



## **From Waiting to Becoming: A Vision for African Sovereignty**

*Addressing the African Diaspora in Zurich, Switzerland , January 2026*

My brothers and sisters,

As the warmth of the holiday season recedes, the first light of 2026 rises before us—unfiltered, demanding, and filled with choices that will shape generations. This is not a year that will unfold gently. It is a year that calls us to think with clarity, to act with courage, and to redefine what it means for Africa to stand sovereign in a world that grows more complex by the day.

For too long, we have lived in a posture of waiting.

Waiting for certainty.

Waiting for permission.

Waiting for others to validate what we already possess.

Waiting for God to intervene in matters for which He has already given us hands, minds, and resources.

This waiting has shaped our institutions, our education, our spirituality, and even our imagination. It has taught us to doubt our own genius until it is confirmed by someone else. It has conditioned us to believe that our destiny lies in the hands of those who do not share our history, our pain, or our aspirations.

But today, we stand at a turning point.

A moment when waiting is no longer an option.

A moment when becoming is the only path forward.

Across our continent, beneath our villages and towns, lie minerals that power the technologies of the future. Yet it is often foreign experts who tell us what they are worth.

Our rivers, plants, clays, and rocks hold healing knowledge accumulated over centuries, yet we are taught to distrust them until a distant institution certifies their legitimacy.

Our cacao, our timber, our fruits, and even our human talent are too often priced by systems that do not see the full dignity of our people.

This is not merely an economic imbalance; it is a psychological and spiritual wound.

A continent that doubts its own knowledge cannot fully claim its future.

A people who outsource their self-belief cannot shape their destiny.

The same pattern extends to security and sovereignty.

When external actors can influence our internal stability—by flooding our communities with weapons, drugs, and divisive ideologies—we are reminded that dependency is not just a financial condition. It is a strategic vulnerability. A continent that does not control its resources, its knowledge, and its security will always negotiate from a position of weakness.

And Africa can no longer afford weakness.

We live in a world where a decision made in a distant capital can destabilize a local community. Where a contract written in a foreign language can determine whether our children drink clean water. Where a narrative crafted in someone else's newsroom can shape how we see ourselves.

This is why the shift from waiting to becoming is not symbolic—it is existential.

Becoming means reclaiming agency over our resources.

It means training our own geologists, engineers, economists, and negotiators so that we no longer sit at the global table as petitioners, but as equal partners.

It means ensuring that the child in a rural classroom can imagine themselves not only as a consumer of imported goods, but as a creator, an inventor, a steward of their land.

Becoming means reimagining our education.

Not to produce graduates who fit into systems that exploit them, but citizens who design systems that liberate them.

Not to memorize, but to innovate.

Not to imitate, but to originate.

Becoming means restoring confidence in our own knowledge systems.

Not by rejecting science, but by recognizing that our ancestors observed, experimented, and understood their environment in ways that remain relevant today.

Our traditional medicine, our philosophies of community, our conflict-resolution mechanisms—these are not relics. They are resources. They deserve rigorous study, intelligent integration, and national respect.

Becoming means building security architectures that protect rather than expose our people.

Security is not only about weapons; it is about protecting minds from manipulation, communities from division, and economies from predatory interests.

Our soldiers, police, and intelligence services must be guided by a moral compass rooted in dignity and justice.

My decision to seek the office of President is not born of ambition for power. It is born of a conviction that leadership must become the answer to our deepest problems—not another layer of them.

Leadership, in this new era, must be redefined.

It is not the privilege of being served; it is the discipline of serving wisely.

It is not the performance of strength; it is the practice of integrity.

It is not the art of giving speeches; it is the responsibility of building systems that endure.

We have seen what happens when leadership becomes a stage for ego or accumulation. Our people pay the price in broken institutions and stolen futures. We cannot repeat that cycle.

In unity and perseverance, there is victory. But unity must be conscious, and perseverance must be strategic.

Unity does not mean uniformity. It means aligning around shared principles: dignity, justice, accountability, and the belief that every African life has value.

Perseverance does not mean enduring suffering; it means enduring the work of building.

2026 will not reward passivity.

It will reward those who dare to think differently, act responsibly, and lead courageously.

I intend to be among them.

But I do not intend to walk alone.

I invite you—not as spectators, but as co-authors of a new chapter.

A chapter where our resources are a blessing, not a curse.

Where our knowledge is respected, not dismissed.

Where our security is owned, not outsourced.

Where our children do not have to leave the continent to believe they have a future.

This is not a promise of an easy road.

It is a commitment to a meaningful struggle.

Let us choose, in this year of uncertainty, to become clear in our purpose.

Let us choose, in this time of complexity, to become simple in our values.

Let us choose, in this age of fear, to become courageous in our actions.

History is not written by those who wait.

It is written by those who become.

The time is not tomorrow.

The time is now.

Together, We Rise

Thank you.

*Dr Alpha Grace, PhD*