



President Ndayishimiye inaugurates Ineza Hospital in Kabezi



On Monday, March 24, 2025, in Kabezi commune, on Ramba hill , the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, inaugurated the Ineza Hospital . Ineza Hospital is a modern hospital equipped with advanced technologies and offering various medical services to the population, including ophthalmology, laboratory and gynecology.

Operational for two months, this health infrastructure was built thanks to funding of 6 billion BIF by Beloved Church. This facility strengthens the provision of healthcare in the region and illustrates the Burundian Head of State's desire to support the initiatives of religious denominations to improve the well-being of the population. **(Presidency)**

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Swearing-in in Kigobe before President Ndayishimiye

On Monday, March 24, 2025, the Kigobe Hemicycle hosted a solemn swearing-in ceremony during which three senior officials took the oath before His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye , President of the Republic of Burundi and Supreme Magistrate.

Mr. Léopold Kabura, now President of the Court of Auditors, officially took office today, swearing to fulfill his mission with integrity and dedication. His swearing-in took place in the presence of both houses of Parliament together, as well as other senior dignitaries of the country.

During the same ceremony, Bishop Aimé Joseph Kimarungu , Vice-President of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and Mr. Vianney Ndikumana , member of this commission, also took the oath. **(Presidency)**



President Ndayishimiye receives a Special Envoy from his Congolese counterpart



On Tuesday, March 25, 2025, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye , received in audience, at the Kiriri Palace , Mrs. Thérèse KAYIKWAMBA, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Special Envoy of the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Félix

Tshisekedi .

Foreign Minister Thérèse Kayikwamba delivered a message on the prospect of strengthening bilateral relations beyond the crisis in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

She also expressed her country's gratitude to the Burundian people for their hospitality towards Congolese people crossing the border to flee the conflict ravaging the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This distinguished personality thus sent to the Burundian Head of State a message of gratitude for the friendship and generosity of the Burundian people who were able to welcome more than 79,000 Congolese refugees, mainly mothers and children.

The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, said words of encouragement that the Democratic Republic of the Congo will regain peace, especially since the International Community has already understood their problem. **(Presidency)**

The Burundian Head of State intends to strengthen the mining sector



On Tuesday, March 25, 2025, the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, met in Bujumbura with representatives of mining cooperatives operating in Burundi to discuss ways and means of strengthening this sector so that it contributes significantly to State revenue.

"Each cooperative will have to specify the quantity of minerals that it can have in order to establish statistics that will be taken into account when setting the general budget of the State," said the Burundian Head of State in his opening address in which he also deplored the lack of knowledge of the law governing this sector by the owners of mining companies and cooperatives.

The Head of State of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, took this opportunity to make a final appeal to mining cooperatives that have not updated their contracts with the Burundian Mining Office (OBM) in accordance with the current

Mining Code to make a related prompt response so as to allow transparent supervision and put an end to fraud.

"You should know that mineral substances constitute the exclusive property of the State as indicated in Article 7 of the Mining Code; and its dividends benefit the entire Burundian population," he stressed, further asking the population to inform the OBM of any property that has mining subsoil.

During this meeting, participants expressed their demands for production improvement, while denounc-

ing cases of corruption that plague the mining sector. In this regard, they called for the establishment of a one-stop shop as a solution to the slow administrative procedures for granting mining permits and for a review of operating capital (set at 16 percent for the State and 5 percent for companies), especially for cooperatives that still use artisanal techniques.

The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, encouraged mining cooperatives and companies to continue their activities, reassuring them that business in this sector is conducted on a win-win principle.

He further indicated that the Government of Burundi maintains zero tolerance for anyone guilty of embezzlement, failure to provide information, fraud and corruption in the mining sector, referring to the Attorney General of Ngozi Province who has been denounced by various stakeholders for complicity in cases of corruption. **(Presidency)**

Three women awarded for their innovative projects



out their projects, announced Désiré Manirakiza.

The role of women in the country's development is crucial

The First Lady welcomed the courage of young women and girls committed to the country's development. She emphasized that women's commitment is essential to ensuring a better future for Burundi. Their active participation in development projects is crucial for the nation's growth and prosperity, the First Lady added.

Three women's projects among ten women who were present during innovative women's projects were awarded prizes on Friday, March 28, 2025 in Bujumbura, during a ceremony organized by the Youth Economic Empowerment and Employment Program (PAEEJ), which launched this competition.

This ceremony was enhanced by the presence of the First Lady of the country Angeline Ndayishimiye , accompanied with the Burundian Ombudsman Aimée Laurentine Kanyana and the Minister responsible of youth Gervais Abayeho .

The National Coordinator of the Youth Empowerment and Employment Program, Désiré Manirakiza , welcomed the presence of the First Lady while thanking her for her constant support towards Burundian youth, in order to promote their autonomy and fight against unemployment and its related effects.

The national coordinator indicated that the 10 young women who reached the finals were the first in their home provinces in this competition. This is why each of them receives a capital of 9 million from PAEE, to carry

The three winners of the final were ranked as follows: NDAYISENGA Laurence, first, with a chalk manufacturing project in the province of RUYIGI: she received a credit of 15 million BIF, Belyse Ndayishemeze , second, from the province of MAKAMBA, with a sandal manufacturing project: she received a credit of 13 million BIF and Floride Ndayishimiye , third, from the province of Gitega, with a welding project: she obtained a credit of 12 million BIF .

The First Lady said that one of the daily projects of OPDD-Burundi, of which she is president, is to support and accompany young women.

The First Lady support initiatives for women development

"Burundi will only progress if every citizen, especially women, actively participates in development projects," she continued. She also promised a loan of 10 million to the first winner of the competition, repayable after three years, to enable her to purchase the necessary equipment to pursue and effectively carry out her project.

She promised a sewing machine to each of the contest participants who presented sewing projects. (RTNB)

Exchange of greetings between the Bagumyabanga of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation



On Friday, March 28, 2025, the Bagumyabanga of the CNDD-FDD, Cell of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation (MAECD Cell) exchanged vows. The ceremonies began with a humanitarian activity organized at the Prince Regent Charles Hospital in Bujumbura.



In his welcoming address, the Director of the Prince Regent Charles Hospital, Doctor Oscar NIMPAYE, warmly thanked the Bagumyabanga of the CNDD-FDD's MAECD Cell for this commendable activity because among the patients who have already recovered, there are some who are not able to pay their bills in order to be able to leave the hospital. The regularization of some of these bills carried out by the Bagumyabanga of the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs is an advantage because they return to their homes and for the Prince Regent Charles Hospital because this sum is part of the operating costs.

Mr. Sylodie MANIREREKANA, Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation and Head of the MAECD Bagumyabanga delegation, extended his satisfaction relating to this humanitarian activity towards people who are imprisoned at the Prince Regent Charles Hospital because they were unable to pay their bills. It should be noted that the bills worth more than 10 million BIF for seven people were paid, allowing them to leave the hospital. This activity was carried out during the week commonly known as "charity week" for Christians.

The Bagumyabanga of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation continued these ceremonies by sharing a glass as part of an exchange of wishes for the New Year 2025.



In his remarks, the President of the CNDD-FDD's MAECD Cell, Ambassador Ernest Niyokindi, thanked all the MAECD Bagumyabanga who attended these commendable activities. He asked all participants to kindly strengthen this spirit of mutual assistance. He also called on everyone to prepare accordingly for the upcoming elections, which will take place in June throughout the country.

The Bagumyabanga of the CNDD-FDD's MAECD Cell welcomed the newcomers and the ceremonies ended in a peaceful atmosphere. **(MAECD)**

Celebration of International Women's Day (IWD) by the Burundian Community of France

Burundian Community of France celebrated, this Saturday, March 29, 2025, International Women's Day (IWD) under the theme: "Women, pillars of development, let's support them to achieve the vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and developed country by 2060." (**Embassy of Burundi to Paris**)



Public broadcast by the spokesperson for public institutions: what to keep in mind?



A public broadcast by the Spokespersons of Public Institutions took place in Rumonge province. They answered questions from journalists and the public.

