



When faith meets development: The President of the Republic of Burundi challenges the Religious Leaders on their role in the Burundi's future



In an atmosphere filled with the solemnity and the patriotic fervor, the Ingoma Stadium in Gitega Province hosted a moral guidance session led by His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi and current Chairperson of the African Union, on Wednesday, June 3, 2026. The session, intended for the Leaders of the nation's religious denominations, focused on the theme: "The Contribution of the Religious Leaders to Achieving Burundi's Vision: An Emerging Country by 2040 and a Developed Country by 2060." Drawing firmly on the Holy Scriptures, the President delivered a message that was both spiritual and deeply committed. He called upon the religious Leaders to reject complaining but cultivating the gratitude. He reminded them that the constant lamentation obscures vision, erodes energy, and causes them

forgetting the blessings with which each of them is entrusted. He continued, saying that in front of difficulties, be gratitude, not complaint; that unlocks the capacity of acting with wisdom and discernment, avoiding blindly following what is done elsewhere. He also reminded everyone that the challenges are a part of the channel, but they should not obscure the progress made, the opportunities that remain, and the reasons for gratitude. He urged the religious Leaders to be voices of hope rather than voices of discouragement within their communities. He reminded them to build the beautiful places of worship and to stop preaching from the rented houses. His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye stated that since the perfect satisfaction is not of this World, there will always be obstacles and unmet expectations, but never a reason to give up. He indicated that the greatness of a nation lies in perseverance, not resignation. During the ethics session, the religious Leaders made a concrete and significant commitment, notably to actively support the national development initiatives by participating in the construction of a shelter for the street children, which will include the vocational training schools. That collective and tangible response to the President's call illustrates the capacity of

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the religious institutions to become the genuine agents

of the human and social development. **(Presidency)**

President Ndayishimiye honored for his decisive role in the search for peace



On Wednesday, June 3, 2026, the President of the Republic of Burundi and current Chairperson of the African Union, His Excellency

Evariste Ndayishimiye, received a delegation from the African East Congo Diaspora Network at the Gitega Palace.

The Representative of the delegation, Pastor Joshua Kibenzi Munonge, presented him with a trophy of recognition, a symbol of the organization's gratitude for his unwavering commitment to peace, stability, and reconciliation in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Representative of the delegation acknowledged President Evariste Ndayishimiye's leadership and solidarity with the populations affected by the conflict, while also expressing his gratitude to the Burundian people for welcoming the Congolese refugees.

He emphasized that the current and future generations in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo will remember President Ndayishimiye as a peacemaker who made a significant contribution to finding lasting solutions to the region's security challenges. **(Presidency)**

Diplomacy and regional cooperation: President Ndayishimiye received in audience the WFP Representative and the Executive Secretary of the ICGLR



As part of the efforts to the strengthening of the international cooperation and consolidating peace and development in the Great Lakes region, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, granted the audiences on Thursday, June 4, 2026, at the Gitega Palace, to two high-ranking officials: Mr. Jean-Noël Gen-

tile, Representative of the World Food Programme (WFP), who came to bid him farewell at the end of his term in Burundi, and Dr. Mubita Luwabelwa, Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).

On that occasion, Mr. Jean-Noël Gentile expressed his profound gratitude for the support he received throughout his mission and acknowledged the hospitality of the Burundian people. He also promised to remain an ambassador for Burundi wherever his future duties may take him.

For his part, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye commended the World Food Programme's open collaboration and its effective commitment to the food security, the humanitarian action, and the development of the school feeding program. He expressed his hope that that program would expand and become more sustainable, given its positive impact on the students' learning conditions, particularly in the boarding schools.

Finally, the Burundian Head of State thanked Mr. Jean-Noël Gentile for the results achieved thanks to the WFP support and wished him every success in his future endeavors. President Ndayishimiye also received Dr. Mubita Luwabelwa, the Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), at the

Gitega Palace a few months after he took the office in November 2025.

