

Mimiko Salutes Nigerians On Nation's 50th Anniversary, Calls For The Enthronement Of True Democracy

The Ondo State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko has called on Nigerians to remain focused as the nation attains the golden Jubilee saying that though the promise of independence fought for the founding fathers of the nation was yet to be fully realized, this should not be allowed to diminish the value of freedom and evergreen significance of those who fought to make us a sovereign nation.

Dr Mimiko, in his goodwill message contained in a release issued by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Kolawole Olabisi, while describing Nigeria as a great nation with great potential noted that rather than engage in recrimination over our misses and woes, today's celebration of Nigeria's golden Jubilee, according to him, should be a forceful reminder of the promises yet to fulfilled and of dreams yet to be attained and the tasks that must be done to take the nation to the heights desired for her by her founding fathers.

While posting that the nation must be re-tooled for it to take its pride of place among the comity of nations, Governor Mimiko, however, reiterated that for Nigeria to be given it dues, it must ensure that credible election must be allowed to hold next year. Mimiko who regretted that majority of Nigerians have, for many years, been denied the opportunity of electing their genuine representatives due to political and financial influence by few politicians who imposed their own candidates on the people for their selfish interest, however, enjoined Nigerians to rise to the challenge of ensuring that their votes count in the next year's general election. He added that it was only through credible election that we could begin to be taken seriously by other nations.

"As we celebrate our nation's golden Jubilee, there is no doubt that our nation is today faced with a number of daunting challenges, but in the face of all these challenges, our resolve and abiding faith must remain unshaken. These challenges, to my mind, should however be taken as ample opportunities waiting to be translated into stepping stones to an assured destiny of peace, progress, and prosperity for our common posterity if we all remain focused and do our bit. "We, as leaders, must do our part while the generality of the people must do theirs and, as a nation, we must begin to do that which will restore to us our pristine position in Africa and the whole world. The world is watching us as we journey to the general election in 2011; credible election is a must. Our votes must count and the principle of one man, one vote must be sacrosanct in order to be taken seriously if we must progress since there is a nexus between stable democracy and rapid development.

"For so long, the powerful few have elected leaders on behalf of the weaker majority under the guise of election that are neither credible nor represent the will of the majority of the people. This system must change forthwith; there are no two ways to this.

"Once again, I wish you all a happy celebration and may the Good Lord be with us as we march on and may He take us to the promised land."

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Kolawole Olabisi, Chief Press Secretary to the Governor of Ondo State, Governor's Office. Akure, Ondo State