



## **ALL HANDS MUST BE ON DECK TO MAKE POLITICS A NOBLE VOCATION TO SERVE THE COMMON GOOD**

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### **ABUJA, NIGERIA -**

Nigerians have been called upon to take advantage of the God-giving grace of the forth coming 2019 General Elections to radically change things round and recover the genuine sense of politics as a noble vocation to serve the common good.

This admonition was recently given by the Catholic Archbishop of Abuja, John Cardinal Onaiyekan in his homily at the opening Mass of the first Plenary Meeting of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria (CBCN), held recently in Abuja, at the premises of the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria, Durumi.

Urging the people of the country not to give-in to despondency and frustration, Cardinal Onaiyekan noted that the challenges facing the country are within the ability of Nigerians to confront and resolve, if they have the will and determination.

While expressing regret that the present Federal administration has, within its three years in office, not been able to salvage its promise of good governance and better living, the cardinal noted: "It is no wonder that many Nigerians are looking for a new political organization that can truly bring about genuine change for the better. Stating that the country can be said to be in a state of political emergency, Cardinal Onaiyekan stated that there is an urgent need

and serious task to salvage the country and give her youths hope for a better future.

Cardinal Onaiyekan continued: “Having tried our two major political parties and found none of them up to our expectation, the nation is on the verge of despair”. He therefore called for all hands to be on deck to ameliorate the situation. He urged Nigerians to stop complaining and get involved in the often rough arena of politics; adding “It is only then that a new kind of politics as service to the people will emerge and real change for the better will be achieved.”

The cardinal concluded: “The period of Lent that we have just started is a good opportunity to reflect, repent and rededicate ourselves to doing things well and in the right way. We should abandon our selfish interests that are tearing us apart. Our religious and ethnic adversities are God-given blessings. They should be positively managed as valuable spiritual and cultural resources for our nation.”