



President Ndayishimiye calls for an Africa in control of its own health destiny



The 20th Extraordinary Session of the African Union Conference on Health, held in Accra on July 21, 2026, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi and current Chairperson of the African Union, concluded on July 22, 2026.

Focused on health justice and universal health coverage in Africa, the session resulted in the adoption of a declaration reaffirming the commitment of Heads of State and Government to promote justice, equity, and universal access to healthcare across the continent. African leaders notably pledged to intensify efforts to end AIDS and tuberculosis, im-

prove maternal health, and strengthen the fight against non-communicable diseases and neglected tropical diseases.

In his closing address, President Ndayishimiye emphasized that the proceedings had identified three strategic priorities to guide joint action in the years ahead. These include the development of local manufacturing of medical products to consolidate Africa's health sovereignty, the mobilization of domestic resources and innovative financing mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of investments in the health sector, and the strengthening of governance, political leadership, and accountability to translate

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commitments into concrete results for African populations.

He also made an appeal for African health solidarity, which he described not as a mere aspiration but as a genuine development architecture. According to him, Africa must build a health system capable of meeting its own needs, producing locally adapted solutions to its challenges, and shifting from a logic of reaction to a culture of anticipation.

He further welcomed the voluntary commitments announced by several delegations during the 20th Ex-

traordinary Session, stating that they constitute a strong signal of the determination of member states to move from declarations of intent to concrete actions.

In conclusion, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye reaffirmed that Africa now possesses the skills, institutions, and political will necessary to take charge of its health destiny. He called on member states to ensure rigorous follow-up on the commitments made in Accra to accelerate the achievement of universal health coverage based on justice, equity, and the continent's health sovereignty. **(Presidency)**

Mukaza Commune: sport forges a spirit of brotherhood, love, and social cohesion



On the afternoon of Monday, July 20, 2026, accompanied by the Secretary General and Government Spokesperson, the Minister of Communication and Media, various senior state officials, and the population of Bujumbura province, the First Lady of the Republic of Burundi, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, organized a sports activity in

Mukaza commune.

The day's sporting event began with a walk from the Mutanga Nord neighborhood, passing through the Sororezo district, to the National Unity Monument located in the Kiriri area. Through this walking club, H.E. Angeline Ndayishimiye reminded the Burundian population that sport brings many benefits to human life. She invited the population to embrace sport, adding that even in her absence, they should gather with friends and colleagues to exercise.

Recalling that sport forges a spirit of brotherhood, love, and social cohesion, and also contributes to improving health, she used the occasion to call on the public to love sport to maintain and care for their bodies. She thanked and encouraged all those who have embraced this good initiative, practiced regularly, to strengthen good cohabitation, friendship, and mutual support. **(Le Renouveau)**

Burundi's Prime Minister launches the 2026-2027 budget credit opening workshop, emphasizing performance



Under the theme "From Available Credit to Real Impact: A Results-Oriented Budget Execution," the Prime Minister of the Repub-

lic of Burundi, Mr. Nestor Ntahontuye, officially launched the workshop for opening budget credits for the 2026-2027 fiscal year on July 23, 2026, in Bujumbura.

Bringing together government members, heads of constitutional institutions, permanent secretaries, directors general, program coordinators, action managers, and key officials involved in executing the state budget, this workshop marked a decisive step in implementing public finance reforms undertaken by the Government.

In his opening address, the Prime Minister recalled that this workshop takes place in a special context character-

ized by the acceleration of decentralization reforms, the deconcentration of public services, and the implementation of the program-based budget, all aimed at achieving the national Vision: making Burundi an "emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060," under the leadership of the President of the Republic, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye.

The Head of Government stressed that the program-based budget reform, initiated in 2022, represents a profound paradigm shift in public finance management. The objective is no longer simply to spend budget credits but to produce concrete, measurable results for the benefit of citizens. He also highlighted the significant administrative reforms undertaken since 2023 with Burundi's new territorial organization. The restructuring from 18 to 5 provinces and from 119 to 42 communes opens a new phase of deconcentration and decentralization of budget execution, bringing public services closer to citizens and strengthening local development.

