



Three New Ambassadors Present Their Letters of Credence to the President of the Republic of Burundi

In this Edition:

page



Three New Ambassadors Present Their Letters of Credence to the President of the Republic of Burundi

1

Public Broadcast of Institutional Spokespersons

2

"Eduquer Linda" Project: About Forty Young Girls Rewarded for Their Academic Performance

3

Minister Edouard Bizimana Receives the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires a.i. in Burundi

5

Minister in Charge of Foreign Affairs Receives the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Burundi

5

7th Session of the Permanent Joint Committee for Cooperation between the Republic of Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania

6

Meeting between Burundian Minister Edouard Bizimana and Tanzanian Counterpart Mahmoud Thabit Kombo

7

Meeting with the Permanent Delegate of Estonia to UNESCO

8

The President of the Republic of Burundi and current Chairperson of the African Union, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, received on September 29, 2026, at Ntare Rushatsi Palace, the letters of credence of three new Ambassadors accredited to Burundi.

They are the Ambassador of the European Union, Mr. Alessandro Villa; the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Ms. Ingie Shérif El Samanoudy; and the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the French Republic to Burundi, Ms. Caroline Vinot.

With the representative of the European Union, discussions focused on strengthening cooperation and supporting Burundi in implementing its development priorities.

Discussions with the new Egyptian Ambassador focused on the management and sharing of the waters of the Nile, one of whose southernmost sources is located in Burundi.

On this occasion, Ms. Ingie Shérif El Samanoudy requested the support of the Burundian Head of State in favor of an equitable sharing of this resource, which is essential to the Egyptian population.

With the Ambassador of France, discussions focused on strengthening bilateral relations, with particular emphasis on education and the promotion of the French language. The role of cultural centers in developing exchanges was also discussed.

President Ndayishimiye stressed the importance of strengthening the teaching and learning of French among Burundian youth, in order to promote better command of the language and consolidate exchanges between the two countries. **(Presidency)**

Public Broadcast of Institutional Spokespersons



The Government of Burundi responded to the concerns of the population on September 29, 2026, in Ngozi, during the public broadcast of the spokespersons of national institutions, held at Agasaka Stadium. Spokespersons from various institutions answered questions from journalists and citizens on several matters of national interest.

At the opening of the public broadcast, the President of the Republic of Burundi, through his spokesperson, Ms. Nancy-Ninette Mutoni, called on Burundians to promote agriculture, particularly avocado cultivation, plant more trees and protect forests. He also urged them to seek concrete solutions to problems and to preserve peace and security as the elections approach. He recommended good conduct and diligence in work to students.

Responding to journalists' questions about salary disparities among workers governed by special statutes, Ms. Mutoni indicated that errors had been identified in the correction process. She stated that the correction work had been completed and that the related draft law would soon be submitted to the Council of Ministers.

The spokesperson of the Ministry in charge of Public Service, Mr. Obède Niyonkuru, stated that the cases of workers who had not yet had their rights restored were being examined individually by a team of experts.

The spokesperson of the Ministry in charge of Trade,

Mr. Onésime Niyukuri, explained that the suspension of the production and sale of beverages with high alcohol content was intended, among other things, to protect public health. The traders concerned must gather their stocks and provide information about their origin. A commission will assess the consequences of the measure.

In view of the heavy rains and strong winds forecast in the context of El Niño, the Secretary General and Government spokesperson, Mr. Jérôme Niyonzima, assured that preventive measures were under way. Clearing drainage channels and opening up water drainage routes were among the recommended measures. A budget of 20 billion Burundian francs has also been earmarked to respond to disasters.

The spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, Ms. Câline Nduwayo, indicated that 5,223 travel documents had been issued to Burundians wishing to return from Kenya. She added that more than 6,000 people had already been received at the Kobero border post. The Ministry stated that it had received no confirmation concerning possible deaths. It also clarified that no Burundian coming from Kenya is currently being detained in Tanzania.

The Communication Officer at the Bank of the Republic of Burundi, Mr. Bacinoni Bellarmin, indicated that an intrusion into BRB accounts had been detected at the end of June 2024, involving a transfer of funds to Poland. The competent authorities were notified and measures were taken to prevent the withdrawal of part of the funds. Investigations are continuing to identify those responsible.

