



Gitega / Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation Provides Sports Equipment to 20 Schools



On Tuesday, September 22, 2026, in Gitega, a delegation from the Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation, legally represented by the First Lady of Burundi, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, handed over balls, sports uniforms, and various equipment used in different sports disciplines to twenty schools in Gitega Commune. According to the Coordinator of the Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation, Mr. Aimable Sindayikengera, the initiative aims to give students an opportunity to showcase their sporting talents. He explained that the action is part of efforts to promote sports and physical exercise among young people. He indicated

that the objective is to enable students to identify their talents at an early stage and contribute to the development of sports.

Mr. Sindayikengera also emphasized that regular physical exercise contributes to everyone's well-being particularly that of students, and can have positive effects on their academic performance. According to him, the distribution of sports equipment is not limited to Gitega Commune. The initiative is gradually being extended to different provinces of the country in order to support the promotion of sports in schools, in accordance with the programme initiated by the First

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Lady of Burundi. According to Mr. Sindayikengera, the equipment was provided by the China Foundation for Rural Development with the support of the Embassy of

the People's Republic of China in Burundi. **(Le Renouveau)**

Senate Approves Visa Exemption for Burundians Holding Diplomatic and Service Passports Entering Angola, and Vice Versa



Under the auspices of its President, the Right Honorable Gervais Ndirakobuca, the Upper House of Parliament met in plenary on Wednesday, September 22, 2026, at the Gitega Congress Palace. The agenda included the consideration and adoption of the bill ratifying the cooperation agreement between the Government of the Republic of Angola and the Government of the Republic of Burundi on visa exemption for holders of diplomatic and service passports, signed in Addis Ababa on February 15, 2026. The Minister of Communication and Media, Ambassador Evelyne Butoyi, represented the Government to present the reasons for the bill.



In her statement of reasons, Minister Butoyi explained that Burundi and Angola maintain good diplomatic rela-

tions, hence the signing of a cooperation agreement between the two countries on February 17, 2026, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the sidelines of the 39th African Union Summit. According to her, the agreement is intended to further strengthen bilateral relations rooted in South-South cooperation and the principles of the African Union. It will allow nationals of either country holding diplomatic or service passports to enter, transit, stay in, and leave the territory of the other country without a visa. The agreement will also facilitate travel for high-level visits, tourism, and other business.

During the discussions, it was emphasized that bilateral agreements also include those concluded between African States that are members of the African Union. A proposal was made to abolish visa requirements between African countries in order to facilitate the free movement of people and strengthen the integration and unity of the African continent.

On this proposal, Ambassador Butoyi stated that removing barriers is a shared aspiration, while specifying that it is not yet appropriate to remove them. After considering the bill in substance and form, the Senators unanimously adopted the bill under consideration. **(Le Renouveau)**

(Le Renouveau)

Prime Minister's office organizes a Workshop on Reporting Projects Funded by United Nations System Organizations and Foreign NGOs



On September 21, 2026, the Office of the Prime Minister organized a workshop on reporting on projects funded by United Nations System organizations and Foreign Non-

Governmental Organizations operating in Burundi, at the Donatus Conference Center in Bujumbura, the economic capital. The overall objective of the workshop was to provide guidance and share the methodology and tools to be used for operational planning and reporting on projects implemented by these development partners, with a view to integrating them into the Government's overall planning and reporting.

This workshop is of particular importance. It takes place in a context in which the country is pursuing major public management reforms, including the implementation of the Programme-Based Budgeting system, the consolidation of results-based management, and reforms related to de-concentration and decentralization. These reforms are part of the implementation of the national vision "Burundi:

Emerging Country by 2040 and Developed by 2060." In this context, the Government continues its efforts to improve the planning, allocation, and use of public resources and to strengthen the effectiveness of public action.

The United Nations System (UNS) and Foreign Non-Governmental Organizations (FNGOs) mobilize significant resources for economic development and humanitarian action. However, for these actions to be accounted for as part of the national effort, these institutions are now required to prepare their own Annual Work Plans and Budgets in full alignment with the State's budget programmes. In addition, regular reporting on the physical and financial implementation of their activities is essential to comprehensively feed into the Government's overall Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) report submitted to the highest authorities and Parliament.

