



Burundian Head of State receives Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) President



The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye, received on Monday, January 26, 2026, at the Ntare House Palace, Dr. Tanaka Akihiko, president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), who was on an official visit to Burundi.

During this audience, the two high-ranking personalities discussed the state of multisectoral cooperation between Burundi and Japan, through various development projects supported by JICA. Dr. Tanaka Akihiko expressed his satisfaction with the momentum of development that Burundi is experiencing under the enlightened leadership of His

Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye, while reiterating his institution's commitment to making all multisectoral cooperation agreements with Burundi effective and operational.

Already active in several key sectors, notably road infrastructure, transport through the donation of buses to the Office of Transport and Technical Control (OTRACO), and the interest shown in the railway project, as well as maritime transport via the modernization of the Port of Bujumbura, the Japan International Cooperation Agency also intervenes in the agricultural sector, particularly by providing technical support for the moderniza-

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tion of the rice industry with a view to export-oriented production.

The Japanese agency expressed its willingness to strengthen its cooperation with Burundi in the health sector, notably through support for the construction of community hospitals. In this regard, the visit of the JICA President to Burundi also includes a tour of the Prince Regent Charles Hospital, in order to assess the needs with the goal to strengthening the equipment already provided to this institution.

In collaboration with the Government of Burundi, JICA also plans to strengthen the capacities of Burundian youth through the provision of equipment to the Regional Vocational Training Center of Rusi, in Gitega Province, as well as the expansion of several other training centers.

In the mining sector, the President of JICA highlighted the immense potential that Burundi possesses, reaffirming his willingness to analyze the feasibility of cooperation in this field with a view to supporting the national economy. He praised the warm welcome, humanism, and legendary hospitality of the Burundian

people towards refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo. JICA expressed its readiness to support the Government of Burundi in assisting these vulnerable populations, whose livelihoods remain limited due to their large numbers. He also commended Burundi's political momentum, as well as the peace, stability, and clear vision of the country in terms of socio-economic development.

On his behalf, the Head of State of Burundi welcomed the quality of these exchanges and particularly appreciated the loyalty of his guest, who positively responded to the invitation he had extended during his visit to Japan, on the sidelines of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) held in Yokohama last August.

On that occasion, the Burundian President had invited the President of JICA to visit Burundi in order to gain firsthand insight into the realities on the ground within the framework of strengthening multisectoral cooperation.

The Burundian Head of State reaffirmed the commitment of the Government of Burundi to pursue and consolidate cooperation with the Japanese Government for a joint and sustainable development. **(Presidency)**

President Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé visits Burundi



On Friday, January 30, 2026, the President of the Council of the Togolese Republic and African Union Mediator for the conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, His Excellency Mr. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, paid an official visit to Burundi.

Upon his arrival at Melchior Ndadaye International Airport, he was warmly received by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana.

At the Ntare Rushatsi Palace, the African Union Mediator, His Excellency Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, was granted an audience with the Head of State of Burundi, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye. The two first held a private meeting before participating in an expanded session.

His Excellency Mr. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé led a delegation from the Panel of Facilitators designated by the African Union, made of Her Excellency Catherine Samba-Panza, former President of the Central African Republic; Her Excellency Sahle-Work Zewde, former President of Ethiopia; and His Excellency Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, former President of Botswana.

This audience provided the African Union Mediator with the opportunity to hear Burundi's perspectives—Burundi being a country that shares a common colonial past with Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo—and to commend the commitment of the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye, to the restoration of peace in eastern DRC.

The Burundian Head of State, who is set to assume the presidency of the African Union in February 2026, welcomed this strategic meeting, which

strengthens the credibility of the mediation mechanism and enables the the countries involved to express their concerns. **(Presidency)**

Burundi: Two New Ministers Sworn In at Kigobe Palace



On Monday, January 26, 2026, the Kigobe Congress Palace hosted the solemn swearing-in ceremony of two newly appointed members of the Government of the Republic of Burundi, recently appointed by the President of the Republic.

Appointed by presidential decree on January 23, 2026, Mr. Alfred Ahingejeje and Mr. Damien Niyonkuru officially assumed their duties after pledging loyalty to the Nation and to the Constitution before the country's institutions.

