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President Ndayishimiye pays tribute to heroes of the struggle for peace and democracy



On Monday, November 16, 2026, His Excellency Évariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi, attended a Mass at Gifurwe Church, a branch of Muzinda Parish in the Diocese of Bubanza. The service marked the official opening of the week dedicated to the heroes of the struggle for peace and democracy.

The ceremony was also attended by the Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi, members of the CNDD-FDD Council of Elders, several members of the diplomatic corps, and many Bagumyabanga wearing party uniforms. They came to honor those who had committed themselves to the struggle for democracy in Burundi.

This commemorative week is a time for reflection and gratitude to the women and men who made immense sacrifices in their commitment to democracy. It is also an opportunity to renew collective memory, pass on the values of patriotism to future generations, and preserve the gains made in peace and democracy.

In his homily, Father Innocent Ngendakumana placed particular emphasis on remembering the victims who shed their blood. He invited the congregation to pray for them, seek God's mercy and ask forgiveness for the wrongs committed. He also urged everyone to learn from the past so that the tragedies that have brought grief to the country are never repeated.
After the Mass, wreaths were laid at

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the Gifugwe Heroes' Mausoleum, beginning with His Excellency Évariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi, followed by the President of the National Assembly and the Deputy Secretary-General of the CNDD-FDD party. **(Presidency)**

Head of State receives Africa Director of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue



On November 17, 2026, His Excellency Évariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi, received Alexandre Liebeskind, Africa Director of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, at Ntare Rushatsi Palace.

Their discussions focused mainly on armed conflicts affecting various parts of the continent, particularly the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and, above all, the Great Lakes region. They also considered possible ways to resolve these crises and mechanisms that could support a lasting return to peace in these regions.

Mr Liebeskind commended the efforts and contributions of His Excellency Évariste Ndayishimiye, President of Burundi and current Chairperson of the African Union, in support of peace and stability across the continent, particularly in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The discussions also addressed the role of young people in conflict prevention and in building and sustaining peace. Both interlocutors stressed the need to provide young people with opportunities to thrive and with income-generating activities that can support their socio-economic development and help protect them from the temptation to become involved in armed conflicts.

Mr Liebeskind also praised and encouraged President Ndayishimiye's commitment and contribution to finding African solutions to African conflicts. The discussions explored how the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue could contribute to advancing peace processes already under way, including by facilitating dialogue and building trust among parties to the conflicts.

Finally, the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue's Africa Director expressed his appreciation for the peace and stability prevailing in Burundi. He encouraged Burundians to continue their efforts and consolidate the progress achieved on the path to development. **(Presidency)**

First Lady of Burundi receives British Ambassador to Burundi



Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, First Lady of the Republic of Burundi, received Thorpe Alison Heather, the British Ambassador to Burundi, resident in Kigali, Rwanda, on Thursday, 19 November 2026. Ms Heather praised the First Lady's significant work to improve the well-being of the people of Burundi.

After the audience, Philémon Nkurunziza, spokesperson for the Office of the First Lady of Burundi for Development (OPDD-Burundi), said the British Ambassador had come to congratulate the First Lady on the significant work she is undertaking in Burundi to improve the population's well-being.

Mr Nkurunziza said the two women also discussed the development of education in Burundi. He noted that the First Lady had already established a school called "Socles du Savoir" and now intends to introduce an English-language international curriculum. Ms Heather warmly congratulated her and said she would provide support to help make the school a reality in Burundi. More broadly, the two officials agreed to continue supporting one another for the well-being of the population. **(Le Renouveau)**

Review of progress on government activities



As part of the support, guidance and coordination of government action, His Excellency Nestor Ntahontuye, Prime Minister of Burundi, held working sessions with sectoral ministries in Bujumbura on Tuesday, November 17, 2026. The meetings aimed to review progress on activities facing delays, identify constraints, and agree on strategies and guidance to accelerate implementation.

Four main matters were discussed during these working sessions, which the Prime Minister described as routine meetings in the regular monitoring of government action. They included reviewing construction progress on the Rohero International Conference Hall; the payment of salaries to newly recruited staff under administrative reforms; the preparation of financial statements for communes and hospitals; and the allocation of equipment and operating funds to commune departments and provincial directorates.



