



President Ndayishimiye calls on Burundians to avoid acts that bring about a curse



On February 26, 2026, an ecumenical prayer was held at the National headquarters of the CNDD-FDD party during which the Burundian Head of State, Chair of the African Union and President of the Council of Elders of this party, His Excellency Evariste Ndashimiye, called on Burundians to refrain from any act likely to bring a curse upon the country and cause its collapse.

Held every last Thursday of the month, this prayer service was themed: "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand." It brought together, alongside the Head of State, the

Deputy Secretary General of the CNDD-FDD, as well as senior party and state officials who are members of the CNDD-FDD party.

In his sermon, based on the Holy Scriptures from Deuteronomy 27:15-26, Pastor Dieudonné Mbazumutima highlighted the main causes of the collapse of a kingdom. He named, in particular, a lack of unity, the absence of a shared vision, and a lack of solidarity and cooperation during difficult times.

On the basis of these biblical teachings, the President of the Republic of

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Burundi centered his message on the need to avoid any behavior and acts contrary to moral values, particularly bloodshed and debauchery, as they lead to curses and destroy the country.

He further urged Burundians in general and leaders in particular, to set an example, to fully embrace the 2040-2060 Vision, and not to mislead those under their authority. He called on them to preserve the gains

made while working resolutely towards achieving the objectives set out in this development vision.

Finally, the Burundian Head of State reassured the population, affirming that the curse resulting from wrongdoing would be lifted. He urged Burundians to place God at the center of their lives, to love one another, and to work with determination for the development of the country. **(Presidency)**

Evaluation workshop on decentralization and administrative reforms



On Thursday, February 26, 2026, the Senate organized, at Grand Seminaire Jean Paul II, in the commune and province of Gitega, an evaluation workshop on decentralization following the visits made by the Honorable Senators, in October 2025, throughout all the communes. This activity, which brought together communal administrators and presidents of communal councils, was led by the President of the Senate, the Right Honourable Gervais NDIRAKOBUCA, accompanied by his Vice-Presidents, senators and some members of the staff of this Institution.

In his opening speech, the Right Honourable NDIRAKOBUCA indicated that these visits made by the senators to all communes of the country were intended to exchange with elected officials and local administrative leaders on the control exercised by the Senate over local authorities and the implementation of the decentralization policy. He called on the partici-

pants to ensure the effective implementation of development projects in their respective communities. He urged them to preserve peace, promote good governance and inclusive development, and demonstrate humility and compassion in the performance of their duties. The Speaker of the Senate also commended them to serve as positive role models and to act as mediators in the event of conflicts.

On the agenda of this workshop was the presentation of various concerns submitted to the senators during their visits in October 2025, followed by exchanges and debates between the members of the Senate and the communal leaders.

In closing the proceedings, the President of the Senate welcomed the progress already made by communes in terms of development, placing particular emphasis on the level of tax revenue collection. He also announced that the Senate will soon establish senatorial units in all provinces of the country, as well as a platform enabling the population to better monitor its activities. **(Senate)**

The Senate is organizing a capacity-building workshop on regulatory texts

On Wednesday, February 25, 2026, the Senate of Burundi organized a capacity-building workshop for senators and Senate staff on the administrative, accounting and financial procedures manual and other Senate regulatory texts.

This activity took place in the plenary hall located in Gitega under the leadership of the President of the Senate, the Right Honourable Gervais NDIRAKOBUCA.

During the opening ceremonies, the President of the Senate, the Right Honourable Gervais Ndirakobuca, stated in



his address that this workshop would allow staff to

familiarize themselves with the rules and laws governing the Senate institution, as well as activities related to finance. He further indicated that this workshop would also help Senate officials adopt best practices in their work.

After presentations and discussion, participants got clarifications on certain points related to promotions, staff rights, benefits and duties, disciplinary procedures, suspension from duties, contributions to social institutions, secondments for political representatives, public procurement, to name but a few. **(Senate)**

Strengthening cooperation between Burundi and UNICEF: Meeting granted to the UNICEF Resident Representative in Burundi



On February 24, 2026, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, H.E. Ambassador Edouard Bizimana, received in audience Ms. France Bégin, UNICEF Resident Representative in Burundi, as part of a courtesy visit.

In their discussions, the two authorities appreciated the existing relations between Burundi and UNICEF and agreed to strengthen them.

They discussed on matters of common interest, including prospects for cooperation between Burundi and UNICEF in the fields of maternal and child health, education, and child protection.

