



Return of President Ndayishimiye: Burundi at the center of African stakes

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The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by the First Lady of Burundi, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, returned from Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on Monday, July 14, 2025, after participating in the 7th mid-year coordination meeting of the African Union.

The Burundian Head of State represented Burundi in his position of First Vice-President of the African Union and current President of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. According to the spokesperson of the

President, Mrs. Rosine Guilène Gatoni, the President of the Republic of Burundi highlighted the implementation of the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the allocation of US\$1 billion to support productivity and efforts to strengthen regional trade.

He recalled that the countries of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa account for 40% of Africa's mineral reserves, and that agriculture, a vital sector, represents 32% of Africa's gross domestic prod-

uct (GDP) and employs 80% of the population.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the First Lady of Burundi, H.E. Mrs. Angeline Ndayishimiye, discussed

their programs for women and children with the First Lady of Equatorial Guinea. She visited two model centers: a network for rural women and a psychiatric health center. (RTNB)

Gitega: The government is increasing transparency in its assistance to veterans



The Ministry of National Defense and Veterans, in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Community Development, and Public Security, organized a joint meeting on Monday, July 14, 2025, with the aim of evaluating census activities and bank transfers of one-time allowances for veterans. The participants in this meeting were: the new province Governors and outgoing communal administrators, as those operations were carried out at the communal level.

In his opening speech, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of National Defense and Veterans Affairs, Major General Marius Ngendabanka, praised the overall smooth running of the activities, while acknowledging some difficulties encountered. He specified that, in accordance with the legislation in force, a one-time finan-

cial aid was granted to veterans. However, he acknowledged that while some were able to participate in the census without any problems, others were absent for various reasons.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of National Defense and Veterans specified that the amount allocated to this operation was approximately billion BIF 19. He urged the new officials to continue these efforts and to encourage veterans who have not yet been registered to get registered as soon as possible so that they too can benefit from this assistance. In addition, outgoing communal administrators were asked to post lists of veterans who have already received their allowances. "This data will make it possible to verify that operations are running smoothly and to deal with any complaints."

Major General Marius Ngendabanka also stressed the need to pay particular attention when distributing the funds. He pointed out that giving the money to the family of an absent veteran could cause conflicts if the latter were to claim his debt afterwards.

At the end of his remarks, he thanked all the participants for their commitment to this solidarity initiative towards veterans. (RTNB)

The Minister of National Defense and Veterans receives the keys of his newly renovated offices

After a blessing by the chaplain general of the Burundian armed forces, the keys of the new building of the Ministry of National Defense and Veterans were handed over on Monday, July 14, 2025, to the Minister of National Defense and Veterans, Mr. Alain Tribert Mutabazi. This building, which will now house his offices, was renovated and expanded by the Military Construction Authority (RMC), which specializes in military construction.

The ceremony took place after a press conference where the Minister presented his Ministry's achievements during the fourth quarter of the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

According to the Director General of the Military Construction Authority (RMC), Lieutenant Colonel Nicolas Nkunuzumwe, the work took only two and a half months, instead of the three months initially planned. He specified



that the new infrastructure cost approximately BIF million 540. "This is a sign of the growing skills and expertise of our army," he said.

He also presented other projects carried out by the

RMC, which is well known for the construction of military buildings, collective housing, and infrastructure for private companies and organizations. He emphasized the Military Construction Agency's ambition to contribute to the country's development with modern buildings, in line with Burundi's vision of becoming an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060.

The Minister thanked the Military Construction Agency for its expertise and commitment. He stated that such initiatives contribute to modernization and progress of the army. "I thank you for your determination to advance our army and our country," he added, encouraging them to continue on this promising path. (RTNB)

The Minister of National Defense and Veterans presents its achievements for the fourth quarter of 2024-2025



On Tuesday, July 15, 2025, the Minister of National Defense and Veterans, Mr. Alain Tribert Mutabazi, presented the activities carried out by the Ministry he coordinates during the last quarter of the 2024-2025 fiscal year, covering the months of April, May, and June.

During a press conference, the Minister indicated that the level of implementation of activities had reached a satisfactory rate of 97%, despite some obstacles, such as delays in public procurement and the delivery of state equipment.

Among the priorities mentioned were strengthening security, with constant vigilance by the military at the borders and within the country, as well as moral talks aimed at consolidating military discipline. He also mentioned the acquisition of new military equipment, including engines for marine units, and the maintenance of weapons in the various units.

