



**President Evariste Ndayishimiye receives the Sudanese Ambassador to Burundi in a farewell audience**



The President of the Republic of Burundi and current Chairman of the African Union, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, received in farewell audience Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim, Ambassador of Sudan to Burundi with residence in Kampala.

The discussions focused on the state of bilateral relations between Burundi and Sudan, as well as several issues of common interest, particularly in the areas of security and cooperation.

The Sudanese Ambassador advocated for the establishment of a permanent mechanism for mutual assistance and collaboration between the two states to

strengthen their partnership and provide mutually beneficial support to their people. He also requested the support of the Burundian Head of State, in his capacity as the current Chairperson of the African Union, for Sudan's full reintegration into the African Union.

At the end of his diplomatic mission, Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim expressed his gratitude to President Evariste Ndayishimiye for the support and cooperation he received. In turn, the Burundian Head of State thanked him for his commitment and wished him every success in his future role. **(Presidency)**

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## President Ndayishimiye takes part in the patriotic vigil "Umutwenzi Festival" on the eve of Burundi's 64th Independence Anniversary



**O**n the evening of June 30, 2026, the President of the Republic of Burundi and Friend of Youth, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by the First Lady of Burundi, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, graced with his presence the commemorative vigil "Umutwenzi Festival", organized by the Collective of Artists of Burundi at ETS Kamenge, as a prelude to the celebration of the 64th anniversary of the independence of Burundi, proclaimed on July 1, 1962.

This evening brought together the country's highest authorities, artists, and a large crowd of young people and adults who came to celebrate together this historic date which marked Burundi's accession to national sovereignty.

In his address, the Burundian Head of State expressed his delight at the growing attachment Burundians are demonstrating to their homeland. He commended the spirit of unity, solidarity, and fraternity shown by the artists in combining their talents to or-

ganize this grand cultural celebration, emphasizing that love of country, social cohesion, and the defense of the nation remain the foundations of the Burundian people's identity and resilience.

President Ndayishimiye also commended the artists who, beyond their contribution to promoting national culture, actively participate in the country's socio-economic development through agricultural and livestock activities. He urged them to continue their noble mission by using their talent to promote Burundian culture, foster patriotism, strengthen national cohesion, and preserve the values that form the foundation of the Burundian people's identity.

In an atmosphere of conviviality and patriotic fervor, the Burundian Head of State joined the artists present on the podium to perform, in a spirit of national unity, the song "Burundi, Mutima wa Afrika" by Mr. Ciza Sylvestre, a highly symbolic moment that illustrated President Ndayishimiye's closeness to the youth and the cultural world.

True to its evocative name, the Umutwenzi Festival continued until dawn, in a festive atmosphere marked by quality artistic performances, patriotic fervor and a strong communion between the artists and the public.

This night of celebration was enhanced by a spectacular fireworks display that lit up the Bujumbura sky, to the admiration of festival-goers and residents of the capital's northern districts, providing a dazzling opening to the festivities marking Burundi's 64th anniversary of independence. **(Presidency)**

## Celebrating the 64 anniversary of Burundi's independence: President Ndayishimiye calls for strengthening national unity and accelerating development



Evariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by His Wife, HE Angeline Ndayishimiye, as well as the High authorities

**T**he President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency

of the country, took part, on July 1, 2026, in the ceremonies marking the 64th anniversary of the independence of Burundi organized at Intwari stadium in Bujumbura.

The ceremonies began with a review of the troops by the Supreme Commander of the Defense and Security Forces, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, followed by the traditional military parade and paramilitary exercises, illustrating the professionalism of the defense and security forces, as well as the Burundian people's commitment to national unity, sovereignty and peace.

In his address, the Burundian Head of State reflected on the legacy of the colonial period, stating that certain be-

haviors inherited from that era, particularly disobedience, a lack of cohesion, and a tendency to prioritize external interests over those of the nation, have weakened Burundian society and slowed nation-building efforts. According to him, this legacy has also fostered lies, manipulation, division, and the fragmentation of the Burundian community.

President Ndayishimiye also acknowledged the historical responsibility of former leaders in the disintegration of the Burundian community and the emergence of ethnic divisions. He called for a full investigation into the tragedies of the past in order to recognize the suffering of the victims, promote national reconciliation, and reassure the victims that disaster would not return.

