

## **New Year: Mimiko recommends Hope, Resilience and Vigilance**

Governor Olusegun Mimiko of [Ondo State](#) has asked Nigerians to celebrate the New Year with renewed determination, unshakeable confidence in God and firm hope that the country and its people will triumph in the end.

In a statement in Akure yesterday, Governor Mimiko said: “Though there are new challenges before [Nigeria](#) and greater threats to its peace and security, Nigerians should rise above hatred and divisive realities in the New Year.

“We must make sure that we break the hold of the few among us who want politics and political contestation done the do-or-die way. The very first step is to register to vote, vote for the candidates that will make the difference and insist in the New Year that our votes count. These are the irreducible minimum for all well meaning Nigerians and the threat of bombs, the booms of guns and the thirst for blood by the bad should not deter us.”

Reiterating an earlier charge to Nigerians, the Governor said Nigerians must caution those who might be planning sabotage, who are bent on scuttling the 2011 elections, that this time around, the attention of the whole world has shifted to Nigeria, and so all, including the civil society and [security agencies](#) must work together to curb electoral violence and other vices capable of marring the elections.

Commenting on the peace and stability of Ondo State, Mimiko said: “We have God Almighty and the good people of this State to thank for the peace that we have recorded in the last one year. We commend all stakeholders for maturity in political contestation and the recourse at all times to the pursuit of the legal and peaceful alternative.

“That we have moved from the era of lawlessness, the reign of the ungodly to a peaceful and convivial environment in which we have resolved our differences without bloodletting is one development that we greatly appreciate. We however must do more in the New Year.”

Alluding to the successful and peaceful conduct of the Congresses of the [Labour Party](#) at Ward, Local Government and State levels, Mimiko said: “In the Labour Party, we have blazed the trail in our conduct and activities by the near seamless manner we conducted our Congresses in the State. We are in pole position to congratulate ourselves for managing the dynamics of our party’s politics even in the face of ever increasing followership. We can only recommend the same spirit of sobriety and consociation to the opposition.”

Saying that Nigerians have cause to thank God for taking the country back from the brinks in the past, he asked Nigerians in the New Year to take charge of things and not stretch the luck of the nation too far. “We cannot continue to heap all our failures on God and religion. We have to take some [bold steps](#) to retrieve this nation from those who want to continue to do things in the old bad ways,” he added.

Mimiko, who said the job of security lies with all, however added that “the security agencies must rise above the same things that exposed the country to perennial crisis and man-made disasters. The security agencies must be non-partisan. They must be committed at all times to the peace and continued harmonious existence of all groups within the polity.

“God, who allowed us to emerge as one country, with our diversities and differences has also endowed us with limitless human and material resources to attain and sustain greatness. The job we have is to activate our resources for the good of the greatest number of people of the country.”

*Signed.*

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