

MIMIKO FLAGS OFF N1B IDIOGBA-ILEPETE WATERWAYS DREDGING

Ondo State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko on Thursday flagged off the dredging of the over One Billion (N1billion) Idiogba-Ilepete Waterways Phase 1 at Ugbonla in Ilaje Local Government area as part of efforts to enhance access to and promote commerce in the core oil-producing areas of the state.

The Governor had two weeks ago flagged off the construction of the Ugbonla-Erunna Road and the Extension of National Grid from Akintubuwa to Araromi-Olokola costing the state government about N5.4 billion.

The over N1 billion project, being undertaken by Ondo State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission (OSOPADEC) and handled by Nigerian Westminster Dredging and Marine Limited, is expected to be concluded for commissioning in the next twenty weeks.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mimiko said the non-dredging of the 6.75km canal for the past 30 years, a development which he attributed to lack of political will, had made some portions hardly navigable thus making the waterways the only means of access to the core oil-producing areas until the completion of the Ugbonla-Oghoye Road.

“This monumental project which is costing our administration over N1billion is yet another fulfilment of our promises to ease water transportation thereby improving commerce and attracting investors to this most peaceful Niger Delta region of the country.

“The volume of developmental projects earmarked for this area will only become achievable if a good network of transportation routes exists. The presence of a network of good roads and easily navigable river channels will open up this area; make development to be widespread and life more meaningful to the indigenes and investors.

“Let me emphasize that we have just started the transformational process of the oil-producing areas. By the time we are done, the area will not be the same again. As we all know that without peace and order, there cannot be meaningful development. I hereby appeal to our royal fathers and the youths to eschew violence and embrace peace in the best interest and growth of Ilaje and its environs”, the Governor Stated.

Also at Aboto/Olokola Junction, the Governor assured the people of the area that in no time, he would be flagging off the construction of the road linking Aboto with Atijere town and urged the people to vote for all the 26 Labour Party (LP) candidates in Tuesday’s House of Assembly Election with an assurance that his administration would provide them with more dividends of democracy.

The Chairman of OSOPADEC, Prince Debo Ajimuda, in his speech at the occasion, said government had paid high premium on road and waterways` development to halt the hindrance posed by the silting up of the river channels. He assured that the project would be completed in record time. Also the Amapetu of Mahin, Oba Lawrence Omowole enthused that the spate of developmental project being embarked in the Southern Senatorial District of the State and their sheer magnitude portrayed the Governor Olusegun Mimiko as a government with a Caring Heart that is sincere and committed to the people’s welfare. He equally enjoined youths not to hinder the progress of the job which he noted would be of immense benefit for the entire area and its people.