



### Prayer of thanksgiving: the presidential couple participates in the opening mass



The national prayer of thanksgiving organized by the Burundian State on the occasion of the end of the year 2021, began on Thursday, December 27, 2021 with a mass said by the Archbishop of Bujumbura Monsignor Gervais Banshimiyubusa, at the Marian Sanctuary Mont Sion of Gikungu. The presidential couple and other authorities participated in this special Eucharistic celebration.

The Archbishop of Bujumbura Gervais BANSHIMIYUBUSA who presided over the Mass at Mont Sion of Gikungu thanked the President of the Republic for having chosen the Sanctuary for the opening Mass and the city of Bujumbura as the place of the

national prayer of action please. Archbishop Gervais BANSHIMIYUBUSA clarified that prayer is an opportunity to thank the Lord for all his blessings that he continues to grant to Burundi through the action of the various authorities and everyone. It is also an opportunity to ask for the ability to do the will of God, but each time in keeping with his commandments. In his homily, the Archbishop of Bujumbura thanked the Head of State for certain flagship actions such as the release of prisoners, the revitalization of relations between Burundi and the international community, the meetings aimed at reflecting together on ways and means to develop the Country, the supervision of young people through programs intended to help them prepare for a bright future. He expressed the wish that all the good intentions of the head of state could be translated into action.

Bishop Gervais BANSHIMIYUBUSA asked the faithful to pray for the Head of State so that he may have good health, so that the Lord guides him each time in the choice of collaborators with the required capacities to help him lead the country as well as in choosing good advisers who do not act out of hypocrisy, so that the Coun-

In this edition:	page
Prayer of thanksgiving: the presidential couple participates in the opening mass	1
The grace of God has always preserved Burundi"	2
Senate Chairman calls on leaders to combine work with prayer	3
The President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE calls on the Burundians to change to have a heart that aspires to development	5
The President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE talks with the population in the public	6
Closing of the National Prayer of Thanksgiving at the end of the year	7

try continues to develop.

Speaking, Head of State His Excellency Evariste BANSHIMIYUBUSA first wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He congratulated the Burundians who are beginning to understand that if they exist it is because there is a creator who put them on earth and that they must respect, obey and thank.

During the Mass, the Head of State and the First Lady successively prayed for the Country and the people of Burundi. They asked Almighty God to bless the Burundians by granting them a heart full of love, unity, patience and courage in the face of trials. They also asked God to bless the Burundian soil and all the de-

velopment programs underway. At the start of Mass, the rector of the Mont Sion Marian Shrine in Gikungu welcomed the Head of State by offering him a painting of Mary mother of Jesus Christ as a thank you (rtnb)

## The grace of God has always preserved Burundi"



**T**he President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE gave thanks to God, during the 2nd consecutive day of the crusade, for the end of the crisis of 2015 and the progress made during this year 2021. "Emmanuel! May every Burundian be

confident in the protection and divine goodness," said the Head of State HE Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE imploring the Holy Spirit to be the guide of all Burundians.

"In 2015, we had hard times when we did not know which Saint to turn to. Even friends were afraid to speak out in favor of Burundi," said the President Ndayishimiye, rejoicing at the peace restored in Burundi.

The President NDAYISHIMIYE, by denouncing the prejudices made against him at the beginning of his mandate, testifies to have carried to his credit achievements appreciated by the citizens.

"You are called to advise and not to judge," the President NDAYISHIMIYE said while condemning hypocrisy and other bad habits.

The President of the Republic also thanked the men of God for the teachings which never cease to awaken the minds of Burundians who aspire to a better future. (Presidency)

## God brings justice to the oppressed



**O**n the third day of the crusade, His Excellency the Prime Minister CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni testified on the justice of God which has always been manifested in Burundi for a long time

after having thanked His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, the President of the Republic, for having organized, for the first time in more than ten years, the prayer of thanksgiving in the town hall of Bujumbura.

"God keeps his promises and brings justice to the oppressed" said His Excellency Alain Guillaume Bunyoni thanking the Almighty for his indescribable love

for Burundi, the leaders and his family. In his preaching, Prime Minister CPG Alain Guillaume Bunyoni based himself on the scriptures read in Mt20: 29-34 and Heb2: 1-4 to finally urge the Burundians to proceed like the two blind people who persevered by crying out to Jesus despite the obstacles, for God, he said, will not cease to show his love and his grace for those who pray to him in truth and in spirit.

"We must not neglect such a great salvation which, announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by

those who heard it", hammered the Prime Minister while alluding to our special gift which is independence of Burundi.

"The lie takes the elevator when the truth takes the stairs" said the Prime Minister by clarifying that the sanctions to which he was sentenced result from his position contrary to that of the American authorities who only aimed to wrest the independence of Burundi.

