



First Lady pledges to strengthen the fight against fistula during the celebration of the 50th anniversary of United Nations Population Fund



On Tuesday, July 22, 2025, the First Lady of Burundi, H.E. Mrs. Angeline Ndayishimiye, took the opportunity of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Burundi to draw attention to obstetric fistula, a condition that is still very prevalent in the country and which, according to her, deprives many women of their dignity.

Speaking during the ceremony held in Bujumbura, the First Lady praised UN-

FPA's efforts in treating obstetric fistula, emphasizing that thanks to this organization, many women have benefited from life-saving surgery. She stressed the importance of continuing the fight against this disease, which particularly affects women living in rural areas, who are often marginalized. "There are still women who suffer in silence. We must not spare our efforts," she said.

Mr. Judicaël Elidje, UNFPA Resident Representative in Burundi, recalled

In this Edition:

page

First Lady pledges to strengthen the fight against fistula during the celebration of the 50th anniversary of United Nations Population Fund

1

Launch of the semi-annual review workshop on the implementation of UNDP portfolios and projects

2

Validation of the National Diaspora Policy

3

The Minister of Home Affairs, Community Development, and Public Security is mobilizing law enforcement agencies to assess the security situation

4

Law enforcement agencies called upon to step up vigilance in the fight against all forms of crime

5

Tax revenue: record collection rate for the 2024-2025 fiscal year

5

Fight against speculation: offenders will be severely punished

6

The Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender: a positive assessment for the 2024-2025 fiscal year

7

Senatorial elections: victory goes to the CNDD-FDD party

9

that this celebration marked an important milestone: 50 years of commitment to reproductive health, women's and young people's rights, the fight against gender-based violence, and the support for sustainable development. He expressed his gratitude to the Burundian government for its continued collaboration and shared UNFPA's vision: "A society where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, and every young person can fulfill their potential."

Despite the progress made, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye pointed out that many challenges remain, including unwanted pregnancies, risky childbirth, and threats to women's safety. She emphasized the importance of collective commitment to ensuring a safer

and fairer future for all Burundian women.

The ceremony also included festive moments. Participants shared a birthday cake, listened to moving testimonials from women who regained their health thanks to UNFPA support, and enjoyed performances of modern songs and dances, symbols of hope and resilience.

In her closing remarks, the First Lady reaffirmed her personal commitment and that of her foundation, Bonne Action Umugiraneza, to the fight against obstetric fistula and the improvement of reproductive health in Burundi.

She called on all institutional, community, and international actors to join forces to build a better future for the country's women and girls. (RTNB)

Launch of the semi-annual review workshop on the implementation of UNDP portfolios and projects



From July 22 to 23, 2025, the United Nations Development Program organized a semi-annual review workshop on portfolio implementation at the Donatus Conference Center in Bujumbura. The workshop brought together UNDP executives, representatives of relevant sectoral ministries, United Nations agencies, and implementing partners.

In his speech, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Mr. Ferdinand Bashikako, spoke on behalf of His Excellency Ambassador Albert SHINGIRO. He thanked the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) on behalf of the Government for its constant support, flexibility, and strategic alignment with Burundi's national priorities.



This workshop is part of the implementation of the strategic vision of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Burundi, Major General Evariste Ndayishimiye, who aims at making Burundi an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. With this in mind, the government has revised the National Development Plan (NDP) to better align its public policies and the interventions of its partners with the following priority areas: sustainable development, governance, innovation, and social justice.

The Acting Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program, Mr. Jonas Mfouatie, said that the joint semi-annual review to monitor the implementation of the 2024-2027 CPD is a strategic moment to assess pro-



gress, adjust priorities, and strengthen the shared commitment to a resilient, inclusive, and prosperous Burundi. He added that this review is not simply a review, but an opportunity for reflection, deliberation, and collective analysis.

The workshop participants made several recommendations. In particular, they proposed strengthen-

ing coordination between sectoral groups for more efficient use of resources, redoubling efforts to regularize advances that have not yet been justified, carrying out joint actions to mobilize resources, and adapting interventions to the new territorial division, which represents a major opportunity to support the country in its decentralization process.

The Permanent Secretary concluded his speech by stating that this mid-year review workshop for the first half of 2025 will enable the Government, the United Nations Development Program, and all stakeholders to assess the status of implementation of the 2025 PTAs, identify constraints, difficulties, and risks, as well as the mitigation actions to be implemented, and update the risk log with a view to proactive and collective management. **(MFADC)**

Validation of the National Diaspora Policy



On July 22, 2025, the Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, Mr. Sylodie MANIREREKANA launched a technical validation workshop of the revised National Diaspora Policy and its implementation strategy held at the Hôtel Royal Palace.

