



**The Prayer of Thanksgiving organised by the Presidential Family ended in an atmosphere of joy and gratitude**



The national thanksgiving prayer, organized by the Presidential family since December 28, 2024, ended on Tuesday December 31, 2024 at ETS Kamenge stadium in an atmosphere of joy and gratitude.

In the first part of this crusade, Mrs Valérie Huber, from the United States, urged the Burundian authorities to draw inspiration from Moses, to develop a relationship of intimacy and dependence with God, to be humble and to promote collaboration and constant learning.

She also encouraged the Burundian

authorities to stand firm on Christian values, to always defend the interests and well-being of the people by preserving their culture in all decision-making on the regional or international scene.

Taking the floor, the Head of State of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, thanked Mrs Valérie Huber for her instructive message and reiterated Burundi's position on religious and cultural values centered on the family, recalling that God is placed above all else in the Burundian constitution.

Addressing the leaders, Burundi's Num-

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ber One urged them to be more sensitive to the people's grievances, and to deliver results on time. He also announced plans to set up a joint inclusive commission to fight corruption and economic embezzlement.

A moment of praise marked the opening of the 2nd part of the thanksgiving prayer, offering participants the opportunity to glorify God and to celebrate together, in joy and unity, the arrival of the New Year.

According to Father Dieudonné Nibizi, leaders must be faithful and wise stewards, embodying the values of

Ubuntu and authentic patriotism, serving the people and the nation with uprightness, so that their passing will remain engraved in the memories of Burundians.

In his closing remarks, Burundi's Number One announced that the New Year would be marked by an abundance of divine grace, filling the country with blessings and opportunities, and arousing the wonder of the whole world.

Kneeling and holding the national flag with the First Lady, the Father of the Nation, surrounded by God's servants, prayed for divine blessings on Burundi in the year 2025.

### The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation signs a memorandum of understanding with the Institute for Women's Health



**O**n Thursday January 2, 2025, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Albert Shingiro, and the CEO and Founder of the Institute for Women's Health, Mrs Valérie Huber, signed a memorandum of understanding at the Ministry's headquarter.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Albert Shingiro announced that under this agreement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation will work with three ministries: the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research, the Ministry of Public Health and AIDS Control, and the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender.

He added that Mrs. Valérie Huber took this opportunity to accept the invitation of the First Lady of Burundi, H.E. Angeline Ndayishimiye, to join Burundians in the prayers organized by the presidential family, to celebrate the end of the year and thanksgiving.



This distinguished guest underlined that the partnership between the Republic of Burundi and the Institute for Women's Health of the United States of America aims at defending and protecting Burundians together, to bring positive improvements to their lives and to protect their values.

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to strengthen cooperation between the relevant institutions in the fields of public health, education for women, girls and families, social development and diplomacy. This memorandum aims to collaborate in the promotion and protection of shared principles and values such as the family, culture and sovereignty.

The Republic of Burundi will facilitate ground transportation, access to a place of work or training, interpretation and will insure the security for the Institute during its visits to the country, unless both Parties deem it necessary. Both Parties may also request financial support and participation from external sources, such as international organizations and third parties, for the execution of pro-

grams, projects or activities carried out on the basis of this Memorandum of Understanding and in accordance with the provisions of their legislation. However, the Parties may not have recourse to financial resources already allocated to the Government of Burundi by bilateral or multilateral cooperation bodies under a Convention.

His Excellency Albert Shingiro thanked Mrs. Valérie Huber for signing the agreement that Burundi will be implementing. He said that the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye had declared that 2025 was a year of perseverance and acceleration that would lead the Burundian people towards their vision of an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. (MFADC)

### Rumonge: The Minister of National Defense and Veterans participates in community work



On Saturday, January 4, 2025, the Minister of National Defense and Veterans, Mr. Alain Tribert MUTABAZI, joined the population of Rumonge Province in community work involving the concreting of foundations for the construction of an eight-classroom building at the Mugweji Fundamental School.

