



The Burundian Head of State withdraws the contract for the construction of rabbit breeding centers from OBUHA



As part of monitoring the implementation of Government programs, the Burundian Head of State, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, began on Monday, May 18, 2025, a tour aimed at monitoring the "Rabbit Breeding Centers" Program, one of the projects considered to be driving the rapid development of rabbit farming in Burundi. His first visit took him to Gitega Province with the Ministers of Infrastructure and Livestock, as well as other officials from these sectors. They toured the construction site of the Karusi Rabbit Breeding Center. The state of the project was, to say the least, disappointing to the Burundian President. Indeed, with over 2.3 billion francs already disbursed for the work, not a single building is finished! Seeing this, and concerned about the proper management of public funds in order to achieve Burundi's vision of "an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060," the Head of State decided, on the spot, to withdraw the

construction contract for this center from the Burundian Office of Urban Planning, Housing and Construction (OBUHA). He also announced that a technical and financial audit would be conducted to identify the irregularities that led to this situation.

Continuing his tour, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye then visited another rabbit breeding center construction site located on Mutobo Hill, in the Giheta area of Gitega commune. The work on this site, currently in its final stages, was completed at a cost of 973,060,697 BIF, and in less than a year!

The Burundian leader praised the quality of the work, completed in record time thanks to the professionalism of the military engineers and technicians in charge of the project. He indicated that this same team will now continue the construction of the remaining birthing centers, previously entrusted to the Burundian Office of Urban Planning, Housing and Construction.

The Head of State concluded the day's activities with a visit to the Kibimba Rabbit Breeding and Genetic Selection Center, which is already operational. **(Presidency)**

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President Ndayishimiye encourages the new SRDI team to promote the development of rice farming



On May 21, 2026, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi, chaired a working meeting with the new management team of the Imbo Regional Development Company (SRDI) at the company's headquarters. The meeting aimed to define key strategies for transforming the rice sector. The objective was to establish rice not only as a cash crop but also as a major export sector, capable of ensuring food security and generat-

ing the foreign exchange necessary for national development.

During this meeting, the Head of State shared his strategic vision with the new leadership, urging them to fully meet the expectations of the population and to defend the best interests of the country. He also reiterated that 2026 is the year dedicated to promoting patriotism, an ideal that should guide SRDI officials to redouble their efforts in supporting producers and expanding rice cultivation.

President Ndayishimiye emphasized the importance of local management and a participatory approach. He urged SRDI leaders to remain attentive to rice farmers, address their real concerns, and unite all stakeholders in the sector. He recommended that they become more involved in overseeing the equitable distribution of water and fertilizers in rice paddies, as well as in researching high-yield, disease-resistant rice seeds, with the aim of increasing national production.

The Burundian Head of State concluded the session by wishing the new team every success in carrying out its noble duties. **(Presidency)**

National Assembly / BRB report on the economic situation: export diversification and local processing recommended as the appropriate solutions

Under the leadership of its President, the Right Honourable Daniel Gélase Ndabirabe, the National Assembly of Burundi met in plenary session at its Kigobe Congress Palace on Monday, May 18, 2026. The objective of this session was the analysis and adoption of the Senate amendments to the draft law on the reorganization of public drinking water and liquid sanitation services, as well as the presentation of the analysis reports from the Bank of the Republic of Burundi (BRB) on economic indicators. During this plenary session, the elected representatives analyzed the Senate's amendments to the bill concerning the reorganization of public drinking water and wastewater services. Some of these amendments were adopted. They also proceeded to the presentation of the Bank of the Republic of Burundi's report on economic indicators. The Bank of the Republic of Burundi's report on economic indicators as of September 30, 2025, shows the evolution of key economic indicators in the sectors of production, prices, foreign trade, public finances, currency, exchange rates, interest



rates, and the banking sector. This evolution was observed by comparing the period from the end of September 2024 to the end of September 2025. The report indicates that industrial production increased slightly, with the production index rising by 2% year-on-year. This increase was driven by the performance observed in the food industries. However, on a year-on-year basis, the BIF depreciated by 1.96% year on year, settling at USD/BIF

2,954.55 at the end of September 2025, whereas it was at USD/BIF 2,897.82 at the end of September 2024.

