



President Ndayishimiye Receives Letters of Credence of Three New Ambassadors

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The Head of State of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, received in audience on April 1, 2026 at Ntare Rushatsi Palace three personalities accredited as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassadors to the Republic of Burundi. They were the representatives of Gambia, Angola and Namibia, who came to present their letters of credence.

President Ndayishimiye received firstly Madam SALIMATTA E.T. Touray, designated Ambassador of the Republic of Gambia to Burundi, with residence in Addis Ababa. After congratulating the

Head of State of Burundi on his accession to the presidency of the African Union, the Gambian diplomat discussed with him strengthening ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. The talks notably focused on trade opportunities in the tea and coffee sectors, flagship products of Burundi, as well as the sharing of experiences in youth and education.

The Head of State of Burundi then received Mr. Domingos Almeida Da Silva Coelho, the newly designated Ambassador of the Republic of Ango-

la to Burundi, with residence in Dar es Salaam. He also congratulated President Ndayishimiye on his new functions as Chair of the African Union. Their discussions addressed the strengthening of bilateral relations, Burundi's application for membership of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the exchange of experiences in the extraction and processing of minerals.

Lastly, President Ndayishimiye received Mr. Gabriel Panduni Sinimbo, designated Ambassador of the Republic of Namibia to Burundi, also based in Dar es Salaam. After the customary congratulations, the two

leaders discussed prospects for consolidating the already existing cooperative relations between their countries. They expressed a joint willingness to operationalize the general cooperation agreement through the establishment of joint ministerial commissions, in order to develop concrete partnerships across various sectors.

At the conclusion of these audiences, President Ndayishimiye wished the new Ambassadors every success in the exercise of their duties, while inviting them to work toward strengthening and deepening the cooperative relations between Burundi and their respective countries. **(Presidency)**

The Head of State of Burundi receives the Director General of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency



The Head of State of Burundi, His Excellency Évariste Ndayishimiye, received in audience on April 1, 2026, at the Ntare Rushatsi Palace, a delegation led by Mr. Tsutomu Yamamoto, Director General of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and an institution of the World Bank Group. The visit is part of efforts to strengthen the strategic partnership and explore investment opportunities

in Burundi.

During the discussions, Mr. Tsutomu Yamamoto extended his congratulations to President Évariste Ndayishimiye on his new responsibilities as the current Chairperson of the African Union. He also praised the warm welcome he received and the richness of Burundian culture, notably illustrated by the emblematic performances of the drummers.

The discussions focused on priority sectors that MIGA intends to support: energy and agriculture. For the agricultural component, particular emphasis was placed on the coffee sector and on the rehabilitation of the Kajeke irrigation dam. This project aims at ensuring continuous irrigation of the Rusizi plain, thereby contributing to increased agricultural production throughout the year.

For his part, the Head of State of Burundi reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening cooperation with the World Bank Group. He expressed the wish to see these projects realized as soon as possible, in order to contribute effectively to sustainable development and to improve the living conditions of the Burundian population. **(Presidency)**

Return of the President of the Republic of Burundi after his visits to Malabo and Bangui



The President of the Republic of Burundi and current Chairperson

of the African Union, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, returned on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, after an official trip to Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, and to Bangui in the Central African Republic. According to the President's spokesperson, Mrs. Rosine Guilène Gatoni, President Ndayishimiye took part in the 11th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) in Malabo. She said

the summit, held under the theme “Building a transformed and renewed Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States in a changing world,” was an opportunity for the President to carry the voice of the African Union. The African Union remains committed to building an organization adapted to local realities and to the climatic, financial and geopolitical challenges.

