



President Ndayishimiye continues to support entrepreneurial initiatives

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On Friday, September 12, 2025, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye, visited a field of more than 15,000 HASS avocado trees, grown on 11

hectares, belonging to a young farmer, Mr. Elias Kwizera, in Gitega Province, Shombo commune, on Nyarurambi hill.

He also visited Mugogo Hill in Shombo, to encourage the Honorable Serge Ndayisenga, a model farmer. The latter operates a modern field of more than 35 hectares, where he multiplies potato and corn seeds, employing women's hill cooperatives.

Leading by example, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye,

and the First Lady of Burundi, Her Excellency Mrs. Angeline Ndayishimiye, harvested their model field of tomatoes grown in a 90 m² greenhouse using drip irrigation techniques. This inspiring project is expected to yield between 5 and 6 tons.

The Presidential Couple also visited their greenhouse cabbage field. This agricultural project is part of His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye's initiative to encourage the population, through practical experience, to promote modern techniques that yield good results on small areas of land, in all seasons. **(Presidency)**

President Ndayishimiye officially introduced the new communal administrator of Shombo



The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye, officially introduced the new Administrator of Shombo commune, Mr. Rénovat Ndayikengurutse, on Friday, September 12, 2025, at the Muhororo hill ground, in front of a large crowd from all areas of the commune located in the Gitega province.

On this occasion, the Burundian Head of State gave moral guidance to the population, emphasizing the preservation of peace, the foundation of development, and the commitment of every citizen to building family and community cohesion, in order to work in synergy for the Vision of Burundi as an emerging country by

2040 and a developed country by 2060, around their administrative leader.

President Ndayishimiye recalled that peace had been hard won and that every citizen must preserve it for the benefit of each individual in particular and the nation as a whole.

"When there is peace, development follows," said the Burundian leader, citing the example of the famine that once ravaged the commune commonly known as Nzoba ndambara, which no longer exists because the population understood that they had to roll up their sleeves and get

to work in the fields, he added.

"Divisions have caused us to lose time, but fortunately things have changed," said the Burundian President, citing the example of when an individual was promoted, the population would ask what ethnicity he was. But today, people ask about his knowledge and abilities.

He ended his speech by inviting the new Administrator to greet the audience and give them his phone number so that he could work in harmony with the citizens of his commune, just as a commander enlightens and guides his battalion, said President Ndayishimiye. **(Presidency)**

President Ndayishimiye returns to Burundi from Malabo in Equatorial Guinea



The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye, returned to Burundi on Monday, September 8, 2025, from Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, where he took part in the 7th extraordinary session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

The Deputy Spokesperson for the President of the Republic of Burundi, Mr. Sébastien Ntahongendera, stated that the main objective of this session was to establish the governing bodies of the ECCAS Commission. On this occasion, Ambassador Dr. Ezéchiel Nibigira was elected President of the Commission. He is an experienced man with a thorough understanding of issues relating to African integration in general and the Economic Community of Central

African States in particular, Sébastien Ntahongendera emphasized.

Mr. Sébastien Ntahongendera said that the election of Ambassador Dr. Ezéchiel Nibigira reflects the international community's recognition of the efforts of the Burundian people, led by the Burundian President, who is currently Deputy Chair of the African Union and Chair-in-Office of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Special Envoy of the African Union for the Sahel and Champion of African Union Youth and the Fight Against Hunger, through his food empowerment policy. He emphasized that this appointment is an important step in strengthening Burundi's role on the international stage and demonstrates its willingness to make a significant contribution to major regional and African issues.

The Deputy Spokesperson for the President of the Republic of Burundi stated that, on the sidelines of this conference, the Burundian President held talks with his counterpart from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, His Excellency Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo. Their discussions focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation, as well as on issues of interest to the sub-region, in particular their respective initiatives for resolving conflicts in the Great Lakes region in general, and in the Democratic Republic of Congo in particular, through dialogue. (RTNB)

Senators are called upon to familiarize themselves with the content of the Constitution in order to better fulfill their mission



The Speaker of the Senate, the Right Honorable Gervais Ndirakobuca, his two Deputy Speakers, Honorable Générose Ngen-

danganya and Honorable Clotilde Kampimbare, senators and certain Senate officials gathered in Ngozi in the province of Butanyerera from September 11 to 12, 2025, for a capacity-building workshop on legislative procedure, oversight of government action, the role of senators in decentralization policy, and ethics and professional conduct for parliamentarians and parliamentary officials.

