

## Give Your Girls Sound Education - Mrs. Mimiko

*Coastal News*

Women in Ondo State have been told to handle the issues that concerns the girl child with high level of priority as this will assist the growth of Nigeria's economy.

The wife of the Ondo State governor, Mrs. Olukemi Mimiko stated this while speaking at the quarterly meeting of women in the state popularly known as "Gbebiro" at Igbokoda the headquarters of Ilaje Local Government.

The first lady who appreciated God Almighty for granting the state unquantifiable peace and the women for finding time to attend the meeting added that this had shown that the women were still much in support of the present administration in the state.

Mrs. Mimiko described training of a girl child as the best legacy for a child which tends to put the feet of the child on a right path. She however, called on men to always treat their male and female children equally, saying that no child should be trained at the expense of the other.



*The wife of the Ondo State governor, Mrs. Olukemi*

Speaking at the occasion, the permanent secretary, Ondo State Ministry of women Affairs and social Development, Mr. Kolawole Oriola noted that the ministry will not relent in its efforts at ensuring better living for women in the state.

According to the permanent secretary "Gone are the days when the permanent office of the girl child was in the kitchen. We should inculcate in them the spirit of self-confidence and determination to succeed in life.

We should avoid using them as house maids and objects of trafficking. We should bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Under no circumstance should a girl child be forced into premature or early marriage", she stated.

Oriola appreciated the governor of Ondo State Dr. Olusegun Mimiko for bring gender-sensitive in the area of appointment and election of women into positions and thanked the governor for the various programmes being put in place to uplift education which include, appointment of tutor-generals, construction of mega schools, provision of laboratory and computer equipment to schools, capacity building and training of school administrators and teachers, payment of enhanced scholarship and bursary awards to students of territory institutions, and payment of the registration of all candidates of public schools for NECO Examination.

He said these caring heart projects have gone a long way in promoting education generally and child education in particular.

In a lecture titled "Girls Child Education: Breeding Ground for implementation of 35% Affirmative Action." The resource person, Mrs. Evlyn Akindojutimi told the gathering to take issues of their girl child with high level of seriousness. Mrs. Akindojutimi who charged the women to always ensure they interact freely with their girl child, assured that by so doing the child will come out boldly to express her mind.

She however called on government at all levels to create platforms that would allow the girl children to use their God-given talents.

The occasion allowed the women to ask questions while adequate answers were given by the resources person. Welcoming the women to the "**Gbebiro Meeting**" the caretaker chairman Ilaje Local Government, Hon (Prince) Banji Okunomo who thanked the governor of Ondo State Dr. Olusegun Mimiko and his wife Mrs.

Olukemi Mimiko for their caring heart projects which had transformed the state, emphasized that “**Women are instrument of political change**” he advised women not to relent in their usual support for the present administration which is poised to deliver more dividends of democracy to the people.

The meeting featured distribution of cash, grinding machines, hair dryers and power generating sets as empowerment tools to some women at the meeting.

Representatives from the eighteen Local Government Areas of the state and women from the twelve wards of Ilaje Local Government as well as women holding political offices graced the occasion.

The team had earlier visited some traditional rulers in the area, where the Olubo of Obenla Oba Andrew Ikuesan presented some gifts to the governor’s wife. The next Gbebiro meeting of women in the state is scheduled to hold in Ifon town, the headquarters Ose Local Government on a date to be announcement later.