

**REPORT OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE 2024 OSUN OSOGBO
FESTIVAL "PARADIGM SHIFT TOWARDS INNOVATION" ON 6TH
-9thAUGUST. 2024.**

INTRODUCTION:

1.0 Consequent upon the invitation by the Osun State Government to the Hon. Minister, Federal Ministry of Art, Culture and Creative Economy, the Permanent Secretary gave approval for a delegation led by the DDO Cultural Statistics and Liaison, **Mr Yohanna Envadu** and **Mr Samuel Ukpevo** of the Department of Cultural Industry and Heritage to grace the occasion. The Osun Osogbo Festival is celebrated annually in the month of August and it is a celebration of peace, Beauty, fertility and prosperity by the bank of the Osun River at the Grove site.

1.1 The grove site measures about 120 acres in size. The grove is a revered site with its river water believed to have healing and miracle potency and is the abode of the Yoruba goddess of beauty, fertility and prosperity.

1.2 The delegation from the Ministry arrived Osogbo on the 8th of August 2024. On the 9th of August, 2024 at 9.0 am the ceremony commenced with the procession to the grove led by the Votary Maid (Arugba), and a host of devotees followed by the arrival of HRM Oba Jimoh Oyetunji Olanipekun Larooye 11. The event was declared opened by HRM Oba Jimoh Oyetunji Olanipekun the Ataoja of Osogbo land with the first stanza of National Anthem.

The ATAJOJA HRM OBA JIMOH OYETUNJI OLANIPEKUN (LAROOYE 11).



THE VOLTARY MAID (THE ARUGBA)



2.0 PICTURES SHOWING DELEGATES FROM THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ART, CULTURE AND CREATIVE ECONOMY.



3.0 The River Osun which derived its source from Igede Ekiti flows downhill forming a large pool at Osogbo where it metamorphosed into a Deity along the grove site.

Pictures below showing thousands of participants at the river side of the Grove making their prayers and fetching the healing water.





4.0 Cultural Display as the Ataoja, Oba Jimoh Oyetunji Olanipekun pronounces blessings on the performing devotees.



5.0 CONCLUSION

The Festival celebration came to its conclusion with vote of thanks by the Hon. Commissioner for Culture and Tourism, Mr. Ojo Abiodun Bankole. In his closing remarks, he called on all stake holders, the Youth and the community leaders to recognize the urgency of preserving the Osun Osogbo Sacred Grove for the future generation by guarding against deforestation pollution and other encroachment activities.

6.0 OBSERVATION

The Osun Osogbo Festival is a heritage celebration of fertility and prosperity indeed. The festival was a great success as it still attracted a large turnout of both local and international patronage, Guests from far and near constituting a mammoth crowd of people were in attendance, in spite of the challenging situation in the country at the period, in terms of security and the "End bad government protest nationwide".

The Osun Osogbo Festival is no doubt a notable and auspicious national festival, that is internationally approved hence it has been enlisted by UNESCO as a world cultural Heritage site.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS.

This heritage festival should be harnessed and mobilized for peaceful co-existence by discouraging divisionary views among some few individuals in our society. It is actually a wealth creation cultural activity as well as fostering national unity thus adding to the gross domestic product (GDP) of the State.

The Ministry as a means of encouragement should continue to participate actively in this Heritage Festival thus fulfilling her objective of promoting, preserving and presenting our rich cultural heritage in tandem with the Ministry`s mandate.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND HERITAGE

26th AUGUST, 2024.