As of September 30, 2025, the economic indicators report shows that both food and industrial production is up compared to September 30, 2024. The contributions of coffee and tea are noteworthy. To further stimulate food and industrial production, the elected representatives recommend that the Minister of Agriculture redouble efforts to strengthen the technical and managerial capacities of the Burundi Coffee Board (OTB) and the Coffee Development Office (ODECA) to guarantee encouraging prices for producers. Following their analysis of the Bank of the Republic of Burundi's report on key economic indicators as of the end of November 2025, the

elected representatives observed that industrial production has declined, overall inflation has decreased, the trade deficit has widened, the Burundian franc has depreciated, and the trade deficit has significantly increased. Compared to the previous fiscal year, public finances saw an increase in both revenue and expenditure, and public debt rose. Based on this report, members of parliament suggest strengthening domestic production, particularly in strategic sectors (coffee, tea, industry), accelerating export diversification and promoting local processing; controlling public spending and limiting recourse to domestic debt; and stabilizing the macroeconomic framework, notably through rigorous management of foreign exchange reserves and the exchange rate. **(Le Renouveau)**

The Senate approves the name of a new CENI commissioner



In plenary session chaired by the President of the Senate, the Right Honourable Gervais Ndirakobuca on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at the

Gitega Congress Palace, the Senators unanimously approved the name Thierry Kitamoya proposed by the Head of State of Burundi to occupy the position of Commissioner in charge of electoral logistics and supplies within the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI).

The position of Commissioner in charge of electoral logistics and supplies was held by the late Mr. Gabby Bugaga before he was appointed to the Ministry of Communication and Media. This new CENI commissioner has held various positions within the Ministry of Communication and Media, notably that of Assistant to the Minister. **(Senate)**

Burundi and Belgium are strengthening their diplomatic cooperation through the Egmont Institute

On Tuesday, May 19, 2026, the Permanent Secretary in charge of Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation (MAEIRCD), Mr. Sophonie Nitunga, received in audience Mr. Gabriel Monterrosa, Project Manager of the Egmont Institute, accompanied by the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Burundi, Mr. Michael Wimmer.

This meeting, conducted in a spirit of courtesy, allowed for the discussion of a major project. Diplomatic training programs for young Burundian professionals. Mr. Monterrosa indicated that the Egmont Institute has made available to Burundi a



structured training program consisting of four sessions.

However, the practical details, namely the selection of candidates, the training modules, and the schedule, will need to be jointly defined by the sectoral directorate at the Ministry and the Belgian side in a meeting to be organized later for this purpose.

In his remarks, Mr. Nitunga expressed his gratitude to the Egmont Institute and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium for their continued support in strengthening the Ministry's capacities. He encouraged the Egmont Institute to expand these initiatives and broaden their

scope, emphasizing their strategic importance for Burundi and its diplomatic administration.

The Permanent Secretary concluded by reaffirming Burundi's commitment to working closely with the Belgian Embassy to ensure the success of joint projects and programs.

This meeting illustrates the shared desire of Burundi and Belgium to strengthen their partnership and promote a modern, open, and forward-looking diplomacy. **(MAEIRCD)**

The Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Burundi to UNESCO participates in the opening of UNESCO's African Week

On May 19, 2026, the Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Burundi to UNESCO, Her Excellency Ms. Spès-Caritas Njebari-kanuye, participated in the opening of UNESCO's African Week. This event took place at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris under the theme: "Ensuring sustainable availability of water and safe sanitation systems to achieve the objectives of Agenda 2026." **(Embassy of Burundi in Paris)**



China-Burundi / Official launch of the "March Towards Light" campaign: approximately 300 cataract patients will receive free treatment



Under the high patronage of the Office of the First Lady for the Development of Burundi (OPDD), the Chinese medical team from Qinghai Province officially launched the "Walk Towards Light" campaign on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at the Lacan Center in Bujumbura Province, Mukaza Commune, Mukaza Zone. During this 21-day campaign, approximately 300 cataract patients are receiving free treatment, with 100 patients treated at the

Lacan Center and 200 at Prince Regent Charles Hospital. The Executive Secretary of the OPDD, Ms. Liliane Nkengurutse, stated that visual health is a fundamental right. She indicated that for many citizens, cataracts remain a silent suffering that deprives men and women of their dignity and their right to live. She explained that losing one's sight means losing one's independence, one's ability to work, to care for one's family, and to fully participate in community life. "It is for this reason that the First Lady, whom I had the honor of representing today at this event, initiated a mobile clinic in 2019, a local center that has already reached more than 2,100 people who have undergone surgery and recovered, and thousands more who have received consultations." Ms. Nkengurutse noted that the OPDD warmly welcomes the commitment of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Burundi in several areas, particularly in the field of health. According to her, this cooperation demonstrates a sincere friendship and a shared desire to promote the well-being of the people.

