

## A PRAYER FOR EPAs

Lord God, you created the earth; the earth in its fullness is yours including the entire humanity. Out of your generosity and love, you gave it to us to “till it.” We are mere stewards; make us good stewards for the common good of all. Creator God, you make the rain fall upon the earth, make the vegetation to grow and variety of yields from the toil and the work of our hands for our daily bread. For all this we thank you.

The proceeds from these products help us to meet hospital bills when we become sick, feed and care for our children by paying for their school, tertiary and university fees. We are also enabled by the products we sell to handle all matters that require monetary exchange. We thank you Lord for the harmony on the earth that ideally ensures enough for every creature; protect the earth from anything that may disrupt that harmonious co-existence so that humanity may be fulfilled in your promise that “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full”.

Dear Lord, so often this harmony is threatened by vices like greed and selfishness, by the powerful exploiting and intimidating the weak. We have seen in the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations that the stronger nations of the European Union are imposing themselves on smaller nations in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries in the pretext of free trade. With EPAs we can only anticipate untold sufferings that include general loss of livelihoods, insufficient food supply, lack of proper education and medical care, and unemployment. Once again, the already hungry, exploited, poor, and innocent people from the ACP are about to be sacrificed at the altar of might and greed.

Loving God, you are the God of the weak and orphaned; you raise up the poor and create justice for the needy. We are for crying out for help against EPAs, which we have done till our voices are hoarse. If it were not for our faith in you, Lord, we would despair, but the awareness that you are with us has seen us grow stronger every day. Lord, we do not ask for mercy from Europe but for justice that ensures equitable distribution of the world’s resources.

Good Lord, protect all the Nations from exploitation of all kinds. Enlighten the minds of leaders to love and embrace truth and justice that will ensure equitable distribution of the world’s resources for the common good of the peoples. Through this, Lord, restore the dignity of every human person that you so love as to bear your image.

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ we pray

**AMEN**

*World Food Day is this Tuesday, October 16. On this day, we remember and reflect upon the state of hunger in our world and in our communities - over 854 million people in our world are hungry. As believers, we commit to engage in creating systems of justice and accountability for God’s creation. Hunger is a result of many things, including unfair international trade rules. Please join in the prayer below for social and economic justice for Africa*

*This prayer was written by a group of Kenyan religious organizations. Please pass this on to others as we join together in praying for a world of justice*

Paul has implored us to work: “If a man/woman will not work, he shall not eat”. Following this decree by Paul we have worked tirelessly, not just so that we can eat but also so we can sustain ourselves with the products of our work. Creator God, after toil and sweat we set aside our products for sale - coffee, tea, rice, cotton, wool, milk, honey, beef, chicken, fish, sisal and more.