

The Ondo State government said the decision of the Labour Unions to call off their strike action is welcome and in line with government's expectations

The Government in a statement yesterday said the decision shows that Labour in Ondo State while pursuing the interest of its members is conscious of the determination of the Labour Party to run a government that places premium on the interest of the teeming populace without sacrificing the interest of the workers.

"Government feels strongly that our workers must have seen reason why government had constructively engaged them so that the greater majority who contribute immensely through agriculture, vocations and other productive endeavours are not made to suffer unjustly as result of the strike. To this majority who contribute to the development of the state and benefit from the services government provides through its paid workers we tender our unreserved apologies.

"We reiterate for the umpteenth time that we have since the last fifteen days been clear and unambiguous in our resolve in the face of competing needs to pay the N18,000 minimum wage as passed into law. Long before the Federal Government and Labour at the national level met, we had openly admitted that with some financial re-engineering, our workers earning less than the recommended minimum would benefit from the new law.

"We had also reiterated that though labour reserved the right to agitate for its members welfare, using all legitimate means, such agitations should not be at the peril of the State and people that we so dearly love and both serve.

"Now that the strike action has been suspended we hope that labour will mobilise its members, with the same zeal and commitment to resume work and make up for lost time.

"Government hereby expresses its readiness to dialogue with Labour and has withdrawn all existing circulars on the issue of salary relativity so as to pave the way for productive discussions.

"While we thank our people for bearing with government while the strike lasted, we assure that we shall remain focused in delivering the dividends of democracy."