

**Speech of Lennart Karlsson,  
Representative Centre Party, Sweden**

Pope Paul VI Memorial Centre; Kampala  
14 December 2009

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chorep...*

*bisligwisk*  
Honorable Party Leaders, Party officials, *Party Militant* Guests and Participants,

I want on this important occasion, take the opportunity to say a few words on behalf of the Centre Party in Sweden and the Centre Party International Foundation. We are as you may know, one of your Swedish partners in the project to facilitate the formation of an alliance which will be a strong and united alternative for the voters in the upcoming elections 2011.

As you know the actual government in Sweden could take over after a long period of Social democratic rule, thanks to the opposition alliance that was formed a couple of years ahead the election 2006.

The Centre Party is one of the four party's forming the government in Sweden after the elections 2006 that changed the political map of Sweden. Our party leader Maud Olofsson, a woman, is Deputy Prime Minister in the government. She is also Minister for Enterprise and Energy. The Minister for Agriculture, the Minister for Communications and the Minister for the Environment are also from the Centre Party. So you see that in spite of being a rather small party with only 29 seats out of 349 in the parliament, our party is in charge of very important and heavy ministries.

In the government, the Conservative Party is the biggest with 97 seats, the Centre Party the second with its 29 seats. The two other parties in government, the Liberals and the Christ Democrats have 28 and 24 seats.

*-ian*

As you see, the Conservatives have more seats than the three others together. That fact gives the Conservatives a very strong hand but at the same time, they know, that without the active support from the three others, they can't govern.

The government has been able to lead the country in a very strong way since it took over office, in spite of the differences in size of the incoming parties, and that is due to the fact that they, before the elections, had managed to form a political alliance platform on which they all had agreed and fully supported.

Maud Olofsson, our Party leader, admits that it often has been very tough and long negotiations in the council of coordination before common stands in different questions have been reached, but also to gain the acceptance from the others, when it comes to our party's main questions which are for example environment, climate and energy. Due to the ambience of mutuality, respect and confidence, seasoned with a big spoon of humour and laughter, the unity has been kept and the alliance has been a winning concept.

Now you in Uganda have decided to use a similar strategy to be able to make a change in your elections 2011. This decision shows your determination to overcome short-sighted power struggle between the parties, to be able to show the citizens of Uganda that you want to foster a new political way of being - with the people in focus rather than the politicians themselves.

Most of you here in this hall have longer political experience than I have, so I do not see my role to come and lecture about how you in your Ugandan context should solve your political situation for the better, but there are some fundamental, universal tunes which I wish to underline being important to create the harmony in the musical.

My friend Mister Rasmussen has already mentioned the basic tunes, being transparency, honesty, respect for all citizens regardless their ethnicity, religion, sexual disposition and social standards.

President Barak Obama said when he received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo last week that: "The only way to build peace is to develop institutions instead to believe that it is possible to change human beings, we need to support human rights and to invest in development in our countries - we need to use our moral imagination to create a better world".

This words can be used in your context today and in your efforts to take power in your country after next elections. The power is not a goal in itself. Power is a tool and it gives opportunities to change things. Unfortunately the history shows us that power is two-edged and that it tends to be used more to destruct than to construct.

The political history of Uganda has not been so brilliant the last two or three decades. The people of Uganda is worth better. Uganda is a country with lots of opportunities, possibilities and potentialities. There is plenty of water, there are forests, there is fertile land, there are minerals and crude oil - and there are 29 millions of individuals that are all eager to take an active part in the development of their beautiful country. *resources*

This land and its citizens are worth a government that, like President Obama said, is able to develop good institutions, is willing to invest in development for everyone, that have a true respect for and an active support of all human rights and lives.

Please remember that you do not deserve to win power in Uganda if you are not determined to make a considerable change when it comes to the governing of the country. If you are fighting for power for your own personal upgrading and gain - the struggle is unworthy.

But if you will see the citizens of Uganda as your masters and want to use your power and your intelligence to serve the people and accelerate the development to enable Uganda to become that important player in the global society it deserves to be - than your struggle is worth respect and all support possible.

What you, parties in the opposition alliance, want to achieve, is great and noble. It is a long journey to do together. The first goal is to win the elections, that will be difficult and will demand all the energy and creativity you might have. We understand that the battle has already commenced, that the rulers have already started to form their forces to make it as difficult as possible for the opposition parties to meet the people and to make their voices heard. The sign shows already that the battle will not be a fair play.

We from the outside, but dear friends of Uganda, have to make what we can to persuade the donor community to condemn all tendencies to manipulate the elections in different ways to make it impossible for the opposition parties to campaign correctly and freely.

You, as opposition parties have a hard work to manage, and this in a very short time, to convince the technical and financial partners of Uganda, that you and your coalition is a real alternative for the new rule of Uganda.

- Are they not convinced that you have a solid organization, a common plan about how the leadership will be formed and shared and a political platform that shows that you have a better alternative for the development of Uganda.
- Are they not convinced that you have a strategy about how to combat corruption and how to strengthen the protection of human rights etc

*the victory can't be will not be there with only the votes from Kampala - the countryside it has to be reached. a strategy has to be found for this purpose.*

If these issues are not clarified immediately, I don't think they will act as determined as they could and should.

To win the majority of the voters is only the first test of your determination, your capacity and your intelligence.

The second and even more difficult test will be to establish a government where all ingoing parties will find its place. This will be a complicated and tricky task with many obstacles - but you have to find a workable form of governance to be able to serve your country in the way the people of Uganda and the global society expect and deserve.

It is my and my Swedish colleagues hope, that this conference will be another milestone that are helping to put some additional pieces in place in the big puzzle and mosaic that will form the political alliance for a new and better Uganda.

God bless you in this work!

Thank you

(Socialdemokraterna (s), 130 mandat, Moderata samlingspartiet (m), 97 mandat, Centerpartiet (c), 29 mandat, Folkpartiet liberalerna (fp), 28 mandat, Kristdemokraterna (kd), 24 mandat, Vänsterpartiet (v), 22 mandat, Miljöpartiet de gröna (mp), 19 mandat)

# "TOGETHER WE CAN CAUSE CHANGE"

## PROGRAM FOR THE CONFERENCE AT POPE PAUL VI MEMORIAL CENTRE

13<sup>TH</sup> – 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2009

Day	Time	Activity
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	5:00pm – 7:30pm	Arrival and registration of the participants at the Hotel (for those who have been booked to spend the night there as per the invitation letters)
	8:00pm – 10:00pm	Supper
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	7:00am – 8:00am	Breakfast
	8:00am - 9:00am	Registration
	9:00am – 10:30am	Official Opening of the Conference a) Chairperson of the IPC Steering Committee b) Chairperson of the Summit and fellow Presidents c) KIC team
	10:30am – 11:00am	Health Break
	11:00am – 11:30am	Where IPC has come from
	11:30am – 1:00pm	Keynote speech on "the Uganda we want"
	1:00pm – 2:00pm	Lunch Break
	2:00pm - 3:00pm	Where IPC is going
	3:00pm - 4:00pm	KIC's Remarks
	4:00pm - 4:30pm	Health Break
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	4:30pm - 6:00pm	General discussion on the keynote speech and where IPC is going
	8:00pm - 10:00pm	Supper
	7:00am - 8:30am	Breakfast
	9:00am - 9:30am	Presentation of the second Protocol
	9:30am - 10:30am	Signing the Protocol by the Presidents
	10:30am - 11:00am	Closing Speeches by the Presidents and KIC
	11:00am - 11:30am	Interaction with the Media
	11:30am - 1:00pm	Cocktail followed by departure