

Why Ondo people support us-Mimiko ...says quality leaders panacea to nation's woes

The Ondo State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko has attributed the massive goodwill, support and acceptability of his government by the people of the state to their firm belief in the policies, programmes and style of his government even as he blamed the nation's woes on the quality of leadership being provided for the people.

The Governor made the observation at the weekend in Akure, the State capital while hosting the officials and participants of the 33 Senior Course of the Armed Forces Command and Staff College Jaji, who were in the state on study tour stressed that leaders must be chosen by the people as this was the only way to make leaders accountable to the people.

Mimiko who enthused that the people of the state have begun to feel the positive impact of government in the areas of infrastructure development, healthcare, education and empowerment among others, stressed that the people were ready to sacrifice themselves to the success of his administration in its pursuance of programmes aimed at improving the socio-economic landscape of the state because they can feel the impact of a government they genuinely voted for unlike happenings in the recent past.

He said: "In one of our dualization projects, you must have seen, we have had to pull down more than 200 buildings, some of them ancient, some of them grave sides, some tombs of ancestors, but people readily cooperated with us, some of the ancient shrines have to give way, but people have cooperated by and large believing that with the government in place that tomorrow will be better than today and they can see the dividends already.

"They voted us in, they fought to retrieve their stolen mandate which was forcibly taken by the hawks at gun point; and they are ready to make the best of this mandate while it lasts, I'm sure you've seen the evidence on our streets. We are very excited about the programmes we are driving; some of them are novel in the State in many aspects. And I can assure you with every sense of modesty that the country also has a lot to learn from some of the life changing programmes of Ondo State. I hope I'm not sounding immodest but that is the truth'.

However, Dr Mimiko was quick to blame the nation's problem on the quality of leadership being provided for the people, calling on the Armed Forces to ensure that credible election was upheld in the next general election as the only panacea to good and result-oriented government in the country.

He maintained that leaders must be chosen by the people, saying that it was be only way to make leaders accountable to the people.

The Governor said 'the greatest challenge we are facing as a nation is the type of leadership we are providing for our people. Democracy will be sustained so long as our people see a connect between their social economic circumstance and democracy. So long as people see government as changing their lives, so long as people see government as partnering with them to attack poverty, so long as people see government as their own, I'm sure we'll be able to sustain democracy in this nation. But the greatest challenge to democracy itself is credible election'.

'I'm sure as a major institution in Nigeria, the armed forces will do everything possible so that we have credible election, to participate in the effort so that we can have credible election in 2011, leadership has to evolve from the people, but if power emerges from godfatherism and all manners of gangsterism, we'll not get anywhere in this nation and I don't have any doubt in my mind that with the quality of leadership we have in Nigeria Armed Forces, they will play their own part in ensuring that we have credible election in this nation'.

Earlier in his speech, the leader of the team, Group Capt. Benson Omoyigbo, said Ondo State was among the 12 States of the federation selected for the study course, with a view to understudying the socio-cultural values of the people and their ecological challenges.

He noted that in all the places they visited the people expressed their love and support for the Mimiko-led government in the state.

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