



**President Evariste Ndayishimiye leads an Easter retreat for officers of the FDNB and PNB and their wives**

**In this Edition:**

**page**



President Evariste Ndayishimiye leads an Easter retreat for officers of the FDNB and PNB and their wives

1

The President of Burundi and current Chair of the African Union, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye meets with the Representative of the World Health Organization in Burundi

2

Public broadcast hosted by spokespeople for the institutions: the issue of wage policy will soon be addressed

2

Gitega: A childhood heart disease screening campaign gives hope

3

Capacity building workshop for senators and certain Senate officials in internal auditing

4

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation meets with the Ministry staff

5

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is organizing a meeting for exchange and consultation with representatives of foreign non-governmental organizations working in Burundi

6

Retreat of the African Group of Diplomats from Nairobi to Naivasha in Kenya

7

**O**n Wednesday, March 25, 2026, the Head of State of Burundi and Commander-in-Chief of the Defense and Security Forces, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, led an Easter retreat at the General Chaplaincy of the National Police of Burundi, Saint John Paul II Parish of Bujumbura, for officers of the National Police of Burundi (PNB), the National Defense Force of Burundi (FDNB) and their wives.

this retreat began with the Head of State thanking the officers for their commitment to maintaining peace and security in the country. He also commended the essential role of officers' wives, emphasizing their contribution to the strength of their families and the education of their children, often remaining with their families when their husbands are deployed on missions far from home.

Held under the theme "Listening to God's Voice to Help Those in Distress,"

During this session, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye focused his teachings on the virtues of a good

leader and the behaviors to avoid in order to protect the nation from any misfortune. He reminded them that a leader is first and foremost a servant of God, called to fulfill His will. In this context, he must refrain from shedding innocent blood, banish all forms of injustice towards the population, avoid adultery, and steer clear of any deviation that could bring a curse upon the country.

The Burundian Head of State then reaffirmed that the dignity of officers is in their exemplary conduct and their role as guides. They must constantly show the way, guide their subordinates and the population, particularly in development projects and initiatives, re-

mind everyone of their role in building the nation. According to President Ndayishimiye, the power conferred upon them by law and the nation is not a privilege of oppression, but a sacred responsibility: to protect the innocent, defend the homeland, punish wrongdoers, and uphold the law in order to ensure the well-being of all.

In conclusion, the Burundian Head of State urged military and police officers to engage in introspection and self-examination in order to identify areas where their role has not been fully assumed, and consequently to repent and correct their shortcomings in order to carry out their mission with dignity. **(Presidency)**

### The President of Burundi and current Chair of the African Union, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye meets with the Representative of the World Health Organization in Burundi



On Friday, March 27, 2026, at the Kiriri Palace in Bujumbura, the Burundian Head of State and current Chair of the African Union, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, granted an audience to the Representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Burundi, Dr. Xavier Crespin, who came to bid him farewell at the end of his five-year term.

During this audience, Dr. Xavier Crespin presented to the Burundian Head of State the World Health Organization's main achievements in Burundi, carried out in support of national health programs. He also took the opportunity to express his gratitude to His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye for the unwavering support he

had provided, both personally and to the organization he represented, throughout his five-year mission in Burundi. According to Dr. Crespin, the support of the highest authorities in the country allowed him to feel at home, which greatly facilitated the fulfillment of his work. The World Health Organization Representative in Burundi came to express his gratitude, especially as he is preparing to leave Burundi to take up his new post in another country. Dr. Xavier Crespin also reiterated his congratulations to His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye for the leadership he has demonstrated since his election by his peers as President of the African Union.

Furthermore, he took this opportunity to congratulate the Burundian Head of State on the significant progress made in Burundi in the areas of public health and well-being. He specifically highlighted the country's efforts to address various health crises. He noted that Central African countries have experienced numerous health crises and that Burundi has made significant efforts to be among the first Central African countries to overcome these challenges.

The Burundian Head of State and current Chairperson of the African Union thanked the outgoing Representative of the World Health Organization in Burundi for his successful completion of his term and wished him every success in his new role. **(Presidency)**

### Public broadcast hosted by spokespeople for the institutions: the issue of wage policy will soon be addressed

On Friday, March 27, 2026, in the main town of Kayanza commune; Butanyerera province, a press conference was held with

spokespeople from the institutions of the Republic of Burundi. They provided clarifications and guidance to all questions from journalists and the Burundian public, partic-



ularly those related to the salary policy, which will soon find a lasting solution.

