



## **BISHOP EZEOKAFOR ADVOCATES A UNITED, SECURED NIGERIA**

Jan 20, 2020

### **AWKA, NIGERIA -**

The Catholic Bishop of Awka Diocese, Most Rev. Paulinus Ezeokafor has called for the collaboration of all stakeholder groups in the country to ensure the sustenance of a united, secured and indivisible Nigerian nation. The bishop made the call in his homily at the celebration of the Mass to mark this year's Armed Forces Remembrance Day in the Awka, the capital of Anambra State.

Speaking on the issue of security of life and property as a major concern in the present-day Nigeria, Bishop Ezeokafor noted that any government that could not protect life and property is not in the interest of the people and the development of the country. He emphasised that the primary duty of any serious government was its ability to put in place adequate security.

While commending members of the country's security agencies for the efforts in spite of identified challenges, the bishop appealed to the Federal Government to ensure that necessary logistics and other necessary machineries are put in place to enable the security agents to carry out their duties effectively and efficiently.

Bishop Ezeokafor also admonished those In-charge of the remunerations and entitlements of retired and deceased security agents to pay it on time; condemning in strong terms the way and manner those in authority divert money meant for the welfare and well-being of security personnel for personal use; describing the act as a grievous sin before God.

Bishop Ezeokafor also spoke on the issue of the appointment of the country's Service Chiefs, stressing that this should be on merit and not on ethnic basis or favouritism. He added that those called to serve must do it diligently and wholeheartedly. He emphasised that the security of life and property of the people should not be sacrificed on the altar of nepotism, favouritism and religion.

The local ordinary of Awka Diocese enjoined all Nigerians to be patriotic and support the security agents, noting that members of the Armed forces were doing their best and needed to be encouraged and commended. He stated that they risk their lives for the nation and they deserved to be appreciated, catered for and adequately remunerated.

The Executive Governor of Anambra State, Chief Willie Obiano was represented at the ceremony by his deputy, Dr. Nkem Okeke. Also present were: the Speaker, Rt. Hon. Uchenna Okafor, the Acting Chief Judge of Anambra State, O. M Anyachebelu; Secretary to the State Government, Prof. Solo Chukwulobelu; The Chief of Staff, Anambra State, Hon. Primus Odili, Head of Service, Barr. Harry Udu, The State president of Ohanaeze Ndi Igbo, Ichie Damian Okeke Ogene, Service chiefs, among others.