In his opening speech, Senate Speaker Gervais Ndirakobuca urged senators to familiarize themselves with the Burundian Constitution in order to better fulfill their mission. He also emphasized the importance of everyone respecting the law. After the lectures given

by various experts, the participants raised their questions and concerns related to the grievances of the population during the visits, the Senate's strategic plan, the rights and duties of senators, and many other issues.

In his closing remarks, the Speaker of the Senate emphasized that the training was of crucial importance and paved the way for research aimed at sharpening knowledge in order to serve the population with courage and kindness. He continued by thanking all those

from all walks of life who had contributed to the success of the workshop.

Moreover, the Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament told the training participants that the results of the workshop were expected immediately, while emphasizing that the law is the sole support and bulwark of all elected representatives of the people. The Speaker of the Senate also offered valuable advice to all workshop participants. **(Senate)**

Entrepreneurship, a new weapon for peace in Central Africa



On Thursday, September 11, 2025, the Ombudsman Institution of the Republic of Burundi, in partnership with the non-governmental organization (NGO) International Alert, organized a regional workshop in Bujumbura for young entrepreneurs from several Central African countries to reflect and exchange experiences. The theme of the workshop was "Entrepreneurship as a lever for promoting the Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda in Central African countries." The workshop provided a unique platform for dialogue, sharing, and the development of joint projects among young entrepreneurs.

In her opening address, Burundian Ombudsman Mrs Aimée Laurentine Kanyana commended the Government of Burundi and its technical and financial partners for their ongoing efforts to empower young people and women. She emphasized that youth play a central role in strategies for peacebuilding and inclusive development.

"This workshop should be an opportunity for you, young people, to share your experiences, exchange

best practices, and lay the foundations for joint projects. As Ombudsman and Mediator institutions, we will continue to make your voices heard by decision-makers so that your aspirations are translated into concrete actions," she reassured them.

For her part, the Minister of Youth, Sports, and Culture, Mrs Lydia Nsekera, pointed out that more than 65% of Burundi's population is made up of young people. She emphasized that this human capital is at the heart of Burundi's vision of becoming an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060, an ambitious roadmap towards sustainable and inclusive development.

The Minister emphasized that entrepreneurship should not only be seen as a means of creating jobs, but also as a strategic tool for conflict prevention and peace promotion. "Young people must be both job creators and ambassadors for peace. Through your businesses and initiatives, demonstrate that entrepreneurship is a powerful lever for strengthening regional cooperation, preventing tensions, and building a stronger and more united Central Africa," she said. The young participants, who came from Burundi, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, i.e., from the subregion, took part in interactive panels, group work, and experience-sharing sessions.

Discussions focused in particular on the challenges of entrepreneurship in Central Africa: lack of access to finance, administrative burdens, political instability and insecurity in certain areas, and insufficient technical and managerial training.

The solutions proposed were: the development of regional incubators, the establishment of mutual funds for young

entrepreneurs, technical and legal support, and the strengthening of public-private partnerships, the contribution of young entrepreneurs to peace and security: promoting youth employment to reduce poverty and vulnerability to political manipulation, creating cross-border projects that foster economic and social cooperation, and engaging young people as community mediators through their initiatives.

One of the highlights of the workshop was the young people's desire to set up a regional network of young entrepreneurs for peace. This network will serve as a platform for ongoing exchanges, the incubation of innovative ideas, and advocacy with governments and regional organizations.

Working in groups, the young people also presented the challenges they face and proposed several pilot projects ranging from sustainable agribusiness to the digital economy, renewable energy, and cross-border trade. These initiatives aim to demonstrate in

concrete terms that entrepreneurship is not only a source of income but also an instrument of stability and social cohesion.

The workshop concluded with a statement by the young entrepreneurs calling for increased support from governments and technical and financial partners, the creation of regional financing mechanisms adapted to the realities of African youth, the promotion of entrepreneurship and active citizenship education programs, and the establishment of cross-border cooperation initiatives to strengthen peace and stability.

