

Ondo LP ratifies decision on Jonathan

The Labour Party in Ondo State yesterday ratified the position of its national leadership by adopting the candidacy of President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan for the presidency of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in next Saturday's Election.

At a meeting yesterday, the party leadership from all the 18 Local Government Areas voted by popular acclamation to mobilize Labour Party members for the candidacy of President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan.

While reporting on the outcomes of the National Executive Council, the National Working Committee, and indeed all the decision-making bodies of the party, Governor Olusegun Mimiko said the party considered all the options before if before deciding on President Jonathan.

He said: "the interest of the people of Nigeria will be better served with the candidacy of a man who for the first time in the history of this country promised and delivered a free and fair election. We have a man who by the reason of his antecedents and political experience first as a Deputy Governor, Governor, Vice President, Acting President and then President has the best experience among the three top contenders for the office."

Recalling the criteria for the decision as outlined by the national leadership of the people, Mimiko said: "The party looked at Nuhu Ribadu and saw in him a man that can still become the president of this country in the future but who still needs the right experience in political office and exposure to hone his present level of skill and experience.

"The party looked at the military antecedents of General Muhammadu Buhari and saw a man who may be difficult to sell to our people after the recent experience of ex-general Olusegun Obasanjo. More than all these however, the party looked at the fact that President Jonathan by the election of April 9, showed that he can rise above his party and be a true statesman by allowing the conduct, last Saturday, of a truly free and fair election."

The Labour Party Chairman in Ondo State, Dr. Olaiya Oni, who had earlier itemized the criteria employed by the leadership, said the Labour Party the decision of the party at the national level needs to be discussed and ratified as customary with the Labour Party so that the party's teeming supporters can go and execute it.

Mimiko, who traced the decision of the party to Chief Obafemi Awolowo who championed at all times the interest of the minorities, said Saturday's election presents an opportunity to actualise the goal of having a man from the minority area voted for in a presidential election. He also said it is an opportunity for Ondo State to identify with a fellow Niger Deltan as that will in one way show the readiness of the State to promote the best for the country, moreso when the LP has no presidential candidate.

Mimiko has earlier reiterated the fact that he had no agreement with any party to dump the Labour Party platform and was only supporting the candidature of President Goodluck Jonathan who is most qualified and most widely supported of the three top contenders.