In his speech, His Excellency the Prime Minister of Burundi, Mr. Nestor Ntahontuye, clarified the main objectives of the workshop, namely to explain how United Nations System organizations and international NGOs can prepare their Annual Work Plans and Budgets and periodically report on the physical and financial implementation of their activities. This will lead to a common understanding of reporting tools, templates, indicators, and procedures. The officials concerned will carry out technical work based on the AWPB preparation template adapted to international partners; reporting tools and tables; data sources and collection methods; methods for presenting physical and financial achievements;

reporting frequency; the information transmission chain; and the mechanism for integrating this information into the monitoring and self-assessment of the Government's overall Annual Work Plan and Budget.

In addition, the Government and partners must jointly define a timetable and a transmission process for periodic, quarterly, and annual reports, as well as establish a mechanism for consolidating partners' interventions into the Government's overall Annual Work Plan and Budget. His Excellency the Prime Minister placed particular emphasis on data quality. Quality public decisions depend on quality information. If project data are incomplete, late, or difficult to verify, it becomes difficult for the Government to properly assess programme implementation, identify challenges, and take the necessary corrective measures in a timely manner.

During the discussions, representatives of these organizations expressed concerns about reporting procedures. For example, they noted that the Ministry responsible for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry responsible for Finance, and the Office of the Prime Minister each have their own reporting format. If reporting is quarterly, they fear having to meet these requirements through the different formats. In response to this concern, Mr. Ntahontuye reassured them that, generally, the information is almost the same. He added that what matters is to provide the financial execution rate and the progress of activities. At the end of this workshop, it is expected that officials of the United Nations System and Foreign NGOs will have a common understanding of the AWPB and reporting requirements. **(Office of the Prime Minister)**

Burundian Prime Minister Meets with the World Bank Country Director for the Sub-Region



While visiting Burundi, the World Bank Country Director covering Burundi, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the

Congo, and São Tomé and Príncipe, Mr. Albert Zeufack, was received in an audience on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Burundi, Mr. Nestor Ntahontuye. Discussions focused on agricultural transformation, economic diversification, and the monitoring of development projects. The World Bank official notably highlighted the irrigation potential of the Rusizi Plain and commended the project-monitoring mechanism established by the Government of Burundi. After the meeting, the World Bank Country Director indicated that the discussions covered the rehabilitation of the irrigation dam built on the Kajeke River; the new Country Partnership Framework,

focusing in particular on agribusiness, the mining sector, and infrastructure; as well as the monitoring of projects financed by the World Bank.

During the meeting, Mr. Zeufack reaffirmed the World Bank's commitment to supporting the Government of Burundi in transforming agriculture through irrigation, technological innovation, and the mobilization of private investment under the "Agriconnect" programme.

The Prime Minister's Spokesperson, Mr. Moïse Nkurunziza, indicated that they had discussed the framework agreement between Burundi and the World Bank, as a meeting of officials from the World Bank's different sectors is scheduled before the end of March 2027 to review the various ongoing projects in partner countries. "For Burundi, many projects financed by the

World Bank are progressing well and showing good results, but there are some that face challenges that need to continue to be addressed in the interest of the World Bank and the country," Mr. Zeufack said.

The World Bank Country Director commended the monitoring of Government projects and partner projects carried out by the Prime Minister. This makes it possible to identify challenges in time and address them promptly.

The Prime Minister's spokesperson also indicated that Burundi has already considered implementing a policy for the development and productive use of State-owned land, which often has insufficient returns. Such land has already been identified for agriculture, livestock farming, and environmental protection, which could increase agricultural production. **(Le Renouveau)**

Wood Prices Could Soon Decline on the Market



On September 22, 2026, the Prime Minister of Burundi, Mr. Nestor Ntahontuye, brought together administrative authorities, including the Minister of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security; the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock; provincial governors; officials from the Burundi Office for Environmental Protection (OBPE); and representatives of the Burundi Revenue Office (OBR). The meeting focused on making productive use of the State's old plantations in order to increase forest production while preserving the environment.

Mr. Ntahontuye presented the main guidelines, including the production of school desks for educational institutions. On an area of 6 hectares, two (2) hectares were allocated to the production of school desks, another two were allocated to mobilizing resources for communal activities, while the remaining two (2) hectares were made available to communes for their de-

velopment. For plantations exceeding 100 hectares, the Government of Burundi plans to organize auctions. Buyers will be able to purchase wood from one hectare upward, depending on their capacity.

In order to limit the environmental impact, harvesting will be gradual: only 25% of the area may be exploited each year. The revenue generated will be paid into the State treasury. Plantations of less than 100 hectares will be subject to appropriate management, with some potentially being allocated to communes because of their age and low productivity.