During the meeting, Dr. Mubita Luwabelwa presented his roadmap focused on peace, security, consolidating the regional stability, and boosting the economy along the Lake Tanganyika corridor. He also requested the guidance and support of the Head of

State in fulfilling his mission within this important regional organization, headquartered in Bujumbura. In turn, the Burundian Head of State commended this vision, offered practical advice to the new Executive Secretary, and wished him every success and welcomed him to Burundi. **(Presidency)**

The WFP Resident Representative in Burundi bids the farewell to the First Lady of Burundi



The First Lady of the Republic of Burundi, who also serves as the President of the Office of the First Lady for Development (OPDD), Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, received in audience on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, the Director and Resident Representative of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Burundi, Mr. Jean-Noël Gentile, who came to bid her farewell before taking up his post in another country.

In an interview with the press, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye indicated that Mr. Gentile expressed his satisfaction with the collaboration that characterized the World Food Programme and the Government of Burundi throughout his mission in Burundi. She emphasized that the outgoing Resident Representative particularly applauded the Burundian Government's commitment to its partnership

with the international organizations, as well as the quality of the cooperation established with the WFP in the implementation of the development and humanitarian assistance programs.

The First Lady of Burundi thanked again Mr. Gentile for his contribution to the strengthening of the cooperation and wished him every success in his new responsibilities.

For his part, the Director and Resident Representative of the World Food Programme (WFP) stated that, during his tenure in Burundi, the WFP maintained a particularly effective collaboration with the national authorities in several areas, including the education, the health, the nutrition, the gender, the women's empowerment, and the promotion of peace and security. He applauded the First Lady of Burundi's concrete involvement in those various sectors, emphasizing that she plays a crucial role in the success of initiatives supported by the World Food Programme. Mr. Gentile also noted that the First Lady of Burundi is the patron of the national school feeding program, one of the WFP's major priorities in Burundi and the worldwide. He expressed his pride in the results achieved by Burundi in that area, describing the country as a "champion" in promoting the school feeding programs. **(ABP)**

The First Lady of Burundi is in Istanbul to take part in the "Zero Waste" forum



On the afternoon of Wednesday, June 3, 2026, the First Lady of the Republic of Burundi and President of the Office of the First Lady for Development in Burundi (OPDD-Burundi), Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, departed from Melchior Ndadaye International Airport for Istanbul, in Turkey.

On the afternoon of Wednesday, June 3, 2026, the First Lady of the Republic of Burundi and President of the Office of the First Lady for Development in Burundi (OPDD-Burundi), Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, departed from Melchior Ndadaye International Airport for Istanbul, in Turkey.

Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye participated in the "Zero Waste" forum, held in Istanbul from June 5 to 7, 2026, under the theme: "On the Road to Antalya: Zero Waste as Action Against Climate Change."

The forum's activities took place under the patronage of the First Lady of the Republic of Turkey, Mrs. Emine Erdoğan. It is worth reminded that in Burundi, H.E. Angeline Ndayishimiye officially launched the "Zero Waste" movement on March 19, 2024, in Bujumbura. **(Le Renouveau)**

The President of the Senate received in audience the Ambassador of Russia, the Resident Representative of UNICEF, and the Ambassador of Belgium to Burundi

On Monday, June 1, 2026, the Right Honourable Gervais Ndirakobuca, President of the Senate, received in audience, respectively, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation, Mr. Sergey Vladimirovich Chernenko; the Resident Representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Ms. France Bégin; and the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Burundi, Mr. Michael Wimmer.



Following the audience, Ambassador Chernenko stated that they had discussed strengthening the long-standing friendly relations between Burundi and Russia. He went on indicating that the significant progress is expected in bilateral inter-parliamentary relations, notably the imminent signing of a cooperation agreement between the two chambers of Parliament of the two respective countries.

Subsequently, the President of the Senate also granted an audience to the UNICEF Resident Representative in Burundi, Ms. France Bégin. During their meeting, they primarily discussed the current state of the organization's areas of intervention in Burundi, namely: public financial management, children's education, public health, water and sanitation, food security and malnutrition, as well as the ways and means to support



and develop those areas. Ms. Bégin indicated that they reviewed together the importance of investing in social sectors by involving the young people in the issues of concern to the population.

