



## FRONT CITOYEN « TOGO DEBOUT »

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### DECLARATION ON THE OCCASION OF THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRONT CITOYEN TOGO DEBOUT AND THE CELEBRATION OF OCTOBER 5, 2019

**"We have never lost hope ... This is what allows us to constantly renew our commitment to founding principles and to walk in the footsteps of the great defenders of human rights"**

(Nelson MANDELA)

**Dear fellow citizens,**

These words of Nelson Mandela summarize the essence of the message of the FRONT CITOYEN TOGO DEBOUT on this day when we want to remember the date of October 5. We also want to commemorate the second anniversary of the birth of the FCTD which was founded on September 22, 2017.

What is common to past and present generations in our country Togo is the aspiration to freedom. The fight for freedom and for the emergence of a democratic Togo is lengthy but as Mandela said, we must never lose hope. There is the temptation to be discouraged, to have the impression that we are not advancing, and to no longer believe in the fight because we do not see the end of the tunnel. The danger of giving up the fight keeps lurking on us over the months and throughout events. There is no doubt that time is passing but as long as the arbitrariness, the contempt and the negation of what makes us human beings are prevalent, our freedom will be in danger. We cannot be silent and give up the fight.

Dear fellow citizens, if there are facts that can lead to discouragement, there are even more reasons that must lead us to believe in our struggle, to hope that **our future depends on us, and that no dictatorship, whatever its strength and longevity, has never overcome the determination of an entire people.** Our generation cannot and must not therefore lose hope. On the contrary, by putting the steps in those of our predecessors, we have a heavy responsibility to complete the fight for the emergence of a democratic Togo for the happiness of all citizens. Being part of the generation that must complete the fight should give us courage and confidence at this moment when the temptation to give up is great.

Fellow Togolese, the cause we are defending is noble and it places us in the tradition of the great men and women who fought for human dignity. Knowing that we are descendants of the defenders of freedom for the emergence of a new Togo is in itself a reason to still be standing. To honor the memory of the valiant fighters for freedom in our

country is to be convinced that it is up to us to bring their fight to a successful end. That is the fine tribute we can pay our predecessors.

**To bow to their memory is to give substance to their desire which is ours too. We desire a free Togo for all Togolese from North to South, from West to East, from all ethnic groups, social strata, and all religions because diversity is an asset.**

***« Togo Debout, Luttons sans défaillance »!***

Fellow Togolese, all our predecessors in this long fight for freedom support us and ask us not to give up because it is for our generation to complete the struggle in this historic moment. The harvest is coming and all the sown seeds will bear fruit.

Fellow Togolese, the time of a new start has arrived despite all that is said by the supporters of the old order. It is up to us to seize 2020 as a favorable time to register resolutely our desire in the social body in order to put our country Togo in orbit. That is why, for us at the FRONT CITOYEN TOGO DEBOUT, the next election in 2020 is part of the fight for freedom. This is a fundamental point of the fight.

Going to the 2020 election does not mean that we have given up on our demands and reforms. It is on the contrary to have the full awareness and conviction that 2020 is the starting point for the implementation of the institutions we want. We do not say that everything is done. But to seize the legal and political opportunity to express loudly our desire and to defend our choice at the next vote is to attest to the world that no weapon comes to the end of the determination of an entire people.

Fellow Togolese, we are determined to go with you all to the election but we formulate the following demands:

❖ Before the election

- The review of the new law on the demonstrations in accordance with the request of the citizens, request supported by the United Nations
- Circuit hearings for issuing birth certificates
- The recomposition of the INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION and the Constitutional Court
- A new census
- A reliable electoral register audited by an international organization and that this electoral register is made available to all actors
- Accreditation given to civil society organization for election observations
- The end of early voting by law enforcement and security forces.

❖ Election day

- The guarantee to bring to justice all those who will be caught in the act of fraud
- The display of the results of each polling station.

Dear fellow citizens, we have learned from past elections and that is why the 2020 election should no longer be like the previous ones. This is why, in addition to the requirement for a reliable electoral register as an essential civic requirement, we must remain valiant and vigilant and be present for the count of the ballots. We must exercise our duty as citizens so that each polling station displays its results. Defending our vote more than ever will be a civic duty.

The FCTD invites all citizens to become involved in the electoral process with vigilance and determination. Because change through the ballot box is possible.

Who would have thought that Yaya Jammeh of The Gambia could leave power by election? Who would have thought that a Constitutional Court could invalidate elections in Kenya?

Who would have thought that the great Omar El Bashir of Sudan could so easily fall from power?

Who would have believed in the fall of Bouteflika in Algeria, when he already had submitted his candidacy? In all these countries no situation is identical to the other, but the supporters of the old order faced the unexpected; history is giving us signs.

If we are united and determined, political alternation is within our reach because those who want change and alternation are more numerous. We must mobilize and seize this historic opportunity to achieve what the majority of Togolese want.

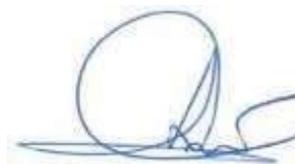
Fellow Togolese, what if the shattering statements of the last days of the supporters of the old order were only the song of the swan? A swan does indeed sing and only performs a wonderful song when it feels its end approaching. Yes, the end of a system is approaching and it is inevitable.

It is up to the men and women of the new era to silence their ego and to work together in convergence to make Togo a country of happiness for all.

If our future belongs to us, it is up to us to work on it by telling every Togolese that the Togo of happiness that we long for does not exclude anybody. It is a Togo of value and recognition of rights.

A Togo of happiness for all is a Togo of security, a Togo of Justice, a Togo of respect of human rights, a Togo of fair sharing of the riches, a Togo where the demands of the world of education, health, agriculture, and all other sectors are taken into account. This Togo depends only on you, on each and all of us. So it is within our reach.

Lome, October 9 2019



**Pr David Ekoué DOSSEH**

For the FRONT CITOYEN TOGO DEBOUT