

## **Power, Poverty and Economic Marginalisation: SAFCEI's Advocacy Role towards State's Environmental Policy in Global Economic Perspectives**

Henry Mbaya

From the perspective of Michel Foucault, power, vulnerability and inequality seem to operate in the same continuum. They are all issues of power. Foucault argues that power has many dimensions and operates from different directions. In his view, power does not only disempower but it can also empower. Moreover, Foucault asserts that powers does not only derive from the centre but also from the 'margins.' Obviously in mission a link occurs between the 'mission of power' and the 'power of mission," and then mission from the position of "disempowerment," from the position of marginality and vulnerability. South Africa Faith Communities Environmental Initiatives (SAFCEI) formed in 1985, comprising Christian denominations, Islamic, Hindu and Buddhism religions, is situated in the "margins" of the society, but has nevertheless, since 2012 taken an advocacy role of challenging government nuclear deal with multi-corporations. SAFCEI argues that government policies if left unchallenged would have the consequence of further impoverishing the poorest in society through policies that would in the long run have negative effects on the environment. This paper seek to argue that common environmental concerns deriving from a common view of environment have "empowered" the mission of SAFCEI to engage the government in issues that have global capital perspectives. Secondly, that common environmental concerns are more likely to enhance interfaith mission than commonality of doctrinal issues in South Africa.