



President Ndayishimiye Attends the 2026–2027 Judicial Year Opening Ceremony

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On Tuesday, 8 September 2026, the President of the Republic of Burundi and Supreme Magistrate, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, attended the solemn ceremonies marking the opening of the 2026–2027 judicial year, held at the Kigobe Hemicycle in the presence of the country's senior authorities.

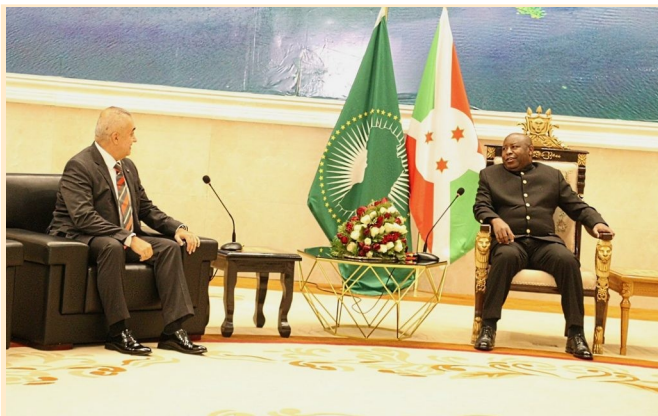
The opening of the judicial year was held under the theme: "A justice system accessible to citizens, judicial cases handled fairly and within the shortest possible time, are one of the avenues leading us towards the Vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060."

On this occasion, the Head of State commended those who had distinguished themselves in the performance of their duties, urging them to continue serving as role models for the entire judiciary. He underscored that justice is a fundamental pillar of peace and development, and called on judicial actors to remain close to citizens, uphold integrity, and firmly fight corruption. He also encouraged citizens to play an active role in bringing the truth to light and commended the work accomplished by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

President Ndayishimiye reaffirmed his determination to see the emergence of a truly independent, modern and effective justice system. He announced the construction of modern courts equipped with adequate

facilities, with the ultimate aim of ensuring that citizens are fully satisfied with the quality and effectiveness of justice services. **(Presidency)**

President Ndayishimiye Commends the Commitment of the Ambassador of Türkiye to Burundi at the End of His Term



The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, expressed his appreciation to the Ambassador of Türkiye to Burundi, Mr. Alp Isikli, for his dynamism and commitment to strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. The announcement was made by Ms. Nancy-Ninette Mutoni, Spokesperson for the President of the Republic, following the audience granted to the Turkish diplomat at the end of his four-year term, on Tuesday, 8 September 2026, at Ntare Rushatsi Presidential Palace.

During the audience, Mr. Alp Isikli, who had reached the end of his diplomatic mission in Burundi, bid farewell to the Head of State. The discussions focused in particular on the state of bilateral relations between Burundi and Türkiye. President Ndayishimiye commended Ambassador Alp Isikli for his dynamism and sustained commitment to strengthening relations between the two countries. He also wished him every success in his new position.

According to Ms. Nancy-Ninette Mutoni, the Turkish diplomat took the opportunity to express his gratitude to the President of the Republic of Burundi, as well as to Burundian institutions, for their close cooperation, which had contributed to “cementing and further consolidating the bonds of friendship and cooperation between Türkiye and Burundi.” The meeting also provided an opportunity to review preparations for the Summit of Heads of State and Government of Africa and Türkiye, scheduled to take place in December 2026 in Tripoli, Libya. The summit is expected to provide a further opportunity to strengthen relations between Türkiye and African countries across various areas of cooperation. **(Le Renouveau)**

BURUNDI-TANZANIA: Burundian Head of State Returns from Zanzibar, an Opportunity to Further Strengthen Bonds of Friendship and Cooperation



The Burundian Head of State and current Chairperson of the African Union, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by his wife,

H.E. Angeline Ndayishimiye, returned to the country on Wednesday, 9 September 2026, from Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania, where he had travelled to express his solidarity with the President of the country, Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, who recently lost her husband.

The visit to Tanzania provided an opportunity for the presidential delegation to convey the heartfelt condolences of the Burundian people and Government to the family of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as to the Tanzanian people.

The visit to Tanzania provided an opportunity for the presidential delegation to convey the heartfelt condolences of the Burundian people and Government to the

family of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as to the Tanzanian people. On the sidelines of the visit, President Ndayishimiye held talks with the President of Zanzibar, Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi.

