



LEVERAGING ON TOURISM POTENTIALS FOR ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF ONDO STATE

In broad terms, Tourism is defined as when people travel and stay in places outside of their usual environment for less than one year for leisure, business, health or other reasons (Statista Research Department, 2020).

Tourism Industry encompasses lodging, transportation, travels, food and attraction of all sorts. The Tourism industry has since gone beyond being the traditional promoter of cultural heritage to becoming the spinning wheel of economic development in various countries of the world. In 2019, the Tourism industry provided a total of 334 million jobs representing 10.6% of total global employment and 10.4% of global GDP. However, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the figures experienced a decline in 2020. It is projected that by 2023, the global market size of tourism industry would be about 89 Billion US Dollars.

The development of Tourism industry has been identified as a key driver of economic development across the world.

Countries, both developed and developing are seemingly in the race to outdo one another in promoting their tourism potentials in their respective areas of comparative strengths.

Countries like the Jamaica, Malta, Croatia, Seychelles and others depend heavily on tourism, for economic growth and national development. Many other countries are now shifting attention to this sector as a result of huge economic potentials available in the industry.

Various studies have also attested to the fact that diversification into the tourism sector opens greater opportunities for returns, reduces industrial volatility, safeguards against adverse market cycle and reduces the risk of loss - if an investment performs poorly at a period of time, other investments like tourism can perform better during this period, thus, reducing the losses ascribed to the idea of concentrating large capital on a particular investment. **Contd. on Pg 3.**

Editorial

REDEFINING ONDO STATE TOURISM THROUGH LOCAL PATRONAGE

All over the globe, Tourism is gaining currency as an economic development catalyst, shedding its traditional toga of mere cultural, historical and leisure-driven social experience.

The Tourism industry has become a multi-billion dollar industry, contributing more to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of many nations than their natural resources and other services. Tourism is now a gold mine to any government that can seize the initiative to develop it. Sites such as the Walt Disney World in the USA, Shanghai Disney land in China, Universal Studios in Japan, Tokyo Disneyland, OCT Happy Valley in Beijing, China, Ferrari World in Abu Dhabi, the Safari Resorts and Game reserves in South Africa and East Africa, the Gambia Beach an other tourist destinations receive millions of tourists, yielding significant earnings, annually.

Just like the above mentioned countries, Ondo State has a huge tourism potential. The beautiful Idanre hills, the captivating Ebomi Lake, the Caribbean-like Araromi beach, sitting on the largest coastal line in West Africa, the mystical and historical Igbo Eledumare, to mention a few can compete favourably with top-of-the-line tourist destinations of developed countries, if well developed.

One of the veritable ways of ensuring development of these sites is local patronage. After all, it is often said that charity begins at home. The best time to demonstrate such charity is now, especially with travel bans and restrictions across countries due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its variants. The tourist sites in Ondo State should receive higher patronage from inhabitants of the State. This will, to a great extent, will increase the value of these sites and open them up to local investments worthy of international patronage. One of the potent ways of showcasing our tourism to the world is the internet, most especially the social media, which has been a veritable instrument for bridging the gap of social interaction and physical experiences due to the pandemic. Same can be used to showcase the potentials of Ondo State to the world.

The present Administration of Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN is committed to developing the Tourism Industry of the State to become a point of reference, locally and internationally. This, no doubt will have a huge pay off for the State, economically and industrially.

Already, the State is making giant strides in industrial development. However, the impact could be more, if the tourism sites are active and can lure investors to other untapped investment frontiers in the State. This will boost economic development in the face of dwindling statutory receipts from the federation accounts.

This Edition of ODSIP Newsletter focuses on the tourism potentials of our dear Sunshine State and calls for our support, patronage and propagation to develop our tourism industry in view of economic and industrial gains. ■



'Niran Adeyemo, mni.
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

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LEVERAGING ON TOURISM POTENTIALS...(Contd)

As smart governments are tapping into the huge potentials of tourism, Ondo State, under the leadership of Arakunrin Akeredolu, SAN has considered it the way to go. To Mr. Governor, the State must widen its economic horizon beyond the warning crude oil platform and latch onto the tourism development with all seriousness. Nothing can be truer!

