



Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation

President Evariste Ndayishimiye participates in the opening mass of the national prayer of thanksgiving



The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by his wife, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, as well as other high-ranking dignitaries of the country, took part on December 29, 2025, in the opening mass of the national prayer of thanksgiving, celebrated at Regina Mundi Cathedral with the aim of thanking God for the achievements accomplished and entrusting to Him the success of the year 2026.

In his prayer, President Ndayishimiye asked the Almighty Lord for forgiveness for the mistakes and shortcomings committed individually and collectively.

He implored the Almighty Lord to guide his steps toward a future of peace, justice, and success for the nation. He also asked Him to transform his enemies into true friends and to grant a favorable climate for better production.

In his homily, the Bishop of the Archdiocese of Bujumbura, Monsignor Gervais Banshimiyubusa, drew on the readings of the day from the Gospel of Luke (2:22-35), presenting Jesus as the Light of the world, as well as from the First Letter of Saint John (2:3-11), where the Apostle reminds us that knowing Jesus is manifested by the observance of his commandments, in

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particular the love of our neighbor, which keeps us in the light. (Presidency)

President Ndayishimiye opens thanksgiving national prayer



On the afternoon of the first day of national thanksgiving prayer on December 29, 2025, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by the First Lady of Burundi, Her Excellency Mrs. Angeline Ndayishimiye, led a long opening parade at the Ecole Technique Secondaire de Kamenge, with massive participation from citizens from all the communes of Bujumbura province.

During her prayer, the First Lady of Burundi expressed her gratitude for the blessings received during the year that is coming to an end. She also implored for strength and health for the Head of State in order to carry out his mission, while praying for peace and prosperity for the country.

During his sermon, Pastor MBAYAHAGA Isidore,

drawing inspiration from Deuteronomy 8:7-10, reminded the congregation that God's promise for Burundi will only be fulfilled if the people observe His word and honor their leaders, promoting unity, love, and solidarity among all.

The Burundian Head of State, drawing inspiration from the Holy Scriptures, highlighted the trials and tribulations the country has endured despite its many riches. He encouraged every citizen to cultivate a love of work in order to make the most of the country's resources, while giving thanks to God for revealing the potential of Burundi's sub-soil.

The sound of trumpets, symbolizing spiritual calling and renewal, then marked the beginning of the Burundian head of state's speech. He reminded listeners that this crusade is an opportunity to reconnect with God through His forgiveness and to keep heading together on the path to the Promised Land, where there will be no shortage of food.

The various choirs present, including that of the Burundian head of state's children, enlivened this great event with songs of praise, allowing participants to glorify God in joy and contemplation.

The first day of the national prayer of thanksgiving thus ended with a message of unity, faith, and gratitude, strengthening the patriotic spirit and hope of the Burundian people for the future. (Presidency)

Second day of the national prayer of thanksgiving: the Head of State calls on leaders to demonstrate exemplary leadership

On Tuesday, December 30, 2025, during the second day of the national prayer of thanksgiving at the ground of Ecole Technique Secondaire de Kamenge, in Bujumbura province, the Head of State of Burundi, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye, imparted teachings to Burundian leaders, calling on them to serve as role models for their constituents and urging them to bring about real behavioral change for the development of the country.

President Ndayishimiye emphasized the importance of strengthening social cohesion and national unity, as well as the need to preserve peace and promote development. He also encouraged leaders to take the lead

in the fight against poverty by regularly visiting grassroots communities to address citizens' concerns. He expressed his satisfaction with the harmony and brotherhood that prevail among Burundians, particularly among leaders, reflecting the growing unity of the people, especially during the recent 2025 elections.

However, the Father of the Nation denounced the behavior of some ill-intentioned individuals who seek to slow down the country's progress, emphasizing the unacceptability of political division in a spirit of nationalism.

The Head of State also criticized the fact that some con-



cerns of citizens are straightly brought to him, despite the presence of local authorities, calling for a surge of responsibility from all leaders. He invited

everyone to embrace the National Vision for Burundi to become an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060.

