



The Holy See appreciates Burundi's remarkable hospitality towards Congolese refugees

In this Edition:

page



The Holy See appreciates Burundi's remarkable hospitality towards Congolese refugees

1

President Ndayishimiye calls for an efficient and modern police force, a pillar of Vision 2040-2060

2

Swearing-in of the Prime Minister

3

The Head of State launches the 2024-2025 academic year at ISCAM and urges officers to bravery and patriotism

3

Swearing-in of members of the Government

4

People living with disabilities: call for national solidarity

4

The Senate Bureau is established

5

Handover session at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation

6

The Department of Agriculture in the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock moves to Gitega

7

Agroecology for sustainable agriculture

8

The Burundian Head of State, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye, received on Monday, August 4, 2025, at the Kiriri Palace, His Eminence Cardinal Mr. Machael Czerny, in charge of humanitarian action at the Vatican, bearing a message of encouragement and recognition for the remarkable hospitality of Burundi in favor of Congolese refugees.

"Hospitality is legendary in Burundi," said Cardinal Machael Czerny, who knows Burundi very well, having worked there from 2000 to 2010 in the field of the fight against AIDS. President Ndayishimiye, for his part, welcomed the good relations between the Catholic Church and the Burundian Government, where the Catholic religion is dominant. "Your presence here in Burundi already demonstrates your

commitment to strengthening the existing ties between Burundi and the Holy See,” stated President Ndayishimiye.

During this audience, the Apostolic Nuncio to Burundi, Monsignor Dieudonné Datonou , had the opportunity to announce to the Burundian Head of State, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye the arrival of the Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Mr. Pietro Parolin , visiting Burundi on August 12, 2025.

The Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin , during his visit, will solemnly announce the elevation of the church of Mugeru to the rank of Basilica.

The Burundian Head of State expressed his satisfaction vis-à-vis this good news which reminds him of his visit to the Vatican in March 2022, an occasion on which he presented this project to raise the Marian Sanctuary of Mugeru to a basilica, a request now granted.

The Vatican Secretary of State's schedule will be very busy, as he will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the death of the Apostolic Nuncio Monsignor Courtney, the 60th Anniversary of diplomatic relations between Burundi and the Holy See, and the Eucharistic Mass on August 15, 2025, during the celebration of the Assumption, one of the great religious celebration of Catholics. **(Presidency)**

President Ndayishimiye calls for an efficient and modern police force, a pillar of Vision 2040-2060



The Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the Defense and Security Forces, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye , enhanced with his presence the ceremonies marking three major events held on Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at the Higher Institute of Police (ISP) of Mitakataka , in Bubanza Commune of the Province of Bujumbura, namely the final incorporation of the officer candidates of the ninth cohort, the swearing-in of the officers and chaplains of the fourth cohort , as well as the official opening of the academic year 2024-2025.

With the national flag in hand, seventeen (17) officers and two (2) chaplains took an oath to uphold loyalty to the Head of State, pledging to respect the Constitution, the laws of the country and to serve the Nation with integrity.

In his address, the President of the Republic of Burundi recalled that Burundi is resolutely committed to the path

of the Vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and developed country by 2060. He urged the security forces to redouble their efforts to guarantee an environment of peace and security, an essential condition for the socio-economic development of citizens.

Taking this opportunity, the Head of State urged security agents to adapt to the new administrative configuration which reduces the provinces from 18 to 5, a change requiring more efficiency: “Now that the provinces have been enlarged, you must make more efforts to ensure security throughout the territory,” he insisted after calling for the adoption of digitalization in order to modernize and improve the speed of security services.

Leaning on the theme of the year: "The Higher Institute of Police, source of technical knowledge in maintaining peace and security, path towards the Vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and developed country by 2060", the Burundian Head of State highlighted the importance of self-assessment and a sense of anticipation: "Start now to build a solid foundation so as not to be late in implementing this vision," the President said.

Established in 1981, the Higher Institute of Police plays a key role in training National Police officers. Till now, it has trained 1,648 officers, including 1,546 men and 102 women, said the Director of the ISP, Dr. Major Pamphile Mpa-bansi . **(Presidency)**

Swearing-in of the Prime Minister



August 5, 2025 in the Kigobe Hemicycle, located in Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura province.