In Ondo State, it is on record that there are avalanche of tourism sites ranging from the Idanre hills and its beauty of nature in Odode-Idanre, Idanre Local Government Area, Ebomi Lake at Ipesi Akoko, Akoko South East Local Government Area, Igbo Olodumare in Okeigbo, Ile Oluji/Okeigbo Local Government Area, Oke Maria in Oka Akoko, Akoko South West Local Government Area, Cave of Ashes in Isarun, Ifedore Local Government Area to Coast Creeks, canals and Araromi Seaside in Ilaje Local Government Area. As a way of fulfilling his mandate for the people, the present administration took note of observations and submissions on success stories in the tourism sector and captured the development of the sector in its third agenda of the REDEEMED mantra – **DEVELOPMENT THROUGH MASSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE**, with the aim of utilizing tourism potentials to boost infrastructural development in the State.

Thinking out of the box, the present administration took the bold step of transforming Ondo State to an industrial tourism, a project critics regarded as a baby dead on arrival; but the vibrant and highly cerebral Governor Oluwarotimi Odunayo Akeredolu, SAN, reinvigorated the industrial potentials of the State with the determination to place it on the world map through various industrial investment that opens up the airspace of Ondo State and making it accessible to tourists.

Governor Oluwarotimi Odunayo Akeredolu, SAN considered tourism beyond site-seeing, expressing thought that industrial tourism could create a commercial revolution in the Sunshine State and make it an economic hub in South West, Nigeria. He noted that Ondo State can go beyond being an oil producing State by utilising the gains of all-round tourism to generate huge resources the government needs to implement various projects in the State. "If you give me an oil field or tourism and ask me to pick one, I will pick tourism", Governor Akeredolu said.

Walking the talk, Ondo State Government partnered Hessmac Industry Limited to establish the industrial hub, Ore, popularly referred to as Linyi hub. It was designed to employ over 120,000 youths, small and medium business owners in and outside Ondo State in order to create a platform for industrial revolution in the Sunshine State, where both government, groups and individuals would benefit maximally.

The industry built on 1000 hectares of land offers many facility capable of eradicating poverty, improving standard of living, boosting wealth creation and making Ondo State a technology haven. Reports available indicate that over seven multinational companies have begun full operations at the hub, while others are already fine-tuning their papers and ready to begin operations. It, therefore, creates employment opportunity for the people, while promoting production and sales by business driven entities and individuals. According to the Managing Director of the Ore Industrial Hub, Mr. Femi Akinkuebi, entrepreneurs at the Park have access to world-class infrastructure, ultra-fast operational efficiency, proximity to raw materials and target markets, uninterrupted power supply, easy access to gas with EPL gas pipeline, installed 30MW trio-fuel Independent Power Plant and adequate security. The hub, consequently, provides facilities and equipment for business owners to strive and promote their businesses.

Speaking on this development, Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwoolu described the Park as a masterpiece located in an unusual location, adding that history will be kind to Governor Akeredolu for turning obscurity to greatness. Likewise, an industrialist, Chief Alex Ajipe, observed that the Ore Industrial hub is now a cynosure of all eyes and the construction of dual carriageway of Araromi to Lekki in Lagos, if completed will open up Ondo State to more tourists.

In another dimension, the State Government partnered Oshodi Art Gallery, La Campagne Tropicana Beach Resort and other professionals in order to give live to the tourism investment and potentials in the State; signing on Otunba Wanle Akinboboye as a strategic partner and arrowhead of Ondo State tourism project, believing that the partnership would drive the State's expectation for tourism development, generate employment and provide opportunities for all.

This initiative is expected to drive the State's tourism sector through the public/private partnership, where investors would turn around the narratives of tourism in the Sunshine State and set the pace for other South West States. For example, Ondo State Government has climaxed activities to ensure UNESCO enlists the Idanre hills among World Tourism sites. The Idanre hills, located in Odode-Idanre, Idanre local government area of the State, is playing host to a conference of mountains. A visitor to the highly aesthetic hill collections has to climb 682 steps before arriving at a location that provides a close view of the hills and adventures therein. On the hills, there exists the old Court at Odeja since 1906, Oshokogbe stone site used for the Apon festival, the Orosun source and festival site, the Igboore primary school founded in 1896, tourists chalets built in 1954, Omi Arun, the ancient palace and courtyard of Owa

of Idanre, conference of mountains, the wonderful rock, the magical footprint, the unreadable handwriting of the flood, the unverified ark of Noah and lots of exploits. All these eagerly await exploration by prospective visitors who would not hesitate to invest and bring value.

