

INEQUALITY IS

Zitto Kabwe on inequality and taxes

This video transcript is from an interview with Zitto Kabwe, member of parliament, Tanzania. It's part of the Ford Foundation's #InequalityIs series, featuring leaders in a wide range of fields talking about what inequality looks like from their vantage point, what they're doing about it, and where they see other opportunities for change.

Transcript begins.

ZITTO KABWE: Inequality is, take one. Thirty percent of African financial wealth is held in tax havens. That is inequality.

[Inequality is logo. A graphic black equal sign with an orange slash through it.
#InequalityIs. Zitto Kabwe, member of parliament, Tanzania. An African man with short black hair, wearing a light blue collared shirt under a striped dark blue sweater.]

Inequality is when multinational corporations pay less taxes or no tax at all in countries where they operate and shift their profits to tax havens, while enjoying services like roads, services like defense and security, for their investments. African governments fail to deliver social services to their people. Services like education, health, water services, because the money that they're supposed to have, in order to provide these services, are hiding in tax havens. That's why it is very, very important for the world to establish an international tax convention, in order to ensure that everybody is subjected to the same set of rules. Including establishment of centrally managed Registrar of Companies, and assets like stocks, in various stock markets of the world, so that there will be an automatic exchange of information between countries on tax matters. If we want to create a society of equals, where human beings live in the same set of rules, we must address the issue of tax habits.

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