

Ondo STATE

Nigeria's Emerging Destination

...Discover why Ondo State is Nigeria's next big thing.





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FOREWORD

What we are witnessing at the turn of our 1st 365 days as we move from one cranny to another, from North through Central to the South of Ondo State commissioning life impacting projects, determined and chosen by the people, therefore, is a testimony of the resolve to work relentlessly for the people who are indeed the true and genuine owner of government.

Dating back to the colonial era through post-independence, government and governance had always been seen as belonging to the office holders with power flowing from the barrels of "Power Brokers".

What gladdens my heart today above all things is that a paradigm shift has occurred in Ondo State with palpable joy of ownership resplendent on the faces of people who had for years been despondent.

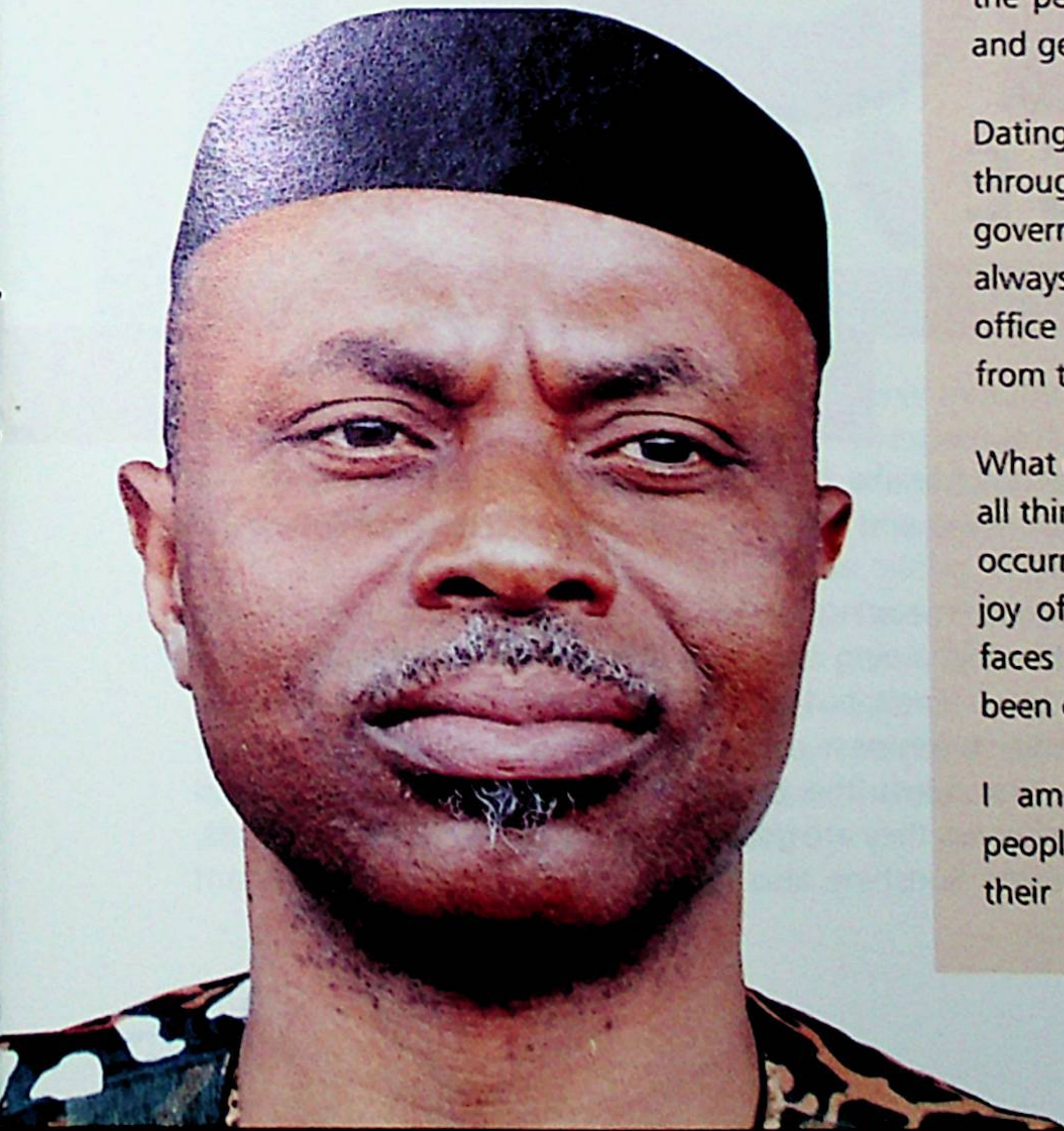
I am greatly enthralled that the people now have a government of their own with a Caring Heart that

could rejoice with them whenever they are joyful and also emphasise whenever a streak of gloom appears on the horizon.