This meeting thus laid solid groundwork for a Central Africa where young people, namely young Burundians, Rwandans, and Congolese, are called upon to be both agents of development and pillars of peace and security. (RTNB)

Strengthening bilateral relations: Burundi and Saudi Arabia reaffirm their shared commitment to cooperation



As part of efforts to strengthen diplomatic ties between the Republic of Burundi and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Édouard BIZIMANA, granted an audience on September 12, 2025, to His Excellency Mr. Yahya Ahmed Okeish, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accredited to Burundi, with residence in Dar es Salaam.

This meeting, marked by courtesy and cordiality, allowed the Saudi Ambassador to convey the warm

congratulations of His Highness Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to his Burundian counterpart on his recent appointment as head of Burundian diplomacy, as well as his wishes for every success in the exercise of his duties. He also expressed the Kingdom's willingness to work closely with Burundi in a spirit of mutually beneficial cooperation.

Discussions focused on several topics of mutual interest, including strengthening bilateral relations in strategic areas. Both sides emphasized the importance of continuing coordination and mutual support in international forums, where solidarity between states is essential to defending shared interests. The follow-up to the commitments made at the economic roundtable held in Bujumbura on December 5 and 6, 2024, was also discussed, with both diplomats agreeing to maintain an active dialogue on the concrete follow-up to this initiative. (MFARIDC)

Burundi strengthens its diplomatic presence in the DRC with a major real estate project



As part of the implementation of the strategic vision "Burundi: an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060," an important Memorandum of Understanding was signed in Bujumbura on September 12, 2025, an important memorandum of understanding was signed between the Government of Burundi, represented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Édouard BIZIMANA, and the company AFRIK'ASSISTANCE, represented by its manager, Mr. Yves KANKWENDA MPIANA/

This memorandum of understanding, accompanied by a roadmap, seals a strategic partnership for the construction of a modern diplomatic building with 11 floors above ground and one basement level, intended to host the Chancellery of the Embassy of Burundi in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. The project will be established on the plot currently occupied by the existing chancellery, in accordance with the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two parties.

This act is fully in line with the strategic objectives of Vision 2040-2060: in particular:

- strengthening international partnerships;
- affirming the State's political commitment;
- and improving logistics infrastructure.

By equipping itself with a modernized diplomatic infrastructure that is better adapted to contemporary requirements, Burundi is demonstrating its political determination while consolidating its presence and diplomatic influence in the region. Beyond the real estate aspect, this project also represents an important step in strengthening the country's economic sovereignty. By investing in its own infrastructure abroad, Burundi asserts its independence while ensuring the efficient management of its diplomatic interests.

This project also reflects a firm commitment to strengthening friendly relations and cooperation with the host country, the Democratic Republic of Congo. It reflects mutual recognition of shared strategic interests and opens the way for new opportunities for collaboration between the two nations.

In short, the signing of this memorandum of understanding marks a significant step forward in Burundian diplomacy, in perfect coherence with the ambitious vision of the State of Burundi, under the enlightened guidance of His Excellency Mr. Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, President of the Republic of Burundi, for the decades to come. **(MFARIDC)**

Assessment of mining cooperatives' commitments

On Monday, September 8, 2025, the Burundian Mining Office (OBM) organized a meeting for stakeholders in the mining sector to assess compliance with the commitments made on March 25, 2025, during a meeting with the Head of State. On that day, mining cooperatives had committed to supplying a specified quantity of minerals each month.

According to the Director General of OBM, Mr. Qesnay de Jésus AKABAHINGA, some cooperatives have

honored their commitments, even exceeding expectations, while others have been unable to meet them, with some producing absolutely nothing. Explaining this situation, the Director General of OBM said that it was due to technical problems and financing obstacles. He nevertheless assured that the State is ready to support the courageous cooperatives that lack the means to achieve their objectives.

This evaluation meeting was attended by the Minister of Finance, Budget, and Digital Economy, Mr. Alain Ndiku-



mana, and the Minister of Mineral Resources, Energy, Industry, Trade, and Tourism, Dr. Hassan

Kibeya. The Minister responsible for finance urged the cooperatives to redouble their efforts, pointing out that BIF 130 billion of the state budget for the current year must come from the mining sector.

