Written by Winston Mwale Sunday, 16 March 2014 13:14



The CCAP Church of the Nkhoma Synod on Sunday issued a pastoral letter, advising its followers on qualities of a good leader ahead of the May 20 elections.

For example, the church says people should not vote for perpetual liars or leaders who advance tribal agendas.

In the Pastoral Letter, dubbed Renewal and Regeneration of our nation: A Call for Church Responsibility , CCAP Nkhoma Synod says the year 2014 is special in a number of ways.

The Church says while it is celebrating 125 years of existence and 52 years of autonomy from the Dutch Reformed Church, the nation is celebrating 50 of independence.

"Therefore, we see it as timely and necessary that we reflect together on some issues that continue to affect us..." reads the Pastor Letter in part.

According to the Pastoral Letter, although the country has made some strides, there are what CCAP Nkhoma Synod has called "emerging" challenges that are causing stagnation and decay of these achievements.

The infamous multi-billion kwacha cash-gate has been cited as one of these stumbling blocks to national development.

CCAP Nkhoma Synod Tips Followers on who to Vote For

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"Right now Malawians are 'crying' over billions of kwacha through cash-gate, saying the money is part of tax payers' money."

But the Pastoral Letter, which was read out in all CCAP Nkhoma Synod churches on Sunday, says the church is baffled to note that people who have been named as suspects in the forensic audit report are not being made public.

"The delay in releasing these names is suspicious to both the church and many Malawians."

The church also bemoaned the 'secrecy' and conflicting explanations on the sale of the presidential jet.

Recently, government has come under intense pressure to release names of all people and companies named in the cash-gate report.

The country's President Joyce Banda told the nation recently that she is equally eager to know the names of the cansgate suspects.

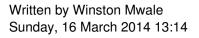
But in its report, the forensic auditors Baker Tilly said the release of names now would be premature and may jeopardise evidence trials.

The Pastoral Letter also took a swipe at what it called 'moral decay' in the country.

"The Church continues to note with great concern the levels at which moral values are being eroded in the name of civilization, human and minority rights."

"Cases of lack of respect for the elders, lack of decency in the dressing, promotion of secular humanism, homosexuality, abortion, prostitution and pornography are all acts that our Lord

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does not condone."

According to the Pastoral Letter, any nation that promotes these 'immoral' values faces judgment from God.

Recently, the issue of homosexuality has been in the limelight through debates for running mates organised by ZBS.

In the main, the four running mates who took part in the debate were not clear on their position on the matter, with most of them saying they will either call for a referendum or let the Constitution be upheld on the matter.—*Zodiak Online*