

Mimiko warns Agagu Against Playing Politics On OSUSTECHAssures Varsity Would Be World Class

The Ondo State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko on Sunday asked his predecessor in office, Dr Olusegun Agagu to stop playing politics with the Ondo State University of Science and Technology (OSUSTECH) just as he assured the people of the Southern Senatorial District where it was that his administration was committed to making the institution one of the best in the nation.

Mimiko who spoke through a Press Statement issued on his behalf by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Kolawole Olabisi, debunked insinuations by Agagu and his acolytes that the varsity was to be cancelled, saying that it was a ploy to set the people of the area against his government and paint him in bad light.

He assured that the institution would commence academic activities in earnest with the appointment of a substantive Vice Chancellor in the person of the immediate past Vice Chancellor of the University of Lagos, Prof Tolu Odugbemi.

The Governor enthused that the people of the State know the true position of things and have implicit confidence in him to deliver a world-class varsity adding that the recent defeat of the former Governor and his team in three consecutive elections in the State in the last one year was a confirmation of the love and trust the people have for him due to the spate of developmental projects that have been embarked upon by his government with a space of 18 months in office.

His words: "There have been a lot of hearsays about OSUSTEC; that we have cancelled the University. Those of you who know me very well know that I cannot cancel the University. Indeed, I was the one who started to use the university to campaign at Ore and Okitipupa during the electioneering campaign in 2007; I noted then that it was so unfortunate that in the whole of the South District of Ondo State, there was no tertiary Institution. And I vowed that if God allow us get to the Government House as Governor before the end of four years, we shall provide a tertiary institution for the Southern District. "After hearing of our promise to give the people a varsity, our opponent suddenly rose from his slumber to establish the University, albeit in a hurry and for their ulterior motive.

If they want to establish a true university with sincerity and not because of their expectation of a re-run election in the Southern district, they should have started from a temporary site. "No university in Nigeria that did not start from a temporary campus and move to permanent site. What type of University do you want to establish without commencing from a temporary site? It was all gimmicks. And let me say with all sense of responsibilities, that since we came on board, we have called all the contractors and we told them that if you were job that ought to cost N5 for N10 and yet, you have been paid 50% as Mobilization.

I told them that the amount of money given to them ought to be enough for them to complete the job and if they have not, they at least ought to have gotten to 60% or 70% completion stage; but that was not the case we met on ground at OSUSTECH, contrary to insinuations by our detractors. And I told them that I won't terminate the contract because the money was already in their pockets and they could go to court and take injunction against us. So we ordered them back to site.

"We resolved to start with the administrative block and Science blocks at OSUSTECH. After we complete those ones, let us start from there. When the National University Commission (NUC) wrote to us, that they suspended the licence, we were amazed because they never wrote any warning letter to us. Up till now, we've not seen the letter. And I called Prof Okojie of NUC and I asked him if he was playing politics with

us in support of our detractors. I asked him that if he wants to withdraw licence, he needs to at least will give us warning once or twice and write us. And when I accused Okojie of playing politics here he denied it gave some explanations but we told him that we are not cancelling the University and we are on course.

“One funny thing was that on the day NUC said they wrote us, it was that same date that it came out in the newspapers and television stations. We have set up the Governing Council, the Vice Chancellor, Prof Tolu Odugbemi, the immediate past VC of the University of Lagos has already been appointed and he has accepted to help us take the varsity to an enviable height. We have now given University Council a marching order. If we discover that they have not completed the two blocks they are doing at the site, we will look for a temporary site to start the University.

Governor who noted that he was by the grace of God the Governor of Ondo State today because he was educated stressing that education remains his priority in Ondo State especially in the Western part since the free education of Chief Obafemi Awolowo.

Says he: “We can’t cancel the university. It’s all politics; they are making politics out of issue and it is unfortunate because they shouldn’t play politics with. I know that the people of this State did not wake up one day and say it’s Mimiko they wanted as their Governor. Most of them they know the type of person I am. We don’t play the kind politics that destroys and mar the people.”

He reminded the people of the State that when his government decided to pay pension, it did so without discrimination “we did not say we who and who belong to Labour party and who belong to other parties? Since the days of Pa Adebayo Adefarati, all the entitlements of political office holders that were supposed to be paid but they were not paid. Some were paid part of their entitlements but when we came on board, be you PDP, be you Labour Party be you KKK, everybody was paid. They do not have anything to say to that but to keep raking up mud and playing dirty politics on issues that borders on the people whom they failed in their six years in office. Agagu should come out clean and stop playing politics,” Mimiko posited.

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Kolawole Olabisi,

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