



## President Ndayishimiye inaugurates Jiji hydroelectric plant



**T**he President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Évariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by the Secretary General of the CNDD-FDD party, the Right Honorable Révérien Ndikuriyo, inaugurated Jiji-Mulembwe hydroelectric project on Tuesday June 24, 2025.

There was great joy at the Jiji hydroelectric dam water catchment center in Songa, Bururi province, where the first pre-inauguration visit took place, a source of pride for Burundi's Number One, the population and many development partners present.

This project represents a major step forward for Burundi, with an additional 32.5 MW of electricity for the unique Jiji power plant, designed to support the country's socio-economic development and improve access to energy for all.

"From 2020 to 2025, energy production has tripled, rising from 47.35 MW to 166.29 MW", expressed President Ndayishimiye, thanking the partners, including the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the European Union and the European Investment Bank, who are supporting Burundi in achieving its electrification objectives

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as a prerequisite for development.

"We encourage the population to fully embrace the villagization policy and consequently free up useful spaces for agriculture and other development projects, including vocational schools and easy access to drinking water and electricity," he said after congratulating the Water and Electricity Distribution Authority for remarkable efforts made in the development of the energy sector.

The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellen-

cy Evariste Ndayishimiye, took the opportunity to reaffirm Burundi's credibility in mobilizing startup capital, demonstrating the national commitment to successfully carry out large-scale projects.

For their part, the development partners all congratulated the Burundian Head of State on this step forward, recognizing his personal commitment to speeding up the project. They reiterated their commitment to accompanying Burundi towards its vision of an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. **(Presidency)**

### President Ndayishimiye and stakeholders in the electoral process in an evaluation session



political parties, civil society and former Heads of State Sylvestre Ntibantunganya and Domitien Ndayizeye to converge towards a common goal of stability and development.

"All the criteria have been met for the June 2025 elections. The victory of the CNDD-FDD party is due to its conception of the electoral lists from the zone to the national level", said President Ndayishimiye.

President Ndayishimiye and the two former Burundian heads of state have

**T**he President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, honored with his presence, on Wednesday June 25, 2025 at the Matergo Hotel in Gitega, the mid-term evaluation of the legislative and communal elections of June 05, 2025, bringing together the CENI, political parties, independents and other stakeholders.

After a detailed presentation by the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), Mr. Prosper Ntahorwamiye, on the preparation, conduct and counting of the elections, the stakeholders expressed their views on the entire electoral process.

Burundi's President was delighted with the election evaluation session, which provided an opportunity for

successively called on political actors to prioritize the national interest, to undergo a psychological change, and to embody true leadership in order to address the challenges facing the population.

Drawing on his experience, former president Ndayizeye stressed that the population votes according to its concerns, and that the electoral competition was won by the CNDD-FDD party. He urged the latter to win the fight for national survival by ensuring the success of the Vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060.

Former President Sylvestre Ntibantunganya appreciated President Ndayishimiye's leadership before calling on political party leaders to unite in support of his governance strategy. **(Presidency)**

## President Ndayishimiye receives equipment from the African Development Bank for the promotion of trades



The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by the First Lady and other leaders of the country, officially received on Thursday, June 26, 2025, equipment provided by the African Development Bank (ADB) intended for the Polytechnic Training and Professional Retraining Center of RUSI located in Karusi (CEFORE-RUSI).

“My dream has just come true, and it's a source of pride for Burundi, which has just successfully completed the Professional Retraining for Young Graduates project”, said President Ndayishimiye after a guided tour of the CEFOR-RUSI premises, at the

end of which he noted that everything was ready for the launch of professional training for Burundians.

Burundi's Number One recommended that RUSI's Polytechnic Training and Professional Retraining Center become a veritable incubator for the country's development.

President Ndayishimiye also urged young people to be visionary, to acquire knowledge and develop their skills in order to create jobs and not to ask for them, while awakening their patriotic conscience, recalling that education is the basis of development.

