



**NATIONAL LAUNCH FOR 2017 LENTEN CAMPAIGN**  
**PRAYER FOR PEACEFUL AND CREDIBLE ELECTIONS...LEADERS**  
**OF INTEGRITY**  
**WELCOMING REMARKS**

**Your Excellency the President of Kenya Uhuru Kenyatta**

**Hon Raila Odinga Former Prime Minister of the Republic Kenya**

**Your Excellency Archbishop Charles Daniel Balvo**

**Your Excellences the Ambassadors of USA, South Africa and other present**

**Your Eminence Cardinal John Njue**

**Your Graces and Lordships present here**

**Your Excellences the Governors Presents**

**Distinguished Religious Leaders Present**

**Hon Cabinet Secretaries**

**Hon Governor of Nairobi County-Dr. Evans Kidero**

**Hon Members of Parliament**

**Chairperson of Constitutional Commissions present**

**Vice Chancellor of the University of Nairobi Prof. Peter Mbithi**

**Hon Members of County Assemblies**

**Our Development Partners present, CRS, Trocaire, CAFOD, SAFERWORLD, DFID, Caritas Australia, Konrad Adeneur Foundation, Civil Peace Service, Misereor, Federal Republic of German, Fastenopfer among others**

**Christians**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**I salute you all in the name of Christ.**

**Before we begin, I wish to ask that we have a moment of silence in honour of the Governor of Nyeri County Hon. Nderitu Gachagua who passed away yesterday and pray that the good Lord may Rest is soul in eternal peace.**

**Thank you**

This morning we are gathered here for a greater course. I am happy to see all of you here present, which is an indication of the love and commitment you have for our country Kenya.

The Catholic Church and other faith communities gathered here have taken a great interest to ensure that our country is held together. Today we gather here as Kenyans to make an historic statement that never again will elections divide us and sink as deep as the depths of 2007/08. We are called therefore as leaders to seek the paths of reconciliation, justice and peace among people and particularly this time of electioneering.

In that regard, the Catholic Church is calling every player in this coming elections to uphold peace. Peace I believe like many here present is a sine qua non for credible elections. We have invited the political leaders to this prayer meeting because we recognise that it is the responsibility of the political sphere to create a just social order. The Church, however, has the duty to form the consciences of the men and women involved in building a society reconciled in justice and peace. This is the reason we have come up with the Lenten Campaign calling for peace and credible elections. With these view remarks I wish to welcome you this important event. I wish all of you a blessed celebration of Holy Mass and the Launch of Lenten Campaign 2017.

**25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2017**

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**Rt. Rev. Philip Anyolo**  
**Chairman**  
**Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops**