

# Ghana National Catholic Youth Council (GHANCYC)

DEPARTMENT OF PASTORAL MINISTRY & EVANGELIZATION - NATIONAL CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT

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## PRESS RELEASE – CONDEMNATION OF INSULTS ON GHANA CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE BY MR. KELVIN TAYLOR

The Ghana National Catholic Youth Council, the umbrella body of all Catholic Youth in Ghana write to condemn the politics of insults by freelance journalist Kelvin Taylor which is being circulated on social media and some media houses concerning the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference position that the church will campaign against any political party that does not demonstrate commitment to Ending Vigilantism in Ghana.

We wish to categorically state that the youth of the Catholic Church in Ghana is in firm solidarity with our bishops in their efforts to ensure that violence is eliminated from partisan politics in Ghana. The peace being enjoyed in the country cannot be taken for granted, the more reason why we must solidify the gains made in our electoral processes and safeguard the future of this country to more lasting peace. It is in this spirit that the Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference made that pronouncement affirming the earlier condemnation of political violence and vigilantism issued in their communique in November 2018 after their Plenary in Techiman.

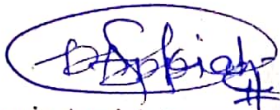
It is the right of all citizens and for that matter journalists who have the advantage of the airwaves to exercise their rights of freedom of speech but that right also comes with responsibilities. It should be devoid of insults and castigations since they have a tendency to cause violence in the long run. Opinions and comments can be made based on the substance of the issue without attacking personalities and we the Catholic Youth condemn these utterances by Mr. Kelvin Taylor and humbly advice him to apologize to the eminent men of God.

The Ghana Catholic Bishops' Conference does not come out on issues without carefully analyzing all the pros and cons before coming on air. We firmly stand by our bishops in supporting other stakeholders which include political parties in the quest to eliminate political vigilantism in our political landscape. We encourage all stakeholders to continue discussions towards eradicating vigilantism in our electoral processes to safeguard the peace and tranquility existing in our dear nation. The future of this country lies with the youth and we cannot continue to be used as thugs for the selfish interest of any political party. We pray that all stakeholders continue to dialogue to ensure that this pathway to ending vigilantism sees the light of day.

Thank you and May God Bless us all.

### COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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