

PART V

A SOCIAL POLICY TO PROVIDE BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS FOR THE PEOPLE

5.1 Social Policy

The main goals of social policy in the Rwanda democracy proposed by the **RPP - IMVURA** are providing better material and spiritual living conditions for workers and the vast majority of the Rwandan people, and eliminating the most serious social inequalities and injustices, as well as the scourges of sectarian, racism, unemployment, poverty, prostitution, drugs and crime, thus ensuring for the Rwandan people living standards and material and cultural welfare according to the possibilities and potential arising out of the productive forces' contemporary level of development.

The **RPP - IMVURA** will enforce compulsory complimentary education for out-of-school children and develop retention rates in primary, secondary and tertiary level education. It will also provide access to quality rehabilitation services, especially to victims of sexual violence and HIV-positive persons. It will establish trauma and psychological programmes that will promote effective safety nets for the protection of the most vulnerable groups. The party's social policy will create housing schemes for vulnerable people such as orphans, widows, **Abatwa (TWAS)**, returnees and internally displaced people. A social policy to provide a livelihood for orphans and vulnerable children that will protect them against gender-based violence and formulation and implementation of gender-sensitive social and economic policy in favour of the poor and disadvantaged groups such as the **TWAS** will be one of the party's cornerstones. The **RPP - IMVURA** social policy will support initiatives to build sustainable micro-economy, small and medium enterprises and other income-generating activities through capacity building, and empowerment. It will provide access to internal and external markets and prioritise self-sufficiency and poverty alleviation. In addition, the **RPP - IMVURA** will put into place special initiatives to address the needs of those who have experienced physical injuries through civil wars, injuries that may have resulted in all forms of disabilities mental or physical disabilities. **RPP - IMVURA** will provide ample support to communities across Rwanda targeting the disadvantaged ageing genocide survivors, the youth, and other victims of civil wars through:

- A social policy to provide a livelihood for orphans and vulnerable children that will protect them against gender-based violence. Formulation and implementation of gender-sensitive social and economic policy in favour of the poor and disadvantaged groups will be one of the party's cornerstones.
- A policy essential to promote social, economic and cultural rights that is effective to motivate young people to effective personal and professional fulfilments. The **RPP - IMVURA** social policy will promote and guarantee healthy and ecologically balanced environment as an essential condition for the physical and psychological equilibrium of future generations.
- Healthcare policies that will incorporate scientific and technological advances, health promotion, prevent diseases and provide for rehabilitation. Strongly to emphasise on providing advice on family planning and contraceptives to all women young, old and the vulnerable women across the country.

- A social policy that promotes children to harmonious development, respect for their individual identity that is essential to a happy childhood which is a pre-condition for the formation of physically, intellectually and emotionally healthy citizens.
- A social policy that guarantees rights of elderly and retired people and pensioners, through a specific policy that takes into account their aspirations, with a view to provide them with a dignified life, security into old age, and full integration and participation in society.
- A social policy that will empower disabled persons to leading an independent and socially useful life, suppressing the barriers that prevent their integration in society with full citizenship rights.

5.2 The social rights of working people and of all citizens are viewed as fundamental rights, and are part and parcel of the advanced democracy proposed to the Rwandan people by the **RPP - IMVURA**

The following shall be guaranteed as essential social rights:

- **Right to employment;**
- **Right to health care;**
- **Right to education and schooling, to culture and sports;**
- **Right to a home;**
- **Right to a healthy and ecologically balanced environment;**
- **Right to protection and security for communities;**
- **Equality for women;**
- **Right to personal and professional satisfaction for young people;**
- **Right of children to harmonious development;**
- **Right to a dignified life for elderly persons and pensioners;**
- **Right of disabled people to a life integrated within society;**
- **Right of immigrants and ethnic minorities to have their interests protected.**

The implementation and effective materialisation of these essential social rights are necessary to ensure a dignified existence for all citizens and to achieve a fairer society.

5.2.1 The right to employment is essential for citizens to be able to enjoy their economic, social and cultural rights, and for their formation, free development and personal satisfaction. Inseparable elements of the right to employment are fair pay, job security, health and safety at work, training, and the physical and psychological well-being of workers.

5.2.2 The right to health care seeks to create conditions for the Rwandan people's physical, mental and social welfare. To this effect, it will incorporate scientific and technological advances, promote health, prevent diseases and provide for rehabilitation.

