

Ondo Assembly passes N142b re-ordering budget

By [Damisi Ojo and Leke Akeredolu](#), *The Nation*.

Less than one month to the end of 2011 fiscal year, the Ondo State House of Assembly on Thursday evening passed a re-ordering bill seeking to transfer funds totalling 142billion.

The bill was sent by the state government and passed into law during a plenary session.



Governor Olusegun Mimiko

After a debate last Tuesday, the bill was submitted to the House Committee on Finance and Appropriation for scrutiny. The lawmaker from the Ondo constituency II, who is also the majority leader, Hon Ifedayo Akinsoyinu, moved the motion for the passage, while his counterpart from the Ondo constituency I, Hon Afolabi Akinsiku, seconded the motion.

The state Assembly has 26 members with 25 Labour Party (LP) members and one Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) member. Already, some chieftains of the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN), led by the former

Ondo State LP Chairman, Dr. Olaiya Oni, have filed a legal action against the state Governor, Olusegun Mimiko, over the misappropriation of the state funds, particularly on the re-ordering budget.

Oni explained that there was no budget described as a re-ordering budget, adding that the present government was only finding a means of covering its looting spree.

Oni, who presented the re-ordering budget document to reporters at a press conference in Akure, the state capital, noted that Mimiko was presenting a budget which he had already expended.

He alleged that governor Mimiko had exhausted all resources in the state through the Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning.

His words "I have never found a word called re-ordering in the Nigerian political dictionary. When I was reading through one of the government-owned newspapers, I saw that the government was calling for the approval of a budget when the year was just a month to come to an end and what the governor is demanding for will take effect from 2012 January.

"Mimiko is a bull in a China shop. Many governors in the federation are already preparing to submit their 2012 appropriation budget to their various House of Assemblies, but here in Ondo State, the governor was demanding for additional money which we all know had already been spent by the government and only looking for cover up.

“Over 12 months, the government should have noted that its required additional funds to complete its ongoing projects. For instance, the Mimiko’s re-ordered 2011 budget needed additional N5billion for the completion of rehabilitation and construction of highways like Oba-Adesida Road, Ondo, Owo, Akoko roads after the House earlier approved over N9billion for 2011 budget for the roads.

“Also, the state-owned television station where Mimiko said he spent millions of naira, the government wants additional N69million. The governor said he spent N50m on the renovation of culture and tourism complex and also demanded for additional N50m for its completion. An Akure-based Lawyer, Morakinyo Ogele, has described the word “re-ordering budget” as a political fraud, saying the state government was only trying to loot the treasury of the state through the support of the state House of Assembly. According to him, “the word, re-ordering, has no place in the constitution. It is a pure manifestation of political cabal to rob the whole state violently in order for the government to fund its political associates.”