

MANIFESTO OF ALLIANCE FOR CITIZENSHIP AND LABOR

Like many African countries in southern Sahara, and despite undeniable benefits while achieving independence, in terms of institutions, administration and infrastructures, Senegal surprisingly but logically continues to appear in almost all areas among the less developed nations of the world. There is a Senegalese evil that could have had an unpleasant outcome for a long time, had it not been the flawless republican spirit of our security and defense forces, and the wisdom of our religious and customary authorities, which are guardians of our traditions.

POLITICS, which was supposed to place us in the limelight in every way, is unfortunately the main cause of the unbearable downgrading of our dear Senegal in every way.

The Senegalese evil is multisectoral:

- 1) **An increasingly mangled Senegalese society by the rise of anti-values and destructive behaviors:** especially mangled by insincerity and denial of the word, lack of dignity, development of disrespect, squandering of public funds by schemer politicians, spread of corruption, race to easy and often dirty money, downgrading of labor value.
- 2) **A damaged democracy:** damaged by the continuous violation of the principles of democracy, the rule of bias, particularly the State media, the use of public assets or resources for coarsely partisan purposes, fraud, bribery of voters, of weak opponents and intimidation of opponents deemed uncooperative, submission to the Executive of the other institutional powers.
- 3) **An injured republic:** injured by lawlessness of political professionals, the extreme politicization of the Senegalese administration and diplomacy, the manifest difference of treatment whether one be powerful or weak.
These practices harm the Republic; they can bring it down.
- 4) **A desperate Senegalese youth:** a youth that, for the most part, ends up either being rejected by school, or given the cold shoulder by the professional world. A Senegalese youth that became fall victim to every temptation, including the most suicidal, such as the storming of the seas to flee to the European mirage.
- 5) **Fathers and mothers racked by anxiety of everyday life:** In the cities as well as in the countryside, the fear of not being capable of ensuring subsistence level essential for one's family to be able to hold head high. Precariousness and extreme poverty are sadly everywhere. Under these circumstances, it remains to fathers and mothers little energy and time for upbringing.
- 6) **A paralyzed school:** The Senegalese school and particularly the public schools are in disrepair, deprivation and paralysis, whatever the level of education, due to the recurrent strikes of all: teachers, students and administrative staff and technical services. These are occasioned, it often is true, by promises and unfulfilled commitments of the authorities and sometimes impossible to fulfill.

- 7) **An inefficient health system:** The Senegalese health system is immersed in bareness, poor accessibility, indigence and regular difficulties of hospital governance. Senegalese people are not properly taken care of.
- 8) **An invisible hygiene and cleanliness policy:** problems of hygiene and cleanliness, twin sisters of health, remain one of the multiple wounds of Senegalese cities including the main one, Dakar.
- 9) **A rural world in distress:** Senegalese farmers live, for many of them, in a state of great poverty and are unable to ensure their own food security, a fortiori that of the country. Senegal does not feed.
- 10) **A Senegalese business forgotten by public policy:** The Senegalese business that everything predestined to play leading roles in the West African Economic and Monetary Union demonstrates lack of competitive spirit and stagnate in its own national market, for want of clear and effective public policies to support companies, particularly those who throw themselves into conquering the foreign markets. More specifically, the Senegalese industry, not long ago one of the most successful in West Africa appears nowadays to have entered into a critical state of drowsiness, when all neighboring countries are developing policies to boost their industrial sectors.

Politicking and the professional politicians: reasons of the Senegalese evil.

Senegalese professional politicians are, in the vast majority, very discredited. They are by their actions, their words and their behaviors which play a part in creating an atmosphere of distrust and suspicion towards any patriot eager to serve his country usefully. They are by their attempts to bully politicians and various political strategies of dissuasion, intended to exclude the utmost serious and honest citizens from the political arena. Unfortunately they are still successful, forcing some to give up, to abdicate and to restrict any form of opposition. This anomaly should be corrected by the choice of men and women who we can be sure will be fair and decent in respect of their paths.

They are discredited because many of them persist to convey anti-values, which are poisonous to the Senegalese society and economy.

They are discredited because they have transformed priesthood-politics into politicking, which is actually an art to deceive the people. Yet an inconvenient truth must always be preferred to a reassuring lie.

The professional politician is nothing but at the service of himself and his personal interests, not of the general interest. To him, the truth and the true vary according to circumstances. He adapts his words and behaviors in accordance with his interlocutors. Politics is his only mean of upward mobility and enrichment. This enrichment is almost always illegal. His only marginal skill is politics, its unique area of expertise, and would be better if it maintained infinitely our country in it, even aside from election campaigns, and ignoring the construction of urgent solutions to the real evils of Senegal.

This situation must change.

We citizens assembled within the Alliance for Citizenship and Labor, mean to run this change.

We mean to end politics as rat race, as cunning and as lie.

We must end professional politics and politics as a means of rapid and often illicit enrichment.

We must end the political function as sinecure, favor or "Teranga" in order to return to politics, which is a job to ensure and a mission to take on, all its dignity for the sole interest of the people and not that of a party or a leader.

We consider the ruler as a servant and not as a master.

The Alliance for Citizenship and Labor means to lead change.

It intends to do so because it claims to a different political movement inaugurating a new healthy relationship regarding the *Res Publica*.

- Different, because it wants to rebuild the politics from below by bringing together patriots and citizens who no longer identify with the traditional political parties;
- Different, because it refuses politics as a profession and as a means of enrichment;
- Different, because it promotes priesthood-politics;
- Different, because it refuses politics as rat race, as competition of tricks, lies, slander and defamation;
- Different, because it promotes politics as fair competition between visions, programs and political projects;
- Different, because it bases its action on strong republican values;
- Different, because it considers labor as the one and only way leading nations as well as individuals to prosperity.