For the 2026-2027 fiscal year, state revenues are projected at 6,347.21 billion Burundian francs, compared to 5,015.69 billion the previous year, an increase of 27.5%. This growth will be supported notably by the continued digitalization of tax administration, broadening the tax base, combating fraud and smuggling, and strengthening the recovery of public receivables. Public expenditure will amount to 6,732.17 billion Burundian francs, an increase of 25.8% compared to the previous fiscal year.

The budget presents a controlled deficit of 384.96 billion Burundian francs, reflecting the Government's commitment to reconciling priority investments with budgetary sustainability. He specified that this budget is a strategic instrument for implementing the revised National Development Plan 2018-2027 and is now structured around programs with precise objectives, performance indicators, Annual Performance Plans (PAPs), and Annual Performance Reports (APRs) to effectively measure results achieved.

Among the main innovations this fiscal year is the entry into force of the decree of July 22, 2026, defining the roles and responsibilities of the various actors in budget execution. This text strengthens the deconcentration of financial management by establishing, among other things, provincial and

communal public accountants, expenditure commitment controllers, advance officers, and the National Communal Investment Fund (FONIC).

The Head of Government announced that three major orientations will guide public action during this fiscal year: strengthening budget discipline through better cash management, improving performance through rigorous monitoring of program indicators, and increasing accountability of public managers at all levels of administration. Directly addressing ministers, permanent secretaries, directors general, and program managers, he called on them to fully assume their responsibilities for the success of this reform, recalling that a culture of performance implies an obligation to deliver results, transparency, and accountability in the management of public resources.



He finally invited all participants to take advantage of this workshop to deepen their understanding of the new budget provisions and harmonize their practices to ensure effective execution of the state budget. Concluding his address on a note of national mobilization, he reaffirmed that the success of the public finance reform depends above all on the commitment of all stakeholders.

Before officially opening the 2026-2027 budget credit workshop, the Prime Minister declared that by joining forces, *Turikumwe Twese Birashoboka* (Together We Can), Burundians can accelerate the achievement of the country's development objectives and realize the Vision of Burundi as an "emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060." (**Prime Minister's Office**)

Burundi's participation in the 25th Extraordinary Session of the African Union Executive Council in Accra, Ghana



On Tuesday, July 21, 2026, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation of Burundi, His Excellency Ambassador Edouard Bizimana, chaired the opening of the 25th Extraordinary Session of the African Union Executive Council in Accra, Ghana, expanded to include Health and Finance Ministers. He called on member states to strengthen their solidarity to build resilient, inclusive, and sustainable health systems for African populations.

In his opening address, Mr. Bizimana stressed that health is an essential pillar of Africa's resilience, sover-

eighty, and sustainable development. He advocated for increased mobilization of domestic resources, the development of local vaccine and medicine production, and the strengthening of health system capacities to effectively address the continent's health challenges.

Chairing the proceedings of the 25th Extraordinary Session of the African Union Executive Council, His Excellency Ambassador Edouard Bizimana urged member states to translate their commitments into concrete actions in favor of universal health coverage, the fight against communicable and non-communicable diseases, and the elimination of AIDS and preventable maternal deaths by 2030. He reaffirmed that health is a strategic investment for realizing the African Union's Agenda 2063 and a more resilient and prosperous Africa.

At the conclusion of the 25th Extraordinary Session of the African Union Executive Council, expanded to include Health and Finance Ministers, Minister Bizimana welcomed the adoption of the Accra Declaration, reaffirming the commitment of African states to strengthen their health systems, promote local manufacturing of vaccines and medicines, and build a more resilient, sovereign, and prosperous Africa. **(Embassy of Burundi in Algeria)**

Minister Edouard Bizimana receives in audience the Kenyan Ambassador to review cooperation between the two countries



On Saturday, July 25, 2026, His Excellency Ambassador Edouard Bizimana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi, received in audience His Excellency Ambassador Henry Wambuma, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya to the Republic of Burundi.