After commending Burundi on assuming the chairmanship of the African Union, Ms. Bégin reaffirmed her institution's commitment to supporting the Burundian government's efforts to improve the well-being of vulnerable children and families. She further emphasized that UNICEF will make a significant contribution to the key sectors identified by His Excellency the President of the Republic as pillars of the AU.

This year's theme, ensuring the sustainable availability of safe water and sanitation systems to achieve the goals of the 2063 Agenda of the AU, also remains an objective of UNICEF.

UNICEF will contribute to programs related to youth, women and children as part of the effective implementation of the African Union's vision, she added.

Discussions also focused on consolidating ongoing projects, including the Annual Review, the new 2027-2028 Cooperation Programme, updating joint technical committees and identifying new fields for cooperation.

Ambassador Bizimana welcomed this collaboration and expressed his willingness to continue the dialogue to strengthen joint actions, stating that this meeting demonstrates a shared commitment to consolidating partnership relations and promoting a better future for children in Burundi. Both parties agreed to maintain regular dialogue to ensure the effective implementation of joint initiatives. **(MFARIDC)**

Meeting with the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region



ard BIZIMANA met with the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the Great Lakes Region, Mr. Huang Xia.

After conveying his congratulations to His Excellency the Minister for Burundi's chairmanship of the African Union, Mr. Huang Xia welcomed the diplomatic and political efforts made by His Excellency the President of Burundi.

During the discussions, the two authorities briefly addressed issues related to the evolving humanitarian and security situation in eastern DRC.

Mr. Huang Xia affirmed his commitment to supporting Burundi in all regional mechanisms to boost the peace and security efforts already undertaken.

He further reassured that he would be fully prepared to support Burundi in achieving its continental priorities to silence the guns on the African continent. **(MFARIDC)**

On February 26, 2026, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, H.E. Ambassador Edou-

Launch of a training workshop on the Geomatics information system at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation launched a training workshop on the Geomatics Information System for members of the Geomatics Information Unit from various departments within the Ministry's central administration. The workshop took place from February 24 to 27, 2026, at the Best Outlook Hotel.



At the official opening of the workshop, on behalf of His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, the Permanent Secretary in charge of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sophonie Nitunga, expressed his delight at the successful completion of this long-awaited activity, which reflects the Ministry's commitment to strengthening its technical capacities and continuously improving its analytical and decision-making tools. This training aimed to equip the Ministry with com-

petent staff capable of producing data that meets quality assurance standards and effectively address user needs, within a results-oriented management framework focused on key indicators.

The expectations for this workshop were clear. This training workshop was intended to strengthen the functional link between the Ministry's Geomatics Information System and its Statistical System, in order to improve the availability of geospatial and statistical information necessary for the formulation, management, and monitoring and evaluation of the Ministry's missions. It was also intended to enhance understanding of the strategic importance of geomatics data in management and decision-making processes, both in the public and private sectors, and to contribute to the full operationalization of the Ministry's Geomatics Information System.

The Permanent Secretary expressed his sincere



gratitude to the Prime Minister's Office for its ongoing technical support in the preparation and implementation of this training. He also thanked the senior managers and experts from the Geomatics Centralization Office for their commitment and contribution to



strengthening the skills of the Ministry's staff. Their support is invaluable in building a skilled workforce, a catalyst for sustainable development.

Finally, he encouraged the participants to approach this training with seriousness, discipline, and an open mind, so that the knowledge acquired could be put into practice for the benefit of the Ministry and the country.

At the closing of the event, Mr. Nitunga Sophonie sincerely congratulated all the participants for their diligence, discipline, and commitment throughout these four days of intensive activities. He made a solemn appeal to the participants to put their acquired knowledge into practice, to work collaboratively, and to ensure the quality of the data produced. He indicated that the credibility of the Geomatics Information System would depend on their professionalism and sense of responsibility. He added that strengthening geomatics expertise will contribute to good governance, transparency in public administration, and the effectiveness of diplomatic action in service of Burundi. (MFARIDC)

Celebrating the 66th Birthday of the Emperor of Japan: Strengthening ties between Burundi and Japan



On Thursday, February 26, 2026, in Bujumbura, at Kiriri Garden Hotel, the Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional

Integration and Development Cooperation, Mr. Adolphe BUKURU, took part, on behalf of His Excellency the Minister, in the ceremonies marking the celebration of the 66th birthday of His Majesty NARUHITO, Emperor of Japan.

In his address, he stated that the Government of the Republic of Burundi appreciates the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation that have united Burundi and Japan since the establishment of their ongoing diplomatic relations in 1963.

