



The ZacTax Justice Campaign Relunched: A New World is possible; it is in our own hands!



On the 20th of May 2023, the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) joined the relaunch of the Zacchaeus Tax Justice Campaign in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The relaunch was organised by the All-Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), Council for World Mission (CWM), Economic Justice Network (EJN) of the Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa (FOCCISA), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), South African Council of Churches (SACC), World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC), World Methodist Council (WMC), and World Council of Churches (WCC).

The Zacchaeus Tax Campaign is part of the New International Financial and Economic Architecture (NIFEA) initiative promoted by the CWM, LWF, WCRC, WMC and WCC. It recognises that rising inequality rooted in historical injustices and runaway climate change are fuelling poverty, social disintegration, and conflicts in Africa and around the world.

The share of income accruing to the wealthiest continues to expand while ordinary people struggle to make a living. The prevailing global tax system reflects and promotes (neo)colonial approaches that enable multinational corporations and affluent sectors of society to avoid or evade their tax responsibilities (through transfer pricing, the use of tax havens, among others).

The adverse impact of tax avoidance and evasion on African government revenues means less funds for essential social services, COVID-19 recovery, and urgent climate action.

The relaunch offered faith-rooted African perspectives on just taxation and reparations; platform to share concrete proposals to advance corporate and wealth taxation as well as social and ecological reparations; and re-launch of the ecumenical Zacchaeus Tax campaign for tax justice and reparations in the African region.

Speaking during the relaunch, Bishop Ivan Abrahams (WMC) said, “we encourage churches to confront unjust tax systems from local to global levels.”

Dr Tinashe Gumbo (AACC) said, “poverty and inequality are with us, we need to work collectively as individuals, communities and churches to confront these unjust tax systems.”

The campaign recognises that the world is confronted with sin of economic injustices, particularly tax injustice, entrenching pain and suffering among the people. The economy needs to reflect God’s economy, that where everyone enjoys a good standard of living, an economy filled with less inequalities and injustices.



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Experts at the relaunch expressed concern over the levels of debt, economic inequality and poor public services in Africa yet financial resources are looted by both local and global elites through corruption, tax evasion or avoidance, and other mechanisms.

The campaign will focus on mobilising churches to push for progressive taxes, strengthening of institutions to fight corruption and illicit financial flows, and reforms of the international tax system and the financial architecture.

The platform admitted the importance of livelihood interventions by churches, however, it called for greater efforts to confront unjust systems that perpetuates poverty and systemic inequalities.



Representatives of various faith organisations and tax experts stand as the #ZacTax Campaign Officially Launched in Africa.

