



President Ndayishimiye exchanges New Year's greetings for 2026 with the Defense and Security Forces



The President of the Republic, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye, Supreme Commander of the Defense and Security Forces, accompanied by the First Lady of Burundi, Her Excellency Mrs. Angeline Ndayishimiye, graced with his presence, on Friday, December 19, 2025, the 2026 New Year's greetings ceremonies of the defense and security corps, organized at the Gitega air base.

Placed under the theme "Border protection and preservation of security, pillars of the vision: Burundi an emerging

country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060", the Ministers of the constituted bodies presented their New Year's greetings for 2026 to the Burundian Head of State and reaffirmed their commitment to working for the protection of borders, the consolidation of peace and the strengthening of national cohesion.

In his address, President Ndayishimiye praised the courage and discipline of the Burundian Defense and Security Forces, who distinguished themselves wherever they were de-

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ployed and served with commitment and sacrificing their lives.

Extending his best wishes to the defense and security forces, the Supreme Commander of the Defense and Security Forces, His Excellency General Major

Evariste Ndayishimiye, called upon them to remain vigilant and strengthen collaboration with the administration and the population. He warned that any attempt to disrupt peace and stability of the country would be met with unwavering resistance. **(Presidency)**

Validation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy document



The Head of State of Burundi, His Excellency Gen. Major Evariste Ndayishimiye, graced with his presence, on Wednesday, December 17, 2025 in Gitega, the activities of a validation workshop for the National Strategy document to combat corruption in Burundi, organized jointly by the Inspectorate General of the State and the United Nations Development Programme.

During a session of moralization, President Nday-

ishimiye stated that the root cause of corruption is the erosion of the value of Ubuntu (humanity), following the socio-political crises that have plagued Burundi. Consequently, Burundians have lost this value of love for others, replacing it with egocentrism.

State officials, instead of serving the state, behave like employers managing their own personal assets. They live the adage that "a goat grazes where it is tethered." This demonstrates their irresponsible citizenship, which must be broken by the rule of law to bring them back into discipline, the Head of State has declared. Other forms of corruption are bribery and negative solidarity, the Head of State added, before urging the participants to change their mindset in order to implement the National Anti-Corruption Strategy planned for 2030.

The President of the Republic also urged them to take the lead in this fight against corruption, specifying that he would chair the national committee for implementing the aforementioned strategy. Previously, officials from the Inspectorate General of the State and the UNDP representative had outlined the key elements of this National Anti-Corruption Strategy document. **(ABP)**

The First Lady of Burundi has returned from Sierra Leone



The First Lady of Burundi, Her Excellency Mrs. Angéline Ndayishimiye, returned to the country on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, from a

working visit to Freetown, Sierra Leone. She joined her fellow First Ladies of Africa, gathered in the Organization of African First Ladies for Development (OPDAD), for the official launch ceremonies of the campaign on strengthening the resilience of women and girls to climate change and conflict, on December 12, 2025.

On the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2025, they agreed to begin developing a long-term project aimed at supporting African women in addressing climate change, crises, and conflicts in African countries. This project will be implemented in all OPDAD member countries.

On December 12, 2025, in Freetown, they met to launch the activities of this project, which aims to support women's development and address climate change and poten-

tial crises in African countries. It was an opportunity for the First Lady of Burundi to demonstrate that Burundi has already made significant progress in this area, as the country supports the development of rural Burundian women and is addressing the climate change related challenges. Burundi supports this project and will contribute its experience to help other countries move forward in this direction.

During this trip, Her Excellency Angéline Ndayishimiye and her colleagues were able to observe

the progress of the activities of the First Lady of Sierra Leone's foundation, which aims to support girls in that country in particular and African girls in general. There were festivities, marches, and demonstrations in support of Sierra Leonean girls. Burundi joined in this activity, given that the First Lady of Burundi had already begun similar initiatives through her Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation. This support is manifested in sporting activities and in providing the Burundian girls with health and education assistance, to name but a few. **(Le Renouveau)**

A delegation from the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States was received in audience by the President of the Senate



On Monday, December 15, 2025, the President of the Senate, the Right Honourable Gervais NDIRAKOBUCA, received in audience a delegation from the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) led by the President of this Commission, Ambassador Dr. Ezéchiel NIBIGIRA, who had come

for a courtesy visit.