Regarding construction of the Rohero International Conference Hall, the Prime Minister said work had been at a standstill for more than two years, although some materials and equipment were already on site. Following the review, Mr Ntahontuye said an analysis would be conducted to identify irregularities and determine the responsibilities of parties that may not have properly fulfilled their obligations. He also stressed the need to mobilise the necessary budget resources so that work could resume once the irregularities had been examined and responsibilities established.

The second matter concerned the payment of salaries to new staff recruited under the administrative reforms, particularly at provincial, commune and zone levels, as well as staff transferred to certain ministries.

The Prime Minister said the necessary administrative procedures were underway at the Ministry of Labor, Public Service and Social Security. One prerequisite already completed was the adoption of a decree classifying the new positions for staff in provinces, communes and zones. The relevant departments are now calculating the amounts due to finalize the salary files. He called on the ministry concerned to step up its efforts and take all necessary measures so that these staff members could receive their salaries in December 2026. The third session addressed the preparation of financial statements, also known as public accounts, for communes and hospitals. According to the Prime Minister, the process is progressing as planned, thanks to the introduction of software designed to facilitate preparation of these financial documents. He recalled that the exercise had previously faced many difficulties, partly because of the resources and tools available. The new software is improving data processing and helping advance the preparation of the financial statements.

A deadline of the end of November 2026 was set for the documents to be prepared and submitted to the Court of Auditors. The Court will then carry out the necessary checks, including on their completeness, reliability and compliance with financial reporting standards. The fourth and final matter concerned the allocation of equipment and operating funds to commune departments and provincial directorates, some of which had not yet received these resources. Following the review, Prime Minister Nestor Ntahontuye said that more than 98% of the institutions concerned had already received their equipment and operating funds. A few services were still awaiting payment, including certain departments under the Ministry responsible for Infrastructure and that ministry's provincial directorates in Burunga,

Bujumbura and Gitega provinces. One department of the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock in Cibitoke Commune, Bujumbura Province, was also awaiting funds. The review will help advance the necessary steps to ensure that the remaining institutions receive the resources they need to operate.

In closing the working sessions, the Prime Minister reiterated that meetings with sectoral ministries are a routine part of the government's mandate to support, guide and coordinate government action. Their main purpose is to closely monitor implementation, identify any delays and obstacles, and propose appropriate solutions to improve performance across sectors. **(Prime Minister's Office)**

Produce more, import less: Prime Minister's approach to strengthening the national economy



Burundi's Prime Minister, Nestor Ntahontuye, has urged Burundians, particularly traders and business operators, to prioritize productive investment in order to increase domestic output, reduce imports and help the country earn more foreign currency. He made the appeal in Gitega on November 19, 2026 during a meeting with major traders, bank executives, public and private sector company leaders, several government members, provincial governors and commune administrators.

Speaking to the press after the meeting, the Prime Minister said Burundi lacks foreign currency in part because it imports more goods than it exports. This situation constrains the country's ability to obtain essential products, including fuel. He therefore encouraged those with capital to reconsider their priorities and invest in activities that generate wealth and foreign currency.

By way of example, he regretted that some people spent substantial sums building large apartment blocks and multiple houses in urban areas without also investing in large-scale farming. He encouraged the development of avocado and coffee plantations, whose produce could be exported to earn foreign currency for the country.



Mr Ntahontuye also regretted that Burundi still imports chicken and goat meat even though domestic production could provide adequate supplies. He urged investors to seize opportunities in these sectors to meet local demand and reduce foreign currency spent on goods that could be produced locally through farming and livestock.

Mr Ntahontuye announced that another meeting would be held at a later date to assess progress in increasing domestic production. **(Le Renouveau)**

Audience with a delegation of development partners



On Friday, November 20, 2026, Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation Minister Ambassador Édouard Bizimana, received a delegation comprising Christine Jaulmes, Acting UNICEF Representative in Burundi; Dademanao Pissang Tchangai, FAO Representative in Burundi; Emmanuela Muscara, Head of Mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM); and Mouna Diawara, Country Director of the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Burundi. The meeting was a courtesy call.



The discussions focused mainly on the launch of the first phase of the Support Project for People Affected by the Crisis in the East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (PROAPAC), funded by the African Development Bank. The project aims to respond appropriately to the needs of people affected by the consequences of this regional crisis.

The meeting also addressed the management of external financing provided to the State, including budget support and funding for projects and programmes implemented by state and para-state institutions.

