

PART VI

A CULTURAL POLICY THAT GUARANTEES ACCESS TO THE CREATION AND ENJOYMENT OF CULTURE

6.1 The democratic state

The democratic State bears fundamental responsibility for cultural democracy, but it can only be built by combining the State's action with collective and individual participation and creativity.

Cultural democracy is a factor of political democracy whose potential can only emerge if the population's professional training and cultural life are extended and enhanced. It is a factor of economic democracy, of development and modernisation because it qualifies the main productive force: human labour. It is a factor of social democracy because it is a form of increased participation in society's life, on the part of those workers, social classes and groups most vitally interested in democracy. It is a factor of national sovereignty because it helps to build up a national identity, in an open and active process, interacting with world culture.

The cultural policy which the **RPP - IMVURA** submits to the Rwanda people consists of the true exercise of their cultural rights, of creating conditions for the full development of individuals' and of society's cultural values. It is based on, and aims at, raising the level of creative participation of working people and citizens generally, as well as of their organisations, in the various spheres of social life. It also aims at teaching democratic values.

In today's world, and also in Rwanda, culture is increasingly important in the life of society.

The cultural democracy which the **RPP - IMVURA** advocates is inseparable from democracy in its political, economic and social dimensions - the latter being material pre-conditions essential for the attainment of a cultural democracy. Being rooted in society's movement and constituting a component of people's life, cultural democracy is one of the factors for the transformation of society. The exercise of cultural rights and the struggle for their general implementation and reinforcement are factors for democracy as a whole.

The cultural democracy which the **RPP - IMVURA** advocates includes:

Making it possible for everyone to enjoy cultural products and activities, eliminating all economic, social, sex and regional discrimination in the access to knowledge and cultural activities:

1. Building up a progressive social consciousness which will uphold the humanistic values of Freedom, Equality, Tolerance, Solidarity, Democracy and Peace;
2. Acknowledging and enhancing the social function of those who work in the cultural sphere and of their organisations, constantly improving their training and working conditions, as well as providing effective support for young artists;
3. Supporting the free development of popular forms of creating and enjoying culture, of cultural association and cultural life, recognising and enhancing their dynamic role in the formation of a national identity;

4. Creating the indispensable material and spiritual conditions for the development of cultural creation, production, dissemination and enjoyment, rejecting their subordination to commercial criteria and taking into account scientific controversy and the diversity of aesthetic opinions.

6.2 The cultural policy

The main cultural policy guidelines are:

1. Free cultural expression and enhancement of individual capabilities and raising the population's level of knowledge and cultural requirements;
2. Eradication of complete illiteracy and struggle against functional illiteracy;
3. A school system undergoing change towards development and modernisation, towards cultural emancipation and democratic teaching methods, leading to continuing education; a school system supported and made possible, in its cultural function, by other means of training and socio-cultural agents, ranging from scientific, technical and artistic institutions, to the mass media and community organisations;
4. A policy to enhance the cultural and social role of scientific and technological development;
5. Expansion of artistic learning and education, and of social and cultural activities;
6. A physical education and sports policy viewed as a means of human enhancement and a factor of personality development and democratisation of social life;
7. Environmental, land use and urban policies allowing for a daily life of peace and well-being, for the existence of places where people can get together and enjoy their leisure time, respecting the preservation of natural and cultural heritage as well as of urban areas of historic value;
8. The enhancement of the mass media's cultural role, with more accurate and better quality information, with the encouragement, integration and promotion of literary, artistic, scientific and cultural production, taking into account the specific nature of each medium;
9. Safeguard, study and publications of the cultural heritage, be it national, regional or local, erudite or popular, traditional or current;
10. Interchange with the other peoples of Africa and the world, opening up to and creatively incorporating Humanity's fundamental cultural values, struggle against cultural colonisation, international promotion of the Rwandan culture and language, in close cooperation with the other countries that use the Rwandan language.
11. The cultural democracy which the **RPP - IMVURA** submits to the Rwandan people is a factor of individual, social and national emancipation, a factor of multi-faceted development of the individual and of society, a powerful incentive to dialogue and national reconciliation among Rwandan.