At the end of this meeting, Ambassador Dr Ezéchiel NIBIGIRA indicated that they exchanged views on the ways and means implemented for good governance in that institution.

During the discussions, the President of the ECCAS Commission indicated that the purpose of his visit to Burundi was to inform national institutions about the activities the Commission is currently undertaking. He also presented an ECCAS plan to establish a Community Parliament.

The President of the Senate commended the actions undertaken by the ECCAS and pledged to support the institution in fulfilling its missions. **(Senate)**

The First Deputy President of the Senate has returned from a working mission to the Kingdom of Morocco



On Tuesday, December 16, 2025, the First Deputy President of the Senate, Honorable Génomère Ngendanganya has returned from a working mission to the Kingdom of Morocco, where she represented the President of

the Senate at the 3rd Annual Assembly of the Conference of Presidents of Parliaments and Legislative Assemblies (COSPAL), held in Rabat from December 12 to 14, 2025.

Upon arrival at Ndadaye International Airport, Honorable Ngendanganya indicated that the participants in this conference exchanged views on topics related to the African economy, the role of youth and women in development, as well as the obstacles hindering the emergence of the continent.

Among the challenges identified are a lack of social cohesion, armed conflicts, the activism of terrorist groups, and natural disasters such as droughts and

floods, which particularly affect the agricultural sector. She noted that participants also acknowledged that while Africa possesses significant natural resources (minerals, oil, forests), this wealth sometimes constitutes a source of insecurity.

Honorable Ngendanganya stated that she had spoken with the President of the Conference on the sidelines of these proceedings to better understand the objectives and purpose of the Conference of President of Parliaments and Legislative Assemblies (COSPAL), given that the Parliament of Burundi is not yet a member. **(Senate)**

The Second Deputy President of the Senate has returned from a working mission to the Republic of Uganda



On the afternoon of Wednesday, December 17, 2025, the Second Deputy President of the Senate, Honorable Clotilde Kampimbare, returned from a working mission to the Republic of Uganda, where she participated in the 15th edition of the Inter-Parliamentary Games of the East African Community (EAC) member countries, organized in Kampala from December 6 to 16, 2025, under the theme: "Promoting integration in the East African Community through the Inter-Parliamentary Games".

Speaking to the press, Honorable Kampimbare explained that these games aim to strengthen ties between parliamentarians from member states, promote regional integration, and encourage cultural exchange. She emphasized that this tournament is an important lever for the harmonious development of the region.

She also reiterated Burundi's long-standing commitment to these inter-parliamentary games, reflecting the importance the country places on regional integration and cooperation between parliaments.

Furthermore, the Second Deputy President of the Senate reported that the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Uganda met with the Heads of Delegations from the participating countries on the sidelines of the games. During this meeting, she extended her gratitude to the Republic of Uganda for the successful organization of the event and wished the Ugandan people democratic and peaceful elections.

Honorable Kampimbare announced the upcoming meeting that will bring together the Presidents of Parliament of the EAC member countries, a meeting which will focus on challenges in the region and find related solutions to be implemented.

Finally, she indicated that the Burundian delegation visited the Embassy of Burundi in Kampala to see its daily operations and challenges.

Among the challenges mentioned, the Embassy is trying to address issues about Burundians residing in Uganda without official documents and women expelled by their husbands. **(Senate)**

The Burundian Prime Minister meets with the delegation from the Viettel group

The Prime Minister of Burundi, Mr. Nestor Ntahontuye, received in audience on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at the Ntare Rushatsi Palace, a delegation from the Viettel Group led by Mr. Do Minh Phuong, Vice President of Viettel group, which operates in the telecommunications network in Vietnam. Some of the objectives of this visit to Burundi were the official presentation of the Labor Medal, Third Class, awarded by the President of the Republic of Vietnam, the celebration of Lumitel Burundi's 10th anniversary, and the official launch of 5G technology.