The right to health care shall be ensured by:

1. A universal, general and free-of-charge National Health Service, with an efficient, decentralised and participatory management;
2. A general overhaul of health services, promoting and encouraging their quality and effectiveness;
3. Regionalizing and decentralising services that provide health care, taking geographic, demographic and epidemiological realities into account, and ensuring increasing equality of coverage and access by the population;
4. Correct planning, organisation, management and coordination between the various levels and services involved in health care, with the participation of health sector workers and of the community;
5. Adopting a policy giving priority to promoting health and preventing disease, providing the necessary resources to address the major public health problems, according to carefully defined and continuously updated priorities.
6. Provide advice, family planning and contraceptives to young women and other vulnerable women.

5.2.3 The right to education and schooling, to culture and sports is the right of each and every individual to knowledge and to creativity, to fully and harmoniously develop his/her potential, ability and vocations and civic awareness.

The right to education and schooling, to culture and sports shall be guaranteed by:

1. A policy that considers education, science and culture as strategic directions for Rwanda's integrated development; that takes into account the contemporary diversity in education and training processes and in the scope of problems they have to cater for, ranging from professional competence and qualification, to humanistic and scientific/technical culture, to innovation and creation, to civic and human values; that attend to all of the Rwandese population, developing a system of permanent education which integrates and balances initial education with continuous training and education for adults; guaranteeing top-quality education for all Rwandan people and heightening the population's cultural level, providing a balanced overall enhancement for human beings to assert their full and creative citizenship in a democratic society;
2. An educational system stressing a democratically managed public education, endowed with goals, structures, programmes and financial and human resources enabling it to implement citizens' right to an education, to provide equal opportunities for access and promotion in schools for all Rwandan people and all levels of schooling; to eradicate illiteracy; to provide universal and compulsory basic schooling; to cover the country with a public pre-school education network; to establish a connection between the school system's goals and social,

cultural and economic activities; to contribute to increase the Rwandan people' s labour qualifications;

3. Implementing a sports system which would integrate the various structures involved in sports (central and local government, associations, clubs and schools) provide sports practitioners with working conditions enabling their progress and provide the general population with access to the various sports at various levels, thus contributing to their development and fulfilment;
4. Continuous support and incentive for cultural production, activities and agents, democratising culture and access to the enjoyment and creation of culture.

5.2.4 The right to a home guaranteeing for citizens and families dwelling adequate to their needs, ensuring their well being, privacy and quality of life.

The right to a home shall be ensured by:

1. Implementing a policy to tackle the lack of housing, and applying a land and territorial management policy that can generate better-quality housing in rural and urban areas
2. The State shouldering its responsibilities, specifically by launching major housing programmes for less well-off citizens, encouraging controlled-price housing; an effective subsidised credits policy, centralising functions and allocating resources to municipalities;
3. The convergence of public, private and cooperative enterprise's efforts; incentives to restore historical inner-cities, run-down areas and illegal buildings, with the elimination of shanty towns; the promotion of a market for rented houses and the building of socially-determined rented housing.
4. Implement policy that encourage low income family and individuals to by homes of their dreams through partly shared ownership

5.2.5 The right to a healthy and ecologically balanced environment, seeking to guarantee that each citizen and each community can live in harmony with the natural environment - with its resources and species - as an essential condition for the physical and psychological equilibrium of future generations.

The right to a healthy, ecologically balanced environment shall be ensured:

1. By joint planning and analysis of all sectoral and land use policies, of their impact on natural resources and the environment and on land use and occupation;
2. By the prevention of forest fires and anti-desertification policies for large parts of the country, by safeguarding ecologically sensitive areas and protected areas, by opting to specialise in environment-protecting production and by developing civic awareness on environmental protection;
3. By rational, integrated and democratically participated management of ecosystems' natural resources, with strict monitoring of their self-renewing capability;
4. Through a nationally and internationally coordinated struggle against situations of serious environmental deterioration, in particular river and coastal pollution;

5. By the coordinated extension of sewage networks, energy grid, and air, soil and water pollution control networks to the whole of the nation's territory;
6. By an urban policy providing city populations with a balanced and healthy urban environment;
7. By encouraging scientific work on the environment and related issues, publicising the work produced, and encouraging scientists' participation in defining and following up research;
8. By publicising ecological issues through the school system.

5.2.6 Communities' rights to peace and safety is a very important issue, particularly in areas of urban growth.

Communities' right to peace and safety shall be guaranteed:

1. By an integrated development policy, improving citizens' living standards;
2. By allocating more resources to, and improving the operational capability of, policing and crime investigation, giving priority to prevention;
3. By a struggle against crime, criminal associations, drug trafficking, violence and corruption;
4. By developing relationships between security forces, local governments, communities, schools, youth organisations, the Public Prosecution and other bodies, with a view to preventing and fighting crime;
5. By reorganising the security forces, optimising their ability to react, based on their definition as civilian, judiciary-controlled bodies, and on the recognition of their workers' rights;
6. By guaranteeing the right to assistance in case of large-scale accidents, catastrophes or hazards, be they natural or technological, through a veritable national civil protection system that is operational, participatory and not cabinet-dependent.

