

## **Ondo Tackles Rot In Education Sector, Launches Quality Assurance Agency To Arrest Teachers Truancy**

The Ondo State Government on Monday took a giant stride in its determination to revamp the State's educational sector with the flag off of the Ondo State Education Quality Assurance Agency (QED) with an admonition to lazy teachers in the State to buckle up or face the full brunt of their action.

The State Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko while speaking at a capacity building workshop for newly recruited staff of the State Quality Assurance Agency (QED) in Ondo town on Monday, lamented the rot in the sector stating emphatically that only concerted efforts by all in the sector could save the situation which he noted was lamentable as products of public schools could no longer compete with their counterparts in the private sector.

In his exhortation to the newly-recruited staff of the Agency, the Governor urged them not to waste time in applying the big stick on anyone whose conduct could affect his government vision for provision of quality education for the citizenry.

His words: "You have a date with history, what we are doing is about our future, if we don't invest today, our children would become havens of wood tomorrow.

"The world is moving at a breath taking pace and will not wait anyone, I want our teachers to cooperate, anyway they have no choice, yet I will still appeal to them, we shall give you big sticks, this is no monkey or joke business, one of our star projects is this Education Quality Assurance to revamp the education scheme and it is a task that must be achieved if we must make our pupils to compete with their counterparts from the private schools.

"The standards we expect from you is more than the ordinary, when we want to visit the sanctions on you, it would be more than the ordinary too. The education of the evaluators is competitive and went, so we expect the best from you, we also consider this training as the most critical aspect of the mechanisms used in the formulation of the agency.

"It is crafted to be an elite agency, those inspecting must be above those they are inspecting. If we must move into this century of Ondo must be competitive in the next few years, our

experiences has even shown that a nation's wealth in mineral resources does not translate into development, what will change our society is quality.

"Education is no longer available for the poor in the society as a key to break away from poverty, you are the agents for the change and to bridge the gap, also we would continue to produce more kidnapers and armed robbers".

The governor replied the critics of the government's Mega School Project advising them not to play politics with the lives of tomorrow leaders.

"They cannot see what we are seeing, we cannot really blame them, we are looking beyond that, we are building schools that would be globally competitive, definitely not with these kind of infrastructure, let tell you that it is sustainable, it is the choice you make that matters, it is the quality of man that will change this society".

On the move to chose down illegal private schools, the Governor told operators of such schools to either comply with the rules or back out of the business.

"We have responsibility to ensure maintenance of mineral standards, don't grumble when the Ministry of Education wild the big stick, I want to appeal to our parents to cooperate with government in this area" he said.