The Prime Minister of Burundi emphasized that cutting mature trees makes it possible to renew plantations and maintain forest production. He estimated that increasing the supply of wood on the market could help lower prices. Starting in April 2027, nurseries should be established near the exploited areas. In November, cut trees should be replaced with new seedlings to ensure the renewal of plantations.

In closing the meeting, Mr. Ntahontuye called on the Governors, in collaboration with the relevant ministries, to ensure rigorous monitoring of the various sectors and to carry out their duties with intelligence and expertise, as the country is undertaking numerous development projects. **(RTNB)**

Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development: Burundi Voices Africa's Position at the United Nations



On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development, held on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly in New

York, on September 24, 2026, the Republic of Burundi had the honor of representing the African Group during the proceedings held at United Nations Headquarters. BurundiNations.

Speaking on behalf of the African countries, the Burundian delegation, represented by His Excellency Ambassador Edouard BIZIMANA, presented the continent's vision, concerns, and perspectives regarding the right to development, while emphasizing the importance of strengthening international cooperation to promote inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development for all. (MFARIDC)

Press Conference on EAC Staff Recruitment – Phase I



On Monday, September 21, 2026, Mr. Séverin Mbarubukeye, Permanent Secretary in charge of East African Community (EAC) Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, held a press conference on staff recruitment within the East African Community (EAC), Phase I. The conference aimed to inform Burundian citizens about the opportunities offered by this process so that they could prepare accordingly.

The Permanent Secretary recalled that recruitment within the EAC had been suspended since 2024 due to financial difficulties. Noting that the shortage of staff was affecting the Community's essential activities, the current Chairperson of the EAC Sum-

mit of Heads of State instructed the Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers and the EAC Secretary General to convene a Council of Ministers meeting to re-start the recruitment process.

Accordingly, a meeting of the EAC Council of Ministers was held in Mombasa, Republic of Kenya, from August 18 to 21, 2026, to deliberate on the matter. He explained that during this meeting, the Council lifted the recruitment moratorium and authorized the EAC Organs and Institutions to begin a phased recruitment process in order to facilitate the functioning of the Community's Organs and Institutions.

Thus, in order to strike a balance between the urgent need for personnel and the reality of limited resources, recruitment in three successive phases, as outlined below, was adopted:

First phase: to be carried out during the 2026/2027 financial year – it focuses on filling 69 priority positions distributed among all Organs and Institutions;

Second phase: to be carried out during the 2027/2028 financial year – it will focus on filling positions that become vacant by July 2027;

Third phase: it will cover the remaining vacant positions as well as any other positions that become vacant after 2027.

Mr. Séverin Mbarubukeye indicated that the EAC Council of Ministers had approved the use of the Electronic Recruitment System to manage and support the Community in recruiting personnel for the Community's Organs and Institutions. To this end, the EAC Secretar-

iat was requested to convene, as soon as possible, a meeting of experts from the ministries responsible for public service management, ICT, and EAC affairs to verify the functionality, viability, and credibility of the system.

The Permanent Secretary also indicated that the use of the integrated electronic recruitment system will include the following steps:

1. Recruitment notices will be published in a major daily newspaper as well as on the EAC website, ensuring wide dissemination in each Partner State in accordance with the EAC Staff Rules, including the Operational Manual for implementing the quota system, which is currently being updated;

2. Application: All applications will be submitted through the electronic recruitment system;

3. Automated generation of the long list: The System will generate a list of qualified candidates based on the approved job descriptions and the criteria agreed with the Partner States for each position;

4. Aptitude tests: Candidates will take a standardized and uniform aptitude test administered by institutions designated in each Partner State and supervised by an EAC staff member in the presence of an observer designated by each Partner State; and

5. Final virtual interviews: Only the three best candidates from each Partner State (24 in total for each position) will be invited to interviews; these will contin-

ue to be conducted virtually for candidates, while representatives of the Partner States will meet at the EAC headquarters. Mr. Mbarubukeye also indicated that French will be used during the interviews, ensuring linguistic accessibility for all French-speaking candidates.

Regarding the eligibility of Partner States for these 69 Phase I positions, the Permanent Secretary indicated that this will be known once the Operational Manual for implementing the quota system, currently being finalized, is adopted by the EAC Council of Ministers.

The Permanent Secretary encouraged Burundian citizens who meet the requirements to prepare themselves in order to participate in this recruitment process, so that they will be ready when the recruitment notices are issued. He also indicated that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation is available to support interested Burundian citizens. He invited Burundian citizens to regularly consult the websites of the Ministry and the East African Community for communications concerning this process.