The spokesperson of the Supreme Court, Ms. Agnès Bangiricenge, announced that the shortage of food reported in some prisons had been resolved through measures taken since the previous Friday. She also stated that detainees who had served their sentences or benefited from release measures were gradually being freed.

Some may nevertheless remain detained when they have

not yet fulfilled the civil obligations provided for in the judicial decision.

The public broadcast therefore enabled representatives of the institutions to respond to the main concerns raised by journalists and citizens. (RTNB)

“Eduquer Linda” Project: About Forty Young Girls Rewarded for Their Academic Performance



With school supplies in their hands, hygiene materials and an envelope containing 150,000 Burundian francs each, forty of the brightest young girls from different schools and provinces across the country were honored under the “Eduquer Linda” programme. The event took place in Kibimba, Gitega Commune and Province, on Monday, September 28, 2026.

During the presentation of the support, the faces of the beneficiary girls reflected their satisfaction at seeing their academic efforts rewarded. The initiative is supported by the Merck Foundation, represented in Burundi by the First Lady of Burundi, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye.

Speaking at the event, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye explained that the “Eduquer Linda” programme aims to support young girls who distinguish themselves through their academic results. The objective was to encourage them to continue their studies with greater determination and, above all, to inspire other girls to follow their example.

The First Lady of the Republic of Burundi therefore urged them to remain focused on their studies and to protect themselves from distractions that could jeopardize their academic journey. After the ceremony, the First Lady, accompanied by participants, toured the various facilities of the School of Knowledge in Nyabihanga Commune, an institution under the Bonne Action Umugiraneza Foundation.

They first visited the classrooms, followed by the library and dormitories, before ending the visit at the refectory. The visit enabled participants to discover the different facilities that make up the School of Knowledge. (Le Renouveau)

Don Bosco High School: Angeline Ndayishimiye Calls on Young People to Strengthen Prevention of Cholera, Ebola and Mpox



The First Lady of Burundi, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, attended on Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at Don Bosco High School in Butanyerera Province, awareness-

raising activities for students on the prevention of cholera, Ebola virus disease, Mpox and HIV/AIDS. On this occasion, she brought a donation of mattresses, soap and sports kits. After the activity, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye visited the Umugiraneza medical and psychosocial listening and care center, located on Burungu Hill, to comfort and encourage patients.

In her remarks, she stated that the activities aimed to share with young people knowledge about preventing and combating diseases that may threaten public health. Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye particularly emphasized the role of young people in preventing these diseases among their peers, stressing that they are the future of the country and must therefore acquire

knowledge and adopt responsible behaviors in order to protect their own health and that of their communities.

She also stressed the importance of hygiene and sanitation, including protecting water sources and maintaining food and personal hygiene. The First Lady further called on young people to adopt good behaviors and avoid factors that could expose them to HIV/AIDS, Mpox and other sexually transmitted infections, as well as unintended pregnancies. She emphasized the importance of educating young people and dialogue between parents and children, considering that family guidance helps instill good values and prepare young people for the future.

She therefore invited young people to contribute to raising awareness among their peers and the community about disease prevention by adopting good hygiene practices and promptly seeking health services when suspicious symptoms appear.

For his part, the Minister in charge of Education, Mr.

François Havyarimana, urged young people to respect hygiene and sanitation rules and to follow the advice provided by health professionals. He encouraged them to consult health facilities promptly if symptoms appear. He also praised the First Lady's continued commitment to education and youth support, particularly through initiatives that complement the teaching provided in schools.

He called on students to combat unsanitary conditions in their schools and maintain good personal hygiene in order to help prevent diseases linked to poor hygiene. On this occasion, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye donated mattresses, soap and equipment for physical exercise, including balls and other materials.

After the activities at Don Bosco High School, the First Lady went to the "Umugiraneza" medical and psychosocial listening and care center on Burengo Hill. After comforting and encouraging the patients, she gave them a donation consisting notably of food, charcoal and equipment for physical activities, with the aim of contributing to improving their living conditions and care. **(Le Renouveau)**

Burundian Senate Unanimously Adopts the Draft Law on Access to Public Information



During a plenary session chaired by the President of the Senate, the Very Honorable Gervais Ndirakobuca, on Tuesday, September 29, 2026, senators examined and unanimously adopted the draft law on access to public information. The Minister of Communication and Media, Ambassador Evelyne Butoyi, represented the Government at the Congress Palace in Gitega to explain the reasons for the bill.

