



Burundi-World Bank: Towards a strategic partnership for sustainable growth

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The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, received in audience on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at the Gitega Palace, Dr. Zarau Wendeline Kibwe, and the new Administrator of Burundi on the Board of Directors of the World Bank Group.

The discussions focused on strengthening cooperation between Burundi and the World Bank, and on ways for Burundi to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by this institution within

the framework of the implementation of the Vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060.

"We welcome the quality of the current collaboration between Burundi and the World Bank," the Head of State, while welcoming the new representative and wishing him success in his mission. He also expressed his hope that this cooperation would work for the benefit of the country's sustainable development.

Dr. Zarau Wendeline Kibwe, a Tanzanian national who represents 22 East and South African countries on the World Bank's Board of Directors, reaffirmed his commitment to actively supporting Burundi's priorities, particularly in growth sectors.

This meeting highlighted strategic areas such as youth employability, the construction of the railway linking

Burundi to Tanzania, and the development of Burundi's abundant natural resources.

These key projects, according to both parties, will boost the national economy and accelerate progress towards an emerging Burundi, an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. **(Presidency)**

The Head of State calls for agriculture to be made a driving force for development



On Monday, July 7, 2025, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by the First Lady, HE Angeline Ndayishimiye, harvested potatoes on Mpehe Hill in Bugarama, Muramvya. On this 2.31-hectare plot, 4.5 tons of potato seeds were planted, and a harvest of more than 50 tons is expected, according to the President's estimates.

The Head of State welcomed the positive change in attitudes among the Burundian population. He commended the fact that more and more civil servants and educated people are now actively involved in agricultural activities, thus breaking old stereotypes that farming was reserved for the less educated. He also called on government employees to organize their schedules efficiently, in order to devote their free time to income-generating activities that could create jobs for others.

For the President of the Republic of Burundi, agriculture remains the key to transforming Burundi. He declared with conviction: "If all Burundians were deeply involved in agriculture, by 2030, the country would already be emerging."

The Head of State insisted on the development of natural resources, particularly land, advocating that unexploited state land be entrusted to agricultural cooperatives in order to generate exportable overproduction.

The President urged farmers, especially those just starting out, not to give up in spite of initial challenges. He shared his own past challenges in farming that were addressed thanks to perseverance and the support of those around him.

Welcoming the efforts of farmers who have turned to dry-season irrigation, President Ndayishimiye highlighted the importance of water storage with a view to ensuring permanent food security.

The Head of State highlighted the impact of improved farming techniques, noting that in his own field, potato yields increased from 18 to 25 tons per hectare, thanks to the use of good practices.

During the potato harvest, the Head of State and the First Lady visited a neighboring 2.51-hectare wheat plantation, planted with 420 kg of seeds. Once again, the harvest outlook was considered very good.

Through this agricultural activity, President Ndayishimiye shared a clear and inspiring message to the entire population: agriculture is the cornerstone of national development. He called on every citizen to spare no effort to make the land a source of shared and sustainable wealth, in order to lead Burundi towards its vision of an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. **(RTNB)**

Meeting between the Minister of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security and the new Provincial and Communal authorities



The Minister of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security, Mr. Martin Niteretse, held an orientation meeting on Monday, July 7, 2025, for the new Provincial Governors, Communal Administrators, Executive Secretaries of Communes, as well as Communal Administrators of the former communes.

According to the Minister, this meeting aimed to discuss the best strategies for organizing the administration in accordance with the new governance structure defined in Law No. 1/05 of March 16, 2023, relating to the administrative organization of provinces and communes in Burundi. He took this opportunity to congratulate the newly appointed Governors and Executive Secretaries of the communes. He called on them to embody a new image of public authority by strictly complying with the laws and regulations in force. He also expressed his gratitude to the outgoing Governors, the Mayor of the city of Bujumbura, and the Administrators.

The Minister highlighted the importance of Article 33 of Law No. 1/05 of March 17, 2025, amending Law No. 1/09 of November 13, 2020 relating to the ad-



ministrative organization of the country, which stipulates that: "The Governor is the representative of the administrative authority in the province. He coordinates all State activities carried out in that province." In this regard, the Head of State called on the new authorities to be alert, to guarantee security, to promote local development, to strengthen public health services, among other areas crucial for the well-being of the population as part of the vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and developed by 2060.

