

Mimiko sets to host film makers, scholars

Governor Olusegun Mimiko of Ondo State will be playing host to a gamut of scholars and seasoned film makers in the indigenous language genre as they storm the capital city of Akure for this year's edition of the Festival of Indigenous African Films, which holds at Owena Motels, in Akure.

Announcing the hosting of the festival at a press conference in Lagos, the Managing Director /Chief Executive Officer of Remdel Optimum Communications Limited, organisers of the yearly festival, Pastor, (Mrs) Biodun Ibitoye said the Ondo state government who has been supporting the hosting of the festival for some years now, is poised to use the forum to woo film makers to the state.

She noted that the festival strives to revamp the apparent relegation of the African cultural heritage in favour of foreign ideas, concepts and cultures which undermine our innate potentials for growth, progress and development.



Governor Olusegun Mimiko of Ondo State

According to her, this year's festival which runs from October 2 through 5, will mobilise film makers and the entire stakeholders in the entertainment industry to focus attention on their economic well-being within the context of our cultural realities.

Here is the time when we should combine traditions which, according to her, are unique to our culture with available modern economic, scientific and technological resources for the necessary development that the country desire.

“Film makers must seek to optimise our cultural potentials for our economic well-being. We must emulate the merging prosperity in East Asian countries where people hold on to their values and at the same time earn for themselves higher living standards that surpass those obtainable in some industrialised nations.”

Ibitola who said the theme: “Film, Economy and National Development” has been chosen for this year's edition of the festival is optimistic that the subject will stimulate intellectual discourse that will arouse creativity necessary for ushering in a period of prosperity and well being as series of activities have been lined up around the theme.

Among the erudite personalities to deliver talks and head sessions at the festival is Prof. Onookome Okome, a professor of Film and English at the University of Alberta, Canada.

Others are Otunba Sola Fosudo of the Theatre Arts Department of Lagos State University, Igwe Gab Okoye, Mrs. Joke Silva, Alhaji Abdulkareem Mohammed and Mr. Femi Odugbemi. Governor Olusegun Mimiko is expected to be Special Guest of Honour at the opening ceremony.

The second session, Ibitola said is the Karakata Forum, a session on the Economy of Production to be presided over by the Director General of National Film and Video Censors Board, Mr. Emeka Mba

The festival director further disclosed that this year's festival will be all-encompassing. There will be an advocacy workshop on employment/investment opportunities in the film industry, and a masters class on script writing, which will run throughout the festival and sponsored by the Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilisation.