



Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation

Burundian President Evariste Ndayishimiye participates in the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (#TICAD9)



On Wednesday, August 20, 2025, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi, took part in the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (#TICAD9), to be held from until August 22 in Yokohama, Japan. The opening ceremony was co-chaired by the Japanese Prime Minister, His Excellency Ishiba Shigeru, and His Excellency João Lourenço, President of Angola and current Chairman of the African Union.

The Japanese-African cooperation, which exists for more than 30 years, brought together several Heads of State and Government, the Secretary General of the UN as well as various International Organizations. This edition of TICAD, under the theme "Co-creating innovative solutions with Africa", focuses on society, peace, security and economy and opens the way to more solid and pragmatic cooperation.

During the first plenary session devoted to peace and stability, co-chaired by Burundi and Japan, President Ndayishimiye recalled Burundi's active role in the stabilization of several African countries, notably the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic and Somalia, highlighting that Burundi remains an actor committed to finding sustainable solutions.

"If there is no bread, there is no peace", affirmed the Burundian Head of State, recalling the close link between peace and development. Special Envoy of the African Union to the Sahel and champion of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, he shared his country's experience, highlighting the commitment of women and young people to entrepreneurship as well as the decisive role of joint security committees in maintaining national stability.

Closing the plenary session, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of Burundi and representative of

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the African Union, reaffirmed Africa's commitment to building on a strong partnership with Japan to leverage its resources for equality for all. He also called for re-

form of the UN Security Council to strengthen the representativeness and effectiveness of international institutions. **(Presidency)**

President Ndayishimiye took part in the closing session of TICAD9 in Yokohama



This Friday, August 22, 2025, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, took part in the closing ceremonies of the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9), an event, organized in Yokohama, which brought together several African Heads of State and Government as well as strategic partners of Japan.

At the closing session, co-chaired by the Japanese Prime Minister, His Excellency Ishiba Shigeru, and the current Chairman of the African Union, His Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, emphasis was placed on the central role of youth in building a thriving future for the African continent. On this occasion, Japan reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Africa in its development efforts, particularly through innovation, training, and investment in strategic sectors. For its part, the African Union welcomed TICAD9 as an essential platform for cooperation and strengthening partnerships for socio-economic progress.

On the sidelines of this international meeting, the Burundian President had a meeting with Mr. Shinya Ishizuka, Chairman and CEO of the Africa block of Itochu, one of Japan's largest international economic operators.

This group expressed a keen interest in the Burundian coffee sector and expressed its willingness to invest in this area in order to support Burundi in the development and promotion of its coffee sector, considered a major economic lever for the country. **(Presidency)**

President Ndayishimiye strengthens cooperation with the International Youth Organization



On the sidelines of the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, recognized as "the friend of the world's youth", granted an audience, on Wednesday, August 20, 2025 in Yoko-

hama, to Dr. Reverend Ock Soo Park, founder of the International Youth Federation (IYF), originally from the Republic of Korea.

This meeting is part of a shared desire to strengthen cooperation for Burundian youth. Present for several years in many countries worldwide, the International Youth Organization has already initiated various youth projects in Burundi. During the discussions, Dr. Park recalled the actions undertaken, including training aimed at positively changing youth mentality, scholarships granting, and prospects of creating an academy in Burundi.

The Head of State welcomed these initiatives, highlighting their role in the development and empowerment of Burundian youth. He also invited the International Youth Organization to collaborate closely with the Youth Economic Empowerment and Employment Program (PAEEJ) in order to consolidate synergies and impact of the actions already undertaken. **(Presidency)**

Burundian President Increases Strategic Exchanges on the Sidelines of TICAD9 in Yokohama



Yokohama, August 21, 2025 – On the sidelines of the 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9), the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, held a series of bilateral meetings with Japanese and African officials. These high-level discussions helped consolidate cooperative relations and explore new paths of partnership for the development of Burundi and the region.

The Burundian Head of State met with Mr. Akihiko Tanaka, President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), a strategic partner of Burundi. Discussions focused on JICA's support in priority sectors such as infrastructure, transport, and health.

The Burundian President also met with His Excellency Faure Gnassingbé, President of the Council of Togo and African Union Mediator for the DRC.

Discussions focused on prospects for bilateral cooperation, and peace and security issues in the region and in the DRC.

Burundian Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye had a working lunch with a delegation of Japanese parliamentarians led by Mr. Daishiro Kamagiwa, Secretary-General of the Japan–African Union Parliamentary Friendship League.

He highlighted the investment opportunities offered by Burundi and the importance of a win-win partnership in areas such as tourism, infrastructure, education, health, and agriculture. Particular emphasis was placed on the promotion of mountain rice and the development of fish farming in Lake Tanganyika.

The Burundian Head of State, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, Special Envoy of the African Union for the Sahel, had a fruitful exchange with his Angolan Counterpart, current Chairman of the African Union, His Excellency João Lourenço. They reviewed the security situation in the Sahel and the Great Lakes Region.

His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, was received by the Japanese Prime Minister, His Excellency Ishiba Shigeru, a long-time friend of Burundi. The two leaders welcomed the excellent bilateral relations and expressed their shared desire to further strengthen them.

The Japanese Prime Minister also welcomed the socio-political maturity achieved by Burundi and warmly congratulated the Head of State for this progress and pledged to support the 2040-2060 vision. **(Presidency)**

Election of the Board of Quaestors

Honorable Chantal Barampama was unanimously elected First Quaestor of the National Assembly on the sidelines of the plenary session of Tuesday, August 19, 2025. Also unanimously elected were Honorable Jean Ciza and Honorable Médiatrice Manirakiza, respectively Second and Third Quaestors.

The audit of the National Assembly cannot be carried out by a person outside the institution. This explains the purpose of the Board of Quaestors.



Furthermore, the current Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly, in its Article 54, states that the supervision and control of administrative and financial services are entrusted to a College of three Quaestors

on behalf of the National Assembly. As for Article 55, they are elected by their peers by absolute majority. They report to the Bureau, which report is submitted for debate in plenary session. And Article 56 concludes

that an internal instruction determines the organization and operation of the Board of Quaestors as well as the benefits of its members. **(National Assembly)**

His Eminence visits the various departments of the Prince Louis Rwagasore Clinic Hospital



On Monday, August 18, 2025, His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin and his delegation paid a visit to the Prince Louis Rwagasore Clinical Hospital. This visit was enhanced by the presence of the Minister of Public Health, Doctor Lydwine Baradahana, and the Director of the Prince LOUIS Rwagasore Clinical Hospital, Doctor Bonite Havyarimana.

In his speech, the Director of the Prince Louis Rwagasore Clinical Hospital said that this visit is part of the memory of Monsignor Michael Aidan Courtney, the Irish-born Apostolic Nuncio, who was assassinated in Minago on December 29, 2003. He said that after being seriously injured, Bishop Michael Aidan Courtney was taken directly to the Prince Louis Rwagasore Clinic Hospital, where he was unfortunately operated on unsuccessfully in the intensive care unit.

As for Cardinal Pietro Parolin, it was a pleasure to meet the Minister of Health, the Director of the Prince Louis Rwagasore Clinic Hospital, the staff of this hospital and the patients who are treated there. He indicated that this visit is one of the objectives of his stay in Burundi in memory of Bishop Courtney. He also mentioned that he visited all the places of his last stop in MINAGO and commemorated his death in a great ceremony of thanksgiving. He said that it is a pleasure to be at this hospital where Bishop Courtney passed away, but also with a feeling of great sadness because the late Bishop Courtney was his friend and colleague. He pointed out that it would be desirable that his sacrifice be known as a seed that can produce fruits for the well-fare, peace and development of Burundi. Finally, he expressed his deep gratitude for what the staff of this hospital did for the late Bishop Courtney and encouraged them for this great commitment to caring for the sick.

At the end of his stay in Burundi, His Eminence blessed the Burundians and emphasized that his visit was a success and that each step remains engraved in his heart. He warmly thanked the President of the Republic, His Excellency Evariste NDayishimiye and the Government of Burundi, which was represented by the Vice-President of the Republic, His Excellency Prosper Bazombanza, for the extraordinary hospitality, without forgetting all the heads of the various institutions and all the Christian communities of Burundi for their contribution to the success of this visit. "People of Burundi, you have immense tasks before you, do not stop on the road that leads to a truly fraternal reconciliation, and the unity that will allow you to overcome the obstacles of poverty and pursue the necessary development of your country. Remain faithful to the precious assets of the noble tradition of your heritage. Keep on respecting rights of every human being for them to live free and confident in their future. Strengthen peace. "Cast all your sorrows and worries to God, Father of all love, to Christ the Savior and to the Holy Spirit of truth," he concluded. **(MAEIRCD)**

Chinese Embassy in Burundi: Reception for recipients of the Chinese Government Scholarship, 2024-2025 editions



Around seventy Burundians are preparing to continue their higher education (Master's and Doctorate) in various Chinese universities, after having benefited from scholarships offered by the Chinese Government, 2024-2025 edition. In addition, a group of military officers will go to the Middle Kingdom for the international training program.