Mrs. Gatoni recalled that President Ndayishimiye discussed the organization’s journey from the Georgetown Agreement and the Cotonou Agreement to the Samoa Agreement. He delivered a vote of thanks on behalf of the 79 member states across Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. He also expressed his confidence that this summit would give new impetus to the organization, making it more dynamic, respectful of the peoples’ interests and useful to its members, while insisting on solidarity, mutual respect and financial autonomy. The spokesperson specified that President Ndayishimiye also witnessed the handover of the presidency of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States from the outgoing President of Angola to his successor, the President of Equatorial Guinea. On the sidelines of the summit, President Ndayishimiye received Ambassador Jean-Paul Carteran, who came to invite Burundi to take part in the forum’s 38th annual meeting scheduled for June in Brussels, organized under the patronage of the Prince of Luxembourg.

On that occasion, Mrs. Gatoni said it was announced that an award would be presented in recognition of President Ndayishimiye’s drive, commitment and efforts to stabilize democracy in Burundi and improve the population’s living conditions. She indicated that after Malabo, the Burundian leader went to Bangui in the Central African Republic to attend the inauguration ceremonies of President Faustin-Archange Touadéra, elected of the 7th Republic in accordance with the Constitution adopted in 2023. During these ceremonies, President Ndayishimiye conveyed his congratulations on behalf of the African Union and of the Central African Republic as a member state.

The spokesperson also recalled that President Ndayishimiye emphasized the longstanding bonds of fraternity and friendship between Burundi and the Central African Republic, as well as the commitment of Burundian forces deployed as part of peacekeeping missions to support stability and security in that country. Mrs. Gatoni stressed that this trip illustrates both bilateral diplomacy and President Ndayishimiye’s continental role as Chairperson of the African Union, strengthening ties of solidarity, cooperation and development between Burundi, the Central African Republic and all member states of the African Union. **(ABP)**

Students of the Socle du Savoir School shine during a cultural evening



The Socle du Savoir School, founded by the Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation and located in Nyabihanga commune of Gitega province, held a cultural evening on Monday, March 30, 2026, marking the close of the second term of the 2025–2026 school year. The event was honored



by the presence of the First Lady of Burundi, H.E. Angeline Ndayishimiye, initiator of the foundation, as well as teachers and other guests. The activity aimed at showcasing the students’ talents and performances through intellectual games and cultural presentations. In a festive and friendly atmosphere, the students presented a variety of activities demonstrating their creativity and cultural diversity. These included traditional dances, slam poetry, poems, and culinary demonstrations. The participants showed great talent and remarkable inge-

nuity in their performances.

In her speech, H.E. Angeline Ndayishimiye expressed her satisfaction with the students' performances. She congratulated them on their intelligence and determination, emphasizing that these presentations are an eloquent testament to their potential. She encouraged them to persevere on the path of excellence so they can become leaders capable of contributing to the development of their families and the country. She also appreciated the dedication of the teachers, whom she called true builders of the future, urging them to continue mentoring and developing the learners' talents.

The First Lady of Burundi also invited students not to be discouraged by poor results, but to redouble their efforts

and believe in their abilities. Those who obtain good results were urged to maintain their level in order to sustain excellence within the institution. This cultural evening thus illustrated Socle du Savoir School's commitment to promoting academic excellence, culture, and the flourishing of youth in an environment conducive to their holistic development. The Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation continues to play an important role in training tomorrow's leaders by providing a quality educational environment.

Note that the ceremony included the presentation of awards to students who distinguished themselves during the term. The school's first- and second-place students, as well as the top students in each class, were rewarded in recognition of their efforts. **(ABP)**

The Representative of the World Health Organization in Burundi bids farewell to the First Lady of Burundi



The First Lady of the Republic of Burundi, H.E. Angeline Ndayishimiye, received in audience Dr Crespin Xavier, the World Health Organization's Representative in Burundi, on Monday 30 March 2026 at the Ntare Rushatsi Presidential Palace. He had come to bid her farewell after five years of service in Burundi. The country's First Lady took the opportunity to thank him for the excellent cooperation he had demonstrated during his time in the country and wished him every success in his new duties.

