

ACCEPTANCE FOR NOMINATION AS A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

The Leader of our Party-Hon. Alaso Alice Asianut

The Interim National Committee members Present here,

District Party coordinators here with us today.

The campaign manager and

To you all my fellow members of our Party; ALLIANCE FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION.

PEOPLE FIRST-----

A NEW FUTURE-----

May I first thank you on behalf of my family and myself for the great team work and sacrifices you have exhibited since we started this great Party-this has been heartwarming. Thank you very much.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate all members of our Party; Alliance for National Transformation and indeed all Ugandans from Kisoro to Gulu, Arua to Hoima [across the country], who willingly appended their signatures in support of our candidature.

In a special way, I wish to recognize men and women, young and old, who, out of the many Political groups, **[some with lots of money, some with many MPs, some seemingly stronger]** chose to offer themselves as candidates at different levels on the ANT flag. I am one like you [I'm holding the ANT flag]-we shall together move from village to village selling the message of Our Party-**a message of hope, a message of qualitative change.** I know this exercise would not have been possible without the

sacrifices of all the National Leaders and the Headquarter staff, our distinguished Party leaders across the country who led the efforts of identifying, verifying and endorsing these candidates.

Ladies and gentlemen, you, on behalf of all Ugandans, entrusted me with the responsibility to lead a great cause—a cause of transforming this country, a cause of creating change that all Ugandans can trust; QUALITATIVE CHANGE, a cause where all Ugandans are equal before the law and have equal opportunities regardless of tribe, religion language, a cause of ensuring that there is justice, a change far beyond the physical development of roads, power provision, water—a change where a local farmer will till his/her land and is guaranteed of greater dividends in terms of prices, a cause where Ugandans will enjoy their unfettered rights and freedoms.

I have seen many regime apologists recently praising themselves and their leader of how they have developed Uganda. I know the basis of this; the current government has got a simplistic understanding of development. They look at tarmac roads, power lines, power dams as the ultimate development. Yes, these are important but what is the rationale of travelling on a tarmac road from Sironko to Mbale but fail to receive justice? Imagine a local farmer who grows his/her Irish in Kabale but loses his or her crops or receives low price and all the government says is “you transported your Irish on a tarmac road”. Colleagues, imagine a peasant in Omoro whose child has received UPE and USE but sold half of his/her land to take this child to university only to graduate and can’t get a job and when they complain, they are reminded of the free education they received. Imagine young men and women who don’t have jobs and when they begin to question this, the regime reminds them of how they got immunized [immunized Bazukulu] and can sleep [okwebaka otulo]. Does this make sense?

Our thinking in ANT is different. We believe that Development that does not put people first is No development and this is why our slogan is PEOPLE FIRST A NEW FUTURE-We recognize the centrality of the people in creating a meaningful sustained development. We recognize that while the physical infrastructure development is needed, it must be anchored on values [sacred things that are intangible] Justice, equality before the law, fairness, Transparency, obwelufu. Countries that have achieved physical development but lacked these values have eventually collapsed under their own weight. VALUES ARE THE FOUNDATION OF REAL DEVELOPMENT. Our slogan is a projection of a Uganda we will create when NOT IF we take to power come 2021.

Our aims-the aims of the Alliance for National Transformation-are clear; to remove from office a regime that has put many Ugandans in a pitiful state.

Much more than this, it is our aim to give our country a set of progressive policies drawn from the desires of all of us men and women of this great nation; policies to empower us, policies to unite us, policies to renew our love for this country and to build strong systems and institutions on the basis of which prosperity to all Ugandans can be guaranteed and justice fostered and this is why the theme of our campaign is **“Change you can trust”**.

In the coming days, we shall unveil to the country our MANIFESTO which explains how we will create well-paying jobs for many Ugandans through Industrialisation, Invest in value addition especially in Agriculture and Extractive sectors, reduce the size of government by merging ministries, Authorities [we shall run a lean but effective government]. But most fundamentally, we shall restore dignity amongst our teachers, doctors, nurses, men and women in uniform so that once again they can take pride in offering their services. This cannot only be achieved through salary

enhancements. There has to be a deliberate effort of ensuring that there is a conducive environment in which they can perform to their utmost capabilities.