Concluding the series of audiences, the Right Honourable Gervais Ndirakobuca welcomed Mr. Michael Wimmer,



Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Burundi. According to him, their discussions focused on strengthening the relations of friendship and cooperation between Burundi and Belgium, particularly in the area of decentralization. They also discussed the twinning of certain municipalities in both countries. (Senate)

The President of the Senate receives in audience the Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa to Burundi

On Wednesday, June 3, 2026, the Right Honourable Gervais Ndirakobuca, President of the Senate, granted an audience to the Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa to Burundi, Mr. Mbulelo Shadrack Bungane. Their discussions

focused on strengthening the bilateral cooperation, particularly in the areas of trade and tourism.

During that meeting, the Right Honourable Gervais Ndirakobuca reminded his guest that the Republic of South Africa had contributed to the peace process in Burundi and that it would be important for the South Africans

to come and benefit from this peace, given Burundi's considerable potential.

The two officials also discussed strengthening the parliamentary cooperation between the Senate of Burundi and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), particularly through the exchange of experiences.

Regarding the concerning security situation of the Burundians living in South Africa, Ambassador BUNGANE heartened, indicating that the South African Government, in collaboration with the Burundian Embassy in that country, has taken up the matter and is



working in order to find the appropriate solutions to that problem. (Senate)

The Burundian Prime Minister receives the Chinese Ambassador to Burundi



China and Burundi have very promising prospects for deepening their bilateral cooperation, particularly the possibility of working together in the trade and mining sectors, stated the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Burundi, following a meeting with Burundian Prime Minister Nestor Ntahontuye on Tuesday, June 2, 2026.

The discussions between the two officials focused on the long-standing friendship and cooperation between the two countries, exemplified by the various projects supported by China. Those projects

primarily concern the agricultural, the health, the education, and the infrastructure sectors.

Both officials reminded the long history of friendship between China and Burundi, the fraternal mutual trust, and, above all, the mutual support between the two countries on issues of vital interest to each other.

Ambassador Zhu Kewei expressed his gratitude for the Burundian Government's unwavering support for the one-China policy.

They also discussed the shared development vision of both countries, while commending the mutual cooperation and fraternal trust.

Ms. Kewei reiterated that China is there to support Burundi in strengthening its capacities. She indicated that there are the opportunities for China and Burundi to work together in the future, particularly in trade, given China's zero-tariff policy, and in the mining sector, from the geological exploration to the mining operations.

The Burundian Ombudsman calls on the leaders to prioritize the public interest

On Tuesday, June 2, 2026, the Burundian Ombudsman, Ms. Aimée Laurentine Kanyana, visited Kiganda commune in Gitega province, where she met with residents to discuss various issues related to the country, particularly those concerning this commune.

In her remarks, Ms. Kanyana applauded the community's development efforts, highlighting the positive collaboration between the citizens and the administrative authorities, as well as the progress made in increasing the agricultural production. She reiterated that the Ombudsman's office was established to en-

suring that no citizen is deprived of recourse to voicing their concerns regarding the management of the public affairs or community life. She also urged the population to abandon the negative behaviors, including the betrayal and other practices contrary to the civic values, which hinder the country's development. Ms. Kanyana expressed her satisfaction with the level of the public awareness, noting that the citizens are now better informed about the country's situation and no longer hesitate to voice their concerns and proposals for the common good. She highlighted that some citizens are now daring to denounce the shortcomings of



certain officials who are not properly fulfilling their duties.

The Burundian Ombudsman urged leaders to prioritize the public interest in order to preserve the image of a peaceful and welcoming Burundi. According to her, this stability will allow Burundians to pursue their development efforts within the framework of the vision of an emerging and prosperous country. She concluded by calling on the population to strengthen social cohesion and avoid conflicts, particularly those related to family property and other everyday disputes. She also asked the authorities present to take into consideration the grievances expressed by the citizens.