Conveying the greeting message of the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, the Head of Office and Spokesperson for the President of the Republic of Burundi, Ms. Rosine Guillène Gatoni indicated that the Burundian Head of State is calling on everyone, in their respective sectors, to contribute to achieving Burundi's National Vision of "an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060," through increased production. According to her, the President of the Republic of Burundi is urging the population to participate in the fight against corruption, fraud, and illicit trade in order to contribute to the country's development.

In order to address Burundi's foreign currency shortage, the Burundian Government decided to sell various minerals, including gold, coltan, rare earth ele-

ments, and others. Journalists and the public inquired about the current sales figures. Ms. Gatoni and Mr. Niyonzima, respectively spokesperson for the Burundian Head of State and Secretary General of the Government, confirmed that nearly one hundred million US dollars had been collected by the public treasury between December and February.

They explained that this is one way to address the foreign currency availability issues often raised by some companies and individuals when it comes to importing various products they need. Mr. Niyonzima took this opportunity to reiterate that the Burundian Head of State continues to urge both national and international investors to invest in the mining sector in order to generate significant foreign currency for the country, so that this wealth can contribute to its development. Regarding the shortage of medications purchased with the health insurance card, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Public Service indicated that the Minister recently held a meeting with all the managers of partner pharmacies to find lasting solutions to this problem. The management of the Public Service Mutual Insurance Fund has already observed this situation, particularly the shortage of certain medications.

Kayanza commune raised concerns regarding irregularities in the trade of cement and other essential goods. Spokespeople from the various ministries involved provided clarifications and guidance on all these issues in order to find a favorable solution. **(Le Renouveau)**

### Gitega: A childhood heart disease screening campaign gives hope



**A** new glimmer of hope has emerged for Burundian children suffering from heart disease. On Thursday, March 26, 2026, the Umugiraneza Polyclinic in Kibimba hosted the

official launch of a congenital heart disease screening campaign for children aged 5 to 15.

In an atmosphere marked by commitment and solidarity, cardiology specialists, gathered within the Burundian Association of Cardiologists, launched this screening campaign. The objective of this campaign was to detect congenital heart disease in children early, in order to offer them a better chance of recovery.

For many families, often facing financial hardship, this initiative represents a valuable opportunity. The doctors present emphasized the importance of early diagnosis, which can save lives and prevent serious long-term complications.

Mr. Aimable Sindayikengera, coordinator of the Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation, who represented the First Lady of Burundi, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, welcomed this initiative. He emphasized that this program addresses an urgent need in the country.

According to him, this campaign will allow children from vulnerable families to access appropriate care without being forced to seek costly treatment abroad. For his part, the president of the Burundi Cardiologists Association, Mr. Constantin Nyamuzangura indicated that the children screened will receive treatment at the Ka-

menge Military Hospital in Bujumbura. The goal is also to extend this campaign to other regions of the country. Until now, cases of congenital heart disease often required medical evacuation abroad, an option difficult for most Burundians to afford. This initiative now paves the way for more accessible and faster local treatment.

This screening campaign marks an important step towards a more inclusive healthcare system, where every child, regardless of their parents' financial means, can hope to grow up with a healthy heart. **(RTNB)**

### Capacity building workshop for senators and certain Senate officials in internal auditing



On Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at the Hôtel des Plateaux located in the Ngozi commune of Butanyerera Province, along with the First Vice-President of the Senate, the Honorable Générose Ngendanganya, the President of the Senate, the Right Honourable Gervais Ndirakobuca, opened the capacity-building workshop for senators and certain Senate officials of this institution in internal auditing.

The overall objective of this workshop was to strengthen the knowledge of the Honourable Senators and cer-

tain support staff in matters of internal control.

The topics discussed on the first day included the fundamental framework of internal control, the reference framework and standards for internal control, and the approach to evaluating internal control. During the exchanges and debates that characterized the day's proceedings, participants became aware of the importance of internal audit and the role of quaestors.

The First Vice-President of the Senate, the Honorable Générose Ngendanganya, reviewed the actions to be taken to avoid irregularities, including strengthening the independence of the audit unit, applying standards and publishing reports with binding action plans that control their execution.

At the end of the day, the President of the Senate called on all participants to help ensure the regularity of expenditures, prevent embezzlement, and strengthen transparency in order to preserve credibility of this senatorial institution. **(Senate of Burundi)**

### Closing of the capacity-building workshop for senators and certain Senate officials in internal auditing



The Honorable Générose Ngendanganya, closed the workshop on capacity building of senators and some Senate officials

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he First Vice-President of the Senate, the Honorable

in internal auditing on Thursday, March 26, 2026.