In terms of training, more than 400 trainees have been trained in various fields: artillery, geomatics, aviation, as well as forensics and protection. Some military personnel have been sent abroad for specialized trainings.

The Ministry has signed cooperation agreements with Tanzania, Uganda, Sudan, and Brazil, strengthening security relations, Minister Alain Tribert Mutabazi highlighted. He also noted Burundi's participation in several international conferences, including those organized by the United Nations and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, with the aim of promoting peacekeeping missions.

As part of the development of the army, the Minister

said that several projects had been carried out: the expansion of the Ministry's premises, the construction of a military hotel in Gitega, and a factory for the manufacture of ecological briquettes in Kayogoro. Sport and physical activities have also been promoted: the Muzinga team has won several national and international competitions, while women in the military are increasingly integrated into all spheres of the army.

Veterans have benefited from healthcare and support through cooperatives and agro-pastoral programs. More than 625 tons of eco-friendly briquettes have been produced to replace firewood in military camps, thereby contributing to the preservation of the environment.

The Minister concluded that despite the challenges encountered, the Ministry has done everything possible to achieve the objectives set. He affirmed that efforts will continue to be deployed in order to contribute to the country's development and to the consolidation of peace at the regional and international levels.

He urged all the staff of the ministry and the military personnel to remain mobilized for the implementation of the new 2025-2026 "program budget" with the aim of achieving Burundi's national vision of becoming an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. (RTNB)

Justice in Burundi: modernization is picking up speed



On Monday, July 14, 2025, the steering committee of the Justice Sector Support Program in Burundi (PASJU), funded by the European Union through Enabel, Bibliothèque Sans Frontière (BSF), and Cordaid, met to assess the program's progress after two years and six months of implementation.

The main objective of this meeting was to measure the progress made, identify the challenges encountered, and set priorities for the remaining six months of the program.

In the presentations given by the technical partners, it was noted that several meaningful achievements had been made in the areas covered by Enabel, Biblio-

thèque Sans Frontière, and Cordaid. Key results include: the humanization of detention conditions with the rehabilitation of the prisons in Ngozi and Musinga, the development and implementation of an inspection guide for judicial institutions, the strengthening of judicial statistics production and support for archiving at the Ngozi Court of Appeal, the digitization of judicial files in several former provinces, as well as at the Supreme Court and the Muha and Ntahangwa Courts of Appeal.

"To date, stakeholders have reported that approximately 70% of files have been digitized." Despite these achievements, several challenges continue to hamper the program's effectiveness. These include: slow processing of files, insufficient staff in some departments, low commitment on the behalf of some staff, and fuel shortages that hinder mobility and inspections.

Faced with these challenges, participants expressed their willingness to: strengthen inspections at the level of public prosecutors' offices, continue the digitization of judicial processes to reduce delays, and establish a clear criminal policy to relieve prison overcrowding.

In his speech, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice, Mr. Gervais Hajayandi, praised the support of the European Union and technical partners. He emphasized that this support is in line with Burundi's vision for a fair,

accessible, and modern justice system.

He called on participants to strengthen and continue

these initiatives, stressing that much work is still to be done to ensure that the Burundian justice system fully meets the expectations of its citizens. (RTNB)

Official launch of the use of preliminary results from the RGPHAE



On Wednesday, July 16, 2025, the Ministry of Finance, Budget, and Economic Planning organized a workshop in the Mugere commune of Bujumbura province to disseminate the results of the General Census of Population, Housing, Agriculture, and Livestock (RGPHAE). During various presentations of the preliminary results of the RGPHAE, it was noted that the Burundian population counted in September 2024 is more than 12 million inhabitants, with more than 2 million agricultural households, while 39.8% of all agricultural households are goat farmers, 24.1% are poultry farmers, 23.1% are pig farmers, and 18.1% are cattle farmers. Rabbit farming is practiced by 375,357 farming households, while the proportion of households that raise sheep is the lowest at 4.9%, or 113,300 households, we learned.

In his speech, the Minister of Finance, Budget, and Economic Planning, Mr. Nestor Ntahontuye, revealed that the general census of population, housing, agriculture, and livestock carried out in 2024 was marked by the use of new information and communication technologies. It achieved maximum coverage of data collection thanks to the involvement of stakeholders in the process. The involvement of national and international experts in the preparation of



technical documents from the preparatory phase to the completion of data collection in the field and data verification is a sufficient proof of compliance with United Nations standards and recommendations for conducting censuses.