For his part, Minister Kibeya promised to do everything possible to facilitate increased production, stressing that mining is set to play a key role in the country's emergence and development. Finally, the Director General of the Burundian Mining Office specified that this type of assessment will now be carried out at least once a month in order to regularly monitor production trends. (RTNB)

Burundi signs three grant agreement



On Tuesday, September 9, 2025, the Minister of Finance, Budget, and Digital Economy, Mr. Alain Ndikumana, signed three grant agreements totaling US\$14 million, or approximately 43 billion Burundian francs.

These agreements were concluded with the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), represented by Pascal Yembiline, the World Health Organization (WHO), represented by Issa Diallo, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), represented by France Bégin.

At the end of the ceremony, Minister Alain Ndikumana explained that this funding will enable the implementation of a project to support public finance reforms. The project will focus in particular on the digitization of public services, capacity building for ministry officials, assistance to victims of the recent floods on Lake Tanganyika, and improving their living conditions. He emphasized that WHO and UNICEF will play a key role in the implementation of these projects, particularly in the areas of healthcare and the protection of vulnerable populations. He reiterated that a healthy population is an essential pillar of national development.

According to the Minister, the signing of these memoranda of understanding strengthens the excellent relations between the Government of Burundi, the African Development Bank, the World Health Organization, and the United Nations Children's Fund. It is fully in line with Burundi's vision of becoming an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060, which aims at consolidating strategic partnerships with development partners. (RTNB)

Burundi: a national call to support breastfeeding

On Monday, September 8, 2025, Burundi officially launched World Breastfeeding Week in Bujumbura, celebrated from September 8 to 12, 2025. Organized under the theme "Prioritize breastfeeding, create sustainable support systems," this initiative aims at raising public awareness of the crucial importance of breastfeeding for

the health of children, mothers, and national development.

During the opening ceremony, the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Public Health, Dr. Olivier Nijimbere, reiterated that exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months of life is essential. "Breast milk is a



complete food that ensures harmonious growth, strengthens the immune system, and promotes intellectual development,” he said. He emphasized the direct link between good infant health and sustainable development. To ensure an environment conducive to breastfeeding, the Ministry of Public Health calls for: better support for mothers in institutions and businesses; continuing education for health personnel; the creation of community support groups; and the adoption of appropriate labor and social protection policies.

The Burundian government has already implemented certain measures: mothers are entitled to 49 days of maternity leave before and after giving birth, two hours of breastfeeding breaks during the first six months, and one hour of breastfeeding per day during the following six months.

In addition, partnerships have been established with

organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to support awareness campaigns and support for young mothers.

According to data shared at the ceremony: 89% of children were breastfed within one hour of birth; 83% were exclusively breastfed for up to six months; 85% are still breastfed for up to two years or more. However, the situation is worrying in Bujumbura, where less than 60% of infants are exclusively breastfed for up to six months. The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Public Health, Dr. Olivier Nijimbere, stressed the urgency of intensifying efforts in urban areas, where practices tend to deviate from recommendations.

He called for the mobilization of families, health professionals, decision-makers, technical and financial partners, stating that they are called upon to play their part in ensuring that every child has a healthy start in life. “Supporting breastfeeding means protecting life,” he insisted.

The women of “Onsa Neza Impact” association shared powerful testimonials about their breastfeeding experiences and committed to supporting other mothers. They were honored for their involvement. Information sessions will continue in several health facilities and public places in the capital, including Kamenge military hospital, Prince Louis Rwagasore Clinic, and even in the large markets of Bujumbura. (RTNB)

Province of Bujumbura: Burundi celebrates African Traditional Medicine Day



knowledge in the field of health. This year's theme was “Strengthening the evidence base for traditional medicine.” It was a solemn occasion for authorities, practitioners, and partners to reaffirm their commitment to better regulating, understanding, and integrating traditional medicine into health systems.

The Director General of Healthcare Provision and Accreditation at the Ministry of Public Health, Mr. Oscar Ntihabose, emphasized the need to preserve and pass on this knowledge to future generations. He proposed documenting the various methods and practices used in traditional medicine in writing so that future generations can benefit from this cultural and therapeutic heritage.

