



The Head of State receives the Special Representative of the European Union in the Great Lakes Region



The President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, received in audience on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at the Ntare Rushatsi House, a Delegation of the European Union led by Ambassador Johan Borgstam, Representative of the European Union in the Great Lakes Region to exchange on the security situation in the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

During this audience, the Burundian Head of State shared Burundi's efforts to contribute to the restoration of peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to improve diplomatic relations with Rwan-

da, while welcoming the European Union-led initiatives to contribute to the stabilization of the region.

"I thank the European Union for taking a responsible stance in this conflict," said the Head of State referring to the sanctions already imposed by some member countries of this organization, notably Belgium, against Rwanda. He also highlighted the need for the involvement of the International Community to put an end to the violence in neighboring Congo before the situation gets worse.

"We had a friendly, fruitful and very informative exchange with the President of

In this Edition:	page
The Head of State receives the Special Representative of the European Union in the Great Lakes Region	1
President Ndayishimiye advocates actions that bring tangible progress to the country	2
Official Launch of the Malaria Vaccination Campaign in Burundi: More than 544,000 Doses Ready to Protect Children	2
Burundi's First Lady Calls for strict adherence to vaccination schedule for children's healthy future	3
Launch of the second phase of electronic invoicing	4
The Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock sets the price of corn	4
Introduction of a new irrigation system to increase production	5
The State Inspectorate General is organizing training for new State Inspectors	5
Uwiragiye Foundation comes to the aid of the visually impaired	6
PRESS RELEASE NR 02/2025 ON THE CABINET MINISTERS HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025	7

the Republic on the security and humanitarian situation in the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo," the Representative of the European Union told the press. On the humanitarian front, the Representative of the European Union in the Great Lakes Region, Ambassador Johan

Borgstam, also specified that his Delegation plans a visit to Cibitoke Province on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, to see the living conditions of Congolese refugees, in order to initiate humanitarian assistance. **(Presidency)**

President Ndayishimiye advocates actions that bring tangible progress to the country



During an assessment session on the status of implementation of rapid results approach related initiatives by the Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines held on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at the Ntare Rushatsi House, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye urged the staff of this Ministry to change in order to produce concrete results that have an impact on the population.

"The presence of an employee in the office is justified by his performance, which must be beneficial to the population," insisted the President of the Republic, pointing out the behavior of certain employees who spend their time on social media instead of serving the people and the nation.

"Burundians rely on the Ministry of Hydraulics, Energy

and Mines, given that this Ministry is the pillar of growth," continued the Head of State, justifying the decision to begin the evaluation of the 100 days dedicated to rapid results initiatives by this Ministry, an evaluation that will extend to all other ministries.

Recalling that Burundi, from the year 2025, began its journey towards the realization of the Vision of Burundi as an Emerging Country by 2040 and a Developed Country by 2060, the Burundian Head of State said that the supply of water, electricity and fuel to the population are prerequisite for achieving the development of the country.

In this regard, the Minister of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines, Mr. Ibrahim Uwizeye, in his presentation of the rapid results initiatives carried out by this Ministry, revealed that the electricity connection related activities for new customers living in the cities of Bujumbura and Gitega have been completed at 95%. He added that activities to strengthen drinking water supply in these same places have reached 65%.

In the mining sector, the Minister of Hydraulics, Energy and Mines, Mr. Ibrahim Uwizeye, announced that work on labeling and registering the minerals produced is progressing well. He nevertheless requested close collaboration with the authorities for the recruitment of miners and, above all, against mineral theft, fraud and corruption. **(Presidency)**

Official Launch of the Malaria Vaccination Campaign in Burundi: More than 544,000 Doses Ready to Protect Children

On Monday, March 17, 2025, the First Lady of Burundi, HE Angeline Ndayishimiye, launched the malaria vaccination campaign in Burundi at an official ceremony in Bubanza. With more than 544,000 doses of vaccine available, the initiatives aims at protecting children and reducing child mortality, a crucial issue

for the country.

This new vaccine is designed to generate massive demand and support from the population in the target provinces with the goal of reducing malaria-related morbidity and mortality. The event brought together key partners such as the World Health Organization (WHO), Gavi and UNICEF, as well as



the administrative authorities of Bubanza province, which emphasizes the importance of collaboration for the success of this initiative.

