



## **ABUNDANCE OF MORAL COURAGE REQUIRED**

Wisdom, compassion and courage are three universally recognized moral standards. Moral courage involves the willingness to take action for moral reasons when one has doubts or fears despite the risk of adverse consequences.

Leadership when imbued with moral courage has the capability to place ethics into action. It means standing up and standing out, being both visible and felt when taking a stand in defence of principle. This occurs even as some stand aside, not showing willingness to become involved even as others strongly oppose you. It means making brave ethical decisions and taking action when faced with conflicting forces.

Moral courage involves acts of integrity carried out with dignity. It necessarily involves careful thought and intense deliberation. Moral courage is about maintaining awareness of the danger that may be involved when acting on principle, but with willingness to endure that burden to achieve just results. It is applicable to global trends negatively impacting human environments that demand emphatic action.



*Society has moved from an emphasis on social support to one of individualism which is precipitating an ever-widened gap between the rich and the poor, further exacerbated by increased resource scarcity. These problems are deeply entwined with people's lives, globally, affecting their thinking and subsequent actions taken. It underscores the social and economic forces in play, has a major role in determining patterns of movement, and affects the way in which people form new values and mould unique identities. This dynamic is strongly allied with adaptive thinking that is driving an emerging global ethos; an ethos largely unknown to many and is misperceived by some, and because it remains unappreciated is rapidly being beyond manageable.*

These new trends are impacting social development on a global scale. It will take immense moral courage to strategically plan, devise, and implement the type of development policy and initiatives needed to guide an emerging global ethos in ways that produce those desired outcomes needed to achieve progressive and sustainable objectives.