

Distinguished Guests, Abatooro na Abatoorokati, and Friends of Tooro. On behalf of the Board of Directors and esteemed members of Tooro American Association, Inc., I welcome you to the Washington DC metropolitan area. I welcome you to the official launch of this Association.

Personally, I am humbled by your overwhelming positive response and support to this event. More importantly, I am humbled by your presence here tonight. In a place where there is so much to do, and so many places to be, you chose to be with us. We are truly grateful.

As the speaker between you and the delicious looking meal over there, I will get right to the point. Briefly, I want to tell you about TAA and our mission, some of the aspirations we have for the organization, and finally call upon the members of TAA to officially launch the organization.

The mission of the Tooro American Association (TAA) is to galvanize an expansive Tooro Diaspora (and Friends of Tooro) of North America to strengthen our community ties through networking, empowerment, and supporting each other; support the development and charitable programs in the Tooro sub region; and to foster a cultural understanding and restoration of Tooro values and traditions - through education and support of Tooro's cultural institutions and programs. The idea is that we build a platform that will enable us to embrace and celebrate our culture and heritage; support development and education projects both here and back in Tooro; and, form new and nurture old bonds amongst ourselves, and with neighbors and friends.

By design, TAA is embracing a broad mission - mainly to enable us to think outside the proverbial box, but also to allow others to join us and have a say in the activities and direction of the organization - to help us in crystallizing the goals of this organization. We are a transparent organization, and the members in good standing will always be the ones to decide (by vote) on which projects the organization will undertake or support.

For me, the education component is the most important one - it will focus on youngsters in our community. Ours is an organization that seeks to grow and to endure. But, that sustainability and growth will depend on how well we relate to young people, and what we do to build and/or support their aspirations.

When it comes to supporting children, the need in our community (both here and in Tooro) is greater than the capacity of this young organization - or any other organization for that matter. From education bursaries/scholarships, basic needs like food and shelter, school renovations and scholastic materials to counseling/ tutoring services, and student exchange programs. Again, what shape or form those efforts will take, will be decided by the members.

At this moment, I call upon the pioneer members of Tooro American Association, Inc. to join on the stage – to help me launch TAA.

These things (I just spoke about) look like insurmountable challenges only when we are standing apart. Tonight we join our hands together to empower ourselves, and pledge to make a positive

impact on our community. Tonight we rise above our individual parochial interests – and dedicate ourselves to a great cause.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, tonight I present to you TOORO AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, INC.

Thank you for coming out tonight, thank you for all your support.

Albert F. Bakasara Kazooba

Chairman, Board of Directors - TAA