In the Southern Senatorial district of the State is the Araromi Seaside. The seaside has promising attractions similar to that of the Lekki Beach. It is worthy to state that the Government has turned around the moribund beach in Araromi, Ilaje local government area of Ondo State to destination of investors and tourists attraction. The repackaged beach links up with the popular Lagos Beach, giving visitors, including foreigners, a beauty to behold; haven of relaxation and fun-making, thus, increasing the economic fortune of the people in the area.

The Cave of ashes: This is another yet to be tapped tourism attraction in Isarun, Ifedore local government area of Ondo State. Popularly referred to as "Iho Eleeru", it was discovered by a hunter referred to as Chief Obele in 1922. The site was visited by famous archeologists like Thurstan Shaw in 1965, where human bones of Stone Age, pottery works and other artifacts were excavated. The bones were believed to have been dated back to 11,200 years. After series of intensive researches, the Cave of Ashes, surrounded by big wonderful rocks was recognized as a tourist site in 1992 and it is believed to have hosted ancient men centuries ago, whilst their potteries, weaponries are still at the site.

Other tourism sites include: Igbo Olodumare (Forest of God) in Okeigbo, the Ebomi Lake in Ipesi Akoko, Oke Maria in Oka Akoko, Smoking Hills Golf Resorts, Ilara Mokin, Crosscreek Golf Course, Ilado, National Museum, Owo, the Deji's Palace, Akure, Oyemekun Rocks, Akure and several others. All these tourism attractions have continued to endear the hearts of tourists to Ondo State, whilst the present administration is totally committed to using them to increase revenue generation and driving infrastructural development in the State through tourism. ■



ODSIP PHOTO SPEAK



Ondo State Head of Service, Pastor 'Niran Adeyemo, mni receiving his plaque, having been conferred with the honour of Fellow, Chartered Institute of Personnel Administrator of Nigeria (CIPAN) at the Annual Conference of the Institute, held in Abuja in October, 2021.



Officials of the Ondo State Agency for the Control of AIDS (ODSACA) conducting checking the vitals of Change Ambassadors at the 7th edition of HoS' Interaction with Change Ambassadors



Officials of Primary Healthcare Development Agency during their monthly sanitation exercise, in accordance with ODSIP tenets.



The Head of Service, Pastor 'Niran Adeyemo, mni launching the Feedback Mechanism for Health Facilities and Public Secondary Schools

ODSIP Update

- Adewale Omomowo
- Olumuyiwa Akinkuolie

PENSION TRANSITIONAL DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES E-PORTAL FOR PENSIONERS

The Ondo State Pension Transitional Department, Office of the Head of Service recently launched its Pensioners Platform (www.ondopensiondept.org) The Portal was developed for all pensioners, but most especially for officers who retired between 1st January 2013 to 1st January 2019 and who have not been paid their gratuity. The Launch/demonstration which was held in the office of the Head of service, had in attendance stakeholders, including representatives of the Pensioners Association of Nigeria, Office of Establishments and Training, Accountant General' Office, Auditor-General's Office and the Reform Office.

According to the in-house developer, the homegrown platform is user-friendly and has been designed for Pensioners to fill in their records without stress. The platform will assist the Pensioners to monitor and ascertain the status of their gratuity payment.

While showing concern for the level of literacy with computers, especially among pensioners, the Permanent Secretary, Pension Transitional Department, Chief O.F Akinmoye, stated that Pensioners who have difficulty with the platform can easily walk into the Pension Transitional Department, have their details filled for them.

ONDOHRM HANDSHAKES SIFMIS

Pursuant to the Ondo State Government's efforts to operate a seamless and technologically savvy Public Service, the State Integrated Financial Management Information Systems (SIFMIS) has been relaunched and is now positioned for optimum performance. However, in order to integrate the records of Public Servants and discourage working in Silos, a 20-man Technical Committee was set up to facilitate the handshake of Homegrown Ondo Human Resource Management Software (ONDOHRM) with the State Information Financial Management Information System (SIFMIS).

Friday, 26th November, 2021, the OndoHRM/SIFMIS Technical Committee led by its Chairman Mr. Oluwagbenga Akingbasote, Permanent Secretary, Deputy Governor's Office having done its due diligence on workplans and technicalities for the task at hand, met with the Head of Service, Pastor Niran Adeyemo, mni and consequently submitted to him the Interim Report of the Committee. The Head of Service appreciated the Committee for the job well done . **Contd. on Pg 6.**

YOU and the RULES

■ Aderemi Olabode



In our last edition, we discussed misconduct and punishments that could be given to officers who erred in the Public Service.