In his address, Mr Sylodie MANIREREKANA said that the validated documents are aligned with the country's new global orientations, and will serve as a compass for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and De-

velopment (MFADC), in organizing and collaborating with the Burundian Diaspora to properly channel their contributions to the country's development. He added that the validation of these two documents will guide the coordination of the Burundian Diaspora, in a concerted dynamic, to contribute to the realization of the vision of an emerging Burundi by 2040 and fully developed by 2060.

Mr. Sylodie MANIREREKANA concluded his speech by reminding the audience that a Burundian Diaspora Week is scheduled to take place from July 29 to 31, 2025 at the Hôtel Club du Lac Tanganyika, under the High Patronage of His Excellency the President of the Republic Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE. These activities will provide an opportunity to exchange views on various issues of national interest, and to learn more about the Government of Burundi's programs and projects, so that they can make their own contributions to the country's development.

The Head of Mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Mrs. Emanuela Muscarà, praised the efforts of the Government of Burundi, through the MFADC, in drawing up this policy to recognize, value



and engage the diaspora as a key Actor in national development. The policy is in line with national priorities, notably the National Development Plan 2021-2027 and the Vision of an Emerging Burundi in 2040 and Developed in 2060. "This policy also reflects Burundi's international commitments, such as the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration," she said.

Mrs. Emanuela Muscarà praised the close collaboration between the MFADC technical team and all the partners, which had enabled the preparation of these documents, necessary to tackle the issues and identify constructive solutions. She reminded the audience that the diaspora and migrants are much more than just people on the move, but bearers of ideas, resources, innovation and hope.

In her closing remarks, Mrs. Emanuela Muscarà also praised the collective involvement of all partners in the IOM-led "Regional Migration Management", (BRMM) program. She stressed that this long-standing partnership testifies to a shared commitment to promoting migration policies that are inclusive, sustainable and consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Finally, she reaffirmed IOM's continued support for the Government of Burundi in this new phase, and its commitment to inclusive, sustainable development for all Burundians, wherever they may be. (MFADC)

The Minister of Home Affairs, Community Development, and Public Security is mobilizing law enforcement agencies to assess the security situation



The Minister of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security, Mr. Martin Niteretse, convened law enforcement agencies from the central region of the country on July 21, 2025, in Gitega to assess the security situation. According to the Regional Commissioner of Gitega, Mr. Harerimana Delanchance, although the general climate remains stable, several challenges remain: residual crime, fatal accidents, and economic fraud.

The population of Gitega continues to peacefully go

about its activities, although the last four months have been marked by thefts, murders linked to land or marital disputes, and the killing of suspected thieves. The police have already arrested 80% of the perpetrators of these crimes. The Minister praised these efforts, calling for the identification and arrest of the remaining 20% who are still at large and urging security officers to quickly intervene to prevent any escalation.

The meeting also discussed road accidents that have caused around 200 deaths in four months, mainly due to the poor condition of vehicles and excessive speed. Faced with this alarming situation, the Minister demanded stricter technical inspections and the immediate withdrawal of vehicles that do not comply with regulations.

On another note, the Minister welcomed the cooperation between the police and the Burundian Revenue Authority (OBR) in combating fraud involving products such as beer, coffee, and minerals illegally exported. He encouraged the newly elected local authorities to remain vigilant in order to protect the country's interests.

In his concluding remarks, the Minister urged law enforcement agencies to improve their economic situation through income-generating initiatives, such as pig or poultry farming, rather than resorting to

debt. "National development relies on collective effort, including that of security agents," he emphasized, stressing the importance of their economic empowerment before retirement. (RTNB)

Law enforcement agencies called upon to step up vigilance in the fight against all forms of crime



The Minister of Home Affairs, Community Development, and Public Security, Mr. Martin Niteretse, continued his tour of interaction with law enforcement agencies in the Western region on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, in Bujumbura. At the end of the meeting, the Minister appreciated the climate of security that prevails in the region, despite a few irregularities. He urged law enforcement agencies to remain vigilant in order to sustain peace and security for citizens. He thanked them for their contribution to the smooth running of the recent legislative and communal elections.