H.E. Angeline Ndayishimiye stated that the visitor, Dr Crespin Xavier, had come to bid farewell, having been appointed to other duties elsewhere. She added that he had also conveyed a message on behalf of the World Health Organization's representative for Africa, commending her work carried out in collaboration with the World Health Organization. H.E. Angeline Ndayishimiye thanked the World Health Organization repre-

sentative for his excellent cooperation, the support provided to the Office of the First Lady for Development in Burundi, and for backing the activities of the Bonne Action "Umugiraneza" Foundation in the field of health. She added that she thanked him for the assistance provided during the initiatives of the Office of the First Lady for Development in Burundi in certain schools, notably the distribution of mattresses to pupils, as well as for cooperation in the fight against epidemic diseases such as cholera and malaria. H.E. Angeline Ndayishimiye urged the people of Burundi to continue to demonstrate their legendary hospitality, noting that it is always a pleasure to part on good terms after fruitful cooperation.

Dr Crespin Xavier announced that he will soon be leaving Burundi after five years as the WHO representative in the country. He noted that during these five years, he had worked very closely with the OPDD and the Bonne Action "Umugiraneza" Foundation. He expressed his deep appreciation and gratitude for the support that the First Lady of Burundi had consistently provided to the World Health Organisation as an institution, as well as to him personally. He concluded by saying that she had been a source of invaluable support to him in the performance of his duties. **(Le Renouveau)**

School canteens in Burundi: a powerful driver for education and development



On Thursday April 2, 2026, Burundi joined the rest of the continent in celebrating African School Feeding Day, with ceremonies held at Kargema I Primary School in Bujumbura Province. Under the theme “Promoting education for all through balanced local food and sanitation in schools”, the 2026 edition highlights the key role of nutrition in educational success.

The Minister of National Education and Scientific Research, Mr François Havyarimana, emphasized the importance of involving local agricultural cooperatives in supplying school canteens. This approach not only promotes healthy and appropriate

nutrition for pupils, but also stimulates local production and strengthens the national economy. He also called on private school operators to fully embrace this programme, thereby ensuring equitable learning conditions for all pupils across the country.

The First Lady of Burundi, H.E. Angéline Ndayishimiye, patron of the programme, praised the support of international partners such as the World Food Programme, UNICEF and the World Bank. She emphasised that school canteens play a crucial role in combating hunger and school dropout rates, while improving pupils’ concentration and academic performance. Beyond the educational aspect, this programme also contributes to children’s safety by reducing the need for frequent journeys between school and home.

With a view to sustainability, H.E. Angeline Ndayishimiye encouraged schools to develop vegetable gardens to ensure a varied and balanced diet. Launched in 2008, this initiative continues to demonstrate its effectiveness and importance for the development of Burundi’s education system. Through this programme, Burundi confirms that school feeding is not merely a matter of nutrition, but a true pillar of human, educational and economic development. (RTNB)

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation opens an information session on the Continental E-Commerce System



Development Cooperation, opened an information session for economic operators on the Continental E-Commerce System.

Organized in partnership with the Burundi Federal

On Friday April 3, 2026, His Excellency Ambassador Edouard Bizimana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and

Chamber of Commerce and Investment (CFCIB), this meeting forms part of Burundi’s presidency of the African Union. It aims at promoting the continental e-commerce ecosystem as a strategic lever for the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Through this initiative, Burundi intends to stimulate intra-African Trade and contribute to the effective implementation of this landmark project across the continent.

In his address, Ambassador Bizimana urged all stakeholders including telecommunications operators, banking institutions, investors and users to join forces to finalize the establishment of the national e-commerce ecosystem. This will be an essential step for the deployment of the project at the continental level. His Excellency the Minister also called on Burundi’s partners to support this ambitious project, while commending those who have already expressed their commitment.

