



ONDO STATE GOVERNMENT  
**Office of the Governor**

25 Feb. 20, 2015

**OBAFEMI AWOLOWO FOUNDATION  
15 LANRE AWOLOKUN ROAD  
GBAGADA PHASE II  
LAGOS**

**GOODWILL MESSAGE TO THE AWOLOWO FOUNDATION ON ITS 2<sup>nd</sup> EDITION OF THE  
OBAFEMI AWOLOWO PRIZE FOR LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Chief Obafemi Awolowo's feat in good governance and sound leadership was buttressed by the former Western Region's relative advancement in all indices of human development: in socio-economic development, material prosperity and the pursuit of the egalitarian ideal. Subsequent inability of successive governments in Nigeria, either to match or improve on the late sage's record of achievement – in any field of human development – made a compelling argument not only for the employment of his brand of governance specialism but, for the criticality of transformational leadership and good governance to a sound national economy and viable political entity.

In these days of the bastardization of the core essence of Awolowo's political philosophy for electoral advantage, I congratulate the Awolowo Foundation on both its second edition of the Obafemi Awolowo Prize for Leadership Award and again, for instituting a credible and noble barometer in the search for a culture of sustainable political governance through competent and visionary leadership. This, I hope, will not only be motivational to the awardees but, serve to further entrench one of society's more enduring values: the correlation of manifest excellence with recognition and reward.

The recipient of this biennial and 2<sup>nd</sup> Award is a South African politician, Thabo Mvulyelwa Mbeki, who served nine years – June 1999 to September 2008 – as the second post-apartheid President of South Africa under whose tenure, the economy of South Africa grew by 4.5% and a fast-growing black middle class was created with the implementation of his administration's Black Economic Empowerment (BEE). I therefore, salute the informing choice of the Foundation and congratulate the worthy recipient.

**DR. OLUSEGUN MIMIKO  
ONDO STATE GOVERNOR**