The two personalities exchanged views on several topics of common interest aimed at strengthening the excellent relations:

-The implementation status of agreements and memoranda of understanding signed during the last Joint Commission for Cooperation held in Nairobi in April 2025;

-The reciprocal situation of Burundian nationals living in Kenya and Kenyan nationals residing in Burundi;

-The upcoming celebration of Mazingira Day, scheduled for October 10 each year in the Republic of Kenya, a day dedicated to environmental protection and the promotion of actions to combat climate change.

At the end of these exchanges, Minister Edouard Bizimana took good note of the various concerns raised and reaffirmed his commitment to ensure ap-

propriate follow-up, in close consultation with the relevant services. **(MFARIDC)**

Courtesy meeting between the Permanent Secretary and the EU Ambassador



On Tuesday, July 21, 2026, the Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, Mr. Sophonie Nitunga, received the Ambassador of the European Union to Burundi, Madame Elisabetta Pietrobon, who came to pay her farewell visit at the end of her term.

During this cordial meeting, the European diplomat expressed her deep gratitude for the hospitality she received since her arrival in Burundi. She praised the availability and exemplary collaboration of the Ministry and its team, which facilitated and oversaw the activities of the European Union in the country.

The Ambassador highlighted the quality of the cooperative relations between Burundi and the European Union, recalling that all necessary facilities had been put in place to enable her institution to effectively fulfill its missions. She also announced the upcoming

arrival of her successor, whose accreditation has already been accepted, expressing hope that he will be received with the same enthusiasm and warmth. Continuing her remarks, she highlighted Burundi's extraordinary potential, capable of supporting a sustainable development dynamic. She reaffirmed the European Union's commitment to remain a reliable partner, ready to accompany the country in its structuring projects. She also expressed the wish that, with her successor, dialogue sessions be organized within the framework of political consultations to address in-depth topics of common interest such as investment attractiveness, economic recovery, and the preservation of national security. For her, Africa remains a strategic priority for the European Union.

Taking the floor, Mr. Sophonie Nitunga expressed, on behalf of the Government of Burundi, his warm thanks for the collaboration, listening, and dedication shown by Ambassador Elisabetta Pietrobon during her three-year mission. He assured that ongoing projects funded by the European Union would continue with the new Head of Mission, an expert in the Global Gateway Program, in perfect alignment with the Vision of Burundi.

The Permanent Secretary concluded by reaffirming Burundi's willingness to maintain the same momentum in bilateral cooperation, convinced that the results will be even more convincing. He assured that the country remains fully disposed to work closely with the European Union to consolidate achievements and open new perspectives. **(MFARIDC)**

Celebration of the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt



regional Integration, and Development Cooperation,

Thursday, July 23, 2026, the Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Re-

Mr. Adolphe Bukuru, took part in ceremonies marking the celebration of the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The event took place in the presence of the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Burundi, Madame Amira Abdelrahim Ali Mostapha, many Burundian administration officials, representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited to Bujumbura, UN agencies, Egyptian nationals living in Burundi, and various distinguished guests.



In her address, the Egyptian Ambassador recalled that this day commemorates the 74th anniversary of the glorious July 23 Revolution, which ended long decades of injustice and paved the way for a new era of

freedom and dignity for the Egyptian people. She emphasized that Egypt continues its journey with strength and determination toward a prosperous future based on justice, equality, and liberty.

This celebration also comes at a time when relations between Egypt and Burundi are experiencing remarkable growth, characterized by sincere brotherhood and enhanced cooperation, the fruit of the will and determination of the leaders of both countries.

