



President Ndayishimiye hosted a public broadcast from Cankuzo



On Friday December 29, 2023, the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, surrounded by his Ministers, hosted, at the Amahoro Stadium in the Kigamba commune, in the province of Cankuzo, a public broadcast where he responded live to all stations, to the questions from the journalists and the population on site, by telephone or through the social networks. The Head of State began the public broadcast by wishing the best wishes to the Burundian population wherever they are for the year 2024, which begins in a few days. He strongly condemned the attacks perpetrated by the armed group RED-TABARA, and took the opportunity to call on the population to consolidate peace and security in order to achieve the Vision

of an Emerging Burundi in 2040-Burundi Developed in 2060. President Ndayishimiye denounced the psychological warfare in the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). He thus discouraged certain communications which advocate the civil spirit within the armed forces, because that would sooner or later contravene the security of the country. The Burundian Number One also dedicated the year 2024, a year of the household development through the agro-pastoral activities, and called on the agronomists to fully play their supervisory role to achieve this objective. President Ndayishimiye wanted to discourage the bad habits of idleness, theft or fraud, fraud, lies, corruption, etc. Rather, he encouraged the patriotism, solidarity, trust, sharing, good education of children, respect for good morals, and the peaceful resolution of the conflicts. He answered the several other questions related to the purchase of the fuel, chemical fertilizers, and medicines, the composition of the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), fair salary policy, free care for children under five years and pregnant women, good governance, etc. **(Presidency)**

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President Ndayishimiye closes the Thanksgiving crusade with a prayer for the Nation



On Saturday December 30, 2023, the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye closed the National Prayer of Thanksgiving which lasted five days at the Buhumuza Stadium in the capital of the province of Cankuzo, with a prayer to the Nation where he implored the Almighty to continue to bless Burundi and its people.

During these closing ceremonies this prayer was organized under the theme: "Let him who stole steal no more; but rather that he works, doing with his hands what is good, in order to have something to give to those who are in need. » taken from Ephesians 4:28,

His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, through the testimonies, showed that the solid construction of the country requires above all the unity of its people, good governance at all levels, good management of wealth households, thus reflecting the good management of the country's affairs.

Inspired by the holy scriptures taken from Daniel 11:32, Pastor Claver NDAYISENGA for his part had, in his teachings of the morning, insisted on assiduity at work, the harms of laziness and the fidelity which must characterize all leaders, each in their sector, on the path that leads Burundi towards its emergence in 2040; its development in 2060

As for the Apostle Isidore MBAYAHAGA who preached on respect for Institutions, he based himself on the Holy Scriptures taken from Isaiah 1:19-20, where he recalled that Authority is sacred and invites citizens to have trust in her and support her.

Note that during those ceremonies, the natives of the Cankuzo Province expressed their gratitude to the Head of State for that prayer held in their province where they made a donation of 5 cows, 5 sheep and other goods. President Ndayishimiye for his part offered 3 cows as a sign of thanks to the Province of Cankuzo, through the choir of the Catholic skating rink of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus of Cankuzo. **(Presidency)**

The Head of State calls on the citizens to awaken the patriotic spirit to boost the socio-economic development of Burundi



On Thursday December 28, 2023, during the fourth day of the National Prayer of Thanksgiving which is held at the Ruhumuza stadium in the Province of Cankuzo, the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, in his preaching, was based on the Holy Scriptures taken from in the book of Judges 5:7 where he called on Burundian citizens to awaken a patriotic spirit by highlighting hard work to boost the socio-

economic development of their country. To Burundian youth, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye urged them to love school which is the key to development.

Note that previously, the Apostle Kévin Sibomana, in his preaching, had preached on respect for Institutions where he urged Burundians, particularly leaders in different sectors, to be wary of theft or any kind of fraud which undermines the development of the country.

Her Excellency the First Lady Her Excellency Angéline Ndayishimiye for her part, First Lady of Burundi provided, on the morning of this Friday, lessons for leaders where she called on them to love and respect their leaders. **(Presidency)**

Continuation of the National Thanksgiving Prayer: President Ndayishimiye urges the Burundians in avoiding laziness



On Thursday December 28, 2023, organized under the theme: "Let him who stole steal no more; but rather let him labor, doing with his hands that which is good, that he may have means to give to him that is in need," taken from Ephesians 4:28, the National Prayer of Thanksgiving which stands at Cankuzo saw the participation, of the Presidential Couple, various high dignitaries, senior executives and executives from the different corners of the country, as well as a crowd of the population of Cankuzo.