Even though it is One Year and still a young government, I am happy that the people are joyful as we shape our destiny together on the journey to prosperity and a brighter future. To God be the glory the people are counting their blessings and naming them One by One.

Though we have not fully attained . Our overall objective is not just alleviate poverty but to put Ondo State on an irresistible path of poverty eradication. I am glad with this fresh beginning.

Dr. Olusegun Mimiko
Governor, Ondo State





▶ ONDO'S PROFILE

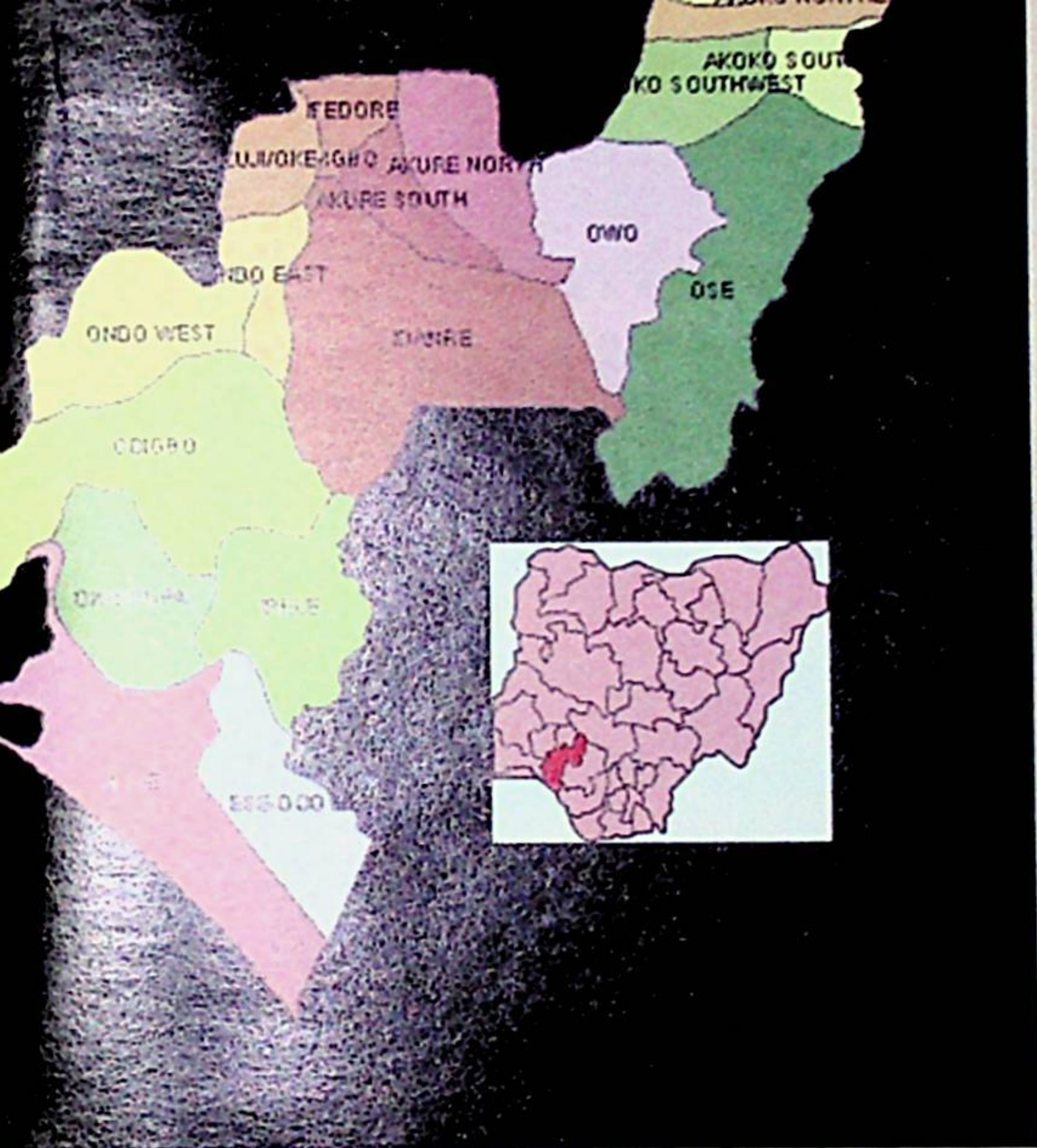
Meet Nigeria's Sunshine State

Ondo- Nigeria's Sunshine State has a large land mass and a wide variety of natural resources. It has a responsible government and a peaceful and enabling environment for residence, tourism and investment. Would you like to know more about Ondo State? Here's to get you started:

