

Double honours as Mimiko bags achievement awards at the weekend

For Ondo State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko, it was double honours at the weekend as he bagged the Christian Man of Honour award for his strict adherence to his campaign promises which had resulted into rapid development of the state through the Caring Heart programme of his administration. Also, the Governor was decorated as the state Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Special Patron in recognition of his commitment to the growth of Christendom in the State.

Both awards were presented to the Governor during the Service of Carols, Lessons and award of honour, organised by the State CAN in collaboration with the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), held at the Sacred Heart Catholic Cathedral Akure. Speaking while receiving the awards, Governor Mimiko appreciated the state CAN for the special recognition given to him for the little contributions he had made to the development of the state and mankind.

However, the Governor challenged religious leaders to encourage their members to be active participants in the political activities in the country, saying their active involvement in the polity would lead to the emergence of credible leadership in the next year's general elections.

The state chief executive, who urged the people of the state irrespective of their religious affiliation to come out enmasse and take part in the coming voters' registration exercise, adding that such participation, could only guarantee a better future for the country.

He commended the boldness of the retired Bishop of Akure Anglican Dioceses, Rt Rev Biodun Gbonigi and his Catholic counterpart, Bishop Francis Alonge (Rtd) for their boldness and standing by the truth at all times, especially during the military dictatorship in the country.

His words 'I feel humbled to be given award in the same category with the likes of Baba Gbonigi and Bishop Alonge. I feel truly humbled and greatly honoured Always say that Ondo State is very lucky, a lucky state to have the likes of these wonderful men of God. To have Baba Gbonigi, to have Bishop Alonge. I think we are truly blessed. These are diligent men, these are people who have served the lord'. 'You have always been supporting us in prayers and I want you to continue to labour in prayer for us. When we have decided that this is a divine agenda sir, I want to assure you that we will not look back; we keep going on and going on. I want to thank the church for its activism, political activism this time around. The church must be active. We need credible and God fearing people to lead us in this country. The church has been docile yes.

The likes of Baba Gbonigi, Alonge and others stood up to tell the truth at that very critical juncture of our history. It is good for the church to be active, so I want to encourage all of us to register for votes, vote and ensure that your votes count’.

In his message, the Anglican Bishop of Ondo Diocese, Rt. Rev. Latunji Lasebikan, admonished Christians to be mindful of what they do with their lives during Christmas period and not just for the celebration and exchange of gifts sake. He said Christmas is not about gifts but about the gift, which Jesus Christ symbolises. Prominent among the award recipients were the Deji of Akure, Oba Adebisi Adesida, the Osemawe of Ondo, Oba Victor Kiladejo, Bishop Biodun Gbonigi (Rtd.), Bishop Francis Alonge, High Chief Olabanji Akingbule, the Nigerian Television Authority Akure, the State Radiovision Corporation and the Owena Press Akure.

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