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ADDRESSING MR. ONANUGA'S CLAIMS ON THE PAPIRI ABDUCTION INCIDENT

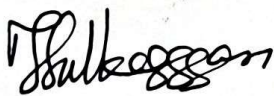
The attention of the Catholic Diocese of Kontagora has been drawn to comments made by Mr. Bayo Onanuga, Special Adviser to the President on Information and Strategy, during his interview on Arise Television in the evening of 24 November 2025, regarding the kidnapping of pupils and teachers from St. Mary Catholic School, Papiri.

Mr. Onanuga's claim that the School did not provide the list of the kidnapped persons is simply not correct. The Diocese released the full names and exact number of all abducted pupils and staff on the morning of 24 November, long before Mr. Onanuga made his comment in the evening on Arise TV.

Mr. Onanuga's further assertion that the school ignored warnings to shut down is also false. We wish to state very clearly that there was no circular, no written instruction, and no verbal communication from any government body directing the school to close. It is therefore surprising and deeply misleading to suggest that the school disobeyed an order that never existed.

At a time of great pain for the families involved, the lives of innocent children must not be drawn into political commentary or used to score points. The Diocese continues to work in full collaboration with all security agencies and relevant authorities to ensure the safe return of every child and staff member.

We commend all who are working tirelessly for their rescue, and we pray earnestly for the safe and swift return of our abducted children and teachers.



Rev Fr. Jatau Luka Joseph
Diocesan Secretary

