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## Tutu warns of poverty 'powder keg'

**Archbishop Desmond Tutu has warned that South Africa is sitting on a "powder keg" because millions are living in "dehumanising poverty".**



Tutu says poverty is the biggest threat to South African security

The Nobel Peace laureate said attempts to boost black economic ownership were only benefiting an elite minority.

And he cautioned that political "kowtowing" within the ruling ANC was hampering democracy.

The archbishop was speaking at the Nelson Mandela annual lecture in Johannesburg on Tuesday.

He attacked the black economic empowerment programme for further enriching already wealthy blacks.

**“ We cannot glibly on full stomachs speak about handouts to those who often go to bed hungry ”**

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

[▶ Profile: Desmond Tutu](#)

"What is black empowerment when it seems to benefit not the vast majority but an elite that tends to be recycled?" he asked.

He warned the system could be "building up much resentment which we may rue later."

"Gruelling, demeaning, dehumanising poverty" experienced by millions of South Africans was the biggest threat to the country's security, he said.