



## President Ndayishimiye receives in audience African Union Development Agency Director General (AUDA-NEPAD)



**O**n Tuesday, January 20, 2026, the Head of State of Burundi, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye, received Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, Director General of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), at the Ntare Rushatsi Palace.

On this occasion, the Burundian Head of State, African Union Champion for the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, reiterated that African youth will remain

at the heart of his mandate. He stressed the need for young people to take ownership of Agenda Africa 2063 and actively contribute to the development of the continent, in a year dedicated to the theme of water and sanitation.

During the meeting, the Director General of AUDA-NEPAD highlighted her agency's central role in the development of the African continent. She stressed the importance of coordinat-

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ing continental projects in strategic sectors such as infrastructure, energy, and health, in close partnership with the World Bank and the African Development Bank.

This meeting strengthened collaboration between Burundi and AUDA-NEPAD, while outlining promising prospects for the continent's development. **(Presidency)**

### The CNDD-FDD party organizes a prayer of thanksgiving



**T**he ruling party, CNDD-FDD, organized a three-day prayer of thanksgiving from Thursday, January 22, 2026, to January 24, 2025. The event aimed to thank God for the blessings bestowed upon the party during the year 2025 and to ask for His protection in 2026.

The ceremonies began with a Eucharistic celebration led by the Archbishop of the Catholic Diocese of Gitega, Monsignor Bonaventure Nahimana, at the Saint Francis of Assisi Parish in Magarama, in the urban center of Gitega. The ceremonies were attended by the country's highest authorities, led by the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, as well as those from the same party and many of its activists.

In his homily, Monsignor Bonaventure Nahimana thanked the CNDD-FDD party for organizing this pray-



er, a sign that strongly demonstrates that it has placed the Almighty above all.

Monsignor Bonaventure asked the activists of the CNDD-FDD party to cultivate values such as humility, honesty, compassion, truth, and justice. Promoted by all those who hold a share of power, these values will serve as a springboard for achieving the vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. In this regard, he stressed that improving the education of young people is imperative. This education will enable young people to fully contribute to the country's development, without which the nation would be doomed to failure.

On this occasion, Bishop Nahimana expressed his desire for the primacy of the rule of law so that social justice and peace, the sure foundations for the country's all-round development, may prevail in the country. **(ABP)**

### Back from Botswana, Burundi's First Lady advocates for family dialogue to prevent unwanted pregnancies

**T**he First Lady of Burundi, H.E. Mrs. Angeline Ndayishimiye, returned on Monday, January 19, 2026, from a working visit to Botswana. She said the purpose of the trip was to exchange experiences with the First Lady of Botswana, Mrs. Kaone Tumulano Boko, on the functioning and work of the Office of the First Lady for Development in Burundi (OPDD-Burundi) and that of the Botswana foundation headed by the latter.

According to Angeline Ndayishimiye, their discussions focused on the education of young girls, particularly in the areas of sexuality and reproductive health for women from a young age. One of the missions of the First Lady of Botswana's foundation is to provide support and guidance to single mothers, to give them hope for a better future, to advise them to adopt healthy attitudes towards sexual promiscuity, and to encourage them to take initiatives for development.





In her remarks, the First Lady of Burundi recalled that during her working visit to Botswana, she visited the hospital belonging to the First Lady of Botswana's foundation. She said that she saw young girls who had given birth to babies and were hospitalized there. Some of them are living with HIV/AIDS or are victims of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The First Lady of Burundi spoke with some of them, who told her that they were on their third or fourth child. They added that at that stage, they lose hope because they are rejected by their parents and receive no more guidance on rebuilding their future. Dishonest men may use them as they please, especially in sexual vagrancy, sexual abuse, prostitution, or other bad practices that devalue the girl's dignity.

Based on these situations she has witnessed, the First Lady of Burundi called on the Burundian people to encourage family conversation and parent-child dialogue at home to prevent unwanted pregnancies among girls. Even when a girl gets an unwanted pregnancy, parents should sit down together to find ways to re-educate and rehabilitate the young single mother, who will serve as a role model for other children in their social and behavioral education.

Angeline Ndayishimiye said that she discovered a clothing custom in Botswana culture that carries a public message known to everyone. A veil covering the ears and a blanket covering the neck and chest. Covering the ears means that a married woman hears no voices other than those of her husband and her household. She must not bring in hearsay or messages from outside the home.