The Minister also reminded them that their mission is to prevent conflicts and called for a firm fight



against violence against women and girls. He added that their main mission as police officers is to protect the population and their property by conducting rigorous investigations to prevent all forms of crime. He stressed the need to work closely with local administrators and citizens who know their environment better. While appreciating the current unity within the security forces, the minister warned them against rumors that could undermine their cohesion.

Regarding the fight against fraud, he stressed that it is a constant battle because fraudsters change tactics. He called for increased surveillance in sensitive areas such as Gatumba, Buganda, and Rugombo. The police officers were also asked to monitor the distribution of beverages produced by BRARUDI because some retailers are increasing the prices set by the company, Minister Martin Niteretse insisted. Finally, law enforcement agencies were called upon to show solidarity, mutual respect, and integrity so that the public can trust them. (ABP)

Tax revenue: record collection rate for the 2024-2025 fiscal year

The Minister of Home Affairs, Community Development, and Public Security, the Minister of Finance, Budget, and Economic Planning, and the Minister of Justice convened a

meeting on the afternoon of July 22, 2025, provincial governors, judicial officials, police officials, and representatives of the Burundi Revenue Authority (OBR) to assess the implementation of the recommendations



from their previous meeting in December 2024 on the eradication of fraud, including tax fraud.

The Minister of Finance, Budget, and Economic Planning, Mr. Nestor Ntahontuye, welcomed the progress made since December 2024, highlighting a significant increase in tax revenues. He specified that monthly collection rates reached 98.7% in December 2024; 105% in January 2025; 87% in February; 101% in March; 97% in April; 104% in May; and 105% in June. "With an annual average of 101.5%, these results exceed initial projections." The Minister emphasized the importance of widespread use of electronic billing machines to further improve collection, particularly of value-added tax.

Despite these results, the Governors reported that some cases of fraud persist, particularly involving corn, beans, coffee, and minerals. To remedy this, they reported that several strategies have been put in place, including raising awareness of trade regulations among the population, the police, and local administrators;

creating a climate of trust to encourage reporting; setting up monitoring committees to track and follow up on cases of fraud; and many others. The Governors asked for exemplary sanctions against fraudsters, with accelerated legal proceedings in cases of flagrant offenses. The Deputy Commissioner General of the OBR, Mr. Georges Bigirimana, highlighted the shortage of human resource of his institution, which he said has only 1,200 agents throughout the country. He called for closer collaboration between the Burundi Revenue Authority, the administration, the judiciary, and the police to make the fight more effective.

On the judicial side, the Attorney General of the Republic, Mr. Léonard Manirakiza, suggested going beyond prison sentences and fines by also imposing moral and material damages on fraudsters. The Minister of Justice, Mrs. Domine Banyankimbona, emphasized the need for change in the behavior of magistrates on handling fraud cases. She also suggested that the budget law be translated into Kirundi and widely distributed for better understanding by all stakeholders, especially traders.

The Minister of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security, Mr. Martin Niteretse, congratulated all stakeholders for the progress made, while calling for redoubled efforts to protect the national economy. He recalled that fraud compromises the realization of Burundi's vision of becoming an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060, and called for tougher enforcement against economic crimes, not treating them as minor offenses. He invited participants to join forces to eradicate fraud in all its forms in order to ensure stable tax revenues and effective public investment. (RTNB)

Fight against speculation: offenders will be severely punished

Anyone engaging in speculation on consumer goods shall be arrested, and their seized property shall be auctioned for the benefit of the public treasury. The hill leader, the cell leader, or police officer in charge of that community who fails to report such acts shall also be prosecuted for complicity with the perpetrators of these offenses.

This measure came into force throughout Burundi territory on Thursday, July 24, 2025. Law enforcement agencies are called upon to redouble their efforts to eradicate the illegal practices of representatives and intermediaries, which have resurfaced. All these decisions were taken by the Minister of Home Affairs, Community Development and Public Security, Mr. Martin Niteretse, during a meeting with the security forces of the Eastern region, held on



Thursday, July 24, 2025, in Muyinga city. The purpose of this meeting was to assess the security situation in the region, strengthen security, and improve rapid response capabilities when needed.

According to Regional Police Commissioner Colonel Jean Marie Niyonzima, security in the eastern part of the country is generally satisfactory. However, some challenges remain, including conflicts related to smuggling on the border with Tanzania, murders due to land and marital disputes, and cases of rape.

Logistic difficulties also affect the security services, including a lack of office equipment, outdated infrastructure, and transportation issues, as indicated by the Regional Commissioner.