In his speech, the World Health Organization (WHO) Representative in Burundi, Dr. Crispin, reaffirmed the commitment of WHO, Gavi, UNICEF, and other part-

ners to support the Burundian Government in its efforts against malaria. He highlighted the devastating impact of this disease on children under 5 and pregnant women, as well as on the country's economy.

In her address, Burundi's First Lady, HE Angeline Ndayishimiye, called on parents of children aged 6 to 11 months to demonstrate their responsibility by ensuring that all children are vaccinated. She emphasized on the importance of adhering to the vaccination schedule to ensure children's health, which could reduce the need for similar campaigns in the future.

She also urged all health partners and other stakeholders to work together so as to ensure the success of this crucial vaccination campaign. **(Presidency)**

Burundi's First Lady Calls for strict adherence to vaccination schedule for children's healthy future



During an awareness campaign held on Friday, March 22, 2025 in Gahombo, Kayanza province, HE Angeline Ndayishimiye, First Lady of Burundi, appealed to the population, especially parents, to respect the vaccination schedule. She mentioned the importance of vaccinations to ensure a healthy future for their children, while emphasizing the fight against diseases such as Mpox.

The World Health Organization (WHO) Representative in Burundi, Dr. Xavier Crespin, reaffirmed the UN agencies' unwavering support for the Burundian Government's efforts to improve public health. He said that strong partnerships are needed to strengthen vaccina-

tion initiatives in the country.

Faced with the reluctance of some parents who hesitate to vaccinate their children due to personal beliefs, Burundi's First Lady, HE Angeline Ndayishimiye, urged families to reevaluate their positions. "It is important that every child has access to vaccines to ensure a better future," she said.

According to statistics provided by the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, significant progress has been made in Burundi in terms of compliance with the vaccination schedule. However, some areas, particularly certain districts, continue to show unsatisfactory results in terms of compliance with the vaccination schedule. The First Lady of Burundi, HE Angeline Ndayishimiye, therefore encouraged the community to take the vaccination schedule very seriously, with a view to preparing a promising future for the younger generations.

She also urged all stakeholders in the health sector to intensify their awareness-raising efforts to ensure that every child receives needed vaccines. Combating false beliefs and wrong information is essential for public health in Burundi, especially in the current context of the fight against MPOX. **(Presidency)**

Launch of the second phase of electronic invoicing



On Tuesday, March 18, 2025, the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, Mr. Nestor Ntahontuye, officially launched the second phase of the electronic invoicing project at the OBR headquarters, marked by the distribution of new machines to taxpayers of the Bujumbura City Hall.

The Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, Mr. Nestor Ntahontuye, confirmed the acquisition

and configuration of five thousand new machines, in addition to three thousand machines already in use. This initiative is part of the process of digitizing public finance, with a particular emphasis on tax revenue management.

According to him, these new machines will offer traders an efficient solution for managing their transactions. "They are equipped with apps for managing inventory, tracking turnover, and monitoring tax payment progress," he said. He added that electronic invoicing is an essential lever against tax fraud and optimizing government revenue.

The Minister took the opportunity to remind traders that they must collect their electronic invoicing machines from the Burundi Revenue Office. He also emphasized that their use is now mandatory. "We have put in place strict measures: any trader who does not comply with this obligation will be subject to sanctions," warned Minister Nestor Ntahontuye. **(RTNB)**

The Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock sets the price of corn



On Tuesday, March 18, 2025, the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock stated in a press briefing that the price of corn for the current production is set at 1,700 BIF per kilogram.

In this press briefing, the Minister responsible for Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Mr. Prosper Dodiko, asked all private buyers to respect this price in order

to contribute to motivating farmers. He indicated that if buyers do not adhere to this price, the Government reiterates its commitment to purchase the surplus.

The Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Mr. Prosper Dodiko, urged farmers to continue harvesting corn, dry it thoroughly, sort it properly, and store it in appropriate bags to preserve its good quality while awaiting sale.

He took the opportunity to inform farmers that with the new direction of seeking profitable export crops, the prices of cotton, tea and coffee will be increased and publicly communicated soon.

Regarding the current growing season, the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Mr. Prosper Dodiko, reassured farmers that the Ministry continues to accelerate the delivery of fertilizers to all provinces of the country. He expressed confidence that with many trucks being unloaded, the delivery rate will increase.