Dr. Oscar Ntihakose, Acting Permanent Secretary at the

Ministry of Public Health, expressed, on behalf of the Minister of Public Health, profound gratitude to the People's Republic of China for its unwavering support of the health sector in Burundi, as well as for its commitment to solidarity with the Burundian people. He also commended the Bon Action Umugiraneza Foundation of the First Lady of Burundi for its outstanding involvement in humanitarian and social initiatives for vulnerable populations. Dr. Ntihabose noted that the "Walk Towards Light" project was signed on January 22, 2026, between the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China and the Ministry of Public Health of Burundi.

The Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Burundi, Ms. Zhu Kewei, noted that this is the third edition of the program, and that in the two previous editions, more than 400 Burundian patients regained their sight. She added that this year, the plan is to treat 300 patients over three weeks. Ms. Kewei expressed her sincere gratitude to the First Lady of the Republic of Burundi for her unwavering commitment to healthcare for all. She concluded by stating that the Chinese experts will not only perform surgical procedures but also share their experiences with their Burundian counterparts to strengthen the capacity of local healthcare facilities. **(Le Renouveau)**

Regional Public Relations Forum: Towards the creation of a public relations association in Burundi

From May 20 to 23, 2026, Burundi hosted the Forum of Public Relations Practitioners from the East African Community (EAC) countries. This Forum provided an opportunity to share experiences and best practices within the profession. Following this regional meeting, a roadmap was developed for the creation of a public relations association in Burundi. The event was coordinated by the East African Public Relations Association (EAPRA).

In his opening address, Mr. Pierre Miburo, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communication and Media, stated that this first edition of the Public Relations Forum in Burundi perfectly illustrates the shared commitment to strengthening the capacities of public relations practitioners and promoting the ethical standards of this profession in the region.

The Forum's theme is: "Building the Public Relations Profession: Standards, Ethics, and Roadmap for Public Relations in Burundi." Mr. Miburo explained that organizing this forum presents a valuable opportunity for sharing ideas, best practices, and innovative strategies aimed at strengthening the public relations profession.

He emphasized that the forum underscores the importance of this profession in building a positive image of institutions, the country, and the region, while highlighting shared values, cultures, and aspirations.

For his part, the President of the East African Public Relations Association (EAPRA), Mr. Stephen Mwanga, former President of the Uganda Public Relations Association, stated that EAPRA's mission is



to ensure that each country has a structured public relations association. He indicated that the objective of this event is for a national public relations association to be established in Burundi following this forum. He added that in order to support the activities of the EAC, it is necessary to work together as an organized team of EAC professionals to create a public relations association that brings together all Burundian professionals and communicators.

The Director General of Communication and Media, Mr. Oscar Nzohabonayo, noted that, although there are communication units and public relations officers in various institutions, Burundi has not yet reached the stage of having a coordinating framework, even though these individuals are the first to promote the image of their respective institutions or the Burundian brand.

This association will greatly contribute to raising awareness of Burundi's brand image, its institutions, and especially the country's abundant assets.

This regional event brought together public relations professionals from ECA countries, including Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, and Burundians, primarily spokespeople from public and private institutions, among others.

The first day's discussions focused on topics related to the state of modern and strategic public relations,

which influence the political agenda, as well as social media and public opinion management. (Le Renouveau)

Workshop for exchange and advocacy on environmental protection in Butanyerera: the effectiveness and equity of local policies need to be strengthened