The Minister praised the efforts of law enforcement agencies from the end-of-year celebrations to the recent elections, while inviting them to adopt the motto: "All our actions must prioritize the welfare of citizens." He emphasized that Burundi needs transformation in all sectors to achieve its vision of becoming an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. He therefore urged security officers to always ask themselves how they can best serve citizens and the nation.

Regarding smuggling, particularly the illegal export of beans, corn, coffee, and minerals to Tanzania, the Minister warned the communal commissioners responsible for border areas. He warned that severe penalties would be imposed on authorities who did not change their attitude.

On the issue of witchcraft accusations leading to murders, the Minister called on law enforcement agencies and local officials to strengthen their collaboration to put an end to this violence. He called for the rapid and proactive collection of information in order to intervene in a timely manner. Finally, he insisted on the prohibition of ligalas (groups of idle youths), calling on the authorities to direct these young people toward community development activities. (RTNB)

The Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender: a positive assessment for the 2024-2025 fiscal year



Sabushimike, presented her ministry's achievements for the 2024-2025 fiscal year and its main priorities for 2025-2026.

The Minister reiterated that the Ministry's priorities are: extending social security coverage to all citizens, promoting human rights, and improving political, economic, social, and cultural status, with a particular focus on women, girls, and other vulnerable groups. The Ministry's interventions are structured around three main areas: social protection, the promotion of human rights, and the promotion of gender equality.

On Monday, July 21, 2025, the Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights, and Gender, Ms. Imelde

In the area of social protection, several notable results

have been achieved. She indicated that the "Merankabandi" project has enabled cash transfers to be made to 135,701 households, while 17,600 vulnerable elderly people, including members of the Batwa community, have benefited from access to healthcare thanks to the health insurance card. In addition, she added, 24,825 vulnerable sick people had received medical assistance, 2,452 disabled people had been fitted with prosthetics, and 636 children taken off the streets had received assistance to meet their basic needs. The Ministry of National Solidarity also distributed 16,165 metal sheets to victims of natural disasters and supported 41 residential centers, etc.

In terms of contributory social security, the Minister reported that the ministry she leads had undertaken to raise awareness among members about professional risk prevention, opened a branch of the National Office for Pensions and Occupational Risks (ONPR) in Buhumuza, and extended social security coverage to new employers in the formal sector. In addition, 664 insured persons with chronic diseases have been taken into care, while a physical census of beneficiaries has been carried out. With regard to the promotion of human rights, reports have been submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva, in particular on the involvement of children in armed conflict in Burundi.

The Minister also launched a 2024-2027 national ac-

tion plan to implement the recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review (4th cycle), while conducting a broad human rights education program. In the area of gender equality, groups of women and girls were trained in creating bankable projects. To this end, 299 micro projects have been supported and 360 income-generating activities have been initiated by vulnerable women.

In addition, 250 victims of gender-based sexual violence (GBSV) were reintegrated in the provinces of Kayanza and Ngozi, not to mention that the national strategic plan to combat gender-based violence (GBV) was updated and disseminated in five former pilot provinces (Muyinga, Bujumbura, Ngozi, Kayanza, and Gitega).

Regarding the prospects for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the Minister announced that the Ministry will continue to pour its efforts in key areas such as social assistance, community reintegration, the promotion of human rights, and gender equality. Among the priorities mentioned by the Minister for the 2025-2026 fiscal year are, among others, medical insurance for vulnerable individuals; socio-economic support for victims of climate change; the fight against begging and the issue of street children; the reintegration of vulnerable individuals through income-generating activities; the implementation of the "zero nyakatsi" (zero grass roofed houses) policy; and improving access to education for Batwa children and other vulnerable groups. (ABP)

"The OBR raises awareness among the media about tax civism and the new features of the 2025-2026 budget law"

The Burundian Revenue Office (OBR) organized an information and exchange workshop for the media on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, in Bujumbura, focusing on tax civism and the main innovations introduced by the 2025-2026 budget law. The OBR spokesperson, Mr. Stany Ngendakumana, explained that the objective of this meeting was to enhance the dissemination of the new tax provisions to prevent taxpayers from being penalized due to ignorance. Among the key points, he highlighted that merchants with a turnover of 25 million BIF or more are now required to use an electronic billing machine. For merchants with a turnover below 25 million BIF,

they must report to the Burundian Revenue Office every three months, as they already have an identification number. Furthermore, according to him, Article 234 of the new budget law stipulates a fine equivalent to 20% of the purchase price for any buyer or service recipient who does not request an electronic invoice, or for any merchant who does not use an electronic billing machine. This measure is part of a strategy to combat fraud and promote transparency. Other modifications, he noted, concern hotels, restaurants, bars, as well as notaries and lawyers. The fees related to travel documents have also been increased.



