

## **Akin Mabogunje Calls For Effective Land Utilization**

For Nigeria to attain socio-economic development, her land resources must be well managed and put into full utilization. Prof Akin Mabogunje, the chairman of the Presidential Technical Committee on Land Reform, Prof Akin Mabogunje stated this in Akure on Tuesday during a courtesy call on the Ondo State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko by members of the committee in his office.

Prof. Mabogunje who disclosed that Ondo State was chosen by his Committee in the entire South West for the pilot scheme of its land reform programme maintained that every Nigerian must ensure that his or her landed property was judiciously used for the purpose of wealth creation and empowerment. He noted that his Committee has been working assiduously to ensure safety of the property of every Nigerian.

He added that land allocation, survey and regeneration must be accorded the desired attention with a view to guaranteeing the rights of the land owners, stressing that proper arrangement has put in place to address any anticipated dispute that might occur in the process of land processing.

Prof. Mabogunje explained that lack of proper land survey and management had resulted into underutilization of vast large hectares of land for economic development. Consequent upon this, he said local and foreign investors have no access to land for industrialization, hence lack of sufficient industries in the country.

He told the Governor that he led the team to the State for a pilot scheme in one rural and one urban local government, noting that Ondo State was chosen in the South West for the land reform programme.

Responding, the state Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko commended the team for its contributions to nation's building, especially in the area of effective utilization of land resources. Having explained in details his administration's community development programme through the 3Is Initiative, the Governor expressed the readiness of his administration to collaborate with the Committee for the development of the State's land resources.

"Our administration has already put in place a Committee, which is working on the state's land digitalization for proper management. No doubt, we're going to ensure that at least 50% of land owners in the State have titles for their land. This will enable them to use the land to create wealth as they will be able to use it as collateral for loans." The Governor stated.

--

Kolawole Olabisi,

Chief Press Secretary to the Governor of Ondo State, Governor's Office. Akure, Ondo State