

Greatness

ISÉ LOOGÚN ISÉ

N2,000



POWERED BY
Gaskia Media Ltd





We are the iron in your beams and the cement in your walls

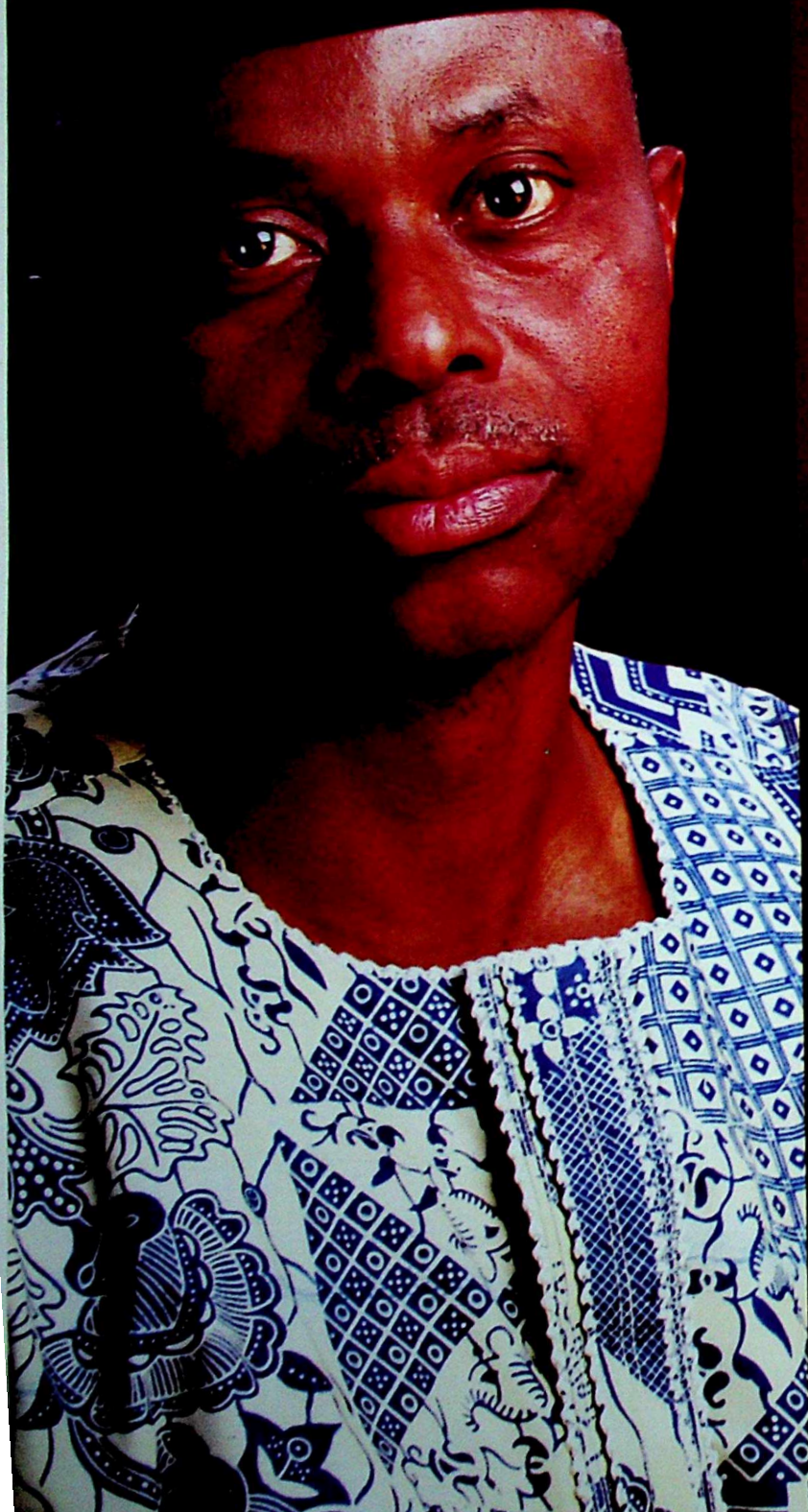
At Dangote, we're committed to Nigeria's economic development. The more we're able to produce and process locally, the more we can stimulate our economy. That's why we're striving for self-reliance in every sector in which we operate. Like the iron bars and cement we produce, that help provide solid shelter, we strengthen the structure of our great nation.



We are proudly Nigerian; we are Dangote

Cement | Sugar | Flour | Pasta | Salt | Beverages | Telecoms | Steel | Transport | Real Estate | Poly Sacks

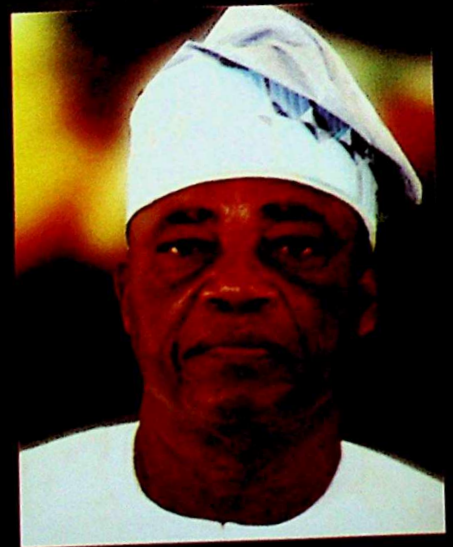
We believe in you



I, Alhaji Ali Olanusi wish to join the good people of Ondo State to celebrate with our amiable and hard-working governor, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko , 'the Iroko' and the children of Ondo State on the occasion of this year's Children's Day celebrations.

Dear Children, I urge you to appreciate the hope we have in you all and work towards bringing our dreams of tomorrow to reality.

Happy Celebrations!!!



Alhaji Ali Olanusi,
Deputy Governor, Ondo State



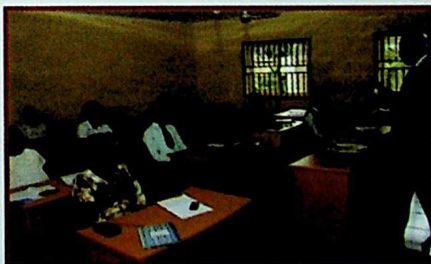
PUBLIC SERVICE TRAINING INSTITUTE

...building capacity for senior managers

Committed to human capital development in the state, the Mimiko led administration has established the Ondo State Public Service Training Institute, PSTI. The establishment of PSTI is unarguably, the most enduring reform in public service. The government is committed to making it one of the best centres for senior management training in the country.

5 Lecture Theatres, each with the capacity to seat - 50 people

- 10 syndicate rooms,
- Offices,
- Board room,
- Restaurant/canteen,
- Auditorium,
- Guest house,
- Library,
- On campus accommodation
- Site is 80 percent ready



PSTI Annex
The annex which is the site of the old Staff Development Centre offers Certificate, Diploma and Higher Diploma courses in management studies.



Construction Site at 80 percent completion



Proposed Plan of the Public Training Institute

Mr Ajose Kudehinbu
Head of Service, Ondo State





ONDO STATE QUALITY EDUCATION ASSURANCE AGENCY (Q.Ed)

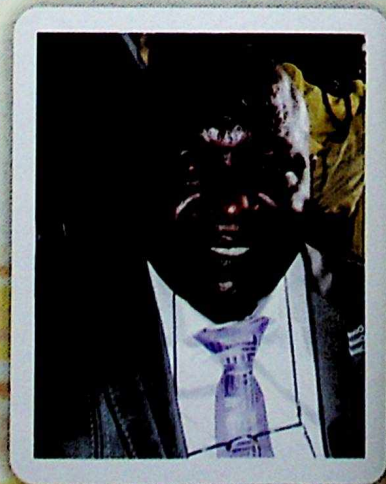
The management and the entire staff of the Ondo State Quality Education Assurance Agency (Q.Ed) wish to felicitate with Mr. Governor, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko on the celebration of Children's Day.

Ondo State Quality Education Assurance Agency was established on September 16th, 2010 out of a vision to rescue the education sector of the State below tertiary level from its parlous state to an enviable status that would be a cynosure and model per excellence for other States.

We salute heartily the courage and avowed commitment of Mr. Governor for this lofty and unprecedented vision aimed at improving the quality of education for total human capital development.

The Q.Ed has made the following positive impacts to enhance quality education delivery in Ondo State since inception:

- Afford the Government first hand information on teachers' performance, problems and providing pragmatic solutions to their challenges with dispatch.
- Enhancement of policy formation, management, review and research for improvement in curriculum delivery and outcome for the learners.
- Achieving continuous improvement of learning outcomes as indicated in the outstanding performance of the learners in internal and external examinations and competitions at National and International levels (case is the student of St Louis Grammar School Ondo that was adjudged to be the best candidate in 2011 WASSCE).
- Delivering the dividends of democracy in human capital training and development.
- Tremendous boost for the Education operations in the institutions below the tertiary level.
- Landmark achievements that have no doubt made Mimiko's administration an epitome of success in the provision of educational opportunities for the citizenry. This is a promise premised on sustainable human capital development. That forms one of the cardinal areas of the "A CARING HEART" programme of the present administration.
- Intensive and regular evaluation visits to all public schools that have rejuvenated quality services delivery in the schools for improved performance.



Mr Steve Awosika
Permanent Secretary (Q.Ed)



ONDO STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Congratulations

Dr Olusegun Abayomi Mimiko
Governor, Ondo State.

The speaker Ondo State House of Assembly Rt. Hon. Samuel Adesina, the Deputy Speaker, Rt. Hon. Emiola Dare, the Majority Leader, Hon. Ifedayo Akinsoyinu, the entire members and staff of the Sunshine Assembly of Hope warmly felicitate with a pragmatic, highly focused, indefatigable and the people's Governor, His Excellency, Dr Olusegun Abayomi Mimiko on the occasion of this year's Children's Day celebrations.

The various life changing and people oriented

programmes executed within the last 3 years have not only achieved monumental transformation of the state but raised the standard of living of the people which has indeed proved your administration as a caring one.

The Legislature will continue to cooperate as well as complement the efforts of the Executive to enhance more dividends of democracy for the people of the state

Honourable Members Of Ondo State House of Assembly

Rt. Hon. Adesina Samuel Ajayi	Odigbo II
Rt. Hon. Dare Emiola Francis	Akoko South-west I
Hon. Akinsoyinu Olugbenga Ifedayo	Ondo West II
Hon. Dairo Olatunji Oluwole	Owo II
Hon. (Prince) Aladetan Oyebo JP	Ilaje I
Hon. Lubi Akpoebi Ebielatei	Ese odo
Hon. (Barr.) Adeloye Oladejo Bernard	Idanre
Hon. (Barr.)Banso Adeyinka Alexander	Akoko North West I
Hon. Adeniyi Akindele Micheal	Akure North
Hon. (Barr.) Princess Akindele Jumoke Yetunde	Okitipupa II
Hon. (Barr.) Akinsiku Afolabi	Ondo West I
Rt. Hon. (Prince) Akinwe Victor Adesulu	Odigbo I
Hon. (Chief) Akinwolemiwa Fidelis Gbola	Ondo East I
Hon. Akinkurolere Soji David	Okitipupa I
Hon. Aladetimihin Joseph Olusola	Akoko North West II
Hon. Arowele Sam Ayodeji	Owo I
Hon. Dallo Stegelln Ajayi	Akoko South East
Hon.(Barr.) Edema Olugbenga Omogbemi	Ilaje II
Hon.(Alh.) Gbemibade Adetoro Folagbade	Ile-oluji Okeigbo
Hon. Iwalewa Afolabi	Irele
Hon. Ogunbi Abiodun	Akoko south west II
Hon. (Barr.) Olasehinde V. Folajimi	Ose
Hon. (Chief) Oleyelogun Bamidele David	Ifedore
Hon. (Barr.) Alh Olotu Fatal	Akoko North East
Hon. Olujuyigbe Adekunle Francis	Akure South II



Rt. Hon. Adesina Samuel Ajayi
Speaker

Signed

Prince Oyebo-Nogwa Aladetan (JP)
Chairman, House Committee on
Information & Orientation

Alh. Olatunji Oluwole

Loneliness of the Long-Distance Runner

Dare Babarinsa

Ondo State is the heartland of the Yoruba Nation, the pulse of its democratic craving and longing for assertiveness. From generation to generation, the people have love to embrace their right to democracy with passion and sometimes convulsive expression. Now the land is stirring again as the rituals of the democratic process is beginning in earnest: party nominations and later in October, electoral gladiatorial combat. The man at the centre of the storm is Olusegun Mimiko, physician by training, politician by choice, humanist by inclination and revolutionary by orientation.

Mimiko had defied the odds and challenged destiny into a dance. In his relentless and single-minded drive to reshape the land of his birth according to the dictates of his innermost being, he has won new foes and acquired new friends and won the respect of most of his people. He is the only governor out of 36 in the Federation who is elected on the ticket of the Labour Party. Not even Adam Oshiomhole, the great labour leader and former President of the Nigerian Labour Congress, NLC, who is now the governor of Edo State, contested on the Labour platform. Mimiko embraced the LP and the majority of Ondo State people followed him. He believes he would repeat the magic again this October when the state would have another governorship election.

The Labour Party has a long romantic history but few electoral trophies. During the transition programmed of the ill-fated General Ibrahim Babangida era, Dr Frederick Fasehun, physician and later to become more famous as the founder and leader of the Oodua People's Congress, OPC, was the presidential candidate of the Labour Party. Babangida later outlawed the party along with others and supplanted in their place his two official parties, the Social Democratic Party, SDP and the National Republican Convention, NRC. Before Fase-

hun, a long line of labour leaders, including Dr Tunji Otegbeye, Michael Imoudu and Wahab Goodluck, have toyed with the idea of having the Labour Party or a variant of it through which the workers would have access to power and control the affairs of Nigeria.

Mimiko has travelled a long distance to personify that dream. By the time of Babangida convoluted transition programme, Mimiko was already a force in Ondo State politics. He was the leader of the SDP youths, especially in his hometown of Ondo. It was on the strength of this that Governor Bamidele Olumilua made him a commissioner in 1992. He was the youngest commissioner in the cabinet then. Now he is no longer so young, though still youthful and bubbling with incredible vigour at 57.

For a long period, the governor has been part of the uneven temper of Ondo State politics, its long and colourful romance with democratic yearnings and its unrepentant capacity for self-assertiveness. The old Ondo Province (including the present Ekiti State) was part of the Western State until 1976 when the military government increased the number of states from 12 to 19. The people of this area were fully involved in the anti-colonial fer-

ment and the struggle against the benign dictatorship of the British. Indeed, it was in Owo, at a meeting hosted by the late patriarch, Chief Michael Adekunle Ajasin, that the Action Group was launched in 1951.

A part from Ajasin, who was to become the first elected governor of old Ondo State, many prominent citizens of the state also played eminent roles in the march of Yoruba and Nigerian history. This is the home state of Chief Akin Deko, the Minister of Agric and Daniel Fagunwa, the literary giant and pioneer Yoruba novelist.

Independence for Nigeria in 1960 did not however bring freedom for Yorubaland. The tumults of the sixties when Western Region was hit by



political tremor following the AG crisis also played itself out on the streets of Ondo State cities. Also the battle for the democratic soul of Nigeria was waged in Ondo State during the ill-fated Second Republic. When Nigerians decided to confront the military dictatorship of General Ibrahim Babangida and later General Sani Abacha through the National Democratic Coalition, NADECO, Owo was the command centre and Ajasin's home in that ancient town was the sanctum.

It is for all these heroes and heroines that Mimiko stands proxy. He was in the Ajasin's vanguard that finally inherited power in the state after the military exit and Chief Adebayo Adefarati, old Awoist paladin, former commissioner in the Ajasin's government and veteran of the protracted struggle against military rule, emerged as elected governor. Mimiko became his commissioner for health, his old ministry under Olumilua. Adefarati was to be swept off by new alignments and Dr Olusegun Agagu, a geologist, businessman and political stalwart, became governor on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP. Agagu was the Minister of Power in the cabinet of President Olusegun Obasanjo. Agagu, recognising the immense role Mimiko played in his coming to power, made him the Secretary to the State Government, SSG. Both Mimiko and Agagu were old colleagues in the cabinet of Olumilua where Agagu was the deputy-governor.

The two old comrades were to part ways at the altar of ambition. Agagu wanted a second term of four years. Mimiko, responding to a groundswell of support across the state, threw his hat into the ring. By that time, he had resigned his job as the Minister of Housing in the Obasanjo cabinet. An immovable object was confronting an unstoppable entity. The clash was of epic proportion. The court was later to assert that Mimiko was indeed the people's choice when the government of Agagu was sacked in 2009.

Since then, Mimiko has called into play his immense experience, his great attachment to the grassroots, his understanding of the tapestry of Ondo State politics and his empathy with the masses, their yearnings, their inner craving and their longings to make Ondo State a pacesetter in Nigeria. Akure, scene of old politi-



cal battles, bears the unmistakable mark of the Mimiko magic. Every night youths and lovers, and the not so young, gather at the scene of the water fountain at the First Bank Roundabout, to marvel at the sheer beauty of the place. The street, bathes in evanescent street light, is one of the transformation of Ondo State in the Mimiko Era.

Mimiko is focusing on three areas to execute his ministry. First is the transformation of the Ondo State human capital by rebuilding its education and transforming its health facilities. The government is embarking on the creation of massive employment by the opening of new avenue for access to capital and new skills. This has brought the state government into close collaboration with the Bank of Industry and other institutions. The second aspect is the extensive rebuilding of Ondo State towns and cities through massive urban renewal projects and provision and reconstructions of public facilities and infrastructures including highways, opening up of waterways, provisions of pipe-borne water, electricity, housing and tourism projects. The third one is affirming the Ondo State identity through the ethos of *ise loogun ise, ise takun takun*, borrowing from the old poems of Chief Joseph Odunjo, the Yoruba pioneer literati.

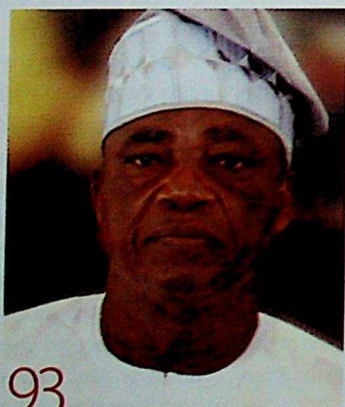
Mimiko's team is bounded by the belief that Ondo State could be greater, better, richer and more united. One strong believer is Olukemi, Mimiko's wife and collaborator of more than two decades. She infuses into the governor an inner

strength that propels his public political exploits. As the generalissimo of the Home Front, she has guaranteed him domestic felicity in an era of turbulence and political uncertainties. Now more is required of her as he prepares again for perhaps the greatest test of his political career: the October 2012 governorship election.

Arraigned against the governors are mostly familiar parsonages who do not share his vision for Ondo State future. The battle is coming mainly from two fronts. One is the Action Congress of Nigeria, ACN, with its crowd of governorship aspirants. The second party is the PDP, which is less rancorous but no less keen on power. While the two parties are sure, no one is sure yet who would be their governorship candidates.

For Mimiko, the October poll is not just another election, but a referendum on his style of leadership, his embrace of the Labour Party, when he could have joined either of the two major parties: the PDP or the ACN. Now he is basically on his own. He has an excellent testimonial from the records of his performance in the last three years to show the people why he deserves a second chance. He will rely on the tenacity and ingenuity of his own team and their ability to convince the people of Ondo State that the straight and narrow path the governor is taking is actually the road to the Promised Land.

Contents



- 08 Prologue
- 15 Letter from the Editor-in-Chief
- 17 Portrait of the Governor by Tunde Animasaun
- 20 Encounter: interview with the Governor
- 39 The Sunshine State: History and Development: Dele Fashomi
- 51 Interviews of Prominent Citizens from Ondo State: Ayodele Oni
- 61 His Hands on the Plough: Gbenga Ogunremi in collaboration with the CPS
- 122 Fighting for a Mandate, Toyin Obadina
- 126 The Power Behind the Throne: by Winifred Ariyo
- 134 Voice of the Iroko: Quotable quotes from Mimiko by Idowu
- 136 Ondo State's Golden Girl
- 137 Epilogue: Mimiko, Political Iroko

COVER PHOTOGRAPH:
Interview with Governor Mimiko.
Picture by JOHNSON ABIODUN
OTHER PHOTOGRAPHS:
Sunday Adediji & Idowu Ogunleye
COVER DESIGN: Mathias A.

THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW ONDO STATE



The Honourable Commissioner, the Management and staff of the
Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget,

Heartily Congratulate

our amiable Governor ,
Dr. Olusegun Mimiko,
on the occasion of this year's Children's Day.

Mr Governor, Sir, you set out three years ago to build an Ondo State:

- that will be "the cynosure of all eyes" - accomplished
- "of which all its citizens shall be proud" - fulfilled
- "Where equity, justice and fairness shall be the driving Forces of governmental action" -realized
- In three years, under your leadership, Ondo State has
 - become a global reference point in service delivery
- experienced massive urban renewal that has transformed the landscape of Ondo State to the satisfaction of its citizen.
- undertaken phenomenal rural development initiatives that have given rural settlers a new lease of life.
- embarked on an all –inclusive, participatory approach to development that involves every strata of the Ondo State populace.



Akin Adaramola
Commissioner for Economic
Planning and Budget

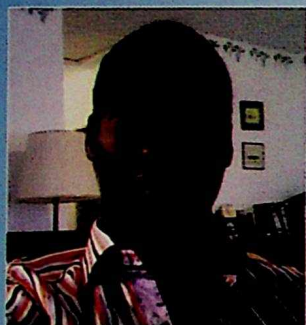
Congratulations, Sir.







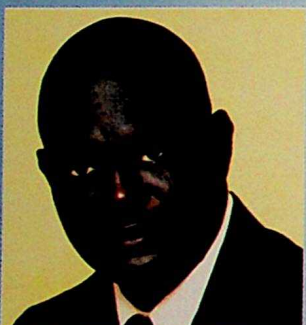
Editorial Team



Mathias Archibong - Art Director/Designer



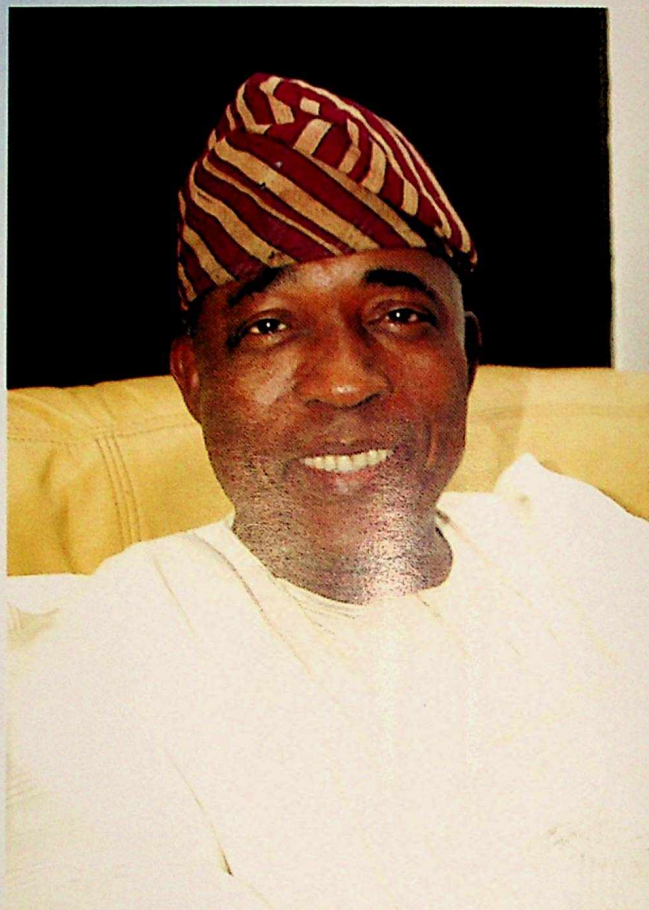
Tunde Animasaun - Associate Editor



Johnson Abiodun - Photo Editor



Obiamaka N Edmunds - G.M. Marketing



Dare Babarinsa - Chairman/Editor-in-Chief



Fummi Adeoye-Sonoiki - Senior Executive Assist.



Victor Olatunbosun - Marketing Executive



Gbenga Olagunju - Controller, Operations



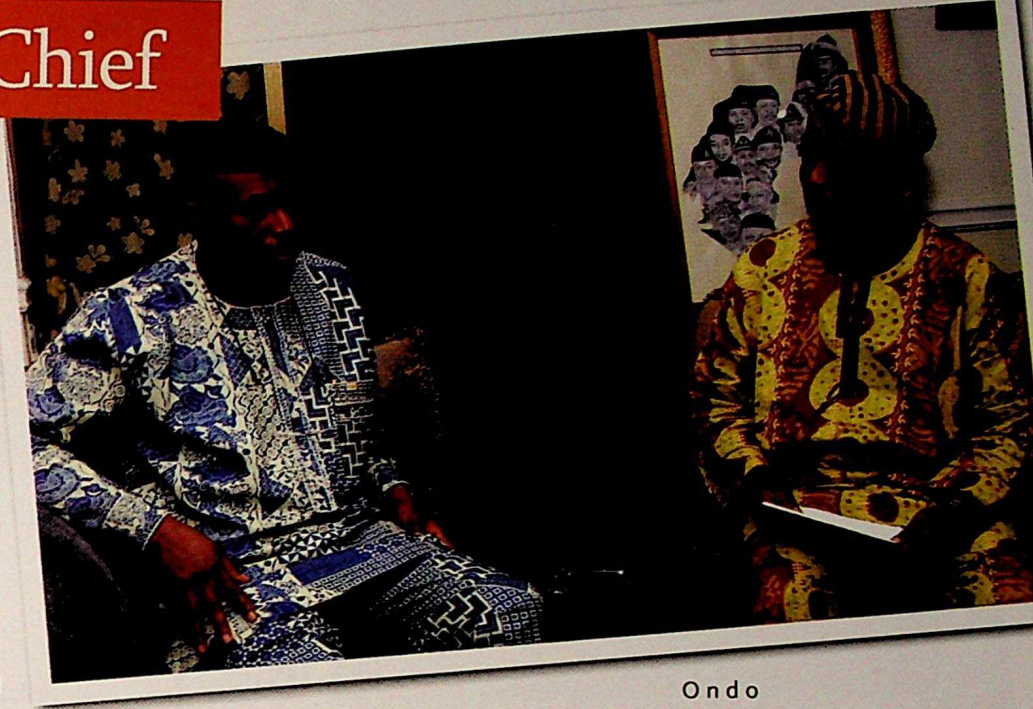
Winiwred Arlyibi - Marketing Executive



Blessing Abidakun - Front Desk Officer

Contributing Editors: Micheal Odubona, Tunde Akande, Gbenga Ogunremi, Dele Fashomi, Ayodele Oni, Yemi Ogunde, Toyin Obadina, Kayode Akinmade, Mikail Mumuni & Felix Ikime
Editorial consultancy, design and production: Gaskia Media Limited 10 Bodunrin Caulcrick Close, Ogba, Ikeja, Lagos, Email: gaskiamediaimltd@yahoo.com

Editor-in-Chief



Ondo State is a place of enduring romance for me. It was my home-state before General Sani Abacha created Ekiti State more than 15 years ago. As a student in the University of Lagos, I was the President of the National Union of Ondo State Students, with members in all the universities and other tertiary institutions in the federation. That was 1979 and 1980. Chief Adekunle Ajasin was the elected governor then and he was our grand patron.

After my compulsory national service, I was posted to Akure in 1983 as the Chief Correspondent of the Concord Group of Newspapers owned by the billionaire philanthropist and politician Chief Moshood Abiola. I covered the turbulence that engulfed Ondo State (including the present Ekiti State) in the aftermath of the 1983 governorship election. My experience formed the basis of my book, *House of War*, a definitive study of the politics of Nigeria's Second Republic, especially as it affects Chief Obafemi Awolowo and his followers.

I have had special relationship with all the elected governors since then. Evangelist Bamidele Olumilua, who became governor in 1992, was like a special uncle. So was his linear successor, Chief Adebayo Adefarati, who became governor in 1999. Adefarati was a commissioner under Baba Ajasin. He was also one of the leaders of Afenifere, the Yoruba mainstream political and cultural organisation. His successor was Olusegun Agagu, a geologist and former university teacher. He was Olumilua's deputy governor. It was in 1992, when Mimiko was a youthful commissioner for health that I first met him and Agagu. Mimiko was later to serve as Adefarati's Commissioner for health and Agagu's Secretary to the State Government, SSG.

Therefore, it was a welcome opportunity for me and our team at Gaskia Media Limited to celebrate the great state when Governor Mimiko agreed that we do this special brochure to commemorate this year's Children Day. The day is special to the governor who has devoted his tour of duty in the public space to improving the lives of children and the welfare of their parents. He is the builder of Mother and Child Hospital across

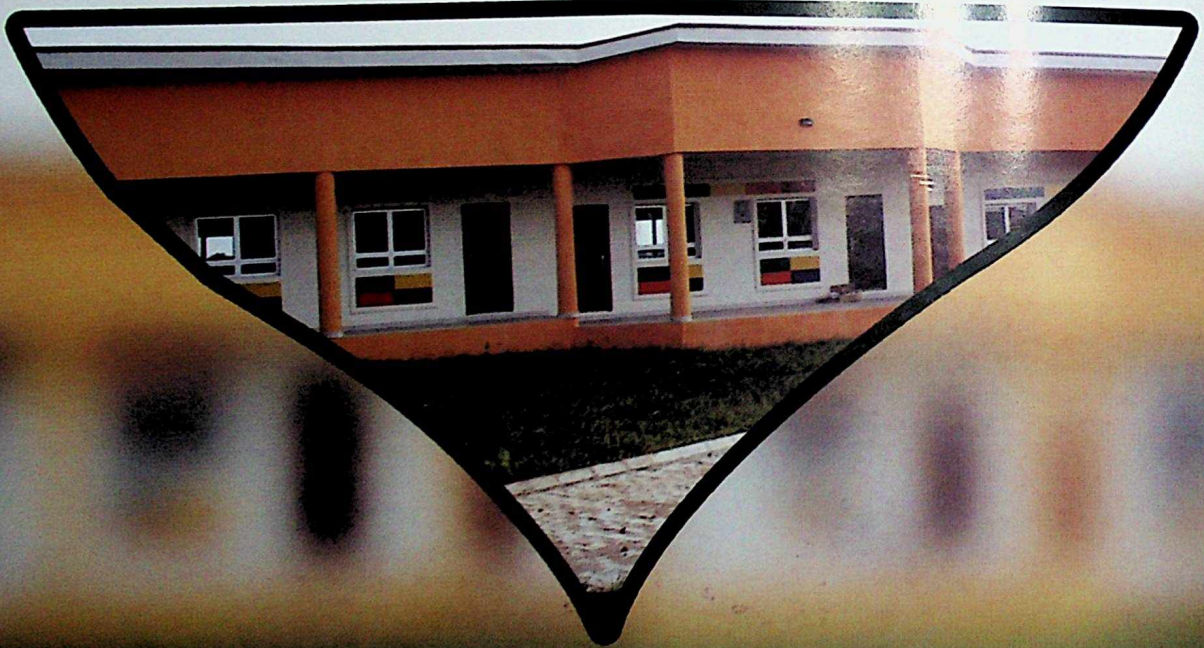
Ondo State. He has instituted the highest minimum wage in Nigerian history. He has made the pursuit of quality the main strength of public schools in Ondo State.

After the approval by the governor, our venture was made possible by the contributions of many people. Among these are Dr Aderotimi Adelola, the SSG, Dr Kola Ademujimi, the Chief of Staff and two of our colleagues in government, Kayode Akinmade, the Commissioner for Information and Enisan Akinsola, the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor. Three of our colleagues also joined us for the Ondo State projects: Gbenga Ogunremi, former technical adviser on information to former Governor Segun Oni in Ekiti State, Ayodele Oni and Yemi Ogundele. We are also grateful to the team in the Ministry of Information led by Mrs E. M. Adesuyi, the Permanent Secretary and her corps of photographers and archivists. Special mention must be made of Funke Ajibulu, the cerebral staff at the Commissioner's office who left no stone unturned to see that the brochure comes out in a brilliant way.

This product is what it is because of the contribution of everyone involved. The home team, led by Gbenga Olagunju was supported by two of our consultants, Tunde Akande and Soga Odubona. Other members of the home team who participated in the project are Tunde Animasaun, the *Associate Editor*, Abiodun Johnson, the *Photo Editor*, Funmi Adeoye-Sonaiki, the *Senior Executive Assistant*, Winifred Aribiyi, the *Marketing Executive* and Amos Olodele, the *Marketing Consultant*. Also, there is a new jewel in our crown: Mathias Archibong who is now the head of Gaskia graphics. If this product looks beautiful and enthralling, it is the product of Mathias's profound creativity.

A government driven by "A CARING HEART"

Education & Capacity Building



Ondo State has always been a leader in education with the highest number of public schools. But that's not enough. Our public primary schools are not only tuition free, they are equipped with auditoriums, standard recreational facilities and web-enabled libraries. Our people are indeed inspired and equipped to do their life's work in A PLACE OF PRIDE.

**GBA SIBEE
KO MA LO BEE**



 Empowering future leaders in all LGAs

Ondo STATE
ISE LOOGUN ISE

Like the Iroko tree after which he named himself, young Rahman Olusegun Mimiko's early years seem ordinary like those of his peers. But in him were the genes of the gallant Famimikomi; his paternal grandfather, passed on by his erudite father who had it refined with his avid quest for knowledge, social welfarist inclinations and leadership capacity coupled with the discipline, industry and communal living of his mother, Muinat Mimiko, nee Ogunsulie. These traits, quite unseen just like the genes of the Iroko tree; were to later manifest and produce the man, the Iroko who today bestrides Ondo State like a colossus, not so much for his physical stature but through his unflinching commitment to the welfare and well being of the people of the state.

By Tunde Animasaun

Born on Sunday, 3rd October, 1954, a period when nationalist struggle was at its climax, Rahman Olusegun Mimiko grew up at a time when the fervor for service to the fatherland and the unbridled commitment to the liberation of Nigeria and Africa was palpable especially among the nationalist who had their protégés, fans and mentees all over the country. This coupled with the immediate family environment where gallantry, passion for service, dignity of labour, compassion and selflessness were not only inculcated but were the defining character of family life all gather to shape the life and per-

sonality of young Olusegun. "My father inspired us politically and I call my mother the communal matron because our home was always filled with relatives and the less privileged whom she never got tired of ministering to", Iroko recalled. He would often sit, starry eyed as his father relates to him the bravery and gallantry of the nationalists who stood up against the injustice and exploitation of the white-man. At home, his first real school and in

the hand of his loving parents, Olusegun learnt the virtues of compassion, accommodating disposition, high integrity, selflessness and humanist tendencies; the virtues that would later endear him to the people of Ondo state so much so that the love between the man and his people as demonstrated during the struggle to actualize his mandate has become one of the high points of our democratic experience.



Iroko

Passion for Service

A truly home grown man, Mimiko started his elementary education at Aponmu, near Akure where his father had a sawmill industry, and later at St. Patrick's Primary School, Yaba, Ondo, where he finished in the early 1960s. His secondary school education was at St. Joseph's College, Ondo. He attended the Gboluji Grammar School for his Higher School Certificate between 1971 and 1972, and sat for the concessional examinations of the Universities of Benin, Ibadan and Ife all of which offered him admission. Ife, it had to be because, having the imprimatur of Chief Obafemi Awolowo, Pa Bamidele Mimiko believed it would be the best. That saw young Segun Mimiko set off for Ife to study Medicine in 1972.

Given his tutelage at the feet of his father and the exuberance of youth, young Olusegun naturally became one of the most vibrant social activists on campus in spite of the challenges of medical studies. He was a member of some of the most pan-Africanist and socialist student organisations. He was the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the 'Wantu Wazuri' and a strong member of the Nigerian Young Socialists Movement. At Ife, he grounded his welfarist tutelage from home with the ideological stage post of socialism for which Ife was known then.

At Ife too, his political activism was birthed for there cannot be social activism without political goal. His active participation in campus politics saw him holding various elective posts in the Students' Union Government. He was a member of the Students' Representatives Council (Parliament), 1975/76, and chairman of its Special Honours Committee. For a period in 1976, he was elected chairman of the council. Outside the union legislative house, Dr. Mimiko served on the University of Ife Students' Union electoral commission, 1976/77. He was the Public Relations Officer of the International Students' Association of the university between 1977 and 1978.

On graduation in 1976, and after the mandatory national service, Mimiko decided to ground his knowledge in his chosen career by going back to school for higher degrees. He earned the MB; CH.B (Bachelor of Medical, Bachelor of Surgery) in 1980.

Propelled by his welfarist convictions

and medical training which centres on care giving, Mimiko, in 1980, enthusiastically offered his services to Ondo State health management board as a launching pad for the actualization of his goal to ameliorate the condition of the people. At his posting at the general hospital, Ado Ekiti, he soon became the darling of the patients. The system was however too slow and impersonal for him so he decided to try the private sector. He soon found out that for a man of his conviction and drive, no system outside his direct control would do. Hence in 1985, he decided to establish Mona Medi Clinic in his hometown, Ondo. As he would reminisce later, 'That

Standing on the tripod of a welfarist home training, socialist activism in school and the training as a medical doctor, Olusegun Mimiko was ready to 'change the world' and bring succour to the people

practice was a 'For Charity' thing, patronised particularly by the poor knowing that they would always get service. Whatever he made from the clinic he ploughed back and needed extra sources to supplement, owing drug suppliers and almost running bankrupt. His principle was service to the community! He saw injustice and poverty in the society, most especially amongst pregnant women which left an indelible mark in his mind, and he felt the need to do more'. Though thoroughbred business men would call that the most ridiculous business plan, for Mimiko the doctor and welfarist, the smiles on the faces of his patients; their heartfelt gratitude, prayer and well wishes; the change in their countenance, the renewed hope and glow in their eyes was more than any money he could make.

Standing on the tripod of a welfarist home training, socialist activism in school and the training as a medical doctor, Olusegun Mimiko was ready to 'change the world' and bring succour to the people. He therefore needed a platform for

the actualization of the egalitarian values and patriotic activism he had imbibed and determined to bring to life. Where would he turn to but the welfarist Unity Party of Nigeria, UPN, led by the late sage and hero of Yoruba politics, Chief Obafemi Awolowo. He therefore took up membership of the party on return from national service and before long, became the publicity secretary of the Ondo Local Government Chapter of the party. He actively participated in the mobilization and campaign for the 1983 election. The upheavals that followed the elections and the attendant violence, deterrent to some, spurred Olusegun into intellectual politicking. With his intellectual sparring partners, Professor Femi Mimiko, Dr. Rotimi Adelola (Ondo State's current Secretary to the State Government) and Engr. Wole Akinjo, he would engage in brainstorming sessions to find a meeting point between politics, intellectualism and service. Thus the informal rendezvous of these egg-heads crystalized, in 1987, into the Ondo Study Group (OSG) with Olusegun Mimiko as its arrowhead. It can be correctly guessed that it was in OSG that the person (Mimiko himself), mission (service) and tool (political agenda) were aligned, tempered and honed.

The opportunity for testing the uncannily slippery political terrain came in 1990 under the aegis of the Social Democratic Party, SDP, during the aborted transition programme of General Ibrahim Babangida. Though he didn't win, it launched him as a force to be reckoned with in Ondo politics. His effective organizational and mobilising abilities coupled with political programme and eloquent delivery stood him out.

These endeared him to Evangelist Bamidele Olumilua and won him a prime place in the SDP gubernatorial candidate's campaign. His contribution to the success of Evangelist Olomilua at the polls was rewarded with his appointment as the health commissioner in 1992. Within a year, Mimiko has turned around the ministry and state health delivery facilities with the setting up of 24 hour pharmacy services in the state hospitals. He also introduced and effectively equipped accident and emergency (A&E) Centres in selected hospitals.

By the time he left office in late 1993

As a result of the coup d'état that terminated that republic, Dr. Mimiko had left his mark as a performer. In that short period, he facilitated the establishment of the pharmacy shop system that provided a 24-hour pharmacy service in the main hospitals around the state. Just like his older namesake, Olusegun Obasanjo, he took his second coming in 1999, following his contribution to the success at the polls of the Alliance for Democracy, and his party then, to revitalize and put the ministry on the path of effective and efficient healthcare delivery to the people of the state.

With the benefit of experience and political maturity, Mimiko's performance in his second coming as commissioner for health was phenomenal. Within 100 days, he launched the festivals of surgery where he brought experts from abroad to carry out hundreds of free surgical operations to restore the sight of blind and partially blind patients and to relieve those with hernia (from which the father of this writer benefited). He also completed and equipped the Millennium Eye Centre, Akure, which still ranks among the best in Nigeria. Perhaps most innovative was the Health Ranger Scheme through which he was able to bring healthcare delivery to the innermost parts of the state for the first time. This innovative and result oriented programmes soon became the template for other states.

An astute politician, Mimiko's reading of the political dynamics of the state which led to his resignation from the cabinet of Chief Adebayo Adefarati was proved right when the party lost the state to the Peoples' Democratic Party which he had adopted and he was subsequently named the secretary to the state government by the governor, Dr. Olusegun Agagu, a position he occupied until he was called for higher service as the Minister for housing and urban development by the Chief Olusegun Obasanjo led Federal Government in July 2005 where he also left his mark by producing the National Building Code otherwise known as the Social Housing Project which was formally launched by the Federal Government in late 2006. In 2007, following his conviction, he resigned from the Federal Cabinet to join in the gubernatorial race on the platform of the Labour party.

Though Mimiko's political odyssey, his resignation from the cabinet of Chief Adebayo Adefarati, cross-carpeting to the Peoples' Democratic Party, PDP, when he could not get the ticket of the AD and doing same and contesting against Dr. Olusegun Agagu under whom he served as SSG, has been given many interpretations and analysis ranging from the sublime to the absurd, the truth however is that you cannot divorce a man from his antecedent. The political intrigues, failed promises, 'use and dumb tactics' and character assassination as political weapon, were strong undercurrents in the political equation of the time known only

No amount of appreciation would be adequate for that level of support and trust. Only good governance, in every sense, will be suitable enough a recompense to you. This, and only this, I solemnly pledge before you here today, is what I will strive to give in the next four years

to the active players, the victim and their close associates and those in quest of the truth, Mimiko's story is once again a justification of the the ultimate prevalence of truth over falsehood, light over darkness and the fact that hard work shall not go unrewarded. Dr. Olusegun Mimiko's preparation for a life of service has spanned decades. Every time he gets closer to the seat of power, the more acutely aware he became that his long held ideals were not utopian after all and can be realized if there is sincere commitment and judicious application of resources. With this awareness also comes the pain and sometimes frustration of frittered opportunities by incumbents who were either far removed from the aspirations of the people or were ill-prepared for the job. Unfortunately, the cart cannot run faster than the horse that drives it and like president Olusegun Obasanjo once said during the inauguration of some special advisers,

... 'you can only advise'.

The story of the 21 months legal struggle of a man and his people to reclaim the mandate that was freely given to him has been beautifully told and retold that it will be trite to repeat it again. What will however continue to intrigue every political romantic and confound all political traducers is the bonding between Iroko, as he is popularly called, and his people. It is the stuff of which epics are made. No one could describe this better than the man at the centre himself, governor Olusegun Mimiko when he solemnly declared in the second paragraph of his inauguration address, "... your resolute commitment to democracy and principled support for us these past 21 months of the just concluded legal campaign which remains unprecedented in the annals of democratic and electoral engagement in this country. No amount of appreciation would be adequate for that level of support and trust. Only good governance, in every sense, will be suitable enough a recompense to you. This, and only this, I solemnly pledge before you here today, is what I will strive to give in the next four years. The same way you stood with us and by us, unwavering, through thick and thin, even when it was clearly inauspicious for you to do so, so will I always stand by you. I will at all times ensure that this government which you laboured for, for which you were traumatized while the struggle lasted, and for which many of our loved ones lost their freedom, properties and limbs, remains your government".

Having been blessed with the long sought after opportunity to realize his dream coupled with the enthusiastic support of the people, Iroko launched his developmental programme tagged 'The Caring Heart'. The Administration swung into action. From education to health, community development to urban renewal; women and youth empowerment to workers' welfare; agriculture to industry and housing; infrastructural to human capital development; Mimiko ensured that his government deliverables were people oriented.

Three years down the line, the people of the state who are the ultimate judge, has these to say: 'o ti mu wa gbagbe o, ibanuje igba kan'. (he has erased from our memory, the agony of a time past).

THE PEOPLE ARE MY GREATEST INVESTMENT

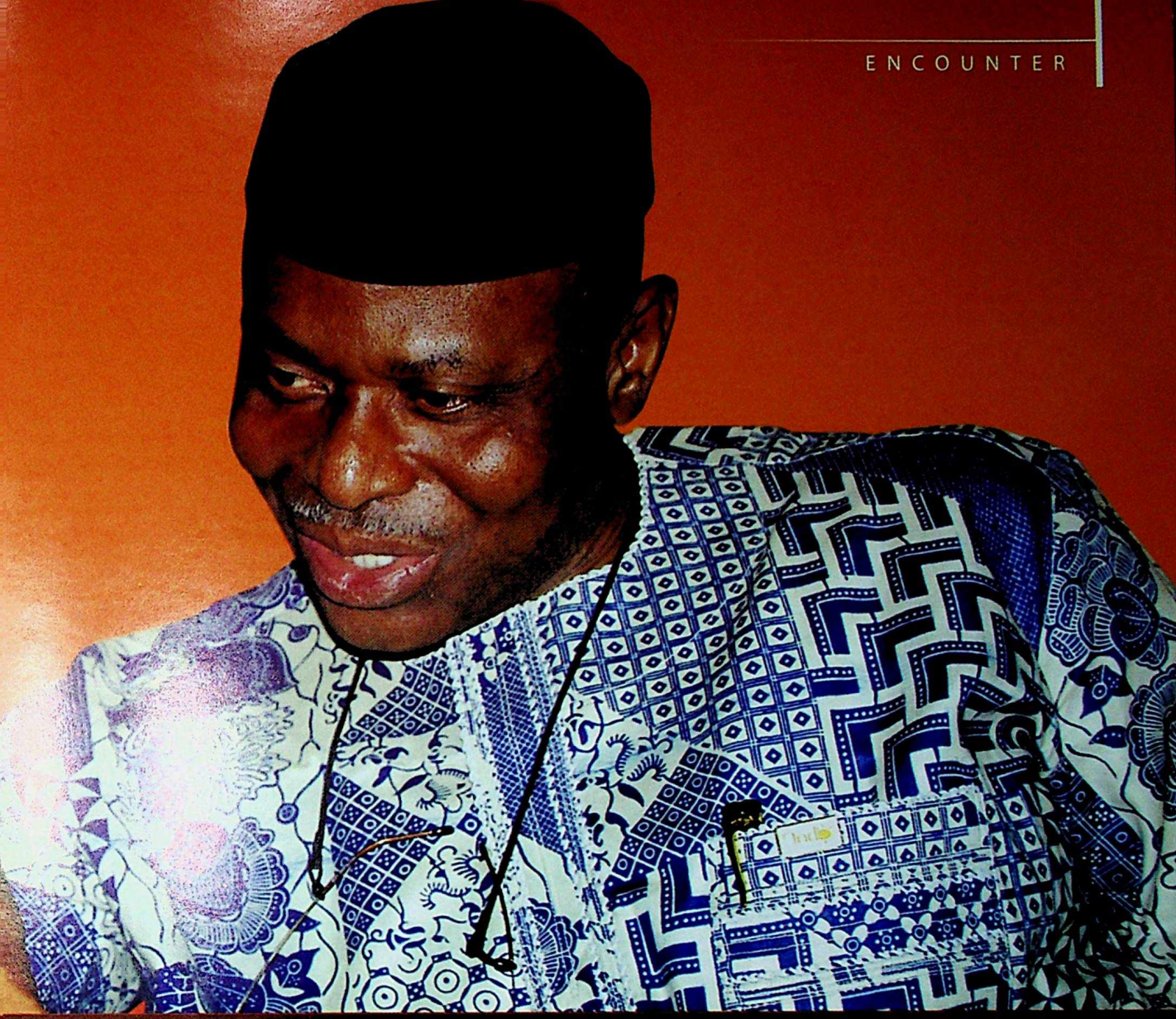


In Ondo State, Olusegun Mimiko is known as the Iroko, the giant tree that dominates the tropical rain forest of Africa. Iroko always grow up by chance because the lumberjack always look for it to cut down. Every year, the lumberjack would pass by it, then he would say let me wait till next year when the Iroko would be big enough for the saw mill. After many years of hesitation, he would realise the iroko has become a different object, to be approached with diffidence and it may even requires propitiation. Before our very eyes, Mimiko, while the lumberjack hesitated and tarried, has become the giant iroko of Ondo State politics. He is the enigmatic figure who has challenged the establishment and created a new phenomenon in Yoruba and Nigerian politics.