According to Ms. Mutoni, this courtesy visit once again provided an opportunity to demonstrate their shared commitment to bringing the two peoples closer together, as well as to strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation between them. **(Le Renouveau)**

Turkish Ambassador to Burundi Bids Farewell to the First Lady of Burundi



The First Lady of the Republic of Burundi, Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, received in audience Mr. Alp Isikli, Ambassador of Türkiye to Burundi, on Monday, 7 September 2026, at Ntare Rushatsi House. Mr. Isikli had come to bid farewell to the First Lady of the Republic of Burundi at the end of his four-year term in the country. He also stated that the First Lady of the Republic of Türkiye was committed to maintaining close cooperation and fostering excellent relations with her Burundian counterpart.

Her Excellency Ndayishimiye noted that the Ambassador had come to bid her farewell after four years in

Burundi, during which they had worked closely together on a number of initiatives. She further explained that the visit was also intended to reaffirm the commitment of the First Lady of Türkiye to projects implemented by the Umugiraneza Good Deeds Foundation in collaboration with her. These included ensuring the continuation of initiatives in the areas of health and scholarships, so that the Ambassador's departure would not hinder their implementation.

The First Lady of Burundi also stated that Mr. Isikli had pledged to continue, upon his return to Türkiye, to speak positively about Burundi and highlight the good relations existing between the two countries.

According to her, this commitment reflects the desire to maintain and strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between Burundi and Türkiye, beyond the end of his diplomatic mission in Burundi.

Her Excellency Ndayishimiye asked the Ambassador of Türkiye to Burundi to become a good representative of Burundi, by sharing his experiences and bearing witness to what he had seen and experienced in the country. **(Le Renouveau)**

National Assembly / Analysis of the Audit Report on Rumonge Prison: Several Management Shortcomings Identified



Members of Parliament met in plenary session at the Kigobe Hemicycle on Monday, 7 September 2026, under the

leadership of the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Right Honourable Daniel Gélase Ndabirabe, to examine the final audit report on the management of the Directorate General of Penitentiary Affairs (DGAP), with a focus on Rumonge Prison.

The discussions highlighted several shortcomings, particularly concerning the living conditions of inmates, administrative and financial management, and the supply of medicines. The supervisory ministry, which was present to respond to oral questions from the MPs, indicated that mechanisms were being put in place to address these irregularities and improve pris-

on governance. Presenting the report, Ms. Patrice Nduwimana, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Education, Youth, Sports and Leisure, Culture and Communication, stated that the analysis of the final audit report on the management of the Directorate General of Penitentiary Affairs, concerning Rumonge Prison, which had been submitted to the National Assembly by the Court of Auditors as part of the oversight of government action, had revealed several shortcomings in the management of the prison. These included the absence of an updated internal rules and regulations, the failure to maintain registers for accommodation, deaths and deposited property, as well as the failure to display the rights and duties of inmates, among other issues.

In the financial area, the report recommended that funding for livestock farming and agricultural activities be included in the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) of the Directorate General of Penitentiary Affairs. It also recommended maintaining a register of the output generated from these activities.

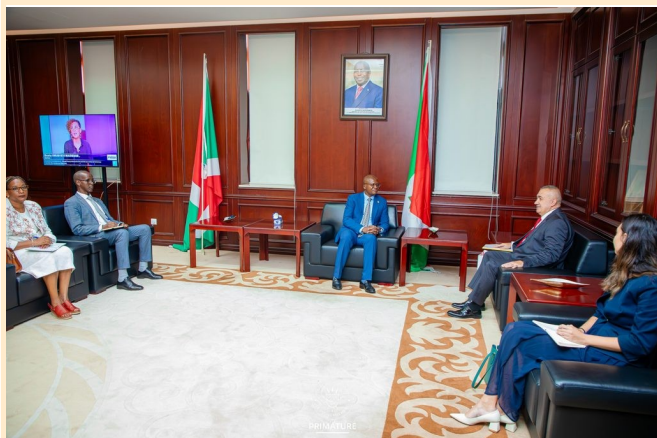
Regarding fire protection, the Court of Auditors recommended taking out a comprehensive insurance policy. The report also identified shortages of medicines and

pharmaceutical products at the health centre attached to Rumonge Prison. It therefore recommended that the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Gender work closely with the Ministry of Public Health to ensure a regular supply of medicines. Commenting on the report, the Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Gender, Mr. Alfred Ahingejeje, commended the work carried out by the Court of Auditors, stressing that the shortcomings identified needed to be addressed.