For his part, Mr. Fernand Matendo, President of the



ICT Sector Chamber within the Federal Chamber of Commerce and Investment of Burundi (CFCIB), recalled that the primary objective of the continental system is to facilitate African trade. He nevertheless highlighted several persistent challenges, including inadequate cross-border payment systems; supply chains

insufficiently aligned with e-commerce standards; incomplete policy and legal frameworks, and so on. Despite these obstacles, he emphasized the results of studies carried out, showing that e-commerce represents a viable solution to many problems encountered in traditional commercial exchanges.

The meeting concluded with particularly rich and constructive exchanges, driven by participants' questions and contributions. These interventions confirmed the strong interest and commitment of economic actors in support of this continental project. Participants stressed the need to accelerate the finalization of the system while addressing the challenges already identified in order to develop sustainable solutions. Priorities mentioned include strengthening digital connectivity, securing data, using existing platforms in synergy, and putting in place an effective outreach plan to ensure broad and inclusive adoption of the project. (MFARIDC)

The Minister in Charge of Foreign Affairs presents the Ministry's flagship achievements



On April 3, 2026, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Edouard Bizimana, met with media professionals on Friday at the Best Outlook Hotel in Bujumbura. The objective was to present the Ministry's flagship achievements for the period from October 2025 to March 2026.

The Minister emphasized the importance of collaborating with the media to convey information that directly affects the population. He highlighted Burundi's efforts to defend its interests internationally, strengthen sub-regional integration and international cooperation, improve general administration, and promote the country's integration into the East African Community.



Among the achievements mentioned were the strengthening of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, the negotiation of agreements, and participation in international meetings. Burundi also promotes peaceful solutions to problems through dialogue. The Ministry contributes to the country's economic development through the legalization of documents and the approval of new labor recruitment agencies. Cooperation with NGOs and participation in regional and international initiatives were also underscored.

The Minister reaffirmed the Ministry's willingness to continue working with the media to inform the national, regional and international communities about the country's achievements. He answered questions from media professionals, particularly regarding journalists' participation in administrative boundary missions and visa exemptions.

After the presentation of achievements by His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana, questions from media professionals followed, and the Minister provided satisfactory clarifications. Among these questions was the matter of journalists participating in the Minister's various missions. This proposal was well received, subject to expenses and budgetary provisions.

Regarding students studying abroad, the Minister clarified that their return to the country after completing their studies remains mandatory in order to con-

tribute to the implementation of Burundi's vision of "an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060." Finally, concerning visa exemptions in EAC (East African Community) countries and other partner countries, the Minister explained that this agreement applies only to holders of service and diplomatic passports.

The meeting ended with an exchange of best wishes for 2026, marking an important step in cooperation between the Ministry and the media. **(MFARIDC)**

The World Health Organization (WHO) Representative in Burundi bids farewell



On Monday March 30, 2026, the Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, Mr Sophonie Nitunga, received in audience the Representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Burundi, Dr Xavier Crespin, who had come to bid him farewell at the end of his term of office in the country.

During the meeting, Dr Crespin praised the excellent quality of the cooperative relations between Burundi and the WHO. He also expressed his gratitude to the Ministry for the technical support he had received throughout his term of office, emphasising that the leadership of the Burundian authorities had been instrumental in the results achieved during his five years of service in Burundi.

The visit also provided an opportunity to introduce Dr KAYA, who has been appointed as the new Acting WHO Representative for a period of three months.

