

## **I will not dump Labour Party- Gov Mimiko**

The Ondo State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko on Saturday described as a “tale by moonlight, spurious fabrication, a figment of the writer imagination and untrue” the news item on the front page of a national daily, **The Nation**, in which he was said to be on the verge of dumping his party, the Labour Party (LP) for the People Democratic Party (PDP).

Dr Mimiko who made this clarification in a press statement issued by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Kolawole Olabisi, described as sad the news item which he noted was a hatchet job, written by a faceless reporter who is out to tarnish his rising profile in the nation’s body polity. Governor Mimiko stated emphatically that he would never dump the LP contrary to the insinuations contained in the said story.

“My attention has been drawn to the front page report of **The Saturday Nation** entitled, **“Mimiko set to dump Labour for PDP”** in which a faceless reporter with the by-line “Our Reporter” painted an obviously mischievous yarn of how I intend not only to dump the Party on whose platform I became Governor of Ondo State for the PDP but even narrated how I collected a whopping N2billion from President Goodluck Jonathan for me to deliver my State for him!

His words: “This is the height of Yellow and irresponsible Journalism and it came to us as a surprise that such tales by moonlight and yarns garbed in grandiloquence to give it a false credibility could still be the order of the day in spite of our advancement as a nation.

“On Saturday April 9, in the National Assembly Election, the LP in Ondo State swept the election by winning all the 3 Senatorial seats in the State and 8 out of the 9 House of Representatives seats contested for. It is thus an insult that a faceless reporter would say that we collected money to deliver our State for anybody.

“The people of Ondo State are solidly with us because in just two years, we have been able to deliver our promises of giving them the dividends of democracy that had eluded them for long and we shall continue to excite more and more. And in every decision we take, we always carry them along, the instance case inclusive.

“I have said it severally that I do not intend to leave my Party, the Labour Party for any other Party whatsoever and for the umpteenth time, I want to reiterate it that I will remain in the Labour Party.

“That the leadership of the LP in its wisdom having assessed the prevailing political situations in the nation decided that its members should vote for President Jonathan, a position which we merely ratified in Ondo State like in other States of the federation where we have our members, does not mean that I will dump my Party for the PDP. I remain in the LP and that is final.”

Governor Mimiko also challenged the newspaper to substantiate its sweeping allegation that he collected money from President Jonathan or was mandated as a matter of compulsion to deliver the State for whatever reason other than in line with the LP's directives from its Secretariat said that this "sweeping and unsubstantiated allegation is sad, in bad taste and actionable in the law court and definitely not what the noble profession of Journalism is all about."

Mimiko further debunked the insinuations in the said report that he had axe to grind with the former Governor of Lagos State, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu said that Asiwaju Tinubu remains his brother; partner in progress in the emancipation of the Nigeria people and a patriot who, like him, is a champion of good governance, enthronement of viable democracy and total emancipation of the downtrodden. "Thus, nobody should attempt to put a wedge between Aare Asiwaju Tinubu and myself; he is my brother," he reiterated.