and 6,753 in the communal elections, representing both political parties and independent candidates.

The elections were marked by a significant mobilization of citizens, who turned out in a generally calm and secure atmosphere. According to Prosper Ntahorwamiye, Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Com-

mission (CENI), the elections went smoothly overall: electoral materials were sufficient, the process started on time, and polling station staff were present at their posts without delay.

However, despite this satisfactory organization, some minor irregularities were reported. These included the denial of access to African Union observers at a voting center in Bujumbura town hall, incidents of violence such as a polling station president hitting a voter in Bubanza, and concerns about the limited availability of radios in some polling stations. Other cases concerned the excessive pres-



ence of additional lists by students or members of the security forces, exceeding the limit of 25 voters per list. Prosper Ntahorwamiye pointed out that all these irregularities were quickly resolved.

Citizens and political leaders were generally satisfied with the voting process. Voting took place in complete security and transparency, although some irregularities were deplored, such as the lack of proxies in several polling stations.

International observers, including the delegation from the Russian Federation, also expressed their satisfaction with the conduct of the elections. Mr. Alexey Chepa, head of the Russian mission, stressed that the elections had respected the fundamental principles of freedom, transparency and fairness, in accordance with the Burundian Constitution and the Electoral Code. He praised the organization of the CENI and the cooperation of Burundian public institutions, while congratulating the Burundian people on their active participation.

The consensus around these elections underlines the maturation of Burundi's democratic process. Gérard Hakizimana, president of the "Ihuriro" consortium

of 20 civil society organizations, called on the population and political parties to have confidence in the CENI, which he said had demonstrated its impartiality and professionalism. He also recalled that, despite the end of the election, life must go on, and citizens must continue their daily activities in a climate of peace and stability.

The deputies and communal councilors elected in these elections will have a five-year mandate to represent the population and work towards local and national development. These elections, which mark an important stage in the strengthening of Burundi's democratic institutions, are now a step towards more participative and transparent governance.

Despite a number of challenges, the June 05, 2025 electoral process was a success. The Burundian people participated actively in the democratic life of their country. (RTNB)

## Burundi approves its Tourism Marketing Plan RINDIRA



**O**n Tuesday June 3, 2025, at Bujumbura Town Hall, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism held a workshop to validate Burundi's Tourism Marketing Plan. This meeting brought together the main stakeholders in the sector, with the aim of providing the country with a clear and ambitious roadmap for promoting tourism.

In his speech, Mr. Jacques Bigirimana, Director General of Tourism, representing the Minister in charge of Commerce, regarded this as a decisive turning point. He reminded the audience that Burundi abounds in natural and cultural treasures, but that only a synergy between the public, private and partner sectors can make the most of them.

This plan is the fruit of extensive collaboration between public institutions, tourism operators and development partners. It aims to make tourism an engine for the country's socio-economic growth, capable of strengthening peace and national identity while generating revenue.

Mr. Bagumako Eduard, a tourism expert, emphasized the structural challenges to be met. He recommended the exemption of taxes on regional flights, the improvement of the Visa payment system, and above all the creation of a tourist police force specialized in the safe reception of visitors.

The meeting was regarded as a crucial step towards enhancing Burundi's visibility and attractiveness. Participants were invited to convert the recommendations into practical actions, aspiring for the country to become a standout destination in East Africa. **(RTNB)**

## REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC  
General Secretariat of the State

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**PRESS RELEASE Nr 07/2025 OF THE CABINET MINISTERS OF  
WEDNESDAY JUNE 04, 2025**

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The Cabinet Ministers met this Wednesday, June 04, 2025 in Gitega, Political Capital, under the chairmanship of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Burundi, Major General Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE.

After the presentation and adoption of the agenda, His Excellency the President of the Republic invited the Prime Minister to present a summary of the observations arising from the preparatory meeting of the Cabinet Ministers which had taken place on May 21 and June 03, 2025, and which was devoted to the preliminary analysis of the same files on the agenda.