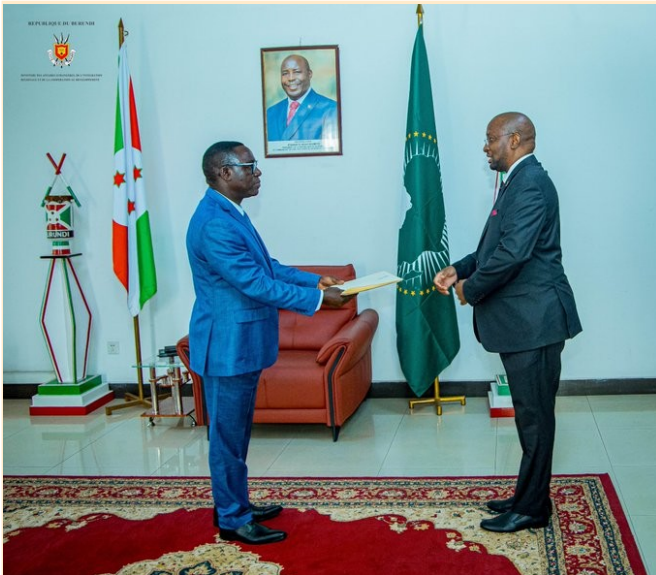
Taking the floor, the Permanent Secretary congratulated Dr Crespin on his achievements, which were deemed satisfactory, as well as on his commitment, spirit of cooperation and courage, which were particularly noteworthy during the difficult period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He also reaffirmed the Ministry's willingness to continue working closely with the new team, while guaranteeing the continuity of its support and the facilities necessary for the success of their mission in Burundi. **(MFARIDC)**

Diplomatic audience between Burundi and Namibia

On Tuesday 31 March 2026, in Bujumbura, Mr Sophonie Nitunga, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, granted an audience to His Excellency Mr Gabriel Pandureni Sinimbo, Namibia's designated Ambassador to Burundi, resident in Dar es Salaam, who had come to present copies of his credentials.

Discussions between the two officials focused on strengthening bilateral relations. On this occasion, the Namibian Ambassador conveyed, on behalf of the President and the people of Namibia, his warm congratulations to His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi, on his election as Chairperson of the African Union, commending his courage and enlightened leadership.



Expressing his appreciation for the excellent relations that have long existed between Burundi and Namibia,

Mr Sinimbo highlighted his country's economic potential, particularly in the agricultural, commercial, health and mining sectors. He announced that a joint cooperation committee would soon be established and that Memoranda of Understanding would be signed to formalize this collaboration. Indeed, Mr Sophonie Nitunga briefly outlined Burundi's economic strengths and business opportunities. He reaffirmed the country's willingness to work closely with Namibia and to support the diplomatic mission in its activities in Burundi.

Both officials concluded that this meeting marks a significant step in strengthening ties between Burundi and Namibia. It paves the way for increased cooperation in various strategic sectors, demonstrating the two nations' commitment to consolidating their partnership in the interests of mutual development. **(MFARIDC)**

Diplomatic meeting between Burundi and Angola



On Tuesday March 31, 2026, Mr Sophonie Nitunga, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, received in audience His Excellency Domingos de Almeida Da Silva Caelho, designated Ambassador of the Republic of Angola to Burundi, resident in Dar es Salaam. The diplomat came to present copies of his credentials.

During the meeting, His Excellency Mr Caelho expressed his country's desire to strengthen bilateral relations with Burundi. He highlighted several priority areas for cooperation, notably agriculture, trade, education, defence and infrastructure. He also indicated that a joint cooperation commission between the two states is currently being established to provide a structured framework for these exchanges.

In response, Mr Sophonie Nitunga reaffirmed Burundi's commitment to facilitating and supporting the Angolan diplomatic mission, by putting in place all necessary measures to ensure the success of this collaboration. **(MFARIDC)**

Diplomatic audience between Burundi and Gambia



On Tuesday March 31, 2026, Mr Sophonie Nitunga, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Co-

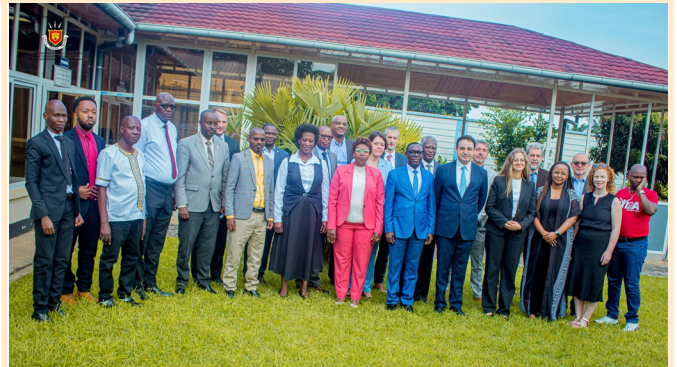
operation, received Her Excellency Mrs Salimata E. T. Tourray, designated Ambassador of the Republic of The Gambia to Burundi, resident in Addis Ababa. On this occasion, the diplomat presented copies of her credentials.

