



## Opening Mass of the National Prayer: Burundians called to justice and perfection



thank the Lord for his benefits granted to Burundi during the year 2022 but also ask to grant more blessings for the year 2023.

In his homily, the Bishop clarified that the opening of this prayer coincides with the feast of St Stephen in the Catholic Church, who died because of his faith and his justice. He thus invited the authorities and everyone to seek justice and perfection in

Since monday december 26, 2022, the Vumbi commune in Kirundo province has hosted the activities of the National Prayer of thanksgiving organized on the occasion of the end of the year 2022. This National Prayer began with a Mass celebrated at Gasura Parish by the Bishop of the Diocese of Musinga Mgr Joachim Ntahondereye. The President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye and the First Lady Her Excellency Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE and other authorities took part in this Eucharistic celebration.

The Bishop of the Diocese of Musinga Mgr Joachim Ntahondereye who led over the opening Mass of the national prayer of thanksgiving told the faithful that the objective is to

order to always be under the protection of the divine hand, as recommended by the general theme of the national prayer.

During the Mass, the First Lady and the Head of State sent intentions to the Lord. The First Lady prayed for the Head of State, cohesion in households, harmony between parents and children, she asked for the divine blessing on the whole country, in particular a good climate.

The Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye for his part implored divine grace to carry out development programs, he asked that the Lord grant Burundians a heart full of love, devoid of hypocrisy. He also prayed for peace in the region and in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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## President Ndayishimiye encourages Burundian leaders to do what is right and good in all circumstances



**O**n tuesday december 27, 2022, the 2nd day of the National Prayer of Thanksgiving, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, in the morning, held a session of spiritual moralization for high dignitaries and different leaders on the central theme "The hand of God remains on the good servant" drawn in Acts 9: 36-39.

During this session, the Burundian Number One encouraged these leaders to implore divine wisdom in order to have the courage to do what is right and good in all circumstances although some may disagree.

"God created you for some mission, you have to discover this mission and try to fulfill it," he suggested, reminded that the national prayer organized each year gives the opportunity to everyone, in particular the leaders to make a self-criticism in order to work properly so that they contribute to making Burundi a country of milk and honey.

The Burundian President also stressed that a good leader or leader must live in and according to justice, must be guided by a spirit of compassion towards the poor and walk with God in all humility.

In the first part of these teachings, Father Célestin NKEZABAHIZI, for his part, reminded that it is through actions that we recognize a good servant. He thus invited the leaders to build peace around them and to love all the people he is called to serve without distinction. ([www.presidence.bi](http://www.presidence.bi))

## The Head of State closes the National Prayer of thanksgiving with a message of hope



**T**he six days of National Prayer of thanksgiving which was held in Vumbi Commune in the Province of Kirundo ended on saturday december 31, 2022 with a message of hope delivered by the Head of State, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, which gives hope to the deliverance of Burundi again. In this closing message, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye also blessed the country

he governs and its people by reminding them to always be guided by the sense of "Ubuntu" and patriotism.

"Develop the love of work because it is through your labor that God will fulfill his promise on Burundi", hinted the President of the Republic before directing the final prayer during which he implored God to support Burundi especially at this time when he chairs the East African Community and to ensure that the climate of peace and tranquility that reigns in Burundi affects all of East Africa, particularly the North Kivu region of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Note that the National Prayer of thanksgiving was organized under the theme: "The Hand of God rests on the good servant" taken from Acts 9:36-43, as reminded by Rev. Dieudonné Nsavyimana, preacher of the day.

It should also be noted that the natives of Kirundo Province took this opportunity to express their gratitude to the Head of State for this prayer held in their province. They donated cows and other goods to him. ([www.presidence.bi](http://www.presidence.bi))

## President Ndayishimiye asks Burundians to pray for the restoration of peace in the EAC



Closing the third day of the National Prayer of thanksgiving, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye asked his compatriots to pray for the restoration of peace in all the countries of the East African Community so that the people

go about development activities.

"I am confident that the peace that reigns in Burundi will gradually spread throughout the region", declared the President of the Republic, stressing that the recovery of peace throughout the region would be beneficial at a time when Burundi is ensuring the

presidency of this organization.

It was an opportunity for the Burundian Number One to testify to the love and protection of God throughout the year on Burundi and the Burundian people: "I will never be ashamed to testify the goodness of God, I saw him act for our country. He is the source of our hope," he said.

He urges the population to get rid of inequities in order to restore the rule of law in Burundi where all citizens will live in peace.

Inspired by the theme of the prayer "the hand of God remains on the just", the Apostle Isidore Mbayahaga called for the unfailing support of the actions of the Head of State which aim to raise the country socio-economically: "God will not tolerate those who drag the country down," he said. ([www.presidence.bi](http://www.presidence.bi))

## The Head of State reacts to the concerns of the population in a public broadcast held in Kirundo



On Friday December 30, 2022, the President of the Republic

His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye hosted a public program broadcast live on all the channels broadcasting on the national territory from the Province of Kirundo where he answered various questions from journalists and the population relative to national life.

Before presenting the general situation of the country in all areas, the Burundian Number One first thanked the Lord for the peace and security that reigns in the country and took this opportunity to wish all citizens living in Burundi to happy New Year.

Reacting to the question related to the soaring prices of basic necessities, the Head of State explained

that the drop in agricultural production is linked to fertilizers which were not suitable for certain crops such as rice. Castigating the behavior of those who sell their crops fraudulently to border countries, he urged people to adapt by producing profitable crops in a short time:

"Increasing production is the best solution to the problem of soaring food prices," he insisted, reiterating his appeal to the entire population to get down to work.

