

## **7students of Ondo varsity bag 1st Class Honours as Governor Mimiko institutes Prizes for Pa Atiku Bamidele Mimiko and the former Governor of the State, Chief Adebayo Adefarati**

The Ondo State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko at the weekend offered automatic employment opportunities for students of the State origin who bag First Class honours at the State-owned University, the Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba Akoko (AAUA). Similarly, the Governor instituted two prizes for his late father, Pa Atiku Bamidele Mimiko and the former Governor of the State, Chief Adebayo Adefarati for best graduating Students of the institution in Political Science and Entrepreneurship respectively.

These were some of the highlights of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Convocation ceremony of the Institution on Saturday as seventeen (17) graduating students bagged first class degrees out of 6,688 students who were awarded with AAUA degrees of the institution at the ceremony. Also, five (5) students bagged their Doctors of Philosophy degrees (PhDs).

In his address, the Governor, who is also the Visitor to the institution, assured that his administration would continue to provide conducive environment for learning with an appeal to the students to cooperate with the institution's authorities. Specifically, Governor Mimiko disclosed that his government had given total support to the varsity authorities in terms of staff welfare adding that in the first quarter of 2010, fund was promptly released to the institution to commence payment of the new salary package in line with the federal government's agreement with the University Unions. He enthused that the State Government is a reference point among other State Universities on this issue.

While reeling out various developmental projects that his administration had earmarked for the overall development of the institution and make it a reference point in the nation, the Governor stated that he intended instituting two prizes for outstanding students of the varsity beginning from the next convocation ceremony. His words: "the first is personal while the second is official. In honour of my late father, and on behalf of his children, I hereby institute the Atiku Bamidele Mimiko Memorial Prize for the best graduating student in Political Science, the degree programme that I am told offers courses in contemporary international relations which was undoubtedly my late father's passion while he was alive. In the days ahead, enough seed money to enable the winner of this prize every year to take home an amount not less than N100, 000.00 shall be made available to the University by the children of the late AB Mimiko.

"The second prize is to a man who himself was not an entrepreneur in the exact sense of being a business creator. He was of that noble profession, teaching; and he wasn't just an outstanding teacher and school administrator, but also a success in politics and governance-something he chose as a vocation....I, on behalf of the Ondo State Government, institute a Prize that shall, at every Convocation, be awarded to the overall best graduating student in Entrepreneurship in the University. The Prize shall therefore be called and known as The Governor Adebayo

Adefarati Memorial Prize for the best Graduating Student in Entrepreneurship. It shall attract an amount not less than N100, 000.00 every year.

Earlier, the Institution's Vice Chancellor, Prof Femi Mimko had disclosed that the institution was committed to delivering 21<sup>st</sup> century university education whose graduates are globally marketable.

"We seek a University that predicates its entire operations on established age-long ethos, traditions, conventions and culture of the university system. It is in pursuits of this that early this year, we had a university-wide workshop on "understanding the system and culture of university," he said even as he commended the State Government for the infrastructural development of the institution.

The Vice Chancellor equally disclosed that the capital expenditure approved for the development of the institution by the current administration was much more than what it received in the past 10 years and enjoined the graduating students to maintain their link with the institution at all times.

--

*Kolawole Olabisi,*

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