During the discussions, Her Excellency Mrs Tourray outlined the main areas of cooperation likely to strengthen

bilateral relations between the two states. She specifically mentioned the fields of agriculture, infrastructure, food security and defense, as well as other sectors where mutually beneficial collaboration could be envisaged.

In response, Mr Nitunga reaffirmed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' commitment to working in concert with Gambia, with the aim of consolidating and further developing the existing ties between the two nations. (MFARIDC)

Meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee of the Belgium-Burundi Bilateral Cooperation Programme «NTUSIGARE INYUMA»



On April 3, 2026, in Bujumbura, Mr Sophonie NITUNGA, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, opened the proceedings of the Joint Consultative Committee for the Belgium-Burundi Bilateral Cooperation Programme « NTUSIGARE INYUMA», implemented by the Belgian international cooperation agency ENABEL, as part of the implementation of the bilateral cooperation programme between Burundi and Belgium.

This programme, which will run from 2024 to 2028, aims at contributing to the development of an inclusive Burundian society that is resilient to climate and socio-economic threats by promoting access to quality healthcare, inclusive and quality education, more decent and «green» jobs, improved food and nutritional security, and the strengthening of trust between the population and institutions.

The two sides also discussed the Kaburantwa hydro-agricultural development project. In this regard, representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Environment indicated that they are examining, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, the co-financing, coordination of stakeholders and compensation for landowners whose land is earmarked for hydro-agricultural works in the Kaburantwa River marshlands.

It should be noted that both parties consider the programme to remain relevant and coherent, and that the work carried out to date is viewed positively. It was agreed to accelerate the implementation of the programme. Finally, the parties undertook to hold steering committee meetings during the first quarter of each year in order to facilitate the rapid implementation and disbursement of the budget. Furthermore, Belgium undertakes to advocate for a more substantial portion of the state budget to be allocated to basic social services, and in particular to healthcare. (MFARIDC)

Capacity-building workshop for Burundian labor recruitment agencies

On Tuesday March 31, 2026, Mr Pascal HABARUGIRA, Head of the Department for the Protection of Burundians Abroad at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, officially launched the capacity-building workshop for recruitment agencies authorized to recruit Burundian

workers in Burundi. The aim of this meeting is to work together to identify ways and means of finding solutions to problems arising in this sector.

The recruitment of Burundian workers for employment abroad, particularly in the Gulf States (Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, etc.), previously took place without a



legal framework, thereby exposing those recruited to numerous risks.

It should be noted that Burundi began exporting its labor force, consisting largely of domestic workers, to Saudi Arabia in May 2023. This initiative forms part of the agreement signed between Burundi and Saudi Ara-



bia on October 10, 2021. Since then, nearly 20,000 Burundian workers have already been sent to that country.

The Ministry thanks the agencies operating in this sector in accordance with the regulations and encourages those facing difficulties to redouble their efforts to improve the quality of their services. **(MFARIDC)**

Workshop on East African road transport regulations



East African Community at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, officially launched a two-day workshop dedicated to raising awareness among stakeholders regarding East African road transport regulations.

In his address, he noted that, despite Burundi's accession to the Community's texts, national transposition is still lagging behind. In particular, many stakeholders are unaware of the 2016 Law on Vehicle Load Control and its implementing regulations.