Mr. Alfred Ahingejeje was appointed Minister of Justice, Human Rights, and Gender, while Mr. Damien Niyonkuru was appointed Minister of Infrastructure, Social Housing, Transport, and Equipment.

The ceremony was attended by the Burundian Head of State, senior officials of national institutions, members of Parliament and Government, the defense and security forces, as well as representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited to Burundi. Religious denominations and numerous other personalities were also present, underscoring the importance of this event in the institutional life of the nation.

In accordance with republican tradition, each of the two new ministers, holding the national flag in their left hand, took an oath to uphold and enforce the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi, the Constitution of the Republic, and all laws and regulations of the country.

In their solemn commitment, they pledged to serve the supreme interests of the Nation, to promote national unity, peace, justice, and equality among all citizens. They also undertook to combat ideologies and practices of genocide and exclusion, while working for the promotion and protection of human rights without any form of discrimination.

This swearing-in marks a new stage in strengthening governmental action and reaffirms the determination of the Burundian authorities to consolidate the rule of law, national cohesion, and the sustainable development of the country. **(RTNB)**

Burundi: A New Tool to Assess and Improve Business Climate

Under the auspices of the Prime Minister, Mr. Nestor Ntahontuye, the Burundi Development Agency (ADB) organized on Monday, January 26, 2026, a stakeholder awareness workshop on preparations for assessing the business climate in Burundi using the "Business Ready" (B-Ready) report. This new World Bank methodology is intended to evaluate the country's business environment, marking a key step in the government's determination to promote economic reforms and attract investment.

The event, which brought together various stakeholders from both the public and private sectors,

aimed to present the scope and significance of this tool, which succeeds the well-known "Doing Business" report.

In his address, the Director General of the ADB, Mr. R v rien Nizigiyimana, recalled that improving the business climate is an essential condition for growth, investment attraction, business competitiveness, and the creation of sustainable jobs. He emphasized that the introduction of B-Ready fits within this logic, offering a more holistic, inclusive approach, better oriented toward the real impact of public policies on enterprises. Unlike previous approaches, Business Ready evaluates the quality of regulatory frameworks, the effective-



ness of their implementation, the quality of public services provided to businesses, and the actual experience of economic operators throughout the business cycle. According to the ADB Director General, this tool will make it possible to objectively identify the strengths and weaknesses of Burundi's business environment, prioritize reforms, and strengthen the country's credibility with investors.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed that improving the business climate remains a major priority for the Government, in line with the vision of the President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Mr. Evariste Nday-

ishimiye, who has placed the private sector at the heart of economic growth and structural transformation.

He noted that Burundi's vision—"an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060"—requires deep, coherent, and sustained reforms, particularly in the areas of business climate, economic governance, and private sector competitiveness.

He added that assessing the country's economy using this modern, credible, and context-adapted tool constitutes an essential step, while reiterating the firm commitment of the Burundian Government to pursue the necessary structural reforms to make Burundi an attractive, competitive, and favorable destination for sustainable investment.

Participants in the workshop welcomed the introduction of this new tool. They expressed confidence in its ability to provide a more comprehensive and representative analysis of realities on the ground than its predecessor. Business Ready will indeed cover broader themes, including business creation, location, public utility services, employment, financial services, international trade, taxation, dispute resolution, market competition, and corporate insolvency. **(RTNB)**

National Assembly: Adoption of the Parliamentary Activity Calendar from January 26 to February 9, 2026



On Tuesday, January 27, 2026, Burundian Members of Parliament convened in a plenary session under the chairmanship of the president of the National Assembly, the Right Honourable Gélase Daniel Ndabirabe, to adopt the draft calendar of parliamentary activities covering the period from January 26 to February 9, 2026.

This fifteen-day calendar outlines a busy program fo-

cus mainly on plenary sessions, the review of Senate amendments, and the work of standing committees. Among the key activities on the agenda was the annual report presentation by the Institution of the Ombudsman of Burundi, covering the period from November 2024 to November 22, 2025. Deputies also analyzed and adopted the draft law amending the legislation on the organization of the plant seed sector. The calendar further provides for the examination of the draft law on the reorganization of public services for drinking water and liquid sanitation.