Mimiko has travelled far. As a young man of 33, he had served as commissioner for health in the government of Evangelist Bamidele Olumilua,

the suave farmer and diplomat who was elected governor of old Ondo State during the ill-fated transition programme engineered by General Ibrahim Babangida. Mimiko was one of the foot soldiers of the defunct Unity Party of Nigeria, UPN, during the earlier regime of Chief Michael Adegunle Ajasin, the first elected Governor of old Ondo State whose regime was terminated when the Second Republic came to grieve with the coup of December 31, 1993 led by the unsmiling Major-General Muhammadu Buhari. Mimiko's tour of duty in the Olumilua's government was the apogee of his apprenticeship. He learnt the trade and the robe of politics. He knew the nuances. He bided his time.

Now his time has come. It was good sitting with him within the lair of the Government House Akure, in the same room, redolent with the scent of history where the likes of Chief Adebayo Adefarati and Dr Olusegun Agagu once held courts. This sprawling edifice has served as home to many



chief executives, mostly military men including the likes of Commodore Bamidele Otiko, Major-General Ekundayo Opaleye, Admiral Olukoya, Admiral Abiodun Mike Akhigbe and Commodore Olabode George. Mimiko is only the fourth elected governor: Ajasin, Adefarati and Agagu were before him.

Mimiko is aware he occupies a unique position in Nigerian and Yoruba history. He is working hard to create a unique impact and makes his mark on the land of his birth. He knows he is called a political orphan being the only governor elected on the ticket of the Labour Party. In the pursuit of his ministry, Mimiko is always dashing from one end of the state to another, commissioning projects, initiating projects, giving talks to encourage the people and explains the issues of government to the people. He is full of ardour and tremendous energy. His passion is infectious and he seems to be constantly

refuelled by the confidence of the people in his ability to lead and transform the land. It was such assignment he went to on Sunday May 6, when he attended special service to mark this year's May Day at the Christ Apostolic Church, Oke-Igan, Akure. The governor, who is now paying the highest minimum wage in the public sector in Nigeria, was celebrated by the leaders of the Nigerian Labour Congress, NLC, and the Trade Union Congress, TUC, for this special gesture.

For the Gaskia team, that date culminated two weeks of waiting for this special interview. After the church service, the team followed the governor to the Government House. After a good lunch of pounded yam and assorted soup, the governor was no longer ready for the interview. In the previous 36 hours, he had been at the meeting of the oil producing states in Port-Harcourt and from there dashed to Lagos to attend

Olusegun Mimiko
Governor, Ondo
State



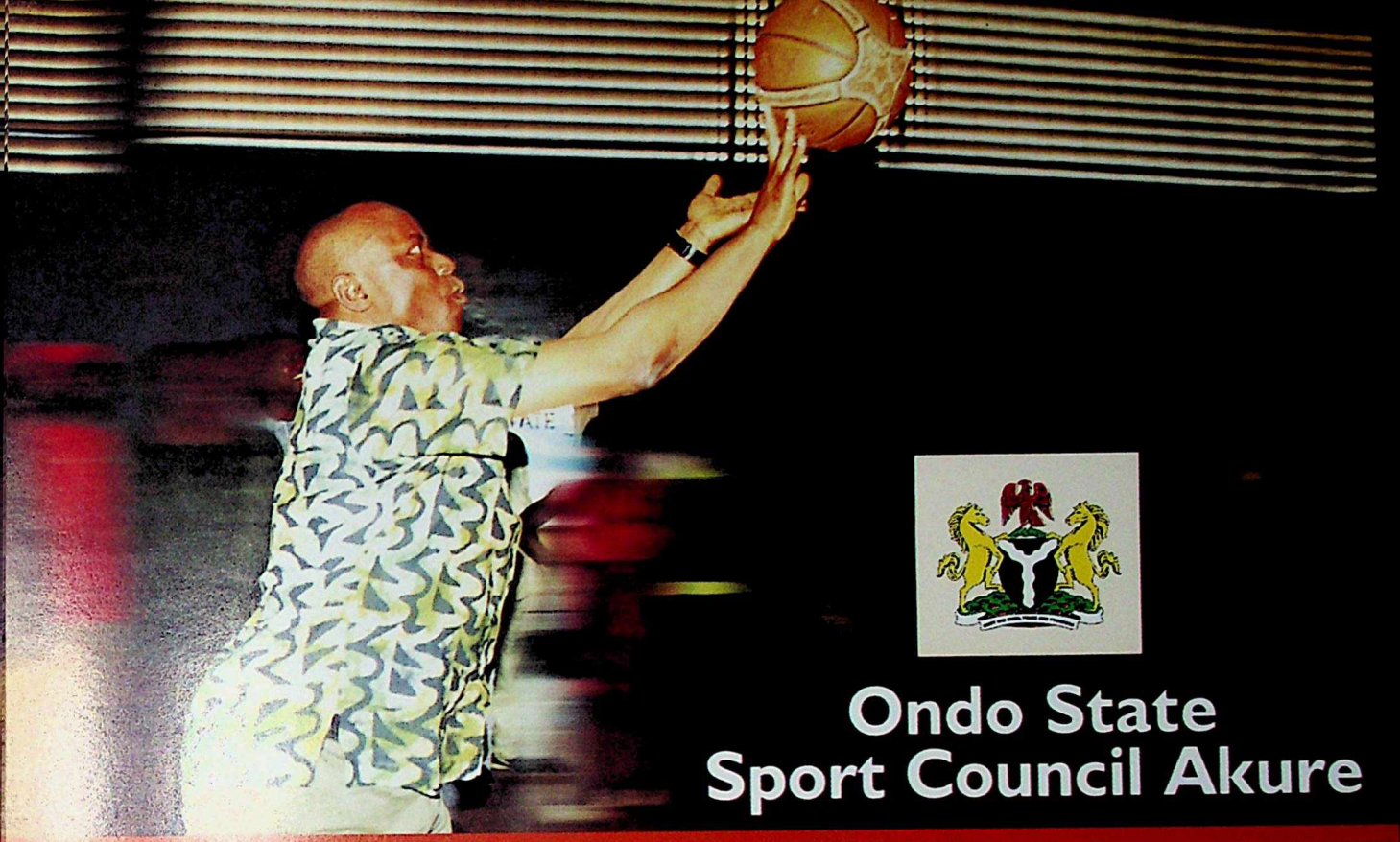
In the last three years, the workers have seen unequivocal evidence of government working for the people. They have seen a government that is striving in every department of government and human engagement to add value”.

the monthly night vigil of the Redeem Christian Church of God before returning to Ondo State for other engagements. He was to disappoint us again that day. He was simply too tired. His wife, Oluwakemi, was hovering over him like a guardian angel. She had been the anchor of his family life for two decades and could hear the unsaid words of her husband.

The following day May 7, we finally had our day. The waiting had been worth it. The governor opened up on the unusual trajectory of his career, his understanding of the tapestry of Ondo State politics, its leaders, its creative people and why he allows communities to suggest projects for the government. He is building first-class schools, first class hospitals, first-class public

institutions and first class social infrastructure to transform his state and make it a pace-setter for other states in the Federation. He is driven by a passionate commitment to build a legacy that will endure. He is focusing on the future, targeting the children of the poor, the lowly and the weak, trying to lead them by the hand and lift them to higher heights.

None of his predecessor has ever successfully done a second term. Now Mimiko is targeting the records of two former governors, Olugbenga Daniel of Ogun State and Bola Tinubu of Lagos State, the only governors in the South-West who have successfully completed two terms in office. Galloping on his heels is the gargantuan electoral machine of the Action Congress of Nigeria, ACN, a party that is struggling to appropriate the iconic allure of the late Chief Obafemi Awolowo, the first Premier of the defunct Western Region, while studiously avoiding romance with most of the surviving leaders of the Awoist vanguard, including Chief (Mrs) H.I.D Awolowo, the widow of the late avatar. They see Irok as an attractive target and oil-rich Ondo State



Ondo State Sport Council Akure

The Chairman, Board members, Managements and staff of Ondo State Sports Council heartily join the good people of Ondo State in Felicitating with our sports loving Governor, **Dr. Olusegun Abayomi Mimiko**, on the occasion of Children's Day celebrations.

The council is proud to be associated with the achievements of His Excellency's administration in the state, especially in the area of sports promotion and development. The council has achieved a lot during your administration in the following areas:

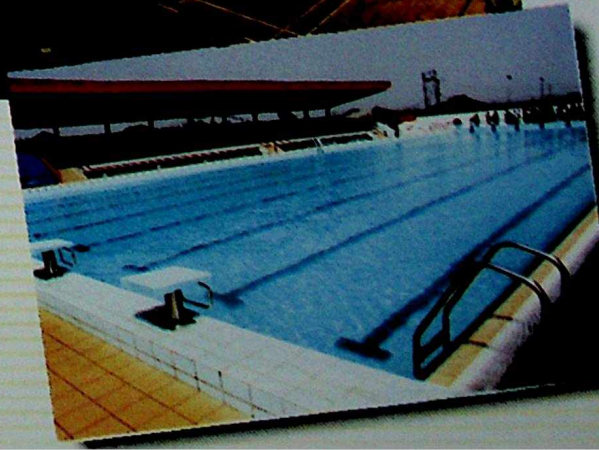
- Construction of Olympic Standard Swimming Pool
- Astrotuff football pitch
- Renovation and construction of new Administrative office blocks,
- Rehabilitation of Indoor basketball hall
- Rehabilitation of Tennis court, volleyball and Abuja courts,
- Improved performance of the state athletes occasioned by the provision of necessary equipment and giving them long term camping

Wish you God's guidance and mercy as you steer the ship of the state to greater heights. May the good Lord continue to strengthen you for more fulfilling years ahead.

Happy Children's Day!



Mrs Joyce Idowu Akinbulumo
General Manager, Ondo State Sports Council, Akure





ONDO STATE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF PENSION BOARD

Congratulations

On behalf of the management and staff of the Local Government Staff Pension Board, I wish to congratulate our amiable Governor, Leader and Pacesetter, **His Excellency Dr. Olusegun Mimiko** as he marks the 3rd Children's Day during his tenure as the Executive Governor of Ondo State.

I wish to aver that no doubt, your achievement are speaking for you by your prompt attendance to issues affecting Local Government Pensioners in Ondo State which include the following:

1. Payment of intervention fund of 1.4b for Local Government Staff Pensioners in September, 2009.
2. Payment of 142% Arrears of Pension owed the devolved retired Primary School Teachers by the Federal Government.
3. Giving adequate attention to Pension related matters.
4. Prompt payment of Gratuities and Pension Allowances to Local Government Pensioners.

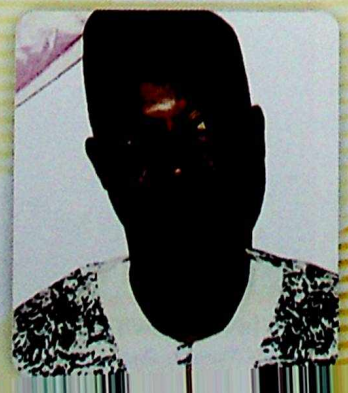
5. Creation of Desk Offices in the entire 18 Local Government Areas to bring Pension Administration to the grassroots.
6. Computerization of key operations of the Board.
7. Payment of the sum of N452,751,194.34 as Pensions and Gratuities between November to December, 2009.
8. Payment of the sum of N2,402,263,428.20 as Pensions and Gratuities between the period of January to December, 2010.
9. Payment of the sum of N3,140,223,724.20 as Pensions and Gratuities between the period of January to December, 2011.
10. Payment of N311m as Pensions and Gratuities between the January to March 2012.

Our Prayer is that, as you continue to pilot Ondo State to the Promised land, God Almighty will continue to be with you and protect you. You are a pride to the Sunshine State.

Congratulations Sir, the Comrade Governor of Ondo State.

Signed
Barr B. J. Lawani
Administrative Secretary

Alhaji Sadiq Obanoyen mnia
Chairman



as a worthy prize. The historic battle would be joined in October. Waiting in the wings are other parties including the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, which was the party in power before Mimiko's blitzkrieg swept it out of town.

The interview lasted for 2 hours and 14 minutes. It was Iroko at his rhetorical best, explain the ideology and belief that guides his public life, his love affairs with Oluwakemi, his passion for the children of Ondo State, his family, his old leaders like Olumilua, Adefarati, Agagu and the Baba of Nigeria, Chief Obasanjo. The Gaskia team, led by Dare Babarinsa, the Editor-in-Chief was enthralled with the governor's passion and his grasp of details. Also on the team were Tunde Animasaun, the Associate Editor and Abiodun Johnson, the Photo Editor.

This is an unforgettable encounter with a leader who believes that good government is not only necessary but also possible. Excerpts.

Your Excellency was celebrated by workers during the May Day rally in Akure. This is unusual for a sitting governor. How were you able to achieve this?

It is by the grace of God Almighty because at the end of the day everything a man does and he does right is by His grace. I also have the privilege of being engaged in the system for some time. So I can say with all sense of modesty that I have an idea of the aspiration of the average worker. I have an idea of how to motivate the average worker. I know his strength, I know his weaknesses. I know the limitation of the system; having been through it. And having had the privilege of living in Ondo state for some time also, I also have an idea of the everyday concern of the average man on the street, be it worker or market woman. I know the challenge of putting food on the table. I have an idea of the quantum or percentage of income they would require to get their children to decent schools. So with that background knowledge, it is easy for me to engage Labour, meet them at the point of their anxiety and create a synergy between what we are doing ultimately as a government and their expectation.

Number two is that, and I am saying this with all sense of modesty, there are some things we put on the ground, like the Americans will say, that are self evident. In the last three years, the workers have seen unequivocal evidence of a government working for the people. They have seen a government that has been striving in every department of government and human engagement to add value. Don't forget that they live in the communities. So they can feel the pulse of the people. And they can see themselves that this

government is committed to socio-economic development of the state. All of these engender the type of cooperation we have.

The totality of all of these is that somehow, God has created this bonding between government and Labour which is a very significant part of our economy here. When we came on-board, we said we perceived a disconnect between the government and the people and that it was our aspiration to bridge this disconnect so that government can crystallize the environment that engenders development. I think our bonding with Labour is part of the holistic bonding that we are trying to achieve.

Few days ago, the government distributed buses to students and workers to lessen the impact of the partial removal of fuel subsidy. Is this part of the caring heart agenda?

A Caring Heart is the acronym of our programme and incidentally, there are many things that we have put on the ground that also reflect that government has a caring heart for the people. Again it is part of what I term our understanding of the everyday concern of our people. When the subsidy debate was on, we assured our people that whatever accrues to us from the subsidy removal will be deployed in a very effective way to touch the lives of our people. We see one critical area where we can touch peoples' lives as public transportation. Everybody is directly or indirectly involved in public transportation process. We just imagine that if we could provide free bus services for students; that will increase the disposable income of their parents. In that way, we would have created a very credible palliative platform for

"In a global economy driven by knowledge, we think the future is the investment we can make in our children. So for us there is no amount of money that we spend on our children that is too much."





the people. So it is part of our Caring Heart Agenda. It is also part of our social economic mantra or social democratic mantra. The Labour party is a social democratic party and in the ideological spectrum, we belong to the left. We believe that government has a responsibility to the people. We believe that government has to make the private sector thrive so that private profit can motivate people to grow the economy but we also believe that government has the responsibility to ensure that equitable opportunity is given to people in the society as much as possible, what is known as carrying everybody along. We've seen the marginalised in the society, the down trodden, people who exist as statistics in government ministries; we must give them opportunities to be able to actualize themselves. On the social democratic platform, providing free bus services, free and qualitative healthcare to the most vulnerable in the society and democratizing access to quality education all fit into the mantra, which is the progressive mantra.

Why is the government investing so much in the health sector when that sector is not directly contributing to the economy?

We are spending money on health the same way we are spending money on education. It marvels me that people complain that we are spending so much money on these two sectors. We believe that the human capital is the ultimate of all the variables you need to develop the society. In a global economy driven by knowledge, we think the future is the investment we can make in our children. So for us, there is no amount of money that we spend on our children that is too much. We are securing the future of a generation, the future of the state and ultimately the future of our country.

How is this reflected in the performance of students of the state in external examinations?

In the last two years or so, we have had very encouraging results. At the Junior Engineering Technical Society, JETS, competition, we have had very credible showing. Our children have brought laurels to the state. In every competition, even at the recent Science Quiz Competition and the shell Competition, we either come first, second or third. Our kids have represented Nigeria in Atlanta in the United States of America and in Brazil in different competitions in the last two

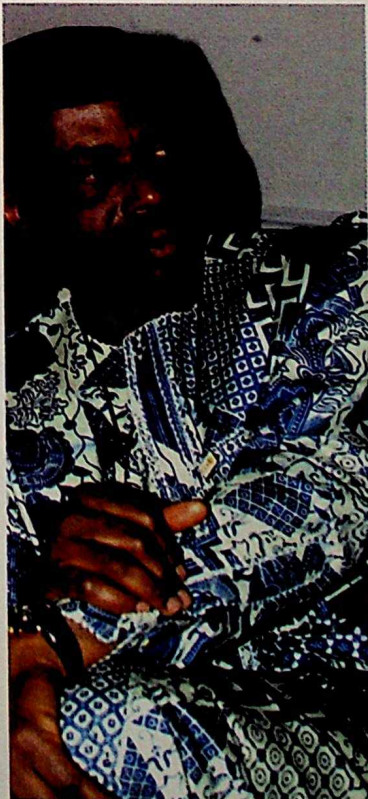
years. But what I think is the icing on the cake for now is the fact that our student came first, in the last West African School Certificate Examinations. She did not only come first in Nigeria but is the overall best candidate in the exams in the whole of West Africa. For us, that is some empirical evidence that what we have put in place is yielding results. That may not be enough for us to beat our chest but I have no doubt that what we have done in the Quality Education Assurance Agency, which is now an autonomous elite agency deliberately so crafted, is bringing the old inspectorate back and also creating a very credible tool of education measurement and impact assessment. Also the type of investment we are making in new generation schools, training and retraining of our teachers, the incentive package which includes the payment of 27.5% apart from the relativity salary increase, the totality of these have started showing results. We believe that in the next few years, the results will continue to show.

With the huge recurrent expenditure, how do you manage to execute capital projects in the state?

I can tell you we get value for money. For example,

"The Labour Party is a social democratic party and in the ideological spectrum, we belong to the left. We believe that government has a responsibility to the people."

if you visit our Auto Mart, many people will tell you the cost will be over N1billion but we actually spent about N300million on the project. The totality of the Isikan Market Phase 1 & 2 including the asphalt laying, channelization and reclamation cost about N300million. So we are getting value for money and that is very important. We are also very creative in the way we craft our projects. From my experience, I have found out that a lot of money is expended on what we call miscellaneous capital items; buying refrigerators, cabinets and the likes in offices. You will be amazed that there are some budgets where this takes as much as 50%. But we deliberately crafted our projects. In our first year, we put miscellaneous capital at 7.5%. This year, it is just five percent. So everything on the capital item has credible deliverables. That released a lot of our funds





for credible deliverables on capital items. We also ensure as much as possible that our contractors are credible and they deliver on time, so we don't have abandoned projects. I think the totality of all of these have made us have a lot of mileage on our capital expenditure.

How are you tackling the problem of unemployment which has become a national crisis?

I agree with you that it is a very big crisis and I tell our people that it is the biggest challenge of our generation of politicians. We must creatively engage our youths if we want to take them off the streets. To do this, we need to generate mass employment. For me, the most credible route is to leverage on areas where we have relative advantage. Because we have fertile

land and incredible range of vegetation here, we thought agriculture was one primary area where we can engage the youths massively, not in the routine or con-

"For us there is no amount of money that we spend on our children that is too much. We are securing the future of a generation, the future of the state and ultimately the future of our country."

ventional salaried employment. We want to encourage our youths to get engaged in productive agriculture and that is what we have done. We have put in place three Agro Business Cities which are essentially patterned, though modified a bit, after the old farm settlement scheme in the old western region. The first of our farm cities in Ore for example, was designed to make farming attractive, acceptable and comfortable for graduates. We provide them with modern accommodation and the machines that will drive mechanized farming. Under a participant/owner scheme we give all the inputs; land preparation, seedlings, chemicals and all of that to them and whatever profit they make in the scheme will ultimately be their own. And we amortize our investments over time so that they can start getting good results. Like I said, we have built three; at full capacity we expect these to employ at least three thousand youths. Number two, we also know that ICT and renewable energy are two other areas where we can get a lot of youths gainfully employed. And under our TechVille project, we have trained a set of young

men and women in renewable energy—how to assertible inverter, do solar power audit etc. All of them are gainfully engaged now. Of course we also tried to renew our capacity in the civil service because for more than six years before we came in, there was an embargo on employment. So when you look at our structure in the civil service, it is an inverted pyramid. We have a lot of people up there and at the base of the pyramid because we haven't been employing for some time, we have only a few people. So we are deliberately bringing in young people especially in the areas of critical need. We have engaged new engineers, quantity surveyors, architects, doctors, lawyers and some administrators into the system. At the last count, we have engaged about 1000 and we are still engaging depending on the availability of funds and our perception of the areas of need. Our intention is to be able to create the top management force that will drive the economy that we are building.

We also started what we call the volunteer scheme. The scheme is three years old now and the whole idea is to get a lot of our young men and women away from the streets, from desperation and the precipice. We get them gainfully engaged. When we got them on board, we did not just bring them in and give them hoes and cutlasses; we trained them. Those people you see directing our traffic are part of our volunteer scheme. They were trained in the Police College and then gainfully engaged. We trained some of them in ICT and community engagement and they are the people we call community change agents that we deploy under our integrated community development programme we called the three I's initiative. We trained some of them as environmental officers and they are engaged in very many areas of our economy. Again, that is a way of mopping up the excess resource in the economy that is begging for useful engagement and we'll continue to look for creative ways of engaging our young men and women because, like I said, that is our number one challenge.

As we grow the economy, we also deliberately craft our industrial policy to be mass employment focused. I give you an example. The tomato factory at Arigidi Akoko fits classically into our industrial development paradigm. One, it is agro-based so, the raw materials are there. Two, it also creates a lot of indirect engagement through out-growers scheme, so apart from



those working in the factory, there will be about 1000 out growers who will be feeding the factory. We have already brought Israeli experts who have trained the first 500 of these out growers. Soon the second batch of 500 will be trained too. It also has a backward integration that will further engage quite a number of our people. That is the type of industrial development we are trying to engender to grow our economy and engage our young ones.

The bane of industrial development in Ondo State like every other state is unstable power supply. When you go around the state, you'll see that most of the old industries are down because they are no longer competitive due to the cost of power. So we are trying to solve the problem in a multi faceted way. First, we know that geography favours us in Ore because the Lagos-Escravos gas-line passes through Ore. So one of the first things we did when we came on board was to engage Shell Gas and some other stakeholders to craft out a gas master plan for us. Having got this, we set out to have three industrial hubs; one in each of the three senatorial districts of the state; south, central and north. To create these industrial hubs, we must get gas into industrial parks. When this is done, we can get an IPP going; have fertilizer plants and other ancillary industries that are gas dependent. As I speak with you, we've completed the Environmental Impact Assessment, EIA, and the licenses we need to bring gas to Ore is almost ready. As soon as that is through and we get gas into Ore, we are starting, on our own, a 35 megawatts plant and there are others who are interested in setting up 50 megawatts plant and when we put that in place, it will create the industrial revolution we are looking at in that axis of the state; industrial in the sense that with gas, more industries will spring up. Ultimately, we can even get some industries to relocate from Lagos to Ore and

create the type of employment that we are all yearning for.

We are also on course in engaging the youths. When you go about the state, you will see that we have also embarked on a new orientation for our youths, getting them to know that they must create the necessary vision that must drive their future. They cannot be despondent because of what they see around them. They must get engaged. The solution to the problem starts from the psychological orientation of the youths. So it is a total package and

"The icing on the cake for now is that our student came first in the last West African School Certificate Examination. She did not only come first in Nigeria, but she is the overall best candidate in the whole of West Africa."





"I believe passionately and unequivocally that until you decentralize the police in Nigeria, we may not be able to get there because policing and security involves proactive intelligence and reactive capacity."

are not more than one year away.

What is the latest about the Ok-LNG project involving Ondo and Ogun States and the Federal Government?

Also the OK-LNG project is on course. There are many issues, political, economic and so on. Quite a number of these have been sorted out. We are also solving the issue of the source of the gas.

How are you tackling security issues especially in the face of the recent robbery in Ikare?

Talking in relative terms, we are perhaps the safest state in Nigeria when you add all the aggregates; kidnapping, piracy, terrorism, armed robbery and all of that. Since we came on board, we have been active in providing the wherewithal for security agencies to do their job effectively. As am speaking with you, we have provided over 100 vehicles for the police since we came on board, we have provided body armours and patrol vans for routine patrol. We have provided high veloc-

I can say with all sense of humility that we are getting there.

What is the time line for the power project?

Don't let me give a timeline, but I am sure we

ity BMW motorcycles for The Police; we have provided five armoured tanks and Armoured Personnel Carriers, APC, for them. We also engage them regularly at Security Council meetings. I think to a very large extent, we have been very successful in curtailing crime here. However, I believe passionately and unequivocally that until you decentralize the police in Nigeria, we may not be able to get there because policing and security involves proactive intelligence and reactive capacity. The totality of all of this is that you must bring it down to the community level. I believe that the state police must be a reality if we must address our security challenges. A lot has been said about abuse and all of that and I say if the essence of state police is to provide security, let us adopt whatever we think is best for security and address the issue of abuse as ancillary issues. You cannot make ancillary issues the central issue. The important thing is that the way it is configured now, it will be very difficult for the Nigeria Police to have the capacity to police the Nigerian nation.

Don't you feel lonely being the only Labour party governor?

No I feel challenged to prove to the people that we are standing on a social democratic mantra. We think it is a wonderful opportunity to show that though we live in a uni-polar world now, there is still some ideological content in decisions that have to be taken in driving the economy. We believe that we can provide classical examples of social democratic products that can drive our economy and lift our people from the morass of poverty. It is a wonderful opportunity, standing on Labour platform, to re-create and re-engineer the health sector, the education sector and bring the connection between government and the people with a caring heart. For so long, our people have been brutalized psychologically, they have been marginalized by the very people they elected to hold power on their behalf so much that they have never really felt as part of governance.

We have been able to prove that government can engage the market women in a very useful way to stop guerilla or street trading. You don't just bulldoze shacks and send people to deeper poverty. What we have done is to take inventory of those on the street, build for them a modern and world-class market and relocate them there at affordable rates. In those modern markets you see, we charge as little as N50.00 per day. I told my people, our goal is not to recoup our capital investment, our goal is to create the type of environment that would: encourage commercial life; give the fillip to the down-trodden that they are part of government and government cares for them. It also goes to make them more responsible citizens and ultimately, in the long run, that investment will be recouped by getting more responsible, more responsive, more engaged citizens. These are social democratic projects

that the Labour Party gives us the wonderful opportunity to provide. Rather than feeling lonely, I think the feeling is of a challenge.

Come to think of it, we engage at different levels. At the Governors' Forum we share ideas with those who share our ideology. What I have found out is that at the end of the day what matters is development. So we feel challenged, not only because of Labour Party but because of the peculiarity of the way we got on board. When we came on board, the expectation was incredible, it was intimidating. You could touch it in the air. The type of crowd we witnessed at our inauguration was unprecedented in this part of the world. When I was taking the oath, I looked around the crowd and I had some trepidation. Three years on, I can see that our people are as enthusiastic as they were three years ago and I give God the glory.

Is there any special relationship with President Jonathan?

We have a cordial relationship. I am governor and he is the President of Nigeria. That is a relationship. We unequivocally

gave our support to him during the election because in our judgment, given the socio-political climate, the history of Nigeria, where we were coming from, where we were and where we should be going in the future, we thought the circumstances was such that he was the choice candidate for us. Even now, we try to encourage him and he encourages us. There are some of his programmes that are exciting to me. For example, in agriculture, I think he is doing a lot of new things and I think we should key into this. Ultimately, I think he should be encouraged. There are challenges in Nigeria, yes, but we need to encourage him in the overall interest on the country.

Are you opposed to South-West integration agenda as being propagated by some leaders of the Action Congress of Nigeria?

Let us strip this agenda of its politics and propaganda. The South West agenda that I know and I think should be promoted is an economic agenda. Like I always say, the average Ondo, Ekiti, Oyo, Ogun, Lagos and Osun man have the same worldview. They invariably have the same aspirations. Their value system that has developed over the years is the same. Geography links

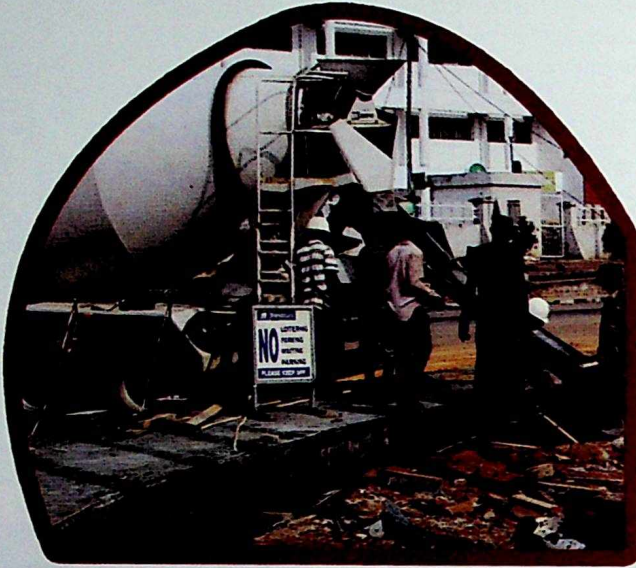
us, language links us, culture links us. So there is absolutely no reason why we can't leverage on these to create an economy of scale which ultimately will benefit everybody. For example, am talking of a power plant. We could leverage on the geography of Ondo because we have gas here. I think it will be easier to tap gas here in Ondo than

Directly, indirectly or tangentially there is nothing like that. There was no pact to join the ACN. As for the challenge for the governor's seat, it is a legitimate aspiration.



A government driven by "A CARING HEART"

Roads & Infrastructure



Across the new Ondo state, more urban communities are emerging. Besides the zero-pothole project for our roads, over 60 solar powered bore holes are already operational all over the state. Our people are indeed inspired and equipped to do their life's work in A PLACE OF PRIDE.

**GBASIBEE
OMALOBBEE**



Progressive reformation in all LGAs.

Ondo STATE
ISÉ LOOGUN ISÉ



in Ekiti. We can also create a rail network that will ease transportation and boost our economies. We can do a lot of things together to enhance the quality of life of our people. That has nothing to do with any political party.

Part of our agenda should also be the recognition of the fact that the people have the right to determine who rules them. But when you want to create a political monolithic entity, it will never happen. This is why the integration we are talking about must be an economic integration. We must never take away from the people the right to determine who rules them and that is the minimum condition for democracy. If we agree that we take democracy as the most acceptable form of government for development in spite of its headaches, warts and all, then we don't need to create Fidel Castros or foster a command rule before we integrate our economies. We want an economy that is sensitive to contemporary time while we do not lose focus of what we want to achieve. Like I said, you can't take away the right of the people to determine the government they want. For example, you can talk of Action Congress of Nigeria, ACN, and Labour Party today, but we don't know what may happen tomorrow. Hypothetically, there may not be ACN or Labour party tomorrow! ACN is a contraption of how many years; Labour Party is a contraption of how many years? But ultimately, our commitment should be to the development of our people and we must be able to leverage on things that unite us to achieve this. That is what integration is all about and that is what I am committed to. I am not part of anything short of this or any arrangement that contradicts the democratic principles and processes that I subscribe to and that brought me into power in the first place.

It is said that you are reneging on the pact you had with ACN while trying to reclaim your

mandate, hence the quest to unseat you, how true is this?

Directly, indirectly or tangentially there is nothing like that. There was no pact to join the ACN. As for the challenge for the governor's seat, it is a legitimate aspiration. For us in government and for me in particular, I believe what we need is a free and fair election. Let the people determine who will occupy the seat. I don't have any doubt in my mind that with the type of things we have put on ground in the last three years and the type of bonding we have with the people of the state, unseating the Labour Party, with all sense of modesty, will be an uphill task.

What is the true position regarding EFCC and OSOPA-DEC especially in the light of Nigeria's fight against corruption?

I think part of the problem is that we over sensationalise issues and give political coloration to them. There is absolutely nothing wrong for EFCC to invite an individual. That is their statutory responsibility. When they have credible petition they should invite and investigate. But when we sensationalise EFCC's visit as if it is a conviction, we create a distraction in the fight against corruption. So I will say that we should try as much as possible to strip the fight against corruption of all political coloration. We should leave ICPC and EFCC to do their work. If EFCC invites somebody for clarification, why make it political? People just want to make political capital out of everything. It is symptomatic of desperation because people want power at all cost.

"Part of our agenda should also be the recognition of the fact that the people have the right to determine who rules them. But you want to create a political monolithic entity, it will never happen."

Let me say this, we must do everything humanly possible to continue to grow our economy and provide social security safety net in our system. We must improve on our education and educational institution facilities. Let me give you an example, when a permanent secretary sends his child to a private university that charges one million naira, if he had an option that is equally as good but pocket friendly, he will go for it. In Ondo state, with the type of schools and hospitals we are building now, we are giving the private sector serious challenge. In Ondo state now, in our Mother and Child Hospitals, the wives of the elite and the wives of people usually referred to as ordinary are in the same maternity ward. For the ordinary man because it is free. Nothing can be more affordable than free. For the elite, because you cannot get better quality service anywhere. So if a man in the elite class now takes his wife to Mother and Child free of charge rather than spending N100,000 on caesarian section, you are already dousing the incentive for corruption. The type of schools we are building now are globally competi-

People are now falling over themselves to enroll in our schools. We are creating such public institutions that will reduce the stress of everyday living. If people can take quality healthcare largely for granted, if they can take quality education for granted, if their cousins, nephews and nieces are gainfully engaged in the villages, if the whole community don't have to depend on them, it reduces to a large extent, the need for this primitive acquisition and corruption in the society.

Of course we have to fight the culture of impunity; people must know they have a price to pay if they put their hands in the public till. But it must be a total package; engagement and building of credible public institutions. Government must, irrespective of what privatization, globalization and market-driven economy teach us, know that as a third world country, we have responsibility to the people. The high priests of capitalism have taught us that subsidy is a bad word. But when there was economic meltdown, they used public funds to bail out banks in America and their agriculture is the most subsidized in the world. So the high priest of capitalism hold us a dummy and we bought the dummy. We removed subsidy in social services in a country that is begging for rudimentary primary development.

They talk about growth in economic figures, 5 % growth and 7 % growth. But this is growth that does not create jobs; it is growth that deepens poverty in the society. We must sit down and get the entire trajectory of our development as part of tackling this corruption issue. I always tell our people, corruption is such a big problem and we have not sat down to study it. That is why we are trying to create an Institute of

Corruption Study in our university here. We must study it if it is the biggest thing that is holding us down. It is a multi dimensional problem and I think the earlier we pay attention to it the better. For us, we are tackling it as much as we can by removing the reason and the need for primitive acquisition, creating social security. When a man has gone through insufficiency from childhood, even if he steals enough money for three lifetimes, he keeps stealing. It is psychological. Insufficiency is permanently etched in his brain. That is why people steal billions of naira and still steal more. We need to psycho-analyse some of these cases. It is a totality of a problem and the solution should be all encompassing. Let us tackle the problem of social security, build our public institutions, fight the culture of impunity and agree on our trajectory of development based on our experience as a nation and not what IMF/ World Bank give us.

But if there was one man that taught me the rudiment of public life, if there was one man that showed understanding for the emotions and passion that ruled my public life, it was Olumilua. He taught me to be more patient.



tive, either private or anywhere.

I used to have a driver who was always stealing my money and he was so blatant about it. I would trap him, and he would still steal, even when he knew it was a trap or ordinarily know it was a trap, he would still take the money. Apart from this singular fault, he was an extremely competent man. And I didn't see him do anything substantial with the money. So I called him and accused him, giving him evidences of how I had caught him. He said he had two kids in the nursery school and he was paying N45,000 per term because he didn't want his children to do the kind of job he was doing. He said further that there was no way he would have been able to pay the fees from his salary.

You can imagine the relieve that man will have now knowing that there is no nursery or private school that has better facilities than our public schools now. So his children can go to our schools and excel in life.

How would you assess the leaders under whom you have served? I am talking of Governors Bamidele Olumilua, Adebayo Adefarati and Olusegun Agagu and also Chief Olusegun Obasanjo.

I can tell you that I served Evangelist Bamidele Olumilua when I was very young. I was very impulsive, impatient and overtly idealistic. In fact it got to a stage he used to call me colonel or radical. But if there was one man that taught me the rudiment of public life, if there was one man that showed understanding for the emotions and passion that ruled my public life, it was Olumilua. He taught me to be more patient. I can remember when I became the SSG, he wrote me and said, 'now you are SSG, I know you want everything to happen overnight but you must also realise that you cannot always have your way in whatever policy you propose.' For me, he was the quintessential leader. He was very patient with me.

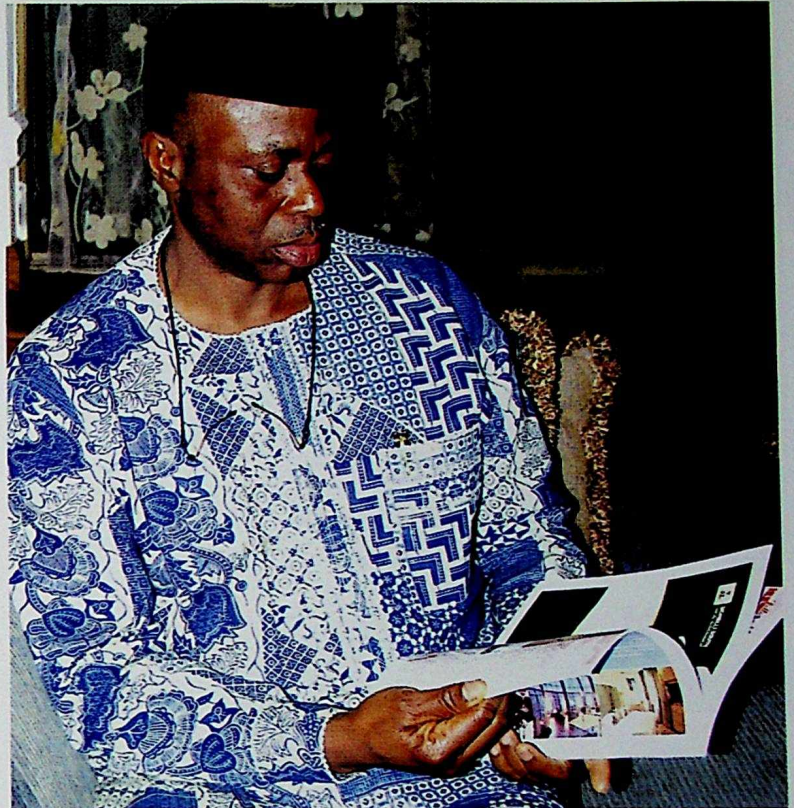
Baba Adefarati was out school, kind hearted and passionate. But baba had a lot of influences around him. Not all of them were sincere. I don't know how to talk about the manipulation of an old experienced man like baba, but let me just say that they exploited his goodness and weaknesses.

Agagu and I served under Olumilua. He was the deputy governor while I was commissioner for health. I accepted to work for Agagu in 2003 after agreeing that I would be the SSG in that government and that he would not run for a second term. We fell out because of our different views and approaches to public service.

Baba Obasanjo is very committed to Nigeria and he did a lot for the country. We were a pariah state before he came on board and turned our fortune and status around for the better. Baba has his strengths and his weaknesses. When he is committed to something, it is almost impossible to change him. The only disagreement



I had with baba was just one; he said 'don't run for 2007 gubernatorial election' and I said I will run. That

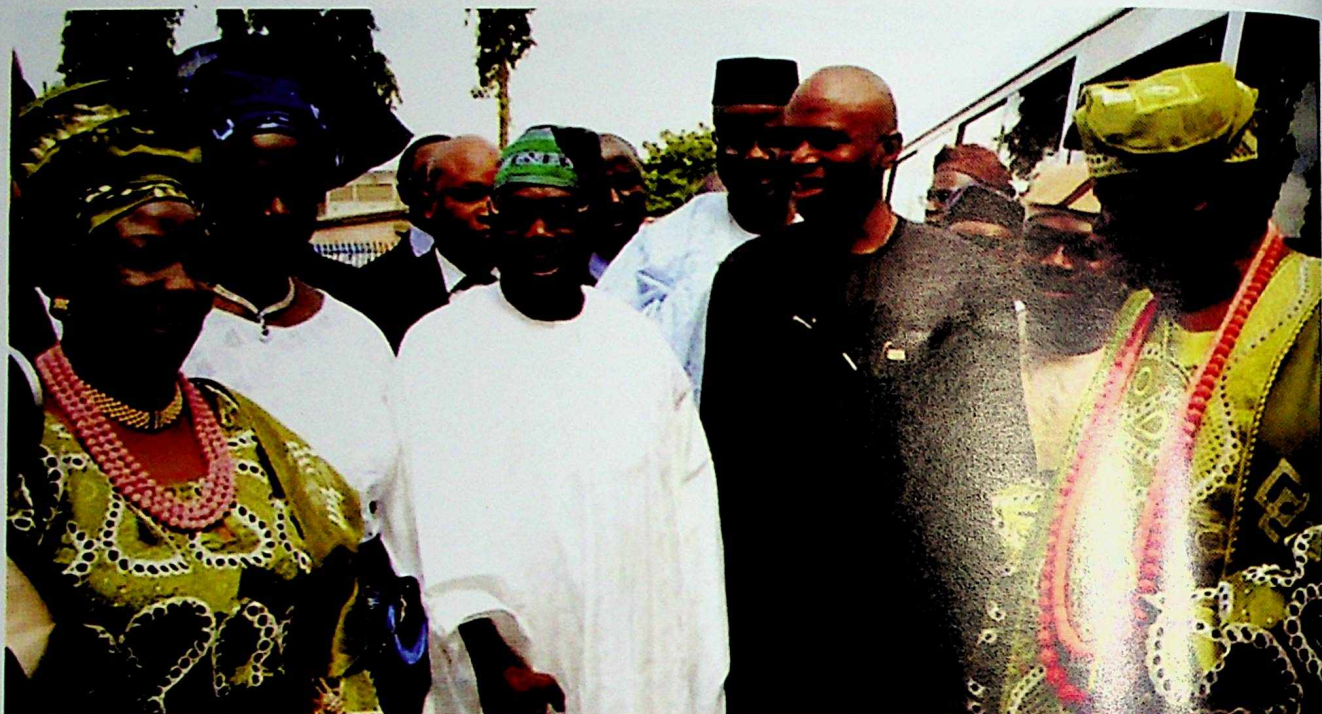


was all. I have a lot of respect for him and he encouraged me in the work he gave to me. I admire his energy and industry. If you give baba a 500 page memo, by tomorrow, he would have read everything. The only issue I have with him, looking back now was that baba was too soaked, enmeshed in the World Bank/ IMF global economic perspective. Baba who nationalized BP, who led us to Angola, came from left completely to be an apostle of the right. Baba came to venerate private sector, have disdain for subsidy and social policies. I think this was largely informed by his experience in government having left a lot of resources, infrastructure and facilities in the public institutions when he handed over power in 1979, only to come back and meet almost nothing in 1999.

There is so much pressure on the family of public office holders, how is your wife and the entire family coping?

If there is one regret I have it is that I wish I had more time for my children. One of the reasons I will be ever grateful to my wife is that she was there for them, when I couldn't put in much in terms of time. My greatest joy however is that irrespective of

Baba Adefarati was old school, kind hearted and passionate. But baba had a lot of influences around him. Not all of them were sincere. I don't know how to talk about the manipulation of an old experienced man like baba, but let me just say that they exploited his goodness and weaknesses.



my inability to give them the attention I would have wanted, their attitude, world view and morals are such that every time I think about it, I give thanks to God. I am happy I didn't lose them to the world. One of my greatest moments in life was when I attended my son's graduation ceremony at Life-forte, Ibadan, one of the few moments I have for them. When they called out Bayonle, they called him the gentle giant because he was bigger than everybody in the school. Then they started saying that though he was a giant, he was very protective of the younger ones, he would never fight with anyone or bear to see anyone suffer around him. My head was swollen and I had goose pimples on my body. I said, "God, I thank you". At times when I interact with them and I hear them talk, I would be amazed. They talk and relate the way I would have taught them if I had taken them on full time. I am lucky to have a woman who was always there for them. She bonded so much with them that even if I had taken raising my family as a full time job, I probably wouldn't have gotten a better result.

Politics has taken the greater part of my life, right from the university till now; it has been one political engagement or the other. I think I got the germ from my father who politically sensitised everybody in our home. I think God has been good to me. I have a wife that has been very supportive. She is not your run of the mill woman. She is not materialistic and when you have a woman who is not materialistic, it gives you the leverage to be able to do a lot of things. When I was spending virtually all my earnings on politics, if she wanted me to buy her diamond, I probably would not have the resources to pursue my passion. She is a classical introvert, married to a man whose profession

forced him to be extroverted in terms of relating to crowds. I think she is coping well. I have a girl who has already graduated as a lawyer. She is now in the London School of Economics, reading Masters. Our second child, a boy is reading Business Studies. I have one in the secondary school and the last one is in primary school. The gap between my first and last children is about 18 years. The gap between the second and third is between six and seven years.

