



CALL FOR STRINGENT LAWS TO CURB KIDNAPPING AND OTHER CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

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EBONYI, NIGERIA -

A call has been made for a stringent law that will curb the increasing wave of kidnapping and other criminal activities presently threatening the peace, stability, safety of life in the country. The call was made by the President of the Catholic Laity Council of Nigeria (CLCN), Sir Thomas Folu Adekoya, KSJI; in his address at the 141st National Executive Council (NEC) meeting, held recently at the Bishop Thomas McGettrick Pastoral Centre, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State.

The meeting which was attended by delegates from all over the country, had Islamization and Fulanization of Nigeria: The Role of the Church; as its theme. According to the CLCN President: "The Federal and States Houses of Assemblies should have promulgated a law with a view of dealing with potential kidnapers, bandits and other criminal tendencies that have become the order of the day in the country."

Pointing out that this could have prevented the present menace the country is facing as a result of these criminal activities, Sir Adekoya noted that the Catholic Laity Council will appreciate and support any administration that will provide adequate security and the wellbeing of all Nigerians.

The Laity Council President further noted that over 200 citizens have lost their lives through kidnapping, banditry, Boko Haram, Fulani-herdsmen and farmers clashes which have resulted in many of the people being driven out of

their family abodes and turned to inmates of IDP camps. Sir Adekoya noted that it is the responsibility of any government to protect lives and properties of the citizens as well as deliver social services as entrenched in the country's constitution. He also expressed concern at the threat to the Christian religion in Kaduna State and urged the government of the state not to embark on any policy that could be inimical to the existence of any particular religion in the state.

Speaking on the country's political situation, Sir Adekoya expressed concern about the low turn-out of voters at the country's last General Elections, pointing out that this signaled "a deepening distrust in the country's democratic process. He added that "Overall, Nigeria has made major strides in its democratic development, but still needs to make significant changes at improving the country' electoral body to make the commission more effective and efficient in conducting future elections in the country. The President of the Council also spoke extensively on the spiritual and pastoral activities of the Church and the role of the Laity Council in this respect.