The passport fee has increased from BIF 235,000 to BIF 300,000, the travel document fee from BIF 35,000 to BIF 50,000, and the CEPGL fee from BIF 18,000 to BIF 30,000. It was stated that in accordance with Article 212 of Law No. 1/12 of June 24, 2025, establishing the general state budget for the fiscal year 2025-2026, any taxpayer who volun-

tarily pays the principal of their arrears, including those listed on their tax current account (CCF) and taxes or duties from previous unfiled declarations, will benefit from a waiver of related penalties, provided they settle their tax or non-tax debt within six months from July 1, 2025.

To disseminate tax information as widely as possible within the deadlines, the spokesperson for the Burundian Revenue Office (OBR) announced that the OBR has already set up a communication platform.

The spokesperson for the Burundian Revenue Office, Mr. Stany Ngendakumana, stated that the WhatsApp channel aims to provide updated information on tax obligations, deadlines, and innovations. To this end, he invited taxpayers to connect to this channel and requested the media to promote it among taxpayers to enhance awareness, so that everyone remains informed without interrupting their daily activities. **(ABP)**

Senatorial elections: victory goes to the CNDD-FDD party



On Wednesday, July 23, 2025, the ruling party CNDD-FDD held elections for senators in the five provinces: Bujumbura, Burunga, Gitega, Bujumbura, and Butanyerera. The communal councilors from the eight (8) communes of Butanyerera province gathered at the provincial headquarter to elect the senators who will represent this province. Voting began at 6:00 AM and ended at 8:45 AM. Out of the 201 expected communal councilors, all participated in the vote.

According to the President of the Provincial Independent Electoral Commission (CEPI) in Butanyere-

ra, Mr. Désiré Minani, the CNDD-FDD party won with 200 votes from the Hutu side against one (1) abstention and 201 votes, representing 100% from the Tutsi side. The other parties, namely UPRONA and CNL, which were on the ballot, received no votes. Consequently, the two senator seats reserved for Butanyerera province go to the CNDD-FDD party. In Burunga province, the elected communal councilors from the various communes conducted the vote at the Makamba III fundamental school starting at 6:01 AM. The counting of the votes cast in the ballot boxes began at 7:31 AM.

After the counting, the President of the Provincial Independent Electoral Commission (CEPI), Mr. Philémon Nahabandi, stated that all 176 expected voters had cast their votes. He confirmed that the CNDD-FDD won these senatorial elections in Burunga province at 100%. Representatives of the group of Organizations for Integrated Development of the Population (CODIP) were present at the polling stations as observers. The political parties that participated in these senatorial elections included CNDD-FDD, UPRONA, and CNL.

In Buhumuza province, it was also the CNDD-FDD party that won the senatorial elections held in the provincial headquarter. The CNDD-FDD, UPRONA, and CNL parties were in competition. There was one absence on a list of 175 expected voters, and for all ethnic groups, the CNDD-FDD party won these elections with 174 votes, namely 100%. In these elections, observers from the CODIP were noted.

In Gitega province, the CNDD-FDD party won decisively in the senatorial elections held on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at the paramedical school in Gitega. Both senate seats, one for the Tutsi ethnic group and the other for the Hutu ethnic group, went to this party, which was competing against UPRONA and CNL. The voters were communal councilors from the nine communes constituting this province, with 25 councilors per commune. Two hundred twenty-one (221)

councilors from CNDD-FDD voted for the Tutsi list, and 223 councilors voted for the Hutu list. The UPRONA party received only one vote for the Tutsi and zero votes for the Hutu. As for the CNL, it received one vote for both the Tutsi and the Hutu.

In Bujumbura province, the senatorial elections took place at the Centre Culturel Islamique de Bujumbura in Mukaza commune. Members of the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) first showed the empty ballot boxes to the voters, a sign of the transparency of the process. Voting began by 6 a.m., and the counting started around 8:40 a.m. All elected communal councilors in each commune voted to elect two senators representing the province: one from the Hutu ethnic group and the other from the Tutsi ethnic group. It should be noted that both seats were won by the ruling party, which was competing against UPRONA, CNL, and APDR in this province. **(ABP)**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

www.mae.gov.bi

Twitter: @MAEBurundi