

Statement on Poverty for Religious Leader's Consultation on Poverty

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My statement is inspired by the teachings of the book of Isaiah, chapter 58.

Drawing from its teachings and my comprehensive work of social justice, I link this to the position of my current work station, the All Africa Conference of Churches, which has taken on the issue of the crippling debt faced by developing countries, when it says that the debt facing Africa today is like modern-day slavery.

Counter planning from the civil commons has emerged as the people's response to the exigencies of the dominant orthodoxy of neo-liberalism that puts profit before life. The subordination of peoples, regions and industries to the industrial and financial multi-nationals of the dominant industrial powers under the euphemism of Globalization is tearing the seams of societal fabric.

It is in this charting of a new path that lays the role of the religious sector in the fight against global poverty. The church is the people. It is the commonwealth of God's creation and the last bulwark against any affront on the wishes and aspirations of the people. Thus in the face of the stampede of capital led corporate globalization that is fuelling rampant poverty across societies, the church must stand with the people. It must protect the people; the meek and the poor. Those in the likeness of God.

What we need the church to do is to follow the example of what Daniel and Nehemiah did. Confess and repent our sins and rebuild the walls. For this is the time that the Lord has set and the truth shall set us free.

What we need is the spiritual revival for the prophetic role the Church should take, especially this time when are confronted with the worship of fashion show which is a manifestation of serving the interest of market. So to speak, idol worship!

With the persecution, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we have a guarantee of building a new dispensation of our life when we believe and trust ourselves as a manifestation of why Jesus Christ died for us. For He died for our total liberation. Politically, socially, economically, and most of all spiritually.