In her address, Honorable Ngendanganya expressed her satisfaction and commended the relevance of the topics discussed, as well as the quality of the exchanges and contributions. She urged participants to fully embrace the insights gained from the workshop. According to her, the knowledge acquired over these two days will be invaluable in implementing Burundi's vision of becoming an "emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060," particularly with regard to sound asset manage-

ment. The senators and Senate staff who had benefited from the workshop were encouraged to take the lead, recognizing that charity begins at home.

The second and final day of the capacity-building workshop for senators and certain Senate officials in

internal auditing was led by the First Vice-President of the Senate, the Honorable Ngendanganya. The sessions focussed primarily on accounting and financial auditing, as well as the review of public procurement procedures. **(Senate of Burundi)**

### The Second Vice-President of the Senate meets with the population of the Giharo, Butezi and Muzye zones



**D**uring the parliamentary recess in March, the Second Vice-President of the Senate, the Honorable Clotilde Kampimbare, accompanied by Deputy Revocate Nibigira, elected in the Burunga constituency, met with the population and the Chiefs of the Giharo, Butezi and Muzye zones of the Musongati commune of this

Province, on Monday, March 23, 2026, in order to collect the grievances of the inhabitants of these administrative entities.

In her message, Honorable Kampimbare urged them to continue preserving peace and security, and to cultivate potatoes, pineapples, avocados, coffee, and other crops to foster self-development. She advised parents to fully dedicate themselves to their children's education, given that they will be responsible for the country's future. She called on them to combat early pregnancies among young girls. Raising their concerns, participants from these three areas converged on the shortage of agricultural inputs and improved seeds, as well as the need for the rehabilitation of certain road infrastructure, bridges, and wetlands. **(Senate of Burundi)**

### The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation meets with the Ministry staff



**O**n Tuesday, March 24, 2026, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Mr. Edouard Bizimana, met with all the staff of



the Ministry. The agenda included: a review of the Ministry's activities, the Annual Work Plan and Budget (PTBA), the rehabilitation of the Ministry's infrastructure, and geopolitical related issues.

Minister Edouard Bizimana began by emphasizing that mutual respect must become a habit and that the protection of state property must be strictly observed. He

indicated that diligence and a sense of responsibility at work are required, that activities must be monitored, and that a corresponding report must be submitted. He also reiterated that files must be processed within a reasonable timeframe and followed up.

Raising their concerns, the participants highlighted that the Ministry's staff remains insufficient in some departments. The answer to this matter was that the issue has already been reported to the Ministry responsible for labour. The other suggestion was that the monitoring of NGOs be handled by the relevant sectoral ministries, which would prepare a progress report to avoid delays and cover all necessary activities.

Concerning the Annual Work Plan and Budget (*PTBA*), the budget forecast was prepared in accordance with the 2040 -2060 Burundi vision. It was noted that the project managers met to establish principles to be followed in developing the Ministry's vision. Given that certain activities are included in the Annual Work Plan

and Budget, it was requested that the financial software be made available to the Ministry so that financial procedures can be finalized on time.

Regarding the rehabilitation of the Ministry's infrastructure, the Minister indicated that related activities commenced and will continue depending on available budget resources. Cleaning around the Ministry's building was also discussed during this general assembly. To address make it happen, community work sessions will be organized at the Ministry.

In terms of the international political situation, His Excellency Edouard Bizimana indicated that the Burundian Government's position, with respect to the situation in other countries, is not to automatically condemn but to encourage dialogue with a view to a peaceful resolution. Burundi has experienced numerous upheavals; consequently, it is high time Burundians worked seriously to establish peace. (MFARIDC)

### The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is organizing a meeting for exchange and consultation with representatives of foreign non-governmental organizations working in Burundi



**O**n Tuesday, March 24, 2026, the Director General responsible for the Regional Integration and International Cooperation Program, Ambassador Adolphe Nahayo. His Excellency



Ambassador Edouard Bizimana, Minister, chaired a meeting for discussion and consultation with representatives of foreign non-governmental organizations. The objective of this meeting was to strengthen cooperation, exchange experiences, and define concrete actions for the integrated development of the country.

In his address, Mr. Adolphe welcomed all participants and thanked them for their attendance. He stated that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, as the institution responsible for accrediting and monitoring foreign non-governmental organizations which operate in Burundi, attaches particular im-

portance to partnership quality. He added that their presence in Burundi and their interventions in various sectors, such as education, health, agriculture, the environment, and capacity building, contribute significantly to improving the living conditions of the population.

Mr. Adolphe reiterated that all actions undertaken within the national territory must be consistent with the priorities, public policies, and strategic programs of the Government. He announced that the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the supervisory ministry, is not only to grant the necessary accreditation to NGOs, but also to guide them, inform them about major national projects, and ensure that their interventions are aligned with the country's development vision.