The covering that conceals a woman's neck and chest means that no word, secret, or household matter leaves her mouth, nor goes beyond the doors of her home or her own family. It represents a positive family and social value of Botswana women that everyone should adopt within the household, especially African women. **(Le Renouveau)**

### Burunga Province: Prime Minister urges administrators to read and understand the laws governing their duties



**O**n Monday, January 19, 2026, the Prime Minister Nestor Ntahontuye held a meeting with newly appointed administrators of Burunga Province. This meeting mainly concerned communal administrators and their advisors, heads of various departments at the provincial and communal levels, heads of various services, and other executives from various ministries. He invited all these

executives to read, reread, and understand the various laws and decrees governing their ministries, especially their functions, as it turned out that only few had read these laws.

In his speech, the Prime Minister indicated that the purpose of this meeting was to enable administrative authorities at all levels to agree on the new organization of the provincial and communal administration. The main objective was to improve the service provided to citizens by bringing essential services closer to the population.

The participants raised various concerns, particularly regarding how the various communal services would collaborate with the relevant ministries and the issue of salary harmonization. Some communal and zonal officials from different communes and zones are paid differently depending on the commune.

Inadequate work equipment and the management and use of the 100 million Burundian francs allocated to communes for the purchase of school desks were among the issues raised by participants at this meeting.

Regarding the purchase of school desks, the Prime Minister warned anyone who might seek to speculate in any way that there would be zero tolerance on this issue. Regarding the heads of comunals and provincial services and departments who have not yet been paid since taking office, he replied that this issue is known and will be resolved as soon as possible.

Regarding collaboration between departments, Nestor Ntahontuye specified that each communal department must report to the communal administrator, while also informing the office of the provincial governor. With regard to salaries, he acknowledged that there are indeed disparities between communes. To this end, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Community Development, and Public Security will study the issue in order to harmonize

the salaries of communal officials.

Regarding redeployment to fill the void created by those assigned to other sectors, the Prime Minister stated that, as with education sector workers and others who have left their jobs, all measures must be taken with the interests of the service in mind and with a view to efficiency. With regard to the sharing of work equipment such as vehicles and motorcycles, Nestor Ntahontuye gave guidance to prioritize services requiring high mobility in the field, particularly education, health, agriculture, and livestock sectors, which should be provided with vehicles as a priority. Other services will be equipped with motorcycles. Computers will be shared among all services, while those that do not yet have them will benefit from new acquisitions.

After the meeting, the Prime Minister took a guided tour to inquire about the progress of the rehabilitation work on the government buildings that will house various provincial departments of the ministries. **(Le Renouveau)**

### Renovation work on public buildings is progressing well in all provinces



**O**n Tuesday, January 20, 2026, Burundian Prime Minister Nestor Ntahontuye concluded his series of visits to the country's five provinces with a meeting in the provincial capital of Butanyerera.

During the meeting, the Head of Government expressed his overall satisfaction with the progress of the rehabilitation work on public buildings intended to house provincial directorates, emphasizing that constructions are progressing well throughout the country. However, he noted that some buildings still need fencing and painting, work that could not be carried out due to insufficient funds.

The five hundred (500) million BIF released for these operations proved insufficient to cover all the needs. To make up for this shortfall, the Prime Minister announced the next step: "In the coming days, the provinces will be asked to draw up new lists of priority works so that the necessary funding can be released."

The Governor of Butanyerera province, Mr. Victor Segasago, presented a detailed assessment for his province: thirteen (13) buildings, comprising a total of sixty-eight (68) offices, are currently undergoing rehabilitation, with an overall progress rate of approximately 70%.

Beyond real estate issues, the Prime Minister called on provincial and communal officials to be more efficient and to strengthen their collaboration.

The Head of Government also unveiled structural projects relating to decentralization. He indicated that a law is being elaborated to extend the decentralization of local courts to the district level, high courts to the communal level, and courts of appeal to all provinces. Other institutions, such as Regideso and the Burundian Agency for Hydraulics and Sanitation in Rural Areas (AHAMR), promise to bring government services closer to citizens.