The objectives of this workshop were to present the regional regulations, to promote the acceleration of institutional reforms, and to turn participants into effective advocates for the adoption of Community instruments relating to load control. **(MFARIDC)**

On Tuesday March 31, 2026, in Gitega, Dr Pacifique NIYONIZIGIYE, Head of the Coordination of Burundi's Positions within the

Field visit of the Belgian Government Cooperation Programme by the Burundi-Belgium Joint Steering Committee

As part of the implementation of the bilateral cooperation programme between Burundi and Belgium, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation jointly organized a field visit to projects implemented in five

key sectors, namely public health, the promotion of sustainable food systems and biodiversity conservation, the socio-economic integration of young people into a green economy, quality education and participatory governance from March 31 to April 1, 2026, in the Province of Bu-



tanyerera in the Communes of Ngozi and Kirundo, together with the Belgian International Cooperation Agency.

In the health sector, Saint Joseph Hospital of Gasura, which the mission visited, has received operating theatre equipment, a server and a machine for the digitization and secure storage of patient data, as well as a billing module, with the aim of improving access to quality healthcare, particularly for women and children.

The main objective of the Sustainable Food Systems (SysAD) project is to transform agri-food systems in order to ensure food and nutritional security for the most vulnerable households in Burundi. The development of the 172.5 hectare of Muhembuzi marshland for agricultural and water management has enabled the beneficiaries to increase the area of irrigable farmland and improve productivity. Following two growing seasons on the marshland, project beneficiaries were able to increase rice production by using irrigation techniques during the dry season and water drainage during the rainy season. Rice production rose from 2.5 tons per hectare to 4.5 tons per hectare. By developing competitive and inclusive value chains in banana cultivation, young people and women from the Kididiri hills have been able to process bananas into high-quality banana wine, enabling them to increase production, gain easy access to markets and meet their needs.

Through training and the socio-economic integration of young people, the project supports entrepreneurs



and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises via incubation and acceleration programmes, with the aim of strengthening a structured entrepreneurial ecosystem and an environment conducive to business creation. In the Ngozi district on Rukeco Hill, Enabel plans to provide technical support to the company «Mpamata» in accelerating the processing of high-quality milk and plans to help the «Tugwizumimbu / Imburatwunguke» Cooperative, comprising women and young people from Rusuguti Hill, to increase their production through technical support, capacity building, and training in product marketing and hygiene.

At the Sainte Famille Secondary School in Kanyinya, Kirundo District, Enabel has carried out several activities, including the refurbishment of latrines, the installation of drinking water tanks, a laboratory and a digital library, with a view to promoting better access to quality education in Burundi, new teaching methods and a stimulating learning environment for all.

The « Governance and Citizen Participation» project supports two key reforms in Burundi, namely territorial reform and the implementation of programme-based budgeting. While receiving the mission, the Kirundo Commune administration stated that the project supports governance by strengthening the capacity of the commune's staff in strategic planning and human resources management, and by providing solar power and office equipment, which has led to an improvement in the quality of services provided to the population. (MFARIDC)

Rusizi Basin: climate data at the heart of development planning

On Tuesday March 31, 2026, officials from sectoral ministries, climate experts and development partners took part in a workshop in Bujumbura to present the findings of a study

on rainfall patterns in the Rusizi River catchment area. The initiative aims at enhancing understanding of climate dynamics in order to improve development planning and the management of risks associated with cli-



mate change.

Organized by the Burundi Geographical Institute (IGEBU), the workshop forms part of the government's efforts to produce reliable climate data to guide public policy, particularly in the sectors of agriculture, energy, water management and natural disaster prevention.

In his opening remarks, the Director-General of IGEBU, Mr Augustin Ngenzirabona, stated that understanding changes in rainfall patterns is an essential tool for anticipating climate-related risks and supporting sustainable development planning. According to him, the study presented enables an analysis of the characteristics of the Rusizi catchment area, changes in rainfall patterns, and the correlation between rainfall and river flows, particularly that of the Nyamagana. The results should help improve the planning of agricultural activities and the management of risks associated with floods, landslides and periods of drought. He also praised the support provided by the Dukungire Ibidukikije programme, which supported the completion of this study and the strengthening of IGEBU's technical and material capacities.