During this public broadcast, Rosine Guilène Gatoni , spokesperson for the President of the Republic, who delivered a message from the Head of State to the Burundian population, shared his satisfaction vis-a vis the production of the 2025 growing season, especially that of maize throughout the country.

The Head of State nevertheless deplores the Burundians who violate Burundian culture and customs. He asks parents and teachers to give children a good education, based on the culture and customs that have always characterized Burundians, she says, since there are no people without culture, nor society without culture.

Quid of diplomatics relations between Rwanda and Burundi

The deterioration of diplomatic relations between Burun-

di and Rwanda is fueled by Rwanda's hosting of the terrorist group Red Tabara , reports Madame Rosine Guilène Gatoni during the public broadcast.

She said that this terrorist group attempted a coup in 2015 and has repeatedly brought grief to Burundians. She indicated that once Rwanda deports Red members to Burundi, Tabara , which it hosts, the borders will be reopened without delay and diplomatic relations between the two countries will return to normal .

Attitude to adopt during elections

Mrs. Rosine Guilène Gatoni said that the Burundian President invites the Burundian population to adopt Vision 2040-2060, with a view to its effective implementation.

As elections are already looming on the horizon, the Head of State, HE Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, calls on Burundians to participate peacefully, to elect leaders with good intentions to build the nation and lead it towards sustainable development. Therefore, he asks young Burundians not to be distracted by malicious politicians, added the Spokesperson for the President of the Republic.

Minning sector , a provider for revenue

The promotion of this sector gives hope that the fuel shortage will find a lasting solution in the coming days, according to the Secretary General and Government Spokesperson.

Mr. Jérôme NIYONZIMA explained that minerals are among the products that can hugely contribute to bringing foreign currency into the State coffers, and thus mitigate the negative effects related to the lack of fuel since this product is purchased in foreign currency.

He calls on Burundians to denounce fuel speculation and ensure the proper management of available fuel. He asks speculators to pull themselves together and develop a patriotic spirit. He also calls on the four-party system to get to work.

Rosine Guilène Gatoni , Spokesperson for the President of the Republic, asks all Burundians to intensify production in order to have surplus to sell abroad, to generate foreign currency, which could contribute to the purchase of fuel.

Account for embezzled funds recovery is operational

15 billion Burundian francs is the amount already paid since January into the embezzled funds recovery account, according to the Spokesperson for the President of the Republic, Rosine Guilène Gatoni indicates that this amount contributes to the realization of activities of public interest.

Brarudi introduces a new product made of maize

The Ministry of Trade welcomes the introduction by Brarudi of the new drink, Amstel Bright, made from corn. Onésime NIYUKURI, spokesperson for this ministry, made this assessment during the public broadcast of the Spokespersons of the institutions which took place in Rumonge province.

For him, Brarudi has responded to the Government's call to transform agricultural production. He invites businessmen to follow Brarudi's lead, for the development of the country.

Organo- mineral fertilizers

The Burundian population has made spectacular progress in farming sector; this is materialized by the fact that at the start of the subsidy of fertilizers by the Government, the quantity of the latter increased from 6,000 to 140,000 tonnes in 2024, specified Mr. Clément Ndikumasabo, Spokesperson for the Ministry responsible for agriculture during the public broadcast of March 28, 2025.

He reassures the Burundian population: "all those who paid for the fertilizers and dolomite will receive the quantities for which they paid."

Mr. Clément Ndikumasabo took issue with traders who speculate on fertilizers by reselling them on the market. He added that some traders export these substances,

which are costly to the Government. He warned anyone caught engaging in such speculation that they would be punished for harming the national economy.

Progress on the construction of Intwari stadium

Construction work on the Intwari stadium in Bujumbura town hall is at the final stage, said Ambassador Rémy Barampama , spokesperson for the ministry responsible for sports.

He reported that the development of the parking lots and the installation of the synthetic carpet had just been completed. The only work currently underway concerns the electrical installations, Barampama added.

Rémy Barampama indicated that after the completion of the work, we will have to wait for approval from FIFA before this stadium can begin hosting international competitions.