Finally, the Minister did not fail to recall the existence of a new series of regulatory texts adopted by the State aimed at strengthening and modernizing the country's administrative organization. He cited Law No. 1/05 of March 16, 2023, concerning the determination and delimitation of provinces, communes, zones, hills, and neighborhoods. The Organic Law on the Reorganization of Communal Administration and Law No. 1/05 of March 17, 2025, amending Law No. 1/09 of November 13, 2020, on the General Organization of Public Administration. **(ABP)**

Official visit of the Executive Director representing Burundi on the World Bank Board of Directors

The Executive Director representing Burundi on the World Bank (WB) Board of Directors, Mr. Zarau Wendeline Kibwe, has been on a two-day visit to

Burundi since Monday, July 7, 2025. The aim of this visit was to meet with sectoral ministers and other key stakeholders to better understand the country's devel-



opment challenges and opportunities.

According to the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, Mr. Nestor Ntahontuye, the Executive Director came to assess the progress of projects funded by the World Bank. He also intended to present investments for newly designed projects that will soon be submitted for funding. The Minister noted that the Executive Director praised the performance of undergoing projects. He also appreciated the good collaboration between the sectoral ministries responsible for those projects implementation.

Discussions also focused on the development of new



projects, particularly in tourism, agro-industrial processing, and other high-growth sectors. These initiatives are to contribute to the country's macroeconomic stabilization, he said. Additionally, new projects requiring World Bank support were presented to the Executive Director. These include the Kajeke hydro-agricultural dam construction project, which will irrigate approximately 3,000 hectares of land, as well as other infrastructure-related projects.

The Minister of Finance, Budget, and Economic Planning added that the Executive Director will continue his visit by meeting with representatives of the private sector and other authorities. These discussions are to provide him with the information needed to better represent Burundi on the World Bank's Board of Directors. **(ABP)**

Opening of budgetary allocations for the 2025-2026 fiscal year



The Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, Mr. Nestor Ntahontuye, met with the heads of government institutions on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, in Bujumbura, to officially open budgetary allocations for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.



In his address, the Minister stated that this opening highlights various legal provisions related to both in revenue and expenditures. It was also an opportunity to recall and present the new provisions introduced in the 2025-2026 Finance Act, he added. He indicated that during 2025-

2026 financial year, the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning plans to mobilize BIF 4,821.82 billion, compared to BIF 4,211.22 billion planned for 2024-2025, an increase of 14.5%. This revenue includes BIF 2,207.99 billion from tax revenue and BIF 942.43 billion from non-tax revenue.

According to the Minister, total public expenditures for the 2025-2026 fiscal year amount to 5,258.6 billion BIF compared to 436.8 billion BIF for the previous year, reflecting a request for a prudent balance between investment priorities and fiscal sustainability. In terms of expenditure, performance-based budgetary and accounting management within the framework of the program –based budgeting reform will be strengthened through budgetary discipline, increased performance, as well as the autonomy and accountability of stakeholders.

He emphasized that among the objectives set by the Ministry for the 2025-2026 fiscal year are the digitalization of collection services, revenue optimization through broadening the tax base, especially the use of the electronic invoicing machine, the revision of tax rates, the fight against fraud and smuggling, and the improvement of debt recovery. He also men-

tioned provisions requiring that anyone purchasing goods or services must pay the invoice.

Other provisions relate to expenditures for effective and efficient management of resources. These include provisions stating that budget tranches will be released to facilitate budget execution and procedures for requesting payments and budget execution. For contributions at the level of the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, the Minister announced that public accountants are being recruited who have completed a one-month training and a 5-month professional internship. Regarding claims for arrears, the Minister announced that there are beneficiaries who do not have supporting documents, they risk losing that portion of budget.

For those who are not in compliance with the budget they are supposed to receive, he asked them to go to the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning for verification. The participants were satisfied by the way the Ministry has just developed an electronic invoicing machine, to help combat tax fraud, service irregularities, and the embezzlement of taxes and duties which will be the priority of this year. (ABP)

The submission of civil servants' evaluation forms is at a satisfactory rate



As the Minister of Public Service, Labour and Employment, Mr Venuste Muyabaga, had set June 30, 2025, as the deadline for submitting civil servants' evaluation forms; he welcomed the number of forms already submitted by the

heads of various services.

In a press conference held on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, the Minister specified that out of 103,910 civil servants, the files of 95,337 civil servants have already been submitted, i.e. 91.7%, and that they will receive their records at the end of July 2025.

For the remaining 8,573 evaluation forms, amounting to 8573, the Minister recommended that the heads of the departments concerned forward these forms to the Ministry without delay, so that these civil servants can be treated like the others.

The Minister of Public Service, Labor and Employment, Mr. Vénuste Muyabaga also expressed concern about recent decline in attendance at work and reminded

everyone that attendance at work mandatory and essential. He highlighted that absence without a valid reason is prohibited.

He called on department heads to monitor the conduct of work and criticized certain officials, especially those at the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research who refuse to receive civil servants' complaints

regarding standard jobs.