In response to participants' concerns about the affiliation of civil servants assigned to communal departments and services, the Prime Minister clarified that these agents remain affiliated with their supervisory ministries. Regarding cases of inappropriate assignments, where agents find themselves in areas outside their areas of expertise, Prime Minister Ntahon-

tuye reassured that this will be corrected gradually, promising progressive adjustments.

The meeting was also attended by the Minister of Public Health and the Permanent Secretaries of various ministries. (RTNB)

### **National Assembly: Proliferation of mobile rapid response units, one of the innovations of the revision of the law governing the National Police**



**O**n Tuesday, January 20, 2026 the Members of Parliament met in a plenary session chaired by the Right Honorable Gélase Daniel Ndabirabe, to analyze and adopt the draft organic law amending Organic Law No. 1/12 of December 9, 2021, on the missions, organization, composition, and functioning of the Burundi National Police.

The Minister of the Home Affairs, Community Development, and Public Security, who was the guest of the day, indicated in the explanatory memorandum that in Burundi, the National Police of Burundi was created by Organic Law No. 1/023 of December 31, 2004, on the creation, organization, mission, composition, and functioning of the National Police of Burundi. Since then, 20 years have passed and the Burundi National Police has undergone structural, organizational, and functional changes.

Mr. Ndaruzaniye specified that the Burundi National Police is currently governed by Organic Law No. 1/27 of December 9, 2021, amending Organic Law No. 1/03 of February 20, 2017, on the missions, organization, composition, and functioning of the Burundi National Police. This law establishes a decentralized structure organized into regional, provincial, and communal police stations. He added that Article

331, paragraph 2, of this law stipulates that the provincial police station shall comprise as many communal police stations as there are communes in each province. Subsequently, the government embarked on a series of decentralization reforms aimed at bringing public services closer to the population. These reforms led to the enactment of Organic Law No. 1/05 of March 16, 2023, on the determination and delimitation of provinces, communes, zones, hills, and/or quarters of the Republic of Burundi, which allowed for the redrawing of various administrative entities.

As a result, the number of provinces was reduced from 18 to 5, the number of communes from 119 to 42, while the number of zones increased from 399 to 451. On the one hand, as communal police stations coincide with communes and provincial police stations with provinces, regional police stations, which covered several provinces, are needed no more. "On the other hand, due to the reduction in the number of communes, a distance is created between the communal police station and the provincial police station. Furthermore, Mr. Ndaruzaniye explained that the communal police stations—where community policing services were located—have become distant from the provincial police stations that oversee them. Consequently, this organic bill abolishes regional police stations as well as communal police stations, but increases the number of mobile rapid intervention groups (GMIR).

Regarding these mobile rapid intervention groups (GMIR), the Speaker of the National Assembly of Burundi, the Right Honorable Daniel Gélase Ndabirabe, supports the idea of abolishing district police and increasing the number of mobile rapid intervention groups. Mr. Ndaruzaniye explained that maintaining mobile rapid intervention groups at the level of the central police station in charge of specialized units (Article 26 of the organic bill) would create confusion with the



mobile rapid intervention groups planned at the decentralized structure level. He also suggested that paragraph 2 of Article 26 be deleted because Article 72 of the current Organic law stipulates that "the mobile rapid response teams planned at the central level are no

longer necessary because, in the spirit of the draft organic law, they are being merged with those planned at the decentralized level. We will come back to this topic in our next article. **(Le Renouveau)**

## Burundian Senate: Towards cooperation in the field of energy between Burundi and the Kingdom of Morocco



On Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at the Palais des Congrès de Gitega, the upper house of Parliament met, under the leadership of the Right Honorable Gervais Ndirakobuca, to analyze the bill ratifying the cooperation agreement in the field of energy between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, signed in Rabat on May 12, 2025. The Minister of Mineral Resources, Energy, Industry, Trade, and Tourism, Dr. Hasan Kibeya, was the government's envoy to explain the reasons for the bill and address the senators' concerns about it.

During his presentation of the reasons, Minister Hassan

Kibeya stated that the cooperation agreement in the field of energy between the Government of the Republic of Burundi and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco is driven by the desire of both countries to strengthen a strategic partnership based on mutual respect, solidarity, and shared development between the two parties. He said that both countries will benefit from the exchange of experiences and mutual support in developing project strategies in key energy areas.

