

Mimiko charges legislators-elect on true federalism, state police

The Ondo State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko on Tuesday tasked the new legislators-elect from the State to make concerted effort for the enthronement for true federalism, devolution of resources and State Police through the National Assembly.

Specifically, he equally charged them to jealously guard the Labour Party's agenda of free, fair and credible election, imperative of restructuring the polity to aid good governance, true federalism and devolution of resources in their various deliberations.

The Governor stated these at Igbara-Oke, the headquarters of Ifedore local government area of the state, venue of a 3-Day retreat for national and state legislators-elect in the state, tagged: "Labour Party Agenda: A New Paradigm For Governance in Ondo State."

The legislators-elect include three senators, nine members of the House of Representatives and twenty-six members of the State House of Assembly.

According to Mimiko, true federalism would entail the restructuring of the current lopsided revenue allocation formula while the enactment of State Police would enable stakeholders to adequately address the issues of insecurity which is rife in the nation.

His words: "A situation where a disproportionate percentage (52%) of national revenue goes to the Federal Government in a multi-ethnic federal arrangement and oppressive to the constituting states. "The states need more funds to attend to decayed infrastructure and the social services sector, especially in education and health care. New jobs need to be created in the states and the issue of appropriate remuneration for workers in the states, which has led to a lot of workers' restiveness and industrial problems, must be addressed with the restructuring of our federalism."

Mimiko equally used the occasion to enjoin the legislators to study some bills which might be technical in nature, peruse them carefully before contributing to the processes of their being turned into law. He equally urged them to oppose bills that would prevent the restructuring of the current uneven federalism in the country.

According to him, no nation could attain any meaningful development if the representatives of the people got to offices through do or die politics and influence of god-fatherism, adding that such illegitimate officials would not be responsible and accountable to the people's welfare.

He said "The Labour Party government of Ondo State had once been a victim of electoral fraud on a scale that beggared belief; the 2007 gubernatorial elections in the state was characterized by ballot-box snatching, larcenous inflation of votes, computer aided generation of fake results and a virtually militarized process akin to warfare".

"So unrepresentative of the people's wish were the result declared in the elections that both internal and external observers predicted that by the witness rate of disenfranchisement of the people, the Nigerian electorate may be totally de-linked from the electoral process in the course of two more elections".

He however noted that the Labour Party government in the state had provided an alternative platform that guaranteed the existence of progressive governance through radical approach and development of new initiatives capable of liberating the people from poverty and want.

He added that a new paradigm for governance had been opened in the state to pave way for effective service delivery to the people at the grassroots and also provide people-oriented project that would transform the socio-economic landscape of the state, contrary to parochial concept of service delivery.

His words “The Labour Party Agenda in the governance of Ondo State consists of the judicious application of well thought-out and properly structured 12-point life-enriching programmes with the acronym ‘A Caring Heart’. These programmes are revolutionary in design, masses-oriented in function and highly impactful in effect”.

While assuring the people of Ondo State of his administration’s continued determination to re-define governance and make it result-oriented and more accessible to them, he expressed delight that his government had successfully bridged the gap between government and the people of the State through the involvement of the masses in governance which he described as a paradigm shift in governance in the State.

Earlier in his remark, the national chairman of Labour Party and chairman of the opening ceremony, Barrister Dan Nwayanwu, challenged the new legislators not to abandon their primary constituencies but they must open constituency offices and hold regular meetings.

He added that their impacts on the lives of the people and stability of the party will be evaluated on regular basis to show the level of their commitment to the agenda of the party.

In his welcome address, the Vice chancellor of the Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba-Akoko, Prof. Femi Mimiko, whose university’s Leadership Institute organized the workshop, said the workshop would acquaint the legislators-elect with the various challenges that would confront them and chart the way forward so as to meet the yearnings and aspiration of the electorate.

Above all, he charged them to make good laws that would not only elevate the nation but be in the interest of the people who elected them.