He recalled that the Government of Burundi has placed the agricultural sector as a top priority. For him, it is with this objective that the Burundian Government supports farmers to increase production by providing fertilizers at 64.8%, amendments at 78.13% and seeds at 51.1% in order to accelerate the implementation of His Excellency Evariste Nday-

ishimiye's goal, according to which every mouth must have something to eat and every pocket money. According to the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock Mr. Prosper Dodiko, it is understandable that the Government of Burundi has a significant share in the value of the production obtained and no room for speculation. **(RTNB)**

Introduction of a new irrigation system to increase production



During this presentation by Dutch experts to Burundian farmers cultivating more than 50 hectares, it was noted that this irrigation system works with mechanization and training tailored to farmers.

On Thursday, March 20, 2025, the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock in collaboration with the company Précis Plus-Burundi SA and its Dutch partners from Timjs Trading International BV and the Dutch Agricultural University AERES held a presentation session on the concept of drip irrigation combined with mineral fertilization.

The facilitator presented several advantages of the drip irrigation system, including increased agricultural production, the integration of liquid fertilizers, low water consumption, remote control via mobile phone, and access to real-time sensor data. Mr. Claver Coyitungiye, Managing Director of Précis Plus-Burundi, said that this company has already signed a partnership contract with the Dutch agricultural company to support Burundians in terms of this drip irrigation model.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, Mr. Emmanuel Ndorimana, indicated that the aim of this activity is to strengthen the promotion of different irrigation systems, for an improvement of agricultural productivity, food and nutritional security.

During discussions, participants suggested setting up pilot projects to assess the feasibility of the drip irrigation system. The Director General of Précis Plus-Burundi, in collaboration with Dutch experts, announced a visit to the Mparambo experimental site, in Rugombo commune. **(RTNB)**

The State Inspectorate General is organizing training for new State Inspectors



(54) new State Inspectors on ethics and professional conduct.

Since March 18, 2025, the General State Inspectorate has organized, at Bujumbura City Hall, a two-day workshop for fifty-four

The aim of this workshop is to instill these values in new inspectors before they begin their audit missions alongside former State Inspectors.

The Inspector General of the State, Mr. Elysé Ndaye stated that new recruits to the State Inspectorate General must undergo training in ethics and professional conduct to be at the same level as a State Inspector.

He explained that ethics and professional conduct are essential for a State Inspector, who must serve as a role model for behavior.

According to Mr. Elysé Ndaye, a State Inspector must have skills enabling him to effectively carry out his missions. He therefore stressed that, thanks to this training, the new Inspectors will acquire the skills and be-

haviors required to carry out checks in the various entities where the General State Inspectorate intervenes.

He added that his wish is that these new State inspectors be trained according to international standards in order to properly carry out their field inspection missions, while displaying behavior worthy of a State Inspector. **(RTNB)**

The Burundi Revenue Authority is stepping up awareness-raising to restart rental tax collection



On Wednesday, March 19, 2025, the Burundi Revenue Authority (OBR) organized an awareness-raising meeting in Gitega for administrative officials and representatives of traders in the province.

This initiative aims to encourage the payment of rental tax, which is due for the 2024 fiscal year on March 31, 2025. Faced with the continued decline in tax revenue, the Burundi Revenue Office is seeking to identify problems and implement strategies to improve tax collection.

The figures reveal an alarming trend: rental tax revenue

in Gitega province fell from 292,051,618 Burundian francs in 2021 to 169,333,703 Burundian francs in 2023. This significant drop has prompted the OBR to act quickly to reverse the trend.

The meeting participants agreed to establish a team to verify the declarations of rented property owners. This collaboration between local authorities and the OBR aims at identifying fraud and impose severe penalties on offenders. In addition, taxpayers were urged to correct their declarations before certain cases become time-barred.

The spokesperson for the Burundi Revenue Authority, Mr. Stany Ngendakumana appealed to taxpayers who had provided false declarations to quickly go to the nearest OBR office to rectify their declarations relating to rental tax for the year 2024.

The OBR spokesperson urged municipal authority to submit rental tax files without delay, recalling that according to the Tax Procedure Act, these files become time-barred after 10 years. Given that rental tax was transferred to the OBR in 2016, there is less than a year left before some files become time-barred. **(RTNB)**

Uwiragiye Foundation comes to the aid of the visually impaired

Uwiragiye Foundation led awareness sessions on the empowerment of people with visual impairments in the provinces of Kayanza, Ngozi, Kirundo, Muyinga and Gitega on March 18 and 19, 2025.