I am very close with my siblings. My father was the greatest influence on our lives. My mother was always there, the quintessential matron of a large commune because when we were growing up, our home was always filled with cousins, and she was always catering and ministering to everybody's needs. One of the greatest joy of my life is the fact that she is coping well with the challenges of old age.

What do you predict is the future of Iroko in politics?

It is in the hand of God. My aspiration is to continue to be useful to the people, especially, the masses. And when I say masses, I am not using it in the way politicians use the word. By masses I mean those who are deprived by the society. I believe that God created man in his own image. He couldn't have created man in his image and also create room for the deprivation that poverty imposes on people. I will continue to use every opportunity I have to fight poverty so that people can live like human beings. I believe that God created us to live good lives. I will continue to live in that direction all my life.



ONDO STATE
WATER CORPORATION



Dr Olusegun Mimiko
Governor, Ondo State

The Board, Management and Staff of Ondo State Water Corporation felicitate with our performing Governor, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko, as we celebrate Children's Day.

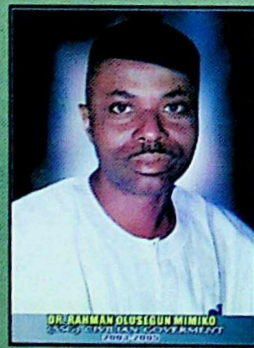
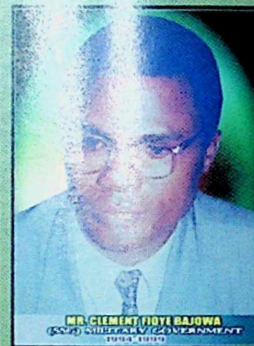
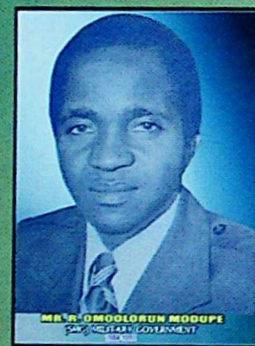
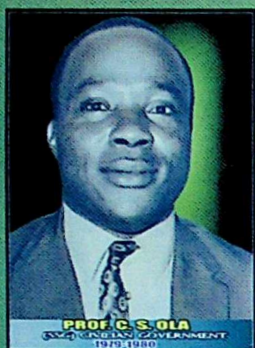
We provide the liquid of life that feeds, lubricates and soothes the Vanguard of the Mimiko Revolution

As you celebrate our children, the leaders of tomorrow, we identify with you and are convinced that with the continuation of the Ise tanker, our future is assured



Signed:
Engr. Chief P. A Oguntimehin JP
Chairman

ONDO STATE PAST SSG TO PRESENT



Dr. Aderotimi Adelola
2009 - till date



Ondo State, also known as the Sunshine State, was created out of the former Western State on February 3, 1976, by the Murtala Muhammed military administration. It originally included the current Ekiti State until 1996 when the General Sani Abacha regime carved out Ekiti Central, Ekiti North and Ekiti West divisions to form a separate state, leaving Akure, Akoko, Okitipupa, Ondo and Owo divisions from the original Ondo Province created in 1915, with Akure remaining as its headquarters.

With a land mass of 14, 793 square kilometres, Ondo State is populated by 3, 441, 024 people according to 2006 National Census. It is bordered in the north by Ekiti and Kogi states, in the east by Edo State, and by Osun and Ogun states in the west and the Atlantic Ocean in the south.

Generally classified among the second stream of states created in the country, it has, however, galvanised into the league of big states that can stand on their own with little or no subvention from the Federal Government. Ondo State is, no doubt, blessed with not only enormous material and mineral resources and enabling environment for development, but also by the inestimable resourcefulness and energy of its rulers which have now placed the state eminently in the big picture of socio-political and eco-

nomic development in the country.

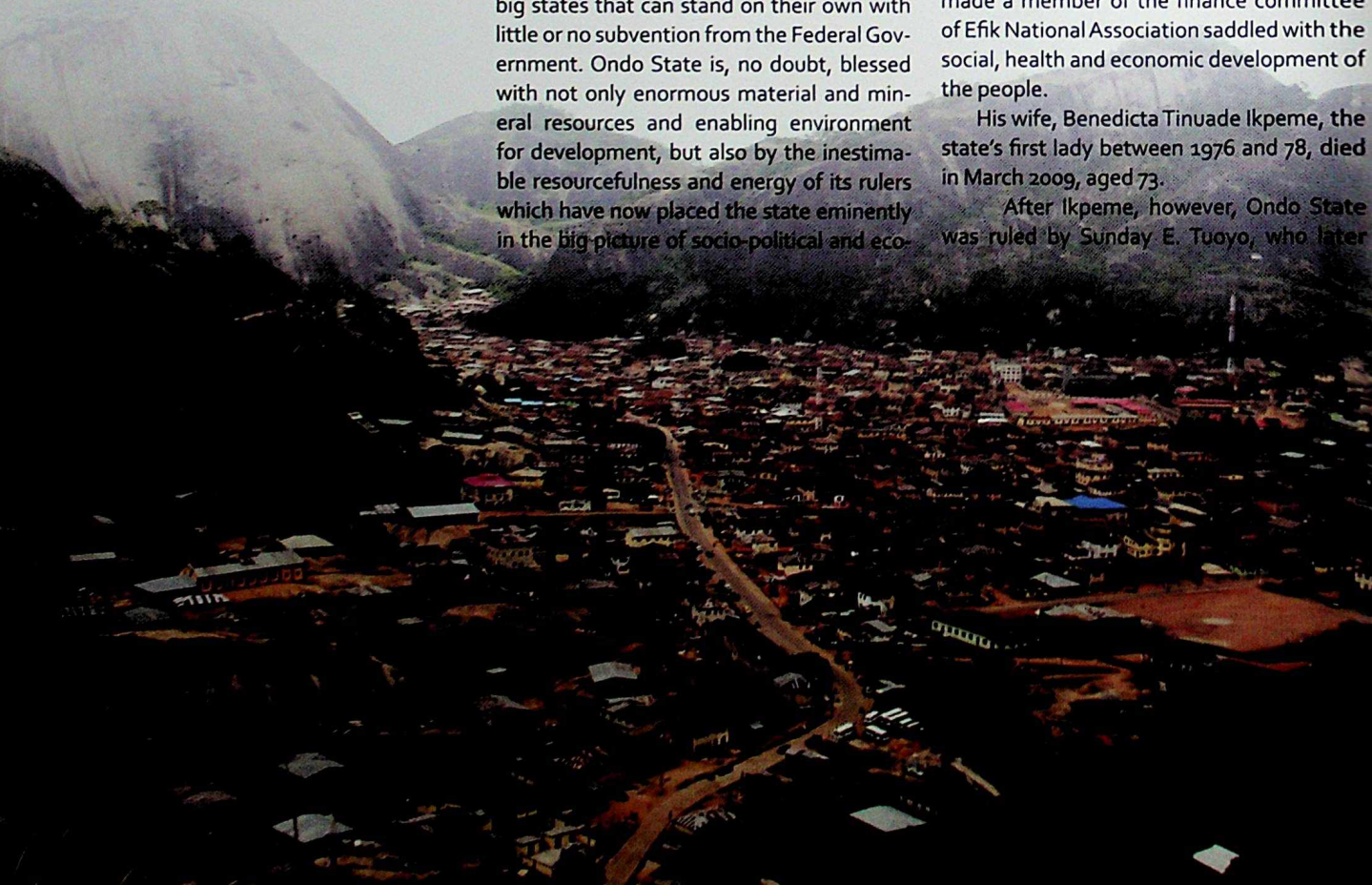
Indeed, when Ondo State actually took off on April 1, 1976, it was put in the tender hands of an Air Force officer, Group Captain David Ikpeme. Ikpeme, who ruled the state until July 1978, is credited with large scale road construction and infrastructural development in the state, particularly in Akure, its capital. His engineering background with a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from the University of London and his military discipline redound to his credit as he quickly laid the structures that turned the state capital into a benefitting one.

An Efik by origin, Ikpeme was much later retired by the General Ibrahim Babangida regime after being named in a coup. And in retirement, he went into business, with stakes in a ferry services concern, Bailey Bridges Nigeria; Ekondo Microfinance Bank and Davandy Finance & Securities Limited, which was incorporated in 1997.

His vision in community development is recognised by his Efik people as he was made a member of the finance committee of Efik National Association saddled with the social, health and economic development of the people.

His wife, Benedicta Tinuade Ikpeme, the state's first lady between 1976 and 78, died in March 2009, aged 73.

After Ikpeme, however, Ondo State was ruled by Sunday E. Tuoyo, who later



retired as a Brigadier-General. He was governor for 16 months from July 1978 to October 1979 when the nation was returned to democratic rule. Thus, Tuoyo, an Itsekiri by origin and a father-in-law to the current governor of Delta State, Emmanuel Udughan, handed over the state to irrepressible political gladiator and democracy avatar, Chief Michael Adekunle Ajasin, who won the governorship election on the platform of the Unity Party of Nigeria led by the late sage, Chief Obafemi Awolowo.

Born in Owo, Ondo State, on November 28, 1908, Ajasin was not only a distinguished politician, but also a quintessential educationist, with a string of degrees in education and deep experience as a teacher and proprietor of school.

He was educated in Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, Modern History and Economics in 1946. This was after he had finished in St. Andrews College, Oyo, in 1927, and having worked as a teacher for several years. He later bagged a postgraduate diploma in education from the Institute of Education, University of London in June 1947. Three months later, he was appointed Principal of Imade College, Owo, where he was credited with a teacher development programme which saw many young teachers bagging degrees in the then University College, Ibadan. However, he later veered out to start his own college, Owo High School, in January 1963, where he finally retired from the classroom in August, 1975.

A founding member and author of the UPN free education programme, Ajasin effectively prosecuted the party's four cardinal programmes, which included universal free health care, integrated urban-rural development and full employment. As a committed democrat, Ajasin had been a member of the Action Group, the UPN progenitor in the First Republic, also led by Awolowo, which advocated immediate independence from Britain before 1960.

Married to Babafunke Tenabe, also a teacher, on January 12, 1962, and blessed with distinguished four children, one of them a former Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice in the state, Ajasin's reign in the state was historic as his footprints are etched on important monuments and institutions in the state. In particular, he founded Ondo State University in 1982, which was later named after him,

and he commissioned The Polytechnic, Owo.

Ajasin later competed with his former deputy, Chief Akin Omoboriowo, who switched camp to the National Party of Nigeria, NPN, in the 1983 elections. Omoboriowo was initially announced as winner, but Ajasin was later sworn in for a second term when the result was cancelled by a court.

Pa Ajasin, elder statesman, was also a rallying point in the fight against the military when the June 12, 1993 presidential elections won by the business mogul, Bashorun M.K.O. Abiola, was annulled by the General Babangida regime. Until his death in 1997, he led the democratic vanguard under the aegis of National Democratic Coalition, NADECO, which fought the military administration of General Sani Abacha.

There is hardly any doubt that Pa Ajasin had placed Ondo State on the national and global recognition as a bastion of democracy with the level and sophistication of several political meetings held in its ambience which drew distinguished national and international personalities, especially during the pro-democracy struggle in the 1990s.

Ajasin was, however, to be succeeded by a naval officer, Commodore Michael Otiko, in January 1984 with the advent of the Buhari/Idiagbon military regime.

Born on April 18, 1934, in Akure, Ondo State, Commodore Otiko was the first director of naval education from 1975 to 1979, and later as Commander between 1980 and 1981, and Captain from 1981 to 1983, after which he was promoted a Commodore and appointed to rule Ondo State.

In line with the Buhari/Idiagbon military regime's disposition, Otiko renamed the state university from Obafemi Awolowo University to Ondo State University.

However, Otiko is hailed for the completion of the construction of Akure Airport when he left office on September 2, 1985. He later died on De-



ember 25, 1999.

Otiko was succeeded by another Naval officer, Navy Captain Mike Akhigbe, who later played a prominent role in the eventual hand over from military to civilian rule in 1999 as Chief of General Staff and deputy to then Head of State, General Abdulsalami Abubakar. After his Ondo State assignment, he also served as governor of Lagos State and later as Chief of General Staff, CNS, the highest officer in the Nigerian Navy.

After Akhigbe, Colonel Ekundayo Opaleye became Governor of Ondo State from August 1986 to December 1987 during the Babangida regime. Earlier, Colonel Opaleye was a member of the Special Military Tribunal that tried officers accused of plotting a coup against the Babangida regime in December 1985.

Later promoted a Brigadier-General, Opaleye became Commander of the OAU Neutral Military Organisation Group, NMOG, in 1991 that enforced a ceasefire in



the deadly civil war in Rwanda between the Tutsi and the Hutu ethnic groups. The NMOG was given the mandate to create free zone between the rebels and government forces. The Opaleye-led NMOG was in 1993 fused into the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda, UN-AMIR.



In retirement, Opaleye became the *Balogun Erunmu*, the highest traditional war title of his Erunmu-Owu homestead. This position also made him a secondary cabinet member of the entire Owu Kingdom. A committed community leader, he was drawn to the controversy over the appointment of 16 coronets by the Owu monarch, Oba Adegboyega Dosunmu, for whom Ogun State government declined recognition. For Opaleye, Oba Dosunmu was totally in order having violated no known laws in the country.

In Ondo State, Opaleye was succeeded by Colonel Raji Rasaki who was governor of three states, Ogun, Ondo and Lagos states in succession between 1986 and 1991 under the Babangida regime.

Born on January 7, 1947, Colonel Rasaki graduated from the Nigerian Military School, Zaria, after which he attended the Nigerian Defence Academy, NDA.

He later held many command positions and promotions, including Adjutant, Lagos Garrison Signal Regiment (1970 – 1971), Commanding officer Second Signal Regiment, Commander Signal Brigade (1978 – 1979), Commander Army Signal Corps, Commander Army Headquarters Garrison & Signal Group.

His tour of duty in Ogun and Ondo states as governor appeared to have had the required effect on him as he swung into action in Lagos no sooner he was appointed governor. He embarked on demolition of shanties, in particular Maroko. This exercise immediately impacted on the real estate business in Lagos State.

A member of the Armed Forces Ruling Council, AFRC, Rasaki played a prominent role in foiling the Major Gideon Orkar coup in which the Aide de Camp to General Ba-

bangida, Colonel U.K. Bello, was killed. In particular, the first announcement that nailed the coffin of the coup attempt came from Colonel Rasaki who came on radio broadcast to say the coup had failed.

Retired from the Army, Rasaki, now a Brigadier-General, joined the ruling Peoples Democratic Party, PDP.

In 1988, then Navy Commodore Olabode George was appointed governor of the state. He ruled until 1990, and established the Rufus Giwa Polytechnic, Owo, in 1990 as well as other monuments in the state.

After, George was appointed as Principal Officer to General Oladipo Diya when the later was the Chief of General Staff.

In quick succession, Navy Captain Abiodun Olukoya became governor of the state from September 1990 until January 1992 under the General Babangida regime. Retired as a Rear Admiral, Olukoya was one of the past governors who rose in strident defence and praise of incumbent Governor Olusegun Mimiko for his commitment to the development of the state.

The Evangelist Bamidele Olumilua administration in the state from January

1992 to November 1993 was more like a civilian interregnum in the short-lived Third Republic terminated with the annulment of the June 12, 1993 presidential polls. Olumilua, who was elected under the platform of the Social Democratic Party, SDP, had to leave office as governor when General Abacha took over in the country in 1993. Dr. Olusegun Agagu, who later became governor of the state between May 29, 2003, and February 2009, was Deputy Governor to Olumilua.

At the outset of the current democratic dispensation, Olumilua returned to active politics, joining the ruling PDP. He was appointed Chairman of the state's Christian Pilgrims Board. He later quit the PDP to become one of the founding member of the Action Congress (AC), in 2006.

With the advent of General Abacha regime, Colonel Lucas Mike Torey was appointed the Ondo State Military Administrator between 1993 and 1994, and later posted to Enugu State, where he served until August 1996.

In 2005, retired Torey was an aspirant to the traditional title stool in his Ekpan homestead, in Uvwie Local Government Area, Delta State. He was to return to Ondo State in March 2010 as chairman of the ceremony where the Federal Government gave a Site Handing Over Certificate to H.O.B. Nigeria for construction of 430 housing units in Akure.

Torey was followed by Colonel Ahmed Usman as military administrator of the



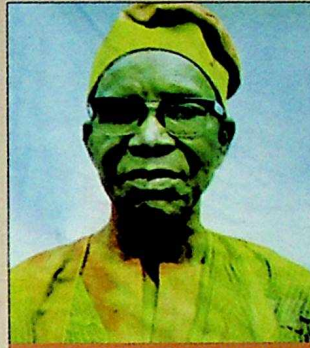
PRESENT AND PAST GOVERNOR OF ONDO STATE



GROUP CAPTAIN DAVID ITA IKPEME
Military Governor Ondo State of Nigeria
February 3, 1976 - July 23, 1978



BRIGADIER SUNNY ESIJLOMI TUOYO psc
Military Administrator, Ondo State of Nigeria and Commander, 6 Infantry Brigade, Nigerian Army, Akure
July 24, 1978 - September 30, 1979



CHIEF MICHAEL ADEKUNLE AJASIN
Governor, Ondo State of Nigeria
October 1, 1979 - December 30, 1983



COMMODORE MICHAEL BANDELE OTIKO
Military Governor, Ondo State of Nigeria
January 5, 1984 - August 27, 1985



CAPTAIN OKHAI MIKE AKHIGBE(NN)
fss, psc
Military Governor Ondo State of Nigeria
September 2, 1985 - August 25, 1986



COLONEL EKUNDAYO BABAKAYODE OPALEYE psc, fss, mni
Military Governor Ondo State of Nigeria
August 26, 1986 - December 16, 1987



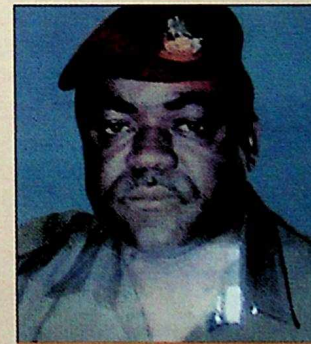
NAVY CAPTAIN OLABODE IBIYINKA GEORGE fss, psc
Military Governor Ondo State of Nigeria
December 17, 1987 - Sept 3, 1990



NAVY CAPTAIN SUNDAY ABIODUN OLUKOYA psc, fss
Military Governor Ondo State of Nigeria
September 3, 1990 - January 2, 1992



MR BAMIDELE ISOLA OLUMILUA
Governor Ondo State of Nigeria
January 2, 1992 - November 18, 1993



LT. COLONEL LUCKY MIKE TOREY
psc, fss, mni
Military Administrator Ondo State of Nigeria
December 9, 1993 - Sept 19, 1994



COLONEL AHMED A. USMAN, psc, fss, mni
Military Administrator Ondo State of Nigeria
September 19, 1994 - August 21, 1996



NAVY COMMANDER ANTHONY IBE ONYEARUGBULEM, psc, fss, mni
Military Administrator Ondo State of Nigeria
August 22, 1996 - August 10, 1998



COLONEL MOSES O. FASANYA fss, mss, psc
Military Governor Ondo State of Nigeria
August 11, 1998 - May 29, 1999



HIS EXCELLENCY CHIEF ADEBAYO ADEFARATI
Governor Ondo State of Nigeria
May 29, 1999 - May 29, 2003



HIS EXCELLENCY DR. OLUSEGUN AGAGU
Governor Ondo State of Nigeria
May 29, 2003 - May 29, 2007



DR. OLUSEGUN MIMONA
Governor Ondo State of Nigeria
May 29, 2007 - all date

state between September 1994 and August 1996; he was later posted to Oyo State between August 1996 and August 1998 during the Abacha regime.

A distinguished military officer, Ahmed had a steady rise in the Army with postings which included Second in Command, 192 Battalion, Abak, and 142 Battalion, Kano (1983 – 1985); United Nations Interim Force in Lenanon (1985 – 1986) and Battalion Commander G Amphibious, Elele, Port Harcourt (1990 – 1991), before he became military administrator of Ondo State in 1994. In Ondo State, he confirmed the appointment of Oba Adeleye Orishagbemi as the Attah of Ayede Ekiti. Maverick Usman also in June 17, 1996, threatened to dismiss any judge in the state who granted bail to secret cult suspects.

Navy Captain Anthony Onyearugbulem was appointed as military administrator of Ondo State between August 1996 and August 1998. Onyearugbulem, who was commissioned into the Navy on July 1, 1978, undertook extensive road construction in the state, which is the legacy for which he is remembered till today.

However, his attempt to appoint Alani of Idoani resulted in the people's resentment as his favoured candidate was said not to be from the royal family. He met a similar opposition when he tried to make the chairmanship of Edo State Council of Chiefs rotational when he later became military administrator of the state. His stance was felt to be directed at denigrating the exalted stool of the Oba of Benin.

When he retired in 1999, he joined the PDP, but he decamped to the All Nigerian Peoples Party later in order to realise his ambition to contest the governorship elections of Imo State. He died in a hotel in Kaduna in controversial circumstances in 2003.

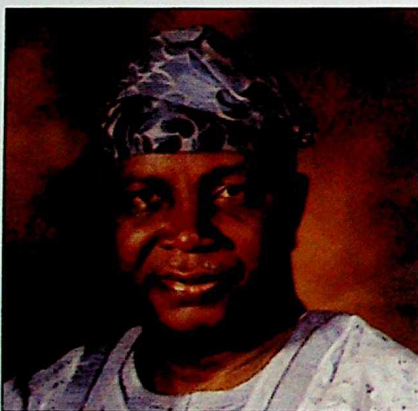
Colonel Moses Fsanya, who had initially served in the same capacity in Abia State from August 1996 to August 1998, replaced Onyearugbulem as military administrator of Ondo State. He was the one who handed over to the civilian government of Chief Adefarati on May 29, 1999. During his tenure, however, he had to deal with issues of controversial appointment of the Owo traditional leader and clashes between Ijaw and Akpata region over new-found oilfields.

As with other states in the country since the return of democracy in 1999;

Ondo State has experienced unbroken string of civilian administration for over a decade with the triumvirate of Adefarati, Olusegun Agagu and the incumbent Governor Olusegun Mimiko being actively involved in the politics of the state at the highest level.

Adefarati, from Akungba Akoko, had been twice commissioner under Chief Ajasin's administration between 1979 and 1983. He had also been in the political trenches as a NADECO leader.

His performance in office was dulled by the political challenge with the leading political comrades, including Dr. Olusegun Mimiko, Dr. Akerele Adu, Dr. Olu Agunloye, Chief Tele Omogunwa, Senator Nimbe Farunkanmi, Dr. Awolowo Ajaka, Dr. Tayo Dairo, Chief Niyi Omodara, Mr. Tunji Ari-



yo, Chief Jise Akinmurele, Chief Bamidele Awosika, Colonel Akin Falaye (rtd) and the late Chief Rufus Giwa. These political differences became pronounced over disagreement with his choice as the Alliance for Democracy candidate for the 2003 governorship polls.

Although he tried to make up with elder statesmen like Pa Reuben Fasoranti and Chief Olu Falae, he still lost his re-election in 2003 to Dr. Olusegun Agagu who contested on the platform of the PDP, where many of his disappointed political comrades had gone.

He did not give up as he later in April 2007 won the ticket to contest as the Alliance for Democracy presidential candidate, but for his death before the election.

Married to Adetutu Adefarati, Adefarati's death in Owo was believed to be enough reason to postpone the 2003 presidential polls, but INEC asked for his replacement, insisting on the date of the

election.

Adefarati, a traditional title holder of Otunba Elekole of Ikole and Bobajiro of Osu-Ilesa, Osun State, established the Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba.

Dr. Agagu, who succeeded Adefarati in 2003, had served as Aviation Minister in 1999 under the Olusegun Obasanjo administration, besides being deputy governor to Olumilua in 1992.

On June 29, 2006, then President Olusegun Obasanjo was said to have commended Agagu, saying: "You have taken time to plan. We have also seen that the execution of the plan is now showing results."

The political environment favoured Agagu, who is highly learned. He had entered for a degree in Botany at the University of Ibadan but later graduated with Second class Upper Division in Geology in 1971. For his Masters degree in Geology, he was at University of Texas, the United States, between 1973 and 1974, capping it up with a doctorate in Petroleum Geology in University of Ibadan in 1978. He had attended Ibadan Grammar School for his post-secondary education between 1961 and 1967.

Like Adefarati, Agagu also ran into political challenges with the core of his associates which eventually culminated in the nullification of his re-election by the court in February 2009, in favour of the incumbent Dr. Olusegun Mimiko.

Governor Mimiko, who is probing the contracts awarded by the Agagu administration in the last six months of its tenure, is well prepared for the office, having been part of successive administrations in the state.

Born on October 3, 1954, to Pa and Mrs. Atiku bamidele Mimiko, in Ondo town, Governor Mimiko came from a great political family, with his great grandfather being the then High Chief Adaja Gbgbaje and Ruwase of Ondo. His grandfather, Pa Fanimimikomi, was also a distinguished community leader, all of which impacted on Governor Mimiko's father, the late Pa A.B. Mimiko, a cocoa produce farmer and merchant and a leading light of his generation.

Governor Mimiko is also distinguished from his maternal side as his mother is of the eminent Ogunsulie family of Ondo Kingdom.

Thus, with this rich family background

and his irreverent political experience, Governor Mimiko has continued to demonstrate that he is not only an astute politician, but also a performer as he delivers on his campaign promises and changing the socio-political and economic landscape of Ondo State.

After more than two decades in politics, Mimiko has become a phenomenon in the politics of the state. Twice he was Commissioner in different administrations in the state and later Secretary to the State Government under Agagu. He also took the state's ministerial slot under ex-President Obasanjo as Minister of Housing in 2003.

His doggedness was shown in his legal battle to reclaim his mandate which culminated in his declaration as elected governor of the state by the Appeal Court judgement in Ilorin, Kwara State on February 3, 2009.

Mimiko is unique in another respect as he is the first and only governor elected under the platform of the Labour Party, LP.

Governor Mimiko has continued to declare his avowal to the development of Ondo State. While noting that the Labour Party has turned around and pushed the frontiers of development in all facets in the state, he has affirmed his unwavering commitment to provision of more infrastructure, enhancing the quality of lives through improved healthcare, education and transforming long forgotten rural communities by successive administration through his quick-win projects.

Indeed, Governor Mimiko has had the rare benefit of understudying past leaders of the state and with the advantage of building on the achievements of a galaxy and eminent cast of former governors of the state.

Today, Ondo State is in the forefront of agricultural development in the country,

latching on its abundant arable land and good vegetation. Its major tree crops include cocoa, kola, coffee, rubber, oil palm and citrus. Large plantations of rubber and oil palms are being cultivated in Okotipupa and Irele Local Government Areas, while trees that are not native are also being added to the state's forest plantations, especially in Owo and Omo.

There have been efforts by past military administrations in the state to create urban and compact settlements with sometimes over 30,000 people in the state, especially with consistent creation of more local government areas. This has also been helped by the establishment of tertiary institutions, including the two state's universities at Akungba Akoko and Okitipupa, colleges of education, polytechnics and technical schools. Thus, besides Akure, other big towns such as Ore, Idanre, Ile Oluji and Okitipupa have emerged.

In particular, Akure, the state capital has grown into a metropolis, attracting both rural and urban residents from all over the country. It is gladdening that the Mimiko administration is improving on the major road networks in the state through its gigantic urban roads construction. This has gone to stem the growing slums noticeable in traditional area of the city where the low income earners reside largely.

Since 1985, Ondo State has been a beneficiary of rural development. The most significant programmes in this area were done by DFRRRI, Better Life Programme, the National Directorate of Employment, and the PTF's intervention between 1994 and 1999. DFRRRI was recorded to have opened up the rural areas by constructing not less than 1,230 kilometres of roads and sinking wells and boreholes in villages and towns in the state. This has also been helped by the World Bank assisted projects.

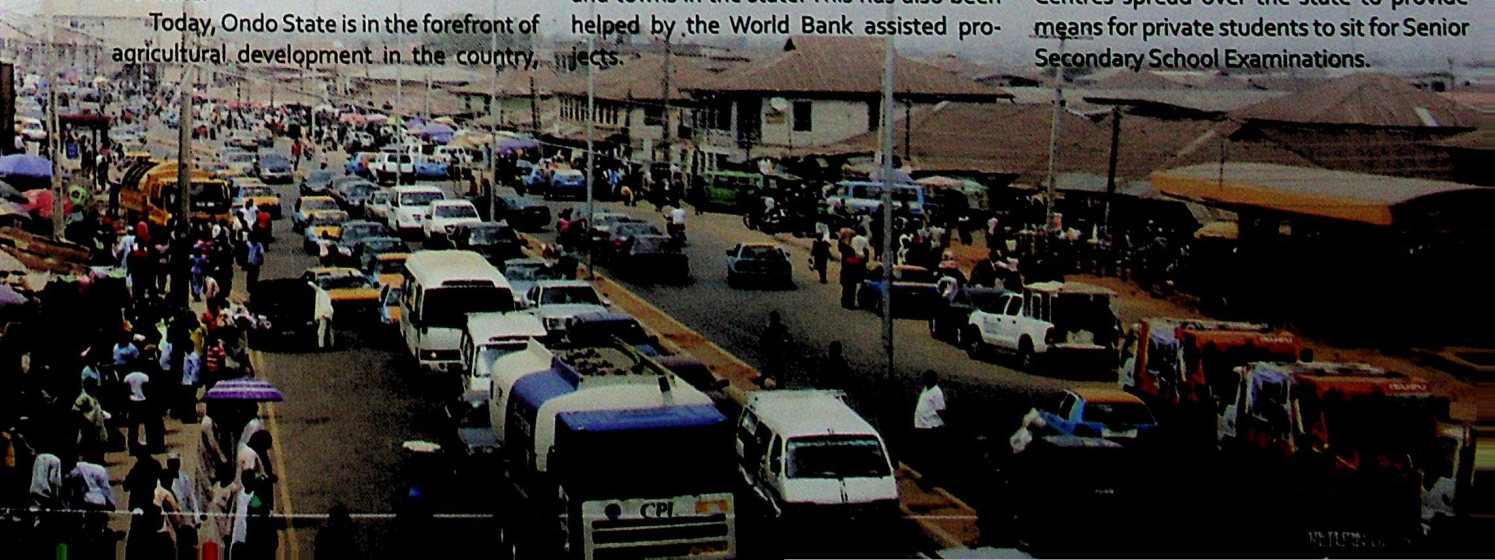
On record at its inception in 1976, Ondo State had a total of 1,868 kilometres of road network. But by 1980, this had increased to 3,093 kilometres of roads, and by 1992, it jumped to over 5,970 kilometres of roads. Today, records show that the total road network in the state is over 6,000 kilometres of roads.

In particular, these urban and rural development activities spurred self-help projects such as electrification and small scale businesses. With these too came rural banking such as community banks, some of which still abound in some places till today. In 1982, the state government, in partnership with a foreign concern, established its own bank, the Owena Bank Plc. With this also came to the state other banks and financial institutions, including mortgage houses and insurance companies. The state also set up a pools betting and lotteries agency.

It is also noted that several years after the Better Life for Rural Women programme operated during the Babangida regime, there still exist processing centres set for the women in many local government areas, such as oil palm processing in Irele. All these have been kept alive by the Mimiko administration which has rural development and integration as its focus.

Ondo State has over the years emerged as education factory in Nigeria with the largest number of public schools of over 880 and 190 secondary schools; Akure alone has over 60 of these schools. There are five other state's Unity Schools and two other Federal Unity Schools at Akure and Idoani. All these are besides private nursery, primary and secondary schools in major towns in the states.

There are also Continuing Education Centres spread over the state to provide means for private students to sit for Senior Secondary School Examinations.



On health care, both private and public health institutions abound in the state. There is a Federal Medical Centre at Owo and the state government has specialist hospitals in Akure, Ikare and Ondo, and general hospitals at Idanre, Ile Oluji, Igbara Oke and Okitipupa. There is also a psychiatric hospital at Akure.

Apart from these, the state has not less than 15 primary health centres with medical doctors in several communities, as well as mobile health clinics in the riverine areas. There are also dispensaries and maternity homes in all villages and towns.

The inauguration of the boards of the seven OASIS Companies in the state since June 10, 1989, has significantly boosted the economic fortunes of the state. Today, there are major industrial concerns such as Okitipupa Oil Palm Mill, NIROWI at Ondo for wood processing, Cocoa products Company Limited at Ile Oluji, Alpha Paper Industries at Arigidi Akoko, Ondo State Asphalt Company at Aponmu, Araromi Ayesan Oil Palm at Araromi Obu, Foam Industry at Akure and Oluwa Glass Company at Igbokoda.

The evolving industrial environment has been helped also by the location of the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank, NIDB, in Akure, and the existence of the a viable Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in the state.

The activities of the Ondo State Agricultural Development Project, ADP, and those of the Benin/Owena River Basin and Rural Development Authority have enhanced the government extensive plantations, leading to availability of raw materials such as oil palm, rubber and timber to feed the growing industries and food crops such as maize, rice, yam, cassava, beans, tomatoes and vegetable to feed the populace.

Ondo State has become a member of the elite league of oil producing states in Nigeria because petroleum is found and explored in its land. However, apart from this, it has been established that the state possesses one of the largest bitumen deposits in the world in Okitipupa and Irele Local Government Areas. There are other mineral deposits, including kaolin at Ile Oluji, Oke Igbo, Ondo and Odigbo Local Government Areas; granite at Idanre, Ile Oluji and Oke Igbo Local Government Areas; iron ore at Ifedore, Akure, Idanre, Idanre, Odigbo and Akoko North East, Akoko



North West, Akoko South East and Akoko South West Local Government Areas; and quartz sand at Ilaje, Okitipupa and Ese Odo Local Government Areas. Columbite, tin ore, marble and coal are at various stages of exploitation and prospecting.

Potable water is available in the state as successive governments have built on the activities of DFRRRI. Efforts of the Ondo State Water Corporation are commendable, with its over 25 water schemes, one these being Ose River Water Supply Project which serves not less than 66 towns and villages in Akoko and Owo areas.

Transportation is made easy in the state with its Owena Mass Transit Scheme which operates both intra and inter states services. Similarly, many local governments also have their own mass transit schemes.

Tourism has been big business as the state is a haven of tourist attractions and recreation centres. Among these are: Idanre Hills, which now has guest houses built by government; Ayetoro Community of

Holy Apostles, Owo Museum and Antiquities, Oke Maria at Oke Akoko, Ebomi Lake at Ipesi Akoko, Iho Ekaru at Isarun, Igbo Olodumare, Igbo Irunsole and palaces of monarchs which house historic artefacts. In the same vein, there are many important festivals all year round in the state, including Obitun Dance and Ogun festival at Ondo town, Olokun festival among the Ilajes, Igogo festival in Owo, Ariginya festival in Ikare Akoko, boat regatta among Ilaje, Ijaw Apoi and Ijaw Arogbo; and Egungun masquerades in Akure, Oke Igbo, Ondo, Owo, Oka, Irele and Ikare Akoko.

In the area of information and media, the state established Radiovision Corporation with its radio complex at Oba Ile, Akure, and a television station at Orita Obele, Akure. There is also a government press and a government-owned publishing company, publishers of Owena News. Also, because of the growing urbanisation and deep education in the state, all national newspapers maintain offices in the state.

Today, there is hardly any doubt that Ondo State has taken off into the modern technological age, helped also with its prevailing ambience of people's spirit of freedom, liberty, justice and pursuit egalitarian society. What more, Ondo State has been the bastion of democracy in the country with the titans of democratic struggle, such as Pa Ajasin, Pa Fasoranti and Chef Falae, who were leading lights of the NA-DECO in the 1990s, coming from there, and in whose footsteps Governor Mimiko has followed.



'I Would Not Have Chosen a Better Time to Be HOS'

In this chat with Tunde Animasaun, Editor, Gaskia Media Ltd, Mr. Ajose Kudehinbu, seasoned administrator and Head of Service, HOS, Ondo State extols the virtue of Governor Momiko and the re-engineering of the public service as the fulcrum of development in the state.

Experience

I graduated in 1976, took up teaching for about a year before joining the civil service in 1978. So from that time till now, I have been in the public service. During this period, I took time to join the Oil Mineral Producing Area Development Commission, OMPA-DEC, as a pioneer Director in charge Of Planning Research and Statistics. Some nine years after, I returned to Ondo State Civil Service and became a permanent secretary in 2001 and founding Executive Secretary, Ondo State Oil Producing Area Development Commission, OSOPADEC. After that I was posted to the Office of Establishment as Permanent Secretary. I was there

for about four years before I was posted to cabinet and special services department. From there, in 2009, I was made the Head Of Service and that is the position I have since occupied.

Comeserve

This is the state fashioned programme to re-tune and re commit the civil service to the core values of service delivery. It is termed, commitment to Excellent Service Delivery, Comeserve. The situation before this administration came with the policy was, using the expression of a former chief of army staff, 'a place where anything goes'. The system this administration inher-

ited was chaotic. Everybody in the public service then; from the Teaching Service, the Local Government Service to the Civil Service itself all converged on the Civil Service wanting to become a permanent secretary. Everybody wanted to move away from where they were to the civil service in order to become permanent secretary. In a situation like that, you cannot but have chaos. The very first thing this administration did was to restructure the system to bring some order and stability into the system, in the spirit of Comeserve. What that meant was that government decided to partition the public service so that officers could aspire within their different jurisdictions, Civil, Local Government and Teaching Services to the level of permanent secretary. To do this, we have to create different but coordinate positions. By this I mean, for the Civil Service we have Permanent Secretaries which is traditional, for Teaching Service we have Tutors- General and the Local Government Service, Administrative Secretary. These offices attract the pecks and paraphernalia of

the office of Permanent Secretary. Now we have nine Tutors- Generals and three Administrative Secretaries. This immediately restored order and stability to the public Service. Next, all the senior managers in public service were brought together and sent on a course in advanced business management at the Lagos Business School. That was in fact where the idea of Comeserve was consummated. Because after the programme, we decided that we needed to put in place a reform programme for the public service. During the programme, we

began to look at the role of public service, best prac-

tices in the private sector and by the time we carried out, we had entered a unilateral agreement which we called Comeserve. We looked at our dress code, work environment, attitude to work, and customer satisfaction and said every aspect of this must change to reflect the new spirit in the public service in Ondo State. That agenda was targeted at total customer satisfaction. Promptness in attending to customer, cheerfulness and courtesies, punctuality at work and dedication to service are some of the ingredients of customer satisfaction that Comeserve, has enjoined on public servants in Ondo State. If you go round the offices now, you'll see the change.

Part of the visible result of this is that between then and now, our officers, who hitherto were lethargic, have begun to win laurels for excellent service. In 2010, two of our officers, one a director and the other a permanent secretary, for the first time in the history of the state won national productivity awards. One of us also won the Folayegbe Akintunde Ighodalo award for most outstanding permanent secretary in the state in the same year. It is evident that there is a shift from the past where nobody has ever won an award or even competed because there was nothing to showcase. Today we are more conscious of our ability, we are not afraid of competition and when we go into it we come out winners.

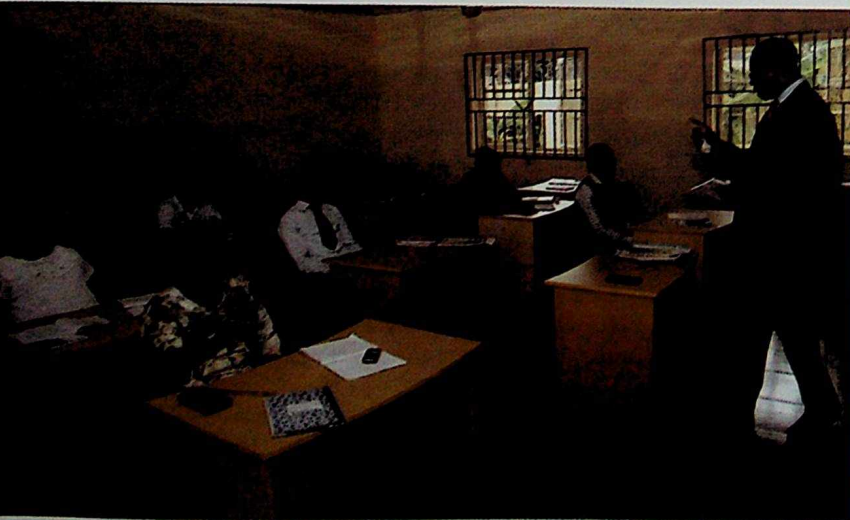
ICT Training

Part of the reform programme is the training of our workers in computer literacy. Most of our workers are now computer literate because we know we live in an ICT driven world now. Also we know that the government has to play its part by motivating workers. The training covers everybody and it is both local and foreign. In the first year of this administration, we sent about 10 of our workers abroad to attend training programmes. Locally, we send them around the country for training; to CMD and the likes in Lagos, Abuja, National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, NIPSS, etc. Kuru. We also have in-plant training programmes that we organize too where we bring in resource persons from outside. We have different trainings for different category of workers.

PSTI

Because of the commitment of the Mimiko led administration to human capital development, our Staff Development Centre which used to cater for the training of confidential secretaries has been upgraded into a full fledged institute called Ondo State Public Service Training Institute, PSTI. The establishment of PSTI, is unarguably the most enduring reform in public service

"I am not a politician but I have the courage of my convictions to say that what we are witnessing in Ondo state is not just development; the governor is re-building the state."



because it does not only address now, it is also futuristic. The permanent site which has facilities like, lecture theatres, each with the capacity to seat 50 people, 10 syndicate rooms, offices, board room, restaurant/canteen, an auditorium, guest house, library, hostels etc is nearing completion at Ilara in the suburb of Akure. The institute which is conceived with a vision to offer world class training has secured the acceptance of Dr. Myles Munroe; renowned, author, motivation speaker and management coach to serve on the board.

The new site which will be inaugurated soon will cater for capacity building and specialized courses for senior managers while the annex which is the site of the old Staff Development Centre offers Certificate, Diploma and Higher Diploma courses in management studies.

We hosted all the 'DOS' in Nigeria at our old site recently and they marvelled at the facility on ground.

Re-branding

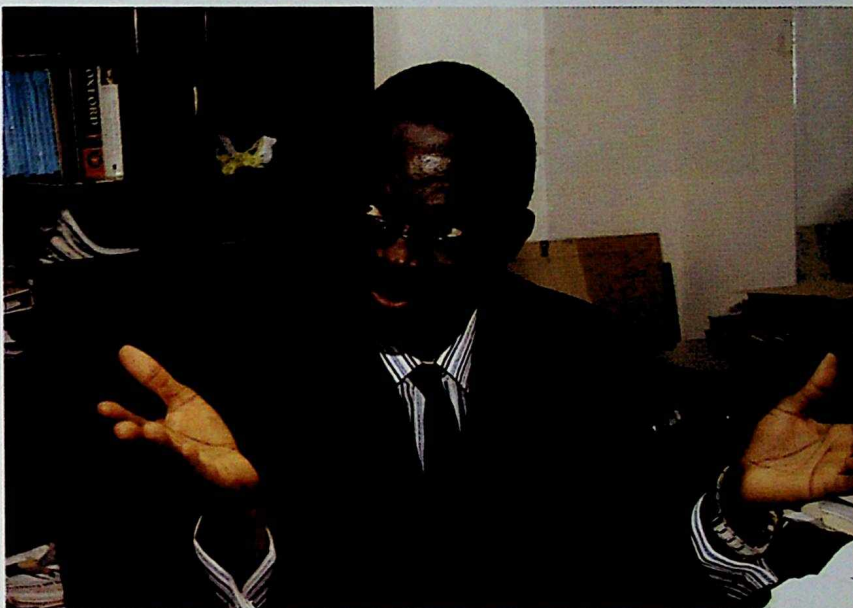
Hardly can you see any senior staff without this emblem (demonstrating the Ondo state emblem). Even the junior workers and those who want to identify with the new vision in the state wear it and we do not forbid anybody. I had an experience that really humbled me and underscored the integrity this administration has brought into governance. I travelled outside the country and on my arrival at the airport, the airport official on noticing the emblem said, 'oh, Ondo State, please pass'. I was exempted from the rigours of immigration and official checks because of the news coming out of Ondo State which they knew were true and what is visible on the ground. This (pointing to the emblem) confers on us, within and outside Ondo State, a lot of credibility. I was surprised, pleasantly surprised that this (the emblem) gave me save conduct, free passage at the airport. For us, it a symbol of identity and a symbol of the confidence the workforce and the generality of the people of Ondo State have in this administration.

Workers' welfare

In Ondo State, we take pride in the welfare of our workers and accord it priority. It may interest you to know that in this state, we have N22, 000 minimum wage. That is to say that the least paid worker in the state goes home with N22, 000 at the end of the month. This is undoubtedly the highest in Nigeria as it is way above the N18, 000 national minimum wage as approved by the Federal Government of Nigeria. There is no other government, not even the Federal Government nor the South-South States that have all the money pay as much. What this tells you is that this is a labour friendly government and not just a Labour

Party government. This is a government led by somebody who actually cares for the welfare of the workers.

This is not all, this is a government that, since inception has been paying 50 percent of basic salary at the end of the year as 13th month salary. It was after



we started that the Federal Government started thinking along this line. Also in terms of workers' welfare, this government has increased workers salary, across board four times since inception, that is, four salary increases in three years. At inception, Ondo state workers were about the least paid in the country, so this administration embarked on salary adjustment to bring pay at par with other states. We followed with salary relativity which is to ensure relativity between Federal Salary Structure and our own Salary Structure. Then we embraced the N18, 000 minimum wage as enacted by the Federal Government and now we have moved up to N22, 000 minimum wage. At each stage, we ensure that every worker benefits from the wage increase regime. Recently, about two weeks ago (from the date of the interview) the government announced the appointment of 19 new permanent secretaries. What that means is that government has opened the space a lot more for career progression and for self actualization. One significant impact of that is that you see officers striving; everybody working so hard in order to get to the peak

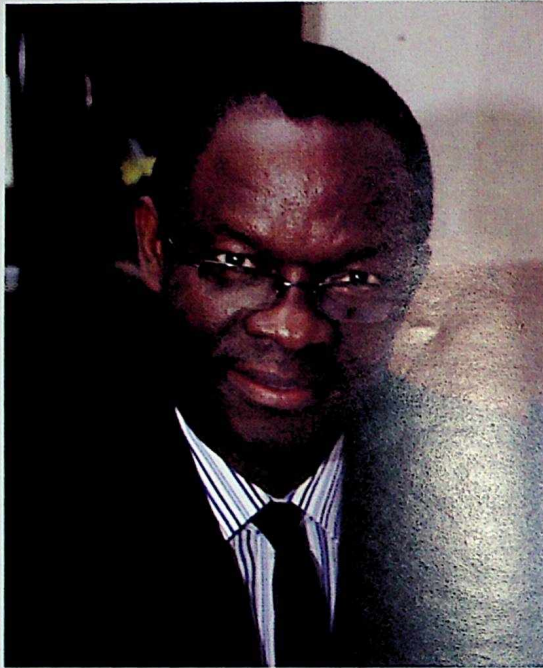
In Ondo State, we take pride in the welfare of our workers and accord it priority. It may interest you to know that in this state, we have N22, 000 minimum wage. That is to say that the least paid worker in the state goes home with N22, 000 at the end of the month.

of their career because the career space has been liberalized.