These relations, built over more than half a century,



are based on solid foundations of sovereignty, solidarity, mutual respect and are part of a spirit of mutually fruitful partnership.

The Government of Burundi expressed its sincere thanks to the Government of Japan for its multifaceted support, namely in the fields of agriculture, education, health, infrastructure, transport and capacity building.

In his address, the Ambassador of Japan to Burundi, His Excellency Mr. Isao Fukushima, indicated that this celebration was not only a tribute to His Majesty Emperor NARUHITO, but also an opportunity to reaffirm the strength of cooperation between Japan and Burundi.



He recalled the various projects financed by Japan in Burundi, particularly in the fields of agriculture and health, while highlighting the importance of cultural and economic diplomacy.

This celebration was also an opportunity to reaffirm the values of resilience, of peace and international cooperation which underpin relations between the two countries. **(MFARIDC)**

Launch of an emergency project to support Congolese refugees and strengthen resilience in Burundi



On Thursday, February 26, 2026, Mr. Adolphe Bukuru, Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, launched a new emergency project

to support 10,000 Congolese refugees and internally displaced persons. Households headed by women, who are often the most affected by poverty and insecurity, will be the primary beneficiaries of this project.

In his speech, Mr. Adolphe Bukuru thanked the Japanese government for its generous and swift support to

Congolese refugees and internally displaced persons affected by the floods. The Assistant Minister continued his remarks by commending the United Nations system in Burundi, particularly UN Women Burundi, which will implement this project addressing the dual pressures facing the Government of Burundi: refugees and flooding.

UN Women hopes to contribute to better integration of refugees and internally displaced persons into host communities, while promoting social cohesion and strengthening resilience, protection and dignity.

Mr. Bukuru reaffirmed the commitment, availability, and collaboration of the Government of Burundi to implement this project. **(MFARIDC)**

Burundi – Minerals: Burundi exports 650 tons of minerals to China



On Tuesday, February 24, 2026, six hundred and fifty (650) tons of minerals, composed of lithium and titanium, were exported to China. The activity was conducted by the Min-

ister of Mineral Resources, Energy, Industry, Trade and Tourism, Dr. Hassan Kibeya.

The Minister indicated that these minerals are exported to China, and that the income will contribute to the development of the country as well as the well-being of the population. He specified that the Burundian Government is exploring other opportunities, particularly in the United States of America.

He also announced that further exports are planned for next week, specifying that a significant quantity of ore has already been stockpiled. He highlighted that, despite a six-week hiatus in exports, mining cooperatives have continued their extraction activities, and that the number of mining sites has even been increased. (RTNB)

Shopkeepers are calling for regular collection of plastic waste bins



During a visit by the Burundian Press Agency to various locations in the city of Bujumbura on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, traders operating near bus stops, particularly around the former Bujumbura market, welcomed the initiative to set up bins for plastic waste.

According to these shopkeepers, this initiative effectively contributes to improving public hygiene and environment protection. They also indicated those bins has significantly reduced the amount of plastic waste scattered everywhere, making commercial spaces cleaner and more attractive than before.

However, these economic actors highlight a major challenge related to the delayed collection of these garbage bins. In this regard, they deplore the fact that, in some areas, bins remain full for extended periods without being emptied, leading to overflowing waste onto public roads.

They pointed out that the accumulation of plastic waste degrades the image of markets, promotes unsanitary conditions and can be the cause of various diseases.

Faced with this situation, traders are calling on companies committed to collecting and recycling plastic waste, to strengthen collection mechanisms to ensure a related sustainable management and to make the city of Bujumbura a clean and healthy environment for all.

It is worth recalling that the campaign to install bins for plastic waste in Bujumbura City Hall was launched in 2025 to support the Government of Burundi in implementing its "Zero Waste in the City" program. (ABP)

The commune of Rutana provides corrugated iron sheets and nails to four schools



The primary schools of Ntuku, Mutsindozi, Rongerero and Kabuye, located in the commune of Rutana, province of Burunga, received material support on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, made of 40 sheets of metal and 12 kilograms of nails, provided by the municipal administration.

According to local officials, this support was intended to bolster parents' efforts in constructing and renovating classrooms, thereby improving students' learning

conditions. The handover of the equipment took place in the presence of the Executive Secretary of Rutana Commune, Mr. Jovith Nyandwi. In his remarks, he commended the parents' involvement in the development of the education sector and reaffirmed the commune's commitment to supporting initiatives aimed at improving school infrastructure.

For his part, the Head of the communal education department, Mr. Onésime Nkengurutse, stressed that collaboration between the administration and the population is an important lever for promoting quality education.