Parliamentarians also considered the draft law ratifying the agreement between Burundi and the United Arab Emirates, aimed at eliminating double taxation and preventing tax evasion on income taxes. In addition, the definitive audit report on the management of the Prince Louis Rwagasore Clinic, prepared by the Court of Accounts, was presented, followed by a session of oral questions with debate addressed to the Minister of Public Health.

Alongside the adoption of this calendar, Members of the Parliament also heard the presentation of five reports from

working missions carried out in October and December 2025 by Burundian parliamentary delegations. These missions took the deputies to China, South Africa, Djibouti, and Kampala, Uganda, where they

participated in the 15th edition of the Parliamentary Games of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA). (Le Renouveau)

Burundian Ombudsman calls on the population to contribute to the successful implementation of the vision 2040-2060



carry out their duties outside the framework of this national vision. She emphasized that every citizen, literate or illiterate, is expected to work while constantly referring to the country's vision. She further noted that local authorities should not complain about delays in incentive fees, their insufficiency, or the lack of materials for community work. According to her, a person who works in line with the national vision should not encounter such difficulties.

During the presentation of her institution's annual activity report for the year 2025, on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at the National Assembly, the Burundian Ombudsman, Mrs. Aimée Laurentine Kanyana, called upon Burundians to work in alignment with the country's vision, which aspires to make Burundi an emerging nation by 2040 and a developed nation by 2060.

The Ombudsman deplored the behavior of some young people who, instead of engaging in productive activities, resort to drug and alcohol consumption. She regretted that some of them are even unaware of the existence of the Economic Empowerment and Youth Employment Program (PAEEJ), which is designed to promote entrepreneurship and self-development among the youth. Addressing women engaged in cross-border trade, she recommended that the security authorities clearly inform them about authorized and prohibited zones, in order to facilitate their economic empowerment while ensuring border security. (ABP)

On this occasion, she particularly focused on the lack of awareness among certain State officials who

Visit to Boulevard du Japon by His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the President of JICA



On Monday, January 26, 2026, His Excellency Mr. Edouard BIZIMANA, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, accompanied by a delegation from the Japan International Cooperation

Agency (JICA), led by Dr. Akihiko TANAKA, President of JICA, visited the Boulevard du Japon.

This visit is part of strengthening the good relations and friendship that exist between the Republic of Burundi and Japan. It evidences Burundi's active economic diplomacy, stated Minister Bizimana. This road

is a kind of link connecting Burundi and Japan and symbolizes the friendship that exists between the two countries.

During this visit, which followed the route "Cathedral Roundabout-Belgian School-Avenue du Large-Tanganyika-Port of Bujumbura", they found that the section known as the Boulevard du Japon had been damaged due to floods from Lake Tanganyika. This makes the road almost impossible to use.

During his morning visit to the port of Bujumbura, Dr.

Akihiko Tanaka, President of JICA, expressed his satisfaction with the significant equipment installed to improve the port. He also got to have a better understanding of the country's future prospects and development.

Following this visit, Dr. Akihiko Tanaka indicated that in the coming days, Japanese experts will conduct studies to determine the causes of the road closure and the flooding of Lake Tanganyika. The results of these studies will allow for the effective implementation of rehabilitation work on this boulevard. (MFARIDC)

Meeting of His Excellency the Minister with the Diplomatic and Consular Corps as well as Representatives of International and Regional Organizations Accredited to Burundi



On Thursday, January 29, 2026, His Excellency Ambassador Edouard BIZIMANA, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, met with the Diplomatic and Consular Corps, as well as Representatives of International and Regional Organizations accredited to Burundi, to assess the security situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

In his speech, His Excellency the Minister thanked all those who responded to the invitation for the exchange session on the security situation in eastern DRC, as well as the Congolese residing in Burundi. He stated that Burundi, as a neighboring country and a member of the regional community, is closely following up the evolution of this situation, while also acknowledging the humanitarian issue related to the influx of Congolese refugees into its territory.

His Excellency the Minister continued by reaffirming that this exchange session aimed at reinforcing the call for international solidarity made on December 17, 2026, given that Burundi has opted for a concerted

response to ensure adequate and sustainable assistance.

His Excellency the Minister added that this regular meeting aims at sharing analyses, strengthen mutual understanding, and jointly explore ways for cooperation to contribute to peace, security, and stability in the region. Therefore, he expressed his readiness to consider reflections, contributions, and recommendations to identify concrete actions.



