



The Burundian Head of State presents the state of the country during the annual public broadcast



On Friday, December 26, 2025, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by members of the Government, addressed the Burundian population during the annual public broadcast held at the Royal Stadium of Muramvya. In his opening remarks, the Head of State of Burundi provided an overall assessment of the country, successively addressing the main sectors of national life.

As far as security is concerned, President Evariste Ndayishimiye sought to reassure the population, stating that peace and security are effectively main-

tained throughout the national territory. He emphasized that the Defense and Security Forces remain fully mobilized to prevent and respond to any threats or aggression.

Regarding productive sectors, the Head of State expressed satisfaction with the positive dynamics observed in agriculture, livestock, and the mining sector, marked by an increase in production as well as tax revenues. He encouraged local processing and exportation, highlighting that the mining sector has created over 1,800 jobs, primarily benefiting the youth.

Concerning the agricultural campaign,

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President Ndayishimiye reassured farmers who have already paid for their fertilizers, indicating that they will receive them soon. He specified that the Ministry in charge of Agriculture and the Organo-Mineral Fertilizer Company (FOMI) are working closely together to accurately identify beneficiaries, end shortages, and combat speculative practices.

In order to protect public resources, the Burundian leader announced that over 9.5 billion Burundian francs, 220,000 US dollars, and 69,000 euros have been recovered in the process of recovering public assets. The officials involved have been sanctioned and are in the process of fully reimbursing the embezzled funds.

On the judicial front, President Ndayishimiye stated that the Burundian justice system has seen major improvements, marked by its modernization and the establishment of local structures aimed at bringing the judicial institution closer to citizens and ensuring accessible justice for all.

Since the official and responsible launch of the exploitation of minerals, Burundi has already generated over 14 million US dollars in revenue. The Burundian Head of State expressed satisfaction with this progress, made possible by the commitment of young people in

the mining sector.

Furthermore, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye, called on the Burundian people to show solidarity with the Congolese refugees welcomed in the national territory. He urged administrative authorities to effectively coordinate assistance in food and non-food items to meet the humanitarian needs of these populations.

The Burundian Head of State also mentioned the challenges the country still faces, citing the high population growth and the effects of climate change, including flooding in Gatumba and drought in the Kirundo province. He assured that concrete and sustainable measures are underway to address these issues.

The Father of the Nation extended his best wishes to the Burundian people, encouraging them to engage in production activities to improve their standard of living and calling on administrative officials to serve the population with loyalty and commitment.

This public event, eagerly awaited by the population, was broadcast across various platforms and provided an opportunity for journalists and residents of Gitega Province to interact directly with the President of the Republic. **(Presidency)**

The Presidential Family participates in the Christmas celebration at the Minor Basilica of Saint Anthony of Padua in Mugeru



On December 25, 2025, the Presidential Family joined Catholic worshippers at Mugeru Parish, in the Archdiocese of Gitega, for the celebration of Christmas. This parish was recently elevated to the status of Minor Basilica of Saint Anthony of Padua by His Holiness Pope Leo XIV, a historic first for Burundi.

In his greeting message to the faithful, the President of Burundi, His Excellency Mr. Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, urged Burundian citizens to love one another and to share what they have on the occasion of the commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior of humanity and a model of peace and love. He highlighted the profound meaning of the Nativity, which is expressed through love for one's neighbor, sharing, and the appreciation of the gifts that God has entrusted to each human being for the good of the family and the nation.

In extending his Christmas wishes to all Burundians, the President also called for the enhancement and utilization of the talents received from God from birth, in order to contribute to the well-being of families and the development of the country. He emphasized that the birth of Christ reminds us that life is a talent entrusted by God to each person, a gift meant to be cultivated for oneself, for others, and for the nation.

Meanwhile, the parish priest of Mugera, Father Venant Mpozako, conveyed his sincere appreciation to the Presidential Family for their dedication to the church's restoration and their support throughout the process that resulted in its elevation to a Minor Basilica. He urged the faithful to offer thanks to God, noting that this Christmas marked the first celebration held in the Basilica.

In his homily, Father Venant Mpozako insisted on the central message of the Nativity, reminding that the salvation of humanity finds its source in the birth of Jesus Christ. He stated that there is no other savior

but Jesus; those who claim otherwise are mistaken. He clarified that Christian baptism, made possible by the coming of Christ, makes believers true children of God.