During the teachings for the young people at the start of the day, the President of the Republic of Burundi His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye urged them to get down to work, to have an alert con-

science and to avoid laziness. In those lessons learned in Proverbs 20:30-34, the Head of State urged them to get down to work, to have an awakened conscience for the development of their country.

After that session for the young people, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye also gave the lessons to the Leaders where He challenged them to change their mentalities and serve as an example by working hard for the development of the country in order to achieve an emerging Burundi in 2040.

Note that before, the leaders had also followed the teachings of the Apostle Apollinaire HABONIMANA where he insisted on the development and wise use of the gifts received from the Almighty to develop Burundi in righteousness.

That prayer continued in the afternoon with the preaching of Reverend Pastor Clavier NDAYISENGA who, for his part, preached on fidelity, transparency and trust.

The Head of State ended the day by testifying on the benefits that the Lord has done for Burundi. He thanked God for protecting him and his family and for guiding Burundi during the presidency of the East African Community. **(Presidency)**

President Ndayishimiye calls on the Burundians to get down to work to boost development



The activities of the National Thanksgiving Prayer continued on that second day of Wednesday December 27, 2023, at the Ruhumuza Stadium in Cankuzo where President Ndayishimiye calls on the Burundians to get down

to work to boost development.

In his teachings, the Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye spoke of the diligent work that must characterize any leader. He also called on Burundians to get down to work, especially income-generating activities to boost their development.

The Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, in the morning, was surrounded by other High Personalities of the country during a teaching session for the leaders, first given by the Parish Priest Muyaga Abbot Aloys CAMBARA who preached on the good leadership qualities. He based himself on the Holy Scriptures taken from Thessalonians 3:6-15.

The second teaching session was led by Cheikh Ramadan NDIKUMANA who, for his part, called on the Burundians to fight against laziness, to mercilessly com-

bat theft in all its forms, in order to be able to achieve an emerging Burundi in 2040 and developed in 2060. He further called on the Burundians to fight against adultery.

In the afternoon, President Evariste Ndayishimiye, accompanied by the First Lady Her Excellency Angeline Ndayishimiye, other high authorities and the population attentively followed the preaching of Pastor Johnson NSABIMANA which was based on the theme taken

from Ephesians 4:28 where he preached about fighting theft and corruption.

Closing the day of Prayer, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi testified on the blessings that God gave to his family and the country during the year 2023. He also appreciated the preaching of Pastor Janson NSABIMANA on the fight against the theft of the public property. **(Presidency)**

The Burundian President urges the leaders to repent and break with the bad practices of theft and corruption that undermine the country's development



Since Tuesday December 26, 2023, it has been held in the capital of the Cankuzo province a five-day National Prayer of Thanksgiving under the leadership of the President of the Republic His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, surrounded by his family and several other High Personalities of the country. During that prayer which began with a Mass celebrated at the Parish of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus of Cankuzo, the Father of the Nation His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, in his intention, prayed for Burundi and the Burundians by asking God to give the population the courage, the spirit of solidarity and love of work to be able to raise the country's economy. In his homily, Monsignor Blaise NZEYIMANA, Bishop of the Diocese of Ruyigi, during that Eucharistic celebration which coincided with the celebration of Saint Stephen, invited the Christians, particularly the leaders of the country to be characterized by good morals and to pray for the leaders.

In the afternoon, the Presidential Couple opened the parade marking the start of the crusades of that prayer at the Buhumuza Stadium, a parade which saw the participation of the High Personalities of the country and a crowd of the population of the Cankuzo Province, followed with the opening prayer by the First Lady, Her Excellency Angeline NDAYISHIMIYE. The First Lady glorified the Almighty for his goodness and invited the population abandon the old mentalities and walk in the presence of God.

The Thanksgiving Prayer continued with the preaching of Reverend Pastor Denise NKURUNZIZA who called on the Burundians to be wary of any bad act, including theft. Drawing on the Prayer theme from Ephesians 4:28: "Let him who stole steal no more; but rather let him work, doing with his hands what is good, to have something to give to those who are in need"; The Head of State His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye urged leaders to change their mentality, repent of bad practices of theft and corruption to develop the country and restore the country's image.

On the sidelines of that prayer, the Head of State officially inaugurated the Cankuzo Presidential Gîte in Cankuzo, rehabilitated and equipped after the several years. The ceremonies began with a moment of blessing of the premises, guided by the bishop of the diocese of Ruyigi. Note that on the morning of Tuesday December 26, 2023, when he was passing through Ruyigi towards Cankuzo for the National Thanksgiving Prayer, the Father of the Nation His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye was warmly welcomed by the population of the locality which had run joyfully to meet him. **(Presidency)**

The Senate adopts the bill revising the General State Budget for the 2023-2024 financial year

On Wednesday December 27, 2023, the Burundian Senate met in plenary session in its Gitega hemicycle, to analyze and adopt the

Bill revising the General State Budget for the 2023-2024 financial year.

