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Kenya Catholic Bishops Ban Political Speeches in Churches Ahead of 2027 Election

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"We call upon the security organs to be non-partisan in applying the law without favouring any aspirants or political affiliations,"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Kenya's Catholic bishops have banned political speeches from every Catholic church in the country and told presidential hopefuls to tame their tongues before the 2027 General Election. Speaking in Embu on Thursday, 12 November 2026, the bishops warned that tribal and inflammatory language could plunge the country into chaos. With about 270 days left until the August 2027 vote, they said the peace Kenyans enjoy is fragile, and careless words could break it.

The warning came from the top of the Church. The bishops were led by Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops chairman Archbishop Maurice Muhatia and vice-chairman Archbishop Anthony Muheria, and they did not speak in general terms. They named the problem, and they named the remedy.

"We call upon the security organs to be non-partisan in applying the law without favouring any aspirants or political affiliations," they said. It was a message aimed as much at the police as at the politicians.

Kenya Catholic Bishops Tame Your Tongues Warning

The call comes amid an escalation of exchanges between opposing sides. Over the last week, President William Ruto and his former deputy, Rigathi Gachagua, who now leads the Democracy for the Citizens Party, have traded barbs, with their comments bordering on insults and personal attacks.

The bishops said the campaign season has not even begun, and the language is already out of control. "Charged campaigns should not be a pretext to use polarising language," they said. "We also remind the political actors that the stipulated campaign period has not begun and Kenyans expect people seeking office and their supporters to be civilised in their language, attitude and behaviour."

Then they said the thing that will be quoted for weeks. "The use of indecent and offensive language by political aspirants and their supporters undermines the morals that we teach our children; it sets a bad example for younger generations," they said.

It is a simple argument, and it is hard to answer. Children are watching, and the men who want to lead the country are teaching them how to speak.

Kenya Bishops Ban Politics In Churches 2027 Election

The bishops did not stop at words. They declared a ban on politicking in all Catholic churches nationwide, and they told their priests to enforce it.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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