

News

I'll be killed if I was made Kumba Bishop

BY ATIA TILARIOUS
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Rev. Dr. Fr. George Nkeze Jingwa, President of the Catholic University Institute of Buea, CUIB, has ruled out claims that he had put up a strong lobby to be appointed pioneer bishop of the newly created Diocese of Kumba.

In an exclusive interview he granted The SUN, April 26, on the line to Yaoundé, Fr. Nkeze said one does not become a priest in the hope of becoming bishop.

"I strongly support the new bishop of Kumba. We recently gave the new diocese 40 hectares of land together with a bookshop... people think that the work i do is because i want to be bishop and they are fighting me for nothing. They are tarnishing my image. I am not looking for power. I am not interested. I do what i do because i love it and i will continue to do it," he said.

Speaking in Tiko on Saturday, April 9 at the 4th reunion of catholic teachers in the Diocese of Buea, Fr. Nkeze said he would have been killed

if Pope Francis had appointed him Bishop of Kumba.

Asked by one of the teachers if he sincerely did not envy the position of pioneer Bishop of the Diocese of Kumba, Fr. Nkeze laughed and then responded that he has never envied the office of Bishop.

"You have spoken what people are saying in the quarters. They say Fr. Nkeze is doing all these things because he wants to be a Bishop. That is not Fr. Nkeze. No one works to be a bishop. People sent letters to Rome to condemn me. So I don't know why they have created this image about me and circulated all round. I am a happy man," he said.

Fr. Nkeze recounted that after one year at CUIB, he was sacked. "I was also sacked as the education secretary after doing a lot. If I was aspiring to be Bishop, I would have been sad. Even after my dismissals, I thanked the Bishop and asked him what my next assignment was."

He said his detractors have written and said damaging things about him, adding that his calling is to transform lives

and draw people closer to God.

Hear him: "The worst thing is to be Bishop. It's horrible. You want them to kill me? This is frank talk. If they appoint me Bishop of Kumba, I will not go there because they will kill me. You don't know what is going on. If they put me there, I will say no. I will not go. People will think that I have fought to get it which is not true. I will tell the Holy Father no."

To Fr. Nkeze, his life is more important than any appointment. "My life is more important. I like that I be killed because I'm transforming people, not because of power. No way. Not me. That is why I remain a happy man. I am very happy. I'm happy where I am."

He said if he was hungry for power, he would be sad after the appointment of Monsignor Agapitus Nfon as Bishop of Kumba.

"I tell you to support the new Bishop of Kumba. I will not go and run him down like some people are trying to do. Go and support him. I don't care about what people say about me. God knows that I don't like power," Fr. Nkeze

advised.

On why he fears for his live if appointed Bishop of Kumba, Fr. Nkeze said they have tried to snuff life out of him twice.

His words: "... I said I will be killed because they have tried to kill be twice. I have written it in my book, 'Hard Readings From My Original Spiritual Diary' published in 2014. It's true. They have tried to kill me twice because they think that I'm growing popular. Priesthood for me is the greatest thing. I am happy with what I am doing. I was talking to teachers who know the story. That is why I answered that question. People present a wrong picture of me."

On whether there are some priests in Kumba who want to kill him, Fr. Nkeze said: "I don't want to go to those things. Go and read my book, 'Hard Readings From My Original Spiritual Diary'."

He said he will be in Kumba on Saturday, May 7 for the installation of the Bishop, saying that Kumba is his hometown.

CAMASEJ Limbe honours Media partners

BY GEOFFREY ELAH

Some 12 media partners in the Limbe municipality have been awarded certificates of recognition for their efforts towards promoting press freedom and freedom of information which was in part, the theme of this year's celebration of World Press Freedom Day.

Members of the Cameroon Association of English Speaking Journalists, CAMASEJ Limbe chapter while appreciating the work of these awardees in impacting society in one way or the other highlighted through their president, EbongPende Divine that the distinctions were made after numerous consultation and observation. EbongPende encouraged the laureates to continue in their path of nation building in their own peculiar way.

Those who were recognised include; Hon. Gladys Etombi for her efforts in helping underprivileged and school dropouts to reintegrate into society; Motanga Andrew Monjimba for promoting culture and national integration in the municipality; Talba Malla for an open door policy initiated at the