



## **POSITIVE USE OF NEW MEDIA VITAL FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT**

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### **MAGDALLA, NIGERIA -**

The positive use of the new media is a vital drive for national security and development, the Director of Social Communications at the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria (CSN), Durumi, Abuja; Rev. Fr. Christ Anyanwu has declared.

This assertion was contained in the goodwill message of the CSN Director to delegates at the eight Regional Conference of Catholic Media Practitioners Association of Nigeria (CAMPAN), of the old Kaduna Ecclesiastical Province, held, recently, at St Theresa's Catholic Church, Madalla, Niger State. The director's message was delivered by Otunba Jide Fadugba-Pinheiro, Administrative Secretary of the CSN Directorate of Social Communications.

The three-day programme which had A New Media Age and National Security as its theme was attended by over 50 delegates from all the Archdioceses and dioceses of the Ecclesiastical Province, some directors of Communication of the region and some national officers of CAMPAN.

Describing the theme of the Conference as very apt and timely for the present Nigerian situation, Fr. Anyanwu declared: "This venue of your conference, St Theresa's Catholic Church, Madalla, if you can all recollect, is a sad reminder of the importance of security in our country and the society in general. In this Church, on Christmas eve of 2011, over 35 Catholics and other innocent Nigerians were sent to their untimely deaths as a result of the bomb

attack on the Church by Boko Haram insurgents. This is a sad chapter in the history of the Church and our country, Nigeria.”

Noting that security as the bastion of development, justice and peace in any society and country cannot be controverted, Fr. Anyanwu expressed concern about the state of national security in the country and pointed out the important role of the new media in the promotion of security of life and property.

Describing the new media age as a scientific feat that has turned the world into a global village in the area of communication and information technology, the CSN director spoke extensively on how media professionals and communicators can utilize the new media to make life safe and better for the society.

His words: The New Media Age has both negative and positive impacts on national security. When we talk of the new media, the social media is a major factor; and in conjunction with other modern means of communication, it has been used to disrupt security in our country and globally, through conjecture and spread of false information and news. These have caused discontentment, crisis and even wars among peoples of different tribes and races in different parts of the world, including Nigeria.”

Fr. Anyanwu told the delegates that as Catholic media practitioners, they should be models in the effective use of the new media to make the country better and secure by avoiding the publication of fake news and false information. He urged them to rise up to the challenges posed by modern-day organs of information dissemination, especially the social media; acquire and use these organs positively for national security, peace, justice and development.

The CSN Director commended the Northern region CAMPAN for its consistency which is making the body to wax stronger; and for positively impacting on the communication apostolate of the Catholic Church in the country.