Among the concerns raised by the population were the payment of arrears owed by the National Agency for the Food Security Stock Management (ANAGESSA) to mazing the producers, some of whom have been waiting for their debts for over a year. Participants also discussed the project to build a higher education institution in the former commune of Rutegama, for which

preparatory work had begun but ultimately never materialized. Other citizens denounced the instances of poor governance at the local level. Furthermore, the Permanent Executive Secretary of the Kiganda commune, Mr. Stany Niyimbona, and the advisor to the Governor of Gitega province in charge of political and legal affairs, Mr. Donatien Nimpagaritse, indicated that peace and security prevail in the commune. They also emphasized the population's commitment to the development activities, particularly through the increased agricultural production and the implementation of the national sanitation and the public health measures.

The Permanent Executive Secretary of Kiganda com-



mune, however, noted the existence of some court judgments that have been rendered but not enforced, as well as the continued production and consumption of the strong alcoholic beverages, which in some cases is the source of conflicts within the families, despite the constant vigilance of the administrative and security services. (ABP)

Burundi and DRC: a meeting for strengthening the regional cooperation

On Monday, June 1st, 2026, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Edouard Bizimana, received in audience his counterpart from the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Minister of Regional Integration Mr. Floribert Anzuluni Isiloketshi, President of the Council of Ministers of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), who was visiting Burundi, the ICGLR Headquarters.

The two high-ranking officials applauded the quality of bilateral and diplomatic relations between Burundi and

the DRC and expressed their desire to further strengthening them. Several topics of common interest were discussed, including the security situation in eastern DRC; The strengthening and oversight of the ICGLR Executive Secretariat and the preparation of the Ordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the ICGLR. Regarding peace and security in the region, Minister Edouard Bizimana regretted that the agreements signed between the DRC and Rwanda, facilitated by Washington, had not been fully respected. He emphasized that, despite some improvements allowing refugees to return home, other areas are experiencing a resurgence of inse



curity, leading to further displacement to the neighboring countries.

He stressed the need for increased involvement from the international community to support the regional initiatives already underway.

The Congolese Minister warmly appreciated the Burundi's diplomatic efforts, particularly its involvement in mobilizing the humanitarian aid for Congolese refugees in camps in Burundi.

Regarding the ICGLR, he informed his counterpart that a Troika meeting is being prepared to review the security situation in the region and assess the statutory contributions of member states.

In conclusion, Minister Edouard Bizimana reaffirmed that Burundi remains fully committed to muting the guns on the African continent. **(MAEIRCD)**

Burundi strengthens its partnerships for an exemplary presidency of the African Union



Bujumbura, June 1, 2026, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Edouard Bizimana, received a High-level delegation of development partners in an audience.

That delegation included Ms. Violet Kakyomya, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Burundi; Ms. Elisabetta Pietrobon, Ambassador of the European Union to Burundi; Dr. Amadou Nchare, Country Representative of the African Development Bank (AfDB); and Mr. Sayed Ghulam, Senior Health Specialist representing the World Bank (IMF).

During that meeting, Minister Bizimana presented the priority activities that Burundi intends to emphasize on during its chairmanship of the African Union,

including peace and security, particularly through the Continental Youth Dialogue on Peace and Security; the empowerment of girls and women; water and sanitation and improved living conditions; and the education of refugee children. In turn, each partner expressed their support for Burundi's initiatives. All agreed on the need to support the country in the effective implementation of its mandates so that that presidency has a positive and lasting impact.

They also proposed holding a technical meeting soon to further explore the ideas put forward and define a concrete action plan. Minister Bizimana pledged to share the terms of reference to facilitate this collaboration. The development partners—the European Union, the United Nations, the World Bank, and the African Development Bank—expressed their appreciation for Burundi's initiatives and committed to working closely with the Chairperson of the African Union. The shared objective is to make Burundi's presidency of the African Union a continental example, marked by tangible progress in peace, security, and development. To support Burundi's efforts in assisting refugees, the AfDB has just approved a budget of \$13 million to support refugees living in Burundi. **(MAEIRCD)**

The Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs receives the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the United States Embassy in Burundi in a farewell audience



On Tuesday, June 2, 2026, His Excellency Ambassador Edouard Bizimana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, received Ms. Amy Davison, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the Embassy of the United States of America in Burundi. That visit was a farewell visit, as Ms. Davison was concluding her mission in Burundi. During the meeting, Ms. Davison expressed her satisfac-

tion with the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation between the United States of America and Burundi. She also applauded the quality of the collaboration she had maintained with various Burundian institutions, particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation.