To achieve these aims-first and foremost, we must achieve total victory; we must ensure that majority of our ANT candidates win. Ugandans should vote for only those who believe in values-values of justice, honesty, transparency, accountability and zero tolerance to corruption- We [ANT] in being a Value-driven political Party.

Today is the first day of the battle-The road towards the January 2021 elections is a road of struggle for a just cause. This day reminds me of1981 when I left Makerere to join the bush. I clearly knew that the guerilla force then was not large in terms of personnel and equipment, I knew the greater risks of such an adventure but one thing I never had any doubt about the certainty of taking power. Certainly, many doubted us but we believed in ourselves. It is exactly the same spirit I am experiencing in ANT. Many naysayers may doubt us but we believe in ourselves. We are focused, we are purposeful and by God's grace, we have got the discipline to lead all Ugandans in that fight. Ugandans can count on us; in this fight, we shall keep nothing in the reserve.

When we formed this Party, many Ugandans kept asking me what I was waiting for to declare my intentions to run for presidency of this country. I'm a military man and I know that before you attack you have to be sufficiently prepared-in this case, we needed to broaden and deepen our organizational capabilities. We have moved to all subregions of this country, met men and women to discuss the great mission to which we are all committed NOW-A mission of offering qualitative change.

We know the challenges that this campaign poses; besides limited time, there will be limited access to masses. It's going to be hard but it's not

insurmountable. We bank on the belief of many Ugandans whose desire has been to see a credible leadership in charge of our country.

I know that a campaign like this cannot be won by a single or a few or by uncertain or divided forces. So I call upon ANT members and leaders not to fear-Be bold. Be courageous. I extend an earnest call to you to join in for longer hours, harder work and commitment in the next 2 months. This job is for all of us fellow Ugandans. To my fellow colleagues on the opposition, we must, as of necessity, cease attacks and blame games and focus on areas where we can cooperate and reinforce each other.

As a country, we are at the moment in our history where we must break away from the past and build a new future. Therefore, this election will not be like any other. We are not simply looking for individuals who can remove those in power. This election is rather about choosing a leadership that will use power responsibly to transform the lives of our people. As we talk, 16 mothers die daily while giving birth, 137 of every 1000 new babies do not celebrate their 5th birthday, unemployment levels are astronomically high and corruption is stinking to high heaven, there is total breakdown of institutions, and our population is projected to be 100 million people in 25 years up from 45 million. This should bother every Ugandan and understand that we are dealing with complex issues beyond individuals currently occupying offices who are part of the cause of the mess we are in. They are symptoms of a larger and complex problem.

I have consistently said that the only new thing we can do is to manage power responsibly and when we successfully do this, we shall be the first group of people to make history in this country and open a road into the future on which today's Ugandans and the generations to come can go forward to a life in which there is greater possibilities of success. We will set the trajectory of our country's socioeconomic potential so high that our

today's leaders will look with shame how much they've sunk this country and make it extremely impossible for any future leaders to lower that bar-then we shall be on road to real sustained development.

I receive many messages, and I am sure you receive the same. Many Ugandans look to us to direct our country into this path.

As we launch this crusade, we call upon the youth of Uganda to move with us. This struggle we need your zeal and determination. We call up on women; the mothers of this great nation to move forward with us. When the future of any country is at stake like this one is, women are the most affected, we call upon the farmers, businessmen/women who want to see a better country to move with us. We call upon the middle class, professionals to participate fully in this election.

As we start on this journey, Ugandans can have confidence that our sole purpose is to serve the interest of this country we so love- we put COUNTRY BEFORE SELF.

Ladies and gentlemen, I can pledge that I will stand as a leader who leads by example, a leader of a peaceful and prosperous country. It is more than nomination that I have accepted today. It is dedication-dedication that is outlined in our Party's name; TRANSFORMATION. As together we face that future, I pray for the blessings and guidance of the Almighty God.

Mungu awabarike

God bless you.