He thanked the leaders of the African Development Bank (ADB), before the representative of this financial institution in Burundi expressed his pleasure at once again giving concrete expression to his support for the country's priorities, congratulating the Head of State, a friend of young people, who will spare no effort to equip young people with skills in line with the country's needs. **(Presidency)**

## President Ndayishimiye received in audience a new representative of the World Food Program



The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, received in audience on Friday June 27, 2025 at Gitega Palace, the new Representative of the World Food Program (WFP), Mr. Jean Noël Gentile.

Their discussions focused mainly on their areas of intervention, including food security, social protection, agricultural value chains and school canteens.

They also discussed the need to respond to the influx of Congolese refugees fleeing the war in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

They also discussed the Vision of Burundi as an Emerging Country by 2040 and a Developed Country by 2060.

The Burundian Head of State also received the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Mr. Matthieu Ciowela, who came to bid farewell at the end of his mandate. It was

an opportunity to appreciate the leadership of the Burundian President and to underline the positive record of cooperation between the UNDP and Burundi.

Kenya's ambassador to Burundi, Mr. Daniel Wambura, was also on hand to bid farewell at the end of his term

of office.

He expressed his gratitude to the Burundian people for their warm welcome, and praised the quality of bilateral relations, reflected in the bilateral and regional cooperation agreements signed during his term of office. **(Presidency)**

## The rural development and processing company, the driving force behind mushroom cultivation in Murayi



**O**n Wednesday, June 25, 2025, the First Lady of Burundi, H.E. Angeline Ndayishimiye, made an important visit to the commune of Giheta, in Murayi, as well as to Mwaro, marking her commitment to rural development and education in the country. Accompanied by the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Madam Zhao Jiangping, she visited the Society for the Valorization of Rural Space and Transformation (SOVERT) as well as Socle du Savoir Fundamental School.

The Society for the Valorization of Rural Space and Transformation, which specializes in the cultivation, multiplication, processing and marketing of mushrooms, plays a key role in promoting local agriculture and job creation. During her visit, the First Lady of Burundi met with the Murayi Project cooperative, which benefits from SOVERT support for mushroom cultivation.

Cooperative representative Antoine Kimararungu pointed out that, thanks to the company's support, they now produce over 300 kilograms of mushrooms a day, which they sell to the company for the Valorization of Rural Space and Transformation. He expressed his

gratitude for this assistance, saying that the initiative had considerably improved the living conditions of the members, enabling them to provide for their families and contribute to local development.

The visit was part of an assessment of mushroom production in Burundi, aimed at strengthening these agricultural initiatives and encouraging the growth of sustainable agricultural sectors.

After Murayi, the delegation travelled to Mwaro to visit Socle du Savoir fundamental school on Matongo hill, founded by the Foundation Bonne Action Umugiraneza. This school benefits from support in the form of desks donated by the Chinese government, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the local foundation. The visit provided an opportunity to see the progress being made on the construction of boarding facilities, an essential step in improving access to education in this remote region.

The First Lady of Burundi and the Chinese Ambassador exchanged views with school officials and pupils, expressing their satisfaction at the progress made and their commitment to continuing these efforts to guarantee a better future for Burundi's young people.

This day of visits testifies to the commitment of the Government of Burundi and its international partners, notably China, to support local initiatives in favor of agricultural development and education. Burundi's First Lady reaffirmed the importance of strengthening these key sectors to ensure inclusive and sustainable growth for Burundi. **(RTNB)**

## ANAGESSA: focus on strategic maize management, assessment and recommendations of the National Assembly



The National Assembly devoted a significant part of its deliberations to the crucial issue of managing the production and marketing of maize, a strategic resource for Burundi. At the plenary session of June 25, 2025, the Honorable Members examined the progress made on the recommendations made on February 27, 2025 concerning the management of the maize harvest by the Agency for the Management of Food Security Stocks (ANAGESSA). The Ministers of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Mr. Prosper Dodiko, and the Minister of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism, Mrs. Marie Chantal Nijimbere, had been invited to appear before the plenary to give their views on the subject.

