

US Group Gives Free Medical Services in Ondo, Lauds Mimiko's Health Initiatives

The innovative achievements being recorded by the Governor Olusegun Mimiko led Administration in Ondo in the health sector had continued to attract more collaborators from across the globe as Nigerians in the Diaspora under the aegis of African Business Owners Forum International [ABOFI] have commenced free health services to the people of the state. Governor Olusegun Mimiko while speaking during the opening ceremony of the programme tagged: "Medical Mission of Mercy" appreciated the Medical Personnel for returning home to add value to the lives of their people.

According to him, the health sector is an important aspect that need concerted efforts from all and sundry to develop adding that government alone cannot adequately fund the sector which is why, he said, his administration has been partnering with interested private sectors improve the healthcare system.

His words: " We 're here today witnessing the demonstration of love being shown by our people in Diaspora under the aegis of ABOFI who have recognised our efforts and decided to contribute to the development of our system. This programme they have organised would go a long way in alleviating the health problems of our people" While appreciating the pharmaceutical companies like, Drugfield, Ranbaxy, Generix Global Investment Limited, Tripple ACE and De-Zubik for their contribution in the programme, Mimiko briefly outlined his administration's outstanding achievements in the sector.

He told the gathering that in 2009 when his administration came on board, the health care delivery system was at its lowest ebb as the state health indices were the worst in the South West region of the country.

This was why, he said, the administration took some far reaching corrective measures such as, the save motherhood programme otherwise known as ABIYE, construction of the Mother and Child Hospital as a referral centre in Akure and construction of more than 80 Basic Health Centres in different communities in the state.

Other health improvement programmes he mentioned include, the festival of surgery, Eye Camp, free medical services for children below the age of five, the trauma centre, and general renovation of all dilapidating health facilities across the state as well as procurement and distribution of drugs and medical equipments.

"Our Mother and Child Hospital in Akure in the last two years, has registered more than 16,285 under-5 Children, catered for over 12,339 antenatal patients, 5,547 normal deliveries, 1,014 caesarian sections and 3,394 under-5 Children admissions. This achievements are unprecedented in the history of health sector in the country" he said.

Due to the above, the governor disclosed that the officials of the World Bank recently invited him to the United States of America [USA], to deliver a lecture on ABIYE.

At the end of the lecture, he said, the World body recommended it as the benchmark for the African Continent in tackling infant and maternal mortality rates.

The permanent secretary ministry of health, Dr. Bade Omoloja, in his speech observed that this year's programme was a huge success over that of last year as a result of the participation of the pharmaceutical companies which provided the drugs.

In his comment, one of the visiting medical team, Dr. Franklin Adekoye stated that the move was as a result of the governor's determination and commitment to develop the vital sector adding that many diabetes and hypertension patients had been screened for treatment.

Also speaking the Special Assistant to the governor on Health, Dr. Dayo Adeyanju attributed the gesture to the performance of the present administration and hinted that the team will visit other parts of the state like, Owo, Ikare and Okitipupa.