



■ SUMMIT

Faith and social justice

Unity among religious groups key to a harmonious society, says Archbishop Makgoba

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THE faith community needs to be mobilised so as to realise its potency as a force in the advancement of social justice, according to Cape Town Archbishop Thabo Makgoba.

Speaking during the second Social Justice Summit yesterday, Makgoba said: "The ideal of social justice has become even more important in these scary times. Persons in the faith community in all of our cultures wield great power. We do not appreciate fully enough their power in shaping communities and in achieving social cohesion," said Makgoba.

"Unity among religions is of paramount importance to live in harmony among different religions and to promote peace and tolerance to humankind. All faiths have common stances of upholding unity, love, compassion, peace and co-operation.

"Consider to what extent the faith community can contribute to plug the

gap in the disparity between the rich and the poor globally and at home. To what extent the faith community can work toward equality among peoples."

Summit host and social justice chairperson at Stellenbosch University Thuli Madonsela said: "The preamble to our Constitution is that vision statement that we all adopted as South Africans, saying we didn't like who we'd become as a nation, but this is the nation we want to become."

Speaking about a new art installation honouring the preamble to the Constitution that was unveiled on Tuesday in front of the law faculty building, Madonsela said: "All law students coming here for the first time get to see this preamble and realise that that is the foundation of their legal studies."

"Social justice lawyering is not just for young people without a serious legal commitment. Social justice lawyering should be part of every lawyer's training," said Madonsela.

Business Leadership SA CEO



Archbishop Thabo Makgoba

Busisiwe Mavuso said: "We as South Africa have been through one of the most wicked curveballs in the name of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"What makes it more wicked in our

case is that it found us at our weakest as a country."

"The economic outlook for 2020 was already bleak at the beginning of the year. At the beginning of October, we posted very bleak unemployment data with 2.2million jobs lost in the second quarter of the year," said Mavuso.

"In just seven months, Covid -19 has unravelled much of the progress that we have made as a country over 25 years. What all of this means is the deprivation for the majority of SA citizens has just intensified."

"So if the plan is to have all hands on deck and to leave no one behind in the post-Covid-19 recovery agenda, it means the interventions that we need to put in place ought to be those which will drive the inclusivity agenda that has eluded us for the past 25 years."

"From the business perspective, what needs to be done is to figure out our role in the recovery programme, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals."



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