The two officials reviewed the security situation in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as the humanitarian situation of refugees and populations affected by the conflict. They emphasized the need for the international community to strengthen its efforts to contribute to a lasting solution to that crisis and to provide adequate assistance to the affected populations.

Speaking in turn, His Excellency Ambassador Edouard Bizimana expressed his gratitude to Ms. Amy Davison for her commitment to strengthening relations between Burundi and the United States of America. He applauded the achievements made during her tenure.

On that occasion, the Minister asked her to remain, wherever she is called upon to serve in her future duties, a true ambassador for Burundi. He reaffirmed the Burundian Government's appreciation for the efforts she made throughout her mission in Burundi and wished her every success in her future diplomatic career. **(MAEIRCD)**

The Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs receives a British delegation who have come to reaffirm their support for the development of Burundi

On Tuesday, June 2, 2026, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Edouard Bizimana, granted an audience to a delegation from the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, composed of Mr. Billy Stewart, Director of Development at the British Embassy in Kigali; Dr. Antonia Strachey, the Regional Tax Expert at the British Embassy in Kigali; and Mr. Edmond Bayisabe, the Head of the British Embassy Office in Burundi.

After the customary greetings, Mr. Billy Stewart thanked His Excellency the Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs for the audience granted to his delegation.

He congratulated Burundi on its election to the Presidency of the African Union and on its growing role on the regional and continental stages. He also congratulated His Excellency Ambassador Edouard Bizimana on his recent election as Chair of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC).

Mr. Billy Stewart then reviewed the main areas of cooperation between the United Kingdom and Burundi, particularly the humanitarian action through assistance to the refugees from the DRC and the Burundians repatriated from Tanzania. He also mentioned the interventions in the health sector, including the fight against Mpox and cholera and the improvement of reproductive health, as well

as in the areas of energy, agriculture, education, and taxation.

Regarding recurring diseases such as Mpox, cholera, and COVID-19, His Excellency Ambassador Edouard Bizimana suggested the construction of a specialized center for the prevention and treatment of those diseases, similar to those that exist in some countries.

Addressing the issue of taxation, Mr. Billy Stewart commended the historical relationship between the United Kingdom and Burundi, which notably contributed to the establishment of the Burundi Revenue Authority (OBR). He informed His Excellency the Minister that the United Kingdom had recently funded three studies namely a functional review of the Directorate of Tax Policy, an analysis of the tax treaty framework within the Ministry of Finance, and a review of the OBR's role in revenue mobilization through facilitating the coffee exports and the combating fraud.

Mr. Billy Stewart presented also His Excellency the Minister with copies of the three reports resulting from those studies. He also reaffirmed the United Kingdom's commitment to supporting Burundi in its advocacy efforts with international financial institutions to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations contained in those reports.



His Excellency Ambassador Edouard Bizimana thanked the British delegation for their continued support for Burundi's development. He emphasized that the country possesses the high-quality products, notably the Burundian coffee, which is recognized and appreciated on international markets. Regarding the submitted study reports, he indicated that they will be forwarded to the relevant ministries and institutions for in-depth analysis and implementation of the recommendations made. **(MAEIRCD)**

Regional cooperation at the heart of a joint visit by the Ministers of Burundi and the DRC to the ICGLR

On Tuesday, June 2, 2026, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Edouard Bizimana, and the Minister of Regional Integration of the Democratic Republic of Congo, His Excellency Floribert Anzuluni Isiloketshi, paid a working visit to the Secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) in Bujumbura.

