

Mimiko flags off N19.5 billion road project, promises rapid development for riverine area of Ondo commends Jonathan over NDDC

The Ondo State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko at the weekend assured that he would embark on spates of developmental projects that would transform the oil-rich riverine areas of the State. Mimiko who made this disclosure while flagging off the 21-kilometer, N19.5 billion Ugbonla-Oghoye road project in Ilaje local government area of the State being undertaken by the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) insisted that as the Goose that lays the golden eggs, they deserved the best amenities that would make life more meaningful to them.

Specifically he added that State government would soon award the contract and work would commence on the Ugbonla-Ayetoro Road while government has started building new jetties in the riverine areas of the state.

The Governor who equally reiterated the readiness of the Ondo State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission (OSOPADEC) to partner with the NDDC to alleviate the suffering of the people, however noted that the crisis which rocked the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) sometime ago would have consumed the intervention agency if President Goodluck Jonathan had not taken the advice of Niger Delta governors on the ways out of the crisis. The 21.5 kilometer road project which is to serve about forty six communities in the area is expected to be completed by the contracting firm, Moreno DC West Africa PLC within 36 months.

He said "I want to sincerely thank President Jonathan for his support for NDDC. You see, when there was crisis in NDDC sometime ago, if the President had decided to act on his own, maybe it would have been a different by now. But being a listening President who carries everybody along in decision-making, he called us the Niger Delta Governors to a meeting on the matter to advise him on what to do. We gave him our advice and today, the matter has become history.

Dr Mimiko also identified the cause of youth restiveness in the Niger Delta region and asked the contractor to fulfil its own part of the deal.

"No doubt, this is a landmark contract which will ultimately impact positively on the lives of the people of Ilaje land. I want to assure the contractor that in the whole of Niger Delta, Ondo State remained the most peaceful. The people are ever ready to work and learn new skills; trouble only comes when they are not engaged.

"The state government will give Moreno the logistic support for the project, it is a dream come true, we have been telling our people that the development of Ilaje land is a challenge of our time, it also remain the focal point of the developmental efforts of the state government" the governor told the stakeholders." Earlier in his address, the Ondo State representative on the Board of NDDC, Barr. Benson Enikuomehin said the project which was conceived in 2007 as to fulfill the age-long clamour for a road that will link the riverine communities with the rest of the of the state.

"Since its establishment in 2000, the efforts of the Commission to effectively carry out its mandate of touching lives among the oil-bearing communities of the Niger Delta have been viewed differently. Yet the

interventionist agency's ability to lift the standard of infrastructure within the member-states has remained undeniable. Ugbo-Oghoye road project is a clear indicator.

“The importance of road, particularly along coastal area cannot be over-emphasised. The opportunities, as we are aware, include massive investment in tourism and hospitality, easy movement of goods and services, rapid land reclamation and sand-filling and aggressive shore protection” Enikuomehin explained.

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