# Union du Peuple d' Avenir

# United People with One Destiny (UPA)

#### What the Union du Peuple d'Avenir stands for:

The Union du Peuple d' Avenir (UPA) or United People with One Destiny was established with a commitment to keeping the Democratic Republic of Congo's sovereignty, territorial integrity and prosperous by uniting all Congolese people in order to provide the opportunity for sustainable development of our motherland. This commitment is reflected in our movement that emphasizes a strong nation state, economic development, democracy, education, legal rights, civil right, health care, national security, transparent, honest and responsible government, and securing our motherland through growth, investment in our people, and positive international interactions.

### **Movement History:**

At the commencement of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo can look back on a proud history of this land — a history that is rich in culture and resources but has limitations in political institutions and a concrete vision to carry the nation forward. Our country has been facing deep political, socio-economical and geographical crisis for almost half of century now. UPA is bringing a realistic vision which will help Congolese people to lay down a strong foundation for our present and future generations. It is a vision based on the culture, diversity, and resiliency of our people. Our mineral resources, good organizations and politically active Congolese people can get together to help rewrite our history. *Our movement is young but our vision mature*. This movement's inception in 2009 was concomitant with the need for a *new vision, new challenges, and change*. As a new movement, our members are not going to

Our Motto: "God, our Architect and Builder"
Our Slogan: "UPA, we care for the People and we care for the Land"

continue with good old politics-as-usual (Status quo). Our founding members, who are devoted and committed Congolese people, led by Mr. Tshibangu Mukumbay, the founder and Leader and allies from Congo DR, Congolese Diaspora in United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, France, Belgium, Ireland, Switzerland, Germany, Ghana and South Africa have found a new vision of leading our country with new directions to the promised land. We believe that every Congolese person has something to contribute towards a stable country and a law-governing, service-centered, government that contains a broad and popular support of the general populace. The UPA embodies a unique Congolese spirit with an international twist because the world is so interconnected. The Congolese spirit is one of classlessness, open-mindedness, lack of tribalism—and the conviction that unity among our people can facilitate our nation building endeavors. The inception of the UPA is a testament to the fact that ordinary people with extraordinary courage and commitment can make a change in our society for the love of our country.

#### The Vision and Mission of the UPA:

The Democratic Republic of Congo and the people are at a *crossroad*. This is a crossroad between *destitution* and *prosperity*, this is a crossroad between *triumph* and *defeat*, this is a crossroad between *purpose* and *dysfunction*, and this is a crossroad between *liberation* and *oppression*. We have to make judicious and productive choices for this land and the people. At these crossroads, it is about making a choice between which ways to turn for the future of the Congolese people or remaining in a quagmire of destitution and destruction. And, we the members of UPA have *confidence in all the Congolese people* that we will choose *prosperity*, we will choose *to triumph*, we will choose *liberation*, and we will choose *to fulfill our purpose and destiny as a Nation. Our future will be determined by how we manage the natural resources of the land and how to answer to the needs of the people through sustainable development and servant-leadership role. It is our mission to serve and to lead this country to a promised land through sustainable development of the land.* 

The time has come that the Congolese people should openly tell their stories to the world that a light for democracy, freedom, justice, and law-governing practices is shining on the Congo. The world is changing and it is time for this country to change for the better. The time has come for change. Change for the land. Change for the people, and change in our policy goals – change that will transform our beloved nation and bring it to its desired haven.

Through the movement, all the Congolese people within this country and all over the world must unite for change and reconstruction. We are reaching out today to form alliance for a new direction—a direction that will take us beyond the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. So, we come together with a new vision, a new mission, a new direction and a new leadership style to replace things that have not worked for this country. We come together to work the land and to rebrand the nation once again. And we come together to do the people's business, but we the people must unite first, because there is strength in unity. Martin Luther King said: "Unity is the great need of the hour, and if we are united we can get many of the things that we not only desire but which we justly deserve." Together we stand and divided we will fall like a rootless tree. In our transformational efforts, we will place emphasis on:

- a. The land and our Natural Resources
- b. The People and Prosperity
- c. National Unity and Peace

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- d. A Policy of Reconstruction
- e. Good Servant-Leadership Approach to Governance

The details of this vision and mission could be downloaded in our document on the UPA's movement of 2009.







Land"

Our movement's colors are blue and white the color blue symbolizes peace, stability, patriotism and inspiration and white represents the transparency, light, security and truth in conducting government and Congolese business. Our symbol is the African antelope that possesses keen eyesight, runs swiftly, very alert, yet it is graceful and majestic. Our movement image and philosophy derive from the African antelope. It is a philosophy that upholds fairness, equity, mutual respect and strives to maintain human dignity.