He also reported that the Ministry has already identified 75 civil servants with fake diplomas, and that the Ministry has suspended their salaries before bringing them to justice. He called for everyone's contribution to eradicate this phenomenon. (RTNB)

A biannual consultation between the Ministry of Justice and its partners



On Monday, July 7, 2025, the Ministry of Justice organized an exchange meeting with its development partners. This meeting aimed to assess the implementation of joint projects and to strengthen collaboration around national judicial priorities.

In her opening speech, Minister of Justice Domine Banyankimbona welcomed the progress made, naming in particular the rehabilitation of prison infrastructure such as Ngozi Prison, ongoing training for magistrates, and legal aid provided to the most vulnerable. Partners such as the European Union, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the World Bank were thanked for their technical and financial support.

In her address, the Head of Mission of the European Union, Mrs Elisabetta Pietrobon highlighted the importance of respectful dialogue and a participatory approach in implementing reforms. She encouraged the technical groups working on access to justice, human rights, prison administration, and judicial administration as true driving force for transformation. She also emphasized the need to promote alternatives to incarceration, such as mediation or community service, especially for misdemeanor.

These more humane and effective solutions also help relieve prison overcrowding and ensure a justice system that respects human dignity.

Despite the lauded progress, many challenges persist: prison overcrowding, inadequate infrastructure, slow judicial procedures, lack of access to information, low digitalization, and limited capacity of judicial actors. The Minister of Justice emphasized that these obstacles hinder equitable access to justice for all Burundians.

She called on partners to strengthen their support, particularly in the digitalization of the judicial system and the social reintegration of prisoners through vocational training. Such a vision is part of Burundi's vision of becoming an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. (RTNB)

Rusizi Bridge: Field visit of the Executive Director representing Burundi on the World Bank Group

On the sidelines of his two-day official visit to Burundi, the Executive Director representing Burundi on the Board of Directors of the World Bank, Dr. Zarau Wendeline Kibwe, visited on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, the construction site of the pro-

ject to reconstruct the bridge over the Rusizi River, located at crossroads 6 in Buganda commune, on the border between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).



This strategic project, funded by the World Bank, is part of the strengthening of regional integration and trade facilitation between the two countries. According to the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Mr. Prosper Dodiko, the initial budget of the project was estimated between 6 and 8 million US dollars. However, due to climatic hazards that occurred after the preliminary studies, the overall cost was revised upwards and now exceeded 12 million dollars.

To address weather-related risks and ensure greater durability, additional beams were integrated into the bridge structure to strengthen its resilience. In addition to the bridge itself, the project also includes

the construction of access and connecting roads on both sides of the border to ease the movement of people and goods between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The work, which began in October 2023, is expected to be completed by October 2025, with provisional handover scheduled for that date. However, the Minister expressed concern over the delays caused mainly by flooding due to climate change. He therefore urged the construction company to increase its efforts through the mobilization of materials and equipment on the site in order to speed up progress and recover lost time.

For his part, Dr. Zarau Wendeline Kibwe highlighted the importance of this regional project, highlighting its expected positive impact on local populations and the region's socio-economic development. He also emphasized the quality of the collaboration between Burundi and the World Bank, while reaffirming his commitment to promoting investment opportunities in Burundi through the International Financial Corporation (IFC). "Burundi is full of development potential. I am committed to being an active ambassador for this country to the World Bank," he declared. (ABP)

More than 53,000 students take the state exam in Burundi



The official launch of the state exam took place on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at Lycee Mwaro, in the province of Gitega. The Minister of National Education and Scientific Research, Mr. François Havyarimana, personally kicked off this session. This examination center is hosting 256 students from eight (8) schools.

On this occasion, the Minister reminded the candidates that any complaints must be submitted within the specified allotted time, before wishing them much success. After Lycée Mwaro, the Minister visited Lycée Mweya, also located in Gitega. This center has 394 students from 11 schools, including 4 repeat candidates. He also visited lycée Notre Dame de la Sagesse, where 632 students, including 7 visually impaired and 4 hearing impaired, took the state exam. He ended his visit at Ecole des Travaux Publics (ETP), which hosts 732 candidates.

Despite a few vehicle breakdowns transporting exam papers to certain locations, the Minister assured that the exam went smoothly. "The situation was quickly brought under control," he said. He encouraged students to approach the exams with confidence and determination. To those who might fail, he sent a mes-

sage of hope: "Prepare yourselves for next year."