The National Assembly's deliberations highlight the crucial importance of strategic maize management for Burundi's food security and economic development.



The issue of maize processing was addressed, particularly in relation to brewery production. Aware of the strategic importance of exports for the national



economy, the Honorable Members nevertheless called for a balance between external imperatives and internal needs. They stressed the need to reserve a significant share of production for local consumption, especially as the State is investing in the manufacture of Burundi brewery and lemonade products. Comments were also made on the excessively sweet taste of Amstel Bright, as well as its high price, despite the fact that the corn used in its composition comes from national production.

For her part, Madame Marie Chantal Nijimbere explained the scarcity of Amstel blond beer by the maintenance operations currently underway at Brarudi, as specified in a press release issued for this purpose. She also assured us that replenishment of the local market was imminent. As for the cost of Amstel Bright, she clarified that maize constitutes only around 30% of the raw material, the rest being imported, which justifies some of the extra costs.

With regard to product quality, the President of the National Assembly suggested extending fermentation times and re-evaluating distillation processes. He also raised the possibility that the observed shortage of Amstel blond beer might be linked to a commercial desire to position the product as a reserved brand.

A particular point of attention was also raised concerning seed quality and management. The plenary expressed concern about fraudulent practices involving

the marketing of hybrid maize seed unfit for germination under the guise of certified seed, after having been coated with colored oil.

In response to these concerns, Minister Dodiko announced the establishment of a list of approved seed multipliers, to guarantee producers a reliable, quality supply.

Maize exports were also at the center of discussions. Deputies stressed the importance of involving ANAG-ESSA in the export process, in order to control flows and ensure that farmers are fairly remunerated for their production. In addition, the plenary called for rigorous planning and wide consultation when setting Maize prices, involving the administration, producers and other stakeholders in the sector. The aim is to avoid speculation and ensure a fair distribution of profits.

To improve the management of maize stocks, the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock is committed to implementing international standards, notably through the imminent acquisition of two large-capacity silos, to be installed in Bujumbura and Gitega.

The question of whether the Food Security Stock Management Agency should be attached to the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, or to the Ministry of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism, remains open and will be decided by the Government in accordance with its main mission.

Regarding the current maize stocks, the Food Security Stock Management Agency has identified around 71,000 tons, part of which (20,000 tons) is unfit for human consumption and will be used for animal feeding. A more limited quantity (500 kg) is totally deteriorated, while 15,000 tons are still stored and available. **(National Assembly)**

### UNDP Resident Representative in Burundi pays farewell visit to the Speaker of the Senate



**T**he Speaker of the Senate, the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera, received in audience the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Burundi, Mr Mathieu Ciowela, who came for a farewell visit on Tuesday June 24, 2025 to the Senate Palace in Gitega, the political capital of Burundi.

At the end of the audience, Mr. Ciowela indicated that he had presented him with a summary of the achievements of this United Nations agency during his mandate, in accompanying Burundi on its path towards de-

velopment. He said that, based on the national development plan and Burundi's vision of an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060, the United Nations Development System had drawn up a development cooperation framework for Burundi, with five priorities: the food system, which should be accessible; governance, which should promote inclusive and sustainable growth; the social protection system, which should be accessible; basic services: health, education and sanitation; the environment and climate change; and disaster risk management.

He explained that the United Nations Development Program, in consultation with government teams and various institutions, has focused its action in three directions: how to support this food system; everything to do with governance, justice, the rule of law, institutional efficiency, local development and everything to do with steering economic management, the environment, climate change and disaster risk management. **(Senate)**

## The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation celebrates Diplomatic Week, Edition 2025



**A**s part of its efforts to promote Burundi's brand image, its cultural identity and the Government's efforts to improve the well-being of the Burundian people, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation organized a Diplomatic Week 2025, from June 27 to 28, 2025, for the Heads of Diplomatic and Consular Missions and representatives of international and regional organizations, under the theme "Fruitful partnership for an emerging Burundi: economic diplomacy, the driving force behind sustainable and



inclusive development".