Taking the opportunity of this independence celebration, the Burundian Head of State called on all Burundians to definitively break with these practices in order to build a united, sovereign country resolutely

committed to the path of development. He further recommended loving one's homeland and being ready to sacrifice oneself for it, taking as a model the Burundian Bihome, who sacrificed himself in place of King Mwezi Gisabo, rather than the former historical figures who rebelled against the latter, Kirima and Maconco.

While urging leaders to set an example by fully committing to the country's development, he stressed that the country belongs to the Burundian people, who must fully benefit from the country's wealth, including minerals, land, and climatic conditions.

The President of the Republic of Burundi finally paid a vibrant tribute to the defenders of the nation who contributed to consolidating the gains of independence. On this occasion, he posthumously awarded the Order of Patriotic Merit to six soldiers, including the late Captain Ndayishemeze Eraste, in recognition of their bravery, exemplary commitment, and sacrifice in service to the homeland. **(Presidency)**

## Burundi hosts the 2nd AU Pan-African Conference on Girls' and Women's Education



Under the high patronage of the Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi, Mr. Prosper Bazombanza, the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research organized the second African Union Pan-African Conference on Girls' and Women's Education in Bujumbura from July 2nd to 4th, 2026. The conference, themed "Prioritizing Girls' and Women's Education, Developing their Skills and Accelerating Learning and Training Opportunities," brought together delegations from forty African countries.

Mr. Bazombanza stated that education is one of the most powerful tools for the social and economic transformation of the country. It opens the doors to

knowledge, dignity, and autonomy. It empowers citizens, particularly girls and women, to become key agents of change within their families, communities, and the entire nation.

The Minister of National Education and Scientific Research, Mr. François Havyariman, recalled that this pan-African conference follows the High-Level Forum on Girls' and Women's Education held in Bujumbura from December 3 to 5, 2024, under the high patronage of the First Lady of Burundi. He emphasized that through this conference, the Government of Burundi reaffirms its commitment to pursuing reforms aimed at strengthening equity, inclusion, and the quality of education for all children, and in particular for all girls and women.

Mr. Havyarimana then presented an overview of girls' schooling in Burundi. At the preschool level, the differences observed between girls and boys are generally very small in all provinces of the country, indicating relatively equitable access to this level of education. Specifically, the statistical yearbook shows that girls represent 50.45% of preschool students.

In primary education, from grades 1 to 9, gender parity is guaranteed, and sometimes girls even tend to outnumber boys. He specified that girls represent 51.48%

of the student body Nationally, the primary school completion rate for girls is 57%, while the lower secondary school completion rate for girls is 33.8%. Overall, girls have a higher completion rate than boys.

In post-primary education, that is, after the ninth grade, the trend begins to gradually reverse, and the largest gap is observed in higher education, to the detriment of girls and women. In higher education, the

enrollment rate for girls is around 25% at the bachelor's level.

For Mrs. Violet Kenya Kakyomya, UN Resident Coordinator in Burundi, the education of girls and women must be placed at the heart of the African development agenda. She added that the education of girls and women is both a fundamental right and a powerful driver of transformation. **(Le Renouveau)**

### The audience granted to the Ambassador of Gabon to Burundi: the initiatives undertaken by the First Lady of Burundi in support of vulnerable people were warmly appreciated



The First Lady of Burundi, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, received in audience the Ambassador of the Republic of Gabon to Burundi, Mrs. Joséphine Patricia Ntyam-Ehya, in audience on Monday, June 29, 2026, at Ntare Rushatsi Presidential Palace. The discussions focused on the

First Lady's initiatives to support vulnerable populations.

During this courtesy visit, Mrs. Ntyam-Ehya expressed her gratitude to the Burundian First Lady for her initiatives to support vulnerable groups, particularly young people and women, said the Executive Secretary of the Office of the First Lady for Development (OPDD), Mrs. Liliane Nkenгурutse, after the meeting.

