

Tinubu Didn't Fund Mimiko's Campaign

By Ndubuisi Ugah, This Day Live

Ondo State chapter of the Labour Party (LP) has dismissed the claim by the former state chairman of the party, Dr. Olaiya Oni, that former Governor of Lagos State, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu, contributed N1.2 billion towards the electioneering campaign of Governor Segun



Governor Olusegun Mimiko

Mimiko in 2007. Director of Publicity and Research of the LP in the state, Prince Koye Odogiyon, dismissed the claim, stressing that the party would write Oni, to explain how he allegedly collected the money and spent it without the prior knowledge of other members of the party's executives either in the state or at the national office.

“We in the LP are not aware of the said N1.2 billion. May be Dr Olaiya Oni collected such money and spent it on his personal projects, definitely not on the Labour Party. Is Oni affirming that Tinubu committed anti-party activities by funding opponents against the candidate of his own party, the ACN? It is on record that Tinubu and his party fielded Prince Ademola Adegoroye in Ondo State in 2007. Does that mean Tinubu is not a true and consistent leader of the ACN? Tinubu may not be worthy to be called a party leader? Anyway, I think Dr. Oni is trying to console himself by saying that a host of LP members would follow him to the ACN. The LP is waxing stronger daily,” Odogiyon said.

Oni, who had already defected to the ACN, was recently quoted in the media as saying: “I was the person who was organising, raising funds for the party at the state, local governments and ward levels. Oni is probably indebted to Tinubu, and was hell bent at paying back with the state fund, a position Mimiko did not subscribe to, he resigned and now hope to champion such ambition via their ACN, an agenda that believed in cheating the future to pay the present. On the ground that he built LP, Odogiyon said Oni never built the party, Oni's choice was to make up the equation, as former Governor Olusegun Agagu was from the South Senatorial district, while Mimiko was from Central Senatorial district, a North Senatorial district Chairman for Labour party became inevitable to beat Agagu of the PDP, hence the emergence of Oni.

Oni, who claimed Mimiko was an ingrate, however, confirmed that the governor bought him an SUV during the launch of his book, a development, which he alleged prompted his quitting the LP. “Dr. Oni, whom I used to respect, deserves my pity. He is supposed to know better. He does not have to bite the finger that fed him, just to impress his new pay master,” Odogiyon said.