

PRESS RELEASE

PALM OIL REVOLUTION IN ONDO STATE SOON

The Ondo State is set to take its pride of place in the production of oil palm in the nation by partnering with a Malaysian Firm, Agro Bayu Consultancy in its bid to revolutionize its flagging oil palm plantations in the State.

The State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko who disclosed that already a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) would soon be signed during the presentation of Project Package presented by Agro Bayu Consultancy, Malaysia and the Ondo State Wealth Creation Agency in Akure at the weekend said Oil Palm revolution would be a focal point of the vision of his administration.

The Malaysia firm was represented by two leading Palm experts, Mr. Zolkfli Mahmud and Mr. Esnan Ab-Ghani.

Dr Mimiko said agriculture, food security and industrialization would be given adequate attention in the CARING HEART Programme of his administration.

According to him, the Palm revolution would assist in growth of the economy and industrialize the State thereby providing job opportunities for the teeming population of the State.

The governor who noted that the Malaysia government took palm seedlings from Nigeria in the early 1960s regretted that the successive administrations had abandoned Palm tree production due to the discovery of crude oil in the country.

Dr Mimiko said Malaysia was the most credible place to look for partner for the State Palm revolution, saying that his government was fully ready for the project.

In his remarks, the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Wealth Creation, Chief Olatunji Akomolafe disclosed that his Agency's move to bring the State from underdeveloped to developed economy, both human and natural resources would be fully utilized, making good use of the three productive agents of Labour, Capital and Organization.

Akomolafe said this necessitated the search for the world leading Palm tree experts to Malaysia, expressing the hope that the project, when fully executed, would make the state the Cynosure of all states in the federation.

In his remark, the Leader of team, Mr. Zolkfli Mahmud who has presented over five hundred papers on palm tree productions around the world, noted that Palm Seedlings from NIFOR would be used in the first phase of establishment of Oil Palm Nursery for high Seedings to supply to all plantations in the State.

According to him, Malaysia and Nigeria share the same climatic condition, hence the project would thrive very well in Ondo State while proper planning, management and commitment of the people would ensure the success of the palm oil revolution as recorded in Malaysia. The proposed planting sites for first year of palm revolution are Ore axis, Akunu axis, Supare axis and Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba Akoko which would serve as research and training institute for the project.

The second year of the palm revolution is processing plant which will end in 2012.

Kolawole Olabisi

Chief Press Secretary to the Governor