Following the welcoming remarks by the Executive Secretary of the ICGLR, His Excellency Ambassador Edouard Bizimana welcomed the Congolese delegation. He indicated that a very fruitful working meeting had been held with the Executive Secretary of the

ICGLR and Minister Anzuluni. During that meeting, the Executive Secretary presented the main activities carried out by the institution as well as the challenges it faces in fulfilling its mission.

Minister Edouard Bizimana pledged all necessary assistance to contribute to strengthening that regional organization dedicated to peace, stability, and development in the Great Lakes region.

Speaking to the meeting, the Minister of Regional Integration of the Democratic Republic of Congo thanked his Burundian Counterpart for the warm welcome he received upon his arrival in Burundi. He also applauded the work of the ICGLR Secretariat staff.

He noted that Burundi will soon assume the presiden-



cy of the ICGLR Troika and clarified that his visit to the Secretariat was part of his responsibilities as Chair of the ICGLR Council of Ministers, with the Democratic Republic of Congo currently holding the rotating presidency of the organization. Minister Anzuluni reported that the meeting with the Executive Secretary allowed them to discuss several topics, including the upcoming visit of the ICGLR Executive Secretary to the Democratic Republic of Congo to meet with the current Chairperson of the ICGLR, the security situation in the Great Lakes region, the progress of organizing the ICGLR's statutory meetings, the issue of member states' contributions to the organization's operations,

and other matters related to strengthening the ICGLR's work.

Following that visit, the Congolese Minister expressed his



satisfaction with the discussions and the results of his mission. He reaffirmed his commitment to maintaining regular contact with the ICGLR Secretariat and to continuing to supporting its activities in the interest of peace, security, and regional integration. **(MAEIRCD)**

Burundi and the UN strengthen their partnership for sustainable development

On Friday, June 5, 2026, the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) meeting was held at the Kiriri Garden Hotel in Bujumbura. It was co-chaired by His Excellency Ambassador Edouard Bizimana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, and Ms. Violet Kakyomya, the United Nations Resident Coordinator.



The objectives of that session were to review the im-



plementation of the Steering Committee's recommendations from December 2024, to examine and to validate the JSC recommendations, to validate the 2025 results within the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF), to discuss the challenges encountered and the opportunities for improvement, to validate and to sign the 2026 Joint Work Plan, and to provide the strategic guidance to strengthening the effectiveness of implementation.

In her welcoming remarks, Ms. Violet Kenyana Kakyomya expressed her gratitude to the Government of Burundi for

its continued commitment alongside the United Nations System in pursuing the shared objective of "building an inclusive, resilient, and sustainable future for all Burundians, ensuring that no one is left behind." She expressed her hope that the meeting would conclude with the strong recommendations to help to optimizing the partnership for the well-being of all Burundians.

In his opening address, Minister Bizimana applauded Ms. Kakyomya and the Representatives of the UN agencies for their unwavering commitment, highlighting their steadfast support for the country's development efforts. He noted that the strong participation of the sectoral ministers illustrates the priority of the Government places on its partnership with the United Nations.

The Minister emphasized the importance of that meeting, held in the penultimate year of the implementation of the Framework Plan (2023-2027). He invited the participants to assess the real impact of the interventions on the citizens' lives, to adjust the approaches to the emerging challenges, and to consolidate the achievements. He also reiterated that the actions undertaken are fully aligned with the National Development Plan (NDP) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), within the framework of the Burundi Vision namely "an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060".

The meeting concluded with the achievement of all set objectives. In his closing remarks, Minister Bizimana emphasized that the recommendations



from the Joint Technical Committee meeting of April 2026 had been approved, the 2025 Annual Report had been validated, highlighting tangible progress despite a challenging context, and the 2026 Joint Work Plan had been officially validated, with a recommendation for reviewing by the stakeholders before the signature.

He explained that that initiative constitutes a common roadmap, enabling the optimization of the decentralized coordination and the better targeting of the available resources.