At the end of the meeting, Minister Édouard Bizimana encouraged the delegation to continue its work in strict compliance with current national regulations and established procedures. He reaffirmed the Government's commitment to further strengthening cooperation with technical and financial partners working to advance the country's development. **(MFARIDC)**

Second session of the Burundi–European Union Partnership Dialogue



On Friday, November 20, 2026, at the Club du Lac Tanganyika Hotel, Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation Minister, His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana, chaired the second session of the Burundi–European Union Partnership Dialogue.

In his opening remarks, Burundi's chief diplomat welcomed the excellent quality of bilateral relations between Burundi and the European Union, describing them as a fruitful partnership that should be further strengthened. He particularly welcomed the opportunity to exchange views on strategies to deepen economic cooperation through the Global Gateway initiative, as well as on key political, security, humanitarian, health and environmental issues of concern to Burundi and the region.

The Minister's presentation focused on two main areas: the political situation in Burundi and the regional context. On the domestic political situation, he highlighted significant progress in the field of human rights and the preparations under way for the 2027 elections. He noted that the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) was already at an advanced stage of preparation for the elections.



On security, humanitarian and health matters, His Excellency Édouard Bizimana welcomed the prevailing climate of peace and security throughout the country. However, he expressed the Government of Burundi's concern about persistent insecurity in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and its continuing humanitarian consequences for the region. He reiterated the importance of the European Union's involvement in

ongoing peace and security initiatives, as well as in upholding and implementing the Washington and Doha agreements.

The Minister also referred to health challenges posed by epidemic diseases affecting the region and outlined the preventive measures taken by the Government of Burundi to address them. On environmental issues, he highlighted the effects of climate change, including the El Niño phenomenon, and the Government's efforts to strengthen communities' resilience to these events.

The European Union was represented by His Excellency Alessandro Villa, EU Ambassador and Head of the European Union Delegation to Burundi. In his remarks, he provided an overview of relations between Burundi and the European Union, the prospects offered by the Global Gateway initiative and the opportunities it could create for Burundi.

The constructive discussions gave the Government of Burundi an opportunity to express its wish for the country to be included among the priority beneficiaries of funding under Global Gateway.

The session took place in a spirit of mutual understanding and frank dialogue. It concluded with a joint communiqué reaffirming both parties' determination to further consolidate their political, economic and diplomatic partnership for the benefit of Burundi and the European Union. **(MFARIDC)**

Audience with a delegation from Médecins Sans Frontières



On Friday, November 20, 2026, Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation Minister, His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana, received a delegation of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) coordinators on a courtesy call.

The meeting gave the delegation an opportunity to brief Burundi's chief diplomat on the organization's main activities to date, its ongoing operations, areas of work and future plans in Burundi and the region.

During the discussions, MSF representatives said their work focused mainly on health and humanitarian assistance, as well as strengthening capacity in the health sector. They also discussed their work on the effects of climate change on vulnerable populations.

The delegation also outlined the main challenges facing the organisation in carrying out its activities. These included restrictions on the movement of some staff, particularly those based in Goma, in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The delegation asked the relevant authorities to help identify solutions that could facilitate staff travel in connection with their humanitarian missions.

Ambassador Édouard Bizimana commended MSF's significant efforts on behalf of vulnerable populations and encouraged the organization to continue its work. He noted that its activities make a meaningful contribution to supporting the Government of Burundi in implementing its national health and humanitarian assistance policies.

Regarding travel between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi, the Minister acknowledged the difficulties arising from the current situation. He noted, however, that the measures in force had been adopted on security grounds to preserve national stability and security.

In closing, the Minister reaffirmed the Government of Burundi's readiness to continue working with Médecins Sans Frontières in a spirit of constructive dialogue and partnership, in order to respond effectively to the humanitarian and health challenges facing the population. **(MFARIDC)**



Preparations for next consultation committee meeting top the agenda



On Friday, November 20, 2026, Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation Minister, His Excellency Ambassador Édouard Bizimana, received Violet Kenyana Kakyomya, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Burundi. Their discussions included preparations for the next meeting of the Consultation Committee between the Government of Burundi and Development Partners, as well as the introduction of the new co-chair of the Development Partners Group.

On this occasion, Ms Kakyomya introduced the Minister to the new co-chair of the Development Partners Group, His Excellency Michael Wimmer, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Burundi.