In this edition, we are going to discuss the conditions that must be satisfied before an officer is promoted to the next higher grade.

Therefore, the following are the conditions to be met before an officer is promoted:

(i) MATURITY

Before an officer is promoted to the next higher grade, the officer must have spent the minimum waiting period in his/her present grade level to fall within the field of selection. The minimum waiting period are in different categories. Viz.

GL.01 – 06	-	2years
GL.07 – 14	-	3years
GL.15 – 17	-	4years

(ii) VACANCY POSITIONS

For an officer to be promoted, there must be a vacancy position to accommodate the officer in the grade in which he/she is to be promoted.

(iii) PROMOTION INTERVIEW

Before any officer is promoted to the next higher grade, such an officer must appear before the Junior/Senior Staff Committee, i.e the officer must be physically present at the interview.

(iv) ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT (APER)

Annual Performance Evaluation Report must be completed by officers who are due to be promoted to the next higher grade. Two years preceding the date of interview for Junior Staff is required while that of Senior Officers is three years.

APER form is very important for the following reasons:

- It provides a full record of each officer's work conduct and capabilities on which his suitability for promotion may be judged.
- It helps the Civil Service Commission to know precisely what work an officer has been engaged in and the judgement formed on the work. This is used in weighing the relative merits of officers when a vacancy occurs. ■

ODSIP Update Contd.

7TH EDITION OF HEAD OF SERVICE'S INTERACTION WITH CHANGE AMBASSADORS

The 7th Edition of the Head of Service's Interaction with Change Ambassadors was held on 30th November, 2021. The event which took place at the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) was the last one for year 2021. As it is customary, it featured two major topics: 'Self Sustenance Through Cottage Agriculture' and 'Renewable Energy'. The papers were delivered by Engineer Caleb Olowojola, who represented the Senior Special Assistant on Agric-business, and the General Manager, Ondo State Electricity Board (OSEB), Engineer S.O Fadojutimi, respectively.

Addressing the Change Ambassadors (CA), The Head of Service, Pastor Niran Adeyemo, mni charged them to imbibe good reform practices, especially in the areas of cascading the knowledge learnt at the Interaction. He emphasized the need to take to agriculture, especially in these times of inadequate resources.

The Head of Service told the CAs to do a self-assessment of their mandate and endeavor to improve in the new year. Also, the Administrative Secretary, Mr. 'Wale Omomowo appreciated the dedication of the CAs. He informed them that the Reform Office is already making plans for a very eventful 2022. Therefore, all must be up and doing, to catch up with the train of sustainable reforms for better service delivery.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH CONDUCTS TRAINING FOR STAFF

In furtherance of its policy on human capital development, the Ondo State Ministry of Health held a two-day capacity building training workshop for workers in the Ministry.

The training workshop which had as its theme "Efficiency and Productivity in The Work Place for Effective Service Delivery" was held for officers across the various Cadres and Grade Levels in the Ministry.

Addressing the participants, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Pharmacist (Mrs.) Folukemi Aladenola noted that the training workshop was designed to ensure a better workforce in the Ministry of Health, which is capable of guaranteeing effective and efficient health care service delivery.

Participants at the capacity building training workshop commended the Ministry for the opportunity given them to improve their knowledge and competence on the job. They promised to exhibit all the new knowledge acquired at the training workshop in their various duty posts.

HOSPITALS' MANAGEMENT BOARD LAUNCHES E-PERSONNEL PORTAL

The Hospital's Management Board (HMB) has launched its E-personnel Portal (www.hmbondo.com). The event, which heralded the training on usage of the platform took place at the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) Hall, along Igbatoro road, Akure between 22nd and 27th November, 2021. Commissioning the homegrown platform for use and declaring the training workshop open, the Head of Service, Pastor 'Niran Adeyemo, mni lauded the initiative of the platform. He emphasized the need for more Ministries, Departments and Agencies to continue to embrace homegrown development of software solutions, as it will help local development of ideas and sustainability. He noted that the Digitization objective of this administration can only be fully achieved, when all platforms within the State are Integrated and function seamlessly.

