

We broke the “only woman” syndrome in ODHA to give voice to women- Mimiko

The Ondo State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko has attributed the emergence of three women in the election into the State’s House of Assembly in the April Elections to the gender friendliness of the Labour Party. Specifically, the Governor who spoke in Akure on Thursday while playing host to the three women who for the first time in the annals of the State, won elections into the Assembly, enthused that the era of the “only woman” syndrome in the State assembly was gone.

Under the present democratic dispensation, only one woman, Mrs. Cecelia Fayase (Ondo West Constituency 1) was elected during the Adebayo Adefarati administration (1999-2003); in 2003, Mrs. Titi Akinmade (Ondo West1) made the House while in 2007 Mrs. Asake Olubitan (Ose) was elected.

But under the Labour Party, three women **legislators, Kemi Adesanya (Akure South Constituency1), Jumoke Akindele (Okitupupa Constituency1) and Fola Olasehinde (Ose).**

Receiving the visitors, Mimiko describe the election of the women legislators as a development designed by God. According to him, the women indicated their political ambition, went through the primaries and based on merit, won.

He said “the only advantage they enjoyed was that they were exempted from paying nomination fee, Labour Party (LP) was the platform that presented them and it was due to its avowed gender friendly posture and the fact that it is a party for all irrespective of gender.

“The Labour Party (LP) provided the platform for women to launch into politics. Nobody went to call women from their shops to contest in the elections. These women ventured into politics and won at the primaries on merit. We never lowered the standard because they were women.”

He implored women to take active participation in politics, stressing that only those involved in politics can be considered for political positions.

Also speaking at the occasion, wife of the Ondo State Governor, Mrs. Olukemi Mimiko, lauded the State Government for giving support to women in the state.

She advised the women to work hard and be good representatives of the **women in government, advising that the opportunity must not be misused “since it is the beginning of women active representation in politics.”**

Mrs. Mimiko charged the elected legislators to be diligent in their duties and create a fair playing ground to meet the needs of women in the state. She also advised them to be united.

The Labour Party Women Leader, Mrs Yemi Mahmud, exhorted Governor Mimiko and his wife for supporting the cause of women to be actively involved in politics.

The three elected legislators, Kemi Adesanya (Akure Constituency1), Jumoke Akindele (Okitupupa Constituency1) and Fola Olasehinde (Ose), while thanking the Governor, the State LP equally pledged their support and assured that they would provide the desired support for the State and act as a fillip to launch the womenfolk in the State to more political positions.