

Theme and objectives of the conference

By

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Our distinguished Inter – Party Cooperation Leaders, Honourable Members of Parliament, Leaders from other political parties, International development Partners, members of the IPC Steering Committee, the IPC Secretariat Staff, ladies and gentlemen.

The theme for our Conference “**TOGETHER WE CAN CAUSE CHANGE**” was chosen after long discussions. We chose it for the following reasons:

- a) It is based on numerous proverbs in different Ugandan languages which emphasize that when people agree to work together, they can cause effective actions and accomplish a lot for themselves. In Buganda, for example, the proverb “**Agali awamu gegaluma enyama**” – means that “**unity is strength**”.
- b) As many political leaders, political analysts and even ordinary people have pointed out, none of the opposition parties in Uganda can solely dislodge the current dictatorial NRM government from power. But the combined strength of our parties can easily defeat NRM in future elections. We came to this conclusion after studying how numerous African dictators lost power in different countries through multi-party movements for democracy e.g. in Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone and Kenya.
- c) Inter – Party Cooperation is now considered to be a major global trend. It is difficult for any single party to be multi-ideological in nature and satisfy all political shades of opinions and aspirations, and successfully respond to all development challenges in a country. This is why several countries currently have coalition governments.
- d) This theme can easily be communicated to ordinary people and be used as a rallying point in the political campaigns which we believe will be launched in January 2010.

The specific objectives of the Conference are as follows:

- a) To understand how far we (in IPC) have come from 2007 to present, and where we are going.

- b) To endorse the transformation of Inter – Party Cooperation (IPC) into Inter – Party Alliance (IPA).
- c) To prioritize the tasks for IPA towards the 2011 general elections.

In short, this conference is intended to provide uniform information to the party leaders at various levels and supporters, as we begin the most critical part of our journey towards capturing power in 2011.

Thank you for listening to me.