The President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE warmly thanked the preachers of the day for the very rich teachings. (Presidency)

## Senate Chairman calls on leaders to combine work with prayer



**T**he 3rd day of the national prayer of thanksgiving, the Chairman of the Senate the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera gave teachings to the leaders at the ETS Kamenge field under the theme "Let's work while praying, let's pray while working".

Senate Speaker Emmanuel Sinzohagera has made it known that the most important request to be made to the Lord is to be healthy and to add more days to live.

The Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera clarified that a leader must work for others, he is also a servant of God, because he said he should be inspired by the word of God to lead the people according to the holy scriptures in 2 Thessalonians 3,7-9.

The President of the Senate the Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera urged the leaders to get down to agricultural work for development and put forward the Almighty so that all goes well.

The Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera has indicated that a good leader closely follows the task assigned to him by God and performs it well.

On the 2nd day of the teachings which were given by the First Lady Her Excellency Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE, she advises the leaders to have a spirit of work, to have a spirit of generosity and love, of collaboration and of dialogue.

On her knees, the First Lady Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE prayed for the Country, she implored the Almighty to bless the Burundian people, guide the steps of the Burundian Head of State so that he can lead his people well. . (rtnb)

## "What God expects from leaders is justice because it brings Peace to the Country"



**F**or this fourth day of the national prayer of thanksgiving, the Presidential Couple surrounded by the high authorities of the Country and the various senior executives of the Country enhanced the teachings given by Father Amand KANA with the theme "Laziness reduces the people in slavery".

To be able to approach this theme well with supporting examples, Abbot Kana drew on 2 Kings 11: 1-15 to demonstrate the causes and consequences of

laziness on the country. According to him, one of the causes of laziness is poor time management.

"A leader who forgets his role of servant and uses his time for futile things forgetting that God put us on this earth to serve him and to serve his people will undoubtedly become a lazy person", he indicated while stressing that laziness breeds corruption and betrayal, among other misdeeds.

The Preacher of the day has also identified the avenues of solutions namely the recognition of his sin to repent, the defense of justice and the fight against laziness. "What God expects from leaders is justice because it is justice that brings peace to a country," Abbot KANA insisted.

Speaking, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE echoed the same point, stressing that laziness is the source of all the vicissitudes that Burundi has known.

Burundian Number One urges his fellow Burundians to break free from the slavery of laziness and work hard to stop relying on outside help. "My wish is that our children can grow up in a Burundi which is not similar to the one we have known which was populated by heartless men", launched the Head of State for the leaders in inviting them to fight against injustice in all its forms and to cultivate a spirit of compassion.

"Be people who love righteousness so that the whole population feels at home," said His Excellency NDAYISHIMIYE.

He closed this session by praying for Burundi and all Burundians imploring the intervention of the Almighty to bring change in their lives. (Presidency)

## Closing of the National Prayer of Thanksgiving at the end of the year

**T**he President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, together with his wife His Excellency Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE and other great personalities of the Country participated on Friday in the closing ceremonies of the five-day crusade at the ETS Kamenge grounds.

President NDAYISHIMIYE shared the testimony of His Excellency the late Pierre Nkurunziza's legacy of putting God first, recounting the origin of the Crusades and God's promises on Burundi and pledged to pass it on following the succession.

The Head of State His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE presided over the intentions of the people



of God who asked, each in their sector, for forgiveness, wisdom and strength to work for the well-being of Burundians in this year 2022.

Surrounded by these high authorities mentioned above, the presidential couple prayed, the national flag in hand, for a better future for Burundi.

The closing ceremonies also saw the participation of several choirs from different churches and institutions including the choir of ministers of the Burundian government.

The town hall of Bujumbura granted His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE gifts comprising 3 Frisian cows, 13 goats, 97 baskets representing respectively 3 towns, 13 zones, and 97 districts, as a thank you for having organized this crusade in the town hall of Bujumbura. (Presidency)

## The President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE calls on the Burundians to change to have a heart that aspires to development



While he joined, in the company of his family, the Christians of the Kimina Branch, Kabezi Parish in the Archdiocese of Bujumbura for the celebration of Epiphany, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, on January 2, invited the Burundian population to embrace the mentality which aspires to a socio-economic development.

"We have a naturally rich Country that is our capital in addition to the intelligence that God has given us; but we need to change to have a heart which aspires to the development", he indicated.

The President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE also urged his compatriots to stop complaining and believing in the colonialist

remarks which place Burundi at the forefront of the poor countries but rather to bless it and then exploit it in order to achieve sustainable development. "I would not want our children to inherit a country where there is ethnic discrimination and hatred with an ungrateful population that does not recognize the grace of God on Burundi," he added.

