



President Ndayishimiye receives the Regional Director of the World Health Organization (WHO) for Africa



The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, received in audience on March 5, 2026, at the Presidential Palace of Kiriri, the Regional Director of the World Health Organization (WHO) for Africa, Dr. Mohamed Yakub Janabi. The visit was part of discussions on ways to further strengthen the public health sector.

During their discussions, Dr. Mohamed Yakub Janabi congratulated President Evariste Ndayishimiye on his new responsibilities as the Chairperson of the African Union. He also appreciated the progress made by Burundi in the health

sector, particularly in the fight against mpox, cholera, and malaria, as well as the introduction of vaccination for children against malaria, among other achievements.

The discussions then focused on the challenges facing the public health sector, the strategies to be implemented to address these challenges, and the support from WHO in a context marked by reduced contributions from certain partners in the sector.

In this context, the Regional Director of WHO requested the involvement of the Burundian President, in his capac-

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ity as Chairperson of the African Union, to advocate for the establishment of cooperation mechanisms among African countries, particularly through the creation of networks for bulk purchasing of medicines. According to him, such an initiative would significantly reduce the cost of pharmaceutical products.

The discussions also addressed the strengthening of the national regulatory and control authority for medicines in order to advance Burundi from level 1 to level 3, as well as the promotion of local drug production. To

this end, Dr. Janabi encouraged Burundi to join the African Medicines Agency.

Furthermore, the Regional Director of WHO for Africa announced his intention to visit the Congolese refugee camps in Burundi to assess the health situation and identify solutions to the observed challenges.

The meeting was also marked by the presentation of a trophy to His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, in recognition of his exemplary leadership and the progress made by Burundi in the public health sector. **(Presidency)**

The Head of State Ndayishimiye receives in audience a delegation led by former President of Botswana, Mokgweetsi Masisi, as part of efforts for peace in the DRC



On March 2, 2026, at the Kiriri Palace, the Burundian Head of State, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, received a delegation led by His Excellency Mokgweetsi Masisi, former President of Botswana and member of the African Union's Panel of Mediators for peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

As part of the African Union's mediation for the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, led

by His Excellency Faure Gnassingbé, Mediator designated by the African Union, the delegation met with the current President of the African Union, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, to discuss diplomatic initiatives aimed at alleviating the security crisis in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

During this meeting, Burundian President His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye emphasized that peace and security remain at the heart of his mandate as the head of the African Union. He recalled the central role of the "Silencing the Guns" program, which is integrated into his action plan, and affirmed that Burundi remains fully committed to stability and peace on the African continent.

At the end of the audience, it was agreed to initiate preparations for a meeting involving the leaders of Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, and Burundi, in order to promote constructive dialogue and strengthen regional solidarity with a view to achieving a lasting solution to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and preventing any escalation, prioritizing diplomatic instruments, including dialogue. **(Presidency)**

Consultation Meeting on the Country Partnership Framework (CPF): Six Areas Highlighted by the Government of Burundi

On Monday, March 2, 2026, the Prime Minister of Burundi, Mr. Nestor Ntahontuye led a consultation meeting for the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) 2026-2031 with representatives from the World Bank. This framework serves as the major strategic instrument for streamlining Burundi's Vision of becoming an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. Six areas are identified as structural levers at the heart of Burundi's requirements to ensure maximum economic efficiency of this frame-

work.

Mr. Nestor Ntahontuye stated that the Government considers the CPF as a lever to accelerate its sovereign priorities. "It is imperative that the interventions of the World Bank group align with the national trajectory." He highlighted the strategic choices consolidated by the macroeconomic stabilization program starting in 2025-2026.

Mr. Ntahontuye indicated that six areas are structural lev-



ers at the heart of Burundi's requirements to ensure maximum economic efficiency. These include the area of infrastructure and logistical corridors. In this area, the priority is the absolute railway project for the country's decongestion and the reduction of logistical costs, as well as the regional integration of the country. Other areas include the extractive industry; immigration, which is essential for industrialization; agriculture; immediate capital; and water and sanitation for the well-being and hygiene of the Burundian population. The Government of Burundi expressed its deep gratitude to the World Bank group for its constant support and exemplary preparation.