He indicated that the Ministry needed to step up its efforts to improve administrative governance within the prison system and ensure respect for the rights of inmates. Responding to the Committee's question as to why the internal rules and regulations of Rumonge Central Prison had not been updated for thirteen years in order to bring them into compliance with Law No. 1/24 of 14 December 2017 revising the penitentiary system, Mr. Ahingejeje explained that several legal instruments governing the justice sector were currently being updated, including the internal rules and regulations of penitentiary institutions.

The MPs called on the Minister to take corrective action across all penitentiary institutions, as the situation appeared to be similar in other prisons. **(Le Renouveau)**

Farewell Audience with the Ambassador of Türkiye to Burundi



On Tuesday, 8 September 2026, the Prime Minister of Burundi, His Excellency Nestor Ntahontuye, received in audience the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Burundi, Mr. Alp Isikli, who had come to bid farewell to the Prime Minister at the end of his four-year term.

The Ambassador said he was honoured to be received by the Head of Government, particularly at the conclusion of his term, as the meeting gave him an opportunity to hear the Burundian Government's assessment of

the efforts made over the past four years to strengthen bilateral cooperation. He also expressed his pride in and attachment to the Burundian people, whom he described as warm and welcoming.

The discussions focused on the evolution of bilateral relations between Burundi and Türkiye over the past four years. They reviewed the various areas of cooperation, including diplomacy, academic training, the economic sector through trade, and infrastructure development. At the end of his diplomatic mission, the outgoing Ambassador, Mr. Alp Isikli, expressed his gratitude to the Head of the Government of Burundi for the support and cooperation he had received throughout his tenure.

For his part, the Head of the Burundian Government duly acknowledged the positive development of cooperation relations between Burundi and Türkiye, which had continued to yield positive results in the areas mentioned above. He called on the outgoing Ambassador to ensure a proper handover to his successor, so that the progress already achieved could be maintained and the successful momentum sustained.

Mr. Ntahontuye wished him continued success in the next stage of his distinguished diplomatic career, with as much satisfaction as he had experienced during his time in Burundi.

On the sidelines of the audience, Mr. Alp Isikli invited the Prime Minister of Burundi to the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference, **COP31**, to be held in Antalya, Türkiye, from 10 to 11 November 2026. (Primature)

Burundian Prime Minister Leads Workshop to Review the Status of Commitments and Transfers of Funds to Provinces and Communes



On Wednesday, 9 September 2026, the Prime Minister of Burundi, His Excellency Nestor Ntahontuye, chaired a workshop at Donatus Conference Center to assess the status of budget commitments and transfers of funds to provinces and communes under the 2026–2027 Budget.

In his opening remarks, he recalled that the implementation of Burundi's vision of becoming an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060 requires a profound transformation of public administration, moving from a culture of abstract planning to one focused on measurable and tangible results for the benefit of the population.

During the workshop, the Prime Minister revisited the process through which the national budget is generated, recalling that it is rooted in the production chain driven by citizens. He stressed that the Government also plays a key role in facilitating and stimulating national production through concrete measures, including infrastructure development, investment facilitation mechanisms such as the Investment Code, and tax exemptions, etc. This support for production constitutes the foundation upon which the public expenditure chain is subsequently built. This chain consists of several successive and inter-dependent stages: budgetary commitment: the issuance of a commitment note against a budget line, together with supporting documents such as Terms of Reference (ToRs), pro forma invoices, and/or oth-

er relevant documents; legal commitment: the formalization of the commitment between the parties through a contract or purchase order; liquidation: the stage that follows the actual delivery of services, supplies or completion of works; payment authorization: the authorization to proceed with the payment process, which in principle falls under the responsibility of the Principal Authorizing Officer, namely the Minister in charge of Finance.



The Prime Minister recalled that provinces submit their requests for payment authorization to the Provincial Director in charge of the budget, who acts as a Secondary Authorizing Officer by delegation from the Minister in charge of Finance. At the decentralized level, requests for the transfer of budget appropriations to provincial finance directorates are initiated by the relevant sectoral ministries responsible for the activities to be carried out.

These ministries handle only the first stage, namely the budgetary commitment, after which the Ministry in charge of Finance transfers the funds to the provinces, which take responsibility for the remaining stages of the expenditure process. Similarly, ministries make budget commitments for communal departments responsible for implementing ministerial activities. Unlike provincial commitments, which are submitted directly by the sectoral ministries to the Ministry in charge of Finance, communal budget commitments are submitted to the National Communal Investment Fund

(FONIC). The Ministry of National Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are the only ministries not covered by this mechanism. Through its staff working in the communes, FONIC compiles the communal budget commitments submitted by the ministries, then forwards them to the Ministry in charge of Finance and follows up on their processing.

