

On October 31, 2024, Rwanda observed the International Day of Democracy, underscoring its commitment to a governance system that prioritizes the needs and voices of its citizens.

The event featured remarks from prominent leaders, including Senate President Dr. François Xavier Kalinda, who reaffirmed Rwanda's dedication to a democracy that fosters development and peace. This year's theme, "30 Years: The Fruits of Good Governance Promoting Democracy and Technology," highlighted the significant progress made since the end of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi.

Dr. Kalinda stated, "After the halt of the genocide, Rwandans made a significant decision to rebuild good governance that looks toward the future, prioritizing Rwandan unity and establishing structures that place the citizen at the center." He added, "We have chosen to build a governance system that emphasizes the needs of the citizens. Our democracy reflects the choices of Rwandans, who strive to live in peace and security while achieving development and a good quality of life."

Dr. Usta Kaitezi, Chairperson of the Political and Governance Commission in the Senate, highlighted the vital role of technology in enhancing service delivery and empowering citizens. She reported that recent research by the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) revealed a 90% approval rating for democratic principles among citizens, compared to just 74.4% in 2013. Kaitezi remarked, "Technology has facilitated the services provided to citizens, enabling many to recognize the principles of democracy."

The gathering included members from both chambers of Parliament, representatives from the National Consultative Forum of Political Organizations, and various stakeholders, all engaged in discussions about advancing democracy in Rwanda.

As Rwanda moves forward, its leaders remain committed to fostering a governance system that reflects the aspirations of its people and ensures a peaceful and prosperous future for all.