Mr. Babacar Sedikh Faye, Country Director of the World Bank in Burundi, indicated that this meeting

has a clear and shared objective of building a Country Partnership Framework (CPF) that is fully aligned with national priorities and, above all, capable of delivering concrete and measurable results for the benefit of the people of Burundi. In this perspective, Mr. Faye stated that the CPF must, above all, reflect the strategic and conceptual priorities of the Government of Burundi. According to him, the role of the World Bank group is not to substitute for the sovereign choices of the country, but rather to support, catalyze, and accompany their implementation, ensuring that these interventions are fully aligned with their national mission to eradicate extreme poverty and promote shared prosperity on a livable planet.

Mr. Alain Ndikumana, Minister in charge of finance, emphasized that this meeting marks a decisive step in the preparation of a document that will clearly articulate national priorities, financing capacities, and performance objectives. "The Ministry of Finance, Budget, and Digital Economy has ensured the technical coordination of this process." In this regard, he emphasized that he will ensure that the development of the CPF is based on a rigorous methodology, inclusive consultations, and realistic programming aligned with national priorities and the need to maintain stability and credibility of their financing and public finances. **(Le Renouveau)**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation receives in audience the Country Manager of the African Development Bank (AfDB)



On March 3, 2026, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Amba-

sador Edouard Bizimana, received in audience Mrs. Mouna DIAWARA, Country Manager of the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Burundi, who came to present her letters of accreditation.

The two authorities expressed their appreciation for the strong relations that exist between Burundi and the AfDB and agreed to further strengthen them.

In fact, on behalf of the AfDB and in her own name, Mrs. Mouna DIAWARA congratulated Minister Edouard Bizimana on Burundi's accession to the presidency of the African Union and promised the unwavering commitment of her institution to support Burundi in implementing its vision of becoming an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060, as well as the priorities highlighted by His Excellency the President of the African Union.

Minister Edouard Bizimana, in turn, thanked the AfDB for the continuous support it provides to the Govern-

ment of Burundi and also promised that Burundi would always be willing to assist the new AfDB Representa-

tive in Burundi in fulfilling her mission. (MFARIDC)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation receives in audience the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Burundi



The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, H.E. Ambassador Edouard Bizimana, received in audience on March 3, 2026, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Burundi, Mr. Michael WIMMER.

The two officials exchanged views on topics of mutual interest, particularly those related to the current security situation in the region and ongoing projects.

On behalf of the Kingdom of Belgium, Mr. Michael WIMMER congratulated Minister Edouard Bizimana for the trust placed in Burundi to assume the presidency of the African Union for the year 2026. This is a great honor for Burundi in particular and for the African continent in general.

Regarding the current humanitarian and security situation in the region, the Minister indicated that the security and humanitarian situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo remains concerning.

Mr. WIMMER further noted that the Kingdom of Belgium has mobilized a fund of Euros one and a half million (€1.5M) to support Congolese refugees in Burundi and once again thanked the Government of Burundi for its efforts in restoring peace in the region and for its generosity towards Congolese refugees. (MFARIDC)

Participation of Burundi in the East African Community (EAC) Council of Ministers



On March 5, 2026, in Arusha, Tanzania, the Burundian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation, His Excellency Ambassador Edouard Bizimana, participated in the activities of the East African Community (EAC) Council of Ministers preparing for the 25th Summit of Heads of State and Government of EAC member countries.

During this Summit, Kenya is expected to hand over



the presidency to another member state, which remains to be determined, as Somalia, which was supposed to succeed Kenya, does not wish to take on the presidency of the community due to elections.

The Heads of State Summit will also proceed with the appointment of a new Secretary-General of the EAC to replace Mrs. Veronica Nduva, whose term ends in April 2026. The Council of Ministers has reappointed two Depu-

ty Secretaries whose terms expire in June and August 2026. (MFARIDC)

The Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooperation receives in audience the Chief Political Advisor at the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA)



On Tuesday, March 3, 2026, the Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and Development Cooper-

tion, Mr. Adolphe Bukuru, received in audience Mrs. Colombe DE NICOLAY, Chief Political Advisor at the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), who was there for a courtesy visit.