The Province of Butanyerera, in collaboration with the organization "We Social Movement," organized a two-day workshop on Tuesday, May 18, 2026, dedicated to exchange and advocacy on environmental protection, climate resilience, and gender mainstreaming in local policies. The workshop aimed to strengthen the effectiveness and equity of local environmental protection and climate resilience policies by fostering structured dialogue and promoting the mainstreaming of gender and social inclusion.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Cyriaque Nikoyagize, Advisor to the Governor of Butanyerera Province on Legal and Political Affairs, emphasized that this workshop provides a valuable forum for exchange, reflection, and consultation among various stakeholders. He stated that it will allow for the analysis of local realities, the sharing of existing experiences and best practices, and the formulation of recommendations to strengthen local environmental protection policies and promote inclusive climate resilience. He added that the workshop

will contribute to strengthening the integration of gender and social inclusion into local policies and programs, promoting sustainable management of natural resources, improving community-based mechanisms for climate risk prevention and adaptation, and encouraging the effective participation of all segments of society in decision-making processes related to environmental issues. He called for collaborative action to jointly address the challenges posed by climate change. The Rwanda-Burundi Country Officer for the organization "We Social Movement," Mr. Fulgence Ndayisariye, indicated that the workshop aims to strengthen the effectiveness and equity of local environmental protection and climate resilience policies by promoting the mainstreaming of gender and social inclusion. This workshop also aims to raise awareness and inform stakeholders about climate change and create a multi-stakeholder dialogue space to share existing best practices in disaster risk management and the prevention of gender-based violence. According to Mr. Ndayisariye, this workshop aims to collectively analyze environmental and gender trends at the provincial level in order to identify vulnerabilities, institutional gaps, and opportunities for action.

Participants reiterated the major challenges facing the environmental sector. These challenges include infrastructure that fails to meet environmental standards, a lack of monitoring of projects in this area, and the absence of laws to punish those responsible for environmental degradation. They recommended strengthening awareness campaigns to encourage greater public engagement in environmental protection and participation in planting fruit trees. This initiative would also contribute to combating malnutrition-related diseases. (Le Renouveau)

Financial institutions urged to provide more support to women's savings and credit groups

On Thursday, May 21, 2026, in Bujumbura, CARE Burundi organized a workshop focused on private sector engagement to support digitalization and financial inclusion. Ms. Nicecode Nkurunziza, CARE Burundi's Women's Economic Empowerment Specialist, explained that the workshop aimed to share successes, realities, opportunities, and actions needed to strengthen the financial

inclusion of women's groups and savings and credit associations in general. She noted that CARE Burundi has been working with savings and credit groups for nearly twenty years. According to her, the organization is currently collaborating with other stakeholders who support these groups, in conjunction with the Central Bank, which recently implemented regulations governing these savings and credit associations.



Ms. Nkurunziza explained that as these groups grow, they need more advanced financial products than those available within their internal structures. Initially, the groups operate through member contributions and provide small loans for income-generating activities. However, as they grow, they feel the need to connect with formal financial institutions that can offer them tailored financial services. She added that this workshop brought together various financial institutions, including banks, microfinance institutions, and payment institutions, to exchange ideas and influence these private sector actors to develop or adapt financial products that truly meet the needs of women members of savings and credit groups.

According to Ms. Nkurunziza, this meeting also provided an opportunity to share positive experiences already achieved in the collaboration between women and financial institutions, as well as to discuss the ongoing challenges. She emphasized that the discussions allowed for an exploration of the roles of the various partners in order to promote collaboration and synergy in adapting financial products to this category of beneficiaries. She further indicated that a platform for stakeholders supporting savings and credit groups, recently recognized by the Central Bank, also presented its activities and capabilities, while expressing its desire to continue collaborating

with financial institutions.

Women members of savings and credit groups also shared their experiences with the financial institutions in their communities. Some spoke of successes achieved through this collaboration, while others raised various challenges encountered. Finally, she called on financial institutions to focus more on innovation and adapting financial products to effectively meet the needs of women in savings and credit associations.

(ABP)

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PRESIDENCE DE LA REPUBLIQUE
Secrétariat Général de l'Etat

**PRESS RELEASE NO. 05/2026 FROM THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
FROM THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2026**

The Council of Ministers met in extraordinary session this Friday, May 22, 2026 in Bujumbura, the Economic Capital of Burundi, under the chairmanship of His Excellency the President of the Republic, Major General Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE..

After the presentation and adoption of the agenda, His Excellency the President of the Republic invited the Prime Minister to present the summary of observations from the preparatory meeting of the Council of Ministers which took place on May 19, 20 and 21, 2026 and which was devoted to the preliminary analysis of the single item on the agenda..

