



BISHOPS WARN ON CONSEQUENCES OF FINANCIAL INDUCEMENTS FOR TERRORISTS

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KADUNA STATE -

Catholic Bishops of Kaduna Ecclesiastical Province have expressed concern over the present situation of the Nigerian nation stressing that ominous clouds of violence have enveloped the country while most of the states in the Northern part “are in the grip of purveyors of violence and death. They also warned on the consequences of financial inducement for the perpetrators of the criminal activities in the region.

The bishops’ contention was contained in the communique issued at the end of their provincial Plenary meeting held at the Pastoral Centre of Kafanchan Diocese, Kaduna State. The bishops discussed extensively and condemned unequivocally, the incessant killings of innocent people in the province, especially in Southern Kaduna, as well as the state of the nation.

The communique titled: *Dark Clouds of Violence over our Land*; was signed by Archbishop Matthew Ndagoso, Archbishop of Kaduna and Bishop John Niyiring OSA, Bishop of Kano; President and Secretary of the Provincial Conference, respectively. The province comprises: Kaduna Archdiocese, Kafanchan, Zaria, Kano, Sokoto, Minna and Kontagora Dioceses.

According to the bishops: “Hitherto, the nation’s main challenge was how to contain the dreaded terrorist group, Boko Haram, but “today, almost the entire Northern states are in the grip of these purveyors of violence and deaths. In the last three years, we have witnessed the relentless attacks and ransacking of entire communities by bandits in states like Benue, Kebbi, Plateau, Kaduna, Nasarawa, Niger, Sokoto and Zamfara.”

They continued: “Thousands of lives have been lost to these bandits who have operated with reckless abandon. Taken together, with the devastation of Boko Haram, Nigeria today ranks as not only the poverty capital of the world, but the most violent and unsafe

place to be. With Covid-19, our situation has become even more precarious and perilous.

While appreciating the efforts of the governors of the region to contain the situation, the bishops stressed the need for them to do more, because their present best “is still not good enough.” They noted that monetary inducement for perpetrators of violence is an abuse of justice and condemned the lackadaisical attitude of the Federal Government on the issue. “We are shocked by the seeming lack of empathy that continues to be displayed by the President, regarding the senseless loss of lives across the country.

The Bishops called on leaders of all stakeholder groups in the country, especially those in the troubled areas, to rise up to the situation and collaborate with government to put an end to the criminal atrocities of the heinous killers in the region. While commiserating with the affected people of the region, they however objected to the use of violence for revenge; stressing that: “No amount of revenge, bitterness, calumny, hatred or name calling can bring back those who have lost their lives in these senseless and unnecessary blood lettings.”