Before Almighty God, the President of the Republic of Burundi and the Parliament assembled in Congress, the Prime Minister swore loyalty to the Charter of the National Unity, the Constitution and the law. He pledged to devote all his strength to defending the higher interests of the nation, to promoting the unity and cohesion of the Burundian people, peace and social justice in fulfilling the duties entrusted to him.

Under the high patronage of His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi, the President of the Senate, Right Honorable Gervais Ndirakobuca, in the company of the two Vice-Presidents of the Senate, Honorable Générose Ngendanganya and Honorable Clotilde Kampimbare, took part in the swearing-in ceremonies of the Prime Minister, Mr. Nestor Ntahontuye. The ceremonies were held on Tuesday,

He also pledged to combat all forms of ideology and practice of genocide or exclusion, and to defend the fundamental rights and freedoms of the citizens. Also present at these ceremonies were: the Vice-President of the Republic, parliamentarians, heads of the Defense and Security Corps, representatives of the diplomatic and consular corps accredited to Burundi, the Ombudsman, as well as many other dignitaries. **(Senate)**

The Head of State launches the 2024-2025 academic year at ISCAM and urges officers to bravery and patriotism



The President of the Republic and Commander-in-Chief of the Defense and Security Forces, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, graced with his presence, on Wednesday, August 6, 2025, the official opening ceremonies of the 2024-2025 academic year at the Higher Institute of Military Staff (ISCAM).

This event was marked by several highlights, including the final incorporation of the officer candidates of the 54th cohort, the handover between the officers of the 50th and the 51st cohorts, as well as the swearing-in of the graduates of the 49th cohort in the presence

of the Head of State.

Those graduates pledged to uphold loyalty to the Nation and to the President of the Republic and commitment to serving the country in strict compliance with the Constitution and the laws in force.

Furthermore, the Head of State presented diplomas to the graduates of the 49th cohort and awarded certificates of honor to the officers of the 11th cohort. In this regard, the President of the Republic of Burundi personally handed an envelope to each of the officers of the 11th cohort. These veterans were congratulated for having served the nation with loyalty and for having been an inspiration for future generations.

In his remarks, the Head of State recalled the legendary bravery of the Burundian military, since the monarchical era, urging them to promote spirit of innovation and creativity to contribute effectively to the implementation of the National Vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and developed by 2060.

And to the new recruits in particular, the Head of State emphasized that military life goes beyond mere job.

"You are here to learn how to defend your homeland. Be brave, overcome fear, and face challenges with determination," he highlighted.

It is worth mentioning that the Head of State was given

cows' gift as an appreciation for his ongoing commitment and his efforts to modernize and strengthen this sector. **(Presidency)**

Swearing-in of members of the Government



On Wednesday August 6, 2025 in the Kigobe Hemicycle in Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura province, the Senate took part in the swearing-in ceremonies of thirteen (13) members of the Government. The newly appointed ministers took the oath before God the Almighty, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye and the Members of the Parliament

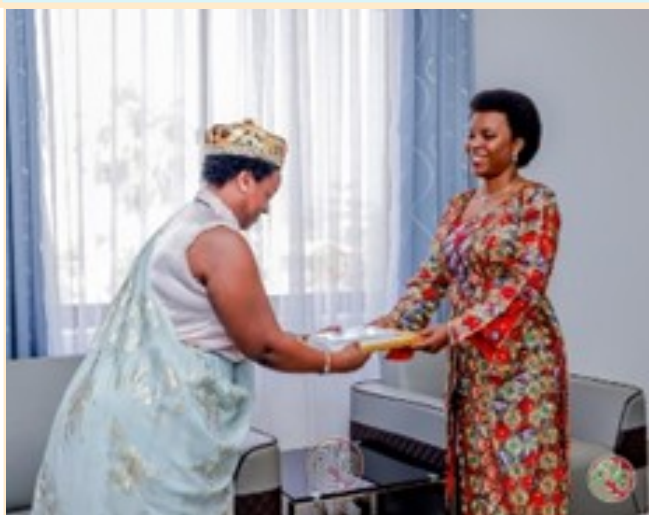
In their oath, these members of the Government swore loyalty to the Charter of the National Unity, to the Constitution and to the law. They pledged to devote all their strength to defending the higher interests of the nation, to promoting the unity and cohesion of the Burundian people, peace and social justice as they fulfill the duties entrusted to them.

They also pledged to combat all forms of ideology and practice of genocide and exclusion, and to defend the fundamental rights and freedoms of the citizens.

The Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi, the Prime Minister, members of the offices of the two chambers of Parliament; parliamentarians; representatives of the Defense and National Security Corps; representatives of the diplomatic and consular corps accredited to Burundi, and many other dignitaries also attended these ceremonies.

(Senate)

People living with disabilities: call for national solidarity



On Monday, August 4, 2025, HE Madame Angeline the First Lady of Burundi and Founder of the Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation declared that: " God gave us legs to become the crutches of those who do not have legs, and arms don't have them", during an audience granted to

Madame Sylvie Uwiragiye , Founder and President of the Uwiragiye Foundation , who was going to present to the First Lady of Burundi a certificate of honor, two medals as well as books recently received in the Democratic Republic of Congo, for her commitment to people with visual impairments, especially children.

It was an opportunity for Mrs. Sylvie Uwiragiye to inform the First Lady of Burundi of her appointment as Patron of the visually impaired in Central Africa, and of her invitation to Brazil, where she will soon go, accompanied by two visually impaired children, a boy and a girl.

The Founder of the Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation welcomed the courage and commitment of Mrs. Uwiragiye. She is a brave woman. Thanks to her charitable actions, she has been honored, and these awards are the fruit of her efforts. She also highlighted that Mrs. Uwiragiye embodies one of the talents that God grants in charitable works towards visually impaired children. She has become the eyes of those who cannot see the light of those who had lost hope, so that each child can develop

their talents.

Taking advantage of the opportunity, the First Lady of Burundi called on Burundians to further develop the spirit of solidarity towards people with disabilities. "God has blessed us with able-bodied members to help those who do not have them." It is with this in mind that, on behalf of the Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation and the OPDD, she offered a flight ticket to a visually impaired young girl from the Uwiragiye Foundation, so that she could travel to Brazil along with Mrs. Uwiragiye.

The First Lady of Burundi encouraged Mrs.

Uwiragiye to continue her efforts and work to ensure that her foundation shines throughout Africa and beyond, so that the Burundian flag will soon fly in Brazil, thanks to the Uwiragiye Foundation. For her part, she expressed her gratitude to the First Lady, welcoming her ongoing support. She has always been there for the Foundation, whether through visits, donations of food or juice, especially during holiday season.

Thanks to the Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation, many of our disabled children felt loved, she said. She concluded by stating that this recognition is also an honor for Burundi as well. **(RTNB)**

Official opening of the 2025-2030 legislature



On Monday, August 4, 2025, the Senate officially opened the 2025-2030 legislature. The first session took place in the Gitega Hemicycle, the political capital of Burundi. The agenda included adopting the rules of procedure of this institution and establishing its Bureau.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 187 of the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi, this session was chaired by the oldest senator, Honorable Joséphine Nyiraneza.

Therefore, a committee of five senators was set up

to examine the draft rules of procedure of this institution. At the end of the session, this committee presented proposed amendments to the plenary assembly.

After a debate that enriched this document, the senators adopted the amendments. Finally, the draft Rules



of Procedure of the Senate for the 2025-2030 legislature were voted and adopted unanimously. **(Senate)**

The Senate Bureau is established

On Tuesday, August 5, 2025, the Senators met in the Gitega Hemicycle, during a plenary session led by the oldest senator, Honorable Joséphine Nyiraneza, to proceed with the establishment of the Bureau of this Institution.

Before proceeding to the vote, the senators adopted the day's agenda. They therefore voted, one by

one, on the members of the Bureau of this Institution.

Here are the results of the vote: the Right Honorable Gervais

Ndirakobuca President of the Senate, Honorable Générose Ngendanganya, First Deputy President of the



Senate and Honorable Clotilde Kampimbare, Second Deputy President of the Senate.

