



The Vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060: a challenge to be won for the President NDAYISHIMIYE



During his stay in Washington D.C., where he took part in the National Prayer Breakfast, the Burundian Head of State, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, held a series of meetings with a number of leaders and VIPs, with a view to concluding partnerships that will help the country move towards achieving its Vision of “Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and a developed country by 2060”.

On Tuesday February 4, 2025, the President of the Republic of Burundi granted an audience to the former Director General of the World Food Pro-

gram, Mr. David Beasley. During this audience, they discussed the socio-economic situation prevailing in Burundi, where the Burundian Head of State recounted the efforts of his people towards the country's economic recovery. “Burundi is a reconciled country, with peace and security everywhere. Now we are focusing to development”, remarked the President of the Republic of Burundi, reiterating his concern at the deterioration of peace and security in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a situation which, in his view, could affect neighboring countries, or even the entire region, if the international community does not act immediately and

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energetically.

The Burundian Number One also received in audience Mr. Roger Jantio, CEO of Sterling Merchant Finance Limited, a financial institution which supports investments in Africa and which would like to initiate investment projects in Burundi, notably in the mining sector. The President of the Republic of Burundi also met with the President of the Institute for Women's Health, Valérie Huber, who is keen to establish a partnership with the Government of Burundi, particularly with a view to

improving women's health and well-being through the PROTEGO Project.

On his first day in Washington D.C., His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye granted an audience to Mr. Peter Pham, former UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region. They discussed issues relating to the development of Burundi and the restoration of peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with a view to maintaining peace and security in the Great Lakes Region. **(Presidency)**

Burundi's development, the main focus of President Ndayishimiye's talks in Washington D.C



Almighty God, the family and the protection of life.

Burundi's Number One also met Senator Lonny Jackson, a member of the sub-committee in charge of foreign relations, with whom they discussed, among other things, the possibility of Burundi in turn being governed by AGOA, enabling it to export certain products to the United States without customs duties or quotas. Still on the subject of meetings, Burundi's Number One

Continuing his stay in Washington D.C., USA, the Head of State of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye began the day on Wednesday February 5, 2025, meeting with Senator Mr. Steve Daines, member of the Subcommittee in charge of relations with Africa. He praised the courage and leadership of Burundi's President, who is instilling good values in Africa's youth. "I am proud you stand for faith, family and protecting life", said the U.S. Senator, pleased to learn that Burundi is one of the signatories of the Geneva Consensus Declaration, which is against abortion and emphasizes the promotion of women's health and the strengthening of the family.

During the meeting, the President of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, and Senator Steve Daines welcomed the good cultural and religious values shared by Burundi and the USA, based on faith in

also had fruitful exchanges with Dr John Peterson, a university professor who teaches online courses on financial independence, entrepreneurship and human responsibility for the holistic development of the individual and the human person. The President of the Republic of Burundi took the opportunity to invite him to Burundi to share his knowledge with young Burundians.

At the end of the day, the Burundian Presidential Couple took part in the parliamentary luncheon held at Capitoll Hill, which was organized as part of the preparatory activities for the National Prayer Breakfast for this year 2025, scheduled for Thursday February 6, 2025. An opening dinner for this event was also offered late in the evening. It was a time for participants to exchange and share edifying testimonies. **(Presidency)**

The Burundian Presidential Couple took part in the National Prayer Breakfast



Alongside his counterparts and world leaders, Burundi's Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye took part this Thursday, February 06, 2025 in the National Prayer Breakfast that was solemnly opened by American President His Excellency Donald Trump at the Hilton Hotel in Washington D.C.

In his speech, U.S. President Donald Trump noted that this fine tradition began in 1953 and that he intends to perpetuate it, which is why he was keen to participate physically. He also stressed that religion in the United States has suffered a lot in recent years, but that it will be strengthened.

In the closing session of this event, the President of the Republic of Burundi delivered a speech in which he presented the topography of Burundi, showing

its resemblance to that of Canaan, a country that abounds in much potential in agriculture and in terms of natural resources but which are still untapped.

"We come from a hidden garden in the heart of Africa, between Central and East Africa. Unfortunately, we haven't yet begun to exploit our natural resources, that is why our country is still little known," lamented the Burundian President.

Referring to the theme chosen for this year, "Friendship around the person of Jesus", the Burundian Head of State said that Burundi had experienced this theme during the period of national reconciliation, and that thanks to prayer, the people had been reconciled, and Burundi was now peaceful and stable.

After his speech, which was welcomed by thunderous applause, there followed a moment of collective prayer for the Burundian Head of State, for his family and for Burundi, imploring wisdom, blessing, divine protection and discernment from the Lord.