The discussions also covered preparations for the next meeting of the Consultation Committee between the Government of Burundi and Development Partners.

The two sides exchanged views on the organizational and practical arrangements needed for the meeting, which provides a forum for dialogue and consultation between the Government and its development partners. **(MFARIDC)**

Burundi moves to strengthen regulatory framework for foreign non-governmental organizations



On Monday, November 16, 2026, Sophonie Nitunga, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation, opened five days of work devoted to revising the regulations governing foreign non-governmental organizations (FNGOs) operating in Burundi. The initiative aims to adapt the legal framework applicable to these organizations, improve the monitoring of their activities and strengthen their contribution to national development priorities.

In his opening remarks, the Permanent Secretary stressed the important role FNGOs play in supporting Burundi's development efforts. Their work covers key sectors including health, education, social protection, food security, the promotion of human rights and environmental protection. The Government of Burundi recognizes their contribution in these areas while ensuring that their activities align with national guidelines and priorities.

However, monitoring and evaluation visits to these organizations have highlighted several challenges in implementing their activities.



These include compliance with administrative and regulatory obligations; the regular submission of activity reports; the management of assets acquired with tax and customs exemptions; and procedures for closing

projects and ending operations. These findings point to the need to update the regulations in order to provide clearer oversight of FNGO activities and ensure more rigorous management of their commitments in Burundi.

Through this review, the Ministry aims to continue improving governance in the FNGO sector and strengthening coordination of their activities. The Permanent Secretary stressed the need to build a partnership based on transparency, accountability, and respect for the laws and regulations of the Republic of Burundi.

He also recalled that, while foreign organizations contribute to the country's development efforts, they must operate in strict compliance with the national legal framework and respect Burundi's sovereignty. **(MFARIDC)**

Burundi Determined to Promote Productive Cooperation with Its Partners



From 16 to 20 November 2026, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation is conducting a rigorous monitoring and evaluation exercise of World Food Programme (WFP) projects in the provinces of Bujumbura, Butanyerera and Buhumuza. The exercise aims to assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact of these projects, gather feedback and concerns from beneficiaries, and make recommendations to strengthen accountability and transparency.

The monitoring and evaluation exercise covered the World Food Programme (WFP) projects in Maramvya-Mutimbuzi, including the Girumwete Dukore Cooperative ("Let Us Work with Courage"), where performance has significantly exceeded expectations. However, the challenge of compulsory price-setting has resulted in losses.

In Ngozi, on 17 November 2026, the delegation observed that a machine provided by WFP to Girubuzima Company was not being used. The company expressed the need for higher-capacity machines. The delegation was informed that the machine had only been provided by WFP as a sample. It therefore encouraged the company to make greater efforts to acquire the equipment it considers essential for its activities. Given the long period during which the machine has remained unused, WFP should avoid purchasing equipment that it considers unnecessary, as this would result in a financial loss. The funds could instead have been used to cover the additional cost of purchasing a higher-capacity machine directly.







In Mwumba, Ngozi Commune, on Gatwe Hill, commonly known as Sabanegwa, the delegation visited the "Tezimbere Ibibondo Bavyeyi" Association, which works to strengthen community resilience and support smallholder farmers. The delegation noted that WFP, through Caritas, has supported vulnerable households and helped them overcome poverty through donations and useful training. The local population is thus moving from vulnerability towards self-reliance. However, the beneficiaries had not been informed of the amount allocated to the project. The delegation appreciated the results achieved, while noting that the projects allocated budget remained unknown.





On 18 November 2026, in Gitobe, the water supply project, launched in September 2026 and scheduled for completion by the end of December 2026, had already enabled the construction of water reservoirs and the rehabilitation of taps, with only the installation of pipes remaining to be completed. In Nyagisozi, the distribution of FBU 380,000 to one group and FBU 200,000 to another group in May and June 2026 had contributed to satisfactory re-

sults in agriculture and small-scale livestock farming. However, a risk of loss of trust was also identified due to failure to respect the agreed assistance period. The population expressed disappointment that WFP had promised to return with food supplies, which they were still waiting to receive. The amount allocated to this project also remained undisclosed.

On 19 November 2026, in Muyinga, the delegation visited the PASSAB / Cash for Work project in Butihinda, launched in September 2025. The project was found to lack adequate field-level monitoring, with some contour lines not meeting the required standards and seedlings being removed too late.