According to him, this agreement is part of the plan to achieve the goals of Burundi's vision, which aims to become an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. Given that Morocco is well developed in solar and wind energy, with considerable experience in hydroelectric power and a solid structure in the electricity sector, this agreement comes at an opportune moment, given the power cuts and load shedding observed in our country.

Following the explanatory statement, senators raised their concerns, which Minister Kibeya clarified. After being fully informed about the concerns, the senators analyzed the substance and form of the bill before unanimously adopting it. **(Le Renouveau)**

## The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, H.E. Edouard BIZIMANA, received a delegation from the African Union Development Agency – AUDA-NEPAD



This morning, January 20, 2026, His Excellency Edouard BIZIMANA, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional

Integration, and Development Cooperation, welcomed a delegation from the African Union Development

Agency – AUDA-NEPAD led by Madam Nardos Bekele-Thomas, Director General of the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD). The two authorities discussed strengthening the partnership and relations between the Republic of Burundi and the AUDA-NEPAD Development Agency, emphasizing that this visit represents a strategic opportunity to foster constructive dialogue.

Madam Nardos Bekele-Thomas emphasized that this initiative aims not only at exploring the modalities for opening

the Footprints office of the AUDA-NEPAD but also at establishing beneficial institutional cooperation mechanisms between Burundi and this organization.

Indeed, both personalities agreed on the growing importance of cooperative relations between Burundi and African development institutions, highlighting that the issues of sustainable development and regional integration are more than ever at the heart of

concerns.

They also discussed the question related to Burundi's presidency of the African Union in February 2026. Madam Nardos Bekele-Thomas, Director General of the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD, assured that her institution will provide technical support to Burundi during this presidency. **(MFARIDC)**

## Opening of the Consultative Meeting on the Development of the East African Community Strategy on Artificial Intelligence



**M**r Séverin Mbarubukeye, Permanent Secretary in charge of East African Community Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development

Cooperation, opened the Consultative Meeting on the Development of the East African Community (EAC) Strategy on Artificial Intelligence, held at the Roca Golf Hotel in Bujumbura on Thursday, January 22, 2026. The meeting was organized by the Secretariat of the East African Community, through the East African Commission on Science and Technology. The objective of the meeting was the joint development of the East African Community's regional strategy.

In his speech, Permanent Secretary Mr. Séverin Mbarubukeye welcomed the organization of the meeting and thanked all the delegates who responded favorably to this invitation, while welcoming, in particular, the guests of the Science and Technology Commission of the East African Community, and wishing them a pleasant stay in the Republic of Burundi.

Mr. Séverin Mbarubukeye reported that the Fifth Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State of the EAC, held on June 18, 2007, established the East African Commission on Science and Technology (EASTECO) as an EAC institution and that the Com-

munity's mandate is to coordinate and promote science, technology, and innovation among partner states. He indicated that the Government of Burundi is ready to support all related projects and programs and to ensure their effective implementation.

The development of the artificial intelligence strategy will serve as a catalyst for operationalizing innovation and emerging technologies to promote agriculture, health, education, environment, finance, and public services. It will be developed in accordance with the African Union Continental Strategy on Artificial Intelligence, international ethical standards, the EAC Vision 2050, and the East African Policy on Science, Technology, and Innovation.

The strategy will also help partner states manage the risks associated with algorithmic bias, abusive surveillance and digital inequality, while improving the delivery of public services, facilitating regional and national e-commerce and developing smart government platforms.

Permanent Secretary Séverin Mbarubukeye concluded by inviting participants to offer relevant observations, constructive comments, and meaningful contributions to the development of the EAC AI Strategy, drawing on their diverse experiences and areas of expertise. He expressed his hope that the meeting would provide an opportunity for fruitful exchanges and contribute significantly to achieving the established objectives. **(MFARIDC)**

## Closing of the National Consultative Meeting on the development of the East African Community (EAC) Strategy on Artificial Intelligence (AI)

**F**riday, January 23, 2026, marked the second day of the National Consultative Meeting on the Development of the East African

Community (EAC) Strategy on Artificial Intelligence (AI), held from January 22 to 23, 2026, at the Roca Golf Hotel in Bujumbura. Prior to these meeting, participants



were briefed on the process of developing strategies, policies, and frameworks, from national consultations to their approval by the Council of Ministers.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, based on group work, after various presentations, the participants congratulated the East African Community (EAC) and the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO) for organizing this consultation and reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the development and implementation of the East African Community (EAC) regional strategy on Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Participants encouraged a clearer alignment between



national initiatives and the regional agenda to avoid fragmentation. Among the recommendations made were the establishment of a clear

mechanism for regional governance and coordination of Artificial Intelligence, as well as regulatory harmonization while respecting national contexts.