During their discussions, Mrs. Colombe DE NICOLAY thanked the Government of Burundi for the warm welcome she received and informed that she was accompanied by a team responsible for the preparatory mission for the 61st ministerial session of the United Nations Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC), which will take place in Bujumbura in May, on a date to be specified in the near future.

After welcoming Mrs. Colombe and her delegation, Mr. BUKURU promised that the Ministry would always be willing to collaborate with her team for the successful organization of this event. (MFARIDC)

Parliamentarians in Butanyerera engage with local authorities in Ngozi zone: An opportunity to hear the concerns of the administration



A delegation composed of deputies and senators elected from Butanyerera province held a meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, with local authorities in Ngozi zone. The purpose of this meeting was to gather the concerns and proposals of citizens to relay them to the relevant authorities in order to provide appropriate solutions. This initiative is part of a series of visits by elected officials planned across all regions of the

country. It allowed local authorities to convey the grievances of the population.

Honorable Emmanuel Nzeyimana, a deputy elected from Butanyerera and head of the delegation, stated that this meeting represents a good opportunity for elected officials to get closer to their constituents and engage directly with them about their concerns. According to him, these exchanges help identify the difficulties faced by the population so that they can be communicated to decision-making bodies for adequate solutions. This visit also enabled parliamentarians to explain to local authorities the vision and orientations of the country, while making recommendations aimed at ensuring that the Ngozi zone is not left behind in national development. Among these recommendations are increasing agricultural production, promoting good governance, strengthening public hygiene, and enhancing family education so that parents can prepare a better future for their descendants.

The Administrator of Ngozi commune, Mr. Dominique Ndikuryayo, emphasized the challenges hindering the development of the commune. He notably mentioned the lack of holders for certain positions at the communal and zonal levels, insufficient offices and work materials, as well as the inadequacy of the PCDC (Communal Development Plan) with the realities of the activities to be executed. He also highlighted other difficulties, including the lack of transportation means for zone leaders, insufficient fuel that slows down project implementation, judgments rendered but not executed, delays in payments to coffee and maize producers, unfinished administrative infrastructures in the zones, and the proliferation of locally produced alcoholic bev-

erages that are harmful to the health of the population. He also raised concerns about the insufficiency of Fomi fertilizer in the agricultural sector, which risks compromising production.

Among the concerns raised by local authorities are the lack of drinking water, overcrowding in schools, insufficient teachers, land conflicts, non-compliance with the prices of Brarudi beverages, as well as their scarcity in the market, ravines threatening homes and public infrastructure. Local officials also advocated for the multiplication of public toilets to strengthen the implementation of the sanitation program in the city. **(Le Renouveau)**

Celebration of World Hearing Day at Stella Matutina Basic School: Good hearing, a source of human development



The Ministry of Public Health, through the National Program for the Fight against Non-Communicable Diseases (PNMNT), in collaboration with the Kaleb Audiology Center, celebrated World Hearing Day on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at Stella Matutina basic school. This year's theme is: "From Communities to Classrooms: Hearing Care for All Children." The speakers emphasized that good hearing is a source of human development.

In his speech, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health, Mr. Jean Pierre Sinarinzi, stated that the celebration of World Hearing Day aims at raising awareness in the community in general and in schools in particular about the importance of early detection of hearing disorders, to organize screening activities in schools, to ensure the referral of children with anomalies to appropriate care facilities, and to promote the integration of hearing screening into school health pro-

grams in Burundi. Mr. Sinarinzi indicated that statistics from the WHO show that 430 million people worldwide live with hearing disabilities. In Burundi, some studies have shown that 10% of the population may have hearing problems. However, these issues could be preventable in 60% of cases.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health mentioned that in Burundi, hearing disorders in children are still insufficiently detected, particularly in schools. Common causes such as poorly treated otitis, earwax plugs, or certain infections are, however, preventable or treatable. The lack of early detection compromises language development, academic success, and social inclusion.

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To this end, Mr. Sinarinzi urged parents to become more involved in the early detection of hearing disorders in their children. He reminded them that parents must take the initiative to facilitate the prevention of hearing problems in children. Teachers should also detect in a timely manner if a student is suffering from hearing issues. Mr. Sinarinzi calls on everyone to get involved in the prevention, screening, and treatment of hearing disorders, especially

in young children.

The president of the Audiology Center, Mr. Kaleb Leonard Bivahagumye, stated that since 2019, this center, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, has been celebrating World Hearing Day. He indicated that during this period, the Kaleb Center has already contributed to many activities in Burundi aimed at promoting hearing health. He mentioned, among

other things, the training of healthcare providers in the prevention, screening, and treatment of hearing disorders. The center has also taken care of 1,800 children suffering from hearing problems.

Mr. Bivahagumye took this opportunity to call on everyone to get involved in promoting the hearing health of the population in general and children in particular. **(Le Renouveau)**

Visit of the Governor of Butanyerera Province to Kiri, Kiyonza, and Kigina zones of Kirundo commune



After the commune of Busoni, on Thursday, March 5, 2026, the Governor of the Butanyerera province, Mr. Victor Segasago, continued his tour in the zones of Kirundo commune with the aim of strengthening good governance and getting closer to the population. This visit took place in Kiri, Kiyonza, and Kigina zones, where he urged the administrative authorities and the population to combat fraudulent trade, given that these zones are bordering Rwanda. He also reminded local authorities that they must fulfill their responsibilities well, as they are the closest to the population. If they work properly, good governance can thus be consolidated.

During these visits to all the zones, Governor Victor Segasago continually reminded administrative officials, from the grassroots level to the zone level, of their duties so that they can serve the population well and strengthen good governance.

In order to enhance local administration so that the population can easily address local authorities, hill chiefs who do not have offices have been encouraged to start building them through community work. The Governor specified that roofing sheets will be provided for them. He emphasized that without ap-



propriate workplaces, they cannot properly fulfill their missions in service of the population. Given that the visited areas are bordering Rwanda, Governor Victor Segasago called on the authorities, in collaboration with the population, to actively engage in the fight against fraud, as this type of trade severely harms the national economy.

Regarding the implementation of Burundi's vision, which aims for the country to become an emerging nation by 2040 and a developed nation by 2060, the governor has encouraged the population to invest more in agriculture. To improve agricultural production, as he has already emphasized during other visits, each household should have a compost pit and engage in small livestock farming. He also urged citizens to pool their land together in order to cultivate, fertilize, and harvest collectively and simultaneously.

The administrator of Kirundo commune, Jean Berchmas Ndikuriyo, indicated that in Kiri, Kiyonza, and Kigina zones, the population is actively working in the fields, even though these zones often face climate change challenges, particularly drought. Regarding health, he reported a shortage of medications in health centers, which forces patients to purchase medicines from private pharmacies. **(Le Renouveau)**

Validation of NFIS and NFES projects by BRB and stakeholders: financial inclusion, a key factor for the modernization of the economy



The BRB (Bank of the Republic of Burundi), in collaboration with PAIFAR-B (Project for Support to Agricultural and Rural Financial Inclusion in Burundi) and funded by IFAD, organized a high-level workshop on the validation of the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) and the National Financial Education Strategy (NFES) on Thursday, March 5, 2026, in Bujumbura, with stakeholders.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Edouard Normand Bigendako, Governor of the Bank of the Republic of Burundi, stated that financial inclusion has now become a major strategic axis for strengthening financial stability, stimu-

lating economic growth, and promoting poverty reduction. It aims at enabling the entire population, particularly women, youth, rural populations, and vulnerable groups, to access formal, reliable, and tailored financial services.

He also noted that financial education contributes to strengthening the protection of financial service providers, consolidating trust in the financial sector, and consequently supporting stability, resilience, and the future outlook. The Acting Resident Representative of IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) in Burundi thanked the BRB for its leadership and guidance in this strategic and nationally significant process. He added that IFAD reaffirms its commitment to continue supporting the Government of Burundi, the Central Bank, financial institutions, and the Ministry of Finance in this crucial phase of strategy implementation and to continue supporting financial inclusion, particularly for small producers. He also emphasized that financial inclusion is a powerful lever for economic and social transformation, especially for rural populations. (ABP)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation

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