In the field of health, President Evariste Ndayishimiye reassures the Burundian population about the Covid-19 pandemic, the spread of which has significantly decreased. Consequential measures adapted to the evolution of the situation are being studied, he said.

On the politico-security aspect, President Evariste Ndayishimiye reminded his attachment to dialogue and peace and that, as such, exchanges with the UN are underway to raise awareness of the return to the fold of Burundians who claim to be from the opposition: "We are ready to welcome Burundians who have fled the country and help them in their social reintegration. However, those who have committed crimes will be prosecuted and held accountable for their actions,"

he stressed.

On the diplomatic side, the Burundian Number One is delighted that Burundi has been able to regain the confidence of the regional and international community. He reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening diplomatic ties, in particular by contributing to the return of peace and stability in the region.

Speaking on the decision of the criminal court of the East African Community on the putschists of 2015, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye signified that Burundi is no longer a member of this court since 2017 and that the decisions of this court don't affect Burundi at all: "Burundi is a sovereign country which has its own judicial authorities", he specified.

In the mining sector, the Head of State indicated that the government has taken measures to better regulate it after having noted that the wealth of the Burundian basement was only benefiting a handful of people instead of contributing to recovery economy of the country:

"Minerals are part of the state heritage. Any plot that

will be identified with a rich subsoil will be directly made available to the State and its owner will be compensated," said the Burundian President.

Faced with galloping demography, President Ndayishimiye says that after the results of the upcoming census, the Government of Burundi will define policies relating to birth control to find lasting solutions, particularly to land disputes.

Regarding the detainees who have benefited from the presidential pardon but who have not yet been released, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye indicates that the process has been slowed down by speculation that has been mixed up in it. However, he reassures that the prisoners concerned by this decision will be released soon.

Regarding the shortage of travel documents, the Minister of the Interior and Public Security, Mr. Martin Niterets, present at this program, acknowledged that currently the demand is greater than the supply. He reassured that the services in charge are working to make these documents available at the beginning of this year.

([www.presidence.bi](http://www.presidence.bi))

### Prime Minister deplores low gold production during 6 months of trial period



**O**n tuesday december 27, 2022, the Prime Minister Lieutenant General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca held a meeting to assess the activities of cooperatives working in the mining sector.

In this meeting, the Prime Minister deplores the golden production of registered during the trial period of 6 months. Only 44 kg of gold were sold at the counter of the Bank of the Republic of Burundi. The Prime Minis-

ter urged gold miners to change their behavior of selling minerals fraudulently in neighboring countries. He indicated that they are considered enemies of the country.

After noting the low gold production, Prime Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca ordered the automatic suspension of activities for the cooperatives of gold miners who did not sell any quantity of gold. The cooperatives which recorded more than one kg of gold of sale are renewed in their activities.

Prime Minister Lieutenant General of Police Gervais Ndirakobuca also recommended the establishment of a committee to deal with issues that

haunt the activities of gold miners and which will be made up of administrative officials, law enforcement, the Burundian Office of Mines and Quarries (OBM), as well as members of dynamic artisanal gold miners' cooperatives. The cooperatives of gold miners who are suspended are asked to restore the land they have exploited to its initial state, added Prime Minister Gervais Ndirakobuca. ([www.presidence.bi](http://www.presidence.bi))

### The Ambassador of the Popular Republic of Bangladesh to Burundi bids farewell



**O**n december 30, 2022, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation Mr. Ferdinand Bashikako received in audience the Ambassador of the Popular Republic of Bangladesh to Burundi H.E Mr. Md.Nazrul Islam who came to bid farewell and discuss the continuation of bilateral relations between Burundi and his country.

In his speech, H.E Mr. Md.Nazrul Islam indicated that the reason for his visit was to announce that his term as Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Burundi was over. Despite his departure, H.E Mr. Md.Nazrul Islam promised that he will contribute, through his successor, to the multifaceted projects of the People's Republic of Bangladesh multiplying in Burundi. He also promised that he will make every effort to encourage investors from his country to come and invest in Burundi in various fields, mostly in agriculture. In turn, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation welcomed the cooperation between the Popular Republic of Bangladesh and Burundi. He indicated that the Government of Burundi is satisfied with this bilateral cooperation. Mr. Ferdinand Bashikako also welcomed the promises made by H.E Mr. Md.Nazrul Islam.(MFADC)

### Soon, a house of culture will be built in Giheta commune



**O**n tuesday december 29, 2022, the Ministry of East African Community Affairs, Youth, Sports and Culture organized in the capital of Gitega province a workshop for administrators and communal councilors to make them aware of the importance and stages of the project to build a cultural centre. This house will be built in Kabanga zone, Giheta commune of Gitega province.

In her speech opening the activities of the workshop, on behalf of the Minister in charge of culture, the adviser in charge of political affairs in the Minister's office, Mrs. Rose Nzobambona informed about the progress of the preparations for this among other things, the delimitation of the space, the identification of the parcels which will be covered by the compensation and the model of this infrastructure. This house of culture will be intended to collect cultural games and promote the Rundi language, teach and promote cultural dances. The house will also have the mission of preserving all the marks of old Burundi or the Burundian tradition. ([www.rtnb.bi](http://www.rtnb.bi))

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
and  
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