

The Speaker of Rwanda's Chamber of Deputies, Gertrude Kazarwa, has praised the contribution of Rwandans living abroad, saying their continued engagement is vital to the country's development.

Kazarwa made the remarks on April 16 during a visit to Brazzaville, where she met with members of the Rwandan community in the Republic of Congo. She was accompanied by Senator Evode Uwizeyimana and Member of Parliament Alice Muzana.

Addressing the gathering, Kazarwa thanked the diaspora for their unity and commitment to preserving Rwandan cultural values. She acknowledged their growing role in national progress and referred to them as Rwanda's "sixth province" — a unique but essential pillar of unity and development.

"We thank you for remaining loyal to Rwanda, for protecting and advancing it wherever you are," Kazarwa said. "You are the sixth province of Rwanda, strong in unity and development. Continue to strive for greater achievements."



Senator Evode Uwizeyimana

Rwandans living in Congo Brazzaville cited their involvement in a range of community-driven initiatives, including sponsoring health insurance for vulnerable families, supporting the "Cana Challenge" clean energy campaign by BRD, and contributing to the "Dusangire Lunch" program, which provides school meals for children.

During the meeting, participants were briefed on the role of Rwanda's Parliament, including its mandate to legislate, oversee government operations, and represent citizens.

Uwizeyimana and Muzana encouraged the diaspora to remain actively involved in governance and development, emphasizing the importance of civic participation beyond Rwanda's borders.



Member of Parliament Alice Muzana

Members of the diaspora welcomed the engagement, expressing gratitude for being consulted by their parliamentary representatives and reaffirming their commitment to contribute to Rwanda's growth through business investments, cultural promotion and innovative ideas.

Kazarwa's visit coincided with the 16th Conference of Speakers of Francophone Parliaments, which she attended as part of her official duties.

According to the National Bank of Rwanda, remittances from the diaspora continue to play a significant role in the economy. In 2024, Rwandans living abroad sent home \$502 million, a slight drop from \$505 million in 2023.

The trend reflects steady growth over the past few years, with remittances totaling \$274 million in 2020, \$379 million in 2021, and \$461 million in 2022.