These beliefs shape the identity of the Alliance for Citizenship and Labor whose motto perfectly sums up the spirit:

Labor, Ethics, Hope
Saxal Jëf

Because without labor and ethics, hope is vain and always disappointed.

The projects of change that the Alliance for Citizenship and Labor mean to lead are of two orders: the preliminary work of rebuilding and the work of long lasting transformation.

The preliminary work of rebuilding covers:

- 1) **The reconstruction of our democracy and our republic:** the establishment of an impartial State and independent institutions is an urgent duty for the Alliance for Citizenship and Labor; an impartial state, that is to say a state with the obsessive concern to ensure for all citizens equal treatment and equal opportunities; and that does not create unacceptable conditions of abuse of power by the Executive.
- 2) **The establishment of a depoliticized administration focused on development:** the end of an administration and diplomacy confiscated by the political activists is a categorical imperative;
- 3) **Taxation at the service of economic policies and not given over to the whims and vices of an excessively and indecently political class:** the establishment of an accurate taxation, simpler and liberating of initiatives in lieu of an inaccurate and stuffy taxation for employees, consumers and business is one of the major route toward economic renewal;

The work of long lasting transformation will focus on:

1) The return to the positive values of our society:

By promoting a sufficiently empowered citizenship to run the democratic system by effectively deliberating over governance.

By affirming that sovereignty and citizenship remain the essential basis of politics. A citizenship, no longer considered as member of a community or submission and humanly degrading subordination to an authority, but as a vital force at the service of the community in order to live well. A citizenship that is no longer defined only in terms of rights and duties, but rooted in a respectful responsibility of the Common Good and integrity rooted in the cult of General Interest.

By promoting the values of humanism, dignity, integrity and respect likely to enable all citizens to be in full possession of their property and their work.

By building a genuine solidarity of existence; the one that reflects the gratitude due to retired persons who put their working life at the service of the nation; the one that does not forget those stricken by fate and life casualties; the one bearing a delicate attention to the weakest and most vulnerable citizens.

By the return to the labor value, to the spirit of responsibility, to the respect for the others, to ethics and patriotism as inevitable path towards long lasting transformation of Senegal.

These values are those of the New Type of Citizen that must emerge in our country, because it will move from the modes of citizenship to the model citizenship. However it is not enough to bring out a New Type of Citizen. It is essential to have a New Type of Leader, which in line with the people, will lead the collective work of social, political and economic transformation.

2) The establishment of a school of good quality for everyone:

A school that promotes excellence; a school that accompanies and redirects more than it rejects; a school in touch with reality, which programs content will be revisited, and that values technical and vocational training. The training will be at the service of the occupational integration of the youth.

3) An efficient health care system for everyone:

Being well taken care of close to home is a right for every Senegalese; it is a right, the Alliance for Citizenship and Labor means to make it a priority and a reality.

4) A more dynamic, more competitive, more inclusive economy that is better integrated within the sub-region:

An economic policy encouraging business, the principal area of creation of national wealth, of performance and of conquest, at the service of an internal and national solidarity.

An economic policy supporting entrepreneurial initiatives (SOHO and SMB) source of jobs and income, particularly those initiated by women and young people, essential "pioneers" of development.

An economic policy at the service of regional economic integration.

An economic policy concerned with the environment protection and the living environment and taking into account the interests of the territories.

5) **A modern and profitable agriculture:**

A modernized agriculture, which provides for and properly remunerates farmers, ranchers and fishermen, who feeds the Senegalese people and exports its surplus; it is possible, other countries have done it. Senegal will do it and hope will reborn.

6) **A powerful and combative industry:**

An industry that creates wealth and employment; like other countries in our region and around the world, Senegal will do it.

7) **A buoyant mining sector for development:**

A buoyant mining sector for a structuring industrialization, not the "resource curse".

A mining sector provider of welfare for present and future generations and not confiscated by some vested interests.

The Alliance for Citizenship and Labor will put that in place.

8) **A more inclusive and more radiant cultural policy:**

Politics making art and culture accessible to the greatest number, highlighting the cultural and artistic diversity of Senegal, promoting all forms of art and culture both inside and outside the country, further promoting the creation of works of art and of the mind by developing artistic practices.

9) **Sport as a factor of education and health for citizens and standing for the country:**

Promote the practice of physical activity and sport as a factor for personal blossoming and public health issue.

Promote mass sport by reviving it in neighborhoods and schools. Support elite sport when participating in international influence of Senegal.

10) **An independent diplomacy, supporting peace and responsive to African issues:**

A Senegalese diplomacy regaining its influence and working for peace in the world from a good analysis of the issues and contemporary geopolitical challenges, such is the ambition of the Alliance for Citizenship and Labor. An ambition deeply solicitous over the control of the factors of security vulnerabilities. Human security demands from political leaders a responsibility to protect against any threat, wherever it comes from and whatever its nature.

In a nutshell, the Alliance for Citizenship and Labor intends to build a truly democratic and republican Senegalese society, reconciling the market economy and solidarity and social justice, working for African integration and peace in the world.

The ideals of the Alliance for Citizenship and Labor join those of social democracy.

The work of Senegal's transformation is exciting and patriotic.

Senegal can, citizens, patriots and the Alliance for Citizenship and Labor will make it possible by the will to reform and the creative action brought by the energy of collective consciousness.

Get up Citizens!

Get up Patriots!

For an efficient Senegal!

For a Senegal of solidarity!
For a great and respected Senegal!