The Minister reminded that any student admitted to the

University of Burundi will receive free tuition and a monthly loan-scholarship of 100,000 BIF while visiting Ecole Paramedicale de Santé Publique (RTNB)

382 cattle distributed by the regional integrated agricultural development project in the Great Lakes



On Tuesday, July 8, 2025, three hundred and eighty (382) cattle were distributed in the extended communes of Bubanza and Mpanza, by the Regional Project for Integrated Agricultural Development in the Great Lakes (PRDAIGL) to farmers, who are capable to manage cattle breeding, i.e. who

own at least 1 hectare of land, as noted on site.

Ms. Adeline Kanyange, Animal Health Officer at the Provincial Office of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock in Bubanza, said that these cattle include 18 bulls. According to her, the objective of this project is to increase production.

The representative of the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Mr. Audace Ciza, urged the beneficiaries to properly care for that support and to use it for self-development and agricultural production's increase. He warned those who attempt to sell or slaughter them that they would face penalties, in accordance with the law. It should be noted that the communes of Bubanza and Mpanza already own more than 65,000 cattle. (ABP)

Farmers are called upon to sow for growing season C and to irrigate their fields



The Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Mr. Prosper Dodiko, called on farmers to proceed with sowing for this growing season C, taking into account that farmers are in the final phase of plowing in all provinces of the country.

The Minister stated this in a press briefing he held at



the Minister's office in Gitega province (the political capital) in the morning of Thursday, July 10, 2025. He indicated that the Ministry was satisfied with the preparation stage for this season in all provinces of the country because farmers are in the final phase of plowing. "We remind them that it is time to proceed with sowing.

The Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock

announced that 50% of organo-mineral fertilizers such as Fertilisants Organo-Minéraux Industries (FOMI) Imbura and 51.3% for FOMI-Bagara are already available in all provinces. Regarding maize seeds, the Minister noted that composite maize seeds are available from seed multipliers whose seeds have been certified by the National Office for the Control and Certification of Selected Seeds "ONCCS". He took this opportunity to call on farmers to prioritize locally produced composite maize seeds, because, he indicated, these maize seeds also give better production than hybrid maize.

Despite this, he did not forget to point out that hybrid maize seeds, particularly the "Bazoka" variety, are also available at the Provincial Offices of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock (BPEAE), with a unit cost of 4,000 BIF per kg with a 40% state subsidy. He thanked the Government of Burundi for its efforts to make available hybrid seeds to farmers at low cost. He explained that one(1) kg of "Bazoka" was 15,000 BIF through calls for tenders, but that with a new approach of buying directly from the supplier, this price is 6,600 BIF per kg. He reported that seeds of the PAN53 variety will be available for the 2026 growing season A.

The Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock has informed that the strategic stock of phytosanitary products is available in Gitega. To this end, he has called on the Directors of the Provincial Offices of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock to contact the Directorate responsible for plant protection to obtain supplies, in order to facilitate their accessibility to farmers.

The Minister finally called on farmers to use all possible means to irrigate fields, particularly with watering cans, as the motor pumps available at the Ministry are limited in number. He suggested to the directors of the Provincial Offices of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock to facilitate the use of motor pumps through a rotation system for a specific period so that several cooperatives or farmers can use them in turn.

It should be noted that farmers who have not yet received urea will be served as soon as this fertilizer becomes available. According to the Minister, the Government is sparing no effort to ensure that urea is available in sufficient quantities. **(ABP)**

The Burundi Red Cross has handed over a batch of 100 folding beds to the CNTS



On Thursday, July 10, 2025, the Burundi Red Cross Society handed over 100 folding beds for blood donors at the National Blood Transfusion Center (CNTS) at the Red Cross Medical Center in Kinindo.



The Director General of the National Blood Transfusion Center, Mr. Félicien Nzotungwanayo, thanked the Burundi Red Cross for its humanitarian gesture, stating that this equipment will help in the daily activities carried out in relation to blood collection. They will also

contribute to improving the quality of blood collection and blood collection conditions. He also thanked the Burundi Red Cross for its multifaceted support to the National Blood Transfusion Center, which contributes to raising awareness and retaining blood donors, through community relays located in all the hills of Burundi.

According to him, blood donation is a humanitarian act without borders. He took the opportunity to ask any healthy person, whose age is between 17 and 65 years, whose weight is more than 50 kg and who is not

under medication, to contribute among others to donate blood, in order to save human lives. He added that giving blood helps to know one's blood type, and one's state of health, whether or not one suffers from diseases such as B hepatitis.

Mr. Anselme Katiyunguruza, who represented the Burundi Red Cross, indicated that this event is part of the ongoing collaboration between the Burundi Red Cross and the CNTS. He said that these mobile and professional kits will facilitate blood donors to be comfortable when they feel unwell. **(ABP)**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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