At the end of his presentation, Mr. Mbarubukeye gave journalists the floor to ask various questions. The answers provided helped clarify the recruitment procedures and provided reassurance regarding the transparency and fairness of the process. (MFARIDC)

Opening in Bujumbura of the Joint Meeting of the East African Community Technical Working Group on Health and Development



African Community (EAC) technical working group on sexual and reproductive health, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health, as well as HIV/AIDS, STIs, and tuberculosis.

On September 22, 2026, in Bujumbura, Mr. Sophonie Nitunga, Permanent Secretary in charge of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, opened the joint hybrid meeting of the East

The meeting, held at Kiriri Garden Hotel, brought together representatives of the EAC Secretariat, Partner States, United Nations institutions, and regional experts, who attended in person or connected remotely.

In his address, Mr. Nitunga welcomed the mobilization of partners and expressed Burundi's appreciation to the EAC Secretariat, the 2gether4SRHR programme



(UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO), and the

RAISE mechanism for their technical and financial sup-

port. He emphasized the importance of reliable health information systems for guiding public policies and called on Member States to strengthen governance, harmonize indicators, and make effective use of data.

The Permanent Secretary recalled that the health of women, children, and adolescents, as well as the fight against HIV/AIDS, STIs, and tuberculosis, require coordinated and evidence-based responses. He presented the EAC as an essential platform for developing common approaches beyond economic

cooperation.

Three major objectives were set: to strengthen regional integration and coordination in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and maternal and child health; to assess progress and identify priorities for strengthening routine health information systems; and to share experiences and good practices among the countries of the region. The conclusions of this meeting will be submitted to the 26th session of the EAC Sectoral Council of Ministers responsible for Health, scheduled for October 2026. **(MFARIDC)**

Audience Granted to a KOICA Delegation by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



The Permanent Secretary in charge of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, Mr. Sophonie NITUNGA, received on September 24, 2026, a delegation from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), led by Kapchae Ra, KOICA Country Director for Rwanda, who was visiting as part of a courtesy visit.

In his welcoming remarks, the Permanent Secretary emphasized that Burundi remains a peaceful country where stability and security prevail throughout the national territory. On this occasion, he expressed his deep gratitude for the excellent diplomatic and cooperation relations between Burundi and the Republic of Korea. He also welcomed the multiple forms of support provided by the Republic of Korea to Burundi in various development sectors, demonstrating the strength of the partnership between the two countries.

Speaking in turn, Kapchae Ra stated that upon his arrival in Burundi, he was favorably impressed by

the climate of peace and stability prevailing in the country. He explained that his mission was part of the follow-up of projects implemented through the partnership between the Republic of Korea and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), particularly those aimed at promoting the reintegration and socio-economic inclusion of returnees. He further stated that the Korean Government, through KOICA, had mobilized more than six million US dollars to support humanitarian actions and initiatives intended for beneficiary populations. He also congratulated UNHCR -Burundi on the progress made in implementing these projects, notably the construction and inauguration of fundamental schools as well as the development of sports and recreational infrastructure.

The discussions also covered several issues of common interest, particularly the strengthening of the bilateral partnership between Burundi and the Republic of Korea in the areas of education, capacity building, and material support for development.

At the end of the meeting, the Permanent Secretary and Kapchae Ra agreed to continue discussions on these matters during the next visit to Burundi by the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea.

In closing the meeting, Sophonie NITUNGA reaffirmed the commitment of the Government of Burundi to further consolidate the excellent relations of friendship, cooperation, and partnership linking Burundi and the Republic of Korea. **(MFARIDC)**

Opening of a Training Workshop on Good Protocol Practices for Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs



On Wednesday, September 23, 2026, Ambassador Else NIZIGAMA NTAMAGIRO, Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, officially opened a three-day training workshop on good protocol practices for officials of the Directorate of Protocol of the Ministry.

The organization of this training session reflects the particular importance the Ministry attaches to the continuous strengthening of the professional capacities of its staff in the field of protocol. It is not only an opportunity to acquire and update knowledge, but also a privileged forum for exchanging experiences, sharing good practices, and reflecting on challenges related to

the exercise of protocol functions.

Addressing the participants, Ambassador Else NIZIGAMA NTAMAGIRO emphasized the strategic role of protocol in the conduct of diplomatic relations and in the success of official activities organized by the State. She encouraged the officials concerned to make full use of the training in order to strengthen their skills and contribute further to excellence in protocol services.



Overall, the training aims to strengthen the technical and professional capacities of officials of the Directorate of Protocol in good protocol practices. More specifically, it seeks to improve the quality of the preparation and organization of official activities, State ceremonies, high-level visits, and diplomatic missions, in strict compliance with national and international protocol rules and practices.