According to Moïse Nkurunziza, spokesperson for Prime Minister, the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam awarded the medal to congratulate and encourage the telecommunications company Lumitel Burundi for its success over its ten years of operation in Burundi. This anniversary was celebrated on Friday, December 19, 2025. The company welcomes the support of the Government of Burundi to Lumitel Burundi.

The Vice President of the Viettel Group and Head of the delegation announced that this was his second visit to



Burundi. In 2016, he toured all the provinces to assess the progress of Lumitel Burundi's operations. Mr. Phuong outlined the future prospects for Lumitel Burundi, focusing on projects in the telecommunications sector. He stated that these projects will contribute to the overall development of digital economy, which aligns with Burundi's vision of becoming an

emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060.

The Prime Minister urged them to put all those projects and prospects under the concept of notes addressed to the Government of Burundi to allow related follow-up with a view to moving forward as an agreement towards strengthening the ties of cooperation and friendship between the two countries.

Mr. Ntahontuye thanked the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for this recognition of Lumitel Burundi through this award. He stated that it demonstrates the country's commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation with Burundi. He reiterated that the Government of Burundi will continue to support Lumitel Burundi in successfully carrying out its activities, which are mutually beneficial for both the Burundian and Vietnamese people. **(Le Renouveau)**

Official launch of the inter-Agency response plan funding for the Congolese refugees' influx to Burundi



In collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security met with the Heads of diplomatic missions and Representatives of Technical and Financial Partners, on Wednesday 17 December 2025 with a view to launching the Inter-agency response plan funding to assist Congolese refugees and Burundians returnees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

In his welcoming address, His Excellency Ambassador Edouard BIZMANA, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, indicated that following recent violent clashes in South Kivu, particularly around Uvira, Luvungi and Sange, a significant influx of refugees has occurred

in Burundi since December 5, 2025, and the situation of nearly 80,000 refugees is currently deteriorating, and the pressure on Burundi's resources is increasing. This situation requires urgent intervention. Minister Bizimana has therefore urged international organizations and humanitarian actors to intervene and provide support to these people in distress.

In his address, Honorable Léonidas Ndaruzaniye, Minister of Home Affairs, Community Development, and Public Security, stated that the influx of refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, which began on December 6, 2025, represents a considerable pressure on existing infrastructure. He indicated that the refugee site, as well as transit centers and former refugee camps, have exceeded their capacity, both in terms of infrastructure and logistics. The estimated arrival of nearly 80,000 people through various points of entry, including 76,015 Congolese and 8,000 Burundians of December 16, 2025, comes on top of the arrivals expected in February 2025, for which a \$76.5 million funding appeal was launched. This situation might affect not only the quality of services provided but also the safety of the individuals involved and the surrounding communities. It should be noted that the total inter-agency financial requirements amount to US\$33.1 million.

He specified that concrete actions are being implemented by the Government of the Republic of Burundi, in collaboration with partners in general, and UNHCR in particular by providing essential relief, as well as their identification in transit centers in Kansega , Vugizo , Gatumba , Magara , Stade Rumonge , Cishemere and Makombe.

The Government of Burundi recognizes that refugees deserve relevant humanitarian treatment and has reported that it has worked in collaboration with key partners, notably the United Nations High Commissioner

for Refugees (UNHCR), to provide essential assistance such as protection, land for shelter construction, transportation, and emergency relief to ensure the well-being of these displaced persons. This evidences the Government of Burundi's commitment to finding lasting solutions to the challenges faced by refugees hosted in Burundi.

It is worth emphasizing that the Bweru site was chosen as a priority relocation site in order to relieve congestion in border areas and transit centers, and to ensure differentiated management of asylum seeker flows. **(MFARIDC)**

Official launch of Banker's Week: An opportunity to reflect on the role of development banks



On behalf of the Minister of Finance, Budget, and Digital Economy, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Ms. Francine Inarukundo, officially opened Banker's Week in Burundi on Wednesday, December 17, 2025. She stated that this event is a crucial forum for the country's economic and financial dialogue. She commended the Association of Banks and Financial Institutions of Burundi (ABEF) for organizing this week, which provides an opportunity for strategic reflection, consultation, and concrete proposals regarding the role of banks in serving national development.