5.2.7 Equality for women, which is closely associated with women's emancipation struggles, is a pre-condition for democratising and humanising society and for the free development of women's creative and productive capabilities.

Equal rights for women shall be ensured by:

1. Legislation providing for the implementation of women's rights in all spheres of society, forbidding and punishing any discrimination;
2. The right to work with equal opportunities in terms of access, professional training and promotion, implementing the "equal pay for equal work" principle;
3. Effectively recognising maternity and paternity as eminently social functions;
4. Recognising equal family rights and duties for men and women, including raising and educating their children;
5. Developing educational and cultural policies aimed at changing mentalities and at establishing family relationships based on free choice and on love and solidarity among its members;

6. Creating objective and subjective conditions for an adequate social consciousness in which men and women are both viewed as human beings with full rights and duties.

5.2.8 The right of young people to personal and professional fulfilment and to actively participate in society includes as an essential element effective guarantees for their economic, social and cultural rights.

The rights of young people shall be guaranteed by:

1. Effectively mandatory and free schooling, and equal opportunities of access to the various levels of education, and to promotions;
2. Access to jobs and professional training and promotions, and support for the continuation and completion of studies for those already working;
3. Pay according to the "equal pay for equal work" principle;
4. creating the necessary conditions to find a home and build a family when they so wish;
5. Creating conditions for cultural creation and enjoyment, to practice sports and usefully spend one's leisure time;
6. Supporting the development of the youth movement, respecting its identity and specific traits;
7. Creating conditions for a dignified life, with prevention of drug addiction, struggle against poverty and juvenile delinquency.

5.2.9 The right of children to harmonious development and for respect for their individual identity is essential to a happy childhood and a pre-condition for the formation of physically, intellectually and emotionally healthy citizens.

The rights of children shall be ensured by:

1. A mother and child care system, enhancing child- and family-support structures;
2. Sufficient and adequate nourishment, health care and education, aiming at success in school and education;
3. Measures for protection and special care, taking into account their level of affective, physical, psychological and intellectual development, and special care in case of specific difficulties;
4. Social and legal protection against all forms of arbitrariness, violence and exploitation, specifically forbidding and punishing the use of child labour;
5. Raising awareness of the need to respect children within society.

5.2.10 The rights of elderly and retired people and pensioners, implemented through a specific policy that takes into account their aspirations, with a view to provide them with a dignified life, security in old age, and full integration and participation in society.

The rights of elderly and retired people and pensioners shall be protected by:

1. Retirement pensions enabling them to meet their essential needs and ensuring their independence and dignity within their own families;

2. Providing adequate health services;
3. Social support and leisure-time support, through adequate infrastructures and support services;

5.2.11 The rights of disabled persons will provide them with the possibility of leading an independent and socially useful life, suppressing the barriers that prevent their integration in society with full citizenship rights.

The rights of disabled persons shall be ensured by:

1. Correct prevention, health care and rehabilitation policies geared toward reintegration at work;
2. Improving benefit schemes and social security;
3. Specific measures for schooling and professional training,
4. Adopting legislation and administrative measures for the elimination of architectural and other barriers;
5. Establishing programmes for usefully spending leisure time, as well as cultural and physical education and sports programmes.

5.1.12 The right of emigrants to protection of their basic interests arises out of the great significance of emigration in society, out of the discrimination and lack of protection that emigrants suffer.

Emigrants' rights shall be guaranteed by:

1. Efficient work by consulates, embassies, and other specific protection and support services both in the host countries and in Rwanda;
2. Applying bilateral and multilateral Conventions and Agreements signed by the Rwandan State in those cases that require upholding the rights of emigrants and their families;
3. Taking steps to encourage the teaching of Rwandan and promote the Rwandese language and culture abroad;
4. Emigrants' participation in finding solutions for their problems, and respect for their associations.

5.1.13 The right of immigrants and ethnic minorities to the protection of their interests as part of a policy of friendship and cooperation among all peoples and of respect for all human beings.

The rights of immigrants and ethnic minorities shall be ensured by:

1. Measures protecting the use of their languages and cultures;
2. Adopting measures to facilitate their integration into Rwandan society, respecting their cultural specificity;
3. Extending social and legal protection schemes, on a par with Rwandan workers;
4. Criminalising all expressions of racism, segregation, ethnicity, genocide and xenophobia.

