

## **Go back to your Duty Posts, Mimiko Urges Ondo Workers**

Ondo State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko on Thursday in Akure the state capital called on the striking workers to go back to their duty posts even as he called on well meaning people of the State to prevail on them to reciprocate his Government's commitment to their welfare by calling off the Strike.

He assured the workers that he was irrevocably committed to ensuring that their welfare takes the focal point of his programme saying that what his government has done with the vexed Minimum Wage law was unprecedented in the nation as neither the Federal Government nor any State Government has matched what Ondo State was willing to pay workers in the State.

Governor Mimiko, however, wondered why despite this, the unions leaders should call workers out on strike for the second time in one month, a situation he described as baffling and unethical in view of government's untrammled workers' friendly posture being a Labour Party government.

Mimiko who made this appeal when he led top members of his government to the State Specialist hospital in Akure, however, commended health workers in the state for passionately discharging their duties and for their dedication to work saying that their refusal to abandon their patients at this critical time was highly commendable and worthy of emulation by other workers in the State.

Dr Mimiko, who went round all sections in the hospital, including the Accident and Emergency section, Male, Female and Children Wards and the Millennium Eye Centre among others where he commiserated with patients and equally listened to difficulties facing some of the departments told the health workers that he was proud of them for their sense of duty and dedication to their patients and for abiding by the ethic of the health profession.

While promising to continue to put in place measures that would excite them, the Governor described their function as very crucial to the society, which they must guard jealously as it affects the lives of their fellowmen, adding that any life lost during strike action cannot be revived.

His words: "I'm excited that health workers are working, please don't turn your back on your patients and the good Lord will continue to be with you. And for your enhanced salary, the circular will be out soon. Even the Federal Government, the Wages Commission says the Minimum Wage is not a Salary Increment but a minimum wage and that no worker should earn less than N18,000 which has become law.

And so far, they say that it is levels 1 to 6 who should be the focus, but in our own case, we gave levels 1 to 7 and we have said we would pay. The question you should ask is that why is it only in Ondo State that the leadership of the workers called out strike twice in a month. Even federal government has not paid. We have given our commitment to paying the new minimum wage.

"Once government avenue to talk is there, we have to sit down and dialogue and it is only when you are not satisfied that you think of strike. And in this present case, the workers did not explore this laid down guideline before they went on strike. Please we must not turn our back to these ones because if we go on strike, those who are privileged can go to private hospitals for treatment but the people that are here need our attention. These are the people we promised to work for. Please for God's sake, let us attend to them. There are many ways God will bless you and by the grace of God your needs shall be met, even from the sources you do not expect".