Given that censuses are complex statistical operations requiring the involvement of various stakeholders to achieve the desired results, the Minister revealed that the Government of Burundi has mobilized various partners, including development partners, technical census bodies, the media, the administration, and the population, in order to achieve full participation in the general census of population, housing, agriculture, and livestock. "The government's commitment has been demonstrated by the mobilization of national resources amounting to 61% of the overall budget to carry out this project," he reassured, before expressing his sincere gratitude to all the development partners who, throughout all the steps, contributed to the project.

According to the Minister, the results of the RGPHAE are timely, given that Burundi has already adopted a

vision of becoming an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. He delivered his speech on the revised National Development Plan (PND2018-2027), sectoral policies and strategies, and communal community development plans. "These results will help inform public policy, guide development programs, and anticipate planning needs for sustainable and balanced development.

The delegate of the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Burundi, Mr. ELIDJE Judicaël, pointed out that no one can design relevant development policies, strategies, and programs, or conduct effective

advocacy without a thorough knowledge of facts that have been methodically quantified and measured down to the demographic and geographic level.

Given that the work of verifying and analyzing the data from the main census is continuing in order to obtain final results for all indicators, Mr. ELIDJE Judicaël called for renewed commitment from all development partners, the private sector, and national and international bodies to ensure that this census is carried out in an exemplary manner and can produce results that benefit the Burundian people. **(ABP)**

Payment of the balance for fertilizers for season C set between July 22 and August 15, 2025



The Minister of Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock, Ir Prosper Dodiko, announced in a press release on July 16, 2025, that payment of

the balance for fertilizers for the 2025 C growing season will begin on July 22 and continue until August 15, 2025. This operation is part of the preparations for sow-

ing for the 2025 C summer season.

The Minister specified that this payment must be made at the same location where the deposit were paid. On this occasion, he called on administrative authorities and agricultural officials at all levels to mobilize farmers, particularly members of hill cooperatives, to comply with the established schedule and avoid any delays. He also reminded farmers who were unable to collect their fertilizers during the 2025 A and 2025 B seasons that payment for fertilizers remains open.

He emphasized that payment of the balance is an essential step in finalizing the purchase of the fertilizers needed for the next season. **(ABP)**

Gitega: launch of a medical and surgical campaign in partnership with Tanzania

The Minister of Public Health and AIDS Control, Dr. Lydwine Baradahana, officially launched a five-day medical and surgical campaign at the Gitega Regional Hospital on Tuesday, July 14, 2025. This initiative, scheduled from July 14 to 18, is being led by a team of specialist doctors sent by Benjamin Mkapa Hospital in Tanzania.

The campaign aims to provide free medical and surgical care and has already generated a great deal of enthusiasm: approximately 800 patients have registered to receive medical assistance, and more than 330 have

already been treated in just two days. In his welcome speech, the Director of Gitega Regional Hospital, Dr. Eric Ndiokubwayo, highlighted the local shortage of specialists, which motivated the partnership with Benjamin Mkapa Hospital. The Tanzanian team has been involved in various fields: neurosurgery, abdominal surgery, orthopedics, urology, and cardiology. The team also took that opportunity share its experience with Burundian medical teams.

The Governor of Gitega, Mr. Liboire Bigirimana, praised the friendship between Burundi and Tanzania and encour-



aged the continuation of this collaboration. He thanked the Tanzanian doctors for bringing specialized care closer to the local population, thus helping them avoid costly trips abroad.

The representative of Benjamin Mkapa Hospital, Dr. Emmanuel Sindato, affirmed his institution's commitment to providing long-term support to Burundi and all neighboring countries. On his part, the Tanzanian Ambassador to Burundi, Mr. Gelasisus Byakanwe, reiterated his country's commitment to developing hospital partnerships focused on the exchange of skills and regional mutual assistance.

Conveying a message from Tanzanian President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, he invited Burundians to consider Dodoma, home to Benjamin Mkapa Hospital, as a specialized and easily accessible regional medical center. "It is no longer necessary to travel

far to seek treatment when a solution exists nearby," he insisted.

In her speech, the Minister of Public Health and AIDS Control, Dr. Lyduine Baradahana, welcomed this regional cooperation, emphasizing that it is in line with the 2023-2027 Health Sector Policy and Strategy. She stressed the importance of improving access to specialized care and strengthening the prevention of chronic diseases, while reminding that health security remains a priority.