As the fourth year of implementation begins, the Minister called on all stakeholders, including the sectoral ministries and the UN agencies, to appraisal their commitments into the concrete actions on the ground. He emphasized the need for the rigorous evaluation of the Cooperation Framework, which will allow the adjustments to the approaches and the development of a more resilient post-2027 framework capable of addressing the aforementioned budgetary challenges. **(MAEIRCD)**

Workshop on the role of women in the emergence of Burundi

On Tuesday, June 2, 2026, in Bujumbura, the Gender Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation organized an awareness-raising workshop for the young women within the Ministry. The objective was to strengthen their commitment and contribution to achieving Burundi's Vision: "Emerging Country by 2040 and Developed Country by 2060," in line with the national guidelines for gender equality.

The theme chosen for that meeting was: "The Role of Women in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation in Burundi's Emergence."

In his address, the Permanent Secretary of the Min-

istry, Mr. Sophonie Nitunga, applauded that ingenuity and expressed his gratitude to the organizers. He emphasized that the national ambition of an emerging and developed Burundi is not merely a political or economic project, but a collective responsibility that calls upon all the nation's vital forces. Mr. Nitunga emphasized the active role of women in the Ministry's core missions, including the international representation with the partners and on the world stage, strengthening the diplomatic relations and consolidating the bilateral and the multilateral relationships, promoting the cooperation and the supporting development initiatives, the regional integration and the participation in community dynamics, as well as defending the national image and values.



He continued that the current challenges demand the greater skills, innovation, and commitment. The Permanent Secretary reiterated that the public action must be guided by the essential values namely the professionalism, the integrity, the discipline, a

sense of responsibility, innovation, and initiative. He encouraged the women of the Ministry to developing their leadership, strengthening their skills, believing in their abilities, and actively participating in the finding solutions to the institutional challenges.

In conclusion, Mr. Nitunga assured that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue supporting all initiatives



aimed at strengthening the women's capacities and promoting their effective participation in the institutional life and the national development. (MAEIRCD)

Launch of the National Consultative Meeting on COP31 in Burundi

On Wednesday, June 3, 2026, Mr. Aimé Nkurunziza, Director General in charge of East African Community Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, officially launched the National Consultative Meeting on COP31.

That meeting, organized in all EAC partner states, aims to gathering the national contributions to the draft Strategy and Action Plan on the Climate Change (2026-2036). It also aims to preparing the common positions for COP31, scheduled to take the place in Antalya, Turkey, from November 9 to 20, 2026. A regional validation meeting will be held from August 12 to 14, 2026, in Mombasa, Kenya.

In his address, Mr. Nkurunziza emphasized the critical socio-economic and the environmental impact of the climate change in the region. He specifically cited the rising waters of Lake Tanganyika and the damage recorded in Gatumba. Burundi, he affirmed, remains fully committed to addressing those challenges through the strengthened regional and the international cooperation.

The country has already integrated the climate resili-



ence into its National Development Plan, which is a part of the Burundi Vision: "an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060". Furthermore, it has adopted the Green Climate Fund Country Programme (2024-2027).

The Director-General commended the leading role of the EAC Secretariat and the invaluable support of the technical and financial partners, particularly GIZ. Finally, he invited national experts to actively contribute to that work to ensure a concerted and ambitious position for Burundi and the East African Community at COP31. (MAEIRCD)

Burundi and the FAO strengthen their partnership through a mission to monitor the agricultural projects



As part of preparations for a field mission to Burundi focused on the projects supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), a working session was held in Bujumbura on Monday, June 1, 2026. It brought together the FAO representation in Burundi and a delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, led by Mr. Michel Bizindavyi, Director of Francophonie. The objective was to share information on the FAO interventions and to finalize the practical arrangements for the mission. On Tuesday, June 2, 2026, the Directorate for the International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation conducted a monitoring and evaluation mission for FAO the supported projects. Among the sites visited were the Mparambo Seed Center and a

local side irrigation infrastructure, as well as the rabbit feed processing sites managed by the COIEDE cooperatives in the provinces of Bujumbura and Gitega (Cibitoke and Giheta communes).

That mission aimed to strengthening the partnership between the Ministry and the FAO and to ensuring the greater visibility of the results achieved. The delegation also visited the Gisuru and Nyabitsinda farmers' cooperative and the Kinyinya Seed Center in Buhumuza province.