In her statement of reasons, Ms. Butoyi indicated that access to information is a fundamental right that allows any person to request and obtain information

held by public bodies or private entities entrusted with a public service mission. This right is essential to promoting transparency, good governance and the rule of law.

She also recalled that promoting good governance, transparency, the rule of law and combating corruption are fundamental pillars of government action aimed at achieving the Burundi Vision of "an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060." According to her, people seeking public information face difficulties in accessing the information they need to exercise their rights because there is no law obliging the holder of information to provide it, which infringes on rights and freedoms recognized by the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi.

This is why a law on access to public information is considered necessary. However, the law will not allow confidential information held by public and private organizations to be disclosed to the public. Appropriate provisions establishing exceptions to the right of access to information have therefore been included as safeguards for institutional confidentiality and secrecy.

The Minister of Communication and Media, Ambassador Evelyne Butoyi, also specified that the desire to establish

this law dates back to 2013. The need for such a law had been highlighted during various forums organized by the Government and civil society in 2011, 2013 and 2023.

Following the presentation of the reasons for the bill, senators raised concerns and received relevant clarifications. They wanted to know what innovations the draft law would introduce compared with existing laws guaranteeing access to public information. She explained that the main innovation is that the right of access to public information will henceforth be governed by a specific law; citizens

will have access to information that will enable them to make informed choices within the framework of Burundi Vision 2040 and 2060.

The law will also strengthen and promote a culture of good governance, transparency and the rule of law, which are fundamental pillars of government action. It will also give effect to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, duly ratified by the Government of Burundi and forming an integral part of the Constitution. After examining the draft law in substance and form, the senators unanimously adopted it. **(Le Renouveau)**

Minister Edouard Bizimana Receives the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires a.i. in Burundi



On Tuesday, September 29, 2026, His Excellency Mr. Edouard BIZIMANA, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, received Mr. Timoty Sikes, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. at the Embassy

of the United States of America in Burundi, who came for a courtesy visit.

During the meeting, the two officials reaffirmed the bonds of friendship and cooperation between Burundi and the United States of America. They expressed their shared desire to further strengthen bilateral relations in the interests of the peoples of both countries. Discussions also covered regional issues, particularly peace and stability in the Great Lakes region.

The interlocutors discussed the concerning situation in South and North Kivu, currently affected by recurring crises linked to the activities of the M23 movement and Rwanda. They stressed the importance of increased cooperation among the countries of the region and their international partners in order to promote security, stability and sustainable development. **(MFARIDC)**

Minister in Charge of Foreign Affairs Receives the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Burundi



ment Cooperation, H.E. Ambassador Edouard BIZIMANA, received H.E. Mr. Sergey V. CHER-

On Tuesday, September 29, 2026, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development

NENKO, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Burundi.

The two officials discussed preparations for the 3rd Russia-Africa Summit and the Russia-Africa Economic and Humanitarian Forum, to be held on 28 and 29 October 2026 in Moscow, Russian Federation.

As in previous editions, the discussions scheduled for the forum will focus on the main areas of Russia-Africa cooperation, including trade, investment, cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the development of payment systems, digital transformation and food security.

The Forum will bring together representatives of public authorities, international organizations, business and financial circles, as well as scientific and expert com-

munities from Russia and African countries.

(MFARIDC)

7th Session of the Permanent Joint Committee for Cooperation between the Republic of Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania



Burundi hosted the 7th Session of the Permanent Joint Committee for Cooperation between the Republic of Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania from September 29 to 30, 2026 at Best Outlook Hotel in the economic capital, Bujumbura.

This high-level session, following the 6th Session held in Kigoma from March 3 to 5, 2021, aimed to review implementation of the decisions taken in 2021 and explore new areas of cooperation. It reflected the common desire of the two Heads of State to transform a historic friendship into a strategic partnership serving development and regional integration.



In his opening remarks, Mr. Sophonie Nitunga, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, warmly welcomed the Tanzanian delegation. He stressed that the Committee was not a mere adminis-

trative formality, but a solemn opportunity to reaffirm the enduring bonds of friendship, fraternity and solidarity between the two brotherly peoples.

