Three newly appointed commissioners to Rwanda’s National Commission for Human Rights have outlined plans to strengthen public awareness of human rights, investigate challenges affecting different groups and follow up complaints after taking office on November 2.

Nyiragwaneza Athanasie, Bangayandusha Viateur and Umutoni Aissa took their oaths before Chief Justice Domitilla Mukantaganzwa, formally beginning their work at the commission.



The commissioners identified public education, research and engagement with institutions as areas where they intend to contribute. Their responsibilities include monitoring, promoting and protecting human rights in Rwanda.

Bangayandusha, who previously taught law at the Institute of Legal Practice and Development, said he would draw on his experience to help people understand the rights provided for under Rwandan law and international conventions ratified by the country.

He also said the commission should research specific human-rights challenges affecting different groups and work with government institutions and other stakeholders to identify solutions.

Nyiragwaneza, a former member of Parliament, said her experience in public institutions would help her understand how those institutions operate and follow up issues affecting the enjoyment of rights.

She said the commissioners would receive and follow up complaints, advocate for human rights and provide input on legislation where necessary. She also identified public education and training, particularly for women and persons with disabilities, as areas requiring attention.

Umutoni was already working at the commission before taking the oath, while the other two commissioners bring experience in parliamentary work and legal education.

Speaking at the swearing-in ceremony, Mukantaganzwa said the oath represented a commitment to Rwanda and its people. She urged the commissioners to carry out their responsibilities with integrity and dedication.

She said their backgrounds in public administration, law and decision-making could strengthen the commission’s work.

The Senate approved the three commissioners on October 29, following consideration by its committees.