

# RELIGION & ENTERPRISE AFRICA SUMMIT 2022. SUMMIT IN CONTEXT

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**Objective:**

**Discuss The Role of  
Religion & Enterprise  
in Africa in Our  
Contemporary World.**

# WHY RELIGION & ENTERPRISE IN AFRICA?

- **In Africa, belief systems are dominant, and it is regarded as the most faith-based continent in the world (Dodd and Seaman, 1998)**
- **Business and socio-economic activities are often flavoured with belief-based expressions and rituals, (Emani and Nazari, 2012).**
- **Over 490 million Africans live in extreme poverty; high unemployment and inequality (UNCTAD, 2021).**

## In 2021 alone.....

- **15 active armed conflicts were registered.**  
(Fabritius, 2021; Mishra, 2021; CFR, 2022).
  - **Four military seizures of governments took place in Chad, Mali, Guinea, and Sudan (UNDP, 2021; WHO, 2021).**
  - **There were fires, floods, droughts and famine from worsening climate change (UN, 2021).**

- African market, comprising 1.4 billion people and a combined GDP estimated at over \$6.7 trillion in purchasing power parity. (UNCTAD, 2021).
- Mass of 30 million square kilometers 3 times bigger than China, and second largest continent on earth.
- Vast amounts of natural resources, especially those in demand for a green fourth industrial revolution (UNCTAD, 2021).

- The paradox.

**Lee Kuan Yew, had a firm belief that there are always, somewhere in the world, best practices to learn from, whenever problem had to be addressed. (Yew, 2000)**



## THE EVER-CHANGING WORLD

Thinking People & SMEs, Promoting Success Beyond Limits





- Global issues will have impact on the continent.
- Africa must remain actively engaged with the rest of the world.
- And if Africa is indeed religious, then Faith-based institutions cannot continue to operate from the edges.

- Faith-Based Institutions offer the most credible strategy & Values for tackling Africa's overwhelming Existential development challenges.

# Pillars of the World.

## Judges 16:25-26

**<sup>25</sup> “While they were in high spirits, they shouted, “Bring out Samson to entertain us.” So, they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them. When they stood him among the pillars,**

**<sup>26</sup> Samson said to the servant who held his hand, “Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them.”**

**Proverbs 9: 1**

**“Wisdom has built her house,  
she has carved its seven  
pillars”.**

**What pillars  
Hold our  
Contemporary  
world?**

Intellectual base



Identity



Values



Seed of Technology & Innovation



Money



Shapes our opinion



Rules & Controls  
Lives



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# Why Enterprises?



Intellectual base



Identity



Values



Shapes our opinion

Seed of Technology



Money



Rules & Controls  
Lives



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**The top 10% of the highest earners in the world owns 76% of all global wealth, while the bottom 50 percent owns just 2%.**

**Powerful Corporations  
Determine Powerful  
Governments And Weaker  
Societies & Democracies .**

# Characteristics of the Samsons in our Contemporary world?

- **Innovative Ideas**
  - **Finance**
- **Influence/Power.**

# What lies Ahead?

- **The period 2023–2050 will present huge opportunities for humankind, due to continuing advances in arts and sciences,**
- **Risks such as pandemics, epidemics, climate change, conflicts, advanced technology that will hurt Africa, if Faith-Based institutions do not become proactive and effectively get involved.**

# **Implications for Religion & Faith-Based Institutions in Africa?**





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- **Observe Global patterns**
- **Ask critical and open-ended questions.**



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# ■ The Nature of the Discourse

- **If African societies are very religious but at the same time Start-up and SMEs are not doing well, to what extent does the individual entrepreneur's belief system contribute to their growth or collapse on the continent?**
  
- **If belief systems are crucial to Africans, could belief systems be harnessed to improve businesses sustainability to reduce unemployment and poverty in Africa?**

- **Examine the concept of wealth creation, technology, innovation and whether belief systems enhance the structural existence of poverty among n African societies.**
- **Explore new ways of leveraging belief systems as a force for positive social and economic transformation and development in African society.**



Cattitude is everything



**THANK YOU**

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