Taking the floor, the Representative of the UNHCR thanked all those who have contributed to helping Congolese refugees, particularly the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has continued to assist its citizens who have become refugees. The Representative of the European Union confirmed the EU's commitment to helping refugees, while Japan promised imminent aid of one million dollars.

Regarding the threats from M23, RED TABARA, and FNL,

the Minister stated that Burundi remains committed to peace, regional stability, and respect for humanitarian commitments, while remaining very vigilant and attentive to any threats to its territory.

Ambassador Edouard BIZIMANA informed the audience about the progress of Burundian rebels working in collusion with the AFC/M23 and Rwanda in the Rusizi plain, while reassuring that security remains good in Burundi. He added that Burundi will spare no effort to preserve security.

Before proceeding to the question-and-answer ses-

sion, His Excellency the Minister invited participants to watch a documentary film presenting detailed information about the security situation in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as the humanitarian consequences that arise from it, particularly the arrival of Congolese refugees on Burundian soil.

Minister Edouard BIZIMANA concluded by reiterating his thanks to all those who responded to the invitation and wished them a safe return. Subsequently, he granted an interview to journalists to provide further clarifications. **(MFARIDC)**

Participation in India's Republic Day 2026



The diplomats of the Embassy of the Republic of Burundi in India took part in the ceremonies marking the 77th anniversary of India's Republic Day, held on Monday, January 26, 2026, in New Delhi. The celebration commemorates the annual entry into force of the Indian Constitution in 1950.

The Burundian delegation attended the traditional national parade on Kartavya Path, the central boulevard of the Indian capital, where the armed forces, Cultural contingents and displays showcasing India's cultural diversity marched in procession before the Honourable President of India, Mrs. Droupadi Murmu, the Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra



Modi, and several international dignitaries, including leaders of the European Union: the President of the European Council, Mr. Antonio Costa, and the President of the European Commission, Mrs. Ursula Von der Leyen.

In the evening, at the Presidential Palace of Rashtrapati Bhavan, the Indian President hosted the annual reception, a high-level diplomatic event bringing together representatives of diplomatic missions and other distinguished guests. This reception, in addition to strengthening bonds of diplomatic friendship, also reinforced international solidarity in a constantly evolving global context. **(Embassy of Burundi in New Delhi)**

Butanyerera Province / Training of Communal Leaders in Kirundo and Busoni: Family Planning Must Go Hand in Hand with Development

On Monday, January 26, 2026, in the communes of Kirundo and Busoni, a five-day training program (January 26-30, 2026) was launched for zone chiefs, advisors to the communal administrator, and heads of communal departments. This training focused on family planning and reproductive health, combating gender-based violence, inclusive development, and youth monitor-

ing. It is organized within the framework of the Turumwe project, implemented by Care Burundi.

Representing the Governor in Busoni commune, the Governor's advisor, Mr. Cyriaque Nikoyagize, urged local leaders to pay particular attention to family planning and reproductive health issues within the community, linking them directly to development, as the two are



inseparable. Speaking on behalf of the Governor of Butanyerera Province, Mr. Cyriaque emphasized that such training is crucial for leaders. In the face of continuous population growth, the absence of appropriate measures could lead to serious problems. He called on participants to raise awareness among the population about adhering to the national policy recommending birth limitation. He also encouraged leaders to teach citizens about family planning and reproductive health in connection with development, noting that the country

is moving toward the vision of “Burundi as an emerging nation by 2040 and a developed nation by 2060.”

The Communication Officer in the Governor’s Office in Kirundo commune, Mr. Gilbert Ndibanje, stated that this training for newly appointed leaders comes at the right time. He explained that it is beneficial to the population of Kirundo commune and will assist zone leaders in their daily work of finding solutions to citizens’ concerns, as they will rely on the lessons learned from this training.

Dr. Emmanuel Nzeyimana, representing Care Burundi, noted that the training was organized for newly appointed leaders who are closest to the population and best positioned to raise awareness, particularly among youth, on family planning and reproductive health. The project aims to strengthen the capacities of these leaders so they can pass on this knowledge to the population, thereby contributing to improved reproductive health and the promotion of development. The project will run for one year and will collaborate with model youth centers located in the communes of Butanyerera Province. **(Le Renouveau)**

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