

Mimiko congratulates Osun's Aregbesola

The Ondo State Governor, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko, has congratulated the Governor of Osun State, Alhaji Rauf Aregbesola on his victory in the April 2007 governorship election in Osun State as confirmed by the Appeal Court sitting in Ibadan, Oyo State.

Governor Mimiko in a statement by Eni Akinsola, his Senior Special Assistant on Media said: "We are at one with Governor Aregbesola, the good people of Osun State and indeed all lovers of Justice and the democratic way on this victory. It is a victory for truth, for justice, for democracy and for the right and proper way of doing things.

"The delay, the days of waiting, physical, psychological and emotional input and the time spent retrieving the mandate all add to make the eventual victory more remarkable. The victory also confirms convincingly that the electoral reality of 2007 in the South West was one in which the people expressed their disgust with those who only wanted power for the sake of power."

Drawing comparison with the retrieval of his own mandate after a prolonged legal battle, Governor Mimiko said: "Like us, you persevered, remained undeterred and unfazed even when the odds seem unfavourable. This shows that you are not only committed to changing the face of governance in your State but determined to contribute to the battle to evolve a truly democratic order in Nigeria."

On the importance of the judiciary to the actualisation of a new order in Nigeria, Governor Mimiko said that the judiciary has discharged its duties thus far with aplomb. He however lamented that the fact that electoral disputations have to be prolonged for all of three and half years is unjust and should be discouraged. "It must be restated, we cannot continue with this order where a candidate will be allowed to rule over a people without having been confirmed as having been validly and legally elected," Mimiko said.

On the need to act decisively before the next election, Governor Mimiko said: "We cannot continue to put all the pressure on the Judiciary. We must as a matter of urgency work towards making it impossible for perpetrators of electoral heist to go without paying the price for their crime against the society. Either as INEC members or as politicians, those who subvert the will of the people ought not to be allowed to savour the air of freedom, they ought to be tried and jailed.

More than these, one man, one vote; let the votes count, and no decision no swearing-in should be the battle cry of all true lovers of Nigeria and democracy in subsequent elections."