Burundi reaffirms its appreciation for the excellent relations of friendship and brotherhood that unite it with Egypt, relations built on mutual trust, respect for dignity and sovereignty, and the defense of shared interests. **(MFARIDC)**

Burundi's Ambassador to Berlin presents credentials



On Thursday, July 23, Her Excellency Madame Annonciata Sendazirasa, Ambassador of Burundi accredited to Austria with resi-

dence in Berlin, presented her letters of credence to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), accrediting her as Permanent Representative to this UN organization.

On this occasion, a meeting followed with Mr. Gerd Müller, Director General of UNIDO.

The two parties agreed to strengthen the partnership between UNIDO and Burundi through various projects, with an identification mission planned shortly. **(Embassy of Burundi in Berlin)**

Thursday now dedicated to hygiene and sanitation



Thursday is now dedicated to monitoring compliance with hygiene and sanitation measures across the entire national territory, notably in-

spection, awareness-raising, and the application of sanctions provided for by the laws in force against violators, announced the Minister of the Interior, Community Development, and Public Security, Mr. Léonidas Ndaruzaniye, during a press conference on Wednesday, July 22, 2026. Despite efforts made to implement the Ordinance on hygiene and sanitation in the country, the relevant ministries observe that its application remains insufficient at the commune, zone, hill, or neighborhood levels, as well as in some state services, particularly those located along major roads. Consequently, the Ministry of the Interior, Community Development, and Public Security calls on all administrative authorities at all levels to immediately strengthen the monitoring of the application

of the Hygiene and Sanitation Ordinance. He welcomed the progress made thanks to the efforts of the relevant ministers and provincial governors, according to the assessment made by the Council of Ministers on July 17, 2026.

To ensure rigorous monitoring of the application of hygiene and sanitation measures, the Ministry in charge of Public Security announced an important decision. "Thursday is now dedicated to monitoring compliance with hygiene and sanitation measures. This day must be widely communicated to the population and will be devoted to inspections, awareness-raising, and the application of sanctions provided for by the laws in force against violators," said Mr. Nda-

ruzaniye. He thus called on public and private services to set an example to maintain a clean and healthy environment, particularly around administrative buildings and along national and provincial roads.

The Minister also urged Burundians to consider hygiene and sanitation as a civic duty and a collective responsibility essential to protecting health, preserving the environment, and ensuring the country's sustainable development. He stressed that his ministry would closely monitor the implementation of these directives and conduct regular evaluations of the results achieved. **(Le Renouveau)**

Media managers' capacity building workshop by the National Communication Council



The National Communication Council (CNC) organized a workshop for exchange and capacity building for media managers in Gitega from July 21 to 22, 2026. This meeting is part of the regular dialogue established between the regulatory body and media managers to discuss matters of common interest to promote professional, responsible communication that respects journalistic ethics.

In her opening speech, the President of the National Communication Council, Madame Espérance Ndayizeye, stated that this meeting is of capital importance for media professionals. She noted that the development of digital technology and artificial intelligence is profoundly transforming communication methods, information production, and dissemination, while creating new challenges related to disinformation, hate speech, manipulation of public opinion by algorithms, and the spread of biased content. Faced with these changes, the journalist must remain above the fray by reconciling technological innovation with the protection of fundamental rights, while ensur-

ing the preservation of a safe, inclusive digital space that respects freedom of expression.

The President of the National Communication Council recalled that editorial responsibility is neither an administrative constraint nor a form of censorship, but rather a contract of trust between the media and citizens. Every piece of information published, every image broadcast, and every word used must be guided by the constant search for truth, factual accuracy, and the preservation of social cohesion.

On the subject of disinformation, Madam Ndayizeye stressed the importance of fact-checking at a time when social networks facilitate the rapid spread of rumors and false information. She urged media managers to reject sensationalism and prioritize balanced information whose origin, truthfulness, and accuracy are established and verified. Addressing publication and broadcasting directors specifically, she emphasized that they have a duty to be guides, mentors, and advisors to the journalists under their responsibility. They must ensure that the media serve only quality information of public interest, while avoiding the dissemination of hate speech, content likely to divide society, breach privacy, or propagate unfounded accusations.