This Gabonese diplomat, residing in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, also presented the First Lady of Burundi with a parrot statue, symbolizing the Gabonese airline, "Fly Gabon." Mrs. Ntyam-Ehya indicated that this gift reflects the desire to establish a direct air link between Burundi and Gabon, thereby facilitating the movement of goods and people and further strengthening cooperation between the two countries. **(Le Renouveau)**

### The various diplomatic visits demonstrate the interest that the Government of Burundi has in the private sectors operating in Burundi



Following the official launch of the Diplomatic Week 2026 Edition, organized from June 26 to 30, 2026 under the theme: "Economic Diplomacy and Strategic Partnerships: Levers for Achieving the Objectives of the Burundi Vision:

Emerging Country by 2040 and Developed Country by 2060", by His Excellency Ambassador Dr Edouard Bizimana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, the second stage of the event was devoted to visits to companies and tourist sites.

A guided tour took the diplomatic corps to Afritextile, located on Agriculture Avenue in Bujumbura. This private textile company took over the operations of the former Bujumbura Textile Complex, COTEBU. Its mission is the manufacture and sale of "Kitenge" fabrics, polyester-cotton products, and related items.

Its product range includes: wrappers, flannels, towels and hand towels, school uniforms in cotton, polyester, or cotton-polyester blends, as well as dyed sheets and fabrics

for decoration and curtains. Preparatory work began in 2011. Industrial production then started gradually, workshop by workshop, from April 2012. Afritextile has three main workshops: spinning, weaving, and dyeing and printing.



A visit was also conducted to the Tora Tea Complex, a factory located in the commune of Matana. As one of the main processing units of the Burundi Tea Board (OTB), this factory plays a vital role in adding value to national tea production and contributes significantly to the country's economic and social development.



The delegation then visited the Source of the Nile, located in the commune of Matana. Considered the southernmost source of

the White Nile, this historic site was discovered by the German explorer Burkhardt Waldecker. The diplomats also visited the pyramid he erected to commemorate his discovery of the Source of the Nile, a monument that attracts many visitors each year.



The journey continued to Karera Falls, where visitors admired an impressive waterfall over 45 meters high.

Nearby, they also contemplated a long suspension bridge overlooking a verdant valley, offering exceptional panoramic views of the region's natural beauty.

At the conclusion of this visit, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana, emphasized the importance of this initiative. According to him, this visit allows diplomats to

discover Burundi's many strengths so that they, in turn, can become ambassadors for Burundi as a destination throughout the world.

The Minister emphasized that diplomacy is not limited to political and economic relations, but also constitutes a powerful tool for tourism promotion. He expressed his conviction that these discoveries will encourage more tourists to visit Burundi and help to showcase the country in a new light: that of a nation rich in exceptional landscapes and natural and cultural heritage.



The visit continued in Gitega province with visits to the Rusi Multipurpose Training Centre and the Umugiraneza Foundation in Kibimba.

During the visit to the Public Center for Polytechnical Training and Professional Retraining (CEFORE-RUSI), located in Rusi, in Shombo commune, Gitega province, the Director General of the Center, Dr. Bonaventure DUSABE, presented the missions of CEFORERUSI, created by the Government of Burundi to promote practice-oriented professional training. The Center is based on four fundamental principles: learning by doing, professional development through practice, valuing acquired experience, and transferring innovative technologies to communities. The Director General indicated that CEFORERUSI has already trained more than 1,000 learners, mobilized two development projects, established six functional workshops, cultivates more than 30 hectares of land, maintains four international partnerships, delivers more than twenty training modules, and is developing five operational sectors.



The delegation then traveled to Kibimba, where they visited the projects of the Umugiraneza Foundation, including the Socle

du Savoir School and the Umugiraneza Hospital. The visit was led by Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, First Lady of the Republic of Burundi.

Founded in 2019, the Umugiraneza Foundation works to support vulnerable people while contributing to the socio-economic development of Burundi. Its vision is to build a Burundian organization committed to national development through community-based initiatives founded on respect for human rights, mutual support, education, and the promotion of health for all. Its mission is to carry out humanitarian actions for the most vulnerable populations, promote formal and non-formal education, and improve maternal and child health.

The diplomats also discovered the unique nature of Umugiraneza Hospital, which offers specialized care to couples facing infertility problems.