During the first part of the teachings, Reverend Pastor Onesphore Manirakiza preached on the foundation of leadership for the country's development. He called on leaders to embody servant leadership, make informed decisions, and leave a lasting legacy.

The President of the Republic of Burundi praised the relevance of Pastor Manirakiza's message, while expressing his surprise at the lack of tangible change among certain authorities, despite repeated exhortations over the years. ([Presidency](#))

During the National Thanksgiving Prayer, the Head of State called for good governance and praised the commitment of young people



During the afternoon session of the second day of the National Thanksgiving Prayer, held on December 30, 2025, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Mr. Évariste Ndayishimiye, gave thanks to God for the abundant harvest recorded during the year, as well as for the smooth running of the elections in a climate of peace and stability.

Emphasizing the importance of good governance as

a pillar of sustainable development, the Burundian Head of State required all ministers to prepare, within one month, a booklet presenting the specific vision of their ministry. This document should project the image and priorities of each ministry for 2040 and 2060, in perfect harmony with the national vision.

President Ndayishimiye also praised the commendable initiatives of Burundian youth, whom he described as a real driving force for change in attitudes. He testified that during his various visits across the country, he had seen concrete achievements by young people, illustrating tangible and encouraging progress in favor of national development.

Taking the floor, the preacher of the day, Abbé Dieudonné Nibizi, drew on the biblical passage from Deuteronomy 8, verses 7 to 10, to call on Burundians to be honest, faithful, obedient to God, and to change their mindset for an emerging Burundi in 2040 and a developed Burundi in 2060. ([Presidency](#))

President Ndayishimiye encourages young people to build Burundi

On Wednesday, December 31, 2025, the last day of the national prayer of thanksgiving, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, met with young people from Bujumbura province. The purpose of this meeting was to encourage young people to commit themselves to the development of the country and to become important actors in building a strong, united, and prosperous Burundi.

Drawing inspiration from the book of Deuteronomy, President Ndayishimiye invited them to follow God's will, to think long-term, and to be patient in order to see God's promises come to fruition. He explained that just as God promised prosperity to the people of Israel, He also has a plan for Burundi. Therefore, the country must move forward with a youth that acts with faith, courage, and solidarity.



The Burundian Head of State gave examples of coun-

tries that have succeeded in their development thanks to the energy and perseverance of their youth. He emphasized the importance of working with courage, valuing one's skills, and using the country's resources responsibly to produce more and strengthen the country's economy.

President Ndayishimiye encouraged young people to believe in themselves, overcome difficulties, and actively participate in building a better future for Burundi. He reminded them that every young person has an important role to play in the country's progress and in fulfilling God's promises for the nation. (**Presidency**)

President NDAYISHIMIYE closes the National Thanksgiving Prayer



The National Thanksgiving Prayer, which took place over three days at the ETS Kamenge ground, was officially closed on the afternoon of December 31, 2025, by the Head of State, His Excellency Mr. Évariste Ndayishimiye.

This large-scale spiritual event was attended by senior officials of the country, including the First Lady of Burundi, Her Excellency Mrs. Angeline Ndayishimiye, the Vice President of the Republic of Burundi, Honorable Members of Parliament and Senators, members of the Government, as well as other senior State officials.

In his message, the Burundian Head of State drew on the Holy Scriptures, especially Genesis 9:1-7 and 1

Kings 11:1-4, to highlight the root causes of Burundi's underdevelopment. He cited, among other things, bloodshed among Burundians, witchcraft and other occult practices, adultery and cohabitation, the unbridled pursuit of illicit wealth by certain leaders as well as social injustice.

On this occasion, the Burundian leader invited the entire Assembly to kneel and implore God's mercy for all these sins that have brought a curse upon the country. He urged Burundians to open their hearts and minds in order to make the most of the resources with which God has blessed Burundi, with a view to achieving the desired development.

Holding the national flag in their hands, the President of the Republic of Burundi and the First Lady of Burundi closed the crusade with a solemn prayer. This prayer was dedicated to God's forgiveness for leaders who had not properly fulfilled their responsibilities, wishing them repentance, but also to the continuation of peace in Burundi, the restoration of peace and security in the sub-region, and blessings for the country in general and households in particular.

