



GOVERNMENT WARNED ON THE DANGERS OF ETHNIC OR RELIGION FAVOURITISM

Jul 25, 2019

EBONYI, NIGERIA -

The Catholic Laity Council of Nigeria (CLCN) has called on the country's three tiers of Government and other major stakeholders in the country not to accord supremacy to any particular religion in the country pointing out that this portends great danger to the unity of the country and a threat to the existing fragile peace in the land.

This appeal was contained in the communique issued by the council at the end of its 141st National Executive Council (NEC) meeting held recently at the Bishop Thomas Mc'Gettrick Pastoral Centre, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State. The theme of the meeting which was attended by delegates from all over the country was: *Islamization and Fulanization of Nigeria: The Role of the Church*, and the communique was signed by Sir Thomas Folu Adekoya KSJI and Hon. Sir Henry H. Yunkwap KSJI, President and National Secretary-General of the Council, respectively.

Premising their appeal on the secular state of the country premised on the country's 1999 Constitution, the association contended that: "the agitation for the establishment of settlements by the government for a tribe in all the states of the Federation" must be resisted, because responding positively to such a parochial request by any particular tribe, religion, group or trade could threaten the corporate existence of the Nigerian nation.

The council noted with great concern the worrisome state of insecurity in the country and the inability of the

country's security agencies to curtail the situation by arresting the perpetrators of the criminal activities and their sponsors and make them to face the wrath of the law. The communique therefore called on all agencies responsible for security in the country and collaborate with the justice ministry to bring the situation under control. While congratulating President Muhammadu Buhari on his second term in office, the council advised the President "to sincerely consider the federal character policy of the country, the diverse ethno-cultural and religious composition of the Federation in order to balance all interest and sensitivity of all the federating units of the nation."

The council also used the occasion to appeal to all Christians to embrace peace, even in the face of provocation to sustain the peace and unity of the country. In addition, it called on all Christians to unite and speak with one voice, promote holiness of life, righteousness, deepen their faith in the Lord, be vigilant and security conscious to protect themselves and their properties.

Apart from discussing the state of the nation, the council NEC also discussed various issues on enhancing the collaborative activities of the laity groups and sodalities for the evangelization apostolate of the Church in the country. Also, committees to implement the programmes of the council at the national level were inaugurated. The list of standing committees for the council include: Project and Development; Finance and Budget, Publication and Education; and Welfare and Laity Uniform Committees.