

REPORT THE 2024 AMASEIKUMOR/GBARAUN-EGBESU IBOLOMOBO-ERE FESTIVAL HELD IN OPOROZA, THE HEADQUARTER OF GBARAMATU KINGDOM, IN WARRI SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF DELTA STATE ON 17TH APRIL, 2024.

The 2024 Amaseikumo/Gbaraun-Egbesu Ibolomobo-Ere festival was hosted by Oboro Gbaraun II JP, Aketekpe Agadagba, the Pere of Ancient Gbaramatu Kingdom, and saw notable dignitaries in attendance including the Ooni of Ife, the Honourable Minister of Petroleum (State) Senator Heineken Lokpobiri Ph.D, the Minister of (Aviation and Aerospace Development) Festus Keyamo SAN, the Governor of Delta State, Speakers of Bayelsa, Delta and Anambra States, 19 serving Senators, 40 plus royal fathers from across the nation to mention but just a few.

2. The festival featured cultural displays, tug of war, wrestling, masquerade performances, and awards. Attendees expressed hope for the festival's inclusion in the National Calendar of Festivals and its enlistment as a UNESCO World Heritage festival to preserve and promote Nigeria's cultural heritage. They emphasized the festival's contribution to tourism and the national economy, suggesting it deserves recognition at both national and international levels.



3. Prayers

- The people of Gbaramatu Kingdom earnestly request the Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy to include the Amaseikumo festival in the National Calendar of Festivals, emphasizing its importance in preserving Nigeria's cultural heritage.

- Additionally, they seek the Ministry's assistance in facilitating the process of enlisting the Amaseikumo festival as a UNESCO World Heritage Festival, recognizing its significance on an international level.

4. Observation/Suggestions

- The Amaseikumo festival holds significant cultural value for the Gbaramatu Kingdom and represents a rich tradition that should be preserved for future generations. In view of the above, may I respectfully suggest that Amaseikumo festival be captured in the National Calendar of festivals, bearing in mind that capturing it would ensure its recognition and continued celebration, thereby safeguarding this cultural heritage.

- May I further suggest that, Amaseikumo festival be captured on UNESCO World Heritage list, bearing also in mind that inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List would significantly boost tourism in the region and nation at large. The festival's vibrant displays and diverse cultural activities have the potential to attract both domestic and international tourists, thereby stimulating local economies and promoting cultural exchange.

5. Conclusion

- Overall, capturing the Amaseikumo festival in the National calendar of festivals and UNESCO World Heritage Festivals List not only honours the cultural legacy of the Gbaramatu Kingdom but also promotes cultural diversity, sustainable development, and global solidarity.