We have also set an unprecedented record in the annals of service in Nigeria by extending the career bar for clerical officers from level 9 to level 14. Not only did we raise the bar, we have promoted quite a sizeable number of our clerical staff who had stagnated on level 9 for about 12 years to level 14. What more can a government do to cater for the welfare of its workforce. We also ensure that they are paid regularly. As a matter of fact, by the 20th of the month, our workers are paid.

Civil service Performance

One thing that is evident, even to a casual visitor or customer is that the civil service we have now in terms of dedication, service delivery and buy-in to government agenda has never been this wonderful. However, I won't say I am satisfied with the level of performance because there is a lot of room for improvement. The present level is a lot of improvement on what it used to be. One of things I did as head of service when I came in was the introduction of promotion exams. It did not initially go down well with the workers who were used to the old system but I always tell them that I don't want to be popular for the wrong reasons. I know that as workers, we should earn our promotions. A situation where you take your promotion for granted I believe is not good enough. What that means is that whether you are a good officer or not, at the end of the year, your promotion is assured. That is not good enough. Now our workers have confidence in themselves and their ability because they are where they are today because of merit and no other consideration. Our workers have



now embraced this and it has tremendously impacted service delivery positively. It also gives government the assurance that the workers are not only qualified but capable to perform thereby justifying government's huge investment in them.

I say it often that were I to chose a time I would like to be head of service, I wont have asked for a better time than this. I have somebody who listens to me, encourages, supports and shares my vision and gives me free hand

to operate. There could not have been a better time because, were all these to be absent, the story would have been different. For instance, if we came up with an idea, the governor says 'no', we bring that suggestion the governor says 'no', would we have a story to tell now? Do you know there are some HOS' who do not have easy access to their governor? Do you know that there are HOS' who must clear every little thing they do with the governor? But when you have a governor who has confidence in you and gives you free hand like I do, then there can be no better time to hold a position like this time when we have Dr. Olusegun Mimiko as the executive governor of the state. I believe in him. As a matter of fact, I believe one of the greatest things to happen to this state is his emergence as the governor. The evidence is everywhere. Go to where you will, you'll find his footprints. For me and most people of the state, it has never been this good. I am not a politician but I have the courage of my convictions to say that what we are witnessing in Ondo state is not just development; the governor is re-building the state. You will see evidence of destruction and construction; destruction of the ills that has bedeviled the state and construction on the path of growth and development. It is like surgery. If you don't carry out the surgery, you are not helping the person. The man said it's going to be painful, but if you as the surgeon consider that, you are killing the patient. But you carry out surgery in order to safe, to liberate and give life. So what we are doing here is not just renovating or developing, the governor is rebuilding the state.

The present level is a lot of improvement on what it used to be. One of things I did as head of service when I came in was the introduction of promotion exams. It did not initially go down well with the workers who were used to the old system but I always tell them that I don't want to be popular for the wrong reasons.

MIMIKO HAS BROUGHT PEACE TO THE STATE

Ayodele Oni

The present administration in Ondo state under the leadership of Dr. Olusegun Mimiko has tried its best especially in the area of turning around our major cities. Let's take for example, Akure, the state capital; it is now we can boast that the city is looking like a state capital. The ultra modern markets built all over the place, the rapid reconstruction of township roads, the auto mart, which is described as one of the best around here, the Mother and Child Hospital as well as the new motor park are the achievements of the present administration.

One of the major achievements of this administration

is peace. We should thank God and the administration for the relative peace the state has enjoyed since the inception of Mimiko government. There has not been any reported case of political killing like most states, communal clashes in the state have ceased; we can only continue to pray that all these should continue. The Governor lends a listening ear to advice from traditional rulers and other prominent indigenes of the state on issues which can move the state forward. The various developmental projects which he has embarked upon in this community and other parts of the state indeed speak volumes of his goodwill for the good people of Ondo State. It also attests to his zeal and commitment to transform all communities to enable the administration record its name in gold in the annals of our Sunshine State. There is no gainsaying the fact that the administration has recorded a lot of monumental achievements which are not only there for people to see but also to celebrate.

DEJI OF AKURE, OBA ADEBIYI ADESIDA
Chairman, Ondo State Council of Obas



OSEMAWE OF ONDO

OBA VICTOR KILADEJO

**THE STATE HAS
WITNESSED
DEVELOPMENT**

Ayodele Ori

The Auga Akoko farm boasts of over 1, 000 cattle ranch with the potential of being the beef basket of the state, if not the nation in the nearest future.

Ondo state in the past three years of governance under Dr Olusegun Mimiko administration has witnessed a revolution in virtually all the different sectors of the state economy. By all empirical evidences, the state has witnessed transformation and development in the health, education, agricultural, infrastructural and industrial sectors.

The administration's 12 point agenda has recorded a huge success. Its urban renewal and rural transformation projects through the 3is programme have changed the faces of cities, towns and villages across the state. The revolution recorded in the health sector has won the administration both local and international awards, as the Best Governor in the year 2011 by notable and prestigious bodies.

The construction of the Mother and Child Hospital and introduction of Abiye (Safe Motherhood) by the government have been recommended by the World Bank as a bench mark for Africa in achieving millennium development goals. The Mother and Child Hospital has treated over 31,000 patients, including 11,879 deliveries of which 1,400 were through caesarian operations. The administration also established the Gani Fawehinmi Diagnostic Centre in Ondo town equipped with state of the art equipments to provide essential services.

It has also established emergency medical services centres in Owo and the trauma centre in Ondo to compliment the Gani Fawehinmi Diagnostic Centre. The number of basic and primary health centres has been increased throughout the state while it provides free health services for children from age zero to five, pregnant mothers and the aged.

His foot print in the education sector is quite heart warming with the construction of mega schools. Already mega schools are being built all over the state to supplant the abysmally dysfunctional state public

primary and secondary schools whose infrastructural facilities and curricular are out of age. Some of the mega schools have already been commissioned. This is in addition to the state free education from the primary to the secondary school level.

In the agricultural sector, Dr Mimiko's government has invested substantial resources into the sector by the establishment of agric villages in Ore, Epe and Auga Akoko where thousands of unemployed graduates have been gainfully engaged. The farms are into fisheries, piggery and also produce yams, corns and other farm produce. The Auga Akoko farm boasts of over 1, 000 cattle ranch with the potential of being one of the beef basket of the state, if not the nation in the nearest future.

In terms of urban renewal, the state capital, Akure has taken on the shape of a modern city. Through its 3is initiative, the administration has recorded ubiquitous imprint with the delivery of over 300 projects ranging from hospitals, school buildings, bridges, boreholes, rural electrification, town halls, among other social amenities to rural communities. The government's quick win programme under the 3is initiative has drastically transformed the agrarian, rustic and sleepy communities in the state.

Construction of modern markets across the state cannot be over emphasized as the traders, who were once engaging in their trade activities under the scorching sun and unhygienic environment along the major roads and market have been sheltered in state of the art markets. The car dealers are also not left out as they now have an international standard auto mart along Ilesha-Owo expressway in Akure. The list of the achievements can go on and on signifying that the three years of Governor Mimiko's administration has indeed been very impactful.

HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH US IS CORDIAL

OBA VICTOR DAVID FOLAGADE OLATERU-OLAGBEGI, OLOWO OF OWO

Ayodele Oni

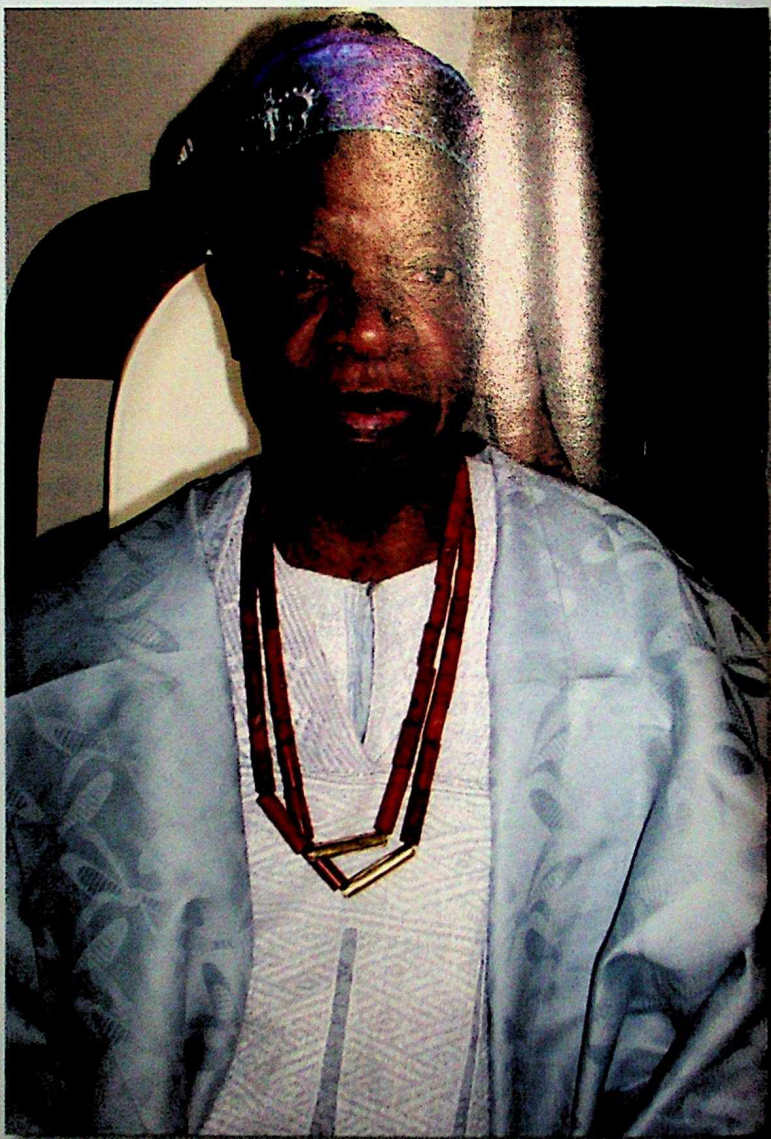
By my own assessment, Dr Olusegun Mimiko, the governor of Ondo state is doing well. What he needs to do now is for him to occasionally go round again and check his book if there is still any unfulfilled promise to the people of the state; he should try and fulfill it. Virtually in all spheres of human endeavor, the governor is trying his best; mention it in area of education, agriculture, provision of infrastructure and all other areas.

In the area of education, he has tried to build mega schools in some parts of the state and the people of Owo had told him that the town too wants Mega School to be built there and I am happy to inform you that he has approved one for us now. When I get it, I will be able to really comment on the mega school issue. But we can see that he has built some in other parts of the state; they are all over the state; this is a good one. Generally in the area of education, I think what speaks for itself is the recent performance of one of our pupils during this year's WAEC examinations; an indigene of this state came top; that speaks volume on what is happening in the state.

In the area of road construction, I think the administration is doing fine. For example, in Owo here we are happy that our dual carriage is on the way and I go to Akure the state capital very often and I can say that Akure has been transformed. We hope that such a thing will extend to other local government areas of the state although not as much as that of the state capital. To me, I think the governor is doing well. His relationship with traditional rulers in the state is equally cordial; although he is a politician and we are traditional institution and when he came into office, he pleaded with us that we should let politicians do their work while we traditional rulers should face our own work.

As much as possible, he tries to avoid us when he is politicking anywhere; I think he knows what he is doing and we too are trying not to be non partisan in the affairs of the people and as their fathers. But we are all watching like an umpire, we are watching what is happening and we shall continue to pray for him, the government and all the people of the state.

You will have to be in government before you can say this area is the next focus; anyone can say

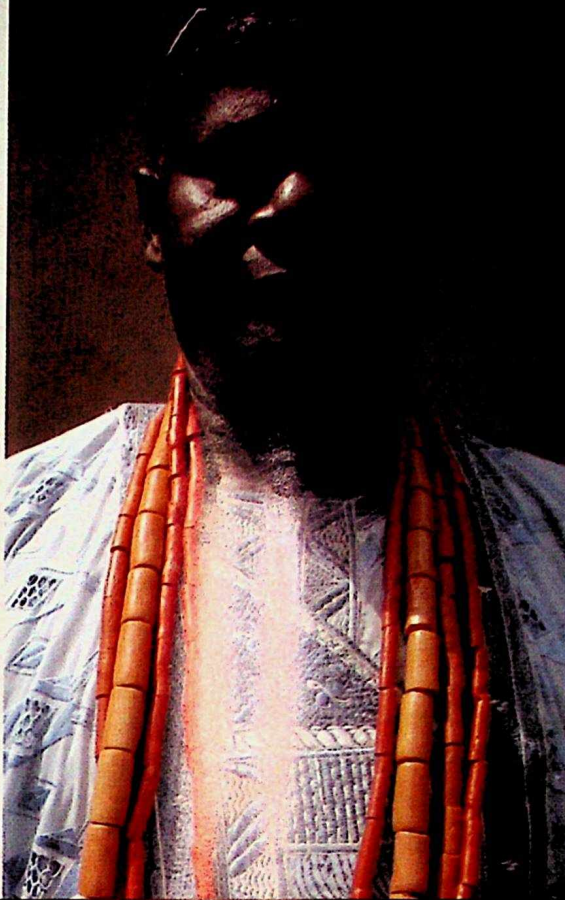


anything at anytime but when you are there that you know what is happening, which area requires the next attention and which one you can still hold on for sometime. But I will tell you that it is not easy to be in charge of a whole state; but I will just advise that he should not relent now; he should aspire to do more for the people and we shall continue to pray for him.

HE KEEPS TO HIS PROMISE

ADAPOGUN OF IPOGUN, OBA RAPHEAL OJO

We are told that as traditional rulers, we should not engage in partisan politics but I want to tell you today that Dr. Olusegun Mimiko is a person I admire. He is the first governor that keeps to his promise. I will openly campaign for him to enable him win for the second term in office. He has been very wonderful; the road to my community has been tarred after several years of waiting. He came here and promised that the road will be tarred; he has done it; to me he is a practical and reliable politician unlike others who make promise and fail to fulfill it.



Ondo State Law Commission

Established by law on 1st August, 2001 as the legal think-tank of Government with a mandate to systematically reform and codify the laws of Ondo State, Nigeria to conform with modern trends while at the same preserving cultural values in accordance with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

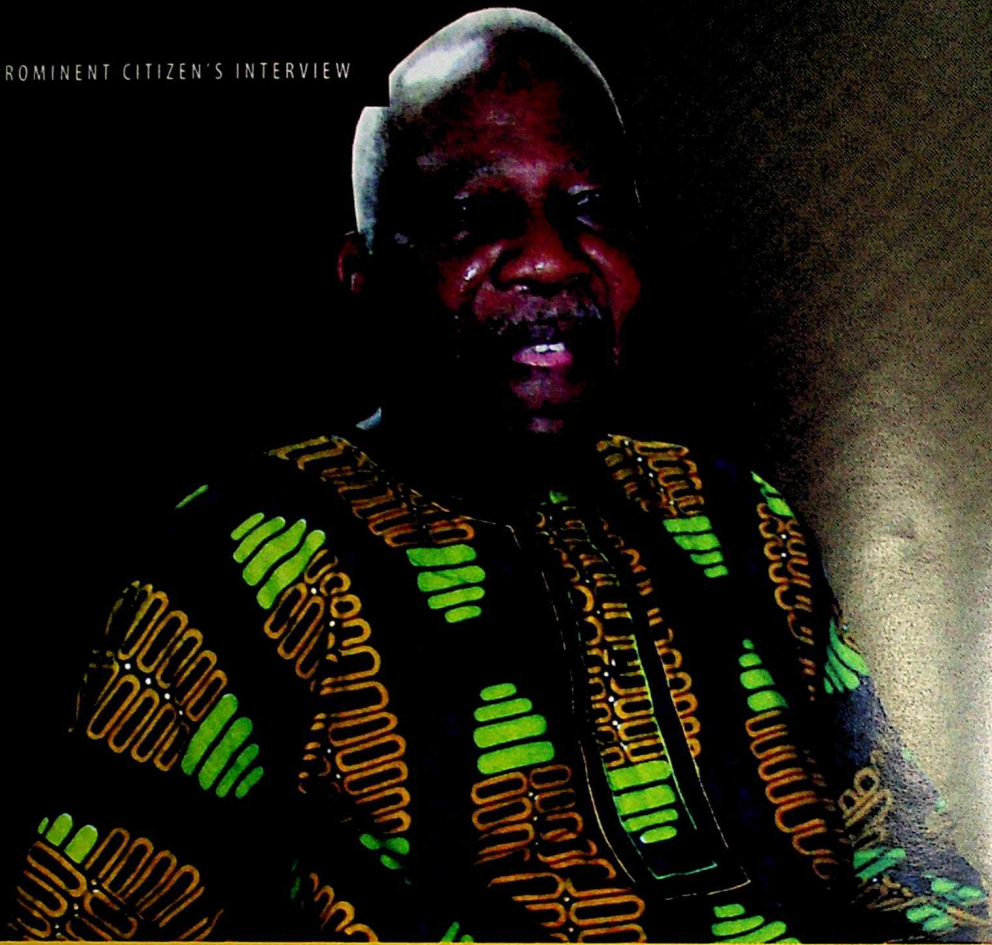
The aim is to ensure good governance through relevant and futuristic laws and doing away with obsolete and archaic laws.

The Law Commission in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice has successfully carried out the review and publication of the Laws of Ondo State and has also concluded the review of 2007-2010 Laws of Ondo State.



Dr Olusegun Abayomi Mimiko
Executive Governor, Ondo State.





HE HAS PERFORMED WELL

- CHIEF REUBEN FASORANTI

AFENIFERE LEADER

Ayodele Oni

I think generally I can say Dr Olusegun Mimiko has performed fairly well, in community development even in the beautification of Akure and in sustaining industrial peace of the state; there has been no serious industrial strike since he came to power. Generally, I think he has tried his best.

But he should try to employ more people. There has been a lull in the employment of people and people are outside looking for jobs. I am aware that government is spending a lot of money on the staff but people will still want to be employed. Every year, the universities are turning out people, likewise the teacher training colleges. He should look into that area and see how he can alleviate the sufferings of the people. Generally I think he has done well in the running of the state.

His education policy is very good es-

pecially the introduction of the mega schools. We have never seen the type in this state before; they are very grand and decent environment. I hope that the teachers will be able to keep that standard and not deface the structure as soon as they start to use them. So far so good and it is an attempt to love beauty. The details of the structures are landmark.

To me the mega schools will really help the poor; their children will move in there without fees being charged. Those criticizing the mega schools thing are looking at them from the negative side. I think the whole idea is that the governor is encouraging the people to love beautiful things. The schools are unique and beautiful. The schools are steps forward and I think the parents will appreciate them; only that the population of each of the schools will be larger than what they

are now and I hope the teachers will still be able to maintain discipline and maintain law and order.

My reaction on the governorship election now few months away is that security agencies should try as much as possible to beef up their machinery and be vigilant and nip any trouble that is coming in the bud. Since the election will only be taking place in the state, more security personnel should be drafted to the state to ensure adequate security. The signs we are seeing now are not favourable; people are just trying to take the laws into their hands.

I will also advise political parties to conduct their campaigns peacefully, go into the election peacefully and await the result of their voting. If there is a riot, many innocent people will be affected.



MIMIKO HAS BROUGHT QUALITY TO LIFE

-CHIEF OLUYEMISI FALAE

FMR SECRETARY TO GOVT OF THE FEDERATION

Ayodele Oni

I want to say that Dr Olusegun Mimiko has done well in the first three years; the people of Nigeria know full well that if he has not done well, I will say so. A Yoruba adage says "ka yin ni ka le se miran" I congratulate him, his team and beautiful wife for this feat in our state because if she didn't give him the support, it will be difficult for him to deliver.

Dr Mimiko has laid the foundation for the take of the state. He has given infrastructure; I want to tell you that without infrastructure, no nation or state can take off. Nigeria's economy is the only one I know which says we can take off in 2020 without infrastructure; without power, road, rail; no economy can take off without the basic infrastructure. Mimiko has laid the basic infrastructure for the take off of Ondo state and it is ready to take off.

I also want to acknowledge that it is not the quantum of what he has achieved but the quality. He has brought quality life to this state and create a volume of modernization which make the people feel that they are civilized people and that should live under civilized condition. There are people saying Mimiko is building parks; *na park we go chop*; he is building markets, *na markets we go chop*. To

me, Mimiko has done excellent job within the last three years; I can speak for several people in this state that he has not disappointed us.

He has set a very high standard for himself and he can not afford to fall below that standard and he will not fall below by the grace of God. He has done very well thus far. I will advise the people of the state to let us acknowledge excellence, recognize it and praise it. We should drop

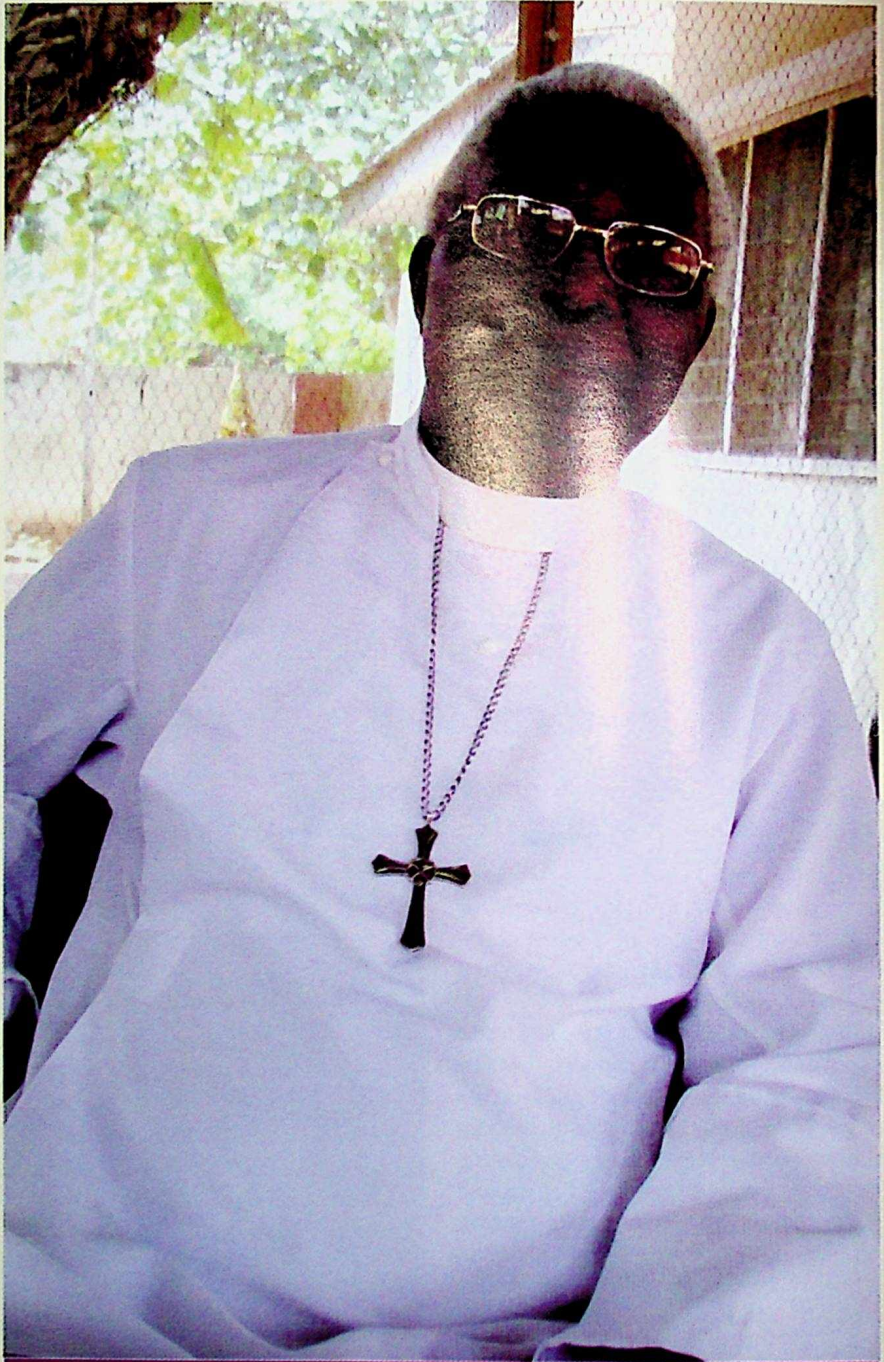
our past syndrome of Pull Him Down, (PHD) Whoever is, even if he is an icon, we will want to rubbish him. That is what we used to do in the past but with Iroko we have turned the corner. When we recognize excellence in any facet of life, let us acknowledge it and celebrate it because by doing that, we encourage more of our people to advance to excellence.

This is somebody who doesn't want to be referred to as Your Excellency but simply Mr. Governor and I personally do not feel comfortable to call him simply Mr.; for the English or the European yes, but for the Africans, particularly the Yoruba, we give respect to our leaders; we don't refer to our leaders as simply Mr. I thank God for Dr Olusegun Mimiko. To me he has done very well; I can testify to this. As I use to say in any public function, anyone that says he can not see what Dr Mimiko is doing as Governor, I think such a person needs to see an Ophthalmologist. We thank God that He has given him to us at this time and I can still see the zeal in him to continue to work for the people.

I remember on the 24th of February, 2009 when he was being sworn in; he promised that he would work for the people, and he has been repeating and keeping to this promise. In the language of the Bible, he has promised to serve the people and I can see that he has been trying to serve the people. I pray that he will continue to serve the people diligently, sacrificially and better than he has done.

I will advise him to be careful because the Satan does not want him to do what he is doing. Now that he has been trying to do God's will by serving the people and working for them, Satan is not happy; It can go as far as using people that are very close to the Governor; some of those he trusts to do it. The Governor should not say or think now that he is doing enough.

I have been reading in the papers about some people that are saying that he should join them; I will want him to remember that he is born to be different; when he along with his people started their political party and within few months went into an election and won even though, the mandate was stolen at first before it was recovered. Nobody knows whether God has an intention which he wants to use the party for a new thing even for the whole of the country. I will just pray for him that God will continue to give him divine grace to do more for the people.



HE HAS FULFILLED HIS PROMISE

BISHOP BOLANLE GBONIGI
 RETIRED BISHOP AKURE ANGLICAN DIOSESE

HE IS COMMITTED TO IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

DR KOLA ADEMUJIMI

CHIEF OF STAFF TO GOVERNOR

Ayodele Oni

I see Mr. Governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko as a very hard working leader, captain of a team, very honest, humble and humane; he is very passionate, serious and sincere with governance. I see him as somebody who is out to improve the quality of life of the people of Ondo state. He is passionately ready to improve on the welfare of the people of Ondo state. I see in him somebody who wants to build legacy, very concern about the down trodden, very caring; he wants to improve the people and the society; he wants to do new things; so many things that had not be done in the past.

In fact, he is like the Awolowo of our time. Chief Obafemi Awolowo the Premier of the defunct Western Region was the first to bring television and radio stations, stadium and the Cocoa House. Dr Mimiko has been the first in so many things; he is the first to build Mother and Child Hospital; he is the first to come out with the concept of mega schools. Some states build modern primary schools but they are not the type we have here. The ones here are purposely built mega schools with resources, computer centre, laboratories.

Dr Mimiko is the first to introduce what we called Safe 'abiye' Motherhood Project which has earned him international recognition particularly by the World Bank. It is now serving as a bench mark for Africa and other developing nations. So, Dr Mimiko is a governor with a difference because of his passion and exposure to governance.

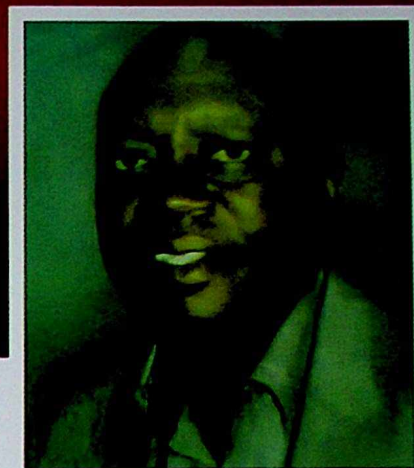
As God will have it, he was adequately prepared for the job. Hardly will you see

somebody from other states of the federation that had been state commissioner two times, secretary to government and a minister all within a period of 20 years. Its unusual for him to acquire such experience and exposure and come back to govern a difficult state like Ondo where almost every house hold has a university graduate.

Apart from that, he is a very godly man; there is nothing he wants to do that he will not put God first. Everyday when he resumes in the office, he prays before anything and he has even devoted a particular day every month to prayer meeting and he has never missed any of the occasions. That is the third Friday of every month during which clergymen are invited from home and outside to come and minister.

One other unique thing about Dr Mimiko is that he is a complete family man. At times he laments when he does not have enough time to interact with his family because of his passion for governance. I have worked with so many governors in the past; I have never worked with any governor that has the volume of time Dr Mimiko has in supervising projects. Apart from appropriate officers going round projects, he goes on his own even without any of his immediate aides and there is no hour of the day that he will not visit ongoing projects. He will want to know when the project started, how it is going and when it will be completed; or perhaps there is any problem he will have to intervene in immediately. Is it lack of payment; is it the quality of the job that is in question? He will want to call stakeholders. This is a governor doing conferences to actualize government programmes and projects so that it reduces time of completion.

He will call appropriate ministries and ask them what is delaying the job, the problem and the solution or the way forward. That is why I said he is somebody that is governing with all seriousness. Like I said he is fully prepared for the job; he knows what he wants to do in the next four years and what he can not do. So if you bring those things he can not do, he will tell



you that this thing may not be possible. He will tell you even as a commissioner that this is what you should do; let's sit down and start discussing. His other virtue is that he is a very good listener and he will want to listen to everybody even when you think he is tired. I have seen an individual that can receive the volume of visitors that he receives even early in the morning before coming to the office; he would have received 40 to 50 people one after the other, I mean one on one. And when he gets to the office he continues with his job, do some meetings and starts meeting with the people again.

If there is a governor that has direct link with the grassroots, Dr Mimiko is one. He is adequately connected to the people at the grassroots; he has friends in all the wards and even in all the polling units in Ondo state. He knows the Labour Party man that is in polling unit 1001 and number 910. This is because of his interest in the politics of the state and the number of times he has spent in participating in the governance of the state. He has the knowledge of all the polling units and the people that live around the place. During an election, he will just call any of them and ask what is happening at your polling unit. I think Ondo state is lucky and we give God the glory that we have a governor who is a friend of the rich in Lagos in Abuja and a friend of the local people in Abababubu, in Sabomi and in almost all the nooks and crannies of the state.

There is no community he will enter that he will not call one or two of his friends. And because of his humility, he does not believe in the word "your Excellency". He believes that it is only God almighty that is excellent. He is simple, humane, handsome a medical doctor by training and a politician by calling, a God sent man to Ondo state.

...hospitality meets with peace



- Fully air-conditioned
- 24hrs power supply
- Swimming pool

- Gym
- Security
- Peaceful and serene ambience

Bliss
WORLD HOTEL

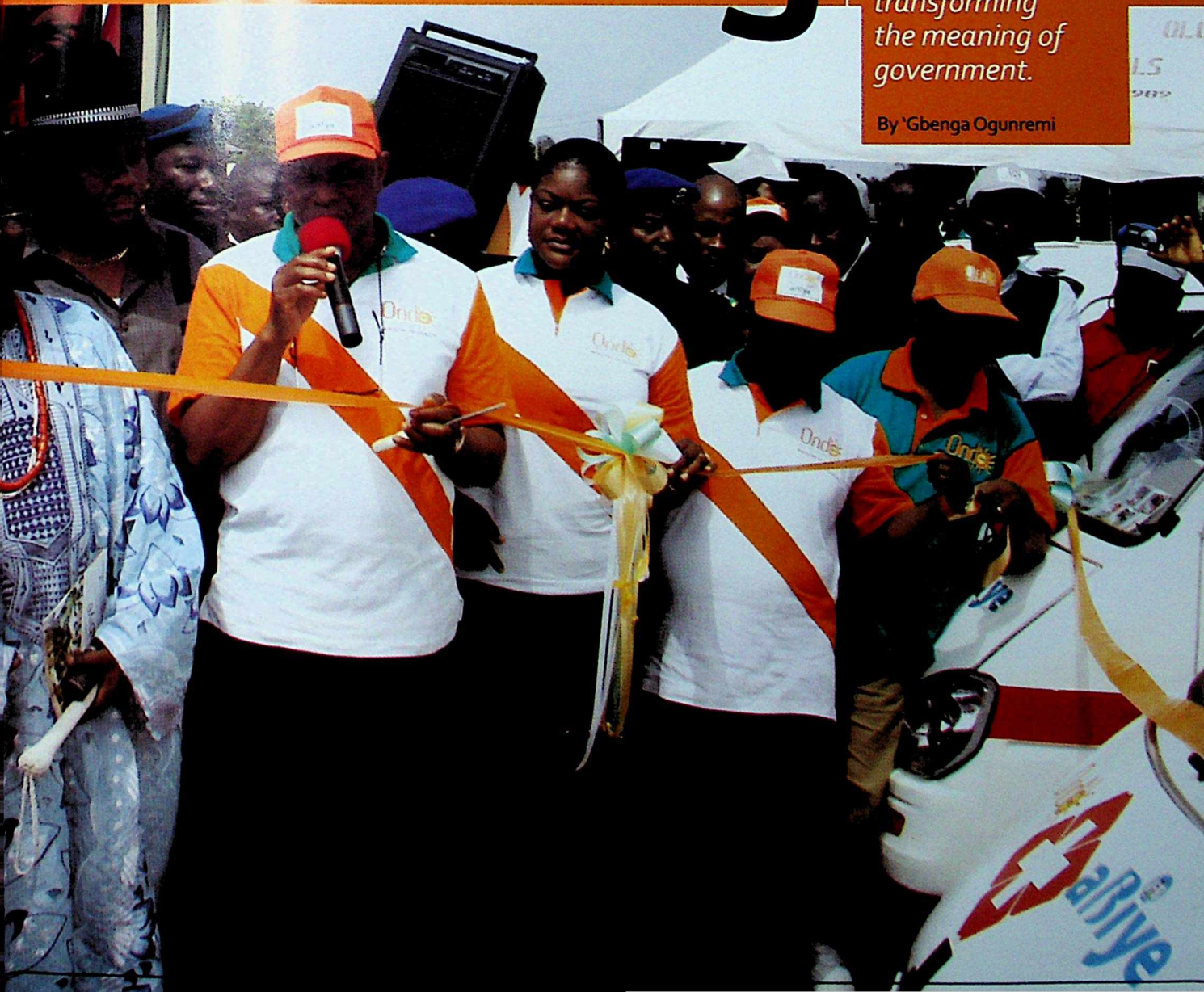
40 Henry Fajemirokun, Plot 20 Block1 Ijapo Estate, Akure Ondo State, Nigeria
Tel: +23470620311999, +23489171755
www.blissworldhotels.com

HIS HAND ON THE PLOUGH

Why ONDO STATE is Working

Determined to make an impact, Governor Mimiko embarks on programmes to change the lives of the people, improving health, education, physical infrastructures, expanding the frontiers of opportunities for the people and transforming the meaning of government.

By 'Gbenga Ogunremi



At the instance of taking over the reins of governance as the fifth democratically elected Governor of Ondo state over three years ago, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko pledged to work for the people and provide them with appropriate leadership by striving at all times to make decisions that will benefit the greatest number of his people.

This pledge was a solemn but sacred covenant between the Governor and the citizenry, a kind of social contract that was meant to lighten the burden of the common man, extinguish the glowing flames of poverty in the society and consequently make life more meaningful to the people.

Against the background of intelligent forethought, Mimiko coined the phrase 'Caring Heart' to drive home his home-grown development initiatives that would invariably make an average citizen in Ondo state get a fair share of the dividends of democracy. Indeed these initiatives were meant to be a massive assault on the problems that have so long plagued the citizenry, especially the down-trodden.

The most common elements of this daringly innovative Caring Heart Agenda which effectively encapsulates government's 12-point agenda, include a focus on social reforms intended to improve the quality of life for the ordinary man. It was therefore a design aimed at addressing issues like poverty alleviation, agriculture and food security, healthcare, housing, education and capacity building, rural development, urban renewal via good network of roads and other infrastructural development, gender equality and women empowerment, tourism, youth development, employment and empowerment, community, urban and coastal development.

Health Sector Reforms

At inception, the Mimiko administration was confronted with



inadequate and overstretched health facilities and insufficient logistic support, coupled with the World Bank's declaration soon after the Governor assumed office that Ondo State had the poorest health indices in the south-west especially in maternal and child healthcare.

This scary statistics of mother and child mortality may have given Mimiko an insight into the kind of challenges in the health sector, es-

Nursing mothers and children at a healthcare facility in the state

pecially with respect to attaining Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), more so as it had become apparent that the strategies adopted over the years were ineffective in addressing or proffering solutions to the persistent health needs of the people.

For a Governor like Mimiko who worked in the system as a Medical Officer and served twice as Commissioner for Health, he was in a vantage position to critically assess



Top Left: Governor Mimiko inspecting facilities at Mother and Child Hospital

Gani Fawehinmi Health Diagnostic Centre

Africa records 20-25 births per day, increasing the number of deliveries by 45 per cent and reducing child mortality ratio by 15 per cent. Also the rate of admission of children under-five has recorded an increase of 26 per cent, while child mortality rate has reduced by the same margin. Encouraged by the success story of the maternal and child programme at the Mother & Child Hospital, Akure which in two years of operations recorded over 10000 deliveries of over 14000 babies and thus making it one of the busiest maternity centres in Nigeria if not in the whole of Africa, the state government has established another one, ready for commissioning in Ondo while plans to establish three more are in top gear.

Remarkably too, the facility

from conception to delivery. Under the programme which has been duly recognised and adopted by the World Bank as a template for improving mother and child care in Africa, each pregnant woman is provided with a mobile phone and assigned to a particular health worker who monitors her health situation and pay regular visits. Apart from such personal contacts the pregnant woman enjoys these services free of charge, even the phone is provided free while there is a special arrangement for toll-free calls to the health workers.

The other aspect of the programme, the Mother & Child Hospital system, was conceived to sit at the apex of the referral ladder in the Abiye (Safe Motherhood) programme. The Mother & Child Hospital, Akure, a first of its kind purpose-built 100-bed maternal and child tertiary facility designed to provide world-class specialised Medicare free of charge to the highly vulnerable group of pregnant women and children between age 0-5 and consequently achieve a zero per cent mortality rate has recorded a success rate that surpasses all expectations.

As at today, the hospital which stands as one of the busiest maternity centres in Nigeria, if not in



which provides the highest level of care in terms of quality that can be accessed anywhere in Nigeria either private or public has not only gotten national acclaim but international recognition.

Furthermore, the establishment of a state-of-the-art Gani Fawehinmi Diagnostic Centre to undertake medical diagnosis of unimaginable dimension and which would soon be complimented with a Trauma Centre specially staffed and equipped to treat patients

the basic challenges of the system and evolve a strategy for saving mothers and children from unnecessary deaths.

In line therefore with one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of a reduction in infant and maternal mortality in the country, and as a deliberate policy of the Mimiko government, a two-pronged approach was conceived to reverse the trend with the introduction of 'Abiye Safe Motherhood' programme which involves personalised care for pregnant women

with complex and life-threatening injuries such as multiple gun-shot wounds, automobile accident or other severe internal injuries, is another major feat by the Mimiko government.

The above veritable projects that ensure better life for the people and other initiatives in the primary and secondary health care systems constitute the major health reform agenda of this administration.

Community Development Initiatives

Perhaps the administration's 3i's initiative, an acronym for "Infrastructure, Institution, and Industry" targeted at the rural and community development using the participatory, community-driven, 'bottom-up with top-down support approach is the most encapsulating programme of government as it was specifically designed to deliver dividends of democracy to people at the grassroots. Basically the 3i's are aimed at building confidence and trust of the people, empowering for sustainable development and therefore enriching the people.

Today, the adoption of the radical community development bottom-up strategy has been a roaring success. Apart from its heavy endorsement by a major Donor Agency for possible replication in most developing countries, it has the largest state-wide impact of all the current projects because of its community-based activities in virtually all the local governments in the state where such activities are envisioned to catalyse the industrial take-off of the different clusters of Ondo communities.

The strategy is simple but very potent. The communities are made to identify and prioritise projects of critical needs which government execute speedily and in record time. For example, in operating this strategy, the people of Ojinaka without hesitation chose a Basic Health Centre as top priority and answer to an age-long - lack in their

community. Till date, the community is still dumbfounded and totally amazed at the speed of erecting and fully equipping their Health Centre in such a short time.

This same community-driven development approach efficiently anchored by the Ministry of Community Development & Cooperative Services created by Governor Mimiko has since seen 308 communities in all the 18 local government areas of Ondo State benefiting from different community projects, regarded in government parlance as "Quick-win Projects" identified and chosen by the people.

Every local government in the state can boast of at least 12 completed and functional Quick-win projects and this have in no small measure restored the confidence of the people in their leaders after so many years of disappointment through failed promises.

Profoundly, the Labour Party government in Ondo State under the able leadership of Governor Segun Mimiko has been able through this home-grown initiative to widen the horizon of the people. Those in the communities who have never felt government presence before now feel it in full measure as

much as government actions have opened their eyes to possibilities.

Urban Renewal Initiative

Another area where the Mimiko administration has been outstanding is in his urban renewal initiative. When government took the initiative to transform Akure into a true capital of a progressive state and indeed an investment destination,



One of the boreholes provided for the communities





One of the Townhalls provided by the Mimiko administration



a major urban renewal programme geared towards ensuring harmonious, conducive and coordinated living environment for urban dwellers was put in place.

In implementing it, the government through its Direct Labour Agency embarked on massive construction of Caring Heart projects such as Auto Mart, Neighbourhood and Regional Markets, the Mechanic Village and Spare-parts Market and an ultra modern Motor Park, which not only help in creating jobs but also effectively move non-formal operators including street traders, artisans, car dealers etc off the streets to ensure proper urban renewal and transformation.

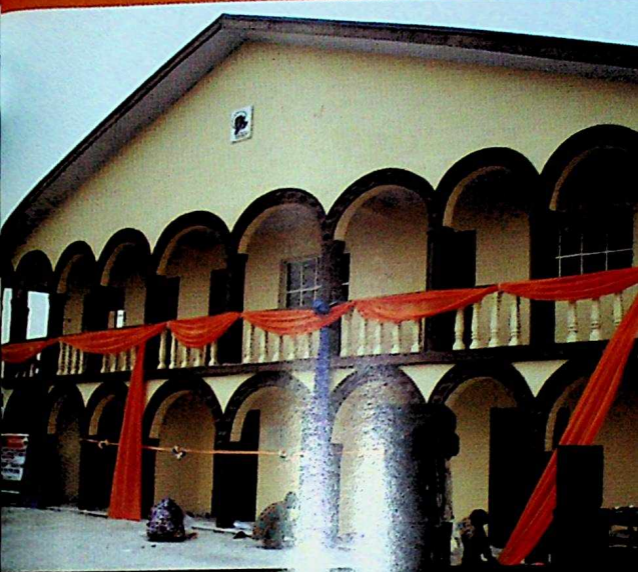
For instance the construction of a second-to-none Auto Mart Centre in Akure, the state capital, for which the state government got approbation from international agencies like the World Bank, has effectively taken car dealers off the streets to an reorganised environment, thereby halting the menace of indiscriminate and unorganised auto trading by over 100 registered auto dealers along major roads in Akure.

Besides addressing the infrastructural needs of Akure, the Auto Mart with its capacity of accommodat-



Solar powered Borehole with 6 points & reticulation





Road Revolution

Also as part of the urban renewal and transformation scheme is the massive road construction going on in the three senatorial districts of the state. With over 73 road projects being executed simultaneously across the state, there is indeed a road revolution taking place in Ondo state as everywhere is honeycombed with road projects, thus making most urban centres look like a huge construction site.

Apart from embarking on Operation Zero Potholes across the state with the aim of repairing bad portions

MIMIKO IS WORKING



of roads that have for so long being a major cause of accidents and untold damage to vehicles, the Mimiko-led administration has asphalted over 200 kilometres of surface dressed roads built by the immediate past government.

Furthermore, the 7.8km Owo Township Road dualisation project and the 2.25km NEPA-Arakale road dualisation project have reached an advanced stage and should be ready for commissioning before the end of the year.

The Oyemekun-Oba Adesida-Mobil Junction has been completely rehabilitated, with asphalt overlay, looking totally transformed and adorned with functional streetlights and beautiful water fountain roundabouts. The Fiwasaye-Oba Ile Airport Junction road has also been dualized in Akure, while in Ondo, the Itanla Junction-Ademulegun-Yaba-Akure Motor Park is being dualized. With the development, new areas are being opened up,

and the people can move into other suburbs close to the state capital.

The state government also established the Ondo State Agency for Road Maintenance and Construction (OSARMCO) through which it ensures that roads across the state are properly maintained and rehabilitated at all times. The creation of the agency has benefitted federal roads in the state, many of which were in a state of absolute decay and disrepair. The Akure-Ogbese-Owo and Akure-Igbara Oke-Ilesa roads were quite infamous for the many bad spots on them, which gave travellers sleepless nights. OSARMCO has helped in securing a final solution to the problems of these roads. And as soon as new problems are located, the agency moves in to fix them.