At the reception organized by the Chinese Embassy in Burundi on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, for the recipients of the 2024-2025 Chinese scholarships, Mr. Savin Kana, Inspector General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, expressed the Burundian Government's gratitude to China for its multifaceted support, stemming from the long-standing good friendship between the two countries. Several projects already carried out by China in Burundi concern, notably, the sectors of energy, infrastructure, education, agriculture and training.

Mr. Kana also pointed out that China has always supported Burundi in training through granting scholarships and other support. "It must be noted that in addition to the efforts that the Government of Burundi continues to make to provide better education to its daughters and sons, the Government of the People's Republic of China consistently supported Burundi by granting various scholarships, training courses and workshops and each time meeting the needs of Burundi," he said. He called on these scholarship recipients to follow the courses with great attention, once they arrive in China, in order to return with sufficient background to serve their country. "Your homeland needs your skills, it expects executives who will contribute in a remarkable way to the achievement of its Vision of an emerging Burundi by

2040 and developed country by 2060," he mentioned, while welcoming the dynamism, determination and frank collaboration between the team of the Chinese Embassy in Burundi and the Ministry in charge of Foreign Affairs.

The Chinese Ambassador to Burundi, Her Excellency Mrs. Zhao Jiangping, congratulated the recipients of the Chinese scholarship and wished them a pleasant stay in China. She said that these scholarships reflect increasingly expanded human exchanges between China and Burundi. All this is in perfect harmony with the principles of the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by China, namely the interconnection of infrastructure, facilitation of trade and the rapprochement of peoples, among which people-to-people exchanges play an essential role in promoting the development of countries and strengthening people-to-people friendship. She urged them to be builders of Burundi's development and Sino-Burundian Ambassadors. She told them that they are all ambassadors between the two countries and also the future builders of national development. I hope that your stay in China will be rich in fruitful experiences to contribute to the implementation of the Vision of emergence and the development of the country.

Burundians who benefit from scholarships offered by China are called upon to concentrate on studies, in order to acquire skills that the country needs to achieve the Vision of Emergence and Development of Burundi (Vision 2040-2060). About seventy Burundians are preparing to continue their higher education (Master's and Doctorate) in different Chinese universities, after having benefited from scholarships offered by the Chinese Government, 2024-2025 edition. In addition, a group of military officers will go to the Middle Kingdom for the international training program.

It should be noted that before leaving for China, a three-day training course was organized for all those involved. They learned basic notions of the Chinese language, notions about daily life, university life, and digital life in China, while also sharing their experience with former scholarship holders, so that they could adapt as quickly as possible during their stay in the Middle Kingdom. **(Le Renouveau)**

Audience granted to the Chinese Ambassador to Burundi in the media sector: Expanding bilateral exchanges



The Minister of Communication and Media, Mr. Gabby Bugaga received in audience on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Burundi, Zhao Jiangping. They discussed how they can continue to expand bilateral exchanges in the media sector.

Chinese Ambassador to Burundi Zhao Jiangping said that China is willing to maintain regular contact to expand bilateral exchanges in the media sector. She congratulated the Minister of Communication and Media, Mr. Gabby Bugaga for his recent appointment. This audience focused on current relations between Burundi and China in the field of communication and media. They discussed how they can expand bilateral exchanges in the media sector. Ambassador Zhao

Jiangping indicated that the media play a very important role in political stability, economic and social development, reason why cooperation in this sector is important in bilateral relations. She indicated that they discussed the progress of projects already completed. "We decided to evaluate, together, some projects already implemented. For example, the project to provide access to television in rural areas, in villages, which was carried out two years ago, so that the local population can have information on what is happening in the world," she said.

They also discussed capacity building for employees working in the media sector in Burundi. Ms. Jiangping noted that China organizes bilateral and multilateral workshops in the media sector every year. She pledged that this type of training would be more selective. She also added that China provides scholarships. For this year 2025, almost 62 Burundians have benefited from this scholarship.

