



BOKO HARAM: BISHOP KUKAH CALLS FOR CAUTION ON THE PART OF THE MEDIA

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OKE-PADI, IBADAN - Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah of Sokoto Diocese has challenged the media in Nigeria to be proactive in the handling of the Boko Haram issue and collaborate with the country's authority in finding a lasting solution to the problem.

The bishop gave the advice while answering questions from pressmen during a Press Conference at the St. Mary's Cathedral, Oke-Padi, Ibadan, capital of Oyo State, on Sunday, October 2, 2011. Bishop Kukah was in Ibadan for the Second National Mission Congress of the Catholic Church in Nigeria, held at the SS Peter & Paul Major Seminary, Bodija, Ibadan, from Thursday, September 28 - Sunday, October 2, 2011. The Theme of the Congress was: The Church in Nigeria, Call to Mission; Here I am Lord.... Send Me.

According to him, the issue of security in the country is the responsibility of government, but it is the duty of all segments of the society, particularly the media to support the government to ensure the safety of life and property of all Nigerians.

Bishop Kukah who expressed concern about the state of security in the country and the menace of the Boko Haram Sect, however noted that the media's orchestration of the atrocities of the Boko Haram is not in the best interest of the country.

According to the local ordinary of Sokoto Diocese, the Boko Haram issue is more political than religious and the government should be allowed to find the solution to it while the media should be careful not to aggravate the situation by their reports.

In his own response to another question on the situation of the country, the President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN), Most Rev. Felix Alaba Job noted that Nigeria is blessed with both human and natural resources that can make her great as a nation but her major problem is the lack of focus by the leadership.

Archbishop Job regretted that the resources of the country were being diverted by the political leadership to create financial empires for a privileged few at the expense of majority of Nigerians. The Archbishop therefore called for a political leadership that will serve and protect the interest of all Nigerians, irrespective of the differences.