Ndingi says no to hurried reforms

THE Coadjutor Archbishop of the Catholic Church in Kenya, Archbishop Ndungu Mwana' a Nzeki, yesterday said there was no need for hurried constitutional reforms.

He said sudden constitutional changes would plunge the country into chaos and political turmoil.

"Kenya is for everyone and there is need for careful study of the present constitution, Kenya's supreme law, before making any hurried reforms," he said.

By EVELYNE NASERIAN and BEN MITUKAA

Archbishop Ndingi made the remarks when he addressed a one-day seminar for the League of Kenyan Women Voters at a Nairobi hotel.

On civic education, the prelate said the church supported the programme, pointing out that the programme was aimed at sensitising the women on their rights as voters.

The clergy asked the women not to be cowed by criticism from their male counterparts. When asked to comment on President Moi's stand over civic education, Archbishop Ndingi said President Moi was our Head of State and should not be discussed carelessly in public. He said the Head of State should be accorded the respect he deserves.

Said he: "We respect the Head of State as the head of the Kenyan family. You cannot question your father..."

Archbishop Ndingi also condemned corruption and advised Kenyans to fight the vice to create a just society.

Addressing the same meeting, the chairperson of the League of Kenyan Women Voters, Mrs Martha Karua, opposed the formation of a women-led political party to field a presidential candidate as suggested by her DP counterpart, Mrs Charity Kaluki Ngilu, who is also the MP for Kitui Central.

"Women risk further marginalisation by forming a women's party and they should work their way up within the existing parties. It is up to us women to lobby the Government to provide equal opportunities through legislation and to outlaw gender discrimination."