Speaking on behalf of the European Union delegation, Mr Didier Carton, First Counsellor and representative of the delegation, noted that the study forms part of the Dukungire Ibidukikije Programme, which is funded by the European Union to the tune of €20 million. He emphasized the strategic importance of meteorological information in the Lake Tanganyika region, where it contributes directly to food security, energy production and the sustainable management of natural resources. Climate forecasts enable farmers, in particular, to adapt planting and harvesting periods in line with expected weather conditions.

In the energy sector, this data facilitates the management of water supply to the Ruzizi hydroelectric dams,

which are essential to the regional electricity supply. According to him, climate monitoring is also a key tool for preventing natural disasters, enabling the authorities to take preventive measures in face of heavy rains likely to cause flooding or landslides. He added that this study complements other regional initiatives supported by the European Union in the areas of transboundary water resource management and climate resilience.

Officially launching the workshop, the Director-General of the Environment and Sustainable Land Management Programme, Mr Clément Ndikumasabo, pointed out that climate change now poses a growing threat to socio-economic development, including in Burundi. He emphasized that the country is facing increased climate variability characterized by irregular rainfall, rising temperatures and disruption to agricultural seasons, with significant impacts on agriculture, infrastructure, health, water and energy. The study, covering the period 1995–2024, analyses the spatio-temporal evolution of rainfall in the Rusizi basin, with the aim of providing decision-makers with essential information for the sustainable management of water resources and better anticipation of climate risks. The results highlight a significant contrast between high-altitude areas, which receive annual rainfall exceeding 2,500 mm, and the Imbo plain, which is more exposed to water stress and flooding. The analysis also reveals frequent disruptions to the timing of the rainy seasons, complicating the planning of agricultural activities.

In light of these challenges, speakers emphasized the need to integrate climate risks into all development planning processes, in order to strengthen food security, protect infrastructure and improve the resilience of communities. The Government of Burundi has already launched several initiatives, including programmes for the restoration of natural landscapes, watershed management, the protection of water resources and the establishment of early warning systems.

Mr Ndikumasabo highlighted the importance of strengthening climate and hydrological monitoring services through modern equipment and innovative technologies, calling on development partners to continue their support in this strategic sector. Beyond the scientific findings, the workshop provided a forum for discussion, enabling participants to formulate recommendations aimed at improving natural resource management and climate risk prevention. The results of the study should thus serve as a decision-making tool for public authorities and development stakeholders, contributing to better adaptation to climate change and sustainable development in the Rusizi basin. **(RTNB)**

Explosions in Bujumbura: 13 dead and 57 injured



Following explosions heard in Bujumbura on the evening of Tuesday March 31, 2026, the spokesperson for the Burundi National Defence Force (FDNB), Brigadier General Gaspard Baratuza, held a press briefing on April 1, 2026 to outline the facts and provide an assessment of the damage.

During the press briefing, Brigadier General Baratuza explained that the explosions were caused by a fire that broke out in an ammunition store belonging

to the logistics brigade, located in the Musaga zone of Mugere commune. He stated that they had caused the deaths of thirteen (13) civilians and left fifty-seven (57) people injured, including fifty-four (54) civilians and three (3) military personnel, as well as causing material damage to homes, private vehicles, and military equipment and facilities.

He nevertheless sought to reassure the population; despite the losses suffered, Burundi stands firm and retains its defence capabilities to guarantee the country's peace and security. He called on the Burundian population to remain calm and composed, and to report any unexploded ordnance immediately to the authorities or law enforcement agencies, emphasizing that it must not be handled. He emphasized that the FDNB remains committed to fulfilling its legal mission, in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Responding to a question about the possibility that these explosions might have been caused by an external attack, Spokesperson Baratuza reassured those present by pointing out that there could be no attack without an exchange of fire, and that the explosions had originated from the same location. **(RTNB)**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation

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