The Permanent Secretary, Hospitals' Management Board, Dr. Niran Ikuomola said that the platform was built to help the Board to manage its Human and material resources, better.

The Administrative Secretary of the Reform Office, Mr 'Wale Omomowo, commended the Board for its ingenuity. He stressed that reform is a collective business and it is only when everyone was on board that it would become a reality. He then offered continued support of the Reform Office for the realization of more initiatives.

SEMA SHARES RELIEF MATERIALS TO MOTHERLESS BABIES' HOMES

The management and staff of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development expressed profound gratitude to the Ondo State Governor, the Deputy Governor and NIMASA, through Ondo State SEMA, Office of the Deputy Governor for this laudable humanitarian gesture to the two Homes - the Children Correctional and Rehabilitation Centres.

The homes said that the materials and drugs have brought immeasurable joy and great relief to the children and inmates. The beneficiaries expressed their sincere appreciation to the Permanent Secretary and Director, Finance and Administration too, with prayers for God to bless Ondo State, and Nigeria. ■

ODSIP Lens

ONDO STATE BECOMES FIRST TO PRESENT BUDGET PROPOSAL TO HoA

The Ondo State Governor, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN on the 28th of September presented the 2022 budget proposal to the Ondo State House of Assembly, making the State the first to do so in Nigeria. The 2022 budget proposal which is estimated at 191.6 Billion Naira was considered by the House Committee on Appropriation. Ministries, Departments and Agencies subsequently appeared before the House to defend their 2022 budget .

ODSIP Lens recognizes the effort of Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget in conducting relevant Town Hall Meetings, Stakeholder Engagements and setting up effective budget seminars to acquaint budget officers with the new Modus Operandi concerning the National Charts of Accounts (NCoA). The dedication put in to make sure that the Budget proposal was ready for the House of Assembly's consideration is admirable and reflects effective service delivery.

Members of the House! The ball is now in your court to give the 2022 budget proposal the accelerated signing and implementation it deserves.

ABANDONED PROJECT VEHICLES AND MACHINERY

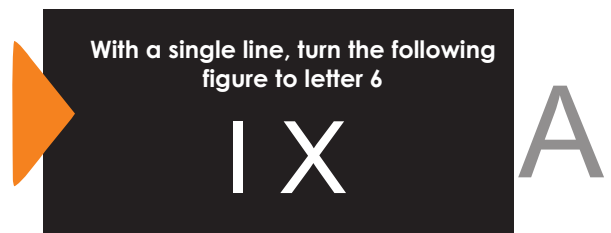
ODSIP Lens recently caught sight of a rather pitiable situation in most of the prominent Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in the State where project vehicles and equipment such as heavy duty generators, which were either donated by development partners or purchased for a specific project, have been left unattended and are at the brink of becoming unrepairable. A subtle enquiry into the state of some of these vehicles and equipment indicate that most of them could be fixed and made utilizable with little amounts of money. However, they have been abandoned by their purchasing MDAs. Some other MDAs desperately need these items and wouldn't mind putting them in good shape for their use.

In addition, on some of the investigations of ODSIP Lens around town, some official vehicles, which either could not get funding for repairs or are outright beyond repairs litter mechanic workshops around town. One of our correspondents sited some and reported the development.

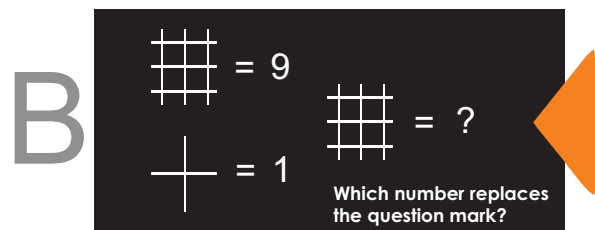
ODSIP Lens appeals to Ministries, Departments and Agencies that are culpable to make amends and endeavor to put these vehicles and machinery in working conditions. Maintenance is key for sustainable governance. ■

P U Z Z L E

With a single line, turn the following figure to letter 6



B



Which number replaces the question mark?

You can send your answers to the Managing Editor. Handsome rewards await the winners.

Answers to the Last Puzzle

A= R (Reverse)

B = 6 (the missing letter in the lot of 1-9)

Words on MARBLE

"I know reform is never easy. But I know reform is right"

JULIA GILLARD

Letter
to the EDITOR



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REDEEMED

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