This activity was followed by the handover session between the outgoing President of the Senate, Right Honorable Gervais Ndirakobuca. **(Senate)**

Handover session at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation



In the afternoon of July 6, 2025, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, the handover ceremony was held between the outgoing Ministers Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Honorable Ambassador Gervais ABAYEHO, former Minister responsible for East African Community Affairs, who handed over their responsibilities with their successor, His Excellency Ambassador Edouard BIZIMANA, recently appointed head of the Ministry. This ceremony, which took place in the presence of some Senior Executives of the former Ministries responsible respectively for Foreign Affairs and East African Community Affairs, marks the handover between the former Ministers and the new Minister appointed by presidential decree dated August 5, 2025. After these interventions, the two Ministers handed over the basic documents, the files relating to the activities already carried out on the technical level, those currently being implemented as well as the upcoming projects planned within the Ministry. Among the priority projects to be followed are : the file relating with the chairmanship of the African Union by Burundi, chairmanship of the ECCAS Commission by Burundi, the file relating to the special mission of Burundi in the Sahel, the future sessions of permanent joint cooperation commissions, the rationalization of Burundi's contributions to international organizations, the diplomatic career, the files relating with the Annual Work Plan (PTBA) and the na-

tional policy on labor migration , to name but a few. For his part, the new Minister, His Excellency Ambassador Edouard BIZIMANA, welcomed the climate of collaboration in which this transfer of office took place. He expressed his commitment to work with dedication and rigor, for the success of the missions entrusted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, the gateway to the country's economic development cooperation. He reaffirmed his commitment to continue the initiatives already undertaken, which are part of ongoing projects within the framework of the implementation of the 2040-2060 vision. This desire demonstrates a concern for institutional coherence and a determination to



consolidate achievements while accelerating efforts towards the targeted strategic objectives.

It should be noted that the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation is a seasoned diplomat and accomplished academic. Holder of a doctorate in International Relations from IRIC (Cameroon) and an MBA in diplomacy obtained in Geneva, he has represented Burundi in several strategic capital cities, notably Moscow and Berlin, with accreditations covering more than ten countries. His rich experience, both in the diplomatic and academic fields fits well for a bright leadership in the implementation of the 2040-2060 vision. **(MAERICD)**

Towards the end of plastic pollution in Burundi



As part of the World Environment Day 2025 edition, the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock launched on Monday, August 4, 2025 in Bujumbura a week of activities dedicated to the celebration of this day, from August 4 to 7, 2025

Celebrated around the theme "Let's End Plastic Pollution," the day also coincided with the celebration of the Lake Tanganyika Protection Day. Activities began with a plastic waste collection along the shoreline of Lake Tanganyika, in Ngabwe quarter. This waste will then be processed by local recycling factories.

ries.

According to the Assistant Minister of the Environment, Leonard Butoyi, the installation of bins in markets and public places demonstrates significant progress in the management of non-biodegradable waste. He expressed his satisfaction with the efforts undertaken so far with nearly 80 bins already installed.

He welcomed the commitment of recycling industries and called on investors and entrepreneurs to become more involved in transforming plastics into useful products, in order to reduce the costs associated with importing goods made from plastic materials.

The Assistant of the Minister of the Environment also expressed hope for a significant improvement in the quality of drinking water in Burundi, thanks to the gradual reduction of plastic waste in Lake Tanganyika, the main source of water for the population. He further stated that preserving the lake will also contribute to the good health of the living beings that depend on it.

(RTNB)

The Department of Agriculture in the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock moves to Gitega



On Wednesday, August 6, 2025, the new Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Ms. Calinie Mbarushimana announced that from Monday, August 11, 2025, employees of the Department of Agriculture within this Ministry will have to work in Gitega, the political capital of the country, in order to respect the recommendation of the Head of State, to get closer to citizens to better accomplish their missions. This was announced during a handover session with her predecessor, Mr. Prosper Dodiko.

Among the files that Minister Dodiko transmitted to the incoming Minister, Madam Calinie Mbarushimana included monitoring the distribution of fertilizers, as the request keeps on increasing. He said that in 2013, 6,000 tons were distributed and that now, they exceed 140,000 tons. Among the main ongoing issues, Mr. Dodiko highlighted the monitoring of imported hybrid seeds, the problem of the properties of Maramvya and Gasenyi, as well as environmental protection. Mr. Dodiko Prosper urged the new Minister to continue raising awareness among the population to continue intensifying agricultural production.

In turn, the incoming Minister, Madam Calinie Mbarushimana pledged to continue the actions implemented by the Ministry. Finally, she asked the employees of the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock to work hand in hand for a better collaboration because, according to her, together, everything is possible. (ABP)

Burundi: National mobilization against plastic pollution



On Thursday, August 7, 2025, Burundi joined the international community to celebrate World Environment Day. The official ceremonies were organized by the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, at the Olympe Africa stadium, located in Ngabwe quarter, Mugere Commune in Bujumbura province.

