

Mimiko promises better deals for Southern Ondo, commissions Igbokoda jetty, N220million Okitipupa market

Ondo State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko at the weekend promised a better deal for the people of the oil-rich Southern Senatorial district of the with a pledge that not only would more dividends of democracy by provided for them, they would not be short-changed in the provision of life-enhancing programmes.

Dr Mimiko on Thursday gave the assurance at Igbokoda and Okitipupa, headquarters of Ilaje and Okitipupa local governments respectively while commissioning a modern dock jetty and the N220 Million Caring Heart Regional Market in the area. Dr Mimiko also disclosed to the cheering people that contract for the dredging of waterways in Ilaje, which was last done about 30 years ago, had already been awarded to Westminster Limited with mobilization paid.

He further added that road construction from Ugbonla to Ayetoro seaside would be awarded in the next couple of weeks aside the extension of national grid to Araromi waterside which he disclosed would be executed through the Ondo State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission (OSOPADEC).

Governor Mimiko who urged the people to make good use of the new jetty, which he said, would boost their commercial activities, promised to provide more of it if the people appreciate the gesture.

"What we doing here is part of our efforts to bring dividends of democracy to our people. Our coastal area is very crucial to the economic development of our State and we are ready as government to do everything possible to alleviate their sufferings. In fact, this modern jetty we are commissioning today will reduce the suffering of our people and boost their trade," Mimiko stated.

At Okitipupa where the Governor was mobbed appreciative market women who thanked him for saving them from the vagaries of the weather and the dangers of trading on the streets where vehicles often run over their wares with the construction of the Regional markets, Governor Mimiko assured the market women of equity and fairness in the allocation of the stalls. He stressed that all those displaced would be given pride of place and allocated stalls like their counterparts in Akure and elsewhere where such markets have been put in place without any middleman whatsoever. Governor Mimiko noted that the market, which was flagged-off about six months ago, apart from reducing the suffering of the market women who transact their businesses under the sun and by the sides of the major road, was part of the urban renewal efforts of his administration to bring civilization to major towns in the state.

His Words: "This is part of the urban renewal programmes of this administration. Our women in this area have been trading under sun and in the rain, which is not acceptable to us. We've taken this bold step to bring smiles to their faces. I want to assure you that everyone displaced in this market will surely have allocation in these new stalls. We are not going to allow any middleman to sublet any of the stalls."

The Okitipupa Regional market among others have 108 modern lock up shops, 32 blocks of 531 open stalls, 1 block of Palm oil sellers shed (50 sheds), a modern cold room, , a multipurpose hall, an administrative office, restaurant amongst others.

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