On the sidelines of the National Prayer Breakfast, Burundi's Number One met Deputy Jonathan Jackson on Thursday February 06, 2025. Their discussions focused on Burundi's development through the Vision of Burundi as an emerging country by 2040 and developed by 2060, and the issue of peace and security in the region. **(Presidency)**

Commemoration of the 34th anniversary of the national unity charter at Bujumbura town hall



On the occasion of the commemoration of the 34th anniversary of the National Unity Charter, on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, the Speaker of the Senate, the Right Honorable



Emmanuel Sinzohagera, joined the Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi, His Excellency Prosper Bazombanza, who represented the Head of State of Burundi at this event, along with other high dignitaries

of the nation, including the Right Honorable Speaker of the National Assembly, the Prime Minister, the Ombudsman, some parliamentarians, the Minister of Interior, Community Development, and Public Security, certain administrative officials from the municipality of Bujumbura, various distinguished guests, representatives of religious denominations, as well as other Burundian citizens, during the ceremonies that took place at the

National Unity Monument.

His Excellency the Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi then laid a wreath at the National Unity Monument. This year's celebration was held under the theme: "Let us be united as brothers and sisters, and strengthen unity through the realization of development projects." (Senate)

Burundi pledges to fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism



This is once again reflected in the draft law amending law number 1/02 of February 04, 2008 on the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism, submitted to the National Assembly for analysis and adoption at its plenary session on Monday February 03, 2025, chaired by the Honorable Sabine Ntakarutimana, First Deputy Speaker of this institution. The Government had sent the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, Mr. Nestor Ntahontuye, to present the explanatory memorandum to the bill, which was ultimately adopted unani-



mously.

This commitment dates back many years, to the ratification of the 1999 International Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, the 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, and the 2003 United Nations Convention against Corruption. In 2005, it adopted a national anti-corruption strategy which led to the creation



of specialized institutions to combat corruption and related offences. In 2008, a law was introduced to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism. This law provided for the creation of a national financial intelligence unit, with the aim of better detecting, preventing and punishing offences relating to money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

However, the law is deficient in that its provisions do not incorporate all international standards. The first gap concerns asset recovery. Indeed, there is no power vested in the authorities to freeze, seize and confiscate the assets of individuals or entities suspected of financing terrorism. What's more, the 2008 law is not up to date with the emergence of new financial technologies. Certainly, the rapid development of technologies, especially cryptocurrencies, has introduced new means of money laundering that often escape traditional surveillance measures. The other shortcoming is the inadequacy of sanctions. The sanctions provided for under the 2008 law are not sufficiently dissuasive, either in penal or financial terms. In addition, the deadlines for imposing these sanctions are often too long, which reduces the effectiveness of the law. Another shortcoming is the inadequacy of international cooperation mechanisms.

The bill responds to the shortcomings identified, notably by defining money laundering and terrorist financing, this

time with reference to international standards; by setting up cryptocurrency exchange platforms and monitoring their transactions, as these platforms are now obliged to comply with the same obligations as traditional financial institutions; and by improving international cooperation mechanisms to fight against the crimes of money laundering and terrorist financing at international level.

It is worth noting that the new law provides for the

creation of a national financial intelligence unit, with functional protection and immunity from prosecution. Deputies are concerned that this status could open the door to abuses committed by cell members. In response, the Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, Mr. Nestor Ntahontuye, said that the unit should enjoy functional protection and criminal immunity, in reference to the financial intelligence unit worldwide. **(National Assembly)**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation presents his semi-annual report and reaffirms the implementation of Burundi's vision for the horizon 2040-2060



On February 03, 2025, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, H.E. Ambassador Albert Shingiro, held a press conference to present the activities carried out by the Ministry during the first half of the 2024-2025 budget year. This accountability exercise is part of the national vision of a Burundi emerging by 2040 and developed by 2060, under the impetus of the Head of State, who has proclaimed 2025 as a "laborious year".

The Minister presented his assessment around the two fundamental pillars of the 2040-2060 vision on which the Ministry bases its functions. These pillars are: the commitment of the State and fruitful partnership with other nations. He highlighted the signing of 17 bilateral agreements with several countries, including China, Zambia, Chad and Hungary.

These agreements cover a wide range of areas, including visa exemption, scientific and economic cooperation, investment protection, and the export of Burundian agricultural products. He also mentioned major projects, such as the construction of a 12-floor building to accommodate the ministry in

Gitega and the upgrading of Melchior Ndadaye Airport.

As part of its efforts to protect Burundians living abroad, the Ministry organized a special week dedicated to the diaspora in July 2024. This event enabled Burundians living abroad to exchange views with the government on investment opportunities and their contribution to national development.

At the same time, a review of the national diaspora policy was launched to provide a better framework for Burundian expatriate workers. The Ministry has also carried out checks on agencies facilitating employment abroad to ensure they comply with current standards.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation has also stepped up its efforts to fight against human trafficking. The Ministry strengthened regional cooperation by organizing a forum in Rumonge province, to discuss about the development of the EAC's regional diaspora policy.

In conclusion, H.E. Albert Shingiro expressed his satisfaction with the results achieved, with an estimated completion rate of 97%. He stressed the importance of collective commitment to strengthening Burundian diplomacy and promoting the country's development.

Finally, he thanked all the partners and stakeholders involved, reaffirming the Ministry's determination to pursue its efforts to promote Burundi on the international stage. **(MFADC)**

Burundi strengthens its diplomatic influence and international cooperation



Burundian diplomacy continues to flourish, with notable advances in sovereignty, regional cooperation and governance. At a press conference on February 03, 2025, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, H.E. Ambassador Albert Shingiro, gave a positive assessment of the first half of the 2024-2025 fiscal year and outlined the country's ambitious prospects.