Payment constitutes the final stage of the expenditure process. Once services, works or goods have been delivered, the service provider submits invoices validated by the Burundi Revenue Authority (OBR). The relevant ministry then submits the minutes of acceptance, together with any other required supporting documents, to the Ministry of Finance, which issues the disbursement order. The order is subsequently transmitted to the Bank of the Republic of Burundi (BRB), which makes the payment into the supplier's account.

His Excellency the Prime Minister noted that disbursement orders are now issued at both provincial and communal levels, bringing the payment process closer to local stakeholders.

Mr. Ntahontuye also stressed the importance of sound, effective and efficient planning and management to ensure that State resources generate lasting impact and contribute to sustainable development. In this regard, he recalled that communes may award contracts for works, services and supplies to service

providers operating within the province where the commune is located. The measure is intended to reduce costs while stimulating the local economy by giving priority to local service providers. To illustrate the feasibility and benefits of this approach, the Prime Minister cited the example of the Butaganzwa Vocational Training Centre in Ruyigi Commune. Initially estimated at three billion Burundian francs, the project was eventually awarded to local service providers. The centre was built and equipped for only one billion seven hundred million Burundian francs, demonstrating the potential of relying on local operators to achieve greater cost efficiency.

The workshop then continued with a ministry-by-ministry assessment of the implementation rates of activities included in the expenditure process. The overall assessment showed that implementation remained very low, with no ministry reaching the 30% threshold. The Prime Minister of Burundi concluded the workshop by issuing two major recommendations to the stakeholders responsible for budgetary commitments at the ministerial level:

- Commit all budget lines for the first quarter before the end of September 2026, while ensuring that funds allocated to the provinces are effectively transferred within the required timeframe.

- Read, understand and take ownership of the budget dashboards, and then explain them to the respective subordinate teams, in order to facilitate the management and coordination of activities carried out by the sectoral ministries. **(Primature)**

The Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs grants an audience to the UNESCO delegation



Tuesday, September 8, 2026, a UNESCO delegation led by Mr. Mohamed ELFARNAWANY, Director of the Division for Priority Africa, UNESCO Paris, and Mr. Hilaire MPUTU, Acting Director of the UNESCO Multi-sectoral Regional Office.

His Excellency Mr. Édouard Bizimana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, received in audience, on

In his speech, the head of delegation expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome given to his team and praised the courage and constant commitment of Minister Bizimana, particularly through the joint organization of the Regional Forum on strengthening the culture of peace in the Central Africa and Great Lakes region, held in Bujumbura from 8 to 10 September 2026. He highlighted the excellence of relations between Burundi and UNESCO, specifying that this Forum constitutes an eloquent illustration of the importance the Government of Burundi attaches to peace and culture.

According to him, this initiative will have a significant impact on the entire region. He also noted that, in the context of Burundi's presidency of the African Union, the organization of the continental dialogue, coupled with the Youth and Women's Forum on the Peace and Security

agenda, reflects the effective implementation of the

African Union's priority axes by Burundi. (MFARIDC)

Audience granted to the ICRC Representative



On Tuesday, September 8, 2026, His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, received in audience Mr. KEDIR Awol OMAR, Head of the Regional Delegation representing the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for Burundi, Rwanda, and Uganda, with residence in Kampala. The exchanges focused on subjects of common interest between Burundi and the ICRC, aimed at strengthening relations of friendship and cooperation.

In his intervention, the ICRC Representative presented his organization's missions and the activities carried out in Burundi, emphasizing their added value for society. He recalled that the ICRC has been intervening for many years in purely humanitarian domains. He also informed the Minister of a global international initiative (Global International Initiative), considered a potential new partner of Burundi, due to its current presidency of the African Union. According to him, Burundi's adherence to this initiative

would offer substantial diplomatic and economic advantages. In this regard, His Excellency Minister Bizimana requested the transmission of the necessary documents in order to convey the message to the Highest Authority. The ICRC Representative also raised a difficulty encountered in the implementation of its missions: certain agents of the organization are sometimes refused access to Burundian territory because they hold travel documents issued by local authorities according to the region of origin in the DRC. Furthermore, the borders are not open to allow passage. He requested a special exception to allow these agents to fully exercise their humanitarian activities.



