

A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup>SYNOD OF ABA  
NGWA NORTH DIOCESE HELD AT ST. GEORGE’S ANGLICAN CHURCH ARO-AMANO IN  
ARO AMANO ARCHDEACONRY FROM THE 13<sup>TH</sup> TO 16<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER 2016.

**PREAMBLE:** The Aba Ngwa North Diocese (Church of Nigeria Anglican Communion) held the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of her 4<sup>th</sup>Synod at St. George’s Anglican Church Aro Amanoin Aro Amano Archdeaconry from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2016, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the pro-active leadership of the Diocesan and President of the Synod – the Rt. Rev. Nathan C. O. Kanu Ph.D., J.P., with an elucidating and inspiring theme, **“HOW HAVE THE MIGHTY FALLEN; MUST WE CONTINUE LIKE THIS?”** 2<sup>nd</sup>Sam. 1: 19; Rom. 6: 1 – 2.

**ATTENDANCE:** The Synod was attended by the Lord Bishop and Host Rt. Rev. Nathan C. O. Kanu Ph.D., J.P., the Most Rev. Benjamin A. Kwashi – the Archbishop of the Ecclesiastical Province of Jos, and Bishop of Jos Diocese who was the Synod preacher and Bible Study facilitator; Bishops from Sister Dioceses, the President of the Women Ministry, Princess Mrs. Odionyenfe Kanu (Mama Aba Ngwa North),the Hon. Justice Ory Zik-Ikeorha, the Deputy Chancellor of the Diocese, the Hon. Justice Innocent Nwabughogu – the Registrar, Deputy Registrar; Legal Officers, Special Guests, the Clergy, Resource Persons, Bishop’s Nominees, Traditional Rulers and delegates.

**HIGHLIGHTS:** The major highlights of the Synod were the Special Prayer Session at Ama Obu Square, Synod Motion, reading of the Presidential Address by the Diocesan, Motion for Acceptance of the Bishop’s Address and Launching of the Address.

Others include: Bible Study, review of the following: report of Archdeaconries and other arms of the Church, pre-Synod discussion on the theme of the Synod, the pre-Synod Youth Summit and their recommendation, and the reception of delegates by the host Archdeaconry.

**THEME OF THE SYNOD** *“How Have The Mighty Fallen; Must We Continue Like This?”*  
2<sup>nd</sup>Samuel 1: 19; Romans 6: 1 – 2.

2<sup>nd</sup>Samuel 1:19; *“The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen”.*

Romans 6:1-2; *“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”*

**APPRECIATION:** The Synod congratulates our Lord Bishop for the vision and anointing that gave rise to the choice of the theme of this year’s Synod; which is apposite and timely, thought provoking and spirit filled. The theme captures our present day political, social, religious, economic and security circumstances depicting a glaringly fallen state of affairs in our Nation, the Church and the Society at large and the need to rise from this fallen state.

Synod appreciates our Lord Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Nathan C. Okechukwu Kanu for his wisdom, skill and ingenuity in piloting the affairs of the Diocese and for being a true father. In the same vein, Synod also commends Mama Aba Ngwa North, Princess Mrs. Odionyenfe Kanu for her unrelenting support and assistance to the Bishop and for being a very active driving force in the affairs of the women ministry. We also appreciate our Provincial Archbishop, and congratulate him on his election and presentation as the Dean of the Church of Nigeria and salute the Bishops of Sister Dioceses for their unflinching support and love.

Synod equally appreciates the resource persons particularly the facilitator of bible studies and Synod Preacher the Most Rev. Benjamin A. Kwashi.

The Synod commends the Bishop for the event of the special prayer session of the first day of the Synod at the Ama Obu Village square/junction in Ibeku Ngwa, Aro Amano with the traditional rulers and for the deliverance and possession the land by the Children of God. Synod recommends that the said event be made a regular practice by the Diocese because we must not continue like this.

Synod appreciates the Synod planning Committee and the L. O. C and specially commend the entire host Archdeaconry for the notable improvement of the Synod venue. The efforts of the Clergy, the Secretariat ably led by the Clerical Synod Secretary, Rev. Canon Eze O. Egesia, and the Diocesan Staff are immensely appreciated.

The Synod asserts that one who has fallen must first accept that he has fallen otherwise he cannot rise. He must first of all repent to attract the Spirit of God through which he can receive power.

Blinded by selfishness and quest for worldliness, the Church has distanced herself from her source of strength and so moves around like empty drum, making only noise with neither action nor impact, and the Synod posits that we cannot continue like this.

**STATE OF THE NATION:** Synod congratulates Nigerians on our 56<sup>th</sup> independence anniversary and commends the Federal Government's fight against corruption but urges that it should be done within the ambit of the law. The slogan of the Federal Government that "change starts with me" is commendable as it is also in line with the Synod theme – *Must We Continue Like This?*

Synod also rejoices with the rest of Nigerians on the release/home coming of 21 of the Chibok girls and urges the Federal Government to expedite action to ensure the release of the rest of the girls.

Considering the lecture delivered by President Muhamadu Buhari as part of the Arewa House Annual Lecture in honour of Alhaji (Sir) Ahmadu Bello in 1999 headed "leadership in a period of moral crises", the Synod asks Mr. President to ensure that people he places in the helm of affairs in the Federal Government of Nigeria are people of transparent honesty, dedication, integrity and patriotism and also ensure that the system of security vote is abrogated and encourages the President to give vent to section 3 (6) of the 1999 Constitution as amended with regard to Local Government Autonomy.

The Synod congratulates the Executive Governor of Abia State Dr. Okezie Victor Ikpeazu and Abians on the celebration of their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and urges the Governor to make a quick departure from the past and encourage him not to relent from the zeal with which he started.

**CONCLUSION:** The Synod therefore urges all Christians and Nigerians to get up from the ground and our decadence, dust up quickly all apparitions and conducts that brought us down in first place and go to Christ in humility with renewed commitment and sincerity of heart and purpose.

Members of the committee:

Hon. Justice Innocent A. Nwabughogu –	Chairman
His Worship Ngori Nwoke	
Barr. F.I. Nwogwuwu	
Rev. Canon Ik Onumaegbulam	
Sir G. N. Nkoro	
Barr. Felix Jonathan	
Barr. Chukwudi Chibuzor –	Secretary