In his closing remarks, Professor Tatien Masharabu thanked all participants for their active participation and valuable contributions. He reiterated that, through the consultant, the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO) is committed to integrating all agreed contributions from consultations with EAC partner states and to proceeding with the next steps, including a regional validation workshop.

The Permanent Secretary in charge of East African Community Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, Mr. Severin Mbarubukeye, expressed his gratitude to each participant for their valuable contributions and insightful reflections during this two-day workshop. The various presentations were enlightening and will undoubtedly shape the future of Artificial Intelligence in the EAC region. He expressed his hope that the contributions gathered would be combined with those of other EAC partner states and taken into account by the consultant when finalizing the East African Community (EAC) Artificial Intelligence strategy.

He expressed his hope that the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO) and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) would continue to collaborate with all stakeholders throughout this process, recognizing that each has a role to play in implementing the AI strategy. He called for working together to make the East African Community (EAC) a leader in Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Permanent Secretary Séverin Mbarubukeye announced that the Government of the Republic of Burundi reaffirms its commitment to working for the success and implementation of EASTECO projects and programs for the benefit of all citizens of the East African Community (EAC). (MFARIDC)

### Launch of the E-KORI project: a new online tax and fee payment program



On Monday, January 19, 2026, the Burundian

Revenue Authority (OBR) launched a new integrated program called "E-KORI" in Bujumbura, dedicated to online tax filing and payment.

The Commissioner General of the Burundian Revenue Authority, Mr. Emmanuel Mbonihankuye, said that with this new online payment system called "E-KORI," the OBR is taking an important step forward in the digitization of its operations. According to him, this system will enable better management and real-time monitoring of government revenues, a significant reduction in manual interventions, which are sources of errors and delays, and a notable improvement in the quality of services offered to taxpayers.



The Minister of Finance, Budget, and Digital Economy, Mr. Alain Ndikumana, who officially launched the new system, said that "E-KORI" opens up a new way of serving citizens and enterprises. He also emphasized that Burundi has made a clear choice to evolve into a modern, efficient, and transparent state, in line with the national vision: Burundi, an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060.

According to the Minister, this new system is based on a simple belief: a country that develops sustainably is a country capable of mobilizing its own resources, managing them rigorously, and putting them to work for the well-being of its population. He pointed out that for a long time, paying taxes or completing tax procedures has been perceived as complex, time-consuming, and energy-intensive. The aim of "E-KORI" is to change this perception.

Taxpayers will now be able to file and pay their taxes remotely, track their transactions online, save time, avoid queues, and benefit from a faster, clearer, and more flexible public service. The Minister added that when the system is simple, transparent, and secure, everyone understands their tax obligations better and is more willing to contribute.

For the government, "E-KORI" is also a strategic tool, as it will improve the traceability of revenue and reduce the risk of errors and mistakes.

The Minister thanked the World Bank for its technical and financial support and praised the teams who worked tirelessly to reach this important milestone.

On the sidelines of the launch, the Minister visited various departments of the Burundian Revenue Authority. (RTNB)

### Very soon, the effective decentralization of the judicial institution



**T**he feasibility of bringing justice closer to those subject to it was the subject of a discussion

session organized by the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights, and Gender for senior and middle managers from the same ministry, representatives from the Prime Minister's office, and provincial and communal administrators.

Explaining the reasons behind the meeting, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Arthémon Katihabwa, said that bringing justice closer to those subject to it aims to establish new judicial institutions in communes and areas, in line with the new decentralization process initiated by the Burundian government. This will help reduce the long journeys that litigants had to make in search of justice in the higher courts. He added that this rapprochement also aims to deliver justice to litigants in real time, more effectively than before, the Minister argued, before adding that this new approach will boost the population's confidence in justice.

The Minister reassured that this confidence will further strengthen the social fabric of Burundi. He indicated that this reform will require new infrastructure and equipment, competent staff, and monitoring to make decentralization effective.