HISTORY

Ondo State was created from the defunct old Western State on 3rd February, 1976. Before then, it existed as Ondo Province of the Old Western State. Ondo is a diverse Yoruba state with a population of 3,441,024 from the 2006 national census, its people are richly endowed in culture and history, having Akure as its administrative capital.





THE GOVERNMENT

Like other states in the country, Ondo has two levels of government—the State and Local Governments. There are 18 Local Government Areas covering 14,793sq.kms.

On February 23, 2009, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko was sworn in as the duly elected governor of the state after the Election Tribunal and the Court of Appeal confirmed his victory at the 2007 gubernatorial election. The Governor, a medical doctor, two-time Commissioner for Health in

Ondo State, a one-time Secretary to the State Government and a former Minister of Housing and Environment, has since declared a new dawn in the state. Alhaji Ali Olanusi is the Deputy Governor, The Legislative arm of government is headed by the Speaker of the State House of Assembly while the judiciary is headed by the Chief Judge.

THE PEOPLE

The people of Ondo are predominantly Yoruba, though also largely comprising the Ijaw and Ilaje in the riverine areas. There is a co-existence of various dialects of the Yoruba language such as Akure, Akoko, Idanre, Ondo, Ikale and Owo. The people of the State, mostly farmers, fishermen and traders, are very resourceful and hospitable. Elitists amongst them are popularly known to be the most educationally advanced in the country. In addition, the people of Ondo are culturally endowed.

THE ECONOMY

Ondo State's economy is basically agrarian with 65% of its population engaged in agriculture, and large-scale productions in cash and subsistence crops and fishing. The state is also one of the crude oil producing states in Nigeria. Since it was discovered, crude oil has contributed to the development of the state.

CLIMATE

The temperature in Ondo State throughout the year ranges between 21-29 degrees centigrade and humidity is relatively high. Climatic seasons are the same as in other states in Nigeria; that is Ondo also has the rainy season (April-October) and dry season (November-March).





NATURAL RESOURCES

One major natural resource in Ondo is the state's large expanse of arable land suitable for growing a wide variety of crops. The state also possesses liquefied natural gas in commercial quantity and produces an estimated 10 per cent of the country's crude oil. Other natural resources found in commercial quantity in the state include limestone, bitumen, glass sand, granite and kaolin. These put the state in a suitable position for rapid

industrial and commercial growth.

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS AND FESTIVALS

There are a number of high profile tourist sites of cultural and historical significance in the state. These attractions present investment opportunities for potential investors. Some of the prominent attractions in Ondo State are Idanre Hills, Ebomi Lake, Owo Museum, the palace of the Deji of Akure, the

Cave of Ashes at Isharun, Igbokoda Beachfront and Igbo-Olodumare amongst others. The prominent festivals in Ondo State include, Ogun, Olokun, Obitun Dance, Egungun, Igogo, Boat Regatta, Ariginta and Orosun.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?

You can find out more about Ondo State on her official website:
www.ondostate.gov.ng



Investment Opportunities in Ondo State

Ondo is a state with amazing investment potentials. There are numerous opportunities in the state waiting to be harnessed by investors. Besides the opportunities in existence, there are incentives that encourage investors. Also, Ondo has got a calm and lively political environment and a cooperative government that ensures an enabling atmosphere for investors and their investments.

Provided here is an outline of investment opportunities and incentives in Ondo State - Nigeria's Emerging Destination:

LOCATION:

Ondo State is located in the South- Western part of Nigeria; bounded in the east by the old Bendel state, in the north by Ekiti State, in the west by Ogun/Oyo States and in the south by the Atlantic Ocean. The State which has a fairly considerable population possesses what it takes to be a haven of rewarding commercial activities, and an economic backbone of the nation. Ondo State is richly blessed with copious natural resources waiting to be tapped. The strategic location of the state, coupled with its peaceful and safe environment makes it very attractive to investors. Key areas of investment in Ondo state are mineral resource exploitation, agriculture and agro-processing, tourism and infrastructure.

Opportunities in these areas are discussed below:





MINERAL RESOURCES



Ondo state is abundantly endowed