The principals of the beneficiary schools expressed their gratitude to the municipal administration for this support, emphasizing that it will allow them to complete the roofing of classrooms and ensure a safer learning environment for students. They hope that such initiatives will be extended to other schools facing the same challenges. **(ABP)**

Development partners are called upon to align with provincial priorities



Development partners in the province of Butanyerera are invited to align their actions with the national vision, in particular with the priorities defined by the province, but also to carry out projects that meet the needs of the population.

This appeal was launched on February 24, 2026, by the Governor of the province of Butanyerera, Mr. Victor Segasago. It was made during a coordination meeting held for all development partners in the province.

The aim of this meeting was to allow these partners and the administration to get to know each other, to jointly assess the achievements of the 2025-2026 financial year and to exchange views on future action prospects.



According to him, the province of Butanyerera is brimming with significant opportunities that could accelerate the achievement of sustainable development, particularly in the agriculture and livestock sectors, education, health, youth and women empowerment projects, and the development of small-scale processing industries based on local production. He emphasized that realizing these ambitions requires a partnership built on trust, synergy, and collaboration among all development stakeholders.

Segasago reiterated that Burundi aspires to endogenous development, less dependent on external aid and relying more on strengthening the capacities of citizens and national institutions. He emphasized the importance of designing projects aligned to local realities and population's aspirations .

The Governor commended partner projects to give significant room to administrative staff in order to plan for the sustainability of achievements after the projects closures.

He also urged partners to regularly submit quarterly activity reports and performance indicators demonstrating the results achieved.

On the provincial administration side, the Governor of Butanyerera province assured that the authorities

will continue to facilitate the coordination of partners with the relevant technical services, in order to guarantee a genuine implementation and concrete benefits for the well-being of the community.

Following the presentation of achievements in the various areas of intervention, the partners reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening their collaboration with the province. They pledged to support the selected priority projects and to contribute to improving the living conditions of the population. (**ABP**)

Towards the launch of a 100% cargo ship on Lake Tanganyika



fuel, the construction site will be closed within two to three months because all the equipment to finish the boat up to the launching is on site.

According to the design engineer, the ship will be able to carry two hundred (2000) tons and will be operated by a crew of 14 people.

This is a source of pride for the people living along the lake and its

A cargo ship intended for transporting goods, under construction for almost three years, is about to be launched. This was announced on Monday, February 23, 2026, by the ship's owner, Mr. Paulin Ntumba.

According to him, the construction work was supposed to last a maximum of 24 months, but a delay was recorded following diesel shortages and welding work that was stopped at certain times.

"We had to send a request to the Burundi Petroleum Company (SOPEBU) which provided the fuel oil to run the generator and the work is progressing well," he added.

He indicated that currently, the work is sufficiently advanced and that if there is no shortage of diesel

surroundings. According to Mr. Anicet Ntahokagiye, a fisherman from Kabezi in Mugere commune, it represents added value because the country will benefit in terms of goods transportation; imported products will be acquired at a lower cost.

The Administrator of Mugere commune, Mrs. Adélaïde Hatangayo, considered the launch of this boat as an economic and tourist opportunity: farmers could export their products via this boat, and tourists would come and could buy the products on site.

It should be noted that this is the second boat built by this Congolese shipowner, and a third boat from the Musumba company is under construction in Kiringi, further down towards Gitaza in Muhuta commune. (**ABP**)

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PRESS RELEASE Nr 02/2026 OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026

The Council of Ministers met on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, in Bujumbura, the Economic Capital of Burundi, under the presidency of His Excellency Mr. Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, Major General and President of the Republic.

After the presentation and adoption of the agenda, His Excellency the President of the Republic invited the Prime Minister to present a summary of the observations from the preparatory meeting of the Council of Ministers that took place on February 23, 2026, which was dedicated to the prior analysis of the same items listed on the agenda.

Before presenting this summary, the Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government, congratulated His Excellency the President of the Republic on his election as President of the African Union, wishing him every success in this noble yet heavy responsibility. The analyzed items are as follows:

1. Bill for the ratification by the Republic of Burundi of the agreement establishing the African Legal Support Facility, signed in Bujumbura on September 15, 2008,

Presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget, and Digital Economy

The African Legal Support Facility is an international organization hosted by the African Development Bank (AfDB).

Burundi joined this Facility in 2008 with the aim of receiving assistance in international transactions as well as in disputes that may arise from them. The main objectives of this Organization include:

1) To assist African governments in defending against certain legal disputes;

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2) Provide legal advisory services to African governments for the structuring and negotiation of commercial transactions related to extractive natural resources, infrastructure, Public-Private Partnerships, energy, and trade agreements, and to strengthen the capacities of legal professionals and public sector professionals in these areas.