The Minister also emphasized the need to build sustainable partnerships to modernize and sustain hospital services. She particularly highlighted the importance of consolidating the quality of care provided to vulnerable groups, including pregnant women, children under five, and cancer patients, referring to recent efforts in the fight against non-communicable diseases.

She concluded her speech by encouraging all health professionals and national and international partners to continue such initiatives, which are a guarantee of a more inclusive and resilient health system serving the entire population. (RTNB)

Presentation of portable digital signs and certificates to winners trained in social and behavioral change

On Wednesday, July 16, 2025, in Bujumbura, the Ministry of Communication, Information Technology, and Media (ICT), in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), presented 50 portable digital panels to the Center for Information, Education, and Communication on Population and Development (CIEP), and certificates to 34 graduates who completed the training of trainers in social and behavioral change from October 22 to 26, 2024.

The Minister of Communication, Information Technology, and Media, Ms. Léocadie Ndacayisaba, said

that this event is part of a process that began in October 2024 in Gitega during a workshop for a pool of multidisciplinary trainers on the concept of social and behavioral change (SBC). The aim was to strengthen the capacities of a pool of national trainers in this concept and develop their skills so that they would be well equipped to conduct further training and evaluate the migration to digital communication tools used by community relays.

According to the Minister, the importance of strengthening the skills of various actors in this area of change is a cornerstone and an essential foundation to support



Burundi's vision of becoming an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060, she said. Regarding the portable digital panels donated to the Information Center for Education and Communication on Population and Development, the Minister thanked the United Nations Children's Fund for its unwavering partnership and valuable support for this initiative. She urged the beneficiary trainers to use their knowledge to inspire, educate, and mobilize communities. She also asked CIEP officials to ensure the rigorous and effective management of these tools, to maintain them, and to use them when needed.

The Director of the Population and Development Information, Education, and Communication Center, Mr. Juvénal Ndayiragije, expressed his gratitude to the Minister of Communication, Information Technology, and Media for his strong leadership and support for the work of the Center he leads. He also praised the United Nations Children's Fund for its partnership in helping to transform lives and accelerate development.

The Minister received the portable digital billboards and presented certificates to the laureates in a dynamic and interactive ceremony. They will be used by focus groups during street awareness campaigns, events, and small group meetings, providing optimal visibility



and direct interaction with the public. These digital panels are not only lightweight, durable, and rechargeable, but they also have lights that allow them to be used at night, which is an important advantage for community actors who will be able to use them in the evening after their daily activities.

Based on this donation, UNICEF Representative in Burundi Ms. France Bégin said that the United Nations Children's Fund has reaffirmed its commitment to promoting practices that benefit the health and well-being of children. She emphasized that these tools will contribute significantly to the mission and will reach an even wider audience. She recommended that the beneficiaries of these tools use the equipment with due care and attention.

Mr. François Ndondo, one of the certified laureates in the field of social and behavioral change, said that he will continue to strengthen his knowledge, but also to train others in social and behavioral change, in the spirit of innovation and transformation of mentalities, in order to achieve the vision of Burundi to be an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. **(ABP)**

Nyamateke: 40 families supported for a new start

On Monday, July 14, 2025, the Director General of Resettlement and Reintegration of Returnees, Mr. Nestor Bimenyimana, attended the handover of materials to forty household

made of returnees and local families, settled on Nyamateke hill in Musongati commune, Burunga province. These vulnerable households received vital material assistance, consisting of 24 sheets and two (2) hoes per



household, to rebuild their homes and restart their agricultural activities.

The official handover of this aid was marked by the presence of the Director General of Resettlement and Reintegration of Returnees, Mr. Nestor Bimenyimana, who delivered a message from the Minister of Home Affairs, Community Development, and Public Security.

“We encourage them to rebuild their homes and

cultivate their land. This is how we will move forward together towards the vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060,” he said. He recalled that this action is not limited to a simple gesture of humanitarian aid. It is part of a national strategy for sustainable reintegration and strengthened social cohesion.

On the ground, the beneficiaries expressed their joy for this aid they got. For these families, the metal sheets mean a roof over their heads where they can sleep safely, and the hoes mean a return to the land that feeds them. This humanitarian initiative, led by the relevant ministry, symbolizes the Burundian government's strong commitment to leaving no citizen behind in its development process.

