

Zimbabwe

The outlook and perspective on Zimbabwe's economic woes and political crisis by Zambia's leading opposition leader, Mr. Michael Sata and by the first President of Zambia, Dr. Kenneth Kaunda is that this is a European and USA plot to overthrow the Robert Mugabe government. Mr. Sata is on record of accusing the Zimbabwean opposition of using the BBC or CNN to fight their battles and of being agents of the Western countries. Unsurprisingly, the silence by African leaders, intellectuals, elites and religious leaders over the unbridled brutal attacks of the opposition by the Zimbabwean government has attracted denouncement by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

It is shameful that African leaders should always see Western domination plot in every African adversity without making any effort to distinguish between right and wrong. This kind of thinking is a major reason for Africa's stagnation. How is it that we are able to see with clarity the injustices perpetrated by whites against blacks, but we are desperately blind to the dreadful injustices perpetrated by us on our own people?

Africa needs a new generation of leaders who will look at African issues and problems from another perspective. Africa is in an urgent need of leaders who will give it a new energy and hope. These leaders are well informed about the slave trade, colonialism and about Africa's post-colonial leaders such as Kenneth Kaunda and Jomo Kenyatta, but they don't use the past as an excuse to explain away the government failures or allow it to drive their actions today and their future aspirations. We need a new generation of leaders who will not accept the title of semi-god or "father of the nation" but who understand that the call to public office is the call to serve by modeling accountability, unconditional love and fulfilling responsibilities.

We the people of the Book have an opportunity to breed this new kind of leaders. Many of our churches have captured the vision to nurture young professionals into godly contributors to our nation. Each Sunday we are seeing buses going to professional institutions of learning to pick up young people and bringing them to our churches. These young people need to be put in Bible study discussion groups where they can reflect on God's heart for justice, increase their understanding of the role of Christians in bringing positive community response to fight corruption, abuse of power, inefficiency, human rights violations, poverty, ignorance and HIV/AIDS.

Seeking justice for others with no personal benefit accrued to the one doing it is not something that is taught in our universities. Universities help our young people how to live fulfilling lives free from poverty and oppression for oneself. Let us build a generation of men and women who will be filled with God's passion and plan for justice, that when they take up public office they will seek justice and human dignity for others. With the church on every corner of the street there is no need for Africans to experience oppression and injustices from own people as the case in Zimbabwe.

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