At the end of the Christmas Mass at the Minor Basilica of Mugera, the Presidential Family shared, in an atmosphere of simplicity, closeness, and conviviality, moments of generosity with the local children, offering those gifts and sharing in the joy that characterizes the Christmas celebration. This celebration, imbued with faith, communion, and solidarity, remains above all an invitation to build a society based on love, sharing, and brotherhood. **(Presidency)**

Regional summit in Uganda: African leaders call for respect of peace agreements to stabilize the Great Lakes region



The Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi, Mr. Prosper Bazombanza, returned on Monday, December 22, 2025, from Uganda, where he represented the Burundian Head of State, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye, at the regional summit of Heads of State and Government dedicated to the security situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), held in Entebbe on Sunday, December 21, 2025,

under the presidency of Ugandan President Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

The African leaders who participated in this regional summit called on the signatory countries of the peace agreements, whether in Doha or Washington, to respect their commitments in order to ease tensions in the Great Lakes region, particularly in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, as indicated by the Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi at Melchior Ndadaye International Airport. The participants at the summit agreed that, if necessary, a framework for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the recommendations made would be established.

According to Prosper Bazombanza, the countries in the sub-region remain committed to making efforts to resolve conflicts sustainably. He reaffirmed the commitment of all countries in the region to lasting peace and stability. It should be noted that Prosper Bazombanza flew to Entebbe on Saturday, December 20, 2025. **(Le Renouveau)**

The First Lady of Burundi is exchanging New Year and Christmas wishes with the students and staff of the Socle du Savoir School

On the eve of the closing of the first quarter, the First Lady of Burundi and Legal Representative of the Bonne Action "Umugiraneza" Foundation, H.E. Mrs. Angeline Ndayishimiye, held a New Year's wishes exchange with the students and staff of the "Socle du Savoir" school, which belongs to this foundation, on Monday, December 22, 2025. According to Angeline

Ndayishimiye, it was an opportunity to wish the students, who are about to go on vacation, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

This joyful meeting between the First Lady of Burundi, the students, and the staff of the school was marked by a shared meal. It was enhanced by traditional dances and sketches performed by the students, showcasing



the knowledge they had acquired. Students with insufficient academic results were encouraged to persevere and make more efforts to improve their performance.

In her speech, the First Lady of Burundi wished the students of the "Socle du Savoir" school a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. She congratulated them on their performances and also praised the teachers for the quality of their guidance, urging the students to translate the messages conveyed through these sketches into daily behaviors based on good values. She encouraged the children to love each other, mutual assistance, and sharing. H.E. Angeline Nday-

ishimiye also commended the school's management and local leaders for the remarkable progress already achieved. She did not forget to thank the Government of Burundi and the partners of the Bonne Action "Umugiraneza" Foundation for their contributions to the development of the "Socle du Savoir" school.

In his speech, the Director of the "Socle du Savoir" school, Mr. Subhana Ndenzako, praised the decisive role of the First Lady of Burundi in the development of this institution. He indicated that the school year began with one hundred and four boarding students, supervised by qualified teachers, and specified that several of them are enrolled thanks to the support of the Bonne Action "Umugiraneza" Foundation. He emphasized that the challenges remain limited, aside from a few cases of minor illnesses and some family difficulties, which are fortunately addressed by a doctor and a psychologist present at the school.

To encourage excellence and motivation, financial rewards ranging from 150,000 to 200,000 Burundian francs were awarded to children who danced, answered general knowledge questions, and those who presented sketches. The ceremonies were concluded in a festive atmosphere filled with hope. (Le Renouveau)

National Assembly: Towards the revision of the budget law, exercise 2025-2026 in order to align expenditures with actual revenues and maintain budgetary balance



On Wednesday, December 24, 2025, the elected representatives of the people gathered in a plenary session under the auspices of the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Right Honorable Gélase Daniel Ndabirabe, to analyze and adopt the draft law amending Law No. 1/12 of June 24, 2025, concerning the establishment of the general state budget. The objective of revising this budget law was to make necessary adjustments to align expenditures with the actual expected revenues and to maintain a sus-



tainable budgetary balance.

The Minister of Finance, Budget, and Digital Economy, Mr. Alain Ndikumana, who presented the reasons for the rectified finance bill, detailed various factors supporting this revision, notably the implementation of administrative reform aimed at decentralizing and deconcentrating state services to the population.



The revenues for the revised budget bill for 2025-2026 amount to 5,004.0 billion BIF, compared to 4,821.8 billion in the initial budget, representing an increase of 3.8%. Expenditures rise to 5,520 billion, up from 5,258.6 billion, indicating an increase of 2.1%. The revised deficit stands at 347.9 billion, down from 436.8 billion. It is worth noting that the revised budget forecasts were based on an expected economic growth rate of 4.6% for 2025-2026, compared to 4.1% for 2024-2025.