In his address, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Mr. Ferdinand Bashikako, who represented the Minister in these activities pointed out that since 2014, the Ministry has been organizing an annual Diplomatic Week to which the entire Diplomatic and

Consular Corps as well as Representatives of International and Regional Organizations are invited. This activity is organized as part of the strengthening of communication with Burundi's various development partners, and the latter offers participants a special moment to exchange views openly and in a relaxed atmosphere on national, regional and international issues of common interest.

This year's 2025 edition is in line with the National Development Cooperation Strategy (SNCD) adopted in August 2023, which aims for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth for all Burundians. This Strategy is itself aligned with the revised National Development Plan, as well as with the national vision of "Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060," more specifically in its fifth pillar dedicated to fruitful partnership. For him, the implementation of this noble vision is already underway, as witnessed by the contribution of certain development partners.

Given that this year's event takes place in a context marked by major institutional changes, notably the new administrative division which now provides for 5 provinces and 42 communes as opposed to 18 provinces and 118 communes previously, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation invited development partners to adapt their programs and redefine their areas of intervention to ensure an equitable geographical distribution of actions with a view to inclusion and social justice.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation ended his speech by pointing out that 2025 has been declared a reference year for the implementation of the Vision "Burundi Emerging Country by 2040 and Developed Country by 2060", while keeping in mind that the diplomatic week intends to highlight Burundi's decisive march towards achieving this noble vision through the five pillars of economic diplomacy. **(MFADC)**

## Closing of Diplomatic Week 2025: Burundi reaffirms its commitment to a strategic partnership for sustainable and inclusive development



The 10th edition of Burundi Diplomatic Week officially came to a close this Saturday, June 28, 2025 at Bugarama, marking a high point of strategic dialogue between the Burundian government and its bilateral, multilateral, regional and international partners. Organized under the theme “Fruitful partnership for an emerging Burundi: economic diplomacy as the driving force behind sustainable and inclusive development”, the two-day event brought together stakeholders from all horizons.

In his closing speech, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Mr. Ferdinand BASHIKAKO, underlined the importance of the exchanges held over the two days. He praised the partners' constant commitment to implementing projects in line with the national vision “Burundi, an emerging country by 2040 and developed by 2060”. He pointed out that the success of this vision hinges on effective coordination of cooperation actions, made possible by the adoption in August 2023 of the National Strategy for Development Cooperation (SNCD). This strategy is now supported by Joint Concertation Comity (CCC), whose activities were officially launched in February 2025.



The guided visits organized as part of the week enabled



participants to see the efforts already underway in several key sectors. At B.R.A Manufacturing SUR, a company specializing in the manufacture of plastic products (water tanks, chairs, watering cans, etc.), participants saw how local industry contributes to the daily lives of Burundians while generating sustainable employment. A visit to the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) highlighted the agricultural research and innovation efforts carried out in collaboration with institutions such as the World Bank, ADB and JICA. The aim: to develop high-yielding rice varieties that are resistant to climate change. A vital project to

boost food security and household incomes in Burundi. "Every mouth will have food, and every pocket will have money", recalled the Permanent Secretary, referring to the concrete impact expected from such initiatives.

In addition to economic projects, Burundi also presented its natural and tourism assets as major levers for development. Lake Tanganyika, the lush green landscapes, the pure air of Bugarama hills: all these natural riches deserve to be promoted as part of an integrated approach to economic diplomacy. The Permanent Secretary encouraged the recently accredited diplomats to explore Burundi's territory further, in order to better appreciate the country's tourism and ecological potential.

In a spirit of gratitude, the representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation expressed his thanks to all participants, including Ambassadors, representatives of regional and international organizations, private sector players, journalists, security forces, and all those who had



contributed to the success of this edition. Special tribute was paid to the B.R.A Manufacturing SUR and IR-RI teams, and to the local authorities for their warm welcome and cooperation. In conclusion, participants were invited to take part in the festivities marking the 64<sup>e</sup> anniversary of Burundi's independence, scheduled for July 01, 2025 at Intwari Stadium. "With these words, I declare the proceedings of the Diplomatic Week, 2025 edition, closed. Thank you."

