

## **FG Commends Mimiko, Assures Of Assistance On Food Production**

The Federal Government on Wednesday commended the Ondo State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko for his efforts at boosting food production in the State through the various policies and programmes he has initiated with his 18 months in office.

Giving this commendation in Akure, the Ondo State Capital during a courtesy call on the Governor, the Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development, Alhaji Najim Awodele stated that the Mimiko's administration had made tremendous efforts at ensuring that food production was given the desired lifeline. He urged other State

Governors to emulate the Ondo State example. Awodele who disclosed that his visit to Ondo State was to assess how the Federal Government owned silos were being utilised and ensure that necessary steps were taken to make them more functional and usable, assured the State government of Federal Government's support at ensuring that Agriculture, which used to be the its mainstay, was taken to the front burner again.

In his remarks, Governor Mimiko who thanked the Minister for his kind words on the efforts of his administration assured that Ondo State was on the verge of taking her pristine position as the leader in agriculture with the series of programmes aimed at rejuvenating the sector already put in place by his government. Mimiko while promising to partner with the federal government in the full utilization of the Federal government's food silos in Akure however expressed sadness that the over 25-thousand metric tone capacity silos has been under-utilised despite food shortage currently prevalent in the country.

He said the silos sited in the State were not big enough for food storage noting that were the silos in Akure put to maximum use to ensure food preservation and sufficiency, the current food shortages would be a thing of the past.

According to him, the state has set up a Cabinet committee that would oversee the disbursement of the One Billion Naira (N1billion) Agriculture loan recently accessed by the State government to ensure that farmers who are the targeted beneficiaries of the loan benefit from it without much stress.

Dr Mimiko equally expressed the readiness of the State government to procure 100 tractors from the Federal government to boost mechanized farming in the state.

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