

## **Mimiko taks Ondo Pilgrims to Jerusalem to pray for 2011 elections**

The Ondo State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko has tasked the State contingent to this year's holy pilgrimage to Jerusalem to pray fervently for the peaceful conduct of the elections so that the will of God will prevail in the country.

Governor, Mimiko, who stated this while addressing the 541 pilgrims at the State Cultural Centre Alagbaka Akure on Tuesday, noted that their prayers would go a long way in ensuring the emergence of God fearing leaders in the country so that the desire of the masses would be protected and upheld.

The Governor while stressing that it was only God who could choose a leader for the country, added that all Nigerians must be prepared to make positive impact that would ensure the conduct of credible elections next year.

While charging them to worthy ambassadors of the state in the holy land, Governor Mimiko also urged them to pray for the state in order to sustain the prevailing peace, which he said was instrumental to the development of the state.

He equally promised the sponsorship of more pilgrims next year by the State Government if they were able to maintain their dignity and protect the good image of the state.

His word 'I want to appeal to you that as you to the holy land you must see yourselves as the ambassador of this great state. Also, you must ensure that you keep away from anything that can bring the name of Nigeria and our state to disrepute. You must at the same time remember to pray for our nation so that the will of God will prevail as we go for general election in 2011.' 'Righteousness will reign supreme in our land, let the pilgrimage translate into righteousness in our state and our value system. we'll not hesitate to sponsor more people next year if there is no scandal at all' said the governor.

Earlier in her speech, the state commissioner for women affairs and social development, Mrs Bukola Tenabe thanked the Governor for his belief in holy pilgrimage, which according to her would enable the pilgrims to pray for the peace and progress of the state and the country.

He also appreciated the Governor for increasing the number of pilgrim from about 200 last year to over 500 this year.

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