Her Excellency Ambassador Zhao Jiangping stated that China is currently conducting a three-day training program for young people who are about to begin their academic studies. She indicated that in the future, this type of exchange will be strengthened, as will the training of human resources. She stated that they are willing to maintain regular contact, to expand bilateral exchanges in the media sector. **(Le Renouveau)**

Burundi's port strategy aligned with the country's development vision

The Maritime and Port Authority of Burundi (AMPB) organized a strategic exchange meeting on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, in Bujumbura, with various partners operating in the country's ports, particularly that of Bujumbura. The objective was to conduct a collective self-assessment of the services offered and ensure that the services provided are in line with national development guidelines.

In his opening speech, Mr. Egide Nijimbere, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Infrastructure, Social Housing, Transport and Equipment, stressed the importance of this meeting. He specified that this initiative aims to verify the alignment of port activities



with national policy documents, notably the National Development Plan and the Vision "Burundi Emerging Country by 2040 and Developed Country by 2060", given that the port of Bujumbura has a strategic position in trade,

import-export with neighboring countries.

The participants of the meeting took the opportunity to assess the implementation of their respective specifications. They recognized the need to improve the quality of services offered to port users and to strengthen coordination between the various stakeholders.

At the end of the discussions, several commitments were made, notably the extension of working hours at the port of Bujumbura: from September 1st, 2025 the port will close at 8 p.m. instead of 5 p.m., in order to increase productivity and better meet the needs of economic operators.

Ms. Godelieve Nininahazwe, the Director General of AMPB, affirmed that the teams are already working to reorganize working hours, to quickly implement this new strategy. She emphasized that it is impera-

tive that all AMPB partners to intensify their efforts, to raise the port to the level of neighboring countries' ports. This will contribute to implementing the Vision of an emerging Burundi by 2040 and developed by 2060. During his speech, Mr. Egide Nijimbere returned to four strategic axes considered essential for the harmonious development of port infrastructure: The institutional setup of port structures, planning and regulation of the sector, maintenance and carrying out of necessary works, and the management and ongoing improvement of the services offered.

The meeting ended on a note of collective commitment. All stakeholders expressed their willingness to collaborate closely in order to modernize the port of Bujumbura and position it as a pillar of regional economic integration. (RTNB)

Ngozi Commune: Thirty-eight repatriated families benefited from sheets of metal



In collaboration with the UNHCR Burundi (High Commission for Refugees), the Ministry of the Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security distributed shelter kits to returnees from Ngozi commune in Butanyerera province on Wednesday, August 20, 2025. The items were sheets of metal, nails and money for labor the carpenter. In total, thirty-eight families benefited from this aid. They are urged not to sell these sheets of metal, but to use them to cover the roofs of their houses.

Each household received twenty-four sheets of metal, two kilos of nails and an amount of money to serve as labor for the carpenter. On behalf of the supervising minister, Mr. Jules Bagayimpunzi, head of the General Directorate responsible for repatriation, resettlement and reintegration of returnees in

the northern region, recommended to the beneficiaries not to sell the sheets of metal they were assisted with; but rather use them to cover the roofs of their houses. They will also benefit from doors and windows for their houses. For him, this activity is part of supporting the returnees, in order to allow them to live in decent houses but also, to accompany them in development activities. He urged the beneficiaries to get involved in income-generating activities, to group together more in cooperatives and to mobilize those who remained in exile, so that they can return home, because he explains, home is always home. Mr. Bagayimpunzi exhorted them to contribute to developing the country.

These beneficiaries came from different localities, including ten from the Gashikanwa area, fourteen from Nyamurenza, two from Busiga, seven from Mwumba and five from the Ngozi area. They thanked the Burundian Government for its support since their return to the country. They also welcomed the initiative to support them to get decent houses. They also thank their neighbors because they live together peacefully and share activities of common interest. They call on Burundians who still in exile not to listen to rumors and messages that tarnish the image of the country, but to return to the country. (Le Renouveau)

Bujumbura : strategic reunion of administrators



On August 19, 2025, the Governor of the Province of Bujumbura, Mr. Aloys Ndayikengurukiye called on the local authorities to safeguard peace and security, which remains a priority, particularly in Cibitoke, a border commune with

the DRC, a country at war. He called for staying alert and keeping social cohesion to protect the population.

