

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PRESS SECRETARY TO ONDO STATE GOVERNOR, AKURE

PRESS RELEASE

**Ilaje re-run election: The People have spoken-Mimiko**

The Ondo State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko on Sunday expressed gratitude to the people of Ilaje local government area of the State for standing by their votes in Saturday's re-run election for the vacant Ilaje Constituency II seat in the State House of Assembly despite intimidation and harassment. The Governor, in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary (CPS) Mr. Kolawole Olabisi, enthused that by the development, the people have spoken emphatically that never again would do-or-die politics be the order of the day in Ondo State and that they would not be intimidated by hawks who prey on people's mandate since it has become crystal clear that they could not thrive in a free and fair election.

"By your action in Saturday's election in Ilaje Constituency II, you have made Ondo State proud. You have stated, with conviction too, that never again would coercion, intimidation of voters and snatching of electoral materials be the order of the day. You have demonstrated that Ondo State would henceforth be the beacon of hope to all other States in the nation. That yes, we can and we will hold our destiny in our hands and ensure that popular democracy, rule of law and fair-play would thrive in our State.

"We want to say emphatically that by your eloquent statement in the face of coercion on Saturday, you have sent the right signal that the People of Ondo can never be captured by anybody. That we will defend the dividends of true democracy that we have begun to enjoy in the last seventeen months like we did in the face of threat during the 22-long months that we were in the trenches, as it were, to reclaim our stolen mandate during the 2007 Gubernatorial Election and that we will defend our votes from the marauding hawks.

"I thank you most sincerely for doing us proud and I promised on your behalf that we will make Ondo State a cynosure of all eyes by the time we leave office. All we need is your support and your prayers as we take our dear State to its pristine pride of place in Nigeria. Together, we will do this and more," the Statement stated

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