In Akure the state capital, besides the dualization/asphalt overlay of Ilesa Expressway Junction to Oyemekun Road-Oba Adesida

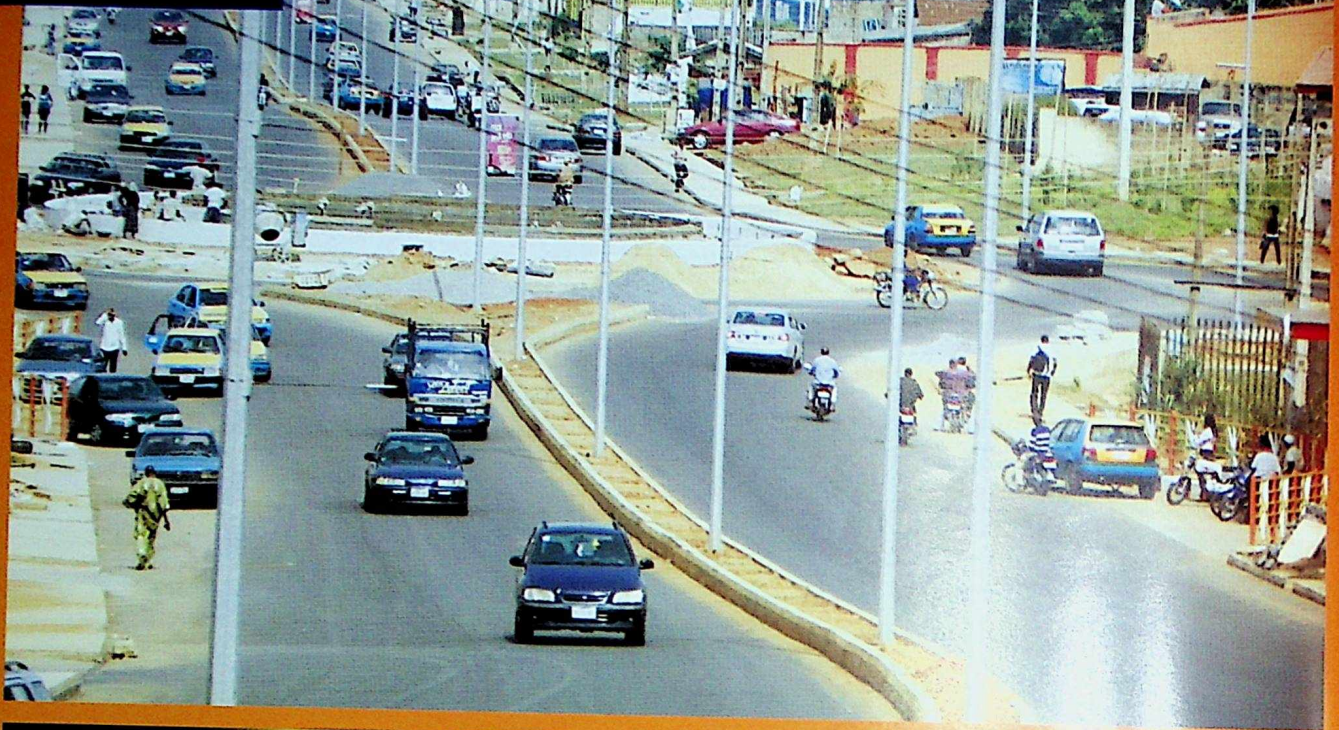
Road-Fiwasaye Junction, a stretch of 9.3 kilometres, the government has also rehabilitated the Federal High Court Road (0.2km). Others are Oba-Ile Estate Road (2.334km); Shagari-Irese Road (7.00km); Mokin Road, Ilaramokin (5.592km); Alhaji B. Ali Street, Idanre (0.700km); MTD-Skye Bank, Idanre (2.800km); FUTA to Aule 1.2km; rehabilitation and asphaltting of Isinkan-Ondo Road (4.15km); ongoing works at Akure Phase 111(5.0km); Oda



MIMIKO IS WORKING

BANK OF INDUSTRY





reconstruction of Olisaro/Pow-erline-Sholagbade Street-Shile/Surpureoji Aliu Street, Akure and the beautification of the lands ad-joining Fiwasaye Girls Grammar Schools, Ilesha/Owo Highway Junc-tion and the Mini park, opposite Bishop's Court, Alagbaka, Akure.

street, Ondo; Akinromade Street, Ondo; Molasuru Street, Ondo, Sabo Road, Ondo; Oluwabamise Street, New Town; Oker Onuwa Street, off Odosida; Orunbato Street, off Oke Ajadi; Ogbonlowo Street, off Odojomu; Osupalasi Street, off Odojomu; Loyinmi Street, off Odo-jomu; Legiri Street, off Odojomu; Segede New Prison yard Link, Le-giri; Oke Agunla, off Oke Ayadi; Roads 12/14, Fagun; Kogbona, off Odojomu; Lijofi Street, Odojomu, Mofere market Road, Ondo, am-ong others.

Also in this same senatorial dis-trict, government has constructed roads in Gboluji Grammar School, Ile-Oluji, reconstruction of culvert

at Mofere, along Alog Road, Ile-Oluji; new Era (High School Road; Ayeyemi Okerowo, Araromi 1, Ara-romi 2, Irewumi, Omolere Street, Temiwoluwa and the rehabilita-tion/reconstruction of Ajue loop Road, via Odigbo.

In the Northern Senatorial zone comprising the Akoko axis and the Owo/Ose axis, the Mimiko admin-istration is performing wonders in terms of road construction and re-habilitation. For example in Owo area, work is either completed or on-going on roads like Olagbegi Street, GRA, Owo, Iregun Street, Owo; Oludasa Street, Owo; Owa-towose; Otutu Street, Owo; Oke Dogbon/Rainbow, Owo; Bishop's Court, Owo; St. Catherine General Hospital Road, Owo; Idashe Street, Owo; Adeloje Street, Owo; Ajaaka Street, Owo; Upenmen-Ikare Road; Obanigba Street, Ifon, and market

Road, Ifon.

In the Akoko area, work is on-going or completed on roads including the Akunga Township Road; Hospital Road, Oba-Akoko; Epinmi-Ipe-Isua Road; Asphalt overlay of Oka Township Roads; roads inside Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba; Akungba-Oka-Epinmi-Isua roads, totalling 20 kilometres, and the Akungba-Ikare Road; Ikare-Ajowa Ondo State boundary; rehabilitation of Ikare-Ugbe-ise Akoko Road and the rehabilitation of Akungba-Ikare-Arigidi-Ugbe Junction Road.

In the Southern Senatorial Districts, many road projects have also been completed while some are nearing completion. These include the asphalt overlay in Oke-Opa Obonde, a length of 7.5 kilometres, and asphalt overlay on the Ilutitun-Omotosho Road (10.0 kilometres).

Government also rehabilitated and asphalted the Irele Township main Road, and the rehabilitation and asphalt overlay of Ajagbalyansan Road, a stretch of 27.55 kilometres.

Other road projects by the government in Okitipupa area include the rehabilitation of Faboye Street, Igbodigbo Street, Ifedun Street, Ogungbemi Street, Kalejaiye Street, and Ona Opemipo Street Roads were also done at Ona Araromi Obu and Oniparaga.

It is note-worthy that most of these roads being constructed and rehabilitated by the Mimiko administration especially those in urban areas, come with streetlight, lovely medians and beautiful walkways

Educational Reforms

There is no doubt that education is vitally important to human capital development and socio-economic transformation of the society. This may have informed the vision of the Mimiko-led government to provide free and qualitative education to the citizenry and make same occupy a centre stage in his people-oriented Caring Heart



agenda.

In the educational sector therefore, Governor Mimiko has taken giant strides over the last three years in the re-engineering of inherited and largely dysfunctional school system, the impact of which has been a significant improvement in the quality of education.

Government's strategy has been to lay premium emphasis on improvement of instructional quality of education through a programme of continuous retraining and reassessment of teachers in an educationally-friendly environment that will give children of the less privileged equal opportunities at quality education.

Part of the strategy was for government to embark on massive renovation of existing but completely dilapidated school infrastructures, while primary education was re-conceptualized such that there is a migration from ramshackle classrooms with leaking roofs to world-class model mega primary schools.

The primary schools are not only mega by name, they can actually boast of world-class infrastruc-



tures and state-of-the-art equipment. According to government sources, these Mega Schools at various stages of completion, are not intended to be an elitist school, rather the major beneficiaries are the children of the masses who are the main focus of the Mimiko administration. By this initiative, the intention of government was to create a new identity and a new orientation for public schools, a practical example of a complete departure from the old ways.

MIMIKO IS WORKING



RETURN OF GREATNESS



The Mega Primary Schools which are currently being built in Akure and other towns in the first phase were therefore designed and conceptualized to bring qualitative education to the doorsteps of pupils of different parental backgrounds. The children of a mechanic and that of a commissioner or bank executive would have equal access to standard, free and qualitative education right from foundation. This is what Mimiko is putting in place to safeguard the future of Ondo state since these pupils are the future and leaders of tomorrow.

This was even better articulated by the governor himself when he said that he was pursuing the realization of the future, 'where the children of all social classes will sit together in one class and be exposed to the best form of education comparable to the best in the world, these mega schools despite their cost and the high quality of personnel will be completely tuition-free'.

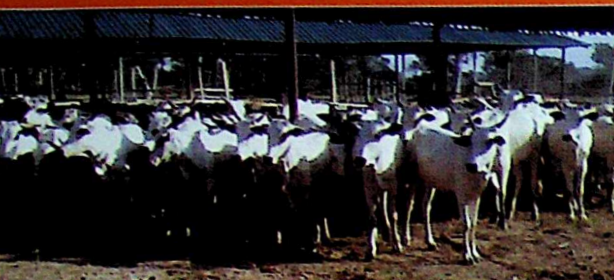
The Caring Heart Mega Schools initiative has been roundly applauded by members of the Nigerian Academy

of Letters. It constitutes together with the newly introduced Quality Education Assurance Agency (Qeaa) which was intended to rescue the school system from a total collapse and refocus the education sector for qualitative and sustainable service delivery, the holistic platform on which rests government's effort at retooling primary and secondary education.

Agriculture and Food Security

Given the Governor's inextinguishable thirst of making the best choices on behalf of the majority of the people that will make life more meaningful and banish poverty from the land, it was not surprising that government made agriculture a top priority of its Caring Heart Agenda and immediately put in place a policy thrust that would promote accelerated development of agriculture to ensure food security and to efficiently harness the





agricultural resources of the state.

To this end the government embarked on a number of laudable agricultural reforms on assumption of office. Apart from heavily investing in mechanised farming, instituting and facilitating training of farmers at home and abroad, administering forest regeneration and other farm projects, granting cooperative loans to farmers, the state government established Agricultural Villages for the purpose of creating employment through agro-allied ventures.

The scheme which has three centres in Ore, Auga-Akoko and Epe has facilitated employment of over 2000 graduates to work at the farm out of the 10,000 that the project is expected to provide employment for in the first phase of the scheme.

Conclusion

On the whole, Governor Olusegun Mimiko has matched his campaign promises with actions, while fidelity to his 12-point agenda not only in the erection of physical structures, but in the espoused values of sensitivity and empathy for the people especially the down-trodden.

In his own words, Gov. Mimiko said, "our efforts are yielding results and the administration is being recognised for pioneer strides in different aspects of governance and I am boasting in the Lord on behalf of my team that our best days are still coming. This administration will live up to the great expectation of the mutually binding contract between you the people, and us the government. Though we may take increased devotion to the task of governance from the se-

rial recognitions and awards given to us for the emplacement of impactful policies and programmes, we believe that only the approval from you the people, serves as the rational justification of our sacred mandate. With that in mind and by the Grace of God, we shall not disappoint you, because we are on course."





ONDO STATE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE COMMISSION



Salutes

An achiever @ Children's Day

The chairman, Alhaji Sadiq Obanoyen mnia on behalf of the Management, the Staff of the Commission and the entire workers in the Local Government Service of Ondo State salute the Lover of Children, **Dr Olusegun Mimiko** the Governor of Ondo State, the government and the entire great people of our Sunshine State on the historic occasion of the celebration of this year's Children's Day.

The occasion is worthy of celebration for the giant strides that have been taken by the present administration through its Caring Heart Programme, which have turned the state to a place of pride, bringing the dividends of democracy to all.

Congratulations!

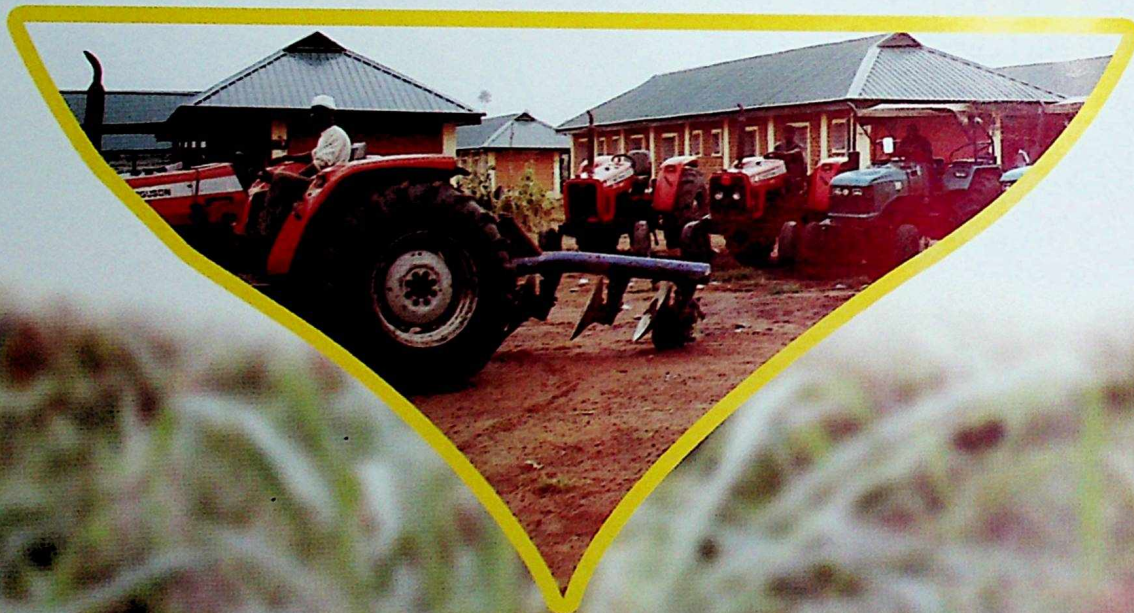
Signed
Pastor (Mrs) Christianah Odunayo Ketiku
Administrative Secretary



Alhaji Sadiq Obanoyen mnia
Chairman

A government driven by "A CARING HEART"

Agriculture



people, we have always been known for our agricultural
ness. That's why we are encouraging over 1500 graduates
have discovered the huge economic opportunity that
ng presents. They are already building entrepreneurial and
isational capacity through the Agricultural City Initiative.
people are indeed inspired and equipped to do their life's work in
ACE OF PRIDE.



Ensuring fertile futures in LGAs.

Ondo STATE
ISE LOOGUN ISE

ASIBEE
MA LO BEE

A TRAILBLAZER IN DEMOCRACY



DR. OLUSEGUN ABAYOMI MIMIKO, we salute you, Mr. Governor, for your candour, resoluteness, doggedness and frugality in delivering the dividends of democracy to the good people of Ondo State.

With your tremendous achievement in the housing sector and numerous achievements in every other sector, you have set unbeatable benchmark in governance in Nigeria. This is worthy of recognition and emulation by all.

IROKO! May you continue to enjoy the support and mercy of the Almighty God to continue the good works you have started, particularly in Ondo State and our great country, Nigeria.

Signed

BOARD & MANAGEMENT
ONDO STATE DEVELOPMENT & PROPERTY CORP.



Engr. Dele Awosika
Chairman, Ondo State Development
& Property Corp.

Our women have never had it this good

Hon. Yinka Alabi, Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Ondo State, shines light on Mimiko government's women empowerment programmes and other issues .

Tunde Animasaun

How has this administration been able to realize the yearnings of women in the state?

Governor Olusegun Mimiko has always said that the best way to empower the family is to empower the woman because it is women that take care of the family. With this strong belief and having witnessed the strong entrepreneurial spirit of our women who, despite all odds would start a petty business with as little as N5,000 and from there feed their families, the governor on assumption of office set out to better the lot of women in the state. What we used to have was a disconnect between women and government. Before now, our women were in pitiable conditions and nobody addressed the issue. So when this government came on board, the first thing his Excellency, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko did was to address the way women do their business. In those days, women were trading under terrible and harsh conditions. They trade in the sun, in the rain and on the streets exposing themselves to all forms of danger. They were open to exploitation and could get killed by a hit and run driver. Today, our market women have modern markets with state of the art facilities including banks. Our markets are about the best you have in the country today. These days, the market women in Ondo State do not wear tattered dresses as they used to do and as you would find

in most other markets. They dress immaculately and put on the best of dresses to their shops because the markets are neat and corporate. Above all, the shops are given out at very affordable rates such that everyone who was on the street can afford it. They also have access to credit to boost their economic activities. Today, our women have been transformed from ordinary street traders to entrepreneurs.

Now, women don't only feel the government, they now own government, they identify with government just as government identifies with them. That link, that connection between people and government that had been severed by long spell of neglect has been restored and our women are the better for it.

In what other areas has the government touched the lives of women?

Before this administration came into power, Ondo State was declared as having the highest cases of maternal and infant mortality. Then, pregnancy was tantamount to a death sentence. This was because of poor and expensive medicare delivery system in the state then. As part of the Caring Heart agenda of this administration therefore, Abiye and Gbebiro were launched.

Abiye is a health package that is fashioned to-



wards ensuring that pregnant women are given first class healthcare attention from conception till delivery and up till the child attains age five. To achieve this, the administration embarked on massive establishment of health centres, well equipped with facilities and personnel. Every registered pregnant woman is given a cell phone at the point of registration and attached to a health ranger for proper monitoring. The health ranger is trained to respond to the call of the woman at any time and readily mobilise ambulance and render other emergency care whenever the pregnant woman gives a distress call. This was followed by the establishment of Mother and Child Hospital which attends to referral cases in maternal and child medicare delivery. Today the Mother and Child is such a success story that women come from the neighbouring states to use the healthcare delivery facility. The most interesting and heart warming part of this is that all these services are free.

This is supported by the Gbebiro programme which our ministry is coordinat-



ing as the mobilization and awareness dissemination arm. What we do is to take government to the women in their communities. We use the Gbebiro programme to inform, educate and make the women-

folk realize the importance of patronizing the health centres. Health talk, vocational training, exhibition and cultural displays are some of the highlights of the Gbebiro programme. The First Lady anchors the



Gbeiro programme. The success recorded has been so tremendous that maternal and infant mortality are now a thing of the past in Ondo state. We have moved from being the state with the highest to one of the states with the lowest maternal mortality rate in the country. In fact, the World Bank has made Ondo state the model for healthcare delivery and intervention for Africa. To the women of Ondo state, Mimiko is a God sent messiah.

Access to soft loans

A staunch believer in women empowerment, governor Mimiko has said in several fora that when you empower a man, you have only empowered an individual but when you empower a woman, you have empowered, at least, a family. He encouraged women to form cooperatives so that they can access soft loans to boost their economic activities. To this end, the government has put in place a whopping loan that is disbursed by this ministry to the women.

Training

We organize training for women to build their capacity to enhance their socio-economic lives. These include seminars, workshop and train the trainers' programme that the ministry organizes for women. The ministry also embarks on skills acquisition training for women so that they can fend for themselves. The skills on offer include, Adire making, chalk making, soap making, wick making, confectionery skills, pop corn making, bead making among others. After the training, the ministry empowers them with the tools or machines needed to take off. This has greatly helped in lifting our women from the depth of poverty to being gainfully engaged.

Gender balancing

This administration has been very good to women in this respect. This government has given women the greatest number of political appointments in the state. We have two women as state commissioners; there are three in the house of assembly as opposed to the customary

'only woman'. We also have three as board chairperson. This is apart from several women that are serving as special assistants and as board members in agencies and parastatals of the state. It is also noteworthy that with the recent appointment of permanent secretaries and tutor generals, seven women were part of the new appointees thereby making that cadre dominated by women. So this administration has been very good to the womenfolk.

How easy is your job as the liaison between government and the women of the state?

The governor has made it very easy for me by delivering on his electioneering promises to the people, especially the women. The women have come out in their numbers to say, Mr. Governor, you have done very well for us'. The Iyalajes and Iyalojas, even Babalajes and Babalojas in the state have all been full of praises for the turn around in the commercial activities in the state. Because of the evident positive changes that this administration

mega schools, Abiye, Mother and Child hospital etc. have impacted the lives of the families and women in particular, because government has made life more meaningful to the generality of Ondo State citizens, everybody, especially the women are ready to obey, follow and route for the continuation of the good works of this administration. Go into the streets, talk to the market women who now trade in the modern markets built by this government, the housewives who benefitted from Abiye and Mother and Child free healthcare services and the mothers whose children attend the mega schools and also enjoy free medical services; talk to the pensioners among them whose old age worries has been turned to joy with the payment of their pensions that have been outstanding for long and hear what they say. In fact, 'maa joba lo oluwa...' has become the new anthem in the state.

Apart from women advocacy, what else do you do?

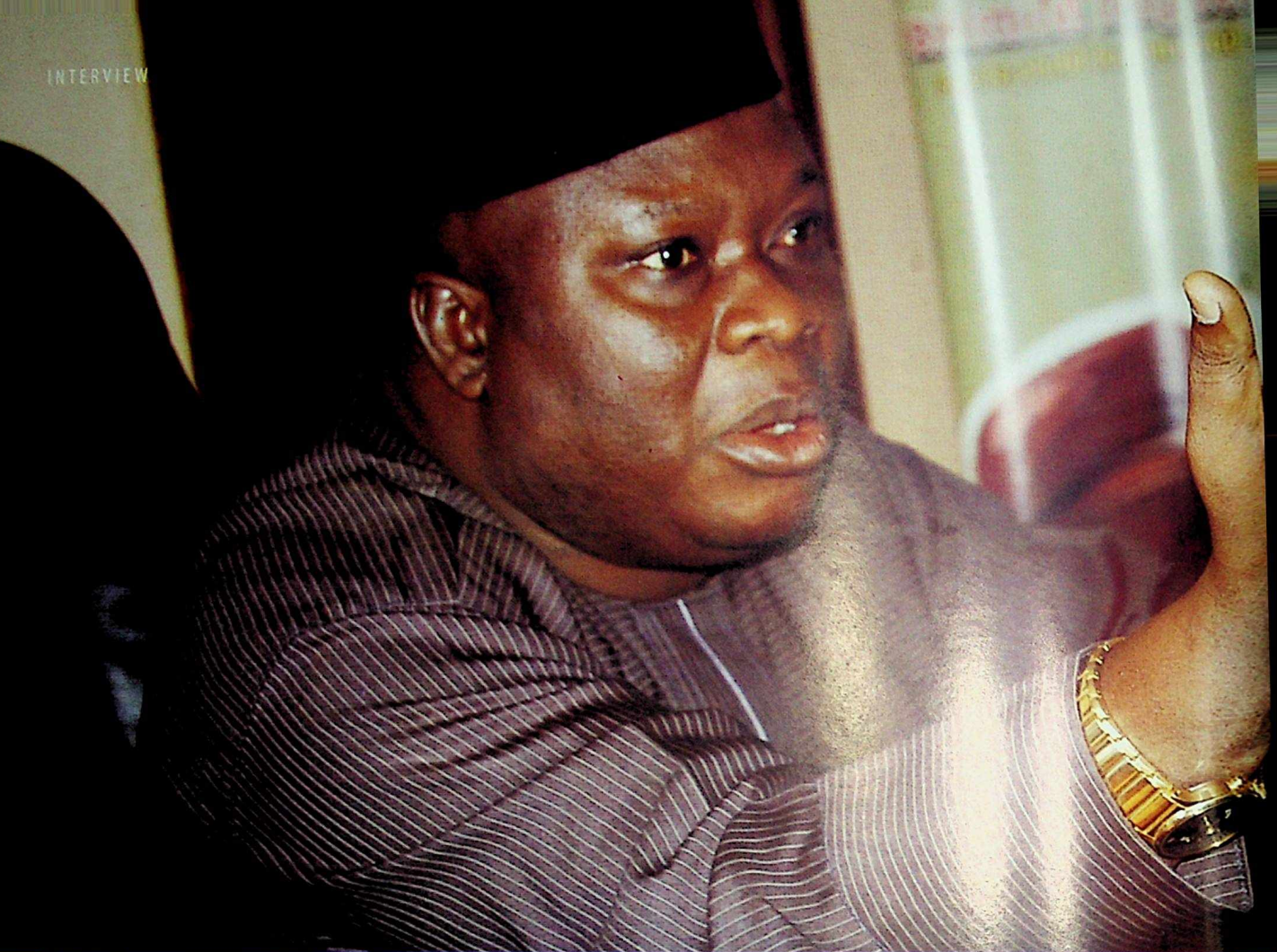
This ministry is the minister for Women Affairs and Social Development. We have the social development aspect and through this ministry, the government has been discharging its social responsibilities to the people of the state. We have the children department that deals with orphans and vulnerable children. In this respect, we have a Home that the ministry is managing to cater for these children.

We also have the elderly care department that is responsible for catering for the peculiar needs of the elderly in our society. Already, the government has put in place a social security programme for the elderly where on monthly basis, the aged receive stipends for their upkeep. Last year, some of them were honoured for their distinguished service to the state and humanity.

In the area of religion, we have NAREC which is a body that brings the two main religions in the country together so that we can have peaceful coexistence and a strife free society. Through this body, prayers have been offered for the state, advice and counsels given on how to ensure peace.

We also take care of the physically challenged in the state. In fact, recently, the governor signed into law, a bill establishing an agency for the physically challenged so that more attention could be paid to these





WE DEVELOP OUR COMMUNITIES, EMPOWER OUR PEOPLE

In this interview, Engineer Clement Olasehinde Faboyede, Honourable Commissioner for Community Development and Cooperative Services, Ondo State, gives an exposition of the ministry's activities as the fulcrum of the Mimiko's Caring Heart Agenda

Tunde Animasaun presents the excerpts.

How has the ministry contributed to the success of this government?

Grossly! Mr. Governor has delivered on his electioneering campaign by establishing this ministry because the ministry is a vessel of social integration and rapid transformation; a vessel for delivering the dividends of

democracy with a good speed of delivery in our communities. This is the first time the ministry will be created since the establishment of the state some 36 years ago. We have been to 545 communities in the state; communities that were hitherto neglected by past governments and have never witnessed any government attention. About 103 of these communities asked for health centres, that is, bringing health facilities to them. In areas like Ilaje Local Government which is along the coastline, there are arrays of communities that have no access to health facility at all. Communities like Molute which is about three and a half hours travel on speedboat from Odo Nla. They had no access to health facility. When I got there with the community change agents, they requested for Basic Health Centre. At Ilupete, Idi Ogba, Motoro and Agerige where we stopped over, Basic Health Facility was their common request. Now we have succeeded in bringing them democratic dividends with good speed of delivery.

Apart from health centres, we are developing more than 65 town halls, over 20 of which were started and abandoned by the communities. Some of these communities started the halls over 35 years ago. For instance, Idegbe town hall in Okitipupa Local



give them a cottage industry.

In our visits to the communities, some of them asked for portable water, for instance kajola community in Okegbo Local Government. Over 3000 people live in that community. Urinary schistosomiasis is prevalent there because they drink from a brook where they wash their clothes and take their bath. When we got there, they said, 'water is our problem'. So we gave them solar powered borehole with six points of reticulation. When we went back to assess, we found out that the pressure on the borehole was too much. They don't even observe the built up time for the solar energy to be converted to electric energy to pump the water. So the governor said we should add another solar powered borehole for them. Now with two solar powered boreholes and twelve points or reticulation, urinary schistosomiasis is a thing of the past. Also in Ago Alaye, a community where all earlier efforts to sink a borehole had failed, with the help of God, we succeeded in giving them a borehole. We have an array of mono pumps scattered all over the state. We have also sunk boreholes in all our health centres so as to maintain proper hygiene. As we are equipping those health centres with state of the art equipment, we are also giving them boreholes and reticulating them. So far, we have more than 55 outings on water, only two failed. The two were for Igbogun community. We later discovered that the underground strata there are a bit unstable. So as the borehole is drawing, the water is covered

by some shiny clayish particles. At Idogun community in Irele Local Government, we had a very interesting experience. When they said they needed water, because we knew it was a bitumen rich community, we were very cautious. We awarded the job to Bolton Construction Company who are experts at borehole drilling. They were in that community for over a month. They drilled nothing less than 10 holes, it was all bitumen. The mineral was gushing out like water in all the holes they dug. It was recently that we succeeded there. We didn't go there again with big drilling machine, rather, we went with hand drill and we succeeded. Now they have two mono pumps that bring out clean water. Our workers are on the way now to do the pump testing.

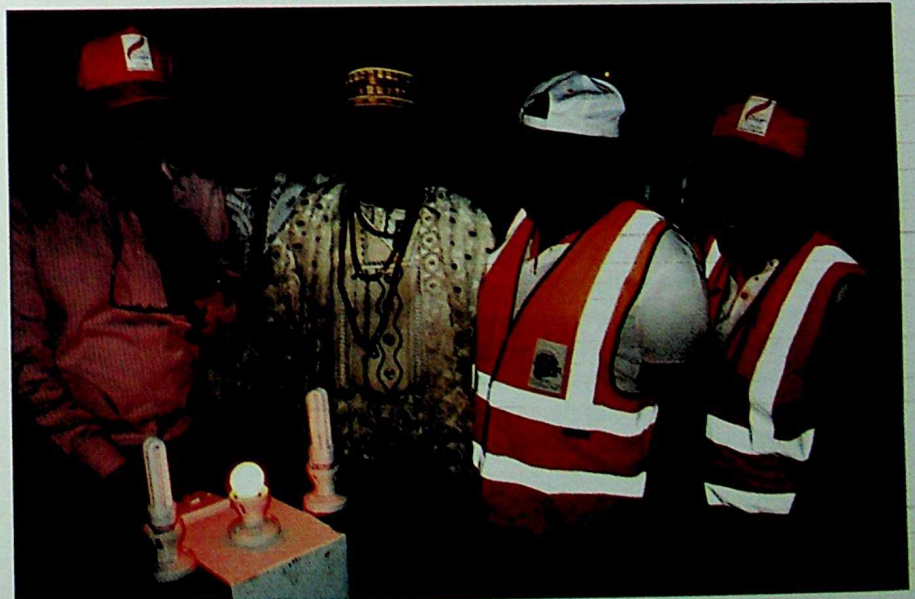
On feeder roads, some of our roads are so bad that our people cannot use vehicles to bring their farm produce to the market. Oba Sooto farm Road in Owo Local Government is for instance. There is a big culvert there that has been damaged. So people could not cross to the other side even with motorcycle. We have constructed the culvert now and the people there now have free access to and from their farms. Others are Gbogi farm Road in Irele Local Government, Igboba/Ojumu farm Road in Idanre Local Government, Onijankara farm Road and Olorunda farm Road both in Ifedore Local Government.

In all, we have over 345 projects that are at the instance of the people. Out of these, 300 have been awarded and I can assure you that 280 of these have been

government was started 40 years ago and abandoned at the roofing stage. When we got there, the walls were already weak. Other areas are Uso town hall, Ise town hall, Ikun town hall etc.

We also delved into rural electrification of Ayetoro Ile in Oba community, Akure North; we installed for them a 300kva transformer that is now connected to the national grid. At FUTA North Gate, we installed and connected a 500 kva transformer. Other electrification projects include, Arantusi, very close to the Mother and Child Hospital, 500kva, on going, Jegele community, 500kva, ongoing, Amese Abese, behind Olu foam, 500 kva connected to the national grid and several others. As I am speaking with you now, work is going on at Italowo in Ondo west where we are installing a 500kva transformer. In all, we have about 30 projects on electrification.

We are also providing cottage industries for some of the communities. For instance, we have one at Ilale in Owo Local Government. It happened that when Mr. Governor was coming back from commissioning a project, he saw some women processing cassava in the scorching sun. He made a stop over there. He praised the women for their industry and decided to



completed and in good use. With these, we have been able to inculcate the spirit of participatory governance in the people of Ondo State. We are building the confidence and trust of the people in government and we are happy at the feedback we get.

We have now advanced to the stage where communities take up a project and we match them with the funds needed for completion. This is to inculcate the spirit of self help in the people of the state.

Why concentrate on small community projects?

This is what the opposition will always say. But the question I will ask them is, 'where were those small projects four, five years ago. Government in government out and with the billions of money available to previous governments, where are those small projects? Do you call projects dictated and prioritized by the people themselves small? We are not surprised at their attitude because they don't believe in people-based governance. It is not the magnitude that matters, it is the impact! The eye is small, but it is the light and compass of the body. For instance, when we got to Agbadu community, the bitumen city, they had no access to Basic Health Facility and the whole community voted for health centre. Under two months, it was constructed for them, fully equipped. Today the health centre has recorded over 65 deliveries within one year. Do you want to say that the health centre that has delivered over 65 sons and daughters of Agbadu community is small? Another instance, a pregnant woman was travelling to the eastern part of the country; she went into labour around Oniparaga community. She was taken to the Basic Health Centre there and the woman delivered twins. To this woman and her relatives, is that project small? Do they mean that the 500kva that we provided for Abese community which they have to constitute themselves to vigilante groups to watch and safeguard before it was energized small to those people? For two weeks, the people kept vigil over the transformer to prevent theft or vandalism. Today, the welders, the electricians, the electronics and hair dressers in that community can work.

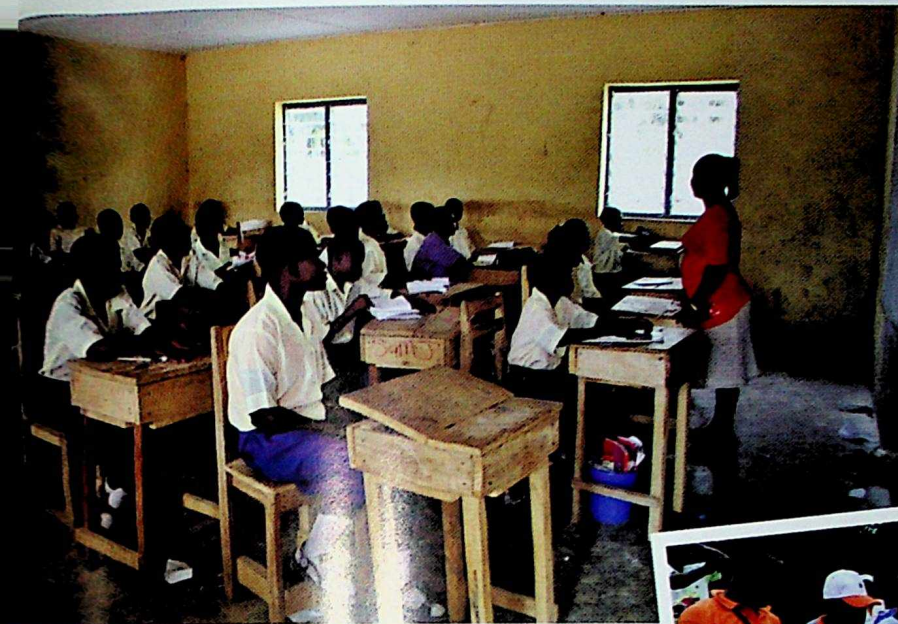


How can anybody, for whatever reason call these small? In terms of impact, utility and life saving, these projects cannot in any way be regarded as small. They don't know and they must say something just to criticize. As Yoruba, we are told by our elders that 'ohun to ban dun ni o kere' (whatever ails a person is not trivial).

What has the ministry achieved in terms of cooperative services?

The governor, in incorporating cooperative services to the ministry said he wanted to transform the living standard of the people in the communities by providing credit windows to banish poverty in our communities. We register cooperative societies and recommend them to Ondo State Micro Credit Agency. The governor

started with N50million where the Iyalajes and Iyalojas were the targeted beneficiaries at the 100 days in office ceremony. Following that, he approved N77million for production cooperative societies. Thereafter the government provided N240million for artisanship cooperative societies. As Currently, the government is partnering the Bank of Industry, Bol, to make N2billion naira available in the Ministry of Commerce for small and medium scale industries in the state. Out of this, N500million has been disbursed. For agro allied industries, the sum of N1billion naira is in the ministry of agriculture out of which over N500million has also been disbursed few weeks ago, the neighbourhood market in my community of Igbaraoke was commissioned by Mr. Governor. Over



the spirit of self help and sustainability. So in this phase, we tell the communities to take up one of the earlier suggested projects, start the project through self help and government will back it up with funds. There are communities that have taken N7million. For instance, Ijare community started a hall project for their secondary school. They took N7million and the building is completed now. For Jenro school hall at Ibule, the community also took N7.2million and the building is completed now. Culvert for Onijaka feeder road is also completed.

N6million naira credit window was approved for the market women there and I supported Mr. Governor with N1.5million. This is what we do in Labour Party, this is what we do in Ondo state.

To ensure proper monitoring and auditing, we have a cooperative department that is effectively staffed. We have cooperative auditors who visit the cooperative societies unannounced and check all their books; look at their contributory attitude and attendance at meetings and on the basis of their report, we recommend.

In this year's budget, there is provision for N200million as credit window for consumer cooperative societies in the state. This will be disbursed next month. So we are combining cooperatives with community development. As we are developing the communities, we are also developing people so that we have a complete and integrated metamorphosis of growth in the state.

Is this ministry new in governance in Nigeria?

No. I am aware there is this ministry in Osun State but they call it Ministry of Local Government and Community Development. There is also in Ogun State where the nomenclature is exactly the same as ours. The difference is that while they concentrate on Community Development Associations, CDAs and Street Associations, we focus on real development in the communities based on the 3i's philosophy

and the bottom-up approach. When Chief Olagunsoye Oyinlola was still the governor of Osun state, I travelled to Osogbo and met my counterpart commissioner in the ministry of Local Government and Community Development who was a professor. We exchanged ideas and I told him that we have embarked on about 250 community projects in not more than one year. He couldn't believe it. He said they had been on 60 projects for the past four years and for that 60, they bought 32 jeeps. Whereas I just got my first jeep two weeks ago, despite the huge number of projects and sites we do.

When will you start the second round of projects?

The second round is on already. You see, our transformation agenda sits on a tripod of 3i's. The first 'I', which deals with the provision of infrastructure is the one where we move out to communities, have a meeting with them where they decide what project they want. The second 'I', is empowering and enriching community institutions. We want to instill in them



Kajola community in Okegbo local government, the community that used to have schistosomiasis, they started the reconstruction of their police station, we gave them N3.9million and the station is completed now. There is a community in Ore where pupils were being taught under coconut tree, they started a project of building classroom blocks, we gave them N3.5million, today, they have completed a block of four classrooms. We plan to give N140million to 30 communities shortly.

The last 'I' stands for industry. We want to establish clusters of industries in our communities where the raw materials will be sourced 90 percent from the local area. Our consultant for this has submitted a comprehensive report recommending the cluster network and the type of industry to be established in each cluster. We have started with three pilot local governments of Ifedore, Odigbo and Owo. Our target is to build nine industries before October.



We thrive on team spirit and due process

By Tunde Animsaun

Chief Mrs. Stella Kosemani Kolawole, Permanent Secretary, Ministry Of Community Development And Cooperative Services reveals the management secret behind the ministry's success.

How have you brought your experience to bear on growing the ministry as the pioneer PS?

It didn't come as too much of a challenge because I have the rare privilege of being a pioneer in most of

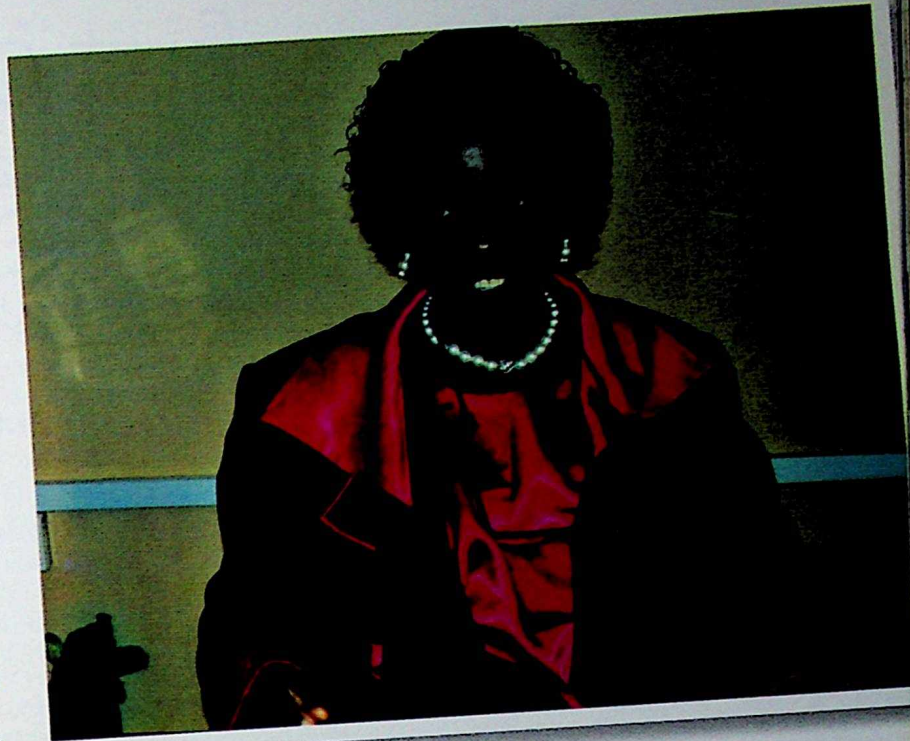
my working life. I was the pioneer officer for UNICEF Assisted Programme in Ondo State. Later I was representing the ministry on UNDP Assisted Programmes. At the Accelerated Poverty Alleviation Agency, now Wealth Creation Agency where I was posted after the UNDP assignment; I was also the pioneer secretary that set up the agency so it was not difficult to set up the new ministry because it was just an enlargement. I must acknowledge the contributions of my honourable commissioner because he was first posted here and the ministry has taken off before I joined him. Being a permanent secretary in a full fledged Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development and for the fact that two major departments, community development and cooperative services departments were removed from

that ministry to form this new ministry, my old staff in the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development just migrated here and metamorphosed into a ministry. We definitely have our challenges because Mr. Governor wanted rural transformation and this ministry was created to achieve that. We have to put many things in place. We travelled to other states and visited our development partners to learn the best and most effective way to achieve our mandate. By the time we came back and my commissioner and I put heads together, it was not difficult for us to actually take off. Also, the experience we have garnered in previous assignment was helpful. My commissioner was a local government chairman so he isn't new to public administration.

The budget and expected deliverables of this ministry is very huge, how have you been able to manage your resources to deliver?

The budget you might say is huge but not as huge as we expected because as at today, we have visited 345 communities and we have projects in 305 communities. These projects are at least 500 different projects in 305 communities. If I tell you that our budget since 2009 is not up to N5billion you will be surprised especially if you look at the quantum and quality of the projects we undertake. But I thank God the management has not been difficult. You know I told you that experience is the best teacher. I was a UNDP monitoring advisor, there I was an administrator, the accountant, the auditor and many things put together by the training I had. So I know how to pre audit before the external auditor comes. This experience has actually helped in the management of the funds. The fact that there is due process for everything, we thank God it has not been too difficult for us to follow the laid down policies and the financial rules and regulations. We had to take all the necessary steps to ensure judicious utilization of resources so that there is no grey area in our expenditure. Once we got over that hurdle, we have been working together like members of a family. We work as a team; the commissioner is the leader of the team. You can see that my directors are here. In this ministry, there is no department that goes it alone. So as one team, we handle our challenges together, proffer solutions and forge ahead.

In this ministry, we are lucky to have the engineering services department. So all our engineers are staff of the ministry. As at today, we have more than 20 of them; quantity surveyors, architects, water engineers, civil engineers, electrical engineers etc. This helps us in project evaluation and execution.



There is bound to be overlap between the activities of the ministry and others, how do you handle this to forestall conflict?

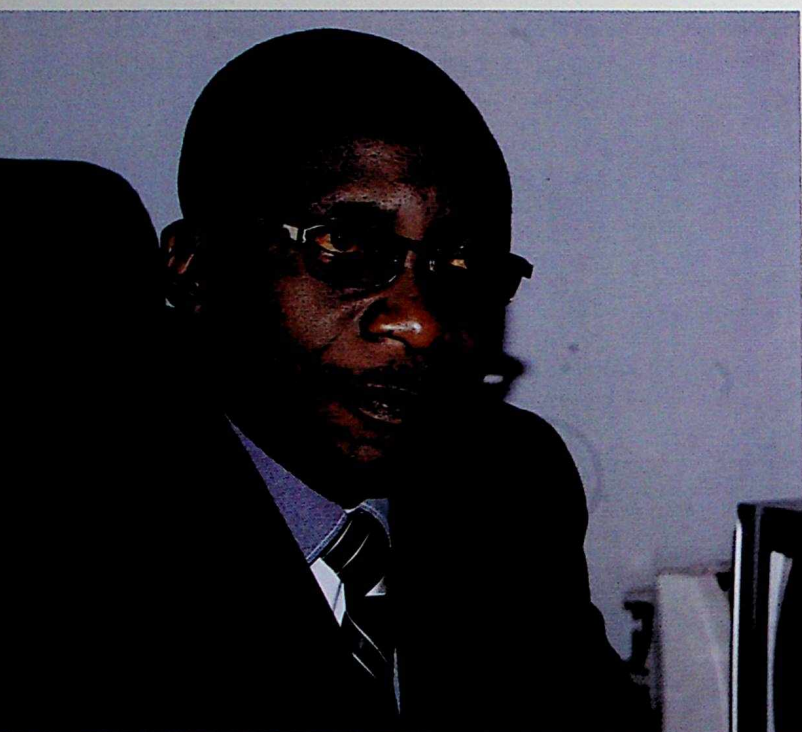
There is healthy cooperation between us and other ministries and agencies of government. For instance, when we built the first set of health centres, Mr. Governor said he was not going to commission them unless they were fully equipped. So my commissioner met with the commissioner for health, who was in the picture all along and both went to the governor. At our level, I met with the permanent secretary in the ministry of health and the primary health coordinator in the local government. At the beginning, we got a list of the equipment and drugs and the ministry of health procured them but the Public Health Coordinator complained that some of the things procured were not needed at the local level and we make use of the suggestions and input of all these stakeholders in whatever we do.

In some communities where the ministry of education rationalized schools, they thought we were the solution to their problem and so wanted us to establish schools for them. We had to explain to them that we have no right to establish schools.

Once we got over that hurdle, we have been working together like members of a family. We work as a team; the commissioner is the leader of the team. You can see that my directors are here.

'Oil was first discovered in Ondo State'

In this interview, Hon Shola Ebiseni, Commissioner for Environment and Mineral Resources speaks on government's vision to make the environment a haven of bliss for its citizenry. Tunde Animasaun presents the excerpts



What informed the transformation of Akure from the sleepy capital to a cosmopolitan city?

The philosophy of the Mimiko administration is to benchmark for Africa in all our developmental endeavours. But we are not satisfied with being the best in Nigeria; we also want to tell the world that the African can do something which will be the pride of the world. At the beginning of this administration, the governor did not leave anybody in doubt that Ondo state; particularly the capital city of Akure will be a city that will be the cynosure of all eyes. This cannot be achieved without looking at the landscape of the state. Our ministry, as you rightly said is central to this in terms of beautification, and landscaping the environment and in terms of evolving a new concept of environmental management, particularly, in relation to urban Renewal efforts of the government. We strive to make the environment fit for his habitation and for the pursuit of his happiness. We see the minis-

try of environment as the coordinator of the other ministries because whatever activity that is carried out by them is within the environment. The philosophy of the Mimiko administration to make Ondo state the cynosure of all eyes is the driving force behind the activities of our ministries

What is the human/economic cost of the urban renewal and beautification projects of the ministry?

