

Ondo government to facilitate decongestion of prisons

Governor Olusegun Mimiko of Ondo State has promised his readiness to work with requisite agencies to decongest the prisons in the State. Governor Mimiko said this while playing host to the Minister of State for Interior, Mr. Humphrey Abah and heads of para-military bodies in his Alagbaka, Akure office.

The governor while expressing displeasure at the number of inmates awaiting trial in prisons said the state judiciary will put every necessary thing in motion to facilitate the quick decongestion of the prisons, especially by ensuring that those awaiting trial are tried in earnest.

Pointing at sundry reforms in the judiciary and the repositioning of the Office of public defender in the states as steps to frontally address the issue of congestion, Governor Mimiko promised to work further to get the courts to dispense justice with the required speed.

Earlier in his address, the Minister, Mr. Humphrey Abah, said his visit to Akure is a continuation of his inspection of prison facilities across the nation. He said he personally embarked on this inspection to have on-the-spot assessment of the situation of things in Nigerian prisons.

The minister said what he saw at the prisons in Ondo state are as deplorable as what is obtainable in other states he has visited.

Abah said: “A prison should be a corrective facility where inmates are supposed to be transformed and not punished, unfortunately the situation in the prisons suggests otherwise.

“Akure prison, for instance, which was originally constructed to take 160 inmates, now has 549 inmates. Sixty-six of the inmates have been convicted while the remaining 483 are still awaiting trial!”

The minister stressed the importance of the state judiciary in ensuring that justice is quickly dispensed as justice delayed will always be tantamount to justice denied.