At Bihogo II Primary School, irregular food deliveries are undermining the progress already made. The delegation observed that children were not receiving meals regularly at school. This highlighted the need to ensure regular deliveries, improve technical monitoring and communication with schools, and make school feeding programmes sustainable in order to achieve lasting and measurable impact.
Overall, the findings from all these visits confirm that cooperation with WFP is producing visible results, including protected land, increased household income, children attending school and declining dropout rates.

Another key finding, however, is the lack of transparency regarding the amounts allocated to the projects. In this regard, the Ministry recommends that WFP publish the budget for each project, indicating the total amount, the allocation of funds by activity and the disbursement schedule, in a document accessible to the Ministry, WFP and the beneficiaries. It also recommends setting up a display board showing the implementation status of planned activities.
In brief, the recommendations include strengthening




technical monitoring of contour lines and nurseries, ensuring regular and predictable food deliveries to schools, improving the quality of meals, and enhancing communication with schools regarding the quantities delivered. Another key finding was that WFP should operate with greater transparency, as beneficiaries of all the projects visited by the Ministry indicated that they had not been informed of the amounts allocated to the projects.

Finally, the Ministry responsible for Foreign Affairs, in its role as a guarantor of cooperation, will continue to monitor, evaluate and advocate for every project to deliver a lasting and measurable impact on the population. **(MFARIDC)**

Peace Torch caravan in Rwibaga: residents urged to remain vigilant during election period



In a warm and welcoming atmosphere, Minister of Communication and Media Ambassador Evelyne Butoyi joined elected officials, local authorities and residents of her home commune of Rwibaga on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, to welcome the Peace Torch. The Torch illuminated the concreting work on classrooms at Ecofo Kizunga II in Matara Zone.

The Peace Torch caravan, coming from neighbouring Mugere Commune, stopped in Rwibaga. Carried by members of the Intwararumuri Association, the Torch was preceded by a donation of cement from the Office of the President of the Republic of Burundi in support of local development. Addressing the crowd, Epipode Baranyikwa, President of the Intwararumuri Association and bearer of the message from the Head of State, delivered a strong message in keeping with this year's

theme: preserve peace and step up efforts for development. Ahead of the presidential election scheduled for May 3, 2027, residents of Rwibaga Commune were urged to report anyone who might threaten peace and security and to redouble their efforts to promote economic growth. Samson Ndayizeye, Chief of Staff to the Governor of Bujumbura, called on local leaders to guide the people they serve in the pursuit of development. Rwibaga Commune Administrator Frédéric Manirakiza said the commune was undertaking various development activities to improve residents' well-being and advance the country. These included agricultural development, road construction and the provision of safe drinking water. **(Le Renouveau)**

World Innovation and Entrepreneurship Week: Government continues to support development initiatives



World Innovation and Entrepreneurship Week was officially launched on Tuesday, November 17, 2026. The opening ceremony brought together entrepreneurs, investors, development partners, and representatives of public and private institutions.

In his remarks, Thaddée Nzotunga, representative of BIESO (Burundi Innovation and Entrepreneurship Support Organizations), highlighted the importance of the week for entrepreneurs and their businesses. He said the event provided a valuable opportunity to showcase products from various industrial sectors, connect investors with entrepreneurs and promote the sale of locally manufactured goods. He also thanked the Ministry of Mining, Energy, Industry, Trade and Tourism for its particular attention to entrepreneurs, including through guidance and support for their development initiatives.

Pacifique Nshimirimana, Assistant to the Minister responsible for Trade, thanked the organizers of the week dedicated to innovation and entrepreneurship. He stressed that no country can achieve development without innovators and entrepreneurs. He added that the Government of Burundi continues to support development initiatives, whether small or large.

The Government encourages innovation and entrepreneurship to contribute to Burundi's economic and social transformation, in line with the Vision for Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060. He said the Government calls on business support organizations, financial institutions and investors to strengthen their support for entrepreneurs through training, access to finance, skills transfer and improvements in project quality.

He commended the commitment of development partners, including the United Nations Development Programme, UNFPA and other organizations, which continue to support development projects, with particular attention to initiatives led by young people and women.

The theme of the eighth edition was: "From an idea to a structured business: a united ecosystem to build innovative, strong and sustainable small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)." **(Le Renouveau)**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Development Cooperation

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