This day coincided with the one dedicated to the protection of Lake Tanganyika, one of the largest freshwater reservoirs in the world, essential for the regional ecosystem. The celebration thus raised awareness about environment threats, particularly plastic pollution, which seriously affects aquatic environments. The activities began with the symbolic installation of bins specifically

dedicated to plastic waste. This gesture demonstrates the authorities' clear desire to combat poor waste management practices in urban areas, particularly in the city of Bujumbura.

Taking the floor, the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Ms. Calinie Mbarushimana, deplored the persistent presence of plastic waste in several corners of the city and in areas close to Lake Tanganyika. She urged citizens to adopt responsible behavior by using the installed bins, in order to preserve public hygiene and the lake ecosystem.

The Minister also welcomed the efforts of local companies engaged in the collection and recycling of plastic waste. She called for other investors to find economic opportunities in this growing sector, which combines both profit and a positive environment impact. Alongside these encouragements, the Minister blamed the inappropriate use of plastic waste bins. She reiterated that biodegradable waste should not be thrown in these containers, as they have specific devices for their treatment.

Besides the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, the Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture, Ms. Lydia Nsekera, representatives of international organizations in Burundi, executives from the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, and other dignitaries were also present. Their presence demonstrates a cross-cutting and collective commitment to addressing environment related challenges. (RTNB)

Agroecology for sustainable agriculture

In response to the challenges of climate change and food insecurity, Burundi organized a national workshop on agroecology training in Bujumbura from August 5 to 6, 2025. The objective of this workshop was to build a solid foundation for resilient agriculture, within the framework of the Vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and developed by 2060.

Organized by the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, this workshop aimed to harmonize priorities in agro-ecological training. It brings together experts, researchers, institutions and technical partners around a common goal: to build an environmentally friendly, sustainable and more equitable agricultural sector. The workshop is part of the bilateral program "Ntusingare Inyuma", funded by the Kingdom of Belgium through the Enabel agency. This partnership notably led to the "Uburimi

Burama " project, which promotes inclusive agroecology for food security. A crucial issue for a country where more than 90% of the population lives from agriculture.

For the Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Mr. Léonard Butoyi, agroecology constitutes a strategic lever for meeting the challenges of climate change. But its implementation still suffers from differences of understanding, hence the importance of this workshop as an opportunity for building and clarifying approaches. The expert, Mr. Pierre Sindayikengera, warned against soil degradation as a linkage to erosion. He estimated that Burundi is losing 5.2% of its arable land, and that on steep slopes; up to 100 tons of soil are washed away per hectare per year.

In response, the Government adopted a strategic document in 2022 for watershed management and erosion control, which calls for increased coordination between all stakeholders. Mr. Séverin Nijimbere, a lecturer at the University of Burundi presented the situation: Burundian soils are affected by water, chemical (acidification), and biological (depletion of organic matter) degradation. This overexploitation weakens the land's productive capacity.

To address that situation, he recommends increased use of organic fertilizers, erosion control, lime application, and the rational use of chemical inputs. These practices are essential for restoring soil fertility and ensuring a sustainable agriculture.

After two days discussions held on July 5 and 6, 2025, on expectations and priorities for training on the agro-ecological transition in Burundi, several key recommendations were made: develop training modules on: erosion control, agroforestry, soil acidity management, with clear standards to be defined, prioritize perennial crops on steeply sloping land, replacing food crops, strengthen the correction of soil acidity by combining the use of organic matter, integrate the agroecological approach into national legislation and regulations, promote inter-ministerial coordination on issues related to agroecology, strengthen the capacities of the executives of the Ministry of Agriculture and other relevant stakeholders, raise awareness among farmers about the use of certified



seeds, promote the adoption of varieties capable of adapting to climate change, identify and multiply fast-growing agroforestry species with high production of biomass, promote the use of biopesticides, encourage post-harvest storage as a pillar of a sustainable agricultural system, establish a functional platform dedicated to agroecology for the sharing of experiences and good practices, strengthen the communication system on emerging agricultural innovations and technologies, support the installation of infrastructure for water collection and storage of agricultural products, promote nurseries and the multiplication of multi-purpose crops, intensify extension to farmers, particularly through Farmer Field Schools (FFS), develop and comply with the standards and requirements of local, regional and international markets. **(RTNB)**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

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