The closing ceremony was marked by the sounding of trumpets seven times, a powerful spiritual symbol, before the population returned to their homes in joy and hope for a very fruitful new year. (**Presidency**)

The First Lady of Burundi calls on young people to use their talents to serve Burundi

On this second day of the national prayer of thanksgiving on December 30, 2025, the First Lady of Burundi, H.E. Angeline Ndayishimiye, addressed young people gathered at ETS Kamenge as part of the teachings organized during this

national crusade, which focused mainly on promoting talent.

In her message, she urged young people to put their talents and skills to full use in the many opportunities offered



by Burundi, while cultivating a spirit of patriotism, responsibility, and commitment to the country's development.

Drawing on the theme of the day, taken from the book of Deuteronomy 8:7-10, the First Lady of Burundi took the opportunity to offer advice based on Christian values, including forgiveness, love, and solidarity, as taught by Jesus Christ. She encouraged young people to remain hopeful even in the face of adversity, reminding them that "God's blessing is manifested in responsible young people who refuse to lose hope and who commit themselves to hard work."

On his behalf, Apostle Dieudonné Nahimana, in his sermon, emphasized the importance of knowing one's true identity. He reminded the congregation that God did not create man to live only for himself, but to be a blessing to others. (**Presidency**)

Burundi's First Lady calls on leaders to embody discerning leadership



On the third day of the national prayer of thanksgiving, the First Lady of Burundi, H.E. Mrs. Angeline Ndayishimiye, led the session of teachings addressed to the leaders gathered at the ETS Kamenge field, which focused mainly on the identity of leaders.

The First Lady of Burundi wished everyone a happy new year 2026, a year of wisdom and discernment. She reminded them that being a leader means serving with humility, listening with the heart, and acting responsibly for the common good and the future of the nation.

H.E. Mrs. Angeline pointed out that although 2025 may have been like crossing the desert, there is hope to experience God's blessing in 2026.

In his sermon, Apostle Apollinaire Habonimana called on leaders to change in order to be the pride of the country, correcting the mistakes made in their positions of responsibility and thus improving the well-being of citizens. (**Presidency**)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs meets with Burundian entrepreneurs and representatives of the private sector



Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Edouard Bizimana, met with Burundian entrepreneurs and representatives of the private sector. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss Burundi's chairmanship of the African Union, from February 2026 to Febr-

On Monday, December 29, 2025, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development

ary 2027.

In his opening remarks, Minister Bizimana announced that during the African Union presidency period, Burundi will organize several events and that there will be huge opportunities, particularly for Burundian entrepreneurs, especially in the fields of hospitality, tourism and services.

Minister Bizimana urged Burundian entrepreneurs to take the necessary steps to position themselves to benefit from the vast market of 1.3 billion consumers that will be opened up to Burundians with the opera-



tionalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), as customs duties will be simplified. He also asked Burundian economic operators not to excessively increase the prices of goods and services during this period.

He urged Burundian entrepreneurs to value natural resources such as the source of the Nile and Lake Tanganyika, improve the quality of services provided and Burundian products including coffee, tea, avocado oil, fruits and fish caught in Lake Tanganyika such as Ndagala and Mukeke .