The Governor of Bujumbura urged the administrative staff to stand by the citizens so that they can work safely without being harmed or treated unfairly. Mr. Aloys Ndayikengurukiye, Governor of Bujumbura, made a firm appeal to communal administrators: "No one should enrich themselves to the detriment of the State." They are invited to break with the practices of illicit appropriation and ensure transparent management of public funds, he stressed.

He reminded the administrators that communes must work hand in hand to achieve the country's vision towards emergence by 2040 and development by 2060. He recommended a strong collaboration with the security force to stop certain worrying cases such as cases of people building during the night, night flights in order to protect the general interest and guarantee fairness to each citizen. (RTNB)

Burunga Province: Regional restitution workshop between the CNIDH and key actors in the criminal justice system



The National Independent Human Rights Commission (CNIDH) is organizing, from August 21 to 22, 2025 in Nyanza -Lac in the province of Burunga , a restitution workshop with key actors in the criminal justice system on irregularities in detention and the handling of torture cases. Mgr Martin Blaise Nyaboho , president of the CNIDH, said that this workshop is part of a series of meetings and debates that the CNIDH organizes for the various stakeholders in criminal justice system.

The objective is to jointly assess the general human rights situation; to discuss on irregularities often ob-

served in detention; and to contribute to the establishment of a healthy, effective justice system that more respects the human rights.

For the president of the CNIDH, it is also an opportunity to discuss on the strategy for handling cases related to the repression of acts of torture. "As everyone knows, the fight against torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is also a mission legally assigned to the CNIDH. It is in this context that the CNIDH, from April 14 to 16, 2025, conducted a mini-investigation on the repression of acts of torture by the Burundian judicial services; which is in accordance with point 3 of article 4 of the law governing the CNIDH," he continued.

This workshop, he adds, is an opportunity of exchanging with the actors in the criminal justice system the imperfections that the CNIDH noted during its visits, and expressing on them without fear and to formulate achievable recommendations.

The CNIDH noted with satisfaction that efforts are being made in the compilation and transmission of physical files to the appropriate authorities. "Yes, cases of torture are, at least, brought before the competent courts. However, the speed or celerity in the processing of these files are too slow," he emphasized. The CNIDH wants those in-

volved in the criminal justice system to be more respectful of the fundamental rights of detainees and to take the lead in applying procedures that comply with the relevant provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Mgr Nyaboho emphasized that the CNIDH expects from this restitution workshop, frank exchanges, solid suggestions, recommendations, as well as firm commitments, to lead to the correction of bad practices, the regularization of irregular files, the systematic respect of the rights of detainees and the speed of all procedures related to acts of torture.

The president of the CNIDH noted that many of the inmates in the cells visited were under 40, meaning they were of working age. He believes this represents a major problem for the country's development

because, according to him, these people should be working, not staying in cells and consuming without producing. According to him, to achieve the country's 2040-2060 vision, respect for human rights must be a priority, as we cannot talk about the country's development without respecting human rights. He concluded that criminal justice actors must understand that their role is to protect the population and promote respect for human rights.

It should be noted that this workshop was attended by the prosecutor, judicial police officers, prison and dungeon officials, local administration and members of the justice system working in the province of Burunga . (Le Renouveau)

The social solidarity economy for sustainable development



The Rector of the University of Lake Tanganyika, Prof. François-Xavier Mureha, officially launched a two-day scientific conference organized by the Center for Interdisciplinary Analysis and Research on the Development of the Great Lakes Region (CARID-RGL) on Thursday, August 21, 2025. The theme chosen is: "Social solidarity economy and solidarity organizations in Burundi: foundations, challenges and perspectives."

In his speech, Prof. Mureha stated that this theme was proposed by CARID-RGL as part of strengthening democratic and participatory governance, as well as the environment to overcome challenges that hinder sustainable economic development. According to him, the sub-theme: "the philosophical foundations of the Social Solidarity Economy (SSE)" seeks to understand the challenges of this economy which are ecological, social and economic sustainability; ethical responsibility and sustainable development; as well as freedom and justice. He emphasized that a formal

economy must be established to address the problem of the SSE in Burundi.

During the presentations, the panelists highlighted good governance as a solution to understanding the SSE. They indicated that consequences, such as market failure and the failure of public policies, hinder integral development. To address them, they proposed, performance-based governance is needed to improve the economy for all.

The panelists clarified that other objections analyzed relate to issues expressed by Burundian women who are in the informal economy. They remain in this informality due to widespread poverty, patriarchal norms, and limited access to formal opportunities.