Through this initiative, the Ministry reaffirms its commitment to having qualified human resources capable of responding professionally to the growing demands of diplomatic action and State representation at the national and international levels. (MFARIDC)

Integration of EAC Payment Systems: Burundi Reaffirms Its Commitment to Regional Financial Integration



On Tuesday, September 22, 2026, a supervisory activity was held in Bujumbura to assess the implementation of the integration of EAC payment and settlement

On Tuesday, September 22, 2026, a supervisory activity was held in Bujumbura to assess the implementation of the integration of EAC payment and settlement

systems and its contribution to promoting public financial management and accountability in Partner States. The important activity included a delegation of ten members of the East African Legislative Assembly led by Honorable Saïd KIBEYA.

Honorable Saïd KIBEYA welcomed the decision of the Accounts Committee to undertake this oversight activity, which provides an important opportunity to review progress made, exchange experiences, and identify areas for monitoring the implementation of the integration of EAC

payment and settlement systems.



In his speech, Mr. Aimé NKURUNZIZA, Director General responsible for the EAC Programme, who represented the Government of Burundi at this activity, noted that the integration of payment and settlement systems is an important element of the EAC integration programme, particularly in the context of the gradual development of the East African Monetary Union.

Efficient, secure, and interoperable payment systems are essential to facilitate trade and investment within the EAC, strengthen financial integration, and reduce the costs and time associated with cross-border transactions.

From Burundi's perspective, the implementation of the EAC security and safety initiative is particularly relevant to the country's efforts to strengthen financial connectivity with other Partner States and facilitate cross-border economic activities. It also pro-

vides an opportunity to improve the efficiency, transparency, and reliability of financial transactions involving public institutions and other economic actors.

The objectives of this oversight activity are therefore of great importance. In particular, assessing the operational status and performance of the Payment Security and Payment Systems Initiative (ISPS), its contribution to the management and transparency of public finances, as well as progress in harmonizing financial policies, legislation, and regulatory frameworks, will provide a better understanding of the current state of regional integration of payment systems.

Burundi recognizes that the success of regional integration of payment systems requires not only appropriate technological infrastructure, but also harmonized legal and regulatory frameworks, effective control mechanisms, adequate cyber security and business continuity mechanisms, as well as sufficient technical capacities among the institutions concerned.

Continued cooperation among Partner States, national central banks, financial institutions, and the EAC Secretariat remains essential. The sharing of experiences and coordinated action will be particularly important to address interoperability challenges, strengthen supervisory capacities, and ensure the security and resilience of payment infrastructures.

The Government of Burundi attaches great importance to the EAC integration programme and remains determined to contribute to initiatives that promote deeper financial and economic integration within the Community. (MFARIDC)

Burundi Builds on the Achievements of the “AMAGARA MU MURYANGO” Programme



The Ministry of Public Health, in partnership with Enabel, organized from September 22 to 24, 2026, in Bujumbura, a workshop to capitalize on the achievements of the health system support programme through the performance-based

financing instrument EU-PASS-FBP3 “Amagara mu muryango,” funded by the European Union. The workshop notably aimed to review the achievements recorded during the programme's third phase, launched in 2022, and draw lessons needed to strengthen Burundi's health system.

The Minister of Public Health, Dr. Fidèle Nkezabahizi, highlighted the progress achieved through the programme, particularly in implementing the Government policy to provide free care for children under five, as well as free maternity care for women. He indicated that previously it had been difficult for pregnant women

to reach hospitals and have the financial means necessary for childbirth, but today the situation has improved thanks to this programme.

During this third phase, several achievements were recorded, including strengthening the professional capacities of health personnel, providing health centers and hospitals with equipment and supplies, and monitoring the programme's progress. According to Minister Nkezabahizi, 99% of the budget allocated to the programme was executed.

Burundi has embarked on a new phase of reform of its health system, with the ambition of moving toward universal health coverage.

According to him, this ambition requires a gradual rethinking of financing mechanisms in order to ensure a more equitable, sustainable, and solidarity-based system. The objective is to enable every citizen to access the health services they need without the cost of care becoming a barrier. The partners involved in the programme, for their part, welcomed the progress achieved and reaffirmed their commitment to supporting Burundi's efforts to strengthen the health system.

The "Amagara mu Muryango" programme has thus reached ten years of implementation of performance-based financing in Burundi, marking an important milestone in efforts to improve access to healthcare and the quality of health services. (RTNB)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation

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