The Permanent Secretary noted that the Burundian banking sector has made significant progress in recent years and now plays a central role in economy financing. However, she pointed out that challenges remain, such as financing strategic sectors, particularly productive sectors like agriculture, industry, processing, infrastructure, and income-generating activities. The matter is not whether banks are financing the economy, but rather whether they are directing more financing towards sectors capable of sustainably transforming the economic structure, creating decent jobs, and strengthening economic sovereignty.

Ms. Inarukundo emphasized that despite progress

made in recent years, it has been observed that barely 10% of bank loans are currently directed towards agricultural sector, even though this sector forms the backbone of the economy. She clarified that the Government is fully aware of the constraints faced by credit institutions and that they require a concerted response. The Government reaffirms its commitment to pursuing and strengthening reforms aimed at improving the macroeconomic, financial, and institutional environment, in order to create conditions conducive to more sustained and proactive bank financing of the productive sector.

The President of ABEF, Mr. Roger Guy Ghislain Ntwenguye, emphasized that 2020 was a positive turning point, marked by rapid and credible growth across the productive sector of the Burundian economy. He attributed this momentum largely to the incentive measures introduced by the Central Bank, which included the possibility of refinancing banks at preferential rates, with rates as low as 8% for sectors lacking national priority.

Mr. Ntwenguye stated that the ABEF reaffirms its commitment to working hand in hand with the Government to align public policies and economic priorities. He said that the institution is determined to contribute to the implementation of Burundi's vision of becoming an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. **(Le Renouveau)**

Local Administrators work for peace, unity and sustainable development



The newly elected local administrators are urged to work closely with the population to revitalize peace, strengthen unity, and fully embrace the national vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. This appeal was made by the Communal Administrator of Ngozi, Mr. Dominique Ndikuryayo, during a tour of the zones of Makaba and Mugomera on Tuesday, December 16, 2025. The purpose of this visit was to explain the new policy of decentralizing power and the national development vision to the population.

Mr. Ndikuryayo noted that the recent administrative reorganization of the country, at the level of provinces, communes, zones, and hills, aims at administration decentralization by reducing travel required to access administrative services. He urged citizens to support their leaders, respect local authority, and actively participate in community work. To the newly elected local administrators, he commended integrity, fairness, and transparency in the performance of their duties.

He encouraged residents to adopt family self-

reliance initiatives, avoid wasting their harvests and combat prohibited beverages, particularly those in plastic bottles, of which commended an immediate removal from food shops.

In their welcoming speeches, the chiefs of the visited areas indicated that the local economy is based primarily on agriculture and livestock farming, with crops such as potatoes, yellow beans, rice, cassava, and especially coffee, an export crop. However, they recorded that some collection cooperatives had not yet paid coffee farmers for the last coffee season. Among the challenges identified were the lack of electricity, particularly in the area of Makaba, insufficient number of classrooms and latrines in some schools, and the ravines on some hills, which threaten to cause material damage and loss of life unless action is taken. They requested the support of the provincial administration to find lasting solutions to those concerns. **(ABP)**

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC

General Secretariat of the State

PRESS RELEASE No. 15/2025 FROM THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2025

The Council of Ministers met on Monday, December 15, 2025, in Bujumbura for an extraordinary session, chaired by His Excellency the President of the Republic, Major General Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE.

After the presentation and adoption of the agenda, His Excellency the President of the Republic invited the Prime Minister to present a summary of the observations from the preparatory meeting of the Council of Ministers, which took place on December 11 and 12, 2025, and was devoted to a preliminary analysis of the single item on the agenda.