Diplomatic Week 2025 will therefore have been an essential strategic platform for redefining the outlines of more effective, equitable and forward-looking cooperation. More than ever, Burundi reaffirms its determination to move forward with its partners, in a spirit of trust, transparency and shared benefit. (MFADC)

### Burundi: Assessment and Perspectives after a Strategic Evaluation of Projects Funded by the World Bank



**O**n Monday, June 23, 2025, the Municipality of Bujumbura was the site of a crucial step in the management of national development. The Burundian government, through the Ministry of Finance, Budget, and Economic Planning, organized a thorough evaluation of projects financed by the World Bank. This portfolio review, conducted in partnership with the beneficiary ministries, aims at enhancing the effectiveness

of the implementation of initiatives supported by this international financial institution.

The Minister of Finance, Budget, and Economic Planning, Mr. Nestor Ntahontuye, emphasized that this evaluation has allowed for a precise assessment of each project. It was found that the overall disbursement rate stands at 83% for the current year, a satisfactory figure, but one that leaves room for improvement. Some projects are at an advanced stage, demonstrating good execution, while others still face significant delays, both financially and in terms of operational progress.

Faced with these discrepancies, the Burundian government has committed to implementing a corrective roadmap. This plan includes specific recommendations aimed at addressing the observed delays and optimizing project management from the beginning of the new

budget year, scheduled for July. The objective of this evaluation was to improve the overall performance of the funded initiatives by overcoming the obstacles identified during this review.

One of the major concerns raised by Minister Ntahonye is the uncontrolled mobility of technical experts between different projects. According to him, this practice undermines the continuity of interventions and harms the stability of teams. To illustrate his point, he firmly stated: "It is not normal for an expert to leave an ongoing project to join another, leaving the first one without resources. It is like robbing Peter to pay Paul." In response, the Government has considered strengthening the regulation of personnel movements and ensuring greater stability for technical teams. This evaluation marked an important step in the reform of the management of external funding.

The Minister of Finance, Budget, and Economic Planning has promised rigorous monitoring of the adopted measures, with the aim of maximizing the impact of projects on the development of Burundi. The expressed intention is to promote a more rigorous management approach, focused on performance and the realization of results for the Burundian population.

In summary, this meeting in Bujumbura reflects the Burundian government's determination to improve the governance of its development projects. By identifying shortcomings and proposing concrete measures, it aims ensuring better use of financial resources and to provide tangible benefits for its citizens. This step marks a significant advancement towards more transparent, efficient, and sustainable development management in Burundi. (RTNB)

### Murwi: Official launch of a vaccination campaign for livestock against anthrax and nodular dermatitis



**O**n Monday, June 23, 2025, the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock officially launched a national vaccination campaign against two major cattle diseases: foot-and-mouth disease and contagious nodular dermatitis. The objective of this campaign was to prevent the spread of these diseases, which pose a serious threat to animal health as well as to the economy of Burundian farmers.

The event took place in Murwi, in Cibitoke province, in the presence of numerous stakeholders from the agricultural sector, veterinarians, and local representatives.

During this inauguration, the Director General in charge of programs within the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock, Mr. Emmanuel Niyungeko, emphasized the importance of livestock farming in the socio-economic development of Burundi. "As you know, livestock farming plays a major role in our society and our economy. It contributes to the development of farmers and also helps to feed the population through milk and meat," he stated.

He also reminded us of the interdependence between agriculture and livestock, emphasizing that "animal waste serves as organic fertilizer for our fields, which increases agricultural productivity." For him, livestock has strategic value both from a health and economic perspective.

In this context, the Burundian government has implemented several initiatives to modernize and strengthen the livestock sector, including: the construction of breeding centers to improve the quality of cattle, pigs, poultry, and rabbits; the promotion of artificial insemination to encourage the reproduction of higher quality calves; the distribution of improved animals to vulnerable families through programs such as the Regional Integrated Agricultural

Development Project in the Great Lakes (PRDAIGL); and targeted support for rabbit farming, with the goal that each household owns at least five rabbits to enhance food security and family income.