Referring to the various Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding linking the two countries, he made a strong call to move from the diplomacy of texts to the diplomacy of results. For Mr. Nitunga, the time had come for joint economic and social transformation based on African home-grown solutions and respect for the dignity of both peoples. He invited the experts to engage in frank, pragmatic and fraternal discussions so that the Bujumbura-Dar es Salaam axis, a vital corridor and economic life-line for Burundi, could become a genuine axis of shared prosperity.

For his part, Mr. Charles N. Kadonya, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, expressed his Government's deep gratitude for the invitation and the warm welcome extended to his delegation from its arrival at Melchior Ndadaye International Airport. Praising the climate of peace, stability and development visible in Bujumbura, he reaffirmed Dodoma's unwavering commitment to good neighborliness.

Mr. Kadonya recalled that bilateral cooperation rests on a solid and fruitful foundation, exemplified by trade transiting through the port of Dar es Salaam. He proposed a coordinated exploitation of shared opportunities for mutually beneficial growth.

Senior officials from both countries worked in four thematic groups. In Politics and Diplomacy, the Committee recommended institutionalizing good-neighborly meetings, simplifying residence permits, harmonizing customs procedures and facilitating cross-border trade. It also encouraged the promotion of Kiswahili as a working language for trade and integration.

The other area was Peace and Security. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining peace, security and stability along their common border. They agreed to strengthen the fight against transnational crime through intelligence sharing, facilitate the voluntary, dignified and sustainable repatriation of refugees, and improve cross-border health services.

Regarding Economy, Infrastructure, Transport and Trade, discussions focused on major projects, including the construction of a standard-gauge railway, the construction and protection of the bridge over the Malagarazi River, and the modernization of border posts.

For Social Affairs and Human Development, emphasis was placed on mutual recognition, academic mobility and cultural cooperation.

During the meeting, the Committee jointly observed that, despite strong political will and a rich legal framework of more than thirty instruments, implementation remains weak. To address this, the Burundian side proposed an innovative approach: adopting an operational implementation plan with a precise timetable, measurable indicators and sectoral focal points, as well as increasing technical follow-up meetings. The Committee stressed the need for sectoral ministries to ensure effective coordination in implementing the agreed Action Plan.



At the conclusion of the work of the senior officials, draft documents, including the draft Minutes, draft Agreements and draft Memoranda of Understanding, were submitted to

the Ministerial Session for validation and signature. This was reflected in the commitment of the two Ministers, H.E. Ambassador Edouard Bizimana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, and H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, to turn the texts into action.

In this perspective, they reiterated the commitment of the two peoples to work within the framework of the East African Community, the African Union and other international organizations to promote peace and security. They also reaffirmed their commitment to advancing the decisions reached by Burundian and Tanzanian senior officials and to supporting one another in the fight against crime.

The two Ministers concluded by signing several Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding between the two countries.

(MFARIDC)



Meeting between Burundian Minister Edouard Bizimana and Tanzanian Counterpart Mahmoud Thabit Kombo



On September 30, 2026, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Ambassador Edouard Bizimana, received a delegation led by His Excellency Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, Minister of Foreign

Affairs and East African Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The meeting took place within the framework of the conclusion of the work of the 7th Session of the Permanent Joint committee for Cooperation between the Republic of Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania, which brought together experts from the two countries for two days to discuss matters of common interest.

At the beginning of the discussions, His Excellency Edouard Bizimana welcomed the Tanzanian delegation and noted that the meeting marked the culmination of technical work carried out by Burundian and Tanzanian experts, demonstrating the vitality of cooperation between the two States.

Speaking in turn, His Excellency Mahmoud Thabit Kombo expressed his deep satisfaction with the warm

welcome extended to him and his delegation upon their arrival at Melchior Ndadaye International Airport. He said he was particularly honored to make his first official visit to Burundi and praised the exceptional quality of the historic relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

The Tanzanian chief diplomat also highlighted the fraternal nature of the ties between the Burundian and Tanzanian peoples, stressing that Burundi has always been an exemplary neighbor, driven by a deep spirit of solidarity and humanity. Addressing the main reasons for his visit, His Excellency Mahmoud Thabit Kombo indicated that he carried a message of appreciation from Her Excellency Ms. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The message was intended to thank the Burundian presidential family for the solidarity visit made to Tanzania during the national mourning following the death of the Tanzanian Head of State's husband. According to him, this gesture deeply touched the Tanzanian people.