The Minister specified that with the governmental restructuring and the decentralized and deconcentrated administrative reform, as well as the territorial reorganization, certain expenses will be reduced, particularly those related to the rental and maintenance

of offices, administrative and technical supplies, and many others. The preparation of the revised finance bill is part of a logic of prudence and budgetary discipline while ensuring overall coherence between strategic and budgetary planning. The major budget allocations have been directed towards priority investment activities that effectively contribute to the operationalization of public policies directly addressing the needs of citizens. The priority actions in various ministries concern, among others, the mining, agricultural, and tourism sectors; defense and security; the implementation of administrative reform; the construction of public infrastructure; and others. The establishment of a branch of the Burundian Press Publications (PPB) in each province is also among the actions planned for this budget year.

After the presentation of the rationale, the President of the National Assembly, the Right Honorable Gélase Daniel Ndabirabe, appreciated the efforts made in the preparation of this budget bill, which shows reductions in expenditures as well as in the deficit. He encouraged the Ministry of Finance to continue in this direction, especially in the implementation of the mentioned bill. During the plenary session, the Minister also provided clarifications to the various concerns raised by the representatives of the people. **(Le Renouveau)**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation Visits the Kansega Transit Site



On Tuesday, December 23, 2025, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Édouard BIZIMANA, accompanied by Heads of Diplomatic Missions and Representatives of Regional and International Organizations accredited in Bujumbura, visited the Ndava hill at the Kansega transit site, located in Bukinanyana

commune. The purpose of this visit was to provide moral support to the Congolese refugees residing there and to assess their priority needs for humanitarian assistance.

H.E. Ambassador Édouard BIZIMANA took the opportunity to express satisfaction with the commitments made by partners in favor of the refugees who are living in extremely precarious conditions, while emphasizing the need to further strengthen humanitarian support.

The Head of the Department of Human Rights, Social Protection, and Gender Inclusion, Mr. Saidi NKURUNZIZA, reminded that the Bukinanyana commune had made significant efforts to accommodate the Congolese refugees, despite very limited financial resources. He also indicated that these refugees should be transferred to the Busuma site to improve their living conditions.



It is worth noting that the Kansega site has already hosted over 40,000 refugees, of whom approximately 35,000 have been transferred to the Busuma site (Kayongozi), located in the Ruyigi commune, Buhumaza province.

Furthermore, the Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Burundi, Mr. Willy MULAMBA MABIKA, addressed a message of comfort to the refugees and encouraged them to join the Busuma site, where humanitarian aid sent by His Excellency Mr. Félix TSHISEKEDI, President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, awaits them.

On behalf of the delegation, the Apostolic Nuncio,

Monsignor Dieudonné Datonou, expressed his deep gratitude to the Government of Burundi and its people for their hospitality and generosity. He also thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation for organizing this visit, which allowed the delegation to observe the living conditions of the refugees and to reflect on ways to provide them with assistance. He reminded that these refugees are not alone, emphasizing the support from Burundian brothers in general, and the Catholic Church in particular, which will provide concrete aid starting in January 2026.

Moreover, the Heads of Diplomatic Missions and Representatives of International Organizations accredited in Bujumbura reaffirmed their commitment to mobilize humanitarian aid to support these populations in distress.

As for the Congolese refugees, they expressed their deep gratitude to the Government of Burundi for the welcome and assistance they have received. They also shared their concerns and material needs, hoping for a gradual improvement in their living conditions.

The visit was concluded with remarks from His Excellency Ambassador Édouard BIZIMANA, who reaffirmed the commitment of the Burundian government to work closely with its partners to ensure ongoing monitoring and continuous improvement of the living conditions of the refugees. (MFARIDC)

The Ministry of Public Health calls for urgent management of population growth



The Ministry of Public Health organized a workshop on Wednesday, December 23, 2025, for administrative officials and civil registry officers in the province of Butanyerera, focusing on the issue of family planning.

In his opening speech, the Director General in charge of the prevention and health security program within

the Ministry, Dr. Oscar Ntihabose, emphasized that Burundi is facing a concerning demographic dynamic. The population is estimated at 12,332,788 inhabitants over an area of 27,834 km². He indicated that this growth places significant pressure on public services, particularly schools, health centers, and other services. According to him, controlling demographic growth is a national urgency and an essential condition for achieving the goals of the Vision for an emerging Burundi by 2040 and a developed Burundi by 2060.

In his presentation, the chief of Statistics, Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation Service at the National Health Program, Dr. Olivier Gahungere, reported that the rate of use of modern contraceptive methods was 34.5% at the end of 2024. He warned that at this rate, if fertility is not controlled, Burundi's population could increase by 233% by 2050 compared to current figures.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs, Community Development, and Public Security, Mr. Jean



Claude Nduwayo, stressed that family planning

should be a significant concern for everyone, for the well-being of the population and national development. He urged administrators to intensify awareness campaigns on birth management, highlighting that this would help reduce family conflicts and improve quality of life. He recommended that civil registry officers inform newlyweds about the importance of family planning to effectively address the challenges related to the rapid population growth. **(ABP)**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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