**1. Bill to amend Act Nr. 1/04 of January 05, 2011 establishing the Independent National Commission on Human Rights,**

Presented by the Minister of Justice

In order to comply with the Constitution and international legal texts ratified by Burundi, an Independent National Human Rights Commission has been set up. Since its establishment in 2011, the Commission has well fulfilled its mission, and satisfactory results have been achieved both nationally and internationally.

1

Nevertheless, the Commission is facing a number of dysfunctions due to a deficient legal framework.

With a view to finding a solution to the identified challenges, a number of changes are proposed, in particular:

- 1° Strict compliance with public procurement standards;
- 2° The introduction of a normative framework designed to assist the CNIDH in administrative and financial management, in order to avoid administrative blockages and possible abuses of power;
- 3° Reinforcing the professional ethics of commissioners;
- 4° The application of best practices in good governance.

After analysis, the project was adopted with a few substantive and formal corrections.

**2. Bill for the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the general cooperation agreement between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam signed on April 4, 2025, in Hanoi,**

Presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

This agreement is a manifestation of the will of the two countries to strengthen cooperation, expand and diversify their relations, and adapt them to their needs, taking into account their potential and capabilities.

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## REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC  
General Secretariat of the State

This agreement serves as a basic instrument for negotiating and concluding other specific cooperation agreements.

The draft law has been adopted by the Cabinet Ministers.

**3. Bill for the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the cooperation agreement between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the Republic of Angola on regular diplomatic consultations signed in Luanda on April 27, 2010,**

Presented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

This agreement on regular diplomatic consultations between the two states has the main objective of strengthening direct communication and bilateral coordination in order to enhance cooperation between the two countries.

The ratification of this agreement will open a new chapter in diplomatic relations between the two countries and will establish a mechanism for regular consultations between the Parties on matters of common interest. The Cabinet Ministers has adopted this draft law after analysis.

**4. Draft decree granting a mining exploitation permit for titanium and associated minerals in the Ndora I area in Bukinanyana Commune, Cibitoke Province, in favor of SONALEK MINING COMPANY LIMITED,**

Presented by the Minister of Water, Energy, and Mines.

The SONALEK Mining Company Ltd has expressed interest in exploiting the titanium deposit and associated minerals in the Ndora I perimeter. The operating company has submitted to the State a study proposing to extract an estimated 108,000 tons of titanium ore during the first phase. The project will be implemented in three phases over a period of fifteen years.

The State of Burundi makes the land and subsoil available to the operating company for the needs of the project. The company only holds the right to exploit the resources.

The sharing of production is based on the revenues from the sale of the production, with the State receiving 30% of the total revenues and 70% for the operating company, after deducting the amortization fund.

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted with, among other recommendations, the need to specify the hill actually concerned by the exploitation.

**5. Draft decree granting a mining exploitation permit for columbotantalite and cassiterite in the Kabarore area, Kayanza Province, in favor of the company COMEBU S.A.**

Presented by the Minister of Hydraulics, Energy, and Mines.

2

## REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC  
General Secretariat of the State

This draft decree is proposed following the renegotiation of a new mining convention for the exploitation of columbite-tantalite and cassiterite in the Kabarore area, following the handover of the sub-areas of Ndora and Murehe to the State by this company.

**6. Draft decree granting an industrial exploitation permit for gold and associated minerals in the Masaka area in Butihinda Commune of Muyinga Province in favor of the Gold Tailings Treatment Company in Burundi (SOTB S.A.),**

Presented by the Minister of Hydraulics, Energy, and Mines.

This draft decree is proposed following the renegotiation of a new agreement between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the company "SOTB S.A." as a result of the transfer of all shares of African Mining Limited to the company SOTB S.A.

**7. Draft joint ministerial order regarding the tax regime applicable to the mining and quarrying sector in Burundi and the determination of the state's share of the value of mineral production resulting from artisanal and semi-mechanized mining,**

Presented by the Minister of Hydraulics, Energy, and Mines.

3

This draft ordinance introduces taxation for all activities innovated by the Mining Code, as well as the concept of production sharing between the state and the cooperative or mining company.