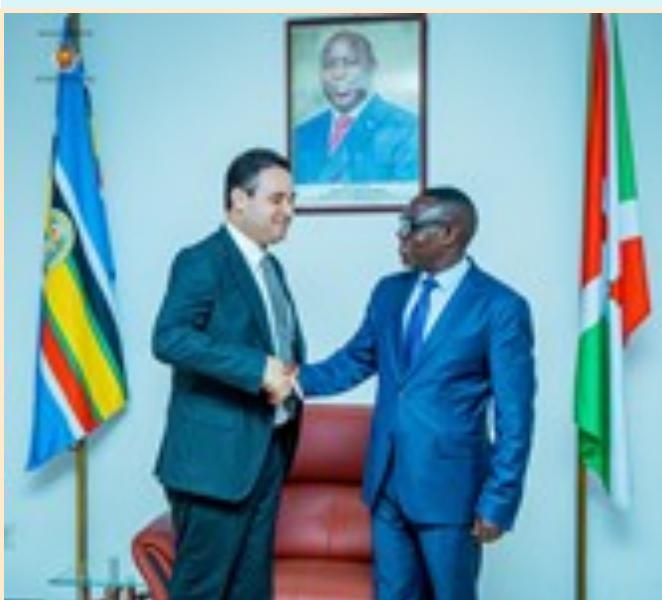
The Minister indicated that several activities had been carried out to prepare for Burundi's presidency of the African Union. Training and a retreat were organized for several officials from various ministries by Enabel, and five officials continued this training at the African



Union and European Union levels. They were sent to Addis Ababa to assist the staff of the Embassy of Burundi in Ethiopia in order to continue preparations for Burundi African Union's presidency.

It should be noted that a multi-sectoral committee from the ministries in charge of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Industry, the Federal Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Burundi (CFCIB) as well as other key players working in the private sector will be put in place very soon to jointly identify the needs and set the objectives that will allow Burundi to successfully carry out and lead the presidency of the African Union. (MFARIDC)

The Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs receives the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Burundi



On Tuesday, December 30, 2025, the Permanent Secretary responsible for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sophonie NITUNGA met with His Excellency Michael Wimmer, Ambassador of the King-



dom of Belgium to Burundi.

They discussed on various topics of common interest while welcoming the excellent diplomatic relations between Burundi and the Kingdom of Belgium and expressed their shared desire to further strengthen them.

As part of the review of the cooperation portfolio and the acceleration of the implementation of ongoing projects and programs, the two parties discussed strengthening coop-



eration between partner ministries and the Embassy of Belgium, as well as the organization of the Burundi-Belgium Joint Cooperation Commission. This session is planned for the end of March or the beginning of April 2026. It will be a framework for a review of the bilateral cooperation portfolio, evaluation of related progress, and, prior to that, preparatory meetings with relevant sectoral ministries.

Regarding preparations for Burundi's chairmanship of the African Union, both officials welcomed the support by the Kingdom of Belgium through diplomatic training; some of the trainees were deployed to Addis Ababa for capacity building at the Embassy of Burundi during this chairmanship. In this regard, the role played by the Belgian development agency Enabel was particularly appreciated. The Permanent Secretary highlighted that Burundi will continue to require technical and financial support from its partners.

Regarding Enabel's support, Mr. Sophonie Nitunga requested continued assistance, particularly in the fields of training and financial support. The Ambassador of Belgium took note of this request and pledged to discuss with other partners.

In the realm of bilateral cooperation, the Ambassador also mentioned the Belgium's support to projects relating with the Port of Bujumbura and the Melchior NDADAYE International Airport, with a view to contributing to the implementation of Burundi's strategic vision, an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060.

The two officials also discussed the security and humanitarian situation in eastern Democratic Republic

of the Congo, particularly in South Kivu, as well as its migratory impacts on Burundi and the region. They deplored and condemned the attacks by the Rwandan-backed M23, while acknowledging the appropriateness of the measures taken by Burundi. They encouraged the Burundian side to remain vigilant.

Regarding the Congolese refugees hosted in Burundi, the Belgian Ambassador indicated that his country has already provided humanitarian aid and intends to continue its support.

In terms of visa issuance, both Parties agreed on the need to increase the number of Schengen visas to make easy the mobility of both officials and ordinary citizens. The Ambassador specified that the number of applicants has increased from approximately 4,000 in 2024 to nearly 7,000 in 2025. For officials, appointments will continue to be scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the Ambassador expressed the hope that official cases would be communicated in a timely manner to facilitate work planning at the Embassy.

Finally, Mr. Sophonie NITUNGA emphasized on the need to increase the number of scholarships and training courses in various fields, believing that this will contribute to the training of qualified human resources, capable of achieving the vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. (MFARIDC)

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