Despite these efforts, several challenges persist. Contagious nodular dermatitis and foot-and-mouth disease continue to affect several provinces, causing significant losses for farmers. At the national level, more than 520 cows have been infected with contagious nodular dermatitis, and 480 with foot-and-mouth disease, leading to a decrease in milk production, a devaluation of livestock, and considerable financial losses.

The vaccination campaign, which took place from June 23 to June 27, 2025, aims at vaccinating 68,000 cows against foot-and-mouth disease and 9,000 against contagious nodular dermatitis. The most affected provinces (Bujumbura, Bururi, Gitega, Cibitoke, and Muramvya) will receive special attention. In Cibitoke, approximately 13,000 cows will be vaccinated as part of this operation.

To ensure the success of this campaign, 202 veterinarians will be mobilized to directly intervene in rural areas and with farmers. Additionally, a symbolic contribution has been established: BIF 1,000 per vaccinated cow against contagious nodular dermatitis and BIF 2,000 against anthrax. These funds will be deposited into the public treasury to support other livestock development programs.

Similar campaigns are already scheduled in other provinces, with the goal of vaccinating more than 290,000 cows against contagious nodular dermatitis and 220,000 against anthrax by the end of next year. A new progressive vaccination strategy, tailored to each province and municipality, is also being developed to maximize vaccination coverage at the national level.

This initiative is part of the Burundian government's commitment to strengthen the resilience of the agricultural sector and ensure better animal health, which is essential for food security and sustainable development for the country. **(RTNB)**

## Burundi: Towards a Modern and Structured Agriculture



On Wednesday, June 25, 2025, the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock, in collaboration with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), organized a national workshop for the validation of the National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP) 2025-2029 at the City Hall of Bujumbura.

Result of a consultative process involving numerous

partners and stakeholders in the sector, marks a decisive step in transforming Burundian agriculture, which has long been dominated by subsistence farming, towards market-oriented production. According to the Permanent Secretary in charge of Environment, who represented the Minister at the opening of the workshop, Mr. Ir Emmanuel Ndorimana, the national agricultural investment plan serves as a framework for coordinating agricultural investments. The overall objective of this workshop was to ensure food and nutritional security, promote inclusive and sustainable growth, modernize the agricultural, livestock, and fishing sectors, while preserving the environment.

This plan is also part of a broader strategic perspective: the implementation of the National Agricultural Strategy (SAN), the Revised National Development Plan (PND 2018-2027), and the Vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and developed by 2060. The National Agricultural Investment Plan 2025-2029 is based on

five major specific objectives: increasing and diversifying agricultural and livestock production, modernizing the agricultural sector and land ownership; enhancing production and improving access to markets, strengthening the institutional capacity of sector Stakeholders, and promoting environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources.

According to Mr. Emmanuel Niyungeko, the planning officer at the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock, the National Agricultural Investment Plan is not just an action plan. It represents a true instrument for monitoring and evaluation, allowing the measurement of performance, impacts on rural communities, and the management of projects aligned with the national strategy. Several strategic sub-components will be implemented to achieve the objectives of the PNIA: the availability of quality seeds; better access to agricultural inputs; improvement of irrigation; and the promotion of climate-smart and ecologically appropriate agricultural practices in Burundi.

One of the major innovations of the plan is the creation

of agricultural outreach centers, called agropoles. These platforms will bring together various agricultural activities and play a structuring role in the value chain, promoting innovation and mechanization. "Innovation and mechanization are at the heart of this strategy. It represents a break from the subsistence agriculture we have long known," emphasized Mr. Niyungeko.

The success of this transformation also relies on training and strengthening human capacities. The Ministry has identified priority needs in agronomic research, technical skills, pastoral practices, and environmental practices. "Intellectual independence is just as important as food independence," reminded Emmanuel Niyungeko. The PNIA document proposed a five-year sectoral planning, with the gradual identification of priority sectors. This approach will allow efforts to be concentrated where the needs are most pressing, avoiding imbalances between sectors.