In his welcome speech, Mr. Léonard Niyonsaba, Governor of Rumonge Province, thanked the Minister of National Defense and Veterans Mr. Alain Tribert Mutabazi for joining the people of his province in this community work. He noted that Rumonge is facing a shortage of classrooms and desks.

The Governor of Rumonge also mentioned the concerns of the residents who are requesting compensation for their plots of land on which the Rukinga military camp was built, and he asked the Minister of National Defense and Veterans Affairs to help find a solution.

In his speech, he indicated that no one can claim to achieve the vision of Burundi as an emerging coun-

try by 2040 and a developed country by 2060 while neglecting the education sector, which he believes is the key to all development.

At a time when the residents of Rumonge primarily cultivate cassava and oil palms, Mr. Alain Tribert Mutabazi invited them to intersperse other crops to diversify and intensify agricultural production.

After contributing 1,000,000 Burundian francs for the purchase of desks and benches, Mr. Alain Tribert Mutabazi called on the natives of Rumonge to contribute as well, so that any student sits on a stone or a brick in class anymore.

He took the opportunity to visit the Nyankende neighborhood in the city of Rumonge, where residents are requesting a road through the Rukinga camp area to access their homes. One of these residents had raised the issue with the President of the Republic of Burundi during a recent public broadcast.

The Minister of National Defense and Veterans recommended to the Governor of Rumonge to assist the residents in obtaining this passage through legal means and by following the established procedures. Regarding the compensation, he reassured the population by stating that, in collaboration with the Minister of Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock, the issue will soon be resolved.

He concluded his visit to Rumonge by joining the soldiers from Camp Rukinga in the paving work of a meeting room that the camp is currently constructing. (RTNB)

## Inauguration of the school on Burima Hill



On Saturday, January 4, 2025, the Governor of Bujumbura Province, Mr. Désiré Nsengiyumva, accompanied by the provincial director of education and the administrator of Mutambu commune, inaugurated a two-level school consisting of 6 classrooms and 3 offices, built on Burima Hill under the initiative of Honorable Zénon Ndaruvukanye.

In addition to the inauguration, this visionary from Burima Hill donated 120 student desks, or 20 desks per classroom, as well as teaching materials for the students and teachers, valued at 5 million, to facilitate education.

In his speech, Honorable Zénon Ndaruvukanye stated that the idea to build a new school arose after some classrooms were destroyed by a ravine on the hill where he originates. He added that thanks to the contribution of the presidency and some natives of Burima, this project was able to come to fruition.

As a promoter of education in his native village, he urged teachers to properly fulfill their duties so that students can progress and achieve top positions in national exams. The Governor of Bujumbura Province praised the initiative of this native of Burima, which aims to contribute to the vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. He took the opportunity to call on other natives to follow in the footsteps of Honorable Zénon Ndaruvukanye to develop their native province.

Mr. Hermès Ndikumasabo, the priest of the Kirinzi parish, which includes the Burima branch, also welcomed the initiative of Honorable Zénon Ndaruvukanye, as he is fulfilling what the Bible teaches.

It should be noted that the natives of Burima hill and the Administrator of Mutambu commune presented gifts consisting of sheep and certificates of honor to Honorable Zénon Ndaruvukanye in recognition of the work he is doing in his native commune. (RTNB)

## Bubanza: the collapse of the Mpanda bridge, a challenge for users



On Thursday, January 2, 2025, reporters from the National Radio and Television of Burundi dispatched to the scene found that the resi-

dents of the Rubira and Buringa hills are facing significant difficulties crossing the river, especially during this rainy season. A former student met on-site stated that she had dropped out of school due to the collapse of the bridge, as she had to pay someone to carry her on their back to cross the river, at a cost of 2000 Burundian francs.