The President of the Uwiragiye Foundation, Mrs. Sylvie

Uwiragiye, met with people living with visual impairments. As part of the celebration of Women's Month and the sixth anniversary of the Uwiragiye Foundation, the President of the Foundation donated food and non-food items to these people, in order to show her solidarity with this community of people living with visual impairments and offer them her support.



She also called on visually impaired people to limit births so that they can bring children into the world whose education they are capable of properly raising.



In a strong gesture of support, Mrs. Sylvie Uwiragiye distributed food items such as rice, corn flour, and loincloths, as well as doughnuts for families with children. She explained that this initiative was part of her desire to promote the empowerment of visually impaired people, while marking the sixth anniversary of the Foundation, which is dedicated to the education of visually impaired children.

The beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to the president of the Uwiragiye Foundation, emphasizing the importance of this support and recognition of their daily difficulties. However, they also raised several concerns, including the difficulty of accessing white canes, essential tools for their mobility, as well as the persistent marginalization they experience within society.

The president of the Uwiragiye Foundation, Ms.

Sylvie Uwiragiye, emphasized that visually impaired people should not be considered incapable or dependent. According to her, these individuals are fully capable of actively contributing to society, supporting themselves, and developing personally and professionally. She deplored the negative perception that often surrounds people living with visual impairments, particularly the tendency to view them as street beggars.

She encouraged beneficiaries to initiate income-generating activities, such as livestock farming or crafts, to improve their quality of life and become economically independent. This approach aims at promoting a more inclusive society, where everyone can play an active role in its development.

Another important point addressed by Ms. Sylvie Uwiragiye was the issue of education for visually impaired children. She expressed her dissatisfaction with the obstacles these children face in accessing quality education. She particularly emphasized that it is unacceptable for a visually impaired child to be excluded from school because they lack notebooks or other essential school supplies.

In this context, the president of the Uwiragiye Foundation called on the Government of Burundi to take concrete measures to support visually impaired children by guaranteeing their free access to education and providing them with school materials adapted to their needs. For her, education must be a fundamental right, regardless the type of disability.

Finally, she expressed her vision for the future of the visually impaired children she supports through the Uwiragiye Foundation. She hopes to see them achieve a high level of education and continue their studies through to university. The goal is to train active and productive citizens who can contribute to the country's development. She is convinced that these visually impaired children will play a key role in achieving the Vision of Burundi as an Emerging Country by 2040 and a Developed Country by 2060, alongside the country's other citizens. **(RTNB)**

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat General of State

**PRESS RELEASE Nr 02/2025 ON THE CABINET MINISTERS HELD ON WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 19, 2025**

The Cabinet Ministers met on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, in Bujumbura, under the presidency of His Excellency the President of the Republic, Major General Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE.

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 Cabinet Ministers that took place on March 5, 6, and 10, 2025, which was dedicated to the prior analysis of the same items on the agenda.

**1. Sectoral Policy Document of the Ministry of East African Community Affairs,
Youth, Sports, and Culture and its Implementation Strategy,**
Presented by the Minister of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports, and Culture

This policy has been developed to contribute to achieving the objectives of the Vision "Burundi Emerging Country by 2040 and Developed Country by 2060," the revised National Development Plan of Burundi, and the Vision 2050 of the East African Community.

This Sectoral Policy outlines the current state of affairs and identifies the challenges faced by each sector, in order to determine the precise actions and necessary resources to be implemented to address them.

The overall objective of this policy is to accelerate, broaden, and deepen Burundi's integration within the East African Community, promote the well-being of youth, contribute to sports development, and preserve and protect cultural heritage.

Following the analysis, the document was adopted with, among other recommendations, the inclusion of a strategy to identify talents in the field of sports by organizing competitions starting by local ones.

**2. Bill amending Law Nr. 1/12 of June 28, 2017, governing cooperative societies in
Burundi.**

Presented by the Minister of Interior, Community Development, and Public Security

Cooperative societies in Burundi are currently governed by Law Nr. 1/12 of June 28, 2017. This law places the operation of cooperatives under the responsibility of the National Agency for the Promotion and Regulation of Cooperative Societies (ANACOOOP).

This project introduces amendments to the existing law, including the following innovations:

1° Cooperative societies operate under the control of an Agency whose status, composition, missions, and functioning are defined by a decree; the innovation consists of removing the

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat General of State

missions and functioning of the Agency from this law to be specified in a decree.