In the public broadcast held in Rumonge, he announced that the ministry responsible for sports and its partners intend to build an arena where basketball, volleyball and handball will be played in the Maramvya zone of the Mutimbuzi commune, in the province of Bujumbura.

Internet connection, a quick solution

Various activities are being implemented to improve internet connectivity in Burundi. Mr. Thierry Kitamoya , Spokesperson for the Ministry of Communication, said that telecommunications companies are currently installing new antennas and strengthening the capacity of existing ones to ensure sufficient 4G or 5G connectivity in certain locations.

He cited the installation of new antennas in Winterekwa , Kizingwe-Bihara and Kajaga by the company Lumitel . In addition, Kitamoya said that the universal services fund will also contribute to installing antennas, from the town hall of Bujumbura to Kobero , in Muyinga province .

There are also foreign investors who have already submitted requests to invest in the telecommunications sector in Burundi, according to the spokesperson, Mr. Thierry Kitamoya .

No more water or electricity outages?

The water and electricity power outages will end, particularly in Bujumbura City Hall, according to Mr. Paul Ndarihonyoye , Spokesperson for the Ministry of Mines. He indicated that water from the Matyazo spring already supplies Bujumbura City Hall. In addition, another spring located in Isare will supply water to the city hall within

two months.

For the south of the economic capital Bujumbura, Regideso has already signed partnerships for the installation of a pumping station, to ensure the supply of drinking water to Kanyosha and Nyabugete , added

Ndarihonyoye .

Regarding electricity, he announced that a project is underway to replace Bujumbura's power lines and existing poles with metal or strengthen concrete poles. (RTNB)

Burundi's ports: a new master plan for an emerging Burundi



On Monday, March 24, 2025, the Director General of the Maritime and Popular Authority of Burundi, Ms. Godeliève Ninahazwe organized a session on the activities of the Burundi ports master plan revision project and the strategy for its implementation. A session for this purpose took place at the headquarters of the port of Bujumbura.

The Director General of the Maritime and Popular Authority of Burundi, Ms. Godeliève Ninahazwe said that the revision of the master plan for Burundi's ports and the development of the strategy for its implementation will align with Burundi's vision as an Emerging Country by 2040 and a Developed Country by 2060.

She pointed out that the master plan for Burundi ports, which will be updated, will have a validity of 15 years, from 2025 to 2040, and that it will show the image of Burundi ports in 2040, a date which embodies an emerging Burundi.

She said she is hopeful that the completion of this pro-

ject in all its aspects will significantly contribute to the economic development of Burundi by improving maritime transport, port activities and port infrastructure, taking into account the objectives of sustainable development and respecting the aquatic environment.

The Director General of the Maritime and Popular Authority of Burundi, Ms. Godeliève Ninahazwe invited development partners as well as private investors, national or international, who would like to invest in Burundi in maritime and port activities, to participate in the development of ports to achieve the vision of Burundi as an Emerging Country by 2040 and a Developed Country by 2060.

She highlighted that the activities of revising the master plan of the ports of Burundi and developing the strategy for its implementation will be carried out by experts from the port of Antwerp-Bruges in Belgium, for 4 months and that they are financed by the Belgian Development Agency (ENABEL), via the support program for the realization of studies and expertise (PAREX). (RTNB)

Validation of the interim report on the legal harmonization of cross-border trade



On Tuesday, March 25, 2025, the Ministry of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism, with the support of the Great Lakes Trade Facilitation and Integration Project (*PFCIGL*), organized a workshop to validate the interim report on the harmonization of legal texts governing cross-border trade standards and procedures.

According to the project coordinator, Ms. Clotilde Nizigama, this initiative is part of the project's action plan, financed by the World Bank. It falls more specifically under sub-component 1.1, dedicated to regulatory reform and the simplification of procedures for small cross-border traders.

The project aims at improving the regulatory environment for trade at borders through several key actions: enhanced dialogue at the regional, national and local levels on ongoing reforms; increased awareness of regulatory changes; targeted training for border officials, traders and professional associations; and the introduction of innovative digital tools to facilitate border crossings.

The overall objective is to reduce the time and costs associated with cross-border trade, while networking platforms dedicated to women traders and service providers.