Draft law amending Law No. 1/12 of June 24, 2025, establishing the General Budget of the Republic of Burundi for the 2025/2026 fiscal year,

Presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget, and Digital Economy

The preparation of the draft amended finance bill is based on the organic law on public finances, which provides for the amendment of the initial finance bill in the event of a disruption to the budgetary or financial balance provided for in the finance bill for the year, particularly in the following cases:

- 1° If the recorded revenue increases or decreases significantly compared to the forecasts in the finance bill for the year;
- 2° If legislative or regulatory measures are introduced that substantially affect the execution of the budget.

The following factors underlie the revision of the Finance bill for the 2025/2026 fiscal year:

- 1. Administrative redistricting;
- 2. Reorganization of the Provincial Administration;
- 3. Reorganization of the communal Administration;
- 4. Decentralization of ministry services in the provinces and communes;
- 5. Restructuring of the Government of the Republic of Burundi;
- 6. Taking into account the current macroeconomic situation of the country and the evolution of expenditure and revenue execution for the first quarter of the 2025/2026 fiscal year;
- 7. Taking into account the 2025-2027 macroeconomic stabilization strategy.

The draft amended finance bill for Fiscal Year 2025/2026, was prepared on the basis of the updated medium-term macroeconomic framework document in line with the revised National Development Plan and its 2023-2027 Priority Action Plan, aligned with the vision of "Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060."

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC

General Secretariat of the State

The draft amended finance bill for the 2025/2026 fiscal year consolidates the achievements of the program-based budget reform that has been underway since the 2022/2023 fiscal year.

This draft amended finance bill has been prepared to enable the gradual implementation of the program-based budget in line with the new government restructuring and taking into account the new reorganization of the provincial administration.

The budget forecasts in the amended finance bill for the 2025/2026 fiscal year are based on an economic growth forecast of 4.6% in 2025/2026, driven by the agricultural and mining sectors.

As part of the broadening of the tax base, some articles have been amended and others introduced to strengthen the control and monitoring of revenue. These include:

- 1) The prohibition on public procurement contractors importing supplies that are available locally
- 2) The introduction of surcharges on ethyl alcohol, corrugated iron sheets and nails that do not comply with the rules of origin, as well as on various other products such as concrete reinforcing bars, imported wood, and certain items of furniture.
- 3) The scholarship loan repayment system.
- 4) The removal of exemptions on some products,
- 5) The obligation for companies in which the State is the sole shareholder to allocate their net profits within a specified period, failing which they will be automatically transferred to the Burundi Revenue Office, OBR,
- 6) Strengthened control of mining activities.

In addition, some provisions relating to expenditure have been amended, while others have been introduced, in particular to strengthen the control and management of expenditure and compliance with the normal expenditure cycle.

The draft amended finance bill is more than a necessity in order to generate budgetary savings by canceling activities deemed non-priority, leaving more room for priority investment activities that effectively contribute to the operationalization of public policies while directly responding to the needs of citizens.

Thus, the resources of the amended general state budget for the 2025/2026 fiscal year increase to BIF 5,004.0 billion, compared to BIF 4,821.8 billion in the initial budget, representing an increase of 3.8%.

Total expenditure in the amended general state budget for the 2025/2026 fiscal year amounts to BIF 5,371.9 billion, compared to BIF 5,258.6 billion, representing an increase of 2.2%.

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The overall deficit of the amended 2025/2026 General Budget amounts to BIF 367.9 billion, compared to BIF 436.8 billion in the initial budget.

After discussion and debate, the draft was adopted with the following recommendations, among others:

- 1) Always bear in mind that, within the framework of decentralization, activities are carried out in the provinces and communes, with the central administration of ministries limited to planning, monitoring and evaluation;
- 2) Calculate accurately the cost of activities for better planning;
- 3) Proceed with a general mobilization of the population to increase revenue;
- 4) Sign contracts with operators in accordance with the provisions of the Mining Code in order to increase mining production;
- 5) Make electronic invoicing the norm;
- 6) Limit exemptions as much as possible;
- 7) Evaluate the implementation of the Revised National Development Plan in order to properly prepare a new National Development Plan starting in 2027 with a solid foundation.

Done in Bujumbura on December 16, 2025

The Secretary General of the State
Jerome NIYONZIMA



Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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