2° This Agency was previously under the supervision of the Second Vice-Presidency of the Republic. This structure no longer exists under the 2018 Constitution. The supervision of ANACOOB will be specified in a decree.

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted with the recommendation to quickly prepare the draft decree concerning the organization of ANACOOB as soon as this law is promulgated.

3. Draft decree establishing, naming, and defining the seats and territorial competencies of the courts and public prosecutors of the Republic of Burundi,
Presented by the Minister of Justice.

The implementation of the new organic law of March 2023 concerning the naming and determination of Provinces, Communes, Zones, Hills, and/or Quarters of the Republic of Burundi requires all Ministries to undergo institutional reorganization to comply with it.

In the judicial sector, the implementation of this law has led to changes in the naming of certain courts, the locations of certain courts, the territorial jurisdiction of the courts, and has necessitated the creation of certain courts.

2

The main principles observed to carry out this work effectively are as follows:

- 1°. Respect for the principle of bringing justice closer to the citizens, which has resulted in the maintenance of existing judicial institutions in addition to creating a few others;
- 2°. To ensure that the population of each locality has access to a judicial institution, it was necessary to verify that the 42 Communes, 451 Zones, and 3044 Hills or Quarters provided for by the new organic law are well distributed among the judicial institutions of the Republic of Burundi.

3°. To define the locations of the Courts of Residence, the criterion considered was the Zone where the court premises are located.

4°. For the Courts of First Instance, it is generally the Commune where the premises are located, with a few exceptions.

5° For the Courts of Appeal, it is the province where the premises are located that has been taken into consideration.

Following the analysis, the Council of Ministers recommended conducting an inventory of the available judicial personnel in the Courts of Residence, with the principle that each Court will have

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat General of State

two judges. This way, it will be easier to determine the number of Courts of Residence to be established or the additional personnel needed

The same work will be done for the Courts of Major Instance and the Courts of Appeal. It was also recommended that the name of the Court bear the name of the locality (hill or neighborhood) that hosts its headquarters.

**4. Draft decree revising decree nr 100/187 of June 4, 1974, concerning the creation and organization of the Order of Physicians of Burundi,
Presented by the Minister of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS.**

The Order of Physicians is governed by a text that is 50 years old. However, the legal framework governing its governance has evolved significantly.

Currently, it is evident that the texts regulating this sector concerning its missions have not kept pace. This has resulted in the weak organization of the Order of Physicians of Burundi, hindering its ability to effectively fulfill its assigned missions.

In order to fill this legal and ethical void and correct the observed shortcomings, this draft decree is proposed. Among the innovations introduced by this project are:

3

- 1° Integrating dental surgeons into the Order;
- 2° Making the probationary internship mandatory;
- 3° Requiring any physician trained abroad to undergo an internship and/or a continuing education course of 6 to 12 months before obtaining the authorization to practice;
- 4° Making the annual practice license mandatory.

It should be noted that the Order of Physicians of Burundi aims to protect the public in general and the members of the Order in particular from any action or omission that could endanger the lives of the population through:

- 1° The control of the competence and integrity of its members;
- 2° The supervision and regulation of the practice of the profession;
- 3° The management of the disciplinary process;
- 4° The development of the profession;
- 5° The control of illegal practice of the profession and the usurpation of titles.

After discussion and debate, the project was adopted with certain corrections and adjustments.

5. Miscellaneous

In the miscellaneous section:

1° His Excellency the President of the Republic informed the Council that the security situation in the country is quite normal, except for certain individuals who are causing panic among the population regarding the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He indicated that

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC
Secretariat General of State

Burundi is welcomed for its involvement in stabilizing the region. He urged Burundians to go about their usual work and to avoid spreading rumors.

2° The Council of Ministers also noted the absence of administration in the agricultural sector. This is particularly evident through the seizure of maize production from farmers by traders who speculate to sell it at a higher price to ANAGESSA. The same situation of seizure is observed for agricultural fertilizers. It was recommended that the administration and the services of the Ministry in charge of Agriculture become much more actively involved in fighting against this phenomenon of speculation.

Done at Bujumbura, March 20, 2025

The Secretary General of State,

Jérôme NIYONZIMA.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jérôme Niyonzima', with a stylized flourish at the end.

4

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

Department of Communication

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