



NATIONAL LAUNCH FOR 2017 LENTEN CAMPAIGN

**PRAYER FOR PEACEFUL AND CREDIBLE
ELECTIONS...LEADERS OF INTEGRITY**

VOTE OF THANKS

Your Excellences

Distinguished guests

Religious Leaders

Christians

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a privilege and a great joy for me to extend a vote of thanks to all those who have contributed in one way or the other to make this launch of Lenten Campaign and National Prayers for Peace and Credible elections a success. I sincerely thank you on behalf of the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Allow me your Excellences and distinguished people of Kenya to thank the President of the Republic of Kenya His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, for accepting to grace this occasion and celebrate Holy Mass with us and to pray for peaceful and credible elections.

On behalf of the Bishops, I wish to thank the President particularly for giving us the opportunity to celebrate Holy Mass and Launch the Lenten Campaign from the Pope's Podium. May I convey deep regards and hearty thanks to you your Excellency.

I humbly wish to recognize and express my sincere gratitude to Hon Raila Odinga former Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya and other co-principles of opposition for honoring our invitation to this national prayer for our great country Kenya.

Your Excellences and distinguished people, I wish to thank all the members of diplomatic mission here present and especially the USA, South Africa among others who graced this occasion. Your presence show how much you care for our country. It is indeed a great gesture that as we are praying for peaceful and credible elections you are standing with us in solidarity.

In the same breath, I wish to heartily express our gratitude to you Your Excellency Archbishop Charles Daniel Balvo for joining us in the Holy Mass. Your presence is an assurance that the Universal Church is in solidarity with Kenyans praying for a peaceful and credible elections.

We wish to thank all the Cabinet Secretaries here present and their staff for the immeasurable support and time they dedicate to make this event a success. In specific we thank the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, for the security accorded us.

We are extremely grateful to all the Governors present. In particular, we wish to thank Hon. Evans Kidero and his entire Nairobi County Government team that dedicated their time and resources for the event to be this successful.

My deep regards and thanks to all members of Parliament here with us. I humbly request to recognize and thank in a special way the Catholic Members of Parliament led by Hon. Thomas Mwadeghu

who have shown a great commitment to their faith and always stood by the Catholic Church whenever they are called to do so.

I wish to thank the Constitutional Commissions and Independent offices representatives present with us.

My deep and sincerely gratitude also goes to the University of Nairobi and especially the Vice Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi and your team for collaborating with our secretariat but more especially for your personal commitment and time you dedicated to see this event successful. I am informed that Professor was punctual in all the meetings and gave clear direction with regards to processes of hosting this event in the university ground. My enormous respect to you sir.

We recognize and thank the religious leaders present SUPKEM, Hindus, Protestants, Evangelicals, and Protestants here present. Your presence here speaks volumes...especially on the desire for national unity and cooperation for the good of our country.

We thank our Development Partners (Cafod, Misereor, Fastenopfer, Trocaire, CRS, Civil Peace Service, Federal Republic of Germany, DIFD through Safer World, European union, Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Caritas Australia and Diakonia for your continuous support and collaboration to our Catholic Justice and Peace Office

We wish to express our gratitude to Waumini Insurance, Madison Insurance, Britam, Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Consolata, and recognize students from all learning institutions. We pray that the good Lord grant abundantly for the support given toward this event.

We sincerely thank the members of the Multi Sectoral Forum (Private Sector, Civil Society, Trade Unions, among others) whom we have worked closely to promote peace and cohesion in our country.

I on behalf of the collegiality of the Catholic Bishops in Kenya, convey deep regards and hearty thanks to all staff of KCCB, the 25 Catholic Dioceses, through the Catholic Justice and Peace Offices, CMA, CWA, Choirs, Youths and PMC for your generous contributions that have majorly enabled us to fund the launch activities. We recognize the PMC from St. Monica outstation – Ongata Rongai Parish for the good peace message, I am convinced we shall all take that message home.

Lastly I take this great opportunity to thank all of you for your participation and making this event a success. God bless you and may you continue praying that our country holds together. Let us be instruments of peace as we conclude with the prayer of St. Francis....

Rt. Rev. Joseph Mbatia
Bishop Member
KCCB Catholic Justice and Peace Commission