She further advocated for strengthening peer self-regulation, believing that regulation should only intervene as a last resort. According to her, only adherence to principles of rigor, integrity, and patriotism will build a healthy media environment capable of protecting the population against malicious content.

Madame Ndayizeye expressed the hope that this meeting and those that follow will serve as permanent frameworks for exchange, allowing media professionals to share experiences, debate constructively, and formulate recommendations aimed at strengthening professionalism in compliance with current laws.

The workshop proceedings were enriched by presentations on various themes, including editorial freedom

and the social responsibility of journalists, and the media environment in the digital and artificial intelligence era.

These exchanges will allow participants to deepen their reflection on the current challenges facing Burundian media and the good practices to adopt to ensure credible, balanced, and professional information. **(Le Renouveau)**

Producers urged to store coffee at home until collection begins



The Director General of the Coffee Development Office (ODECA), Mr. Oscar Uwikunda, held a press conference on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, to present the modalities for collecting dried coffee for the 2026-2027 coffee campaign. As the campaign nears its close, he indicated that part of the production could not be processed at washing stations

due to early rains. Producers thus dried the coffee at home. According to Mr. Uwikunda, this production will be subject to an exceptional collection from July 28 to September 28, 2026.

The Director General of the Coffee Development Office specified that this collection will be exclusively carried out by operators who have obtained written authorization issued by ODECA. The purchase price for dried coffee has been set at 7,000 Burundian francs per kilogram, with possible adjustments depending on quality and preparation method. Collection points will be communicated to producers shortly.

ODECA asks coffee growers to store their coffee at home until the official launch of the collection, to avoid it being considered fraudulent. Administrative authorities, security services, and judicial bodies are called upon to strengthen border surveillance to prevent any illegal export of coffee. Anyone involved in smuggling faces sanctions provided by law. Seized coffee will be handed over to ODECA, and the proceeds from its sale will be deposited into the Treasury account. **(RTNB)**

Launch of the application submission period for the 2nd cohort of the PRETE Nyunganira (Copa)



As part of the implementation of the Project for Employment and Economic Transformation (PRETE Nyunganira), the Government of Burundi, with

support from the World Bank, organized the second cohort of the business plan competition (Copa) from July 20 to August 14, 2026. This initiative aims at providing financial and technical support to micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and cooperatives.

The Coordinator of the PRETE Nyunganira project, Madame Béatrice Nzeyimana, detailed the eligibility criteria, targeted sectors, and opportunities offered, including financial support ranging from ten thousand to twenty thousand US dollars for selected enterprises. She invited all formal and informal Micro, Small, and Medium Enter-

prises (MSMEs) and cooperatives in Burundi to develop their activities in the target sectors. She presented the individuals eligible to apply for Copa. These include any Burundian entrepreneur or refugee living in Burundi, formal (registered) or informal MSMEs, projects in target sectors, women entrepreneurs, refugee project holders (20% in pre-selection, 6.6% winners), vulnerable groups: youth, widows, Batwa, and persons living with disabilities. She also indicated that these enterprises must have been in existence for at least one year at the time of application, have a maximum of one hundred employees, and have a legal status: formal micro, small, or medium enterprise or cooperative (Commercial Register, Anacoop,) or a Tax Identification Number (TIN), or for informal enterprises, a communal/zone recognition certificate (with a lifespan of at least one completed year at the date of application). Madame

Nzeyimana also noted that these enterprises are located throughout Burundian territory.

Mr. Cédric Nizigire, representing the Director General of the Burundi Development Agency (ADB), indicated that this second cohort is more ambitious, better equipped, and closer to them. It aims to pre-select 1,015 formal and informal micro, small, and medium enterprises, of which fifty percent are women-led and twenty percent are refugee-led. He also specified that these enterprises will receive free training in business plan development and micro-enterprise management. It will then select 430 winners, half of which are women-led, who will receive the grant and be supported until the effective implementation of their business plans, including on climate adaptation and resilience issues. (**Le Renouveau**)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation

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