There is no human cost because there is no loss of human lives. But there is material sacrifice. This sacrifice is however ameliorated before the commencement of our activities effectively compensated. And in most cases, what we pay as compensation is more than what it will cost you to put the same building today. Even when the building is communally owned or a family house, what individual still takes home is substantial enough to something worthwhile. One of the philosophy, and it is statutory, is that no development is carried out without the Environmental Impact Assessment, EIA. This is to look at the development from the point of view of the collateral damage to the environment or to the well being of the people in the environment. This government more than any other government in the country is people oriented because it is a Labour party government.

We also ensure that it is the displaced women whose details we have acquired that are first resettled in the markets before considering any other people. That takes care of the collateral effects and makes it easy for us to clean the streets and widen the roads. Another point is that the people can now see the government really cares for them and therefore are ready to obey the laws without coercion. You will never see any task force of the streets of Akure beating and exerting force on the people. Even in our regular ecological activities, like clearing drains and chanelisation of water ways, whenever we want to work in a community, we first go and inform the affected community of what we intend to go and why we must do it. We will hold meetings with the neighbourhood in line with the bottom-up approach of this government. You will be amazed to know that during such meetings, it is the people themselves that will

tell their affected kith that, 'iwo naa mo pe ibi too kole si yen, oju ogbara ni' (you too should know that your building is in the course of the channel). The cost to us is our painstaking interface and education of the people.

How do you manage to keep Akure clean in spite of the increase in waste generation?

First and foremost, we took some proactive steps like cutting the sources of indiscriminate waste generation. When women display their wares on the road, you have refuse littering the surround. So when you relocate them from the roads, not only do you reduce the amount of waste generated in that area, you also make the place more easily accessible for the waste managers. Beyond that is the enormous investment of the Mimiko administration in capacity building. First is the procurement of waste managing equipment like compactors, site loaders, street sweepers and all of that. The second thing is to boost the morale of the workers. Today, we are paying the highest minimum wage in the country. So our people have no reason for not giving their best. Also, everybody is aware and willing to stay within the limits of the law. The environmental laws of the state have been revised and reviewed. And we use every available medium, including this one, to sensitize and education our people. We evolved what we call grassroots advocacy in terms of holding regular meetings with landlords and community development associations across the state. Mr. Governor himself is the number one environmental officer of the state. Earlier this year, Mr. Governor led the rest of the state in a road show carrying shovel and rake to demonstrate to the people that everyone has a responsibility to the environment.

The rains are here now, how do you ensure erosion control and proper channelisation of waterways?

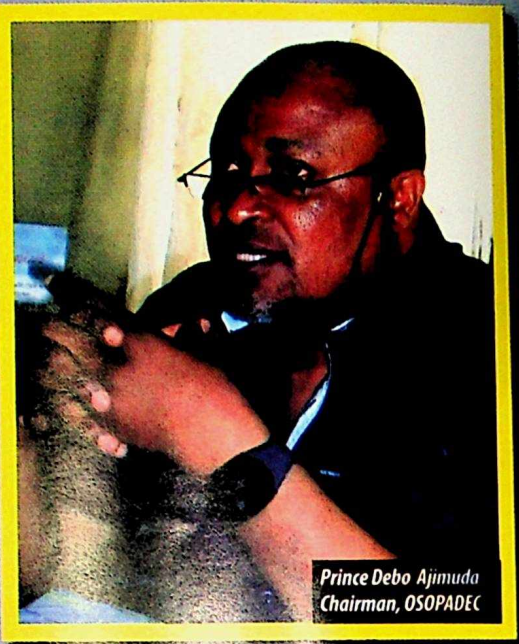
If there is one area in which this administration has been commended, it is in the area of channelisation and erosion control. About four days ago (from the date of the interview), I represented Mr. Governor in Abuja as the recipient of the best governor in the areas of urban renewal, landscaping, transport and erosion control by the national institute for transport and logistics. Ours is one of the states that the National Metrological Agency, NIMET, has predicted to be prone to devastating erosion. We have decided to take proactive step by doing a cadastral survey of the landscape of the state so that from the date generated, we can determine the areas that are more prone to erosion. In addition to that is the early warning signal methodology that we have at Owena Elesin near Akure. It is a process by which through the assistance of federal ministry of environment, we train the local people with a device that involves rain gauge and other weather monitoring technology to be able to predict rainfall and the volume of the rain as well as its impact that could lead to erosion. So we are not just acting arbitrarily. Everything about this administration

is scientific and technological. We also use our amphibious excavator in the swampy and riverine areas. In some areas, we go ahead and concretise the banks and river beds to make the channels long lasting. In addition, in the riverine area, the ministry is also charged with the responsibility of aquatic weed control.

How do you manage oil exploration to avoid environmental degradation?

Ondo state is an oil producing state. You know that in mineral activities generally, the first victim is the environment. In this ministry, as part of our activities, we engage in ensuring peace ensuring peace in the oil producing areas of the state. Today, the Ondo State part of the Niger Delta is indisputably the most peaceful. We hold constant meetings between the people and the oil exploration companies. It may interest you that it was in Ondo State that oil was first discovered in Nigeria. This fact is already confirmed and documented. Ondo state has about one hundred kilometres of shoreline, the longest in Nigeria. Oil as first discovered in Nigeria in 1908 by the Nigerian bitumen corporation at Araromi in the present Ilaje Local Government area of Ondo State. The Nigerian bitumen Corporation was a German company which was sent packing as a result of the world wars, Nigeria being a British Protectorate territory. When exploration resumed after the wars, it came to the hands of the Dutch and the British who resumed in the eastern Niger Delta leading to the discovery and exploitation in commercial quantity at Oloibori in present Bayelsa in 1956/57. The truth is that whereas oil was first exported in Nigeria at Oloibori in 1957, the first evidence of presence of oil in Nigeria was at Araromi in Ondo State in 1908. I dare say that the impetus for further activities that led to the Oloibiri experience in 1957 was provided by the first evidence of 1908.

After the Oloibiri experience of 1957, the Dutch Gulf Oil Company which was the mother of Chevron came to the Ilaje area again in 1959 and oil in large commercial quantity was exported in Ondo State in 1961 onshore by Gulf Oil Company. We have been a major player in the oil industry and the fifth in terms of quantum of production among the nine oil producing states in Nigeria. In this state, among other oil companies, we have Chevron, Agip, Conoil, allied energy, Esso and express. The effect of this is enormous environmental degradation because of the peculiar nature of Ondo State. The fragility of our coastline creates room for devastating coastal erosion. This is even more affected by channels that the oil companies have to create between the Atlantic and their oil platforms onshore. It is the responsibility of the ministry of environment to ensure that all these are put in check. Beyond the oil activities, we all know that Ondo State has a large deposit of bitumen, the second largest in the world. Though it has not been exploited, the pressure underneath is such that in several parts of the bitumen belt, you have the mineral gushing out effortlessly.



Prince Debo Ajimuda
Chairman, OSOPADEC



OSOPADEC THE BUILDER

Something analogous to the success story of the biblical Nehemiah is playing out in the Ondo State Oil Producing Areas. Nehemiah, the builder, demonstrating the power of the people, moving with purposeful action, fixed the wall of Jerusalem in 52 days in spite of detractors and acerbic opposition.

Having put in place a 7-man Board under the Chairmanship of Prince Debo Ajimuda, the Mimiko Administration, in a short while, has changed the curse of governmental neglect ravaging the area to the undeniable blessing of attention and transformation.

FOCUS

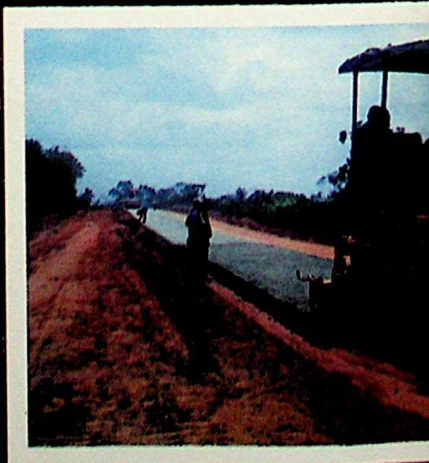
The areas of focus are:

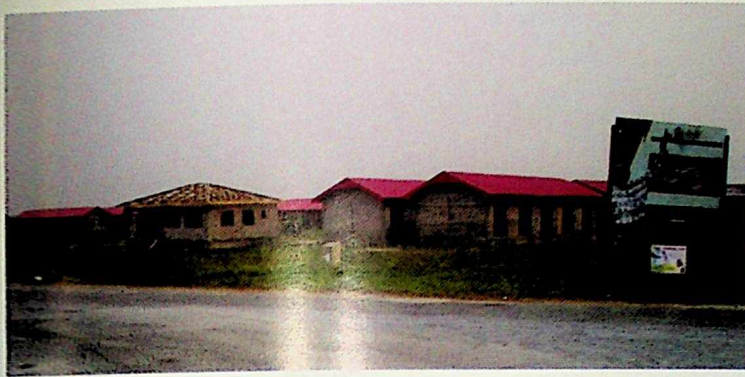
- Extension of national grid and rural

- electrification;
- Provision of infrastructure such as roads, schools and health centres;
- Human capacity building or empowerment;
- New town development;
- Provision of potable water

1 SCORE CARD

A. Electrical Projects worth in excess of three billion naira have either been completed or nearing so. There are rural electrification projects at Araromi –Seaside, Gbabijo, Idiogba, Oke-Ereke and Ajegunle-Enuama. In addition, there are three projects extending the national grid to the area: the national grid extension from Akintubuwa/Alape junction to Araromi-Olokola (Phase 1); extension of





Prince Debo Ajimuda
Chairman, OSAPADEC

national grid from Ugbonla to Igo, and finally the national grid extension from GRA Igbo-koda to Ipinle.

B. Provision of Infrastructure

- (i) Not less than 180 housing units, at different locations, are virtually completed
- (ii) Four health centres: each located at Ayetoro, Akinsolu, Araromi Seaside and Ode-Etikan. (The health centre at Awoye is commencing in due course). Other health facilities being put in place are; Mother and Child Hospital, Ugbo and General Hospital, Agadagba-Obon.
- (iii) Ten Model Schools (either on pile or raft) in the following communities: Molutehin, Igbekebo, Igbo-koda, Ajapa, Igbobini and Mahin other locations are Zion-pepe, Bolowogbo, Orioke-Iwamimo and Ilowo.

(iv) Completion of Executive office building at the Head Office of the Commission, inherited from the previous Administration.

(v) Market infrastructure and youth-centred projects are not left out as Omuro market has been built at Ugbo, while Ugbonla hosts both a sports centre and a Skill Acquisition centre. Capital outlay on Building projects encompassing all the above stands at N4.5 billion.

(vi) Road construction has traditionally taken the biggest chunk in the capital expenditure of this Commission which

manages 40 percent of the 13 percent Oil derivation fund that accrues to the state. The present Administration has initiated some road projects such as Igbo-koda-Ayetoro Road phase 3, the Oropo and Olopo spurs on Igbo-koda-Ayetoro Road phases 1 and 2, and Place/Hospital Road at Igbobini.

INHERITED PROJECTS

The Commission inherited a number of road projects and has continued to work on them. Over nine billion naira (N9 billion) has been spent on inherited road and building projects in the last three years.

The list of the inherited road projects includes the following:

- Ugbonla –Ayetoro Road phase 1 and 2
- Oloto –Igboegunrin Road (5.8km)
- Makun-Atijere –Aboto Road (12km)
- Okitipupa-Ayeka –Araromi Irele Road (10.92km)
- Igbo-koda township Road phases 1 and 2 (9.7km)
- Inikorogha –Oboro-ojuala –ipoke Road (10.0km)

Capital projects expenditure in the life of this Administration has gone well over fifteen billion naira (N15 billion)

C. EMPOWERMENT

The Commission has undertaken a number of empowerment programmes such as support for the aged, empowerment of the physically challenged, and youth entrepreneurial training, rehabilitation

and some medical assistance in the three years. In the last edition of the Support For the Elderly, 1320 individuals benefited and a sum of N95million was disbursed; 365 physically challenged were empowered with N10million. The youth entrepreneurial training, rehabilitation and empowerment has gulped over N500 million.

The Commission has organized two editions of its Scholarship/Bursary scheme for the students of the oil producing areas in tertiary institutions, under the present dispensation; in all, a sum of N230 million has been disbursed,. Another edition is currently in progress and has reached an advanced stage.

D. New Town Development

ADAGBAKUJA New Town and Unity Village development are being pursued concurrently. It is expected that the 2012 budget implementation will shape up this priority area.

E. Provision of Potable Water

The challenge of providing the oil producing areas with drinkable water is being anchored by the Ministry of Special Duties with the Commission. It is expected that 2012 will record breakthrough achievement in this perennial problem area. The 2012 budget of the Commission is pregnant and is expected to birth dividends for the oil producing areas. A positive transformation will always reward a real commitment.



A place to be

SUNVIEW
HOTEL

Enjoy Hospitality Beyond Satisfaction
@ **SunVIEW**
HOTEL

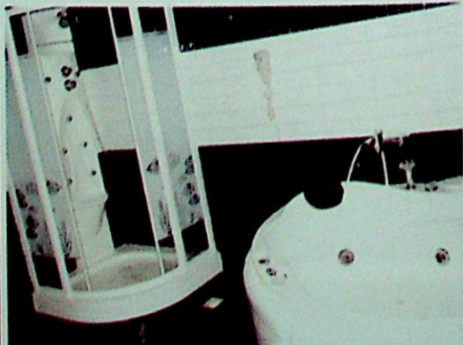


No 8 El-Shaddai Road, Alagbaka GRA Akure, Ondo State.

+234 (8020775670), +234 (8066565462)

E-mail: sunviewhotelakure@yahoo.com

Website: www.sunviewhotel.com



Alhaji Ali Olanusi, Ondo State Deputy Governor, often described as the stabilizing factor in Mimiko's administration bares his mind on the transformation going on in the state

Why do you think this administration has achieved this much of success?

I must say that everything depends on the leader. Governor Mimiko was well prepared for the job. He has a vision. He knew what he wanted to do and where he wanted to take the state. He was able to sell this vision to his team and the people of the state. And since people generally love good things, it was not difficult to buy into the dream.

Also, immediately after the inauguration, God gave him wisdom to do some things that created stability for the government.

First, the governor called those of us who are on salaries to sacrifice for the administration to thrive. He said he was going to cut salaries by 25%, this he said will now be used to accommodate more party members in the government. The 25 percent cut was designed to create more appointments for the teeming supporters of the party. That was the first thing that God helped him to do. Instead of 5 or 10 special assistant, you have many within the rank and file.

Mimiko has the preparation and charisma to lead



Since three years that we have been saddled with the responsibility of governing this state, we have been very steadfast and consistent. That is why you don't see people decamping. I was chairman of PDP for good six years. I knew what happened after the first year in office, people have started throwing at us pure water sachet because of non performance. But anywhere I go now with the governor, people will be cheering us. I don't know whether you can imagine the difference between throwing pure water sachets and cheering. If he had not done that, you will see people leaving one by one and before you know it, the large following would have dispersed.

Second, during his inauguration, one of the promises he made was that he would work for the people of Ondo State. When he said this, to an average educated people, it seems ordinary. It is later that people are now

reading deep and deeper meaning to that promise. That promise goes a long way that in any gathering he would call us and remind us the number of many administrations that have come and gone. He would now say that if we fail to deliver on the promises we made, they would do to us what they did to previous administration in the state. So it is not going to be business as usual. So everybody in government is always on his toe.

Third, he involves the people in government. This is the first administration in Ondo State that asks the people what they want government to do for them and goes ahead to do same. Using the philosophy of the 3 'I's, the Ministry of Community Development and Cooperative services ensure that every corner and cranny of the state feels the impact of government through execution of self selected projects.

That promise goes a long way that in any gathering he would call us and remind us the number of many administrations that have come and gone. He would now say that if we fail to deliver on the promises we made, they would do to us what they did to previous administration in the state.

What informed the transformation of Akure from the old sleepy town to a modern capital?

Akure which is the state capital before we came in does not have the bearing of a state capital. It was clearly behind the other state capitals that were created at the same time with it. This administration decided that Akure must not only meet its peers, but surpass them and compare with any city worth its name. The major reason other governments did nothing was probably





because they were not ready to compensate. So we worked out the money for compensation and paid the property owners whose properties were affected and today, you can see what Ondo State looks like. Work is still on going on now, by the time we finish with the Akure urban renewal project that is when the beauty of the city will be best appreciated.

Why leave PDP for Labour?

We, here I mean, Dr. Olusegun Agagu, Governor Mimiko and myself had the same vision. We regarded ourselves as visionary leaders. We had this transformation agenda. When Agagu was the governor, I was the party leader. After the election that brought him into power, before God and man, I nominated most of his cabinet members. He opposed two of my nominations and I told him that these two you are opposing will be the eyes and ears of the government. One of them is Ayo Fayekunmi. The second was Dada Bisi Taiwo of blessed memory. I said being an elderly person, you will respect him. When he said he would not be in total control of them I said, that is why it will be good for the party and the people of Ondo State. It took us a year to have a roadmap. That is why in our second year, the people started pelting us with sachet of pre water, saying we have not done anything. So the executive of the party held a meeting where we exchanged notes on our experiences with our people. We wrote a letter based on this to Agagu, signed by all of us. He said what we wrote in the letter was our opinion and that Ondo State would beg him for second term.

I and the secretary had to travel to Abuja to report him to the leader of the party, President Olusegun Obasanjo. Before we could see him, it was 4.00 am the follow-

ing day. We told him the table had turned against the party in our state. We explained that things have come to a point where if we want to have a party function in a place we had to hire the crowd and bring them. The first thing Obasanjo asked was whether we asked for money and we said no. he said he had been hearing reports to that effect. He showed us some documents which he said were sent by the governor. He said we should have another meeting in Otta the following weekend and that he would call the governor, Segun Omilani, Vice Chairman of PDP in the south west and Bode George, Deputy Chairman, south to be in attendance. On that

He therefore advised us to go back meet and address the issues raised and resolve them. When we came back, we met a politically charged situation at the government house and decided to leave and that was how we pulled out of the party to form Labour.

day, Agagu brought six bus loads of people, all political appointees. At the meeting, after listening to both parties, Obasanjo asked Agagu whether we asked him for money which he refused and he said no. Then Obasanjo said he was happy because in most states the cause of differences is always money. He therefore advised us to go back, meet and address the issues raised and resolve them. When we came back, we met a politically charged situation at the government house and decided to leave and that was how

we pulled out of the party to form Labour.

Your role in this government

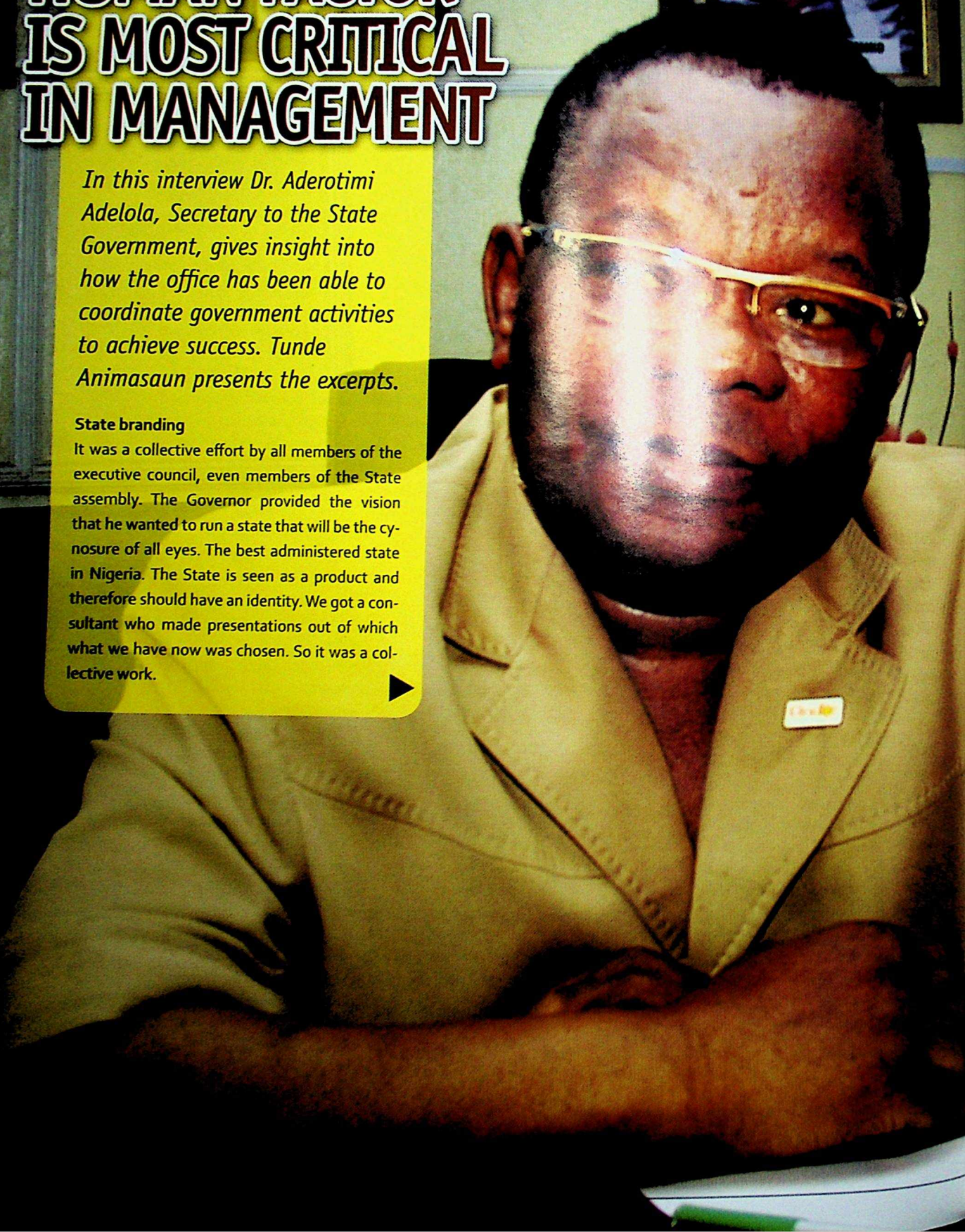
I am the deputy governor. In this state, there is no power play. The governor is the one elected; he is the one who has the mandate of the people. I am happy that I work with a governor who is humble; cool headed and very focused and above all, has the fear of God. I will continue to carry out my assigned duty and advise the governor. Mr. Governor is fond of calling me the stabilizer. I think it is because of my age and experience in politics.

HUMAN FACTOR IS MOST CRITICAL IN MANAGEMENT

In this interview Dr. Aderotimi Adelola, Secretary to the State Government, gives insight into how the office has been able to coordinate government activities to achieve success. Tunde Animasaun presents the excerpts.

State branding

It was a collective effort by all members of the executive council, even members of the State assembly. The Governor provided the vision that he wanted to run a state that will be the cynosure of all eyes. The best administered state in Nigeria. The State is seen as a product and therefore should have an identity. We got a consultant who made presentations out of which what we have now was chosen. So it was a collective work.



As the engine room of this administration, how have you been able to organise government activities to ensure effectiveness?

There are three elements involved in management; you get the right people, the finance and the material. I have found out that the most critical is the human factor. Once you get the human factor right, all others fall in line. When we came in, the first critical thing to do was how to realign the people in a way that we could have feeling of self-worth, belongingness and sense of purpose. What government did was to start the performance oriented management system. When we had our first retreat, it was themed; managing the public interest: performance oriented paradigm. To be able to understand the way we work, you should understand the nature of public service. Public service is such that there is a lot of work done but not necessarily outcome oriented by virtue of the design of the organisation. The rendered services are almost immeasurable. If you are not careful, you will not be able to measure the outcome. So we find out that it is very important to be performance oriented if you must achieve results. We must be specific in our outcomes. The first thing we did was to redesign the ministries. Even those ministries we designed before the governor was sworn in. We must have ministries that are more nimble, not those built like an elephant. We want ministries that will be like a cat, very smart, focus on targets and able to achieve results. So ministries were re designed. The former ministry of works was split into three, regional and urban development, ministry of transport and ministry of works. Community development was carved out of ministry of women affairs and social development to focus only on rural development. There are others like that. Ministry of education was broken into two and ministry of employment and productivity was created. When that was done, government then designed programme for each ministry. Each ministry must have specific objective to achieve. So the objective of each ministry was clear and devoid of ambiguities. Because we have several ministries and clear objectives, it was very easy to align people behind those

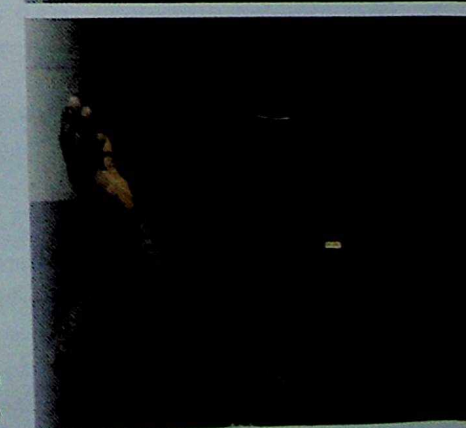
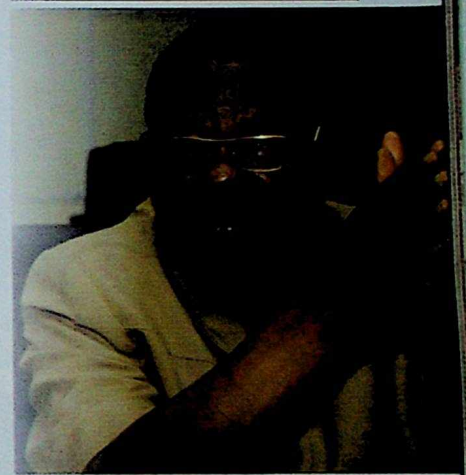
objectives.

Also, in our budgeting, we did a performance focused budgeting. What we did now was to a star project for each ministry. This is a project that must be delivered within that financial year. So we are a star project focused. That was why we were able to deliver results. Ministry of regional and urban development has to focus on urban renewal that is why you see markets springing up all over the place. We are focused on specifics. That was why we re-designed the structure.

Again, one thing we did was to re orientate the civil service. The service is populated by a lot of smart people. They are well educated and experienced. But by orientation, they are not outcome oriented for the simple reason that it is the nature of public service. But if you are working in the private sector, that is 100% outcome focused because you must deliver profit. So there was the need to do a reorientation. What we did was to first embark on a programme of cementing the leaders in the civil service. Before we came in, appointment of permanent secretaries was by political consideration; I like your face, I make you, I don't like your face I leave you to rot. So what we did was to throw it open to anybody who feels he is qualified to come for assessment. And there were a lot of new discoveries. A lot of people could not make it and those who made it became permanent secretaries. We got people that were objectively selected, highly cerebral and ready to key into the vision. What we did next was to take them to Lagos Business School for a five day programme on total quality management which is the parameter of service. We made sure everybody is trained on service delivery, service and performance management. That achieved a lot of result in that now we speak in the same language. Now we have a set of top management that is performance focused than ever before. From there, the idea of Comeserve was conceived to help cascade the new orientation down the ladder.

What is the reason for the massive renovation in the secretariat?

The vision of Mr. Governor is to run a performance driven workforce. If indeed the





workforce must be performance driven, then the work environment must be conducive. When we got here, the environment was very appalling. When I resumed here, the first thing I did was to go round the offices and I was not a bit impressed. There were threadbare rugs, broken down tables and chairs and all of that. You see, people spend most of their time in the office. So if you want to

get the best out of them, the least you could do is to make the environment conducive to work. So the work environment should be comfortable and promote general human dignity. So the governor said go ahead, we'll do the renovation. And that was how we have what you are seeing now.

The major part of the renovation is the roof. If you had seen what we had before, you will agree with me that it was as if there was no roof because the roof was inside so the rains were virtually entering the form works. This led to the rapid deterioration of the buildings that led to the sorry state I described earlier. So what we did was to have a roof design that will serve as protection for the buildings. After this, we now ensure that we give the job to competent contractor.

The other major work is internal renovation which involves painting and tiling the buildings. The paints were specially made for us by Berger Paints and I can assure you that contrary to what skeptics say, the amount expended on the project was reasonable because this government believe in value for money.

The state did promise subsidy removal palliatives when the fuel subsidy debate raged, when should we expect to see its implementation?

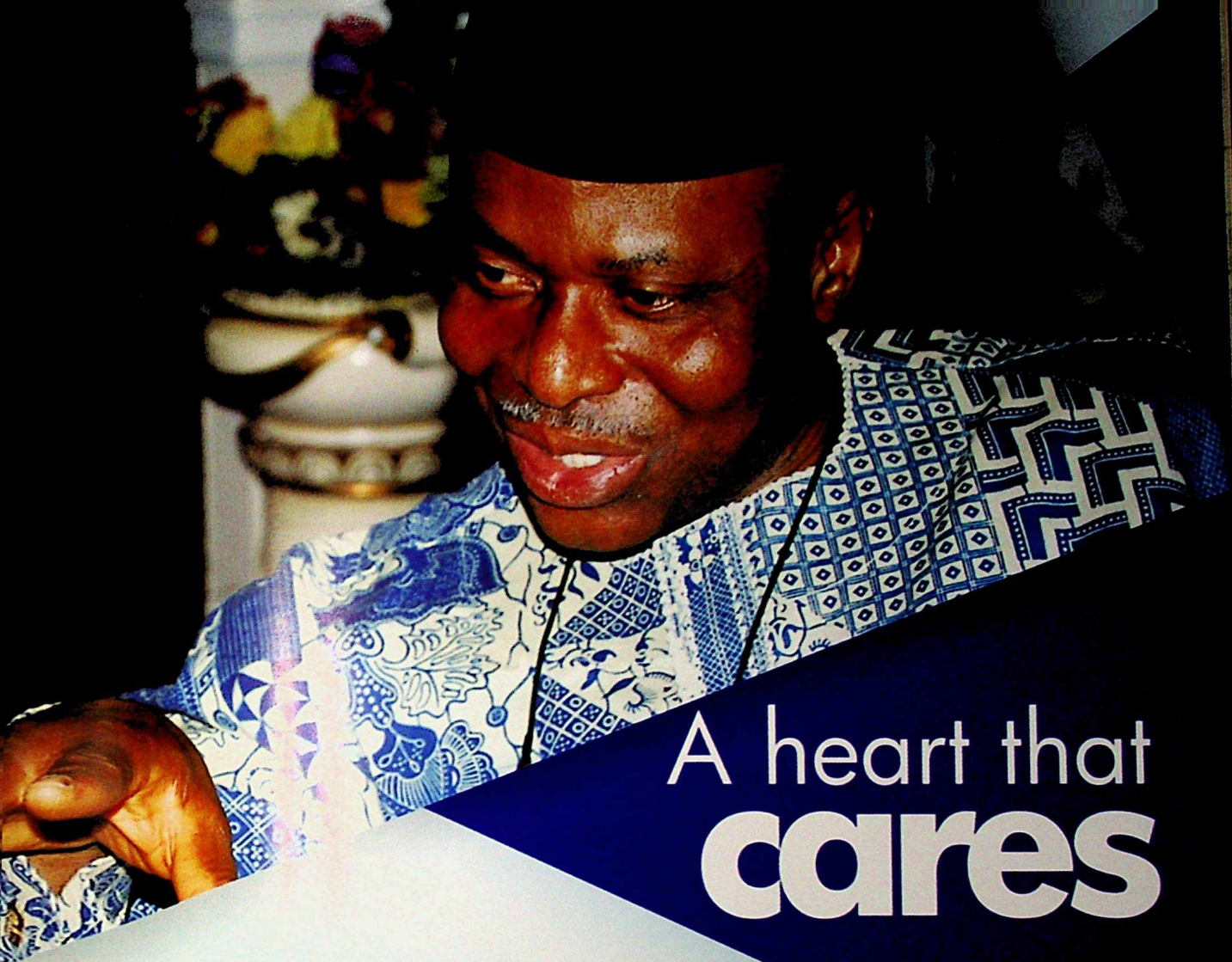
As my Governor will always say, governance is a business of making choices. The choice you make will make a lot of difference in the outcome you get. As a way of moderating the harsh effect of removal of subsidy, government will soon commission about 200 buses. These will be released to the transport workers to moderate the cost of transportation in the state. We believe that transport is a main factor in inflation and high cost of food stuff and other services. We are

also going to flood the market with commodities by so doing; we will be able to moderate the prices of food-stuff. There are also a lot of assistance being given to the artisans in the form of soft loans. So it was a matter of choice. We just chose to make sure we cater for the welfare of the people.

What is the people's response to this government's agenda?

It is very straight forward. You know in this part of the world, there is one basic fact. There is always a gap between the government and the governed to the extent that people don't feel government. Some don't even believe there is government because most times, governments don't perform their roles. All things that are basic are not available. Year in year out, the same level of comfort or discomfort persist. So there is that perpetual disconnect between the government and the governed.

When we came in, we were resolved to break that disconnect. One of the means of achieving this is our community development programme. The success of this is now apparent in the state. The people have come to trust this government. They know that when we say we will do something, we will actually do it. Another thing is the approach to governance. Take our urban renewal programme for example; in other states, when they embark on such programmes, it is always a tale of misery for the people. After all, it is always easy to destroy. In our own case, we took a different approach because we realize that people are on the street not on their own volition but because they have no option. They find themselves on the street because of the circumstances of life. So what we did was to do an enumeration of street traders. We went on the streets, took their pictures, get their details and we kept the record. Then we started building the market. When the market was completed, we ensured that those who were enumerated first to get allocation, thereafter, others could be considered for allocation of stalls in the market. This further cements the bond between us and the people. Look at Abiye programme too. If you are the husband of a pregnant woman, you have been apprehensive of her safety. Then one day she came home and told you she went to the hospital and she was given a phone to call the doctor any time and that she has her own personal doctor attached to her, how will you feel. All our programmes have that same import; bring the people closer to government.



A heart that **cares**

On behalf of the myself and the entire staff of the Ministry of Information, I, Kayode Akinmade heartily felicitate with our outstanding and ever efficient Governor, **His Excellency Dr. Olusegun Mimiko** and the children of Ondo State on this year's Children's Day Celebrations.

Your love for the children and the good people of this State can be seen in the various infrastructure put on ground for them to benefit from.

The Mega Schools, Mother and Child Hospitals, Free Bus Rides to and fro their respective schools and lots more. These are indications of your caring heart to all and sundry.

We pray God keeps you, renews your strength and endows you with more great and unique ideas to make this State the best of places to live in.

Happy Children's Day Celebration!!!



Kayode Akinmade
Commissioner for information Ondo state

WE ENSURE QUALITY EDUCATION DELIVERY

MR. ALE ALFRED OLAJIRE

*THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ONDO STATE QUALITY
EDUCATION ASSURANCE AGENCY*

What is Quality Education Assurance Agency?

Quality Education Assurance Agency is a parastatal of the Ministry of Education saddled with the responsibility of monitoring, assessing and evaluating the quality of education provision, management and learning outcome in institutions below the tertiary level in Ondo state. The organization's structure consists of the Executive Secretary as the administrative head, supported by five departments, namely: Basic Education, Post Basic Education, Planning, Research and statistics, science, technical and vocational education and finance and administration. Also, there are field offices in all the 18 Local Government areas of the state that ensure quality education delivery in both primary and secondary schools.

Can you briefly assess the state of education before the advent of the Labour Party Administration in Ondo State?

The education sector below the tertiary level was in a parlous state before the inception of the present administration. The inspectorate unit of the Ministry of Education had become dysfunctional and ineffective to cope with the challenges of supervision in the twenty-first century. The performance of the students in external examinations such as WASSCE, NECO-SSCE, UTME and other relevant examinations had become abysmal while examinations malpractice was equally rampant. Statistics revealed that candidates who were qualified for admission into the tertiary institutions far below 20% before the inception of the present administration. The present administration on inception was compelled to assess the education sector, and one of the critical areas that were found to have impacted negatively on the overall outcome of learners, particularly in external examinations was the ineffective curriculum delivered by teachers. This has been attributed to ineffective inspectorate system which was still using the practice inherited from the British Colonial administration, low capacity development of teachers and weak institutional management. The present administration





therefore decided to overhaul the education system with the establishment of Quality Education Assurance Agency (Q.Ed) which started formally on 16th September 2010, so as to restore public confidence in education delivery.

How is your organization ensuring quality education delivery in schools?

The main thrust of quality assurance process is to ensure the delivery of high quality education for every child in the institutions below tertiary level. In pursuit of this goal, the Agency uses Whole School Evaluation (WSE) instrument which has three components: School Self Evaluation (SSE), which is to be conducted by the school administrators; External Evaluation which is conducted by professional Evaluators in the agency and the Systematic Evaluation which is to be conducted for the purpose of recognition/accreditation for Senior Secondary Certificate Examinations (SSCE). At present, the agency is much involved in routine monitoring, cluster evaluation and collaborative evaluation with school administrators and representatives of the community. This process enabled the agency to collect, analyze and interpret data/information and give feedback to the school management and other stakeholders, this has been generating positive attitude towards work on the part of school administrators, teachers and improved outcome for learners.

What measure has been put in place by the agency to curtail the habitual roaming of students, when actually they ought to be in class?

The agency believes that the level of students/pupils' academic performance is a function of their commitment to learning; this implies that they must stay in school fully to participate in the teaching and learning process. In meeting this goal, the agency checks student's attendance and participation in curricular and co-curricular activities at every visit to the school, while the teachers are continuously monitored to ensure class attendance and full commitment to the curriculum delivery to keep learners in school.

What is your Agency's relationship with the Ministry of Education, Teaching Service Commission (TESCOM) and the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB)?

The Quality Education Assurance Agency is one of the parastatals of the Ministry of Education, the agency is supervised by the Honourable Commissioner of Education, who serves as the link to the Governor on matters affecting the agency. The TESCOM and SUBEB are key partners in the quality education provision; therefore, there is close collaboration on the improvement of the quality of teachers' capacities, learning infrastructure and environment; this working relationship enables the agency to ensure effective control, accountability, good value and improvement in teaching and learning process and quality outcome for learners.

From your own perspective, how will you rate the present administration, in terms of funding, monitoring, training of personnel and educational development of the state?

The main vision of the present administration is to make Ondo State the best Administered state in Nigeria and the cyposure of all eyes, of which all its citizens shall be proud, where equity, justice and fairness shall be the driving forces of Governmental activities. This philosophy underscores the value being placed on human capital development particularly in the use of ICT to strengthen the capacity and commitment to the work force for excellent service delivery that will meet the need and aspirations of the populace. In keeping faith with the policy of quality education provision and monitoring, the present administration established the QUALITY Education Assurance Agency and equipped it with 145 evaluators, 22 Hilux vans, 22 Motorcycles, Millennium compliant office complex for the headquarters and construction of standard field offices in the 18 Local Government Areas, provision of monitoring vote to the tune of N3m per month, amounting to N36m for year 2011; now reviewed to N 4.5m per month with effect from January 2012 while payment of 15% monitoring allowance and 27.5% professional teacher's allowance to the agency were enjoyed from inception to June 2011. All these incentives are aimed at making the agency the " elitist corps" building integrity for optimal job performance by the evaluators and lifting up the standard of education to a greater height. The present administration has equally demonstrated its unwavering commitment to the provision of Child Friendly School (CFS) and quality education by constructing not less than 20 mega primary schools and renovation of over 240 secondary schools which are geographically spread across the state.

AB and G
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LTD.
3RD FLOOR, TISCO HOUSE,
AKURE.



Dr Olusegun Abayomi Mimiko
Executive Governor, Ondo State.

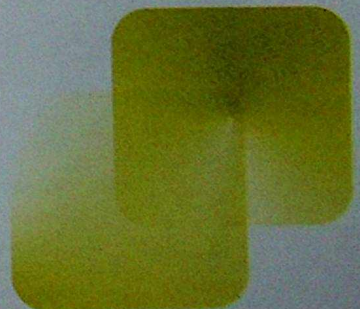
As we celebrate this year's Children's Day, I Mr Soji Bello of AB & G Consults heartily congratulates our dynamic governor and our future leaders on the occasion of Children's Day Celebrations 2012.

I salute His Excellency for the tremendous strides recorded in this State and your esteemed stewardship so far.

I celebrate children of this state who are our hope for tomorrow.

Wishing you all a Happy Celebration.

Signed
Mr Soji Bello
The Chief Executive Officer, AB & G
Construction Company Ltd, 3rd Floor, Tisco House, Akure.



FELICITATIONS! FELICITATIONS!! FELICITATIONS!!!

The Chairman, Board Members, Management and the entire staff of Ondo State Football Agency wish to felicitate with our dynamic and visionary Governor, His Excellency, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko as we celebrate this year's Children Day.

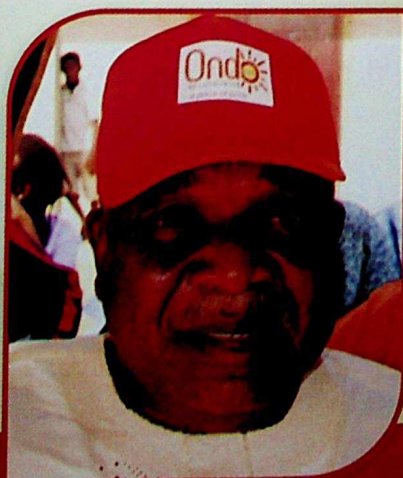
Your Excellency, we are proud to be associated with your purposeful and landmark achievements in the area of sports development to our dear Sunshine State. The performances of the state darling Teams in the Nigeria Premier League especially Sunshine Stars Football Club in the CAF Champions League attest to your passion for sports development.

There is no doubt that you have brought your wealth of experience as a visionary leader to the total transformation of the Sunshine State through the hundred percent success recorded by your "Caring Heart mantra" in all facets of development.

We wish you and the people of the state happy Children's Day and more fruitful years in the service of your fatherland.



Dr. Olusegun Mimiko
Executive Governor of Ondo State



Chief Segun Adagunodo
Chairman, ODSFA, Akure

MIMIKO REPRESENTS HAND OF GOD IN ONDO

The Speaker, Ondo State House of Assembly

Good afternoon Sir, please can we meet you?

Thank you, I am Rt(Hon) Adeshina Samuel, I represent the good people of Otigbo constituency II in the Ondo State House of Assembly and by the grace of God, I am the Speaker of the House.

Thank you Sir, now that the 7th Assembly will be a year old in June, I would like to know the activities of the legislature in the last one year and it is has impacted on the people you represent.

By the special grace of God, we have a very good history election that brought us into the Assembly through the mandate given to us by the good people of Ondo State by the various 26 State Constituencies. I have 26 honorable members of the House, which consist of 25 Labour Party members and 1 PDP member. In the early part of the year, we had very good relationship and the issue on ground, that is all activity that has to do with people of the State and the state in general will be discussed without any political colouration and with deep interest of the people of the State at the back of our mind because we are carrying their mandate and coupled with the philosophy and policy of the State, that we want to work for the people, these we have been doing in the past one year.

Within the House, there is mutual understanding amongst us, there is peace and serious belief in the business of our legislative assignment, that is, law-making andfunctions and representative functions. In the area of law-making, we have dealt with so many bills passed into law that have impacted positively the lives of the people of the State. The bills passed into law and resolutions made on the floor of the assembly which equally gave the government of the day backings to accelerate the production of more physical infrastructural developments to the State will be made public.

In the area offunctions, all standing committees of the House are working perfectly and various Ministries, Parastatals and Agencies have their own supervisory committee to ensure that the provisions made for each of them in the budget are in order and the principles and philosophy of budget and budget-provision according to the accounting standards are followed, all these we did and still doing.

In the area of representative functions, that is representing the people in the government. Where there is acrimony or misunderstanding either in the within the local governments or elsewhere, we intervene. Disputes have been settled without going to court. In the area of providing paliative for the people during emergency cases like the time where some of the villages and towns were ravaged with wild wind and rain storm, we took these cases to the government and the government has been answering by way of providing relief materials to the affected people. All these assignments have been done faithfully conscientiously.

And you know, government or democracy stands on 3 legs, the legislature, executive and the judiciary. We have very good relationship with the executive and this relationship between the executive and the legislature in Ondo State can be said to be one of the best and can be seen through the existence of peace in the State, serious physical development within the State, peace

and good relationship between the workers and the government. All these are products of the good relationship between the executive and the legislature. To the Judiciary, by the grace of God, there is no problem. We are all working hand-in-hand to move the State forward.

Lastly Sir, in view of your activities in the last one year and the forth coming governorship elections, can you speak on behalf of the legislature that the people have confidence in the Governor to return him as governor for the 2nd time?

By the special grace of God, though man proposes but God disposes, the first leg is God accepting, this can be seen that His hand is on Ondo State for good. Since the Governor has leading this State, he started a program called 'divine agenda' where people converge to praise and talk to God, committing the State into God's hands. This has never happened in the history of State.

Looking at all the nooks and crannies in Ondo State, there are monumental developments. We have never had it so good. Going by all these and all what the people are saying, by our loyalty to the people and commitment to serve the people, the Government and even the Governor, we can go home and sleep with our two eyes closed because we know that the people of Ondo State are agitating for Governor Segun Mimiko to come back for 2nd term.

That would be all for now Sir, thank you.





'Never will pregnancy be death sentence in our state'

In this interview, Tunde Animasaun presents Dr. Dayo Adeyanju, Honourable Commissioner for Health, Ondo State as he speaks on the miraculous transformation of Ondo from the state with the worst health indices to the World Bank certified model in health care delivery for Africa

What is the philosophy behind healthcare delivery in the state?

I must let you know that the governor on assumption of office met a grossly underfunded health sector with poor infrastructure and an ill-motivated workforce. All these informed the reform in the health sector. In doing that we have to sit down, brainstorm and come up with strategies that deviate from the norm. You and I know that the disease burden is more in the rural areas while the facilities are always concentrated in the urban centres. Because of the rural urban disparity in the health indices, we had no choice than to look at how else we can improve on our health indices. You know, the major component of health indices that even the UN has mandated that it must be reduced is the maternal and infant mortality which, like I told you, is always in the rural



as because of rural/urban disparity. If we must correct this therefore, we have to go through the primary approach.

We launched the Abiye Programme first to reverse the ever increasing but totally unacceptable maternal and under 5 mortality in Ondo State. That formed the fulcrum for our health reform.

The next is to look at the life expectancy which is a problem of the unsavoury problem of our vibrant youth, a work force dying on a daily basis while in search for better means of livelihood. And the governor has since promised that in his vision, he wants to provide exceptional and qualitative healthcare for the good people of the state, where they live, where they work and where they play. That is a broad vision. I have talked to you about where they live. Now where they work in search of their daily bread, road accidents occur to cut down people in their prime and reduce their life expectancy.

