Rwandan peacekeepers serving under the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) have been awarded prestigious UN medals in recognition of their dedication, professionalism, and commitment to protecting civilians and supporting peace efforts in South Sudan.

The colourful medal ceremony took place yesterday at the UN Base Camp in Malakal, Upper Nile State, where members of the Rwandan battalion, known as RWANBATT-2, were celebrated for their role in peacekeeping operations in one of the country's most fragile and volatile regions.

Speaking during the ceremony, UNMISS Force Commander Maj. Gen. Junhui Wu praised the Rwandan contingent for its discipline, resilience, and unwavering commitment to international peace and security.

"The medals you receive today symbolize the trust of the United Nations and the international community," Maj. Gen. Wu said. "They reflect your courage, resilience, and professionalism in a complex and demanding operational environment. Since your deployment, you have consistently demonstrated high standards of operational readiness, discipline, and teamwork in your area of responsibility."

He added that the contingent had maintained a strong security presence, helped protect civilians, supported humanitarian access, and upheld the values of the UN mission with distinction.

Rwanda's Senior National Representative in South Sudan, Col. Emmanuel Kanobayire, also commended the troops for carrying out their duties with determination despite operational challenges on the ground.

He noted that the medals represented far more than the completion of service.

"They symbolize sacrifice, commitment, courage, and devotion to the principles of international peacekeeping," Col. Kanobayire said.

The ceremony was attended by senior UNMISS officials, military officers, and representatives from various peacekeeping contingents operating across Upper Nile State.