It should be noted that the Government of Burundi has already requested assistance from the Facility for certain projects. In order for all requests submitted by the Government of Burundi to be effectively assisted, Burundi's membership in this facility must be formalized by the ratification of the agreement establishing this African Legal Support Facility. After analysis, the project was adopted with some corrections in form.

2. Draft Public-Private Partnership Contract for the design, financing, construction, and operation of the "Buja City Plaza" Shopping Center on the site of the former central market of Bujumbura between the State of Burundi and the project company "UBAKA Landmarks,"

Presented by the Minister of Finance, Budget, and Digital Economy

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This contract project involves the design, construction, financing, operation, maintenance, and transfer of the "Buja City Plaza" Shopping Center on the site of the former central market of Bujumbura.

The contract will be signed between the State of Burundi and a Mixed Company named "UBAKA LANDMARKS." This mixed company is constituted by the Investment Bank for Youth, which represents the State of Burundi, and the "One Africa Investment Fund." This contract is concluded for a duration of 27 years, including 3 years for construction and 24 years for commercial operation.

Following the analysis, the project was adopted with some corrections in form, with a recommendation to the stakeholders to proceed with the other steps, while ensuring that the oversight body for the implementation of this project has the

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required competencies and that the construction costs at each stage of the project correspond to reality.

3. Draft decree granting a concession of a state-owned land designated for agricultural purposes with an area of 175 hectares located on Kajondi Hill, Bururi Commune of Burunga Province to the company ITRASAGRI;
4. Draft decree granting a concession of a state-owned land designated for agricultural purposes with an area of 70 hectares, located on Bigina Hill, Rutana Commune of Burunga Province to ITRACOM Fertilisers company/ FOMI;
5. Draft decree granting a concession of a state-owned land designated for agricultural purposes with an area of 39 hectares, 28 ares, and 23 centiares located on Bugiga Hill, Rutana Commune in Burunga Province to ITRACOM Fertiisers Company/ FOMI;
6. Draft decree granting a concession of a state-owned land designated for agricultural purposes with an area of 60 hectares located on Bitezi Hill, Matana Commune in Burunga Province to the company NTAZIMBA Dairy.

These four projects were presented by the Minister of Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock. These draft decrees grant concessions of state-owned land to private investors for agricultural or livestock projects.

The implementation of these projects supports the Government's initiative for the development of Public-Private Partnerships in the agro-pastoral sector and aligns with the Government's policy to achieve the objectives of Burundi's Vision, aiming at becoming an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060.

Following the analysis, the Council of Ministers emphasized that the Ministry in charge of Agriculture and Livestock is responsible for designing and steering agro-pastoral policy to increase production. Granting land concessions would effectively transfer all responsibility to private stakeholders, even if they are expected to support the Government's policy.

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It was then recommended that the Ministry define the intended use for each state-owned land parcel and prepare exploitation contracts with private actors who express interest and demonstrate the required capabilities. They will operate under the supervision and vigilant oversight of the Ministry. These exploitation contracts will be analyzed beforehand by the Council of Ministers.

The Council of Ministers also recommended inventorying state-owned lands in concession that are not being utilized or have been diverted from their original purpose and returning them to the State.

7. Miscellaneous

1° The Council of Ministers analyzed a note on the irregularities identified within the⁴ Boards of Directors of public participation companies. It was noted that there are boards of directors that are not up to date regarding the duration of mandates and the replacement of unavailable members. It was recommended to prepare the texts that organize these institutions to adapt them to the new legislation and to update the Boards of Directors for the structures that should have them.

2° His Excellency the Head of State remarked that most state officials do not yet understand the objectives of the Vision 2040-2060. They were asked to raise awareness so that everyone works towards a specific objective and charts a path to achieve it. The same applies to decentralization, the implementation of which requires planning of activities and budget as well as monitoring and evaluation. State officials must also be made aware of this.

Finally, His Excellency the President of the Republic mentioned the responsibility entrusted to him in his capacity as the current President of the African Union for the year 2026. The priority theme is focused on the sustainable availability of water and safe sanitation systems. He emphasized that the entire government must be involved so that during this mandate, under Burundi's presidency, significant progress can be made in

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the field of water and sanitation before raising awareness among other member countries of the African Union. In short, Burundi must shine as a model.

Done in Bujumbura, February 26, 2026

Secretary- General of the State
Jérôme NIYONZIMA.



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Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation

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