All stakeholders will be involved: farmers, qualified human resources, technical and financial partners. The focus is on land pooling, easier access to inputs, and joint planning of actions for greater efficiency. (RTNB)

### Towards a Multisectoral Response to Eliminate Cholera



**T**he Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS (MSPLS), through the Public Health Emergency Operations Center (COUSP), organized a crucial workshop in Bujumbura on Tuesday, June 24, 2025. The objective of this workshop was to validate the priority intervention areas for a multisectoral approach in the fight against cholera. This action was carried out in collaboration with technical and financial partners in the sector.

In his opening speech, the Representative of the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, Dr. Oscar Ntihabose, emphasized the importance of this mapping, which will now serve as a strategic compass. "If we eliminate cholera in areas where transmission is persistent, we can eradicate this epidemic," he stated.

Persistent challenges hinder the response despite efforts; several obstacles impede the response to the epidemic. Dr. Oscar Ntihabose highlighted the weak intersectoral involvement, lack of potable water, insufficient adequate latrines, the influx of Congolese refugees, and the poor usage of health infrastructure. Additionally, there is the issue of low funding for the national response plan. Dr. Liliane Nkengurutse, Director of the Public Health Emergency Operations Center, reminded that the cholera epidemic has persisted since 2023, with over 1,500 confirmed cases and 9 recorded deaths to date. A national survey has identified the most affected areas: Kinama, Buterere, Isare, Gatumba, Kabezi, Bugarama, Nyanza-Lac, and Gihofi. Dr. Nkengurutse emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach. "The fight against cholera

cannot be carried solely by the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS. It requires the mobilization of other ministries, technical partners, and the community," she stressed. She reminded the population that cholera is a dis-

ease linked to poor hygiene, thus calling on all Burundians to wash their hands regularly, improve domestic hygiene, use adequate latrines, and protect food from flies and vectors. (RTNB)

### Holding a session of the joint committees of the commissions for the sectors of transport, communication, information technology, and energy



**U**nder the leadership of the Government of Burundi and in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), a joint committee session of the commissions for the transport, communications, information technology, and energy sectors was held in Bujumbura from June 26 to 27, 2025.

The Permanent Secretary of the Minister of Commerce, Transport, Industry, and Tourism, Madam Christine Niragira, stated in her speech that this session serves as an essential preparatory phase for the fourteenth meeting of the Ministers responsible for these crucial sectors, which took place on June 27, 2025, in Bujumbura. It was an opportunity to discuss the future of developing essential infrastructure for the region. She noted that among the infrastructure programs currently submitted to this session are: the development of private sector infrastructure, the harmonization of policies and regulations, and trade facilitation, which are concepts that attract investors. She added that this session is particularly important, as the African region faces persistent and pervasive challenges that hinder collective progress.

These challenges are linked to inadequate transport and communications infrastructures, energy deficits that hamper industrial growth and household well-being, and the population's digital exclusion, she lamented.

According to Niragira, collaboration between the government, regional institutions and development partners is essential for the peaceful resolution of conflicts. On the other hand, to ensure a just and inclusive future resilient to climate change in the region that currently concerns it, she reviewed the vision of Burundi as an emerging country in 2040 and developed in 2060, from which the Republic of Burundi has undertaken initiatives in the infrastructure sector, in order to meet the challenges specific to this sector.

These initiatives relate to the transport sector, including an ongoing project to build railway to connect the port of Dar es Salaam in the Republic of Burundi with Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, she pointed out, while noting the multinational Burundi-Zambia project via transport on Lake Tanganyika. Other projects underway, she noted, include the modernization of the port of Bujumbura, and the rehabilitation, extension and modernization of Melchior Ndadaye International Airport, to improve connectivity to other countries. In the energy sector, she cited the project to build two hydroelectric power stations on the Jiji and Mulembwe rivers, which will supply 49.5 MW.