This humanitarian initiative embodies the political will to build a stable, united, and prosperous Burundi, in line with the objectives of the vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. (RTNB)

Water and electricity distribution increased after the opening of the Jiji-Murembwe hydro-electric power

The Director General of the Water and Electricity Production and Distribution Authority (REGIDESO), Dr. Ir. Albert Manigomba, held a press conference on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, in Bujumbura, during which he answered the questions of journalists about distribution, shortages, and water and electricity outages observed in Bujumbura province.

In his speech, the Director General of Regideso said that Regideso currently has sufficient electricity production and reserves. He announced that Regideso has a total of 150 megawatts. Regarding the lack of electricity in some parts of the country, he said that three things are needed to remedy the situation: production, transport, and distribution. He pointed out there is a problem with the distribution phase, which is due to the aging of the water transport networks and underground electrical wires, mainly in the neighborhoods of Mutanga North and South.

In fact, according to him, underground passages cannot exceed twenty years without being overhauled. He noted that unregulated construction in new neighborhoods contributes to repeated breakdowns of electrical transformers. To remedy this, he announced that some companies have come to their aid, such as the World Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the French Development Agency, which have granted a donation of US\$250 million.

As for areas where households use electrical cables and wooden poles to supply themselves with electricity, the Director General of Regideso pointed out that, to date, Regideso does not install wooden poles in cities because it is in the process of replacing all wooden poles with iron poles. He pointed out that these illegal poles and cables often cause power outages. He called on the population to report any form of outage or fraud. According to the Director General of Regideso, the water shortage is caused by the expansion of the city,



while the number of water sources has not increased since 1985. “The existing sources should have been sufficient to meet the needs of the population at that

time until 2005, but rapid population growth has also been one of the causes of this water shortage,” he noted. He reassured that with the increase in water sources, this shortage will come to an end. He gave examples of sources already in operation, such as those in Matyazo, Rugazi, and Mutambu, and those to start in the next three months, such as the sources in Sagara, Rushubi, Nyamufe, and Gomvyi. He also spoke of a major project underway to transform Lake Tanganyika water into clean water, noting that the implementation of this project will alleviate all these water shortage problems.

The Director General of Regideso is distributing water to residents of the Tenga and Rubirizi neighborhoods through the construction of a borehole water station. When asked about water pipe failures and other breakdowns, the Director General of Regideso replied that collaboration between Regideso and local administrators is needed to find a solution, he added.

Regideso is both a state-owned and a community-owned enterprise. “By 2030, 70% of the population will have access to water and electricity.” (ABP)

Inspection visit to the Murehe and Butihinda mining sites



Burundi will soon establish gold and cassiterite processing plants in Murehe and Butihinda. This was confirmed by a delegation of senior mining executives led by the Head of the Strategic Studies Office at the Presidency of the Republic of Bu-

rundi, Mr. Alain Ndikumana, and the Minister of Hydraulics, Energy, and Mines, Mr. Ibrahim Uwizeye, during an inspection visit on July 15, 2025, in the province of Butanyerera, particularly in Murehe, Gagaro, and Masaka, in the commune of Butihinda, Buhumuza Province.

The objective of this mission was to enquire the progress of the modernization of mining operations at these sites. In Murehe, the delegation visited the works of SOTREVO Mining Company Limited, which specializes in the treatment of cassiterite and other minerals, such as coltan.

The company representative, Mr. Thomas Ndacayisaba, presented stocks of 66 tons of cassiterite and 2 tons of coltan, in compliance with international standards. He also guided the delegation through the new buildings under construction, designed to accommodate employees in good conditions. The plant will operate 24 hours a day, with an installation budget already available.

Still in Murehe, visitors observed a pile of minerals mixed with earth, estimated at around 350 tons, awaiting processing.

The visit continued at the Gahararo mining site, where materials are stored for a new gold processing plant, run by Mr. François Uwiragiye's company of Treatment of Gold Tailings in Burundi (SOTB). This plant will have an estimated production capacity of 100 kg of gold per month.

The delegation then visited the Masaka I site, where a gold processing plant operated by the Treatment of Gold Tailings in Burundi (SOTB) is already in operation. According to officials from SOTB and SOTREVO, the Masaka I plants together produce 8 kg of gold per month. The visit ended on Nyungu Hill, where another plant managed by the Treatment of Gold Tailings in Burundi is nearing completion. It will have a production capacity of up to 15 kg of gold per month once fully operational. (RTNB)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

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