Following the analysis of these three projects related to mining exploitation, the Cabinet Ministers noted that certain provisions of the new Mining Code were not respected in the development of these projects and requested that they can be revised for compliance with the latter.

**8. Regional Program for Emergency Preparedness and Access to Inclusive Economic Recovery,**

Presented by a representative of the Ministry of Finance, Budget, and Economic Planning, as the Minister is on a mission outside the country.

The Regional Program for Emergency Preparedness and Access to Inclusive Economic Recovery is a program developed by the World Bank aimed at strengthening the financial and operational resilience of countries to respond quickly and effectively to natural and climate shocks.

It will be implemented in 12 African countries facing the risks of natural disasters, including droughts, floods, cyclones, earthquakes, landslides, and pandemics. The total funding amount is 926 million US dollars, with a budget of 70 million US dollars allocated to Burundi.

## REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI


**PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC**  
 General Secretariat of the State

The Cabinet Ministers has authorized the continuation of negotiations for this project, given its importance.

**9. Draft law for the ratification by the Government of the Republic of Burundi of the loan agreement related to the project for the development and paving of National Road Nr. 16 - Phase II,**

Presented by the Minister of Infrastructure, Equipment, and Social Housing.

The National Road Nr. 16 (Mutambara-Bururi-Mweya) connects the South of Burundi to the Center of the Country (in Mweya), which is the entrance to the Political Capital of Burundi. It stretches over a length of 106.7 km. Only a part of this road, located in the middle, is passable in all seasons.

In order to ensure the smooth flow and rational use of this road, it has been deemed imperative to upgrade the sections in poor condition.

In this context, the Government of Burundi approached the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa to secure a loan for the upgrading of these sections.

This ratification bill concerns a loan from the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa amounting to 60 million US dollars for the upgrading of these sections.

4

Following discussions, the project was adopted by the Cabinet Ministers.

**10. Motivation note for the request for a second additional funding for the Project to Support Productive Social Safety Nets and Employment MERANKABANDI for a proposed amount of 79 million US dollars,**

Presented by the Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights, and Gender.

This second additional funding for the project, amounting to approximately 79 million US dollars, aims at providing an immediate response to the integration needs of refugees into national basic systems while alleviating the pressure on host communities.

The proposed additional funding supports a profound change in the response to refugees in Burundi, shifting from a model focused on refugee camps where they depend on humanitarian assistance to an integrated community-based approach centered on self-sufficiency.

To encourage and support refugees, resettlement grants will be provided to enable them to leave the camps and settle in the community. Following the analysis, the Cabinet Ministers authorized the continuation of negotiations for this project while ensuring that international conventions and laws governing refugees are respected, as is the case in other countries.

**11. Draft decree modifying decree nr100/273 of December 6, 2021, which modifies decree nr 100/107 of April 7, 2021, concerning the creation, management, and**

## REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



## PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC

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**General Secretariat of the State**

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authorized the continuation of negotiations for this project while ensuring that international conventions and laws governing refugees are respected, as is the case in other countries.

**11. Draft decree modifying decree nr100/273 of December 6, 2021, which modifies decree nr 100/107 of April 7, 2021, concerning the creation, management, and coordination of the Economic Empowerment and Youth Employment Program "PAEEJ"**

Presented by the Minister of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports, and Culture.

This draft decree is proposed in order to comply with the new law on administrative reorganization and the law reorganizing local administration. It also aims at making the PAEEJ sustainable and more effective by granting it greater administrative and financial autonomy.

Following the analysis, the draft decree was adopted with substantive and formal corrections.

It was decided that the management of the Program will be ensured by the Prime Minister, and its oversight will be under the authority of the Presidency of the Republic, considering the multisectoral nature of the PAEEJ.

5

**12. Any Other Business**

In Any other Business section, His Excellency the President of the Republic expressed his satisfaction with the conduct of the electoral campaign, noting that there were no major incidents to report.

He took the opportunity to congratulate the administration and law enforcement for the good work accomplished. He requested that individuals identified as responsible for actions aimed at undermining the elections be sanctioned.

# Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

## Department of Communication

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