Other projects she mentioned were the Mpanda hydro power project, to build a 10.2 MW hydroelectric power station on the Mpanda river, and the Ruzizi III project, to build a 206 MW regional hydroelectric power station on the Ruzizi river. Some of the projects will involve the rehabilitation of existing networks, as Christine Niragira

pointed out. These include a project to rehabilitate medium- and low-voltage networks and extend distribution networks throughout the country; a project to build a 220 KW line linking the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Rubirizi substation, and a 120 KW line linking Makamba substation, Kigoma in Tanzania and Zège, Ngozi in Burundi.

In the same energy sector, we should mention the Nyakiriza sun project, financed by the World Bank, for the electrification of 400 schools and 400 health centers, as well as the start-up of the solar equipment market throughout the country.

In the information and communication technologies sector, Permanent Secretary Christine Niragira pointed out that the availability of Starlink satellite internet networks is crucial to the promotion of communication networks (such as mobile, wired and wireless networks) and the provision of universal information and communication technology services.

She pointed out that the recommendations to be made at this two-day session will help to chart a clear, achievable and sustainable course for the implementation of activities over the coming years, and to realize the vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. **(ABP)**

### The State Examination edition 2025, scheduled from July 8 to 11



**T**he Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research held a press briefing on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, in Bujumbura to provide an update on the preparations for the state examination, edition 2025. This examination will take place from July 8 to July 11, 2025, according to an announcement made by the Directorate of the Evaluation Office. The Ministry expressed overall satisfaction with the progress of the preparations for this state examination. It also called on teachers to intensify their support for students during these final days.

The Director of the Evaluation Office, Mr. Adrien Sabushimike, confirmed that all the necessary arrangements had been made, including the mobilization of the funds required to design the papers and hold the exam. He added that the exams are scheduled for June 27, 2025. Mr. Adrien Sabushimike took the opportunity to speak specifically to school principals and teachers, stressing the importance of preparing pupils well at this crucial time. He insisted on the need to review the entire annual program, to ensure that the exercises proposed are relevant to the subject covered, and to also explore exercises from other schools to enrich candidates' knowledge.

After announcing the award of their general humanities diplomas and certificates, he urged the students taking the exam to diligently revise the subjects studied in class.

He also advised them not to allow themselves to be distracted, in order to optimize their chances of success in this state exam, which leads to university studies. **(ABP)**

### Mutual health insurance in Burundi, a lever for social protection and inclusive development

**T**he Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights, and Gender, in collaboration with the National Confederation of Health Mutuals (CONAMUS), organized a meeting on

Wednesday, June 25, 2025, for media representatives to discuss the importance of health mutuals in social protection. This strategic initiative aims at engaging the media as partners in promoting equitable access to healthcare



for all.

In her presentation, the Director of the National Confederation of Health Mutuels (CONAMUS), Madam Béatrice Niyonzima, highlighted the numerous advantages that health mutuels bring to Burundian society. They help reduce out-of-pocket payments and unexpected health expenses, facilitate access to care, encourage households to seek medical attention without delay, and strengthen community solidarity and social cohesion.

In addition, they contribute to the extension of universal health coverage thanks to contributions adapted to the low-income population, and to the efficient use of contributions, over 79% of which are used to pay healthcare providers' bills. Despite these achievements, Mrs. Béatrice Niyonzima cited some of the major challenges holding back mass membership of mutual health insurance schemes. These include the population's lack of foresight, the still limited regulation of medical and drug costs, and the absence of legislation making membership of health insurance compulsory. Eraste Manishaka, President of the Burundi Mutual Journalists' Network, underlined his organization's mission to promote mutuality

and social protection through strategic and innovative communication.

Benoît Butoyi, Acting Director of Monitoring and Evaluation at the Permanent Executive Secretariat of the National Social Protection Commission (SEP/CNPS), reminded the audience that social protection via mutual health insurance is a pillar of health system. In his view, mutual health insurance schemes are strategic actors in strengthening national solidarity and ensuring sustainable health security. **(ABP)**

# Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

## Department of Communication

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