The Minister of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning



Mr. Audace Niyonzima was the guest of the Senate to defend that bill.

In his explanatory memorandum, Minister Niyonzima indicated that the budget review will serve as a tool for alignment with the performance criteria of the program based on budgetary exchanges with all institutions.

As for the principles taken into account in establishing the state budget for the remaining period of the 2023-2024 financial year, he cited the ban on introducing new activities, the cancellation of activities for which appropriations are not committed, the suspension of construction or rehabilitation of infrastructure on which work has not yet started to reprogram them in the 2024-2025 budget.

In addition, the funds disbursed and not consumed are reallocated to other activities, he continued. The Minister indicated that other modifications in the revised budget relate to the reduction of taxes applied on sugar in order to make it available and accessible as well as the increase in taxes (from 100% to 200%) on champagnes and liquors classified as luxury goods.

Closing, the Minister in charge of Finance, Mr. Audace Niyonzima, explained that the revised draft budget reveals a deficit of BIF 426.3 billion compared to BIF 685.1 billion in the initial 2023-2024 budget.

The budget deficit thus increases from 6.1% in the initial budget to 3.8% in the revised budget. He also specified that the budget deficit presented by the

revised budget will be financed through the net domestic debt of 278,289,594,166 billion BIF through drawings on treasury securities as well as financing from the central bank to the tune of 10 % of revenue excluding donations from the previous financial year, i.e. a maximum of BIF 165.4 billion. The deficit will also be financed by net external drawings in the form of loans of 148.1 billion, he added.

After the presentation, the senators addressed various questions relating to the state budget to the Minister in charge of Finance. Among these is the delay in unlocking the career and fictitious advancements in institutions with special statuses while the present bill provides for a budget line of fifteen billion Burundian francs allocated to this and a related decree has been issued since the beginning of November.

In relation to that question, the Minister Mr. Audace Niyonzima clarified that alongside the commission set up to make the calculations which is still at work, there is still a lack of the texts accompanying the decree which specify the modalities of advancement grades, steps and other allowances in the same way for all the institutions concerned. Hence, he added, this subject will be included among the subjects on the agenda of the council of ministers scheduled for next week.

Speaking on that subject, the President of the Senate Right Honorable Emmanuel Sinzohagera condemned the carelessness observed in the services concerned with monitoring that process. He recommended to the Minister in charge of Finance to devote all the necessary seriousness to it, to implement the measure of unfreezing the annals in the above-mentioned institutions, in order to avoid the frustrations observed among the staff of these institutions. Other questions asked of the Minister found answers relating to that.

After the clarifications from Minister Audace Niyonzima to the questions from the Senators, the latter adopted this bill. **(Presidency)**

The Ministry of Public Health welcomes the involvement of the civil society in vaccination

On Thursday December 28, 2023, the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS through its expanded vaccination program (EPI) organized, in Gitega, an

exchange workshop with the civil society organizations involved in vaccination.

Doctor Bellejoie-Louise Iriwacu, Deputy Technical Director of the EPI program indicated that the workshop



was organized to discuss the approaches and results achieved in routine vaccination thanks to the contribution of civil society organizations in their interventions in the promotion of vaccination.

Doctor Bellejoie-Louise Iriwacu agrees by saying that vaccination coverage is satisfactory in the country and that Burundi's expanded vaccination program is one of the most efficient programs in the region, with other African countries and even the countries of the world.

According to the Deputy Technical Director at the EPI, the vaccination coverage is good even if there are a few children who remain in the communities who have

not received all the antigens planned in Burundi's vaccination schedule.

Doctor Bellejoie-Louise Iriwacu, Deputy Technical Director at EPI, indicated that when they started working with civil society organizations, there was an improvement in vaccination coverage in Burundi.

She reported that in health districts that are supported by civil society organizations there is an increase in the rate of fully vaccinated children.

However, Doctor Bellejoie-Louise Iriwacu deplored that there are some communities which are hostile to the vaccination. He cited, among other things, religious sects such as the followers of a certain Euzebie and those called the Basohoke, the Batwa community, homeless people, and so on.

Doctor Bellejoie-Louise Iriwacu called on the Burundians not to be distracted by the false information which tells them that the vaccination is to harm the population, causes sterility and that it is a sin.

She asked the parents to vaccinate their children because the vaccination is one of the strategies for improving the health of the population starting with the health of the child. (RTNB)

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