Minister Katihabwa concluded his remarks with a call for everyone to contribute to the success of judicial decentralization. As for the staff of the Ministry of Justice, he



asked them to change their mindset in order to serve those subject to trial loyally.

"Compliance with work regulations, particularly attendance, punctuality, and regularity at work, must be your guiding principle," he said.

During the discussion, the meeting participants expressed their opinions and considerations for the success of judicial decentralization. The Minister closed the session by handing out GPS devices, which will be used by judges in local courts to enforce judgments on land demarcation. (ABP)

## The CANALLS project, supporting the use of fertilizers derived from human urine



On Tuesday, January 20, 2026, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock, Mr. Emmanuel Niyungeko, opened the 6th meeting of the CANALLS project organized by the Institute of Agronomic Sciences of Burundi (ISABU), in partnership with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, the Confederation of Agricultural Producers' Associations for Development, and Naturland. This meeting was organized for stakeholders in agroecology living laboratories with the aim of assessing the progress of CANALLS project activities in the four partner countries, namely Burundi, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Cameroon.

In his speech, Mr. Niyungeko recalled that the CANALLS project was developed by researchers from international institutions with the aim of promoting agroecological transitions in the humid tropical zones of Central and East Africa. He noted that the concept of the living laboratory is receiving growing interest and support from many governments and international organizations.

On this occasion, he explained that living laboratories serve as experimentation grounds for innovative agroecological practices and solutions aimed at improving soil fertility, agricultural yields, biodiversity, and the overall sustainability of farming systems.

According to him, the development of food systems that

promote a dignified life for all therefore becomes a major challenge. For this reason, the project, in collaboration with its partners, is committed to fostering citizen awareness of agroecological practices aimed at improving soil fertility and increasing production, as well as advocating for the adoption of measures that give an important place to agroecological inputs in Burundian agriculture.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Emmanuel Niyungeko, indicated that the use of fertilizers derived from human urine constitutes an innovative practice that enables farmers to improve agricultural yields while preserving soil fertility. Ms. Micheline Inamahoro, the Director of Research at ISABU explained that this natural fertilizer promotes good crop development without depleting the soil or damaging plants. She added that thanks to this project, Burundian



farmers will be able to produce sustainably, protect the environment, and increase the productivity of their crops without harming soils or plants.

The CANALLS project thus contributes to promoting an agroecological transition that is environmentally friendly and beneficial to

farming communities. According to her, in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, this agroecological practice is implemented in maize and coffee cultivation, while in Rwanda it is applied to cassava. In Cameroon, this agroecological practice is developed around cocoa cultivation. (ABP)

## Official awarding of certificates to graduates of the 3rd cohort of district surgery training

On Wednesday, January 21, 2026, the representative of the Minister of Public Health, Mr. Oscar Ntihabose, officially opened the activities of the ceremony for the formal awarding of certificates to graduates of the 3rd cohort of training in district

surgery.

In his address, Dr. Oscar Ntihabose stated that today, district surgery has become a strategic lever for strengthening the health system. He pointed out that for this edi-



tion, beneficiaries were forty-eight (48) health professionals: eighteen (18) Doctors in Medicine, fifteen (15) anesthesia technicians, and fifteen (15) operating room nurses, who successfully and rigorously completed this specialized training.

On this occasion, he urged the recipients to be role models within their respective institutions. He also commended their discipline, endurance, and commitment throughout this demanding process, which combines theoretical knowledge, supervised practical training, and field immersion. He reminded them that they have now become key actors in reducing

preventable mortality, improving the quality of surgical care, and strengthening public trust in district hospitals.

Dr. Oscar Ntihabose invited the Burundian population to confidently make use of nearby health facilities, which are now strengthened with competent and qualified human resources. He added that the Government will continue to invest in infrastructure, equipment, and continuous training to ensure that essential healthcare services are available where citizens live.

During testimonies, Dr. Séraphin Habonimana, one of the beneficiaries of the training, stated that this district surgery training was a defining experience in his medical career. It enabled him to acquire essential practical skills to effectively manage surgical emergencies at the district hospital level. He affirmed that thanks to this training, he is able to intervene rapidly, reduce unnecessary referrals, and improve the quality of care provided to patients, particularly in rural areas. According to him, this initiative strengthens his professional capacities while bringing surgical services closer to the most vulnerable populations. (ABP)

## Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation

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