On Thursday, September 11, 2025, Burundi celebrated African Traditional Medicine Day, an annual event that honors ancestral

As for the representative of the World Health Organization (WHO), Mr. Alexis Niyomwungere, he praised the efforts made by the Ministry of Public Health to promote traditional medicine while ensuring patient safety. He reiterated the World Health Organization's willingness to support the country in its efforts to harmonize, research, and document traditional practices.

The representative of the Governor of Bujumbura, Mrs. Micheline Bigirimana, also emphasized the importance of this medical heritage in rural communities. "Traditional medicine remains, for a large part of the population, the first resort in the face of illness, hence it is important to better structure it."

On the practitioners' side, Mr. Nikora Jothan, representative of Burundi Traditional Practitioners' Associ-

ations, presented an overview of developments in the sector. Since obtaining ministerial approval in 2018, the association has grown from 521 to 2,631 members. In addition, 4,210 shops selling traditional medicine products are now registered across almost the entire country. This significant growth demonstrates the vitality of the sector, but also raises challenges in terms of regulation and training.

This day is an opportunity to remind ourselves that traditional African medicine is not simply a relic of the past, but a living treasure that is still widely used and deserves scientific and institutional recognition. Strengthening the evidence base through research, documentation, and rigorous evaluation of practices is an essential step toward ensuring its harmonious integration into public health. The official ceremony, rich in exchanges and advocacy, brought together several key figures and institutions. **(Le Renouveau)**

The amounts allocated to the MERANKABANDI project questioned by beneficiaries



On Tuesday, September 9, 2025, in the provincial capital, the Chief of Staff to the Governor of Buhumuza Province, Mr. Salvador Bigirimana, launched the accompanying measures for the project to support productive social safety nets and employment (MERANKABANDI). During the workshop, the project's executive coordinator, Mr. Michel Nyabenda, indicated that each beneficiary receives a bi-monthly allowance of 72,000 Burundian francs under this program, which has been extended to all hills. However, several participants pointed out that this amount remains insufficient, given the current cost of living, which continues to rise.

He acknowledged this concern, while reassuring participants that solutions are being explored to improve the situation. Despite these difficulties, the results of the project since its launch in 2017 at the national level are encouraging. Thanks to this financial support, some beneficiaries have been able to build decent homes and improve their quality of life.

In his speech, the Governor's Chief of Staff, Mr. Salvador Bigirimana, called on project managers to step up awareness campaigns. He stressed the importance of directing these funds toward income-generating and household development activities, rather than toward unnecessary expenses such as alcohol consumption.

According to him, the main objective is to positively transform the lives of vulnerable people. It should be noted that this project, supported by the World Bank, initially granted 40,000 Burundian Francs every two months before increasing this allowance to 72,000 Burundian Francs for the same period. **(ABP)**

Public-Private Partnership, a strong commitment to sustainable development



On Tuesday, September 9, 2025, in Gitega province, the Agency for the Support of Public-Private Partnership Contracts (ARCP) launched an information and training workshop for lawyers from ministries and public institutions on the tools and mechanisms of public-private partnerships (PPPs).

Regarding the legal framework and the government's ambitions, the Director of the Agency for the Support of Public-Private Partnership Contracts, Mrs Jeanne d'Arc Igrimabazi, indicated in her opening speech that the Government of Burundi, in its quest for sustainable development and a competitive economy, has chosen to promote public-private partnerships as an essential lever for the management of infrastructure and public services. To this end, a specific legal and institutional framework has been put in place, notably through Law

No. 1/14 of April 27, 2015, revised by Law No. 1/19 of July 19, 2019, in order to better regulate public-private partnership contracts and ensure transparency, competitiveness, and efficiency.

According to the Director of the Agency for the Support of Public-Private Partnership Contracts, the main objective of this workshop is to strengthen the capacities of state legal executives by enabling them to better understand: the fundamentals of PPPs, their legal and institutional framework, best practices in contract structuring and negotiation, and their role as representatives of the contracting authority. The Director of the ARCP, Mrs. Jeanne d'Arc Igrimabazi, emphasized that despite the existence of this legal framework, several challenges remain: a lack of knowledge of procedures among certain public actors and a weak capacity to identify projects eligible for PPPs, hence the importance of this type of workshop.