The project also supports the implementation of complementary measures covering customs clearance, immigration, certification and coordination between

institutions operating at border posts.

These interventions are based on instruments already validated at the COMESA and continental levels, including: the COMESA Simplified Trade Regime (RECOs); the regulation on minimum standards of treatment for small cross-border traders and its support framework for women and young traders; the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The Export Promotion Officer at the Ministry of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism,

Mr. Sébastien Nzimana, stressed that the PFCIGL aims to facilitate trade and strengthen the marketing of strategic value chains, particularly targeting small traders, especially women.

The project addresses the challenges identified in the National Strategy for the Promotion of Cross-Border Trade. It supports the reforms needed to remove the main obstacles to trade between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, such as: the complexity of border procedures; insufficient infrastructure; and the lack of suitable facilities for the storage, packaging, and processing of goods.

The workshop is fully in line with the country's development objectives, defined in the National Development Plan (*PND*) and the vision "Burundi Emerging Country by 2040 and Developed Country by 2060". By improving the trade framework, the Great Lakes Trade Facilitation and Integration Project (*PFCIGL*) contributes to national economic prosperity by stimulating production, reducing inequalities and combating unemployment and poverty.

The workshop aimed at gathering stakeholder input on the interim report, which provides an overview of the legal instruments applicable to cross-border trade in Burundi. It also highlights texts that discriminate against small traders and makes recommendations for effective legal harmonization.

Participants also examined a roadmap to guide this harmonization, with the possibility of making contributions before its official adoption. **(RTNB)**

The role of female athletes in achieving the 2040-2060 vision



The president of the *FJMB*, Mr. Joseph Ntunguka, emphasized the relevance of the theme chosen for this edition: "Sportswomen, key players in achieving the 2040 and 2060 vision." According to him, healthy women are a fundamental pillar for achieving the country's development goals, including Vision 2040 and 2060.

Mr. Joseph Ntunguka encouraged women to adopt simple exercise habits, such as 30 minutes of daily exercise, to prevent diseases related to a sedentary lifestyle and maintain their health.

The Burundi Jogging and Walking Federation (*FJMB*) organized on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at Bujumbura Mairie Province, the celebration of International Women's Day, under the theme: "Sportswomen, key players in achieving the 2040-2060 vision"

This day was an opportunity to highlight the essential role of women in national development, with particular emphasis on their physical well-being through sport.

Health and competition activities

The festivities began with a symbolic parade starting from the jardin public and continuing to the Boulevard Mwezi Gisabo, before ending to the Ntakangwa bridge.

The participants then headed towards Nyakabiga and crossed Muyinga Avenue to return to the public garden. This route was the scene of competitions between women, aimed at promoting physical activity and women's health.

Important participants of the day

The event was attended by influential persons, including Ms. Lydia Nsekera, President of the Burundi National Olympic Committee (NOC), and a delegate from the Minister of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture. Their interventions strengthened the significance of women's involvement in sport.

Key role of a female athlete according to Joseph Ntunguka

Significance of women leadership in sport

President Ntunguka also expressed concern about the low representation of women in sports decision-making bodies. He stressed the need to increase women's participation in sports management in order to promote inclusive, equitable sport that represents women's aspirations.

Parade of the Burundi Federation of Jogging and Marching

Despite the success of the day, Mr. Joseph Ntunguka highlighted a major challenge facing the *FJMB*: the lack of a stable headquarters. However, he expressed optimism about the federation's future, emphasizing that, despite financial difficulties, the organization will continue to grow to support women's sport in Burundi.

Awards to encourage performance

The top three winners of the competitions were honored with medals, presented by Mr. Joseph Ntunguka in the presence of Ms. Lydia Nsekera and the delegate of the Minister of East African Community Affairs. This medal ceremony was a way to reward performances of the participants and encourage them to continue their commitment.

This celebration of International Women's Day served as an opportunity to highlight the importance of sport for women's health and their contribution to the country's development. It also highlighted the challenges facing women's sport, particularly the lack of representation in decision-making structures. However, optimism remains for the future of women's sport in Burundi. (RTNB)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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