We came up with what we called the emergency medical services. This is an integrated medical approach towards addressing and reducing the rate at which we lose our people on a daily basis. Comprising one, a call centre where a 3 digit call could be made to and the call will be routed to the ambulance services with a GPRS and the nearest ambulance service to the scene will be deployed to pick up the victims. You can see the ambulances downstairs. They are intensive care ambulances which will intervene as they move the victims to trauma centres if there is need for definitive treatment. Eventually, when they get to the trauma centres, if they need to reconstruct the face and do some other things, all of these will be done to make sure that the victim is saved. So you'll appreciate our vision in reducing maternal mortality, in saving lives, to improve life expectancy and another one is the fact that we need to have a proper diagnosis. Gani Fawehinmi diagnostic centre was put in place to immortalise the late chief Gani Fawehinmi who died as a result of misdiagnosis. Gani would have been living today if they didn't misdiagnose cancer for ordinary lung infection. So we put that in place to ensure proper diagnosis of ailments as they occur so we can be able to take care of our patients as well. So you can see the trend, as we save lives, we look at things that can cut people down in their prime. All of these are free of charge except for the diagnostic centre. For the poor that require those services, we have the Gani Fawehinmi Diagnostic Centre Foundation which subsidizes or foot the bill based on the classification that has been put in place to assess affordability.

We also have the festival of surgery where we screen people having realized that 75 percent of today's finance of healthcare is out of the pocket. So what we do is go around and screen people for cases that require surgical intervention and we go ahead to operate. In cases where we find out that things are beyond our scope, we then refer them abroad or to tertiary insti-

tutions like UCH, OAUTH or LUTH and we pick up the bill in the form of what we call medical assistance. We have expended over a billion to this and for festival of surgery; over 1000 people have enjoyed that benefit. About 360 have regained their sight from cataract while we have distributed over 500 glasses free of charge.

What is the impact of mother and care hospital on maternal and children health in the state?

Before the pilot in Ifedore Local Government of the state, rarely will you have up to 100 deliveries in the health facilities in local government. As a matter of fact you have around 87 deliveries in the entire year. There was poor facility utilization which is one of the factors responsible for the high maternal mortality which the World Bank reported as being the worst and Ondo state was declared as having the worst health indices. The number of women that usually come for antenatal in a year is barely around 330. Out of this number, over 200 will deliver with the traditional birth attendants. So

We also have the festival of surgery where we screen people having realized that 75 percent of today's finance of healthcare is out of the pocket. So what we do is go around screen people for cases that require surgical intervention and we go ahead to operate.

the traditional birth attendants were winning while our women were dying. But two years post Abiye, the story has changed. There is now a paradigm shift. Two years post Abiye in that same local government, we have had over 5000 antenatal registration compared to 330 and we have delivered over 2000 compared to less than 40 recorded by traditional birth attendants. I am sure you and I agree that we have won the race.

Today as we speak, in mother and care, they have seen over 44000 patients of which we have over 16,000 children under 5 yrs and well over 26,000 pregnant women and delivered over 11000 babies about 2000 of which are through caesarian sessions. It might serve to mention that our caesarian session does not last more than 2hrs. This has demystified the fear about caesarian session which is one of the reasons women run away from healthcare facilities and about 30 percent of these patients come from outside the state.

I was once asked if we are trying to explode the population. Far from that; what we have succeeded in doing is that baseline reveal that only 16 percent of women that come to antenatal will use the healthcare

facility for delivery. They will clap and dance but 84 percent will go elsewhere which accounts for the high maternal mortality rate. What we are really doing is to track them back to utilize the health facilities because that is when we can guarantee that skilled birth attendants will take care of their deliveries and ensure that the baby is alive and safe. To further allay the fear of

Because of the success of mother and child and abiye as I can confidently say that maternal mortality in ondo state has reduced by 15 percent annually and under 5yr mortality by 26 percent, the implication of that is that come 2015 when MDG will do their review, we will beat our chest without sounding immodest that we will comfortably achieve the MGDs

population explosion is the fact that family planning and counseling are integrated in our service offerings to the expectant mothers.

What are you doing to spread mother and child hospitals to other parts of the state?

As I am speaking now, mother and child hospital in Ondo is about 97 percent completed. God willing, it will open for services

next month. After that we will move to Ikare which is in the northern senatorial district and then to Okitipupa which is in the south. They are meant to be the apex maternal and child healthcare facility for the senatorial districts and the referral can come from any of the others. We have so structured it that there is an effective referral network. From the basic health centres, to the comprehensive health centres, then to the general or the specialist hospitals as the case may be to mother and child. Because of the success of mother and child and Abiye, I can confidently say that maternal mortality in Ondo state has reduced by 15 percent annually and under 5-year mortality by 26 percent, the implication of that is that come 2015 when MDG will do their review, we will beat our chest without sounding immodest that we will comfortably achieve the MGDs. If you multiply 15 percent by 5, that gives you 75 percent which is the mandate of the United Nations on reducing maternal mortality. Even though they say Nigeria will not achieve MDG, like I keep saying even at national level that we in Ondo state will achieve it and we will be the saving grace for Nigeria. If we achieve MDG then they can't say Nigeria didn't achieve it. The beauty of that is like I keep saying to the Federal government is to try and look in our direction so we can all go ahead and achieve it so that we can prove wrong those who

have already said that Nigeria is among the 40 countries that will not achieve MDG in Africa and that if Nigeria will achieve it at all, it will be in the year 2095. This is sad. Despite our claim to be the giant of Africa, we seem not to be on the right track and that is the most painful thing. That is the reason why as Nigerians, we are all concerned. If you look at the statistics of maternal mortality and look at the normal mortality ratio, you look at 545 women out of 1000 life birth. I tell you, that is like crashing a jumbo jet! And we take this with levity; we take it as statistics. But for us at Ondo State, we see them as flesh and blood.

All these efforts are to ensure that never in Ondo State will pregnancy be a death sentence because it is meant to be a thing of joy. It is basically our own way of reciprocating the kind gesture of the good people of Ondo State in terms of the mandate bestowed on us as government.





ACTIVITIES OF ONDO STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FROM 1ST JUNE, 2011 TILL DATE

The Ondo State Legislature since inception till date is regarded as the most peaceful House of assembly in the Federation. This peaceful atmosphere has greatly facilitated the passage of various motions, bills aimed at bringing development to the social, economic, political and natural wellbeing of the entire populace and Nigeria at large. Timely passage of appropriation bills before the end of the preceding year was always given priority.

The House of Assembly is not equally lagging behind in the performance of its oversight functions. The following bills, motions and resolutions were sent to the Assembly, some were passed and others are in 1st /2nd reading between 1st June 2011 till date.

- * A bill for a Law to make provisions for the prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS; Eliminating discrimination and stigmatization and other matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.
- * A Law to provide for the establishment of Ondo State Primary Health Care Development Board and matters connected therewith.

A Bill for a Law to amend the issue from Consolidated Revenue fund of Ondo State of Nigeria. A sum of One Hundred and Forty-three Billion, Five Hundred Million Naira (N143,500,000,000.00) only out of which the sum of Fifty-eight Billion, One Hundred and Ninety Million Naira (N 58,190,000,000.00) only is for recurrent expenditure while the balance of Eighty-five Billion, Three Hundred and Ten Million Naira (N 85,310,000,000.00) only is for capital expenditure for the service of Ondo State of Nigeria for the year ending Thirty-first day of December, Two Thousand and Eleven.

A Bill for Law to authorize the issue from the Consolidated Revenue fund of Ondo state of Nigeria. A sum of One Hundred and Fifty Billion Naira (N150,000,000,000.00) out of which the sum of Sixty four Billion, Five hundred Million Naira (N 64,500,000,000.00) only is for recurrent expenditure while



the balance of Eighty-five Billion, Five Hundred Million Naira (N85,500,000,000.00) only is for capital expenditure for the services of the Ondo State of Nigeria for the year ending, Thirty first day of December, Two Thousand and Twelve.

A Bill for a Law to provide for the establishment of Ondo State Emergency Management Agency and for connected purposes.

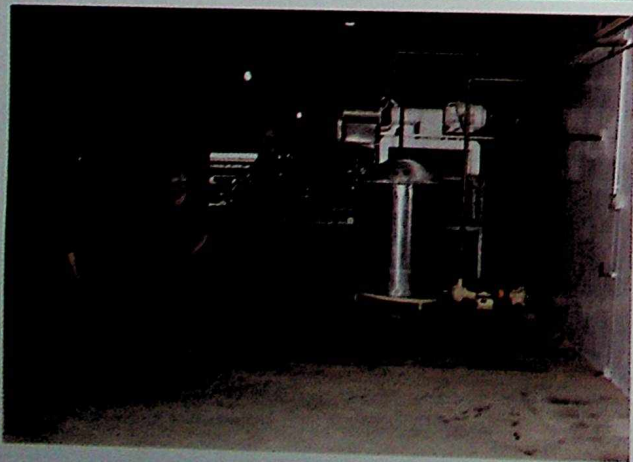
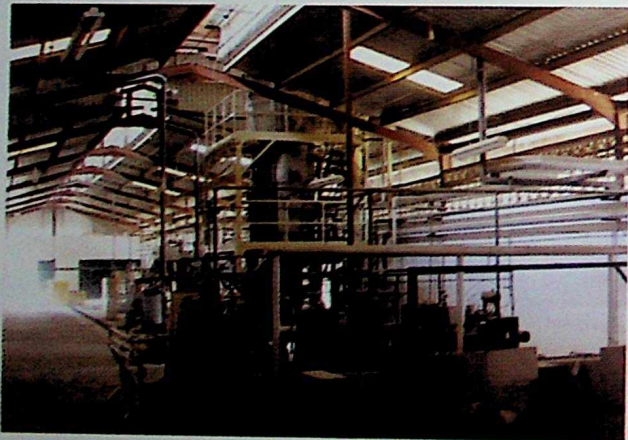
A Bill to appropriate the sum of Fourteen Billion, Five Hundred and Eleven Million Naira (N14,511,000,000.00) out of which the One Billion and Sixteen Million Naira is for recurrent expenditure and Thirteen Billion, Four Hundred and Ninety-five Million Naira (N13,495,000,000.00) only is for Capital Expenditure for the services of the Ondo State Oil Producing area (OSOPADEC).

Resolution pressing it on Government to establish an ideological school in honour of Papa Obafemi Awolowo.

Need for Effective safety Education for our road users.

A motion to make Ondo State Fire Service an Independent Agency.

Need for Government to review the requirement for the establishment and operation of private schools in Ondo State.



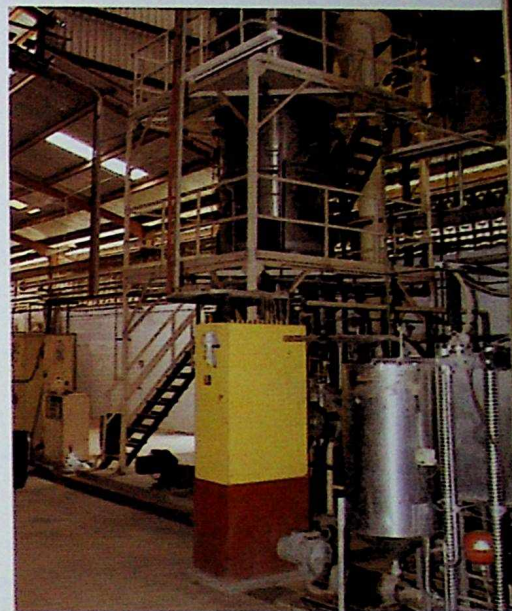
'This factory must not die..'

Tunde Animasaun

Some words are magical, not in the sense of speaking in tongues or the secret language of wizardry that Harry Potter and Merlin have popularized. Their magic is in their import and impact in the lives and circumstances of the listeners. 'This factory must not die' were some of such words- ordinary, common, everyday words. But on one bright afternoon, in the laid back town of Arigidi Akoko in the northern senatorial district of Ondo State, these words assumed magical properties when they were issued from the mouth of Governor Olusegun Mimiko to Mr. Gideon Akanmu Adebayo, managing director, Perfect Integrated Industries Nigeria Limited.



of the past administrations, we had thought we had met another brick wall until one day, an advance party of the governor arrived. They came, opened the gate walked round the factory and didn't even ask for me. Perhaps they thought nobody was around. They went back to report to the governor. A few minutes later, the governor drove in. I had even dozed off. When I heard the fuss going on in the factory, I came out and behold, the governor was standing right in front of me in the factory. "Is this a dream, I asked myself. Governor, here, when did he come, how do I receive him...? He said the visit was unscheduled and that he wanted to see the factory for himself. After the inspection, he said, "Mr. Adebayo, this factory must not die. This factory will provide work for our people." I will never forget that day; the expression on his face, his eyes and the candour of the speech. That moment, I came alive anew.



Mr. Adebayo explained the circumstances for the statement thus:

This factory was set up in 1986. I midwifed it from conception. By the time we set it up, we had an integrated project in mind. We want to source for the raw materials here and process it into tomato paste or tomato puree. We also have lines for making ketchup and bottled water. We got a facility, bought the equipment, built the factory and before we could access the working capital, the bank had been declared distressed. In fact I was taken to the failed bank tribunal. But I tell you today that I was the only one that was not sent to Kirikiri because the judges were impressed with our utilisation of the facility.

Since then, we have been looking for assistance in the form of capital injection but the people we contacted did not show interest. We approached the past governments in the state since the fourth republic and the story was the same. Discouraged but still very hopeful, we wrote Governor Olusegun Mimiko to partner with us on the project. Told that the governor is not likely to be interested by people who were supposed to lobby on our behalf; almost forlorn by our experience

I was once in government and I know what they do. For the fact that governor Mimiko has bought into this project not for personal reasons but because he believed it will provide job for the people of the state, I think Ondo State is blessed to have a man who put welfare on the front burner of government activities in the driver's seat. May God be with him, he has done his best.

One year down the line, the factory is up and running, we have trained 500 farmers as the first batch of our out growers' scheme. We brought in Israeli experts for the training. Our products are NAFDAC certified and are the final stages of certification by the Standard Organisation of Nigeria. We are now set for mass production.

On our part, we will not disappoint the governor. We are assuring him and the people of the state that in the next few years, we would have developed capacity to employ about 3,000 people in the farm as part of the out-growers' scheme and have nothing less than 500 employees in the factory. We would also stop, at a level, the rural/urban migration that has been identified as one of the factors for lopsided development. We hope our story

will encourage more people to come and invest in the local areas.

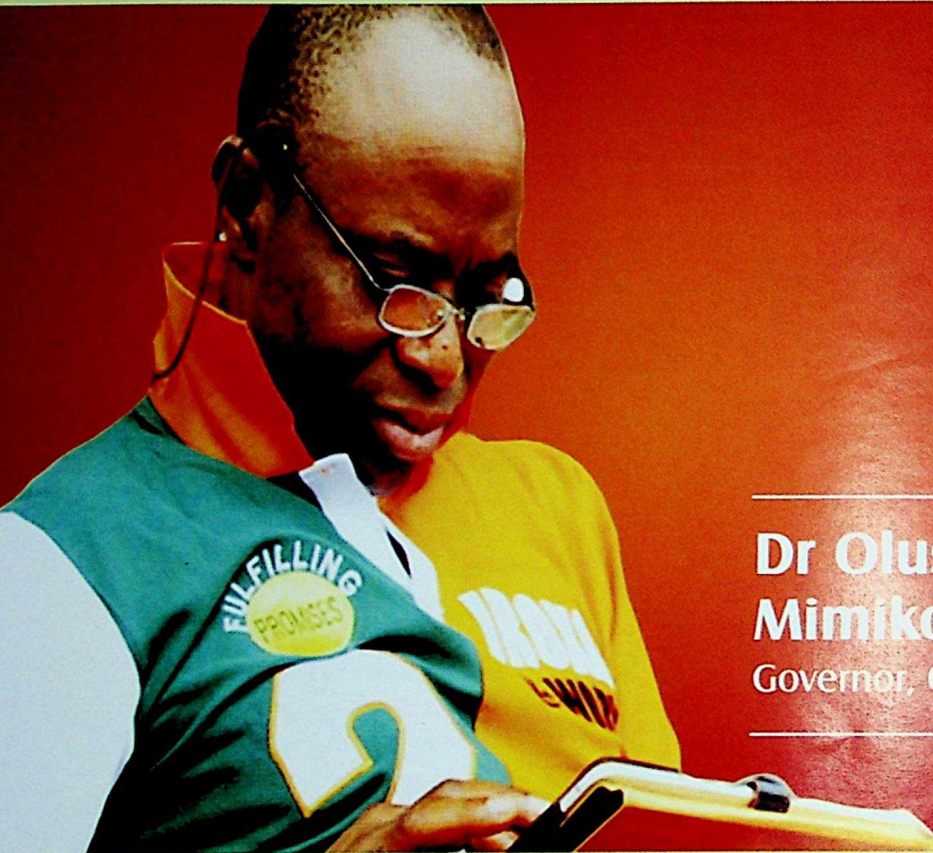
Speaking on the marketing strategies for the products, Mr. Olushola Ogbonmide, sales and marketing manager, Perfect Integrated Foods Industry Limited said that the intervention of the Mimiko led administration was timely. The concept and operations of the industry is mass employment oriented. With an out growers scheme (Arigidi) that has the capacity to employ 3,000 people which the government intends to expand to about 5000 with the inclusion of Ore and Auga farms. This, coupled with the direct employment at the factory, and the indirect employment opportunities offered by the distribution aspect of its operation makes it a mass employer of labour.

He said also that the products would be launched and made readily available in the shops in the next two months.

The marketing manager who hinges the company's marketing strategy on effective Total Quality Management, TQM, and standard Good Manufacturing Procedure, GMP, attractive packaging, pocket friendly pricing and effective distribution system said he was confident that the products would be a hit in the market.



ONDO STATE GOVERNMENT STAFF LOANS BOARD



**Dr Olusegun Abayomi
Mimiko**

Governor, Ondo State

Congratulate the people's governor on occasion of Children's Day Celebration 2012

The Chairman, Administrative Secretary, Management and Staff of the Ondo State Local Government Staff Loans Board, heartily felicitate and congratulate the patriotic, dynamic, dedicated, resourceful and People Oriented Governor of Ondo State, DR. OLUSEGUN ABAYOMI MIMIKO and his Deputy ALHAJI ALI OLANUSI, members of the State Executive Council, Honourable Speaker, members of the State House of Assembly and all the key functionaries of this purposeful administration, on the celebration of Children's Day 2012.

We are indeed humbled by the land-mark achievement, outstanding reforms and transformation that the State has witnessed in the last three years.

The Local Government Staff Loans Board on Its part has contributed to the laudable achievement of our "Ise takuntakun" Governor, by disbursing a sum of

N719,173,638.36 as loans to 2,174 staffers in the Local Government Service of Ondo State.

The Local Government employees who have benefited immensely under the economic and social transformation under the Loans disbursement scheme will not forget in a hurry that you have touched their lives positively. Your Caring Heart Programmes, which has brought succour to the teeming populace is a clear manifestation of the love of Mr Governor to the people of the state.

We pray that the Almighty God will continue to be your guide, give you sound health and wisdom as you pilot the affairs of the Sunshine State to an enviable position. More grease to your elbow.

Congratulations!!!

Signed

Barr. B. J. Lawani
Administrative Secretary

Alhaji Sadiq Obanoyen mnl
Chairman

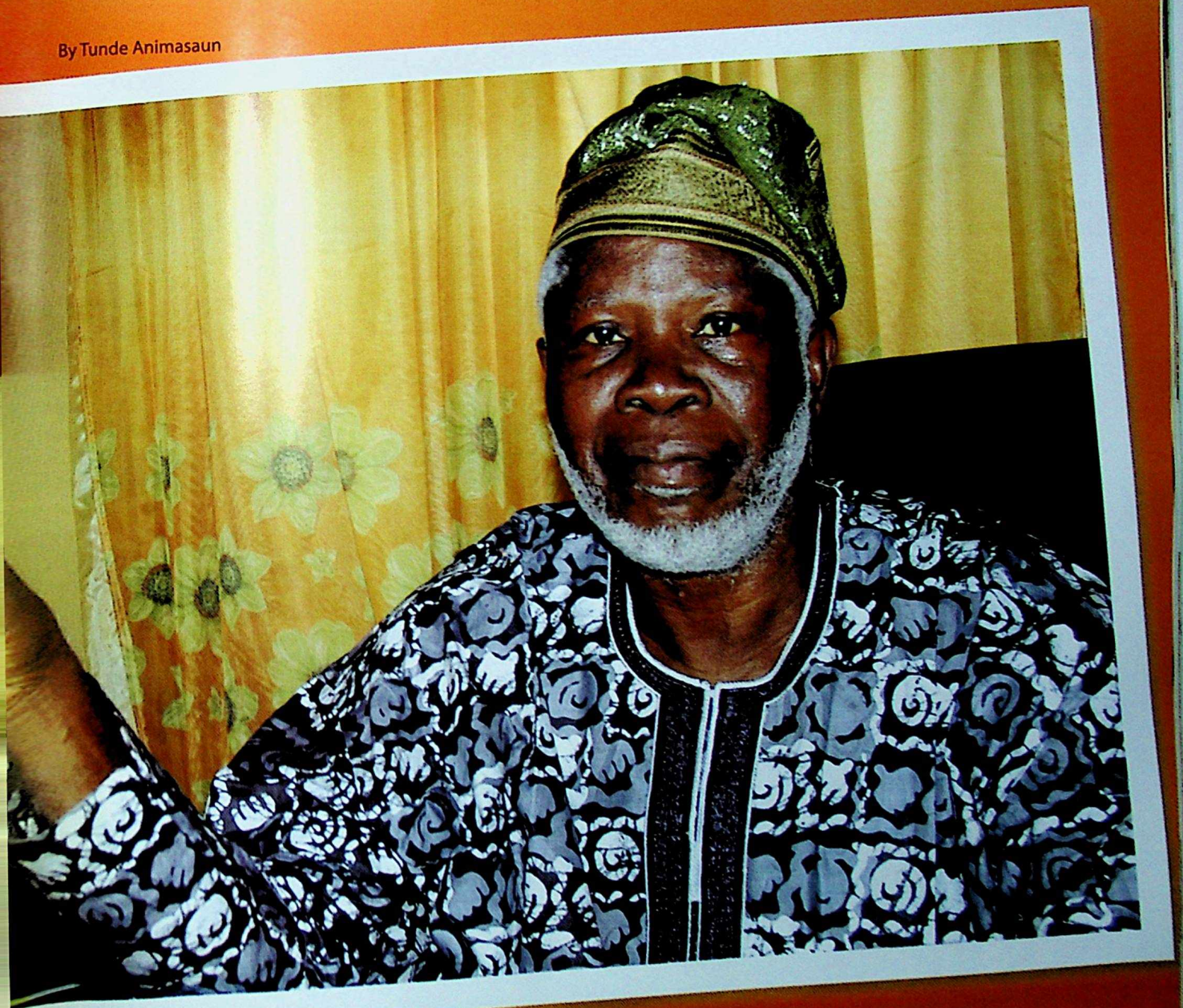




MIMIKO HAS TRANSLATED OUR PARTY IDEOLOGY TO REALITY

- Chief Andrew Olurinde Ogidan

By Tunde Animasaun





When I was elected as the party chairman in December 2011, at my inaugural speech, I said my executive committee shall tour the 18 local governments, reorganize the Elders' Forum and embark on bottom up politics. We have completed the tour.

Chief Andrew Olurinde Ogidan, is the chairman of the Labour Party in Ondo State. A strong party chieftain since the party was adopted by Mimiko and his political co-travellers in December 2006; he was elected to chair the executive committee of the party in December, 2011. He prays Olusegun mimiko, the man, party member, leader, flag bearer and governor.

Dr. Olusegun Mimiko is a gentle, quiet but focused person. But for the dictates of his professional and political life, he would have been somebody you could call on introvert.

Why labour party?

In 2003, governor Adebayo Adefarati was defeated by Dr. Olusegun Agagu. Then the reactionaries took over power. When electing

ioneer-started in



2006 and it was obvious that Mimiko was being denied the platform of The PDP, we rallied round him under the banner of the Labour Party. This was in December, 2006. We launched a comprehensive campaign such that within three months we were able to touch all the wards in the state. We knew we won the election, so when INEC declared Agagu, we went to the tribunal. We got judgment at the first instance and though Agagu appealed and the appeal court confirmed the victory of mimiko.

Has mimiko fulfilled party manifesto and represented the party well?

Yes. The ideology of the Labour Party is leftist. We believe in social welfarism. The governor interpreted this philosophy well and operationalized it by embarking on massive people centred projects. From community projects to infrastructural development; from Mega School Projects to human capital development, from welfare of workers to employment creation; from market projects to urban renewal; from provision of bus for free commuting for students to entrepreneurial development; from economic empowerment through provision of soft loans for vocational training; from establishment of Agric Cities to industrialization through establishment of cottage industries'; from Abiye to Mother and Child Hospital and the Gani Fawehinmi Diagnostic Centre and more programmes/projects too numerous to mention. Every project embarked upon by this administration is people centred.

We have to give thanks to Almighty God that we supported Mimiko. I cannot enumerate, offhand all the on going and completed projects of this administration. The accolades, everywhere in the state, the villages, farm settlements and cities are enough testimonies. They are praising him because his administration touches everyone. This is the first time in the political history of Ondo State when a government will go into communities and ask them what they want government to do for them. In the past, it was government unilaterally deciding what to do in a community.

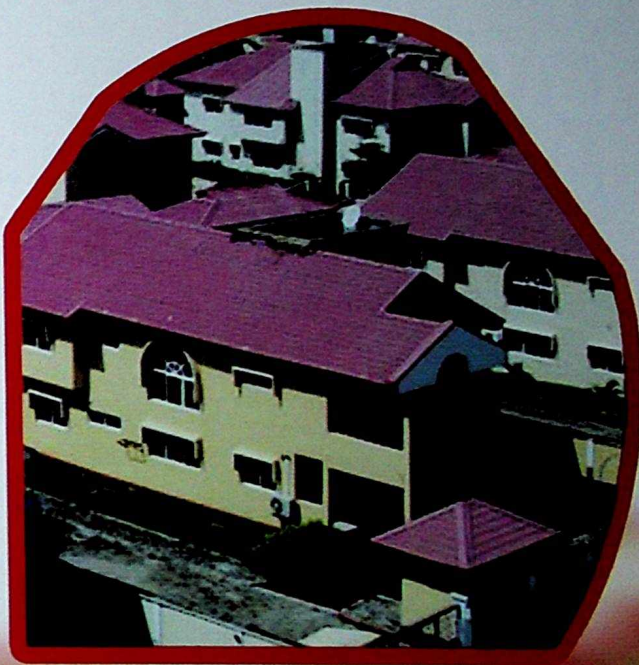
When I was elected as the party chairman in December 2011, at my inaugural speech, I said my executive committee will tour the 18 local governments, reorganize the Elders' Forum and embark on bottom up politics. We have completed the tour. This enabled us the opportunity to see the projects of the government in each of the local governments. Also we were able to sound the people out on their feelings regarding the government. I am happy to tell you that the response has been overwhelmingly positive in all the local governments.

To further answer your question, the generality of party members so much believe in Mimiko to the extent that not a single person has picked up the nomination form to challenge him as the party's flag bearer. That is why all those who have the ambition are now running to Action Congress of Nigeria. They know they don't stand a chance in Labour party.

I think Mimiko was prepared. He had long envisioned how government should be run. He is a very intelligent, humble and accommodating person. This is why he has within three years performed more that any government in Ondo state.

A government driven by "A CARING HEART"

Health & Housing



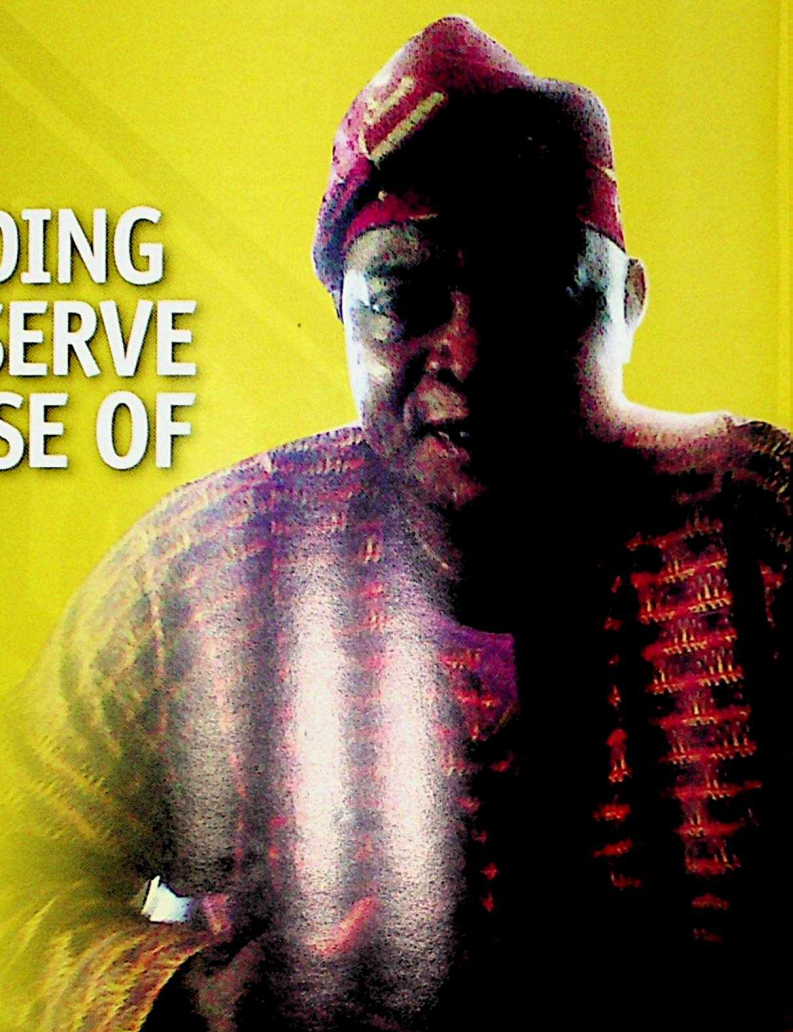
✓ Progressive reformation in all LGAs

Maternal & Child hospitals are setting new standards in reducing mortality in Ondo State. From ante-natal to post-natal stages, every pregnant woman is assigned a doctor and a free phone for personalized care. In addition, access to better housing is becoming more affordable. Ondo people are indeed inspired and equipped to do their life's work in STATE OF PRIDE.

**A SIBEE
MA'LOBEE**

Ondo STATE
ISE LOOGUN ISE

WE ARE BUILDING CAPACITY TO SERVE MODERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY'



In this interview with Tunde Animasaun, Honourable Idowu Ogunmade, executive Chairman, House of Assembly Service Commission, speak on the Commission's contribution to success story of the Mimiko's Administration through capacity building for the House of assembly staff.

What is the relationship between the executive and the legislature since 2009?

I want to say that when we came on board in 2009, we had majority of the members of House of Assembly in the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP. When governor Mimiko was sworn in, he put in place some measures that attracted the interest of every member, majority of whom were in the PDP. We had a board here before we came in but it was dismissed by the governor because its members were not members of the Labour Party. There was no rancor because there was a negotiation between the Governor and the members of the board, they were paid off and we came in. Be that as it may, majority of the members of the House of Assembly then were PDP members, and the nomination of the Governor was confirmed by them. When the gov-

ernor unveiled his programme, the members found out that the governor was acting on what the electorate wanted him to do, as a result of that we had many members decamping to Labour Party. Many people saw the laudable projects the governor was doing like the building of markets, construction of roads, the construction of mega schools and Mother and Child Hospitals. To crown it all the Ministry of Community Development and Cooperative System began its rapid development programme in the rural areas. They saw a government that created a ministry, mandated the commissioner to go from one village to another, to ask the people things they want from the government. The Governor told the Commissioner of that Ministry to go to the people and tell them that while he was campaigning to become the governor, he promised them

some things and now that he's won, he wants to fulfill these promises. This made the Commissioner to move from one community to the other to enquire from the people. This is the only government in the whole of Nigeria that has done such a thing.

People were at first skeptical because it was unusual. When the pilot programme was completed and commissioned, they now realize that this government was ready to do all these and much more, that it was out to make life better for them, that it was out to ensure that there's no rural and urban drift that the people can settle down in their villages, the children of the rich and poor can attend the same school without discrimination. People saw this innovation and concluded that this is a real government, one that the people have been yearning for.

It was the realization of this that perhaps convinced members from the opposition party to begin to decamp to the Labour party because of these developments seen and being proclaimed by the people. That was how within few months, the majority became the minority and the minority becoming the majority in the House of Assembly. So right from the beginning, the relationship has been cooperative and mutual because they members can see the impact of government policies in the lives of the people.

What is the mandate of the Commission?

Our mandate is to ensure that we appropriately staff house of assembly and ensure that the workers capacity is developed to cater for the needs of a modern house of assembly. To ensure this, the staff has to be motivated and well remunerated

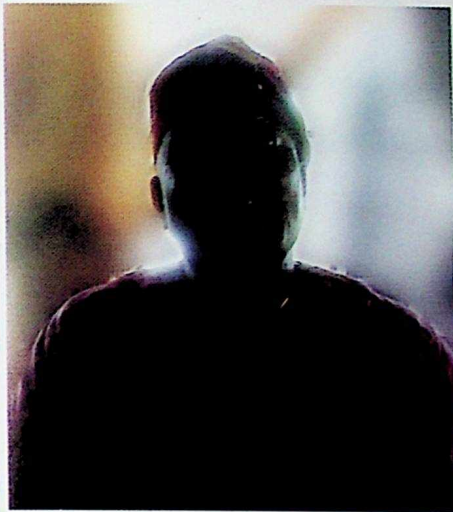
Staffs are being trained because it is a new Commission. Just like there is the Civil Service Commission that takes care of all workers in the Civil Service, there is the Local Government Service Commission that takes care of the people working in the local government, there is the Judiciary Service Commission that takes care of the judiciary, which is a standing arm of government be it in the military or the civilian government. This prompted the establishment of the House

of Assembly Service Commission so as to take care of staff working in the House of Assembly.

To God be the glory, since inception there has been changes. Prior to the appointment of the board, it was found out that the law that established this commission wasn't being made use of by the members of staff. In that, staff were being transferred in and out of the commission but the law state states that any worker working here that has undergone training pertaining to how to work with the Assembly members must not be transferred out neither should workers be

transferred in. So forms were given out to workers who will be ready work and retire here to fill the forms, and about 99.9% of them showed interest. Right now, there are stable staff that are adequately trained from time to time to suit the purpose of the members of the Assembly.

We have been relating well with the members of the House, working hand in hand bearing in mind that the members of the board were former members of the House of Assembly.



We have been relating well with the members of the House, working hand in hand bearing in mind that the members of the board were former members of the House of Assembly.

Rather than celebrating the Democracy day this year, the Governor has decided to celebrate the Children's day. What is your message to the people on this occasion?

Thank God for what He has been doing in this state.

The Children's Day is worth celebrating, because for the past 3 years the children of this state who are students have been excelling both in the national and international competitions. Last year, the best student in the WAEC exams, is from this state, the Junior Engineers Technicians and Scientist (JETS) competition, the students from the state came third and that is an international competition. Laurels have been brought into this state by these children and are worth celebrating. So if the Governor says instead of celebrating Democracy day, he is going to celebrate the Children's day, it is a form of encouragement to these children and youths that they are the leaders of tomorrow and they can do better things with their lives and take over from the older ones.

WE HAVE CONNECTED SEVERAL COMMUNITIES TO NATIONAL GRID

In this interview Engineer sola Akinwale, chairman, Ondo State Electricity Board Speaks On the activities of the Board's since the inception of the Mimiko administration.

How has the board impacted on access to power in the state?

As a board constituted to ensure that electric power reach in the state is broad and far reaching, we have tried at ensuring that a lot of our communities who were before now without access to power are connected to the national grid. In this respect, the board has scored tremendous success. apart from connecting communities to the national grid, we have also ensure the maintenance and replacement of electricity distribution equipment like transformers, poles, wires etc.to make sure that power outages due to faulty or unavailability of distribution equipment is reduced to the barest minimum. You know how power supply is in the country. bad as it is though, we try to ensure that the little allocation we get is not wasted through bad or poor distribution equipment.

People often mistake our staff and engineers for PHCN officials because they are the ones who are usually there to fix problems.

Any plan to go into IPP?

Apart from what the government is doing at Ore where a gas plant is being built for power and other economic purposes, we are also engaged in the proposed Edo Power company which will inherit PHCN in the Edo district which includes state.

What is the state of the Omosho IPP project?

It is unfortunate that the project was not allowed to come up stream.

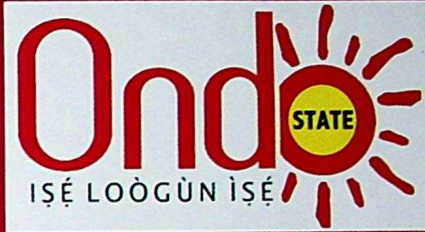
You know, what happened was that the agreement the Chinese had with former President Obasanjo was a Build, Operate and Transfer, BOT. unfortunately, after the Chinese have brought most of the equipment, the Yar'Adua administration power probe created spanners in the wheel of the project. At the end, the agreement was changed and the Chinese left in anger. In leaving, they took the blueprint and vital operational drawings away with them. So as at now, it is rather impossible to make the plant work without those drawings. What we are doing at the state government level is to negotiate with the federal government so that the plant can revert to the state. We have reopened negotiations with the Chinese to come and complete the job so that the plant can take off eventually and serve the power need of the state.

What are the challenges facing the board?

Our greatest challenge is the spate of vandalism visited on our installations across the state. We want to tell the communities that they should help keep watch over the installations. We are about to start a statewide community based awareness and sensitization campaign. We believe that when the communities are made to see the installations as their own and mobilized to safeguard it, the menace of victimisation will be reduced.



ONDO STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD



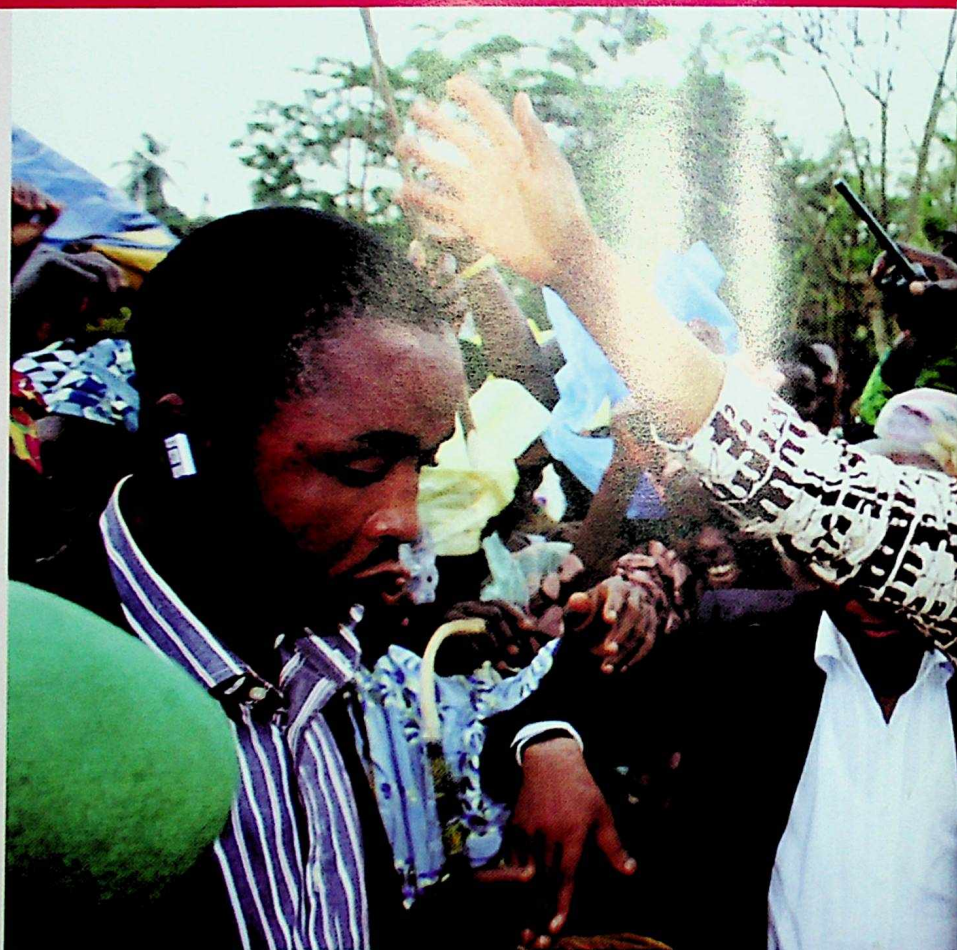
Fighting for a mandate

Toyin Obadina

Of all the governors in the South-West, no one, perhaps, could be said to have fought a more titanic battle for the retrieval of his mandate than 57 years old Dr. Olusegun Mimiko, governor of Ondo State, the only state in the region currently not under the dominance and hegemony of the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN).

Mimiko has been the governor of Ondo State since February 2009, when he won a protracted legal battle against his election at the state election tribunal and at the Court of Appeal. He was the popular choice of the people of the state in the 2007 general election against Dr Olusegun Agagu, the incumbent governor. The Professor Maurice Nwosu-led Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) announced the result of the gubernatorial election in favour of Agagu in Abuja, when it became obvious that the women and youths had seized the streets of Akure and made it practically impossible to make such announcement in Ondo State.

The popular movement that led to Mimiko's victory itself was epic contestations and was a study in doggedness, and unwavering commitment to democratic tenets and ethos. After almost two decades of intense political struggle for power, Mimiko was declared the "authentic" governor of Ondo State by the Court of Appeal, Benin, Ondo State. The Appeal Court had on February 23, 2009 sent packing the five years, eight months government of Governor Agagu who had been in the saddle in the state since May 29, 2003. The Court of Appeal had affirmed the verdict of the Election Petition Tribunal which had earlier nullified the election of Agagu and held that Mimiko



actually polled 195,030 of the total votes cast as against Agagu's 131,555. The watershed judgement ignited instant jubilation and celebration across the length and breadth of Ondo State, and indeed the country, as it marked the beginning of a new dawn and the redress of injustices in the land.

The battle actually started in court on June 13, 2007 when Mimiko, governorship candidate of the Labour Party, LP, took his case challenging Agagu's victory to the Governorship/Legislative Election Tribunal,

Akure, Ondo State. The kernel of the his case was that election was not conducted in six Local Government Areas of Ondo State and that he ought to be declared as the duly elected Governor of Ondo State because he scored the highest number of valid votes cast in the other parts of the State where elections were conducted. For the first time in recent times, forensic and finger print experts were brought into the country in prosecuting the case. The experts made mind-boggling revelations. For instance, Mimiko

engaged internationally acclaimed forensic and finger print experts, including the world renowned Adrian Forty, with 32 years experience at

Scotland Yard, to prosecute his case, while Agagu, could only field one Professor, who turned out to be fake. He was immediately denounced by the Lagos State

University, LASU, and the University of Lagos, Unilag, where he claimed to

have gotten his professorship from. Agagu's second expert witness, one Dr.

whose "votes" were cancelled by the Tribunal included the then Vice President of Nigeria, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan; the Chief Justice of Nigeria, Legbo Kutigi; Apostle Ayo Babalola who passed on to glory 50 years ago; the musical legend, Michael Jackson; world boxing heroes like Mohammed Ali and Mike Tyson; Gen. Oladipo Diya; Mrs. Cecilia Ibru; Mr. Sam Omatsheye; Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Raji Fashola; Senator Musiliu Obanikoro; then National Chairman of PDP, Senator Ahmadu Ali; INEC Chairman, Prof.

the evidence adduced by one of the witnesses of Agagu was incredible. The tribunal also used a chart to illustrate its evaluation of evidence adduced on the votes cast during the polls. It found that some votes were not allotted in three units in an electoral ward, but failed to allot the same as appropriate. The tribunal, however, found that Mimiko scored the highest number of valid votes cast at the election. Consequently, it declared him as the candidate duly elected Governor of Ondo State at the election.

Dissatisfied with the Tribunal's final decision, Agagu appealed to the Court of Appeal. The Peoples Democratic Party, Independent National Electoral Commission and the Nigeria Police were also dissatisfied with the decision of the tribunal and they also appealed to the Court of Appeal, respectively.

At the Appeal Court presided by Justice Umaru Faruk Abdullahi (who read the lead judgement), supported by Isa Ayo Salami, Aminu Adamu Augie and Uzo Ndukwe-Anyanwu, Agagu raised 12 issues for determination, contesting that the Tribunal was wrong in declaring Mimiko the winner of the disputed election. At the Appeal Court frontline legal luminaries, including Chief Wole Olanipekun, Yusuf Alli, Ahmed Abdullahi, and Lateef Fagbemi appeared for Mimiko. The court held that it would amount to gross injustice to deprive Mimiko the fruits of his electoral labour and declared that considering the weight of evidence, the medical practitioner-turned politician actually won the poll.

By the Judgement, Mimiko became the only elected governor on the platform of the LP. Indeed, Mimiko, two-time commissioner of Health has been part and parcel of grassroots development in Ondo State. He was until 2007, a chieftain of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party in the state. For two years, he served as Secretary to the State Government under Agagu and later became Minister of Housing under the President Olusegun Obasanjo administration. He later parted ways with the ruling PDP when he was schemed out of the governorship ticket by the power of incumbency and pitched his tent with the relatively unknown LP. Many therefore viewed his ascension to power and authority as heralding a new birth.



Temidayo Apata from the Joseph Ayo Babalola University, JABU, capitulated under cross examination, abandoned his statement on oath, and asked that his evidences/reports be discarded. The third "expert", Prof. Charles Akinyokun, of the Federal University of Technology, Akure, FUTA, abandoned his statement on oath and refused to appear at the Tribunal.

Also, through multi-media analysis, 90,000 of the "disenfranchised" people,

Maurice Iwu; Governor Peter Obi of Anambra State; infants and under aged children; palm kernels and other objects that were said to have voted at the April 14, 2007 election.

In its judgment, the tribunal evaluated the evidence adduced by the parties. It discredited the electoral Forms EC8B - EC8D and nullified the results relating to the polling booths and polling stations which did not have electoral Form EC8A. It found that



Adekunle Ajasin University

P.M.B. 001, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria.

www.adekunleajasinuniversity.edu.ng

Our Alumni tell our story

Nothing announces an organisation better than the quality of its products.

We are proud of our distinguished ambassadors:



Sunday OLANIRAN

AAUA Graduate who won NYSC State Honours in Abia State, for building a pioneer Adult Education Library for learning and research



Funke Fakutiju

Best Student Nationally
Chartered Institute of Bankers
of Nigeria Examination 2010



Bukola AKINTADE

Best Student Nationally
Chartered Institute of Bankers
of Nigeria Examination 2009



Funmi OLONI-EZEKIEL

Participant,
Women2Women Conference,
USA.