The two Ministers also examined the issue of certain Burundian nationals residing irregularly in Tanzania. In this regard, they agreed to establish a joint committee

to study the issue in depth and propose sustainable solutions. The two sides particularly stressed the importance of involving the competent migration services in this mechanism in order to identify legal avenues that could allow the persons concerned to reside and work lawfully in Tanzania.

In addition, His Excellency Mahmoud Thabit Kombo raised prospects for implementing joint economic projects in border areas, which could generate mutual benefits and contribute to the socio-economic development of the populations of both countries.

The discussions also covered the inauguration of the Rusumo regional hydroelectric dam. In this regard, His Excellency Edouard Bizimana assured his counterpart of his commitment to follow up on the matter in close cooperation with the relevant services and the Protocol of the Highest Authority of Burundi.

At the end of their discussions, the two officials welcomed the excellent bilateral relations between Burundi and Tanzania and reaffirmed their common determination to continue efforts to further consolidate the bonds of friendship, solidarity and cooperation between the two countries for the benefit of their respective peoples. (MFARIDC)

Meeting with the Permanent Delegate of Estonia to UNESCO



On September 29, 2026, His Excellency Mr. Jüri Seienthal, Permanent Delegate of Estonia to UNESCO, paid a courtesy visit to Her Excellency Ms. Spès-Caritas NJEBARIKANUYE, Ambas-

sador and Permanent Delegate of Burundi to UNESCO.

Their discussions focused on the Regional Capacity-Building Programme for the 15 African parties in situations of non-compliance.

(Embassy of Burundi in Paris)

Burundi – Road Infrastructure: Rates of Contributions for Road Paving



On Tuesday, September 29, 2026, the Minister of Infrastructure, Social Housing, Transport and Equipment,

Eng. Egide Nijimbere, made public the rates of citizens' contributions for paving works in their neighbor-

hoods.

Minister Nijimbere indicated that every owner of a house or plot located along a road will be required to contribute 61,773 BIF per square meter. He announced that the calculation will be based on the length of the plot bordering the road, multiplied by three meters, corresponding to the portion of the road to be covered by each resident.

He specified that a citizen whose plot borders the road for a length of 10 meters will pay for an area of 30 square meters, namely: $10 \text{ m} \times 3 \text{ m} \times 61,773 \text{ BIF} = 1,853,190 \text{ BIF}$. The section located on the other side of the road will be covered by the concerned owner, according to the

same calculation method.

For a 20-meter plot, the contribution will be $20 \text{ m} \times 3 \text{ m} \times 61,773 \text{ BIF} = 3,706,380 \text{ BIF}$. For a 30-meter plot, it will amount to $30 \text{ m} \times 3 \text{ m} \times 61,773 \text{ BIF} = 5,559,570 \text{ BIF}$.

Eng. Egide Nijimbere explained that each neighborhood will have a committee, and each road will also have its own committee. A bank account will be opened at neighborhood level, as well as a sub-account to collect the contributions of residents of the neighborhood for a given road, with each person paying according to the calculation corresponding to their plot.

Three people will also be designated on each avenue to monitor the use of the funds collected. Work may begin once contributions have reached an amount considered sufficient, corresponding to the minimum contribution required for an avenue 300 meters long. Those responsible for collection, in collaboration with the administrative authorities, will

then call upon Ministry technicians to provide the technical support, equipment and expertise required to start the work.

The Minister specified that funds intended for the works may only be released after validation by the avenue committee through the three designated persons responsible for monitoring them. According to Minister Egide Nijimbere, the 61,773 BIF per square meter represents the citizens' contribution. The State will cover another portion by providing machinery and, where necessary, constructing bridges and drainage channels.

In order to carry out the works at an affordable cost, administrative authorities are called upon to work with technicians to identify areas where the materials needed for construction can be found, including sand, stones, gravel and other materials. The country's 42 communes are called upon to propose one or more avenues on which work could begin no later than November 2026, and each proposed avenue must be at least 300 meters long. (RTNB)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

www.mae.gov.bi

Twitter: @MAEBurundi