Mr. Venant Bigirimana, a motorcyclist residing in Mpanda, reported that the collapse of the Mpanda bridge poses a major challenge for the residents of this locality in general, and for the users of the Mpanda bridge in particular. As for him, he has to pay 3000 Burundian francs for each crossing of the river for the people who help him transport his motorcycle across. In case of heavy rains, he is forced to spend the night in Gihanga, which incurs unexpected expenses, he continued.

Madam Violette Nahishakiye, a farmer from the Rubira hill, indicated that since the collapse of the bridge, life has

become more expensive: farmers can no longer cross the river to plow their fields or harvest. They have to go further, which costs them more. She has called on the government to do everything possible to rehabilitate this bridge.

Goods have also become more expensive: for example, before the bridge collapsed, a brick cost 60 Burundian francs, but now it costs 120 Burundian francs because the vehicles transporting these bricks have to take detours, as noted by one of the residents of Rubira hill.

Mr. Léopold Ndayisaba, the administrator of the Gihanga commune, stated that he is aware of this problem. He mentioned that the commune alone cannot repair the bridge due to insufficient funds. It is a large river, a tributary of the Rusizi River, he explained.

The problem is on the verge of finding a solution; the commune has sought the intervention of other institutions, such as the Burundian Road Agency, to assist in the rehabilitation of the bridge, the Gihanga administrator specified. He concluded by saying that the rehabilitation project for this bridge is included in the community development plan of the new municipality of Mpanda for this year, 2025. **(RTNB)**

### The ANAKA offers books to certain fundamental schools of Kamenge



**O**n Friday, January 3, 2025, the Association of Natives of Kamenge (ANAKA) donated 212 books to 5 primary schools located in the Ntahangwa commune, in the Municipality of Bujumbura. This donation, consisting of teachers' manuals and students' books, has an approximate value of 3,000,000 BIF. Mr. Serges Nsabimana, president of this association, indicated that this gesture is part of the celebration of the education day that the natives of Kamenge have established, which is celebrated on January 3 each year. According to him, education is the cornerstone for realizing the vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and developed by 2060, as one cannot achieve emergence and development without an educated population.

In addition to this gesture, during the Christmas holidays, the Association of Natives of Kamenge paved and cemented 5 classrooms and prepared a

location where a water tank will be installed to contribute to the promotion of hygiene and sanitation in schools.

Among the future perspectives, ANAKA plans to reward outstanding teachers and students to create a Cooperative of the Natives of Kamenge (CONAKA) in order to engage in income-generating activities to better support the educational system in the Kamenge area, as noted by Mr. Serges Nsabimana.

Mr. Bwoyero Jean Paul, the Communal Inspector of Education in Ntahangwa, expressed his gratitude towards ANAKA and invited the association to contribute to the construction of a post-fundamental school, as he pointed out that the entire Kamenge area has only one post-fundamental school, while it has five fundamental schools.

Mr. Rémy Barampama, the Director General in charge of coordinating political and security affairs at the Ministry of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports, and Culture, and also a native of Kamenge, urged other natives of this area to take into account the slogan of their association "Kamenge nyumbani," to put it into practice, and to instill it in the minds of their children.

He invited the directors of the schools benefiting from ANAKA's donation to take good care of the books received, to ensure their longevity, and to make them available for several generations. **(RTNB)**

## The Burundi Football Federation raises awareness among the stakeholders of League A about the integrity of football



**O**n December 31, 2024, the Burundi Football Federation organized a workshop at its headquarters, bringing together the presidents, coaches, and captains of League A clubs to raise awareness about the fight against match-fixing.

According to Mr. Alexandre Muyenge, President of the Burundi Football Federation, this workshop aimed to eliminate illegal betting and share best practices adopted elsewhere.

Based on judicial investigations, the Burundi Football Federation revealed that some players are already involved in illegal betting, noting that arrests have already taken place and investigations are ongoing.

President Alexandre Muyenge called on all club presidents, coaches, and captains to mobilize to eradicate these illegal bets and preserve the integrity of Burundian football in the region and beyond. **(RTNB)**

# Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

## Department of Communication

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