The Ministry and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are committed to strengthening a collaborative framework based on: respect for applicable laws and regulations, alignment with national development priorities, beneficiary involvement in project design, transparency in project implementation, regular coordination with relevant sectoral ministries, and ongoing, constructive dialogue between the Government and NGOs. To this end, the Government of Burundi has adopted a vision for its future: "Burundi Vision: an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060." This vision requires that

every project implemented in Burundi contribute tangibly to infrastructure modernization and the transformation of the agricultural sector, industrial development, and the strengthening of health and education systems. The Government of Burundi encourages NGOs to fully embrace this national vision and integrate its objectives into the design, implementation, and evaluation of their projects.

Mr. Adolphe also highlighted an element of strategic importance for the country: the Chairmanship of the African Union, which is a historic responsibility that honors our nation and strengthens its diplomatic position on the continent. This position is not only symbolic; it implies the implementation of priority activities aligned with the major orientations of the African Union, particularly in the areas of regional integration, peace and security, water and sanitation, youth and women's leadership promotion, and South-South cooperation.

The Director General in charge of the Regional Integration and International Cooperation Programme, Ambassador Adolphe NAHAYO, concluded his speech by saying that this meeting constitutes a valuable opportunity to strengthen partnership and mutual understanding, identify potential challenges and consolidate cooperation in a spirit of complementarity and respect for each other's roles. **(MFARIDC)**

## Retreat of the African Group of Diplomats from Nairobi to Naivasha in Kenya



**F**rom March 23 to 24, 2026, the Ambassador of Burundi to Kenya, Her Excellency Evelyn Habonimana, participated in a retreat organized in Naivasha, Kenya, by UN-Habitat for the African Group of Diplomats in Nairobi. The objective of this retreat was: preparation for the first Session of the UN-Habitat Executive Board in 2026,

the Second African Urban Forum scheduled for April 8-10, 2026, in Nairobi, the Thirteenth World Urban Forum scheduled for May 17-22, 2026, in Azerbaijan, as well as Africa's priorities in relation to UN-Habitat's new 2026-2029 Strategic Plan. UN-Habitat's strategic plan defines five priorities: integrated urban and territorial planning; participatory governance at multiple levels; knowledge, data, and capacity building; partnerships and advocacy; and effective resource mobilization. Through this strategy, UN-Habitat helps Member States adapt solutions to local contexts, strengthen governance, and foster innovation. **(Embassy of Burundi in Nairobi)**

## Ministry of the Interior: a call for collective responsibility from political party leaders to successfully implement the 2040-2060 vision



A meeting for the exchange of ideas and consultation was held on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, in the political capital, Gitega, bringing together provincial governors, communal administrators, and leaders of registered political parties in Burundi. The meeting was opened by the Minister of the Interior, Community Development, and Public Security, the Honorable Léonidas Ndaruzaniye . The main theme of the meeting was: "Building our nation by drawing on the traditional values of Burundi in general and the value of Ubuntu in particular to achieve the vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060."

In his opening speech, Mr. Ndaruzaniye indicated that this ambition could not be achieved without the effective involvement of all actors in national life, including local authorities, political leaders, the private sector, civil society and religious denominations.

Highlighting the richness of Burundi's cultural heritage, Mr. Ndaruzaniye emphasized that ancestral values, particularly Ubuntu, form an essential foundation for consolidating national unity, peace, and responsible

governance. He called on leaders to transcend political differences for the greater good of the nation. Turning to the recent political context, Mr. Ndaruzaniye commended the maturity demonstrated during the recent elections, both by the administration and political parties. He urged participants to maintain this spirit of responsibility and civic duty. He stressed that democracy is a continuous process. Everyone is called upon to preserve social cohesion. He also emphasized the central role of local governance in achieving development.

According to him, progress cannot be decreed but depends on exemplary leadership, unwavering accountability, and grassroots action at the level of the hills and communes. With this in mind, he encouraged participants to integrate Burundian values into development programs, strengthen collaboration among local stakeholders, and promote active citizen participation in public affairs. Furthermore, the Minister expressed his gratitude to the technical partners, including the Burundi Leadership Training Program, for their support in organizing the conference, praising its "valuable" contribution to strengthening political dialogue.

The Minister concluded by calling on participants to engage

in frank and constructive dialogue. He stated that this meeting marked an important step in strengthening participatory governance and collective mobilization

around Burundi's development ambitions. (**Le Renouveau**)

# Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation

## Department of Communication

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