On the first Sunday of 2022, the Burundian Number One wished the Christians of Kimina a Merry Christmas and the best wishes for the New Year. He also congratulated them for the recently erected social infrastructures including the church which houses the Kimina Branch and this thanks to the Abbot Alphonse Ndabiseruye, a native of this locality, who was entitled to a beautiful tribute from the Head of the State for this commendable initiative.

Note that following the homily of the day from Matthew 2: 1-12, the Parish Priest of the Kabezi Parish, Father Sylvère Ntsumbumuyange, called Christians to humility before God by offering him a pure heart that obeys his commandments. (Presidency)

## The President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE talks with the population in the public broadcast



The President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE spoke face to face with the population in the public broadcast which took place on Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at the Intwari stadium in the town hall of Bujumbura.

The Father of the Burundian Nation began this program with the message of wishes for happiness, good health and prosperity before retracing the salient points on the political, economic and social life of Burundi.

"The Government has revalued long-forgotten customary justice so that the local population can be restored to their rights without difficulty" said the Head of State, recalling that judges must answer for their acts according to the Constitution of Burundi.

In his opening remarks, the Burundian President recalled that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CVR) presented its report in good form, but His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye is very surprised to learn that some people want to make it a business for their own interests. "Knowing the truth is not a problem, but it is this truth that will set us free and I say it out loud and intelligible that there was not an ethnic group that carried out the genocide, it is rather a bad governance of the time", hammered the President of the Republic.

Burundian Number One deploras the fire in Gitega prison following the misuse of electricity. "According to the report, prisoners are secretly reinstalling electric cables to charge their phones," President Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE informed.

Regarding the fight against COVID-19, the Head of State is satisfied with the way in which the Burundians have fought the pandemic through the principle "Ndakira, Sinandura kandi Sinanduza" which means

"I heal, I do not catch the virus and I do not infect".

"Burundi is among the few countries that provide free testing and treatment for COVID-19," said His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE.

From an economic point of view, Burundi is a rich country contrary to what people say, said the Burundian President. "Burundi is full of many minerals, has good soil, healthy water, rare earth, all that remains is to exploit this wealth," said the President of the Republic Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE .

Responding to questions asked by the population present at the Intwari stadium, the Head of State called on economic operators to increase production and exports because this is the only way to boost businesses. However, he indicates that measures have been taken to ban fraudulent circuits.

Regarding the commissions demanded by those who denounce fraud, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE says that denunciations are civic spirit and should not be cashed. He urges citizens to remain vigilant on the good management of public affairs.

After collecting the grievances relating to the many injustices denounced by the population during this public broadcast, President His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE promises thorough investigations to identify those responsible failing to answer for their actions.

Regarding the dismissed executives and appointed to other positions of responsibility, His Excellency Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE specifies: "We are making changes to place the necessary profiles in the right positions but those who are guilty are prosecuted by the justice system".

On the time granted to the Ministry of Energy and Mines to shed light on the misappropriation of funds for the construction of the Kajeke dam, the Head of State indicates that the report has been produced and submitted to the competent bodies which will take appropriate measures.

Regarding the abuse of an agent of the intelligence services which caused the death of a compatriot, the

Burundian Number One reaffirms its attachment to respect for human rights and indicates that justice has taken matters into hand so that the culprit is punished according to law.

After noting the administrative delays and other shortcomings in the follow-up of cases, the Father of

the Burundian Nation demands that the contact numbers of all members of the Government be made public as of today, something promised and due. (Presidency)

## The construction of the gutter on the RN1 is about to be completed



**T**he Director General of the Burundi Road Agency Mr. Régis Mpawenayo carried out on Tuesday, December 28, 2021, a supervision visit of the construction works of the 800m gutter on the RN1 in the Kamenge district. This gutter leads the runoff which threatened the RN1 and the surrounding dwellings.

The Director General of the ARB Mr. Régis Mpawenayo reassures the population of the Kamenge district that the construction work of this gutter will be completed in the first half of January. And to add that the work, which normally should last 3 months, was delayed by rains which often washed away the structures already built.

The urban population must get used to work of this kind and during the rainy season because all large-scale work cannot be done only during the dry sea-

son, continued Mr. Régis Mpawenayo.

The director general of the ARB has indicated that currently the runoff has already taken the path of the gutter, that there is no longer to worry whether it is at the RN1 or for the surrounding houses.

Régis Mpawenayo, Director General of the ARB indicated that in 2 to 3 weeks the work will be completed, there will remain the cleaning of the site and the time for the concretes which will serve as slabs of the crossings to harden. (rtnb)



**REPUBLIQUE DU BURUNDI**  
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères  
et de la Coopération au Développement



The Minister of Foreign Affairs  
and Development Cooperation  
H.E. Albert Shingiro,  
extends his very best wishes for  
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year





# Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

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