



## **EDUCATION, AN ESSENTIAL TOOL FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP**

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### **KADUNA, NIGERIA -**

Education has been described as an essential tool for good governance and mobilization of good leaders for the development of any nation. This point was asserted in the Resolutions adopted by members of the Nigerian Catholic Diocesan Priests Association (NCDPA); at the end of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the association, held recently at the Catholic Media Centre, Kaduna.

The AGM was attended by delegates from all the Archdioceses and Dioceses in the country. The document containing the resolutions was signed by Very Rev. Fr. Sylvester Onmoke and Rev. Fr. Francis Ikhianosime, National President and Secretary of the association respectively. The theme for the AGM was: ***The Imperative of Good Governance for A Secure and Prosperous Nation.***

While calling for prayers for the leaders of the nation in this time of trials, the association stated: "We are not despaired despite insecurity, corruption and bad governance. We rely on God with unwavering hope as we call for

untiring prayers for our country, Nigeria, and for our leaders in these challenging times.”

According to the statement, the association noted that: “The fruits of good governance continue to be the yearnings of citizens of Nigeria and beyond,” adding that the country basically “cries for justice which is anchored on the dignity of the human person.” The association stressed the need for improved functional educational structure pointing out that the country is being derailed by poverty and insecurity.

The delegates at the AGM stated that: “It is sad to note that the doors to productivity through education have been attacked, thus the poverty of the mind and insecurity have found a place at the head of the governing system of our country, just in the same way as agriculture and transport structures are equally on the brink of collapse to mention but a few.”

The delegates, among other things, therefore called on all pastoral agents to be more effective witnesses to the Gospel of Christ through proper and trustworthy governance of the Church and those of the state, entrusted to their care. They also urged them to be prophetic in rebuking poor governance, because betrayal of the truth is betrayal of the kingdom of God and its mission.

They admonished civil servants to be exemplary in transparency in the administration of public service for the

common good of the nation; identified corruption as a cankerworm that kills a nation and called on government to address the root causes of poverty, insecurity and other vices affecting the country and pragmatically find solutions to them.

The delegates also called for a collaboration between the State and the Church in youth formation through advocacy and inclusion of basic principles of social teachings in the school curriculum at all levels; noting that good governance and security is a collective responsibility of all the people of the country.