

A caring and daring letter by Anglican bishops

As soon as the 52-page letter by the Church of England leaders was published, there were some criticisms by political and media groups that do not wish the changes the letter intends to effect.

One of the main criticisms about the letter was that the bishops were not chosen by voters and therefore they are not appointed to intervene in politics. But the criticism continued to say that the bishops' main duty was to save the troubled souls.

Aware of the paradoxical contradiction of such criticism, I was reminded of Albert Einstein's saying 'Intellectuals solve problems, geniuses prevent them'.

The content of the letter calls on every section of society using the political and democratic rights and duties to create a situation that can prevent further unemployment and poverty, care for the minority, vulnerable, unwanted, unvalued and unnoticed.

The criticism dictates 'to save the troubled souls' as the duty of the bishops. The 52-page letter calls for our political process not to cause further 'troubles' in different forms.

History has examples of prophetic voices



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igniting the fire of visions that ensured peace, freedom and equality.

Sadly most of the time such prophetic voices do not go down very well with the ruling elite but meet with some fierce opposition.

I am convinced of the fact that most of the critics of this letter oppose it not because of the content, but of its religious origin.

Such critics should be aware that these religious leaders, unlike some in the world, do not abuse their influence and gifts to advocate violence and war, but instead use it for building a better and fairer society.

We need religions and their leaders that can build democracy, not destroy it.

Although the letter has come from the Anglican bishops, I wish that every voter, irrespective of religious and non-religious backgrounds, reads this prophetic letter before the General Election.