

Mimiko calls for redistribution of nation's resources

Ondo State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko has called for the devolution of resources to local governments in the country to enable them cope with their various socio-economic challenges thereby assisting the rapid development of the country.

As the closest government to the people at the grassroots level, Governor Mimiko noted that if more financial resources were devolved to the local government, more infrastructural facilities that would address the problems confronting the people would be well addressed.

The Governor stated this during a courtesy call on him by the national leadership of the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE), led by its national president, Comrade Ibrahim Khaleel in his office on Tuesday.

According to him, local government administration in the country needed to be fortified in terms of resources for rapid socio-economic development of the country, adding that priority must also be given to power and transportation sectors of the economy.

He also reassured workers in the state of his administration's commitment to the payment of the 18,000 minimum wage.

His words "Unless we decentralize in this nation, we'll not be able to fulfill our destiny as a nation. All progressives' forces in Nigeria, including government and trade unions must put pressure and continue to sing the same song. For us to survive, for us to move forward rapidly as a nation, we must decentralize. Whatever anybody tells you, if we don't decentralize, I cannot see Nigeria on the way to development. "I have visited our local governments, I've seen the quality of jobs executed at the local government level and I'm surprised, in fact these are world-class projects. The local government projects that we were used to before now when you see a local government project you'll know it; the walls of so-called projects would be somehow, the plastering will look very funny and a lot of things like that. But the local government we have now execute world-class projects, you need to see them," the governor stated.

He underscored the need to do everything possible to fortify the local government. "The more resources we deploy at that level, the better for this country. During our moving round the local governments and seeing what our local governments are capable of doing, one will be sure that devolution of resources is the answer. I believe that is the easiest part to the rapid socio-economic development of our nation. We must develop rapidly, we must devolve resources," Mimiko posited

Earlier in his speech, the national president of NULGE, Comrade Ibrahim khaleel stressed the need for the review and redistribution of the nation's revenue to pave way for more allocation of resources to local government so as to meet the challenges of meeting the expectations of the people. He however commended the state government for the various developmental projects being executed across the state.