At the end of this visit, Her Excellency the First Lady thanked the Heads of diplomatic missions for the interest they showed in the Foundation's achievements. Speaking in turn, His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Inte-

gration and Development Cooperation, commended the First Lady's leadership and commitment to vulnerable people, particularly women, girls, and impoverished families.



He emphasized that the actions of the Umugiraneza Foundation contribute effectively to the implementation of the National Vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. **(MFARIDC)**

## Bugarama: Reflections on Burundi's progress and its many opportunities



**T**he activities of the 11th edition of the Diplomatic Week concluded in Bugarama on June 30, 2026, where the closing ceremony was held.

In his speech, His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, expressed his deep gratitude to all participants and partners who contributed to the success of this edition.

He stressed that this week offered diplomats a privi-

leged opportunity to discover the progress made by Burundi, the beauty of its landscapes, the resilience of its population, and the many opportunities the country offers.

The Minister noted that this initiative also brought together Heads of Diplomatic Missions accredited to Burundi and Burundian Heads of Diplomatic Missions accredited abroad, thereby strengthening the exchange of experiences and promoting economic diplomacy. He indicated that the diplomats were able to see firsthand that peace, security, and stability are a reality in Burundi, essential conditions for attracting investment and accelerating development.

In officially closing the proceedings, His Excellency the Minister reaffirmed the Government's commitment to continuing the implementation of the National Vision "Burundi, an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060", the central theme of this 11th edition of the Diplomatic Week.

He concluded by expressing his sincere thanks to all those who contributed to the success of the week, with special mention to Her Excellency the First Lady of the Republic of

Burundi, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, who extended a warm welcome to the participants

and a much-appreciated tour of the Umugiraneza Foundation. (MFARIDC)

## Cooperation between Burundi and the United Nations Development Programme



**O**n July 2, 2026, His Excellency Ambassador Edouard Bizimana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, opened a workshop on the semi-annual review of the UNDP Country Programme in Burundi. This workshop is part of the ongoing Country Programme Document (CPD) 2024-2027, which was jointly prepared with UNDP. More than just a technical exercise, this review provides a valuable opportunity for introspection, mutual accountability, and future planning. It embodies the strength of the dynamic and fruitful partnership between the Government of Burundi and UNDP.

In his opening address at the workshop, His Excellency the Minister invited Burundi's partners, such as the UNDP, to align their strategic priorities with those of the Government, particularly the revised National Development Plan (NDP) and the Burundi Vision: an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060, when developing their programs. This alignment would allow them to contribute effectively to accelerating human development. He emphasized that the new administrative structure should not be seen as a challenge, but rather as an opportunity to strengthen support for local governance and the digitalization of services, thereby ensuring access to justice and services for all Burundian citizens. Addressing the country's vulnerability to climate hazards, His Excellency the Minister advocated for increased UNDP interventions in ecosystem management, sustainable agriculture, and the circular economy, in line with the Government's guidelines and needs, as addressed by the relevant ministries and national institutions.

In her speech, Mrs. Emma N'gouan Anoh, UNDP Resident Representative in Burundi, stated that

UNDP remains fully committed to supporting Burundi in the dynamics of accelerating the creation of decent jobs, mobilizing investments, economic transformation, resilience to climate shocks, digitalization of public services, strengthening social cohesion and reducing inequalities remain at the heart of national priorities, in accordance with national priorities, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Addressing the issue of evolving circumstances impacting the implementation of development programs, Mr. Libérat Mpfumukeko, Special Advisor to the President of the Republic, urged various partners to reconsider budget support to the Government of Burundi. He noted that the country faces challenges related to fuel supply, the purchase of medicines, and obtaining the foreign currency needed by the private sector for imports, while exports cannot cover half of those imports. In light of this situation, he encouraged Burundians to seize the opportunities presented by Burundi's presidency of the African Union and to capitalize on the vast market of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) by promoting key export products and improving the business environment.