Our Party's slogan is UPA: "We care for the People and we care for the Land."

# "Preserving Congolese Sovereignty, Values, Uniting the People and Building and Promoting the Land."

It is with deep humility that Mr. Tshibangu Mukumbay and the UPA have committed themselves, knowing that the task ahead to build this country is enormous and is beyond any human definition. But by God's grace and the trust that you have shown in this movement, we are ready to take this journey with all of you. We are here to stay through the long and difficult journey ahead of us. We are not of those who put their hands to the plough and turn back in difficult times. In every vital journey, life begins and ends at home and I feel at home to take the journey with you. This is a real journey and not a trip. This is a marathon, and not a sprint.

The journey would be undulating, rough, bumpy, but we will work together to level it, straighten it, elevate it to the highest level for travel, and make it comfortable, and leave a good heritage for the next generation and the generations after that to travel together for the sake of our motherland. Congolese deserve better than they have received since the inception of our beloved country.

In the rebirth of Congo, we must set high moral standards to strengthen the moral fabric of the Congolese society. These are standards that promote discipline and obedience, honesty and morality, punctuality, reliability and steadfastness, comradeship and forbearance, statecraft, unaffectedness, transparency, and the strive for selflessness.

As we all know, selflessness, kindness, forgiveness, integrity and high moral standards are commodities that do not diminish when one consumes or spends them. So, the time has come for all Congolese people to make it a commitment to consume more of these commodities.

To be good witnesses of the new Democratic Republic of Congo, we must be *bold* and *creative*.

We must do what many successful nation states have done before. We must invest in the Congolese people through education, jobs, reducing the poverty rate, improving life expectancy, building new homes, feeding our people, improving healthcare, constructing new infrastructure, revamping the business sector, building a just society, maintaining democratic institutions and practices, and promoting human decency and dignity.

Yet, we are aware that prosperity and sustainable development for our country through extraction and refining of mineral resources could not be totally attained without a critical analysis and consideration for systemic dynamics and structural paralysis of our neighboring countries including Angola, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, South-Sudan, Republic of Congo, Central African Republic and Zambia.

There have been indicators of crisis in our country because of mineral resources, geographical locations, and structural mismatch of our neighbors resulting in

warfare. We must reaffirm the greatness of the human spirit so that such inhumane activities will stop forever.

Yet, the sustainable development of our country through our resources cannot be attained in isolation of the region. Our world is intertwined with global forces and international players such as the United States, Great Britain, Belgium, France, Germany, Japan, Canada, Russia, Israel and China. We have to look beyond the region to be strong and real partners in the global village.

Therefore UPA pledges to work closely in partnership with USA administration and others international donors to implement the *bill S.2125*, *Democratic Republic* of the Congo Relief, Security and Democracy promotion act of 2006 initiated by President Barack Obama.

In our country, if we look west to *Kinshasa*, there is work to be done. If we look north to *Kisangani* there is work to be done. Looking south to *Lubumbashi* and east to *Bukavu*, there are no exceptions, and that may provide the cynics with false energy to question our mission. *But when knowledge is scant and vision is myopic, the cynics rejoice. But with deep knowledge, a long and broad-minded vision, we shall overcome the challenges ahead.* 

The winds of change are blowing over the Democratic Republic of Congo. These winds are bringing new challenges but we are devising new instruments to take on these challenges.

There comes the time that we know we have to make a change and that time is 'now'. We must seize the opportunity now.

The time has come for change.

The time has come for all Congolese to unite and build our country.

The time has come to eradicate oppression and destitution.

The time has come to work through a new political movement, civil society, and a government that is ready to do the peoples' business.



We must therefore work together as a people united by one vision for nation building for the inception of a new world that will take pride in all Congolese people. Let's turn this moment into a movement. This is a movement with the UPA that can tolerate the storms of uncertainty and destitution because we are confident that we will not give in or give up in the fight to serve our motherland. We are here to see this vision through.

It is with this divine assurance that I believe the grace of God will never send us to a place where the will of God will not keep us. With good conscience and God's blessing, I say to my fellow Congolese in Lingala- *Matondo Mingi*, Swahili— *Asante Sana*, Tshiluba- *Tuasakidila wa buni*, Kikongo- *Mumetonda mingi*, French- *Merci infiniment*, and in English - *Thank you very much*.

God bless the Congolese people.

And God bless the Democratic Republic of Congo with peace.

God bless the UPA