

## **Mimiko Hosts Statisticians, makes Case for Local Performance Indicators for National Development**

Ondo State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko has advocated the development of local performance indicators to assess the performances of governments at all levels in order to deepen the confidence of the people in the nation's democracy.

Governor Mimiko stated this on Tuesday in his office in Akure while playing host to members of the national executive of the Nigeria Statistical Association (NSA), led by their national president, Mr. Boniface Amobi. The Governor, who submitted that performance indicators based on empirical data would create a linkage between government and the people, added that such indicators would also engender political and public office holders to scale up performance in office.

Mimiko noted that his administration would support the association to achieve its objectives, stating the importance of statistics to national development. He explained that his administration has impacted positively on the lives of the people in the areas of the healthcare, education and infrastructure among others, stressing that the evidences and indicators were there to support the efforts.

He added that the state government has turned street traders to entrepreneurs through the provision of conducive business environment for them to transact their businesses. His words : "Times like these call for evidence, we must have empirical evidence to show whether we are doing well or nor in this country, we must also develop performance indicators and one of the problems we have is how to create an organic linkage between these indicators and the people of this nation. There must be a way to develop performance indicator so that the man on the street can see.

"There must be indicators that ordinary man can use to measure the performance of the politicians, something that can be domesticated for everybody to see and they can key into. You can get people to make investment into statistics which I believe is a tool for a stable democracy. This is a serious indicator that will make it clear to our people if a government is performing and if not they will know what to do about it. We must develop indicators that will make our people to have confidence in our democracy.

That is why in Ondo State we created a full -ledged ministry of economic planning and budget to fully assist in planning of programmes". Earlier in his speech, the national president of the Nigeria Statistical Association, Mr. Boniface Amobi assured that the association would partner the state government on the important need to give the people evidence-based sustainable development. Mr Amobi, who appreciated the state government for passing into law the state statistical bill, urged the Governor to quickly assent to the bill and set up the State Statistical Bureau in line with the bill. He disclosed that the Annual National Conference of the Association would be held in the state next month.