Ambassador Albert Mbonerane, Founder of the Green Belt Action for the Environment (ACVE), indicated that the country faces several environmental and climate change-related challenges, including flooding and rising water levels in Lake Tanganyika and the Rusizi River in the Imbo Plain, the loss and destruction of homes and infrastructure, landslides, and prolonged droughts. He called on partners to support projects related to environmental improvement, raising public awareness about the importance of tree planting and reforestation, and organizing a roundtable discussion on fundraising for dredging the Rukuga River to protect vulnerable

populations in the Lake Tanganyika riparian countries (Burundi, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of the

Congo, and Zambia) from the effects of climate change. (MFARIDC)

### Gitega: The Government reaffirms its commitment to children's rights



The Day of the African Child was celebrated on Monday, June 29, 2026, in the Gihogazi area, Shombo Commune, Gitega Province. Burundian authorities, international partners, and children's representatives reiterated the importance of ensuring every child has access to clean water, sanitation, and a healthy environment.

The ceremonies marking the Day of the African Child were held under the theme: "Ensuring the sustainable availability of safe water and sanitation to achieve the goals of Agenda 2063" of the African Union. They were presided over by the Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Gender, Mr. Alfred Ahingejeje, in the presence of representatives from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and several organizations committed to the protection of children's rights.

Before the festivities, the Minister visited newly constructed drinking water supply infrastructure in the Gihogazi area. These facilities serve the residents, schools, and health centers of the locality.

The representative of the National Children's Forum, Mr. Aimé-Didier Iradukunda, indicated that the children of Burundi join those from the rest of Africa in celebrating this day. He reiterated that a child must receive constant protection, as they remain vulnerable. He emphasized that every child has the right to sufficient food, decent housing, education, healthcare, and a healthy living environment. The children commended the efforts of the Government and its partners in promoting their rights. They took the opportunity to ask the Government to continue raising awareness so that they are better informed about their rights and can defend them.

UNICEF Representative in Burundi, Mrs. France Bégin, explained that this day provides an opportunity to assess the situation of children's rights in Africa. According to her, access to clean water is not a privilege, but a fundamental right. She reaffirmed her organization's commitment to supporting the Burundian government in developing water, hygiene, and sanitation infrastructure, particularly in communities, schools, and health facilities.

Taking the floor, Minister Ahingejeje emphasized that this day highlights the rights of African children, the challenges they face, and their future. He indicated that the chosen theme aligns with the Government's policy of improving children's living conditions through access to clean water, hygiene, and sanitation. The Minister acknowledged, however, that challenges remain. In some areas, children still live in unsanitary conditions, a situation that concerns parents, educators, and the entire community.

In closing the ceremonies, Minister Ahingejeje assured that the Government of Burundi will continue to implement all necessary actions to protect children's rights and guarantee them an environment conducive to their development, so that no child is left behind. (RTNB)

### Hygiene and sanitation: Four Ministers visit the communes of Ntakangwa, Mukaza and Mugere

A joint mission of four (4) Ministers of the Burundian Government took place in the communes of Ntakangwa, Mukaza and Mugere in the province of Bujumbura on Tuesday, June 30, 2026. The objective of this visit was to assess the application of the joint ordinance relating to fines in matters of hy-

giene and sanitation, and to officially launch the "Zero Waste" month across the entire national territory.

To review the sanctions imposed on hygiene offenders and launch "Zero Waste Month," four ministers participated in this tour: the Minister of the Home Affairs, Commu-

nity Development and Public Security; the Minister of Public Health; the Minister of Infrastructure, Social Housing, Transport and Equipment; and the Minister of Communication and Media. The visit began in the Ntakangwa commune before continuing to the Mukaza and Mugere communes.



During this operation, the Ministers imposed administrative fines ranging from 5,000 to 500,000 Burundian francs, in accordance with current regulations.

Restaurants and bars that did not comply with hygiene standards, particularly in the city center, were closed.

In a statement made following the visit, the Minister of the Interior, Community Development, and Public Security, the Honorable Léonidas Ndaruzaniye, indicated that June 30, 2026, marks the beginning of the campaign to enforce administrative fines against those who do not comply with hygiene regulations. Mr. Ndaruzaniye noted that the vast majority of Burundians have responded favorably to the call for improved sanitation in living and working environments. He emphasized that those who refuse to comply will face the full force of the penalties stipulated by Burundian law.

Launching the "Zero Waste" month, which began on July 1, 2026 Mr. Ndaruzaniye called on Burundians to redouble their efforts to improve hygiene conditions. He also asked local administrative authorities to become more involved in raising awareness and monitoring the implementation of hygiene measures. **(Le Renouveau)**

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

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