Addressing the participants directly, the Director of ARCP invited them to become relays for this training within their respective ministries, thereby contributing to the effective implementation of national planning tools and the realization of Burundi's vision of becoming an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. The workshop is therefore part of a drive to professionalize public action and mobilize the private sector for inclusive and sustainable development. (RTNB)

Palm oil processing industries must pay tax to the OBR



The Burundi Revenue Authority (OBR) is calling on owners of palm oil processing industries located in the commune of Bubanza (north-west of Burundi) to comply with current tax legislation, in particular by paying income tax on Tuesday 9 September 2025, during an awareness-raising session organized for them.

During this session, OBR officials informed the owners of these small industries that they are now required to pay income tax to the OBR, as well as an operating licence to the Palm Oil Office (OHP), in accordance with the new tax provisions.

However, those affected have expressed concerns about these new requirements. In particular, they cite difficulties related to their limited ability to pay, due to the scarcity of fuel needed to operate the generators they use. They also complain that the taxes are excessive. For example, they cited the obligation to pay a tax of 2,000 Burundian Francs per can of palm oil and an annual tax of 100,000 Burundian Francs to the municipality and 200,000 Burundian Francs per year to the Palm Oil Office.

Some of them fear they will have to cease their activities, claiming that they are operating at a loss. Others have already converted their production units into piggeries or are practicing beekeeping. They are asking the competent authorities to review the tax legislation to take account of their economic reality.

For their part, OBR officials insisted on compliance with the law. They urged owners to obtain the required documents, including a Tax Identification Number (TIN) and commercial register, to declare their income each year and to pay the required taxes. They also warned offenders that they could be fined 50% of the amount owed for non-compliance. **(ABP)**

Feeding children means building the economy



Malnutrition is a burden on the national economy. This was highlighted by the nutrition officer at the Permanent Executive Secretariat of the Multisectoral Food Security and Nutrition Program (SEP/PMSAN) Dr Agnès Icoyanditse, during a meeting between her delegation and members of the program in Buhumuza to discuss the fight against malnutrition. The meeting took place on Tuesday 9 September 2025 in the capital of Cankuzo commune.

As Dr Agnès Icoyanditse pointed out, the brain only functions normally if the child has had a balanced diet during the first 100 days after conception. Otherwise, the child may have learning difficulties, leading to academic failure, because the neurons do not develop properly.

She pointed out that malnutrition represents an economic burden for households and for the country, because a malnourished child will not be able to contribute effectively to national development as an adult. Growth retardation due to malnutrition is irreversible, she insisted: the consequences are long-lasting and cannot be corrected later on. That is why Dr Icoyanditse emphasised prevention, calling for synergy of action and better coordination between stakeholders in order to promote health.

She also raised awareness among parents about the importance of improving children's nutrition during their first 100 days, while stressing that breastfeeding mothers must also eat a balanced diet throughout the breastfeeding period. **(ABP)**

A project to create an intercultural library to preserve national cultural identity

During a lively conference at the Press House, attended by journalists, Burundian intellectual Mr Processus Shingiro announced on Wednesday September 10, 2025 a project to create an intercultural library in Burundi. The initiative aims at preserving and promoting na-

tional cultural identity.

According to Mr. Processus Shingiro, this library will be designed as a cultural centre for intercultural exchange, bringing together works on Burundian history, traditions and values, as well as tales, proverbs, poems, tradition-



al songs and international references intended to encourage dialogue between cultures.

Reflecting on his inspirations, he recalled the decisive influence of his father, Mr Augustin Ndirabika, a poet, musician and emblematic figure of Burundian cultural life. Author of the collection "Ntega abiri ntere rya renga" (1985) and founding member of the National Council for Unity.

The initiator of this project also cited several intellectual references, including Father Adrien Ntabona, who had already denounced the "slavish imitation of the Western way of life" to the detriment of Burundian identity. For him, the library thus plays a role as a bulwark against cultural uprooting, while promoting transmission to younger generations.

"Burundians should value their culture and traditions, starting with the Kirundi language," he insisted. However, Mr Processus Shingiro acknowledges that he does not yet have a location for his project, but remains hopeful that he will find one. He has written to the Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture to request a meeting to present his initiative. As of today, he says he has already compiled forty registers devoted to Burundian culture and traditions. (ABP)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation

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