On this topic, Emmanuel Niyungeko, the speaker, indicated that the major challenges of this informal economy include low economic freedom, low empowerment of rural women and low access to self-employment, vulnerability to discrimination and non-participation in decision-making. According to him, the solution approaches consist of strengthening laws on women's rights and their implementation, promoting education and formal opportunities, and combating socio-cultural norms that limit women's economic autonomy.

Responding to these grievances, Professor Mureha suggests that we must think about balanced and inclusive development; the establishment of a judicial and institutional framework as well as rights protection for the vulnerable, in order to strengthen the social-solidarity economy based on cooperation, communication, culture and climate resilience. (ABP)

Gishubi Commune: Community solidarity for vulnerable children education



On Wednesday, August 20, 2025, the Administrator of the Commune of Gishubi, in the province of Gitega, Mr. Appolinaire Baryana said school dropout rates must be reduced. Thousands of vulnerable schoolchildren in the commune received essential school supplies for their return to school. This gesture illustrates the value of "Umwana si uwumwe," according to which every child belongs to the community and deserves equal opportunities for education.

The communal administrator of Gishubi, Appolinaire Baryana, welcomed this community dynamic before announcing new firm measures to stop school drop-

outs in the commune. "All children in Gishubi must go to school," he insisted, emphasizing the importance of inclusive education. He specified that the Child Protection Committees (CPE) at the local level will now be activated and responsible for submitting a monthly report on cases of dropout and the risks of school exclusion. Mr. Baryana also urged the population to join the "Nawe N' Uze" community solidarity groups, in order to strengthen community solidarity and identify children in need of school supplies. He also warned that sanctions will be imposed to irresponsible parents who neglect their children's education. The communal administrator reaffirmed his willingness to work hand in hand with solidarity groups and local child protection structures. "Together, we must reduce school dropout rates and build a better future for our children," he concluded.

Gishubi commune recently hosted the official launch of the distribution of school kits for orphans and other vulnerable children. The initiative is led by the "Nawe N' Uze" community solidarity groups, created by the FVS-Amie des Enfants association to strengthen community support for needy children. **(Le Renouveau)**

Farmers in the Kiriba zone are reassured about the distribution of urea fertilizer



On August 22, 2025, some farmers in the Kiriba zone in Gitega commune said they haven't received urea fertilizer, even though they have paid the balance. They say they sometimes see fertilizers in stock at the fertilizer distributor of the FOMI factory in this area.

The head of FOMI fertilizer distribution in Kiriba, Mr. Gasunzu Evariste, does not deny that there are complaints. However, he said there is misunderstanding. For him, the lack of urea is widespread throughout the

country and the ministry responsible for agriculture has recommended that fertilizer distributors prioritize the disposal of arrears dating from previous years until the 2025 B growing season, known as impeshi. Mr. Gasunzu Evariste said that those who are complaining are farmers who have fertilizer tickets for the C growing season. He took this opportunity to clarify that the urea currently in stock is intended for those who did not receive their share of fertilizers last year. Mr. Gasunzu Evariste thus emphasized that no one has yet received the fertilizer for the current campaign, but that the tickets are being collected for organized distribution. He called on farmers to remain patient, reassuring that the Government is sparing no effort to ensure supplies, and that fertilizer will be available soon. He said the high demand for fertilizer observed in this area, pushing stocks to run out very quickly, is due to the many farmers from surrounding areas including Mubuga, Mugera and Shombo who get their supply on site.

The Leader of Kiriba zone, Mr. Josias Niyokindi, for his part, reassured of good management of Urea fertilizer despite the delays. He affirmed that the local administration closely monitors the distribution of fertilizers although

Urea fertilizer (Totahaza) was not available in sufficient quantity this year and last year. This caused arrears for seasons A and B. That is why it was decided to prioritize the disposal of these arrears before serving farmers who paid for season C. He specified that other types of fertilizers are sufficiently available and that the beneficiaries receive them according to the tickets presented. Mr. Niyokindi suggested to those who are impatient, to remain confident, emphasizing that the Government is doing eve-

rything possible to find the solution to this issue. He urged farmers to submit their tickets to the distribution manager for them to be served as soon as the stocks are available.

Residents interviewed say they appreciate the transparency in distribution, but fear that their crops in marshy areas, which require urea, will be negatively affected. This could significantly reduce harvests if they do not receive fertilizer quickly. (ABP)

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