**Draft law establishing the general budget of the Republic of Burundi for
the fiscal year 2026-2027**

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This project was presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget and Digital Economy

The draft budget for the 2026-2027 financial year is part of a multi-year budgeting approach and was prepared on the basis of the 2026/2027-2028/2029 Multi-Year Budgetary and Economic Programming Document.

It is also part of the implementation of the revised National Development Plan, itself aligned with the Vision "*Burundi Emerging Country by 2040, Developed Country by 2060*".

The draft budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year aims to support the implementation of sectoral actions and policies likely to promote strong and sustainable growth, and consolidates the achievements of the programme budget reform which has been underway since the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

It will enable the strengthening of the implementation of the policy of decentralization and deconcentration of public services in order to achieve an improvement in the standard of living of the population.

It thus incorporates a distribution of state resources at the central, provincial, and municipal levels to provide strong support for the functioning of local government. Accordingly, development projects and activities of the various ministries that can be implemented at the municipal and provincial levels have been identified, and their execution has been entrusted to deconcentrated and decentralized services to better operationalize them.

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In this perspective, the 2026-2027 Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWPB) incorporate the activities deemed priorities of the Municipalities and Provinces financed from the general state budget, the flagship activities of the various ministries, as well as the activities selected within the framework of the implementation of the 2025-2027 Macroeconomic Stabilization Program.

In accordance with the law on public finances, public finance management applies to the State, state-owned enterprises, municipalities, and projects financed by development partners. Therefore, the annual work plans and budgets of municipalities, hospitals, state-owned enterprises, and projects financed by development partners have also been prepared and form an integral part of the State's general budget.

To ensure control of staffing levels and payroll, the salary forecasts for the 2026-2027 financial year for all State human resources were made taking into account the inventory of employees carried out on the basis of actual assignments in accordance with the organizational charts of the ministries and other state institutions.

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The budget forecasts for the 2026-2027 fiscal year were established based on an economic growth forecast of 5.5% in 2026-2027 compared to 4.7% in 2025/2026. This recovery in growth is attributable to the measures taken by the Government aimed at reviving the economy through the continuation of major programs and projects within the framework of the implementation of the revised National Development Plan, such as the generalization and intensification of irrigated agricultural production, the continued diversification of export products, the gradual increase in mineral production, the construction of the railway, etc.

In the draft finance law for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, some provisions of the existing law have been amended while others have been introduced to strengthen the control and mobilization of revenue as well as the control and efficiency of expenditure.

As part of broadening the tax base, optimizing collection and combating tax fraud, new measures have been introduced.

Total state revenues increase from 5,015.6 billion BIF in the revised 2025-2026 budget to 6,333.4 billion BIF in the 2026-2027 budget, representing an increase of 26.2%.

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Total state spending increases from 5,351.4 billion BIF for 2025-2026 to 6,901.3 billion BIF for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, representing an increase of 29%.

The overall deficit of the 2026-2027 finance law amounts to 572.05 billion BIF, compared to 335.7 billion BIF in 2025-2026.

After discussion and debate, the bill was adopted with, among other recommendations:

- 1) As part of deconcentration/decentralization, provide the Provinces with operating funds instead of concentrating them at the level of the Ministries;
- 2) Decentralize the Civil Service to the provincial level;
- 3) Rehabilitate existing public infrastructure before considering new construction new ones;
- 4) Beautify public spaces in cities and urban centers;
- 5) Sourcing directly from manufacturers or producers to minimize costs;
- 6) Strengthen measures encouraging the importation of electric vehicles and set a deadline beyond which the importation of fuel-powered vehicles will be prohibited;
- 7) Impose a surtax on imported alcohol used in the manufacture of alcoholic beverages to discourage the consumption of the latter;
- 8) Finalize the rehabilitation of the Kamenge Campus grounds and make it a Burundian Youth Center;
- 9) Consider new strategies to increase budget revenues;
- 10) Strengthen budgetary discipline;
- 11) To proceed with the clearing of Burundi's contribution arrears within the East African Community.

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PRESIDENCE DE LA REPUBLIQUE
Secrétariat Général de l'Etat

Done in Gitega, May 23, 2026

The Secretary General of the State,
Jérôme NIYONZIMA. -



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Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation

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