

Youth Must Lead the Charge Against Economic Injustice.

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Reverend Mbongeni Dube, has called on young people to take the lead in addressing economic injustice which has characterised the Zimbabwean space especially perpetuated by the politicisation of natural resource governance.

Speaking at the 13th Zimbabwe Alternative Mining Indaba (ZAMI) Youth Symposium, which was convened by the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) in conjunction with the Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD) and the Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA) in Bulawayo, Rev Dube emphasised the critical role of youth in driving social change and creating a more equitable future.

Theologically founding his assertion from the man at the Pool of Bethesda, Rev. Mbongeni Dube highlighted the plight of today's youth. Just as the man waited for 38 years for someone to assist him, he said that many young people are passively watching as others benefit from the nation's resources.

"Our youths are like the leper at the pool of Bethsaida, watching some people benefiting from the natural resources and not taking the initiative to be involved. Pick up the mat and lead in the country's transformation," he said.

He reiterated that young people's engagement can challenge systemic injustices and promote equitable access to resources, ensuring that communities benefit from the wealth generated by these resources.

Speaking during the Symposium, the All Africa Council of Churches (AACC) Youth Ambassador, Claudina Shimanda shared insights on how young people can leverage existing structures within their communities, particularly within the Church, to advocate for just economic policies.



"The church offers a unique platform for youth participation, and in that regard, the youth in Zimbabwe must take advantage of these platforms to advocate for just economic policies that benefit not only the current generation but generations to come," said Shimanda.

The symposium brought together young people from various corners of Zimbabwe and Southern Africa who shared success stories of grassroots movements that have successfully influenced local policies and engaged their communities in meaningful dialogue.

The consensus among youth was that Zimbabwe's rich natural resources are often marred by mismanagement and exploitation, and the need for youth involvement in governance processes has never been more pressing.

As the nation gears up for the ZAMI, the symposium highlighted the crucial role that young people play in the mining sector as stakeholders and advocates for sustainable mining.

The symposium served as a rallying point, encouraging young advocates to persist in their efforts and collaborate with established organizations and government entities in fostering sustainable mining practices.