

Group Commends Mimiko Over Innovative Projects, Urges Other States To Emulate Him

The Director General of the Nigeria Governors' Forum, Mr Asishana Okauru at the weekend in Akure, the Ondo State capital lauded the State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko for what it described as 'the unprecedented developmental projects embarked upon by the Governor within the 18 months of his administration in the State. Specifically, it enjoined other States in the country to emulate the Governor in the areas of health and community development programmes.

Okauru who is also the Team Leader of the Peer Review Team of the Governors' Forum, which was in the state to assess governance as directed by the National Economic Council tasked states across the country to replicate the **Abiye** (Safe Motherhood) health programme of the administration that offers free healthcare services to pregnant women and children 0-5 years.

Mr Okauru who addressed reporters in Akure on Sunday shortly before the team departed to Abuja expressed happiness at the level of functionality of equipments at the various hospitals visited by his team in the State, noted: "we possibly have the most functional hospital in Africa in this State, and we are excited at the level of work going on there and the free medical services being given to mothers and children. It is not only innovative but a wonderful hospital which has no peer anywhere in Africa."

He specially commended the State government for establishing a Mother and Child hospital, equipped with modern world-class health facilities, saying that "your Abiye programme is commendable. It should be replicated in other States'.

The Governors' Forum boss also praised the innovation behind the administration's Quick Win Programme through its 3is initiative that provides avenue for each community to present its priority projects without being imposed on them.

His words: "This Governor (Mimiko) was clearly ready to be Governor before he became Governor; we've massive intervention in the health sector. What we have seen here should not only serve as benchmark for this country but bench mark for this continent".

Okauru, who said that Governor Mimiko was being commended in all the places visited by his team, attributed it to entrenchment of good governance and cordial government-people relationship, noting that the vision of the government to decongest the streets by providing neighbourhood markets across the state was worthy of emulation.

While supporting the Quality Education Assurance Agency put in place by the State government to reposition education, Mr Okauru appreciated the State government for making education accessible, especially at that the state-owned Adekunle Ajasin University in Akungba-Akoko where student pay the least school fees in the country.

Responding, the state Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko thanked the team for its objective assessment of his administration's programmes to transform the socio-economic landscape of the state.

Mimiko assured that his administration would sustain all the laudable programmes in the health, community development, education and infrastructure among others.

He also assured that no project awarded by the last administration would be abandoned but said that they would be re-evaluated and redesigned for better result.

The governor however lamented the high rate of contract inflation by the last administration towards its exit.

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