Omolara OMOTOSO

Multiple Gold Medalist at All Africa Games (2011)
& National Sports Festival (2011) in a handshake
with the VC, Prof. Femi Mimiko



Victor Oluwasina AYENI

Best Graduating Student
(with Distinction) in LLM Law (2011)
University of Pretoria, South Africa

Ayodeji Gabriel SUNDAY

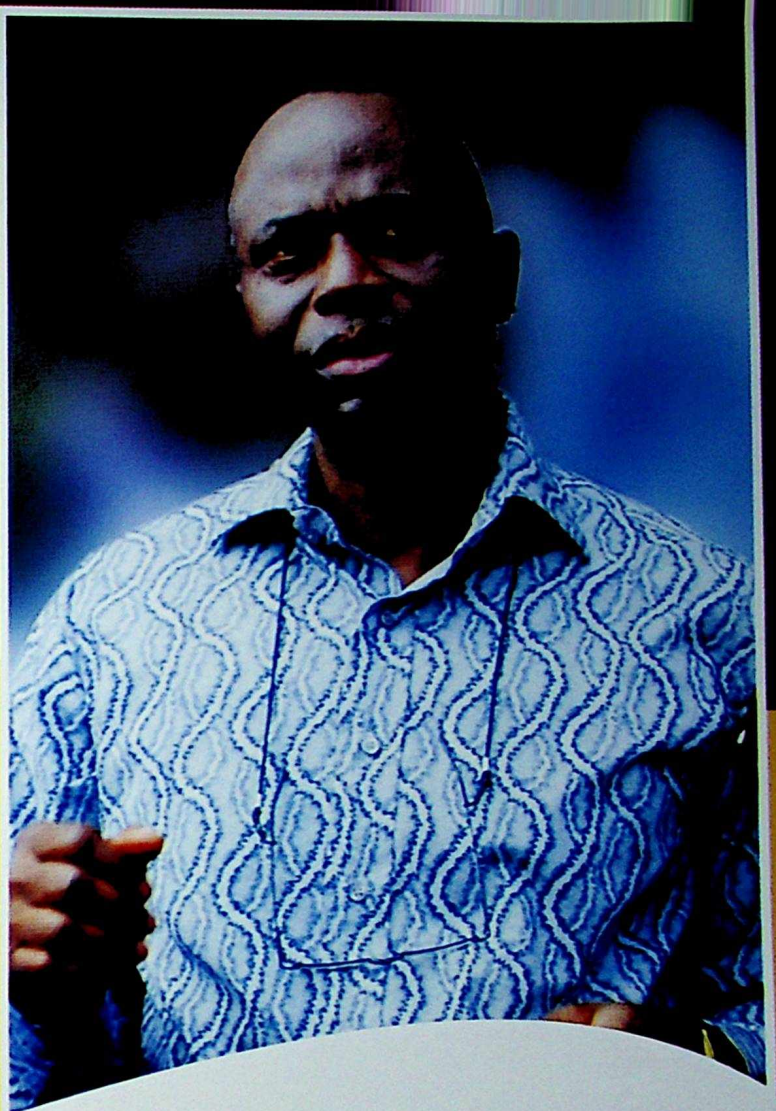
Best Graduating Student (with Distinction) in M.Sc. Communication Engineering (2011), University of Leeds, UK.

R.B. Olotu

Registrar

AAUA: ...building a 21st Century University, properly called!

Assuring our Tomorrow, Today

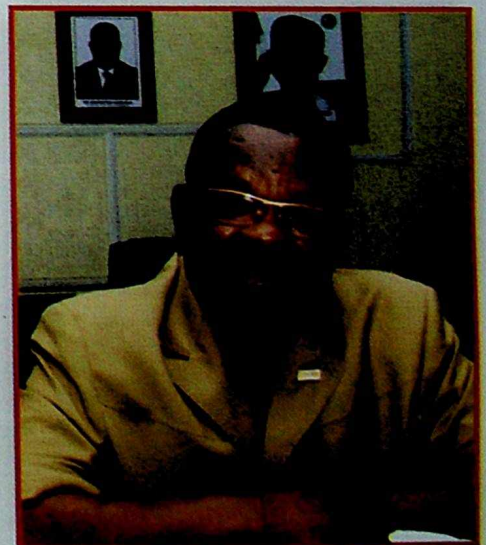


Children are indeed the heritage from God and we have chosen to celebrate them with pomp and pageantry this year.

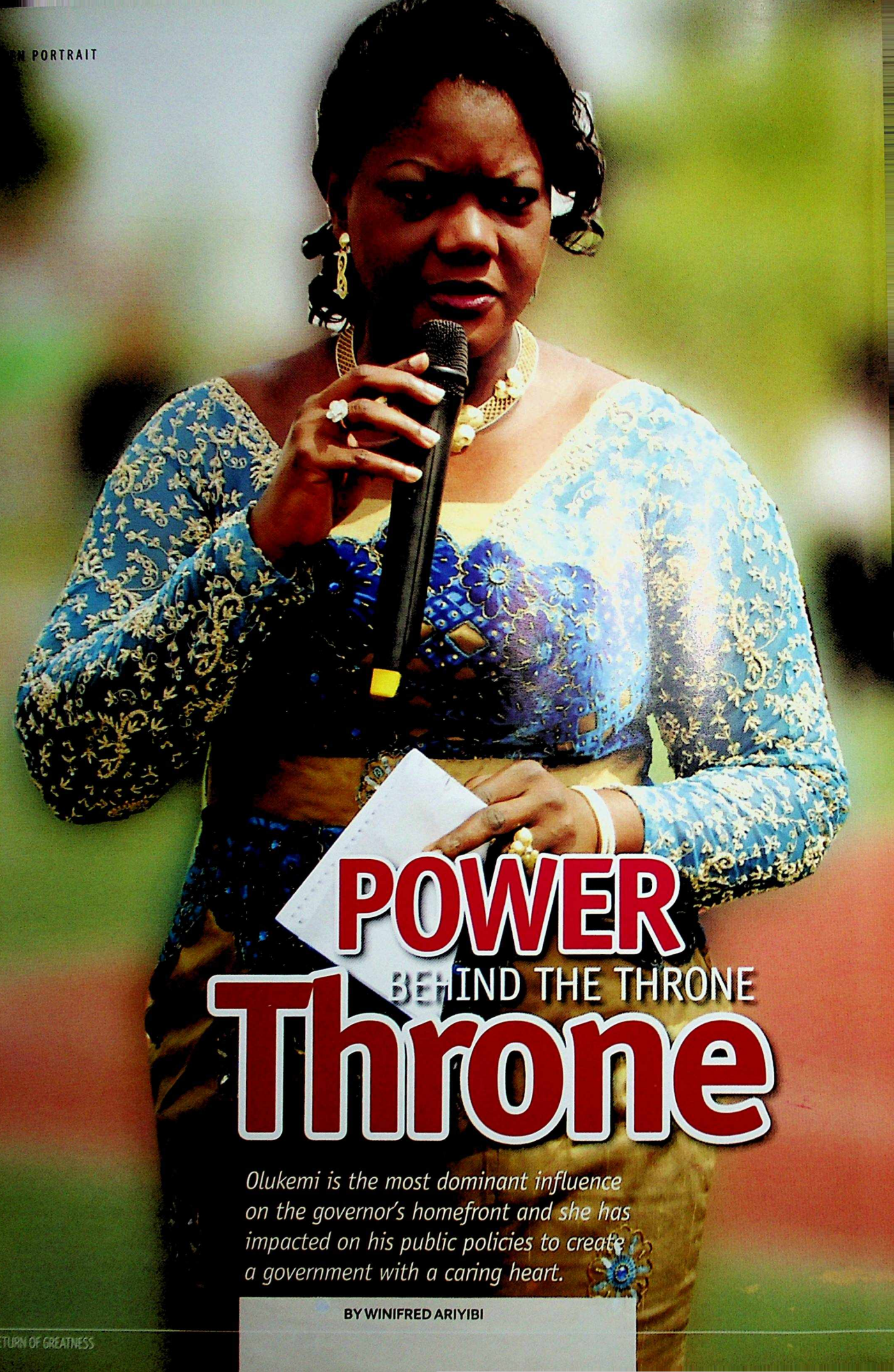
The Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Ondo State, Dr. Aderotimi Adelola, the Permanent Secretary, Office of the Secretary to the State Government and the entire Staff of the Office of the Secretary to the State Government heartily congratulate the Executive Governor, **Dr. Olusegun Mimiko** and the beautiful children of Ondo State on this occasion of the Children's Day celebration.

We thank you for all the transformations seen in our dear State especially your love for the future leaders.

Your Excellency Sir, May the Almighty God continue to endow you with the wisdom and other virtues to groom the State to the glory of God, and the benefits of all.



Dr. Aderotimi Adelola,
Secretary to the State Government



POWER BEHIND THE THRONE Throne

Olukemi is the most dominant influence on the governor's homefront and she has impacted on his public policies to create a government with a caring heart.

BY WINIFRED ARIYIBI

'Behind every great and successful man is a woman', says a popular adage. This can be said of Mrs Olukemi Mimiko, the adorable, down-to-earth, loving, quiet-natured and beautiful First Lady of Ondo State and wife of Governor Olusegun Mimiko. She has stood by her husband through thick and thin, complementing his policies, programs and projects within the State.

Born in the city of Lagos some 45 years ago to the family of Chief and Chief (Mrs.) Isaac Adeniyi, She grew up in a disciplined and Christian home, where she inculcate these virtues (humility, kindness and love) for others around her. Her primary education began in Army Primary School, Mokola, Ibadan, Oyo State, where her mother was one of the teachers of the school before she proceeded to St. Louis College in Ikere-Ekiti for her Secondary School Education in 1977. In 1987, she bagged a degree in French-Education from the prestigious Obafemi Awolowo University.

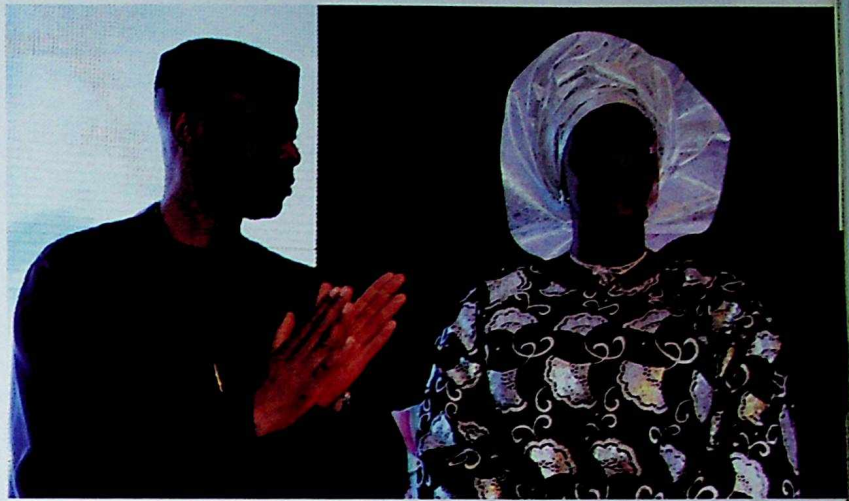
She served her Fatherland as a corper for one year in Owerri, Imo State. Being a daughter of a teacher, this profession caught her interest and she began her teaching career in Jubilee Secondary School, Ondo in 1989. She worked tirelessly and mentoriously in the school before she left for the Civil service where she was an Education Officer and later an Administrative officer in year 2000.

In the course of her teaching career, she met her husband who then was a medical practitioner managing his clinic in Ondo town. They got married in August 1990. She has been a strong pillar of support for her husband and family as a whole since then. This was made evident during the struggle of her husband Dr Segun Mimiko to reclaim the mandate he won during the April 14, 2007 governorship elections. The incumbent governor, Dr Olusegun Agagu had been declared the winner by the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC. Mimiko immediately challenged the verdict at the electoral tribunal where he eventually triumphed.

To realize her innate and genuine desire to fight for the good and healthy living of women and children across the state, a foundation was initiated. Master Pulse Foundation, (MPF), which caters for the health needs of both mother and child from conception to birth and after birth. This is to tackle the rampant incident of children and maternal mortality in the rural areas. statistics shows that one in every eighteen births which takes place in the rural or less urbanised towns, result in post-partum death (wikipedia).

The main objectives of this foundation are focused on:

- (1) Providing strategic support to tackle societal ills associated to women and children within the society.
- (2) Creating awareness in the area of women's health particularly on cancer, a disease that has been on the rise in the female population and to also provide case management and free screening.
- (3) Taking care of widows, physically challenged peo-



ple, families blessed with quadruplets and many others.

(4) Promoting habits that will enhance good health and prevent diseases amongst women and children.

Various activities have been carried since inception of the foundation, in which lives have been touched, improved and changed. Women now have better understanding of their bodies and are now empowered to lead healthy lives and groom healthy families too. The foundation also supports orphanages where smile is been put on the faces of the children.

Mrs Olukemi Mimiko holds a monthly meeting with the Women Group of Ondo State called 'Gbebiro (uphold the family) Meeting.' The meeting creates awareness amongst women on how to care for their husbands, children and wards, learn different healthy living tips and also the benefits they stand to enjoy in the state such as free health care services, microcredit loans and workshops etc. She champions the course of women and children through these charitable programs.

Olukemi is an advocate for effective implementation of laws against rape. A Christian of deep religious belief who is also open minded about other religious persuasions. She was invested as the Net Ambassador of the State by the Federal Ministry of Health. She promotes the use of mosquito nets in homes both in the rural and urban areas.

Her selfless acts of care can only be compared to the biblical Good Samaritan which has endeared her to everyone within the state and outside it.

At the home front, she is a loyal wife and caring mother, very considerate and kind ready to sacrifice whatever she has to make others happy. Her husband had had causes to refer to her even in social gatherings as a God-sent wife, sent purposely to pamper him and help raise their children in a godly way.

Mrs Olukemi Mimiko can be likened to Queen Esther who was interested in the well being of her people and who was willing to sacrifice all to give a meaning to their lives.

She is indeed the power behind the throne in Ondo State.



Prof O. O. Akinkugbe & Dr. Ngozi Okonjo Iweala

Nigerian National Order of Merit Recipients From Ondo State

Mikhail Mumuni

The late Dr Akinola Aguda; Prof Sylvester Adegoke; the late Professor Ifedayo Oladapo; Professor O.O.O.Akinkugbe; Professor Abiodun Francis Oluwole; Professor Soji Frederick Oluwole; Professor Oladapo Olubusi Adamolekun and Professor Tolu O.Odugbemi are all distinguished sons of Ondo State. But one more important thing they have in common is that they are recipients of Nigeria's highest and most prestigious award, the Nigerian National Order of Merit {NNOM}, reports MIKAIL MUMUNI

Since 1979 when Dr Olawale Teslim Elias of Lagos State became the first recipient of Nigerian National Order of Merit {NNOM} and the investiture of last year, 2011, the nationwide total figure of awardees stands at 65. Out of that figure, Ondo State coasts home with eight, the highest among all the 36 states of the federation.

The NNOM club is not an all comers affair. It is for a few cerebral Nigerians at home and in the Diaspora who have made creative, intellectual and academic contributions that have national and global significance in the four core

areas of Engineering/Technology, Science, Medicine and Humanities. The forerunner in the NNOM hall of fame for Ondo state is the late Dr Akinola Aguda, who in 1985 was the sole NNOM recipient.

Aguda's forte was law but his childhood ambition was to be an engineer or a medical doctor. His poor mastery of chemistry however stood in his way of becoming either of the two. The legal genius in him was awakened by the late Chief Obafemi Awolowo, first premier of the Western Region, who told him that his future was in the field of law.

In 1968, Aguda became the acting Solicitor-General of the Western Region. On February 3, 1972, he was appointed the first African Chief Justice of Botswana, concurrently, he was also a judge of the Court of Appeal of Swaziland, Botswana and Lesotho. He was back in Nigeria in 1975 and later became Chief Judge of Ondo State. He retired from the civil service in 1978

and became the director of the newly created Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Lagos. He was the Chairman of the committee that recommended Abuja as the new federal capital territory to replace Lagos. The official residence of the nation's vice president, Aguda House is named after this distinguished Nigerian.

In 1987, two years after Aguda died Ondo State proud as NNOM recipient, another distinguished son of the state, Professor Sylvester Adegoke was at the centre stage, acknowledged for his giant strides in the field of geology. Part of the citation at his national award described him as "an adept and versatile geologist with unshakable background in biological and physical sciences. He is known for his research work on bituminous sands in Southern Nigeria. Adegoke contributed to the development of science in the country, serving in different technical and administrative capacities that championed his area of forte, geology.

1991 was the turn of the late Professor Ifedayo Olawale Oladapo, a world renowned authority in the field of Engineering Structures. Professor Oladapo was actively involved in the design and construction of many concrete structures in Lagos. Some of these include the Concrete Shell Roof, the Eko Bridge, and the



Working for the people is far more rewarding.



The Zik
Leadership
Award
2011



When the administration of Dr. Olusegun Mimiko came into office three years ago, it made one single promise to the good people of Ondo State: 'I will work for you.' This single promise has given birth to a lot of life-changing projects all driven by the philosophy of A CARING HEART. Winning the prestigious Zik Leadership Award is a testimony to the remarkable progress Ondo State has been experiencing these past three years. And that's why this award rightfully belongs to the good people of Ondo State who have made it happen.

Dr. Olusegun Mimiko
Ondo State Governor



A place of pride.

Third Mainland Bridge. He also played key roles in the construction of the Benue River Bridge and later, the Niger Bridge in Onitsha.

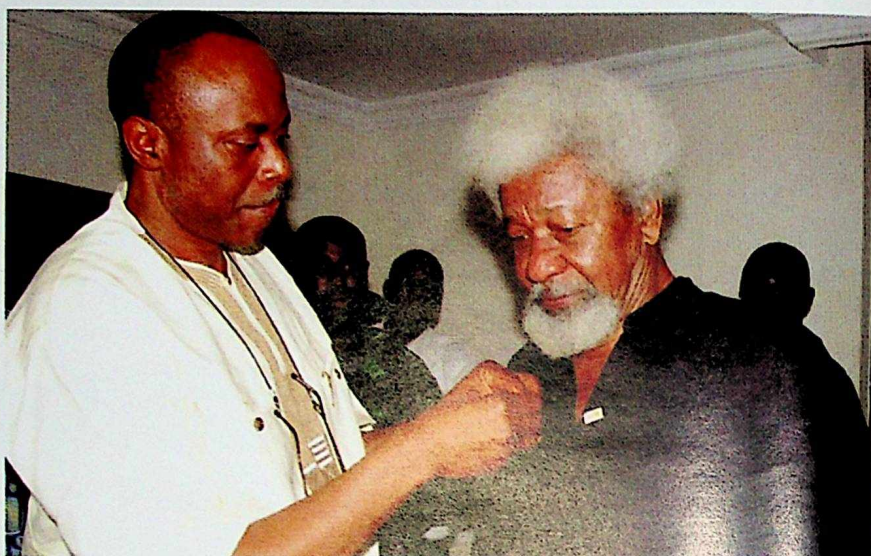
1997 was the year of Professor O.O.O. Akinkugbe as a winner of NNOM in Medicine. Born on 17th, July 1933 in Ondo town of Ondo State to a father who was a chemist and druggist, it was not a surprise that Akinkugbe found himself reading reading medicine.

His special areas of interest were Hypertension and Kidney diseases where he made tremendous contributions in Nigeria and globally. Apart from his NNOM in Medicine, Akinkugbe was a recipient of the National Honour of Cote De Voire. He was also the Foundation Chairman Joint Admission and Matriculation Board [JAMB]; Principal and Foundation Vice Chancellor, University of Ilorin; Vice Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University Zaria; Chairman Planning Committee, Ondo State University; Chairman Planning Committee, University of Abuja; Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, University of Port Harcourt.

It was double honours for Ondo State in 2004 as two of her indigenes were among the four recipients of NNOM for the year. The two, who significantly came from the same parents are Professor Abiodun Francis Oluwole and Professor Soji Frederick Oluwole who excelled in Science and Medicine respectively.

The press statement announcing the awards described Professor Francis Abiodun Oluwole, as "a nuclear physicist whose pioneering research in nuclear energy and techniques and leadership of multidisciplinary teams had contributed to the application of nuclear analytical techniques in providing answers to a variety of problems of national relevance in geology, the environment and human health," while Professor Frederick Soji Oluwole was identified as "a medical doctor whose significant research in transplant medicine and research has contributed towards understanding of the mechanism involved in the problem of graft rejection in transplant surgery, especially in cellular and humoral immunity. His worldwide recognition and respect has been utilized to facilitate the training of talented young Nigerians in transplant surgery."

Following in the heels of the Oluwoles was Professor Oladapo Olubusi Ada-



molekun, the 2005 NNOM recipient in Humanities. Born in Iju, Ondo State on July 20, 1942, Adamolekun is unarguably one of Africa's most notable scholars in Public Administration and was a public sector management specialist at the World Bank.



Professor Oladapo Olubusi Adamolekun



Prof. Soji Oluwole

After his secondary education at Oyemekun Grammar School and Christ's School, Ado-Ekiti, he earned a first class degree in French at the University of Ibadan, a masters in Public Administration at the University of Ife and doctorate in Politics at Oxford University. Adamolekun joined the faculty of Administration at the University of Ife, in 1968, and between 1979 and 1982, he was dean of the faculty.

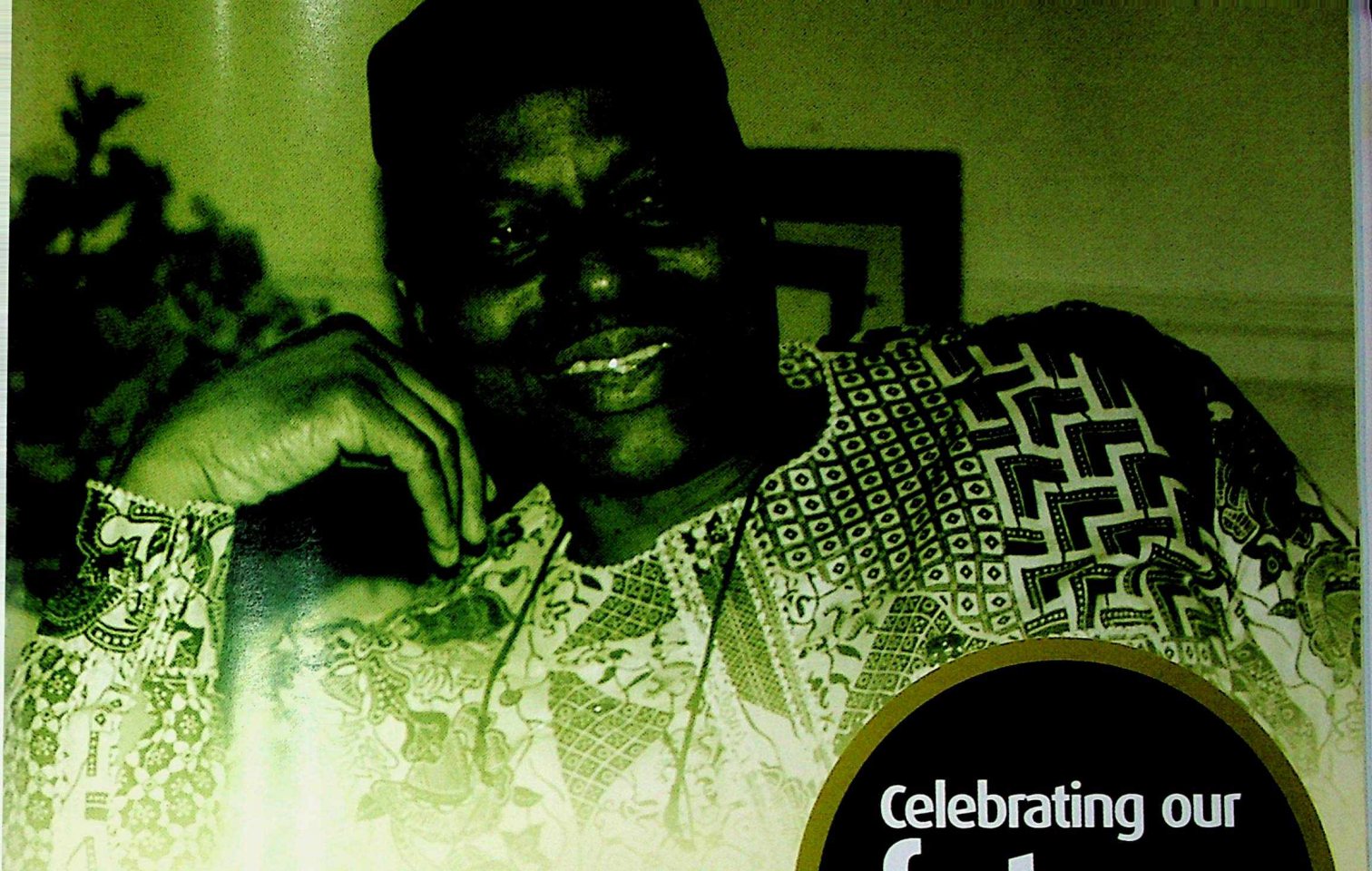
Professor Tolu Odugbemi who became an NNOM recipient on 6th December, 2008 is also one of the titans from Ondo State. The foundation Professor and Head of the Department of Medical Microbiology and Parasitology, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Ilorin 1983-1985 was born at Ado-Ekiti on 30th January 1945. His parents hail from Oke-Igbo in Ile-Oluji/Okeigbo Local Government of Ondo State.

He became College Dean, School of Basic Medical Sciences, and subsequently College Provost, College of Medicine of the University of Lagos (CMUL) and Mem-

ber Governing Council, University of Lagos January 1977- December, 2000. In January 2002, he was elected President/Chairman of Governing Board of the National Post-graduate Medical College of Nigeria; the apex medical and dental training institution in Nigeria. He also served as a Member of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria, 2002-2003.

Odugbemi is a Fellow of the Nigeria Academy of Science and one of his most profound books, "Outline and Picture of Medicinal Plants from Nigeria", contains pictures of 382 medicinal plants in the country. In the two hundred and eighty two page book, Odugbemi identifies each plant by botanical (scientific) and local names. He also gave the specific medical uses of the plants.

Together and individually, these scholars, dead and alive have continued to do Ondo State and Nigeria proud nationally and internationally.



On behalf of the Board, Management and entire Staff of the House of Assembly Service Commission, Ondo State, i heartily rejoice with our enigmatic and performing governor, His Excellency Dr. Olusegun Abayomi Mimiko and the beautiful children of this wonderful State on this year's Children's Day celebrations.

We celebrate these young minds and future leaders of this State today.

We look into your eyes and we see a brighter and rewarding future.

We pray the Almighty God to endow our Governor with more wisdom and strength to lead this State to the promised land.

Happy Children's Day!

Celebrating our future Leaders



Honourable Idowu Ogunmade,
*Executive Chairman, House of Assembly
Service Commission*

THE MEGA GOVERNOR OF OUR TIME



Olusegun Abayomi Mimiko, The Mega Governor Of Our State, we salute you, for your candour, steadfast, firmness and consistency in delivering the 'Caring Heart' dividends of good governance projects to the good people of Ondo State.

With your numerous achievements in the health sector the various Caring Heart and life changing Health programmes such as (i) Mother & Child Hospitals in Ondo State and Ondo State.

- Promotion of Health workers as and at when due
- Recruitment of over 2,000 Health Workers
- Implementation of modified Mocomess
- Consolidated Health salary structure and Mocomess
- Unified consolidated Medical salary structure of health workers salary scales,

D.
A. Ojo mm.
Permanent Secretary

(v) Changing the face of our Hospitals through renovation.

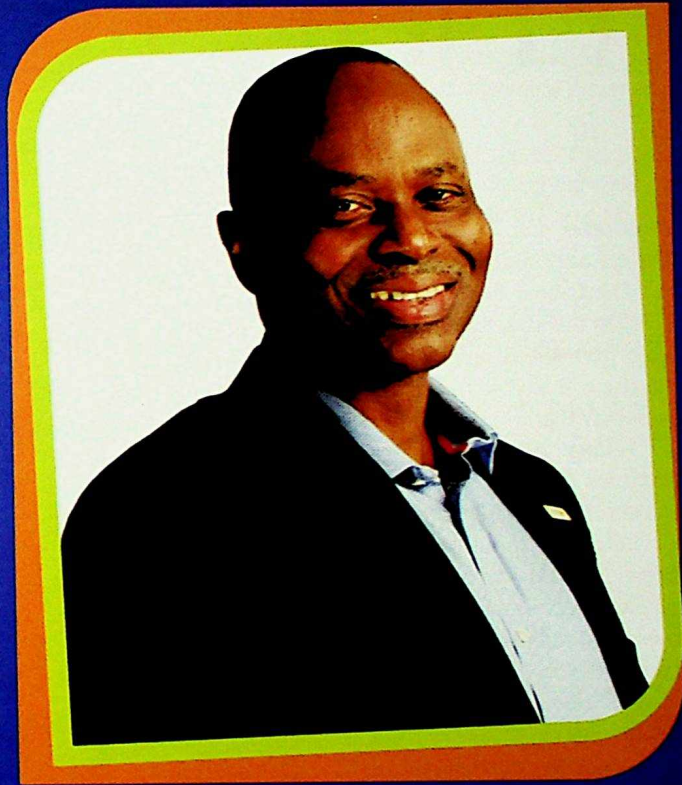
Which are based on progressive ideals and services to humanity. We are celebrating this epitome of transformation in the health sector.

IROKO! THE MEGA GOVERNOR OF OUR TIME, may you continue to login and shine, the mercy of God Almighty be with you to continue the good works you have started in our Sun Shine State and our great Country Nigeria. Forward Ever, Backward Never.



Dr. Tunde Ogunsusi
On behalf Board and Management

GASKIA MEDIA CELEBRATES THE IROKO



Gaskia Media Limited joins the Governor of Ondo State, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko in celebrating the children of the Sunshine State on the occasion Children's Day 2012.

Your strides in education and the development of the State's human capital aligns with our core values.



Mimiko on the marble

Your struggle will be my struggle, your joy will be my joy and your aspiration will be my aspiration. I will strive at all times to make decisions that will benefit the greatest member of our people.

During his inauguration in 2009

"I am here today as governor far from my ordinary average because I had access to education. Education is a liberating force. My father used to ask us if we knew the agony of the illiterates. He would ask us to move round town and count the number of signposts that were written in English. He usually said this to illustrate the agony of someone who could not read in English language.

Talking about importance of education

When I wanted to build the Ondo State School and I brought in a design, there was a lot of argument that the arrangement was too much for primary schools. Do you know how Awolowo would feel if he woke up and found out that the old schools he built then were the ones we are still using? If we don't have enough money, let us invest in the children first because they are the future.

Talking about taking a good environment to the

next level and improving on the life our children

The Labour Party government in this state got its mandate from the people and we must do everything possible to satisfy them.

Telling all political appointees to leave up to their expectations in their duties.

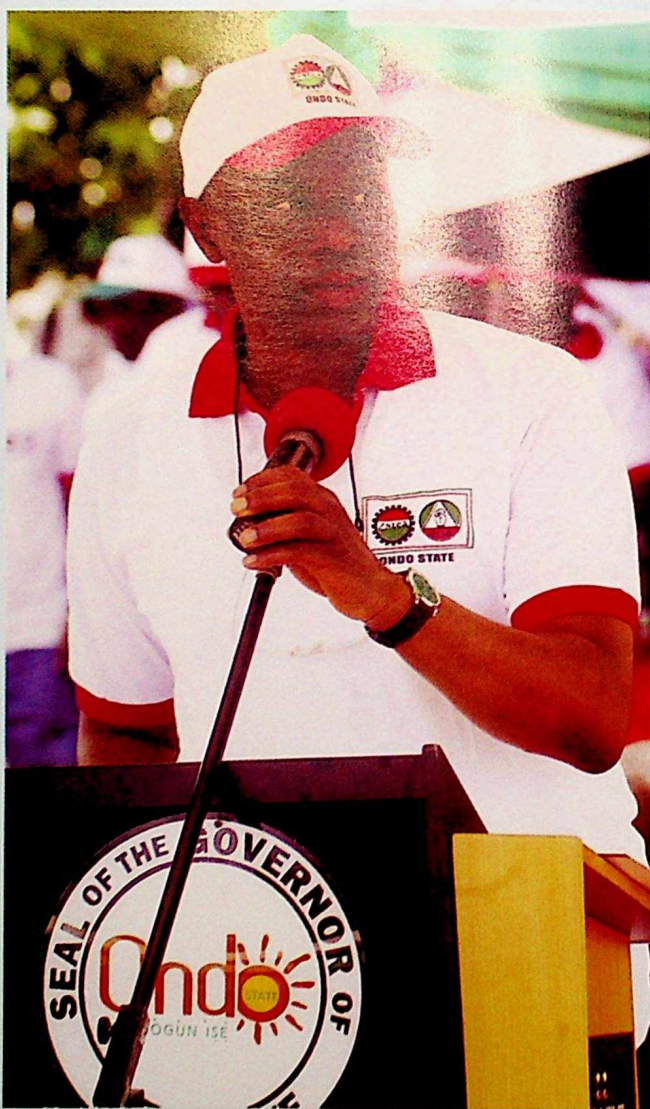
Before we came on board, there was this palpable disconnect between the government and the people. It was a situation of them and us.

While presenting his three years score card.

I want to state categorically that I never, at any stage, called the ACN a party of criminals as ascribed to me in a section of the media. By my upbringing and training, I have never disparaged anybody and would not start now. Yes, the ACN has of recent become unfriendly to us in Ondo State but I will never call anybody such names for any reason whatsoever.

While denying the rumours that he called ACN 'the party of criminals'.

I want to enjoin you all to continue to be your brothers' keepers; we must live in peace with our neighbours, we must imbibe, at all times, the spirit of oneness, piety, self sacrifice that we all went through during the fasting period. We must emulate the teachings



and ways of the Prophet Mohammed (SAW) if all our sacrifices and fasting must make any meaning before Almighty Allah.

while encouraging reli-

gious leaders to be harmonized during the Eld-il -Kabir prayer.

I cannot afford to fail. Is it God that I would go and tell that I have failed or the wom-

en who went naked because of me?

In an Interview with Nigerian Tribune of March 4, 2012

We must pay attention to education, in UK, from records, we have about 68,300 Nigeria students, by computation what they pay for flight tickets for up keep and tuition are about 50,000 euro minimum, these goes to mean that every year, N80 billion leaves Nigeria to UK university."

While giving the statistics of the Nigerians studying in Abroad

We want to make the existing hospitals more efficient using the Mother and Child Hospital as a model

Talking about Health care in the state

We are building markets. We have embarked on urban renewal process and cleaning up our cities, turning street traders into entrepreneurs. We've literally impacted every section.

Talking about his people oriented programmes in the state

We are also keying in into the National Health Insurance Scheme, one of the areas where health care financing challenges can be addressed because people have always talked of sustainability.

It is so exciting for these women when all parameters indicate that you will need a caesarean section and an ambulance comes to pick you and drop you because the hospital is waiting for you.

Talking about the development in the health sector

When we assumed office, I said that I would work for the people. Then, there was a disconnect between government and people. I can say confidently now that, not only are people participating in governance, they feel that they

are also part of government.

By the grace of God, we in Ondo State will take increased devotion from all the awards and recognitions we have received into redoubling our efforts to make sure that we spread, to all the nooks and crannies of Ondo state, the message of hope and the done of life more abundant for our people through the instrumentality of good governance.

At the Zik Leadership Prize Awards of 2012 where he emerged winner alongside governors of Anambra and Katsina States

I am happy to inform you that our government has been placing much emphasis on promotion of income generating, so as to alleviate poverty among the citizenry, particularly, the womenfolk.

At the monthly meeting with the wife of the of the governor by women groups tagged "Gbebiro"

I am sure that come election time, we are not only interesting in beating the opposition, we are interested in disgracing them electorally.

While receiving Chief Fola Akintemi after his defection to the Labour Party with his supporters re ently.

I can see this state blossoming, transforming and all our past glory coming back. I believe we will enthrone the kind of government that will fulfil the aspiration of the people. We are really serious in Industrialising this state. I will provide leadership by empowering the people of Ondo State to develop their state.

At the reception held in his honour by the Dolfa's Club Ondo, Ondo State in May 2009

On our part as a government we will continue to serve you better and we can assure

you that the best is yet to come; Ondo State will continue to shine and with your support and prayers, we will continue to bring to you the real dividends of democracy.

After the people of the state voted his party, the Labour Party, both at the National Assembly and the Houses of Assembly Elections in April 2011.

Our administration will leverage on the geographical location of the town to boost the state's internally generated revenue.

While promising to make Ore town the nation's model commercial hub.

God has a reason for keeping us together. The Hausa man, the Igbo man, the Epira man are my brothers. We have all been living together in peace over the years. There is no room for discrimination of any sort in the state.

Assuring non-indigenes resident in the state of adequate security of lives and property.

No nation wrecks the kind of carnage as we are now witnessing without paying higher price of internal implosion. We must do everything to avert this drift to chaos.

While condemning the Christmas Day, 25-12-2011 bombing of churches in some parts of the North.

We have no business with unemployment. We are going to demonstrate to Ondo State and Nigeria that we have the capacity to provide employment, gainful employment for all our graduates and our youths.

While on an inspection tour of the proposed agriculture village established by his administration along Ore-Sagamu road.

We have fully maximized the use of public funds by our

approach and the state is better for it.

While commissioning the second phase of the Isinkan caring Heart Neighbourhood Market built by his administration in December 2011.

I want to assure you that your government is on. Course, we are accountable to the people for every kobo we spent on life-changing projects.

Giving the assurance at the swearing-in ceremony of three more commissioners into the state executive council on December 15, 2011.

We need to make massive investment in education especially education of the girl child. The more educated a girl is the chances of the large family reducing and the chances of child survival increasing.

At an interactive session with journalist in Oyo State Capital shortly after receiving a merit award of the society of Gynaecology and Obstetrics of Nigeria in recognition of his administration's commitment to safe motherhood healthcare.

We believe that for us to re-engineer education and reposition it, we must provide the best infrastructural facilities of global standard. We are happy that we dream about this and God has helped us to realize it.

After inspecting the completed caring heart mega primary school, Igbodigo, Okitipupa in November 2011.

I must thank the people of Ondo State and all our well-wishers in Nigeria for standing by us.

Immediately after the court of Appeal Judgment that pronounced him the authentic governor of Ondo State in March 2009

ONDO STATE'S Golden Girl

Tolulope, an all star student, leading the pack at the last WASCE and JAMB exams, represents the new thrust of the Ondo State for quality education.

By Felix Ikime



Remember this name: Tolulope Falokun. The brilliant 17-year-old student from Ondo State, who scored distinctions (A₁) in all the nine subjects she sat for in the May/June 2011 West African Senior School Certificate Examination. Not only that, she scored 290 in the 2011 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) and emerged the second overall best student in the Post-UTME conducted by the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) Ile-Ife with 336 marks.

Small wonder she has already been awarded scholarship to study law at OAU and would also enjoy a special financial support from the state government throughout her academic career. "Apart from the full scholarship, she will also benefit from the govern-

ment's annual bursaries and scholarships and other packages provided for Law students both at the university and the Law School by the state government," explained Mr Remi Olatubora, Ondo State Commissioner for Education during a reception organised for Falokun at St. Louis Secondary School, Ondo town, her Alma Mata. "When I saw the type of girl she is, I decided to give her the best I could. She got A₁ in all her subjects in the JSS exams," noted Mrs Adeyemi, who was Falokun's principal in JSS 1.

Indeed, Falokun's excellent academic records speak volumes. In 2005, the 17-year-old whose father is a civil engineer while her mother is a nurse, was among the best five students admitted into St. Louis and was later made the senior prefect because of her brilliance. Besides getting distinctions in all the subjects she sat for in the Junior Secondary School State Exams in 2008, Falokun came first in the ANCOPSS National Quiz competition as well as the Ekimogun Essay Competition in December, 2010. "I prayed hard and worked hard, using my timetable as a guide. I denied myself a lot of things especially social events. I made the sacrifice because I know there is ample time for all that after my education," said an elated but grateful Falokun when asked how she became a high flyer.



Mimiko

Political Iroko

By Kayode Akinmade

Iroko is the father of trees, the king of the forest which thrives in its god-given domain, unfettered by lesser trees, and majestic in its solid essence. The symbolic, political sweep of Iroko is captured in the Yoruba belief that, as its maturity is a potent threat to its foes. Symbolically, Iroko connotes splendour, resilience, stolidity, healthiness, pulchritude and majesty. Iroko is the father of trees, whatever the qualms of naysayers. Iroko does not make a forest but it is the father of the trees.

Dr Olusegun Mimiko, current Republic's most decorated governor, brings into governance a unique blend of ideology shaped by the pragmatics of the Nigerian socio-political and socioeconomic ecology, a visionary and revolutionary template defined by solid performance as opposed to ideological legalese, unbridled propaganda in the face of lustreless performance and verbal progressivism lacking in requisite action. The Mimiko mystique is urbane, cultured, and decorum-driven even in the face of relentless assaults by intellectual minions, half-baked ideologues and moral misfits. The Iroko ise takun takun mantra, rooted in tested cultural ethos, is, analysts say, dialectically interrogatory rather than unthinkingly celebratory

of history, political culture; in short, the very essence, meaning and direction of governance. Call it the new Awoism, Mimikoesque or whatever, it is the only vision/paradigm shift that serves as a benchmark for contemporary African developmental leadership, whether you are thinking of education, the health sector or the environment. Indeed, those who call him Iroko do so in deep appreciation of his sterling qualities as an agent of change.

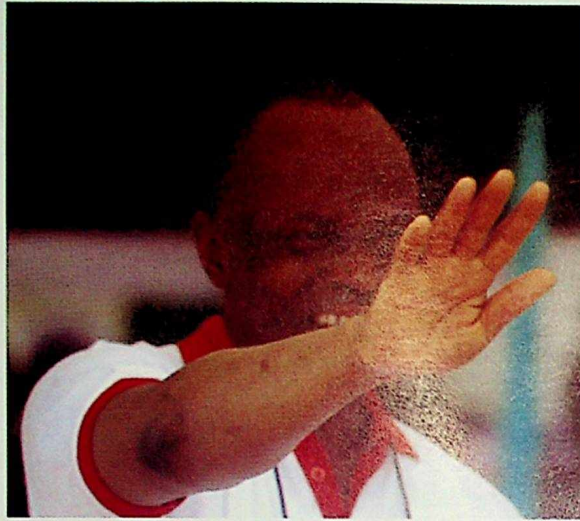
Alluringly, Mimiko's current acclaimed status as an unequalled progressive has an integral linkage with his upbringing and struggles for a better society. From his remarkable upbringing as the sire of a committed Awoist who believed that whatever Awo had a hand in must be good and therefore decreed that his son must read medicine at the University of Ife in the early 1970's because Awo was associated with the school, Mimiko's progressive credentials were sharpened as a student union activist and kingmaker at the acclaimed Africa's most beautiful campus at a time the great thinkers and shakers of the African continent lectured at the university, and he was, at the same time, a highly introspective man of the arts who knew Wole Soyinka, P'Bitek and other masters

by heart and committed himself to a practical application of the ideals canvassed by these intellectuals in their prodigious literary outputs.

Indeed, the young prodigy who confronted a former commissioner who had been sent by the Government when he (Mimiko), while on housemanship at a State Hospital, had organised nurses and doctors at the hospital to stage a protest against the government over lack of water and electricity), was a member of the Ondo Study Group which correctly predicted the fall of the Soviet Union. In the early 80s, by his own account, "Dr Mimiko's hospital was also a centre for activism of sorts. All the young lecturers at Adeyemi College of Education then would always gravitate towards my hospital by 4p.m; they would all come around under the mango tree to pontificate over national issues. The likes of Tola Wewe, Tunde Babawale of CBAAC, Ojo Olorunleke and other young lecturers alike would come to the hospital to discuss national issues."

Of course, the hospital was a kind of charity home where people never got turned back, and where they exploited the humane nature and munificence of the doctor/activist to get treatment for

various ailments almost at no cost. A publication, the Dawn of Awareness, captured the intellectual engagement of the group on critical national issues, so deep in their political essence that many would, just like in the present, often forget that Mimiko was a medical doctor. Of course, today, there are Bolekaja ideologues, political riff raff crying integration in the face of insane conduct, and inching to arrest the Ondo revolution, forgetting, to borrow a Shakespearean word, the ideo of an enlightened populace who are appreciative of the massive developmental strides of the people's governor, builder of the first court in prison on the African continent, initiator of a World Health Organisation (WHO) benchmark Abiye (literally, safe birth) programme who, at the same time, has taken sports to unimaginable heights while paying the highest minimum wage in the country.



Obasanjo, under whom, as minister, the Iroko got Nigeria its building code, just would not let go of him. He drafted him to Abuja as Minister of Housing. However, back home, the call for service were becoming more strident because those who knew the Iroko's ideological and service pedigree knew that he would take governance to greater, unimaginable heights and bring back the Obafemi Awolowo/UPN days. However, the "power that be", realising the political implication of releasing an invaluable asset, eventually vowed to do everything possible to frustrate the Mimiko aspiration. But God would always make another way for his anointed: four months of mass mobilisation, powered by tested political tactics and visionary strategy, delivered the goods.

But then, the man of the people was up against the state, and took his battle to the courts, where he eventually reclaimed his mandate, setting Ondo State on the path of massive development. A progressive to the core, Mimiko has provided a credo that is impossible to deny. According to him, "When Awolowo democratised education, it was against the status quo. Even his contemporaries in the arch-conservatives of the North were afraid that he would open the eyes of the people. That later proved to be one of the greatest policies that have affected the lives of the people. That was anti-status quo. Awolowo did not build school for the rich; he built schools for the masses. That was progressivism.

"A progressive leader cannot be selfish and amass wealth for himself/herself at the expense of the masses. I have said it before, if resources were limitless, there won't be

government. Everybody will just go there and pick their own. But because resources are limited, we have government that takes decision on behalf of the people. So, you cannot short-change the people and still say that you are a progressive. Most importantly, progressives strive at all times to make resources equitable.

"Whatever colouration, there will always be progressives and conservatives. In Nigeria today, if you support democratisation

and access to education, you are a progressive. If you support access to qualitative health care, you are a progressive. If you spend the greater part of your total budget giving access to the people, you are a progressive. It is about the choices you make every day.

"If you believe that no matter the circumstance of the birth of anybody, he/she can rise to any position, you are a progressive. Without being immodest, I can say that all my choices have always been in the favour of a common man/woman while creating conducive environments for those who have ab initio to continue to excel. We did not say because we built the Mother and Child Hospital, all the private hospitals should close down. I believe that if government makes the right decisions and policies, who can compete with government?"

Many of the governor's admirers would indeed wonder why he does not join issues with his opponents, including intellectual minions canvassing ideologically vacuous ideas. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, former president, the Osun State governor, Dr. Olusegun Agagu, Rauf Aregbesola and many others have, at one time or the other, launched vitriolic attacks on the Ondo governor, but, like a true Iroko, he has always maintained his cool, believing, perhaps, that he has better things to do with his time than to engage in intemperate conduct. Indeed, the more he is denigrated by his foes, the more he cuts an alluring image in the eyes of the Nigerian people, an uncontested example of Omoluabi, beyond the effusions of cultural clowns and political failures.



Now... The Sun truly shines!

Your passion for service and commitment to the all round development of Ondo State stands you out among men. You are truly the Iroko!

As you celebrate our children, the future of our dear state today, we identify with you and say well done.

E ku ire takun takun!



Mr. G.A. Adebayo,
Managing Director/CEO
For board and management



Perfect Intergrated Foods Industry Limited
2 Oke Adura Street, Arigidi-Akoko, Ondo State