Those organizations received bean, rice, maize, and peanut seeds distributed by the FAO. The members of those cooperatives testified to the progress made thanks to the technical and financial support and the training they received. Despite some crop diseases, the harvests have improved, and the knowledge acquired is being shared with the farmers. The mission observed that the cooperatives play a vital role in disseminating the best practices, which justifies the strengthened institutional support. Finally, the delegation visited several cooperatives, including DUKUNDE IBIKORWA in Mbuye (Ngozi), in the province of Bujumbura. Those groups practice agriculture, mushroom cultivation, and pig and goat farming. The leaders confirmed that, thanks to FAO support, they have gone from a critical situation to a better life.

The overall assessment is that FAO support for agricultural education is a major achievement. However, a mechanism for regularly updating educational content should be established to maintain the relevance of the

Celebrating the Africa Day in Cairo

On June 2, 2026, His Excellency Ambassador Omar Ntezimbere honored the celebration of Africa Day in Cairo with his presence. That event brought together a wide range of participants, including the members of the African diplomatic Corps accredited to Egypt; senior Egyptian officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Representatives of the major companies operating across the continent.

The festivities were marked by the rich cultural moments, including the traditional Burundian dance, which added an authentic and a vibrant touch to the ceremony. Through that participation, the Embassy



of Burundi in Cairo reaffirmed its commitment to promoting African

solidarity, strengthening diplomatic relations, and showcasing Burundi's cultural heritage. **(Embassy of Burundi in Cairo)**

Bujumbura: National competitive examination, 2026 edition



From June 2nd to 4th, 2026, the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research organized the 2026 national examination. In Bujumbura, at several examination centers visited by the newspaper "Le Renouveau du Burundi," the examination proceeded smoothly, with no incidents reported.

The national examination was scheduled to begin at 8:00 AM at all centers. However, due to some delays related to the student setup, the distribution of the exam numbers and answer sheets at some centers was slightly delayed. At the Kamenge Secondary Technical School (ETS), seven schools participated: Ecofo Gasenyi I, Ecofo Gasenyi II, Lycée Technique de la Foi, Lycée Technique de la Plaine, Lycée Municipal de Gasenyi, and Lycée Technique de l'Alliance.

The Representative of that center, Mr. Alexis Ntiziabose, indicated that 626 candidates were expected to take the national exam in 2026. Nine (9) absences were recorded, but those students withdrew during the academic year. At that center, the exam began at 9:00 a.m. instead of 8:00 a.m., and he explained that that slight delay was due to the process of seating the candidates and distributing their exam numbers and answer sheets. "The students and the proctors arrived on time, even before 7:30 a.m.; and because there were so

many candidates, seating and distributing the answer sheets took some time." At the Monseigneur Scheppers exam center, the students from five schools gathered: Ecofo Monseigneur Scheppers, Le Bercail, École Lelière, Bercail de la Sagesse, and Ecofo Jardin Public. According to the center's president, Mr. Edouard Nsanzubumwe, 207 candidates were expected, and all were present. He stated that the exam proceeded smoothly. The exam also started slightly late, at 9:00 AM.

At the Lycée du Lac Tanganyika 1 center, students from four schools gathered: Lycée du Lac Tanganyika I, Ecofo Débout Bébé, Ecofo Bassin II, and Ecofo Foreami. The center's director, Mr. Patrice Ngendabanyikwa, reported that 154 candidates were expected, and one (1) case of withdrawal was recorded. The situation was the same at the Lycée du Lac Tanganyika II center; the exam began at 8:35 AM and was finished a few minutes after 11:00 AM. That center welcomed the students from Lycée du Lac Tanganyika II, Lycée Comibu Buyenzi, Lycée Communal Buyenzi, and Ecofo Alfatha School. While 141 successful candidates were expected, one (1) case of school dropout was recorded. Ms. Sandra Munyana, President of the center also advised the students getting up early to avoid the problems related to the lack of transportation. **(Le Renouveau)**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation

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