As part of the consolidation of its sovereignty, Burundi has begun opening new embassies in Canada, Cuba and Vatican. It also inaugurated a consulate general in Kigoma, Tanzania, strengthening its diplomatic presence in the region. In addition, the country has actively participated in international meetings to defend its interests and contribute to global solutions on crucial issues such as peace, security, climate and the fight against terrorism.

Burundi's role in international bodies has been strengthened in recent months. The country now chairs the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA-23) and sits on the United Nations Commis-

sion for the Protection of Human Rights in Geneva. It also leads the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, and is preparing to take over the presidency of the Economic Community of Central African States in 2025, before assuming the presidency of the African Union in 2026.

In terms of governance, the Ministry has continued its efforts to combat corruption and improve administrative management. The introduction of digital tracking of employee working hours and the harmonization of embassy websites are aimed at increasing transparency and efficiency. In addition, an interpreting service operating in Kirundi, French, English and Arabic has been set up to better serve the country's interests.

Burundi is looking towards the future with a clear vision: to promote economic diplomacy that has five branches, attract investments, enhance tourism, and facilitate controlled emigration of its workforce. With promising prospects and a strong ambition, the country aims to strengthen its influence on the international stage while ensuring sustainable development, he concluded. (MFADC)

Towards Universal Health Coverage in Africa

From February 3 to 4, 2025, the Ministry of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender organized a major international conference in Bujumbura on the theme of "Universal health coverage and social protection in Africa", bringing together stakeholders from the mutualist sector to discuss about existing challenges and solutions in the field of health and social protection.

In her opening speech, the Minister of National Solidari-

ty, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, Mrs Imelde Sabushimike, welcomed the initiative of the President of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, in organizing this conference. She emphasized that this event reflects the Burundian government's determination to promote universal social protection, in particular health coverage. The Minister of National Solidarity, Social Affairs, Human Rights and Gender, Mrs Imelde Sabushimike, recalled the importance of the Public Service Mutual Insurance, created in 1980, as a step towards the efficient



management of health insurance for public employees.

On the second day of the conference, the President of the International Association of Mutuality Mr. Loek Caubo, reported on the positive results of the discussions. The two days had been marked by the exchange of innovative ideas and the identification of challenges facing the mutualist sector. He expressed the hope that participants would move swiftly into action to put the resolutions adopted into practice.

The Director General of the Public Service Mutual Dr Sylvie Nzeyimana, said that mutuals, in collabo-

ration with the public sector and national health systems, can play a crucial role in widening access to healthcare. She also stressed the need for a favorable regulatory framework for the social and solidarity-based economy, as recommended by United Nations (UN) and International Labor Organization (ILO) resolutions.

At the end of the conference, participants recommended the introduction of compulsory enrolment mechanisms for health coverage to guarantee sustainable social protection. The President of the Platform of Health Actors Promoters of Mutuals of Burundi (*PAMUSAB*), Dr. Edouard Nkurunziza, emphasized that, despite a still insufficient enrolment rate, community health mutuals have the necessary expertise to support universal health insurance, particularly in the informal and rural sectors.

The third International Mutualist Conference was concluded with rich and constructive exchanges. The debates addressed the concerns of the participants, with the presence of over 27 health mutuals and mutualist organizations from Africa and Europe. This event represented a significant step towards achieving universal health coverage in Africa, but much remains to be done to overcome the existing challenges. (RTNB)

Governor of Gitega province calls on natives to invest in strategic sectors



On Wednesday February 5, 2025, the Governor of Gitega province, Mr. Venant Manirambona, called on the region's natives to become more involved in strategic sectors such as mining, agri-food processing and tourism, at the exchange of good wishes ceremonies organized by the provincial administration in Gitega political capital.

The ceremonies, organized by the provincial administration, enabled participants to take stock of

achievements, identify challenges and establish prospects for the future. According to the Governor of Gitega province, Mr. Venant Manirambona, this meeting is an opportunity for collective self-assessment, essential for the province's progress.

In his speech, he welcomed the progress made in various areas, notably in the agri-pastoral, health and infrastructure sectors. However, he also acknowledged that certain strategic sectors, such as mining and agri-food processing plants, remain underdeveloped. "The development of these sectors is crucial to our province's economy. He invited all Gitega's natives to take a greater interest in them, to transform these challenges into opportunities".

To enhance the attractiveness of Gitega province as a political capital, Mr. Venant Manirambona also encouraged natives to invest in modern tourist and hotel infrastructures. In his view, these initiatives would not only help to restore the province's image, but also attract more visitors.

On behalf of the natives of Gitega province, Prosper Dodiko, Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Livestock, expressed his satisfaction at the ceremony. He shared the Governor's vision, stressing the importance of investing in the mining and agri-food processing sectors, while emphasizing that these areas

represent enormous potential for the province.

The New Year wish exchange ceremonies brought together natives from all origins, highlighting the need to unite efforts to move the province forward. (RTNB)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation

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