In response, Minister Bizimana explained that the border closure is linked to the persistent insecurity in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Regarding documents issued by authorities not legally recognized, he specified that these cannot be accepted. However, he reassured his interlocutor that the matter would be examined in another framework and that the borders could be reopened once the security situation is normalized. In conclusion, His Excellency Édouard Bizimana reaffirmed Burundi's commitment to collaborate closely with the ICRC and guaranteed the Government's support for the organization's humanitarian actions. (MFARIDC)

Exchange between the Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs and the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic



On Tuesday, September 8, 2026, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, HE Ambassador

Edouard BIZIMANA, received in audience the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Burundi, with residence in Kigali, Mr. Naeem Khan. The Ambassador was accompanied by two Pakistani investors, including Mr. Zubair Iman Malik, Executive Direc-

tor of the Popular Group of Industries. The exchanges focused on strengthening relations of friendship and cooperation between Burundi and Pakistan, as well as on investment opportunities offered by Burundi to Pakistani investors.

During the interview, Ambassador Naeem Khan emphasized that Pakistan has expertise likely to contribute to the development of several sectors in Burundi, notably agriculture, irrigation systems, energy, and mines. He also indicated that Burundian products, notably tea, coffee, and avocados, are appreciated in the Pakistani market. Presented by the Ambassador, Mr. Zubair Iman Malik, for his part, made known that he operates through his companies in several sectors, notably cement production, sugar, and health, among others. He expressed his interest in further exploring investment opportunities in Burundi. He also invited Burundian economic operators to participate in the Expo planned for November in Pakistan, which will be an opportunity to promote trade and partnerships between the two countries.

Taking the floor, Minister Edouard BIZIMANA thanked the Ambassador of Pakistan for this visit as well as for the initiative aimed at promoting investments and cooperation between the two countries.

The Minister emphasized that Burundi attaches particular importance to the development of partnerships in priority sectors such as energy, agriculture, irrigation, and education, among others. He also affirmed that Burundian products are of good quality and have significant potential in foreign markets.

Minister Edouard BIZIMANA thus encouraged the concretization of identified cooperation and investment opportunities, emphasizing that any initiative likely to contribute to Burundi's economic development is welcome. To the Pakistani investors, the Minister recalled that Burundi has numerous investment opportunities in various sectors and that the country offers a favorable environment for partners. He also emphasized the availability of Burundians to welcome and support investors wishing to contribute to the country's development. (MFARIDC)

Regional Forum on strengthening the culture of peace in Central Africa and the Great Lakes



Burundi hosted, from 8 to 10 September 2026, the Regional Forum on strengthening the culture of peace in Central Africa and the Great Lakes region. Organized with the support of UNESCO, ECCAS, and the United Nations system, this meeting brought together representatives of States, civil society, women, youth, researchers, and the media.

At the opening of the Forum, Dr. François Havyarimana, Minister of National Education and Scientific Research, recalled that "our peoples no longer expect speeches, but concrete actions for peace." He

emphasized that no State can know durable peace when its neighbors are plunged into instability. According to him, development cannot be possible without peace founded on justice, education, transparency, sharing, and the dignity of every citizen.

The Minister invited participants to engage in a constructive dialogue in order to achieve concrete results. The objectives of the Forum were notably to build a common regional vision of the culture of peace, to lay the foundations of a shared roadmap, to launch multisectoral initiatives in priority cross-border zones, and to strengthen capacities as well as synergies between the different actors of peace.

For his part, Ambassador El Fadhel El Farnaway, representing the Director-General of UNESCO and Director of the Priority Africa, estimated that peace is built first in minds, notably through education and dialogue. He called for making the culture of peace a concrete reality



in the region, and not a simple declaration of intent. During three days, participants analyzed the deep



causes of conflicts in Central Africa. They noted the multifaceted character of these crises, linked notably to governance deficits, inequalities in access to economic opportunities, communal tensions, and conflicts over natural resources.

The exclusion of youth and women, as well as the propagation of disinformation and hate speech, also constitute aggravating factors. Faced with these challenges, the Forum recommended strengthening education for citizenship and peace, valuing local mediation mechanisms, promoting cooperation around shared resources, and increasing the participation of women and youth in conflict prevention.

Participants also launched three pilot cross-border



initiatives, including the **"Komeza Amani"** Center, in order to anchor the culture of peace in communities. A regional roadmap was adopted to guide the implementation of these commitments.

At the closing of the proceedings, delegates reaffirmed their willingness to transform borders into spaces of dialogue and solidarity. They also made Bujumbura the starting point of a new regional dynamic founded on conflict prevention, social cohesion, and the construction of durable peace. (MFARIDC)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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