

Mimiko Promises to Excite Ondo Traders

Ondo State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko on Thursday reiterated his administration's determination to always provide conducive environment for market men and women in the state to transact their businesses. He was emphatic that their welfare was paramount to the State in view their contributions to its economic viability.

The Governor gave the assurance on during an unscheduled inspection visit to the on-going chanelization project behind the Caring Heart Neighbourhood Market, NEPA area in Akure as well as inspection of on-going projects in the State capital.

According to the Governor, who expressed happiness over the spontaneous and warm reception accorded him by the market women who left their wares unattended to receive him on his arrival, said that government would continue to build markets for the people no matter the contrary opinion from any quarter. He noted that the purpose of any responsible government was to cater for its people and make life more comfortable for them, citing the example of market women who have to provide substantially for the upbringing of their children.

He disclosed that the decision of government to avoid the use of agents in the allocation of the stalls was to ensure that genuine market men and women were able to secure the stalls in conformity with his administration's promise that everybody displaced from the old market would be allocated stall in the new market.

The decision, he added, was to ensure that genuine traders were not cheated by the few rich ones, who never suffered any hardship in the past.

His word: "When we promised to build this market, many people thought we were going to give the stalls to agents to allocate for you, where you will pay multiple rents. This particular market, many rich men, wives of rich people in the town wanted to acquire the stalls but we stood our feet that we are only going to give them to our genuine market women. Take a look at these children you are seeing here, they are our future, if I had not gone to school I would not have been here today as your Governor.

"If you take a look at our schools today, you will observe that most of them are already dilapidated, instead of you spending your money to take care of yourselves, you still struggle to send your children to private schools. If our primary schools are in good condition, the money you are spending on private schools will be used for other purposes. The Mega School we are building in Iro, here in Akure is for your children, likewise in other parts of the state, they are for the children of the masses.

"Many people accuse us that we are building markets for you, I don't know may be they do not have regards for you as a part of the society. But we have a special respect for you; we know that you are very important to us as government. Our women are important for their roles at home and in the upkeep of their children and we cannot afford to let our women suffer unnecessarily.

We are going to build more markets for you; we will ensure that you continue to do your business under conducive atmosphere no matter what anybody says.

In her response on behalf of the traders, the president of the market women, Mrs Beatrice Adebisi thanked the Governor for transforming their lives, especially for alleviating their suffering through the provision of conducive environment for their business. She enthused that with the building of the ultra-modern market over two years ago by Governor Mimiko, their lives have been changed for better and they saying no government had ever done the type of things being done by Governor Mimiko in the annals of the Ondo State.

Here words: “since we got to this new place, our businesses have continued to improve, we do not spend money on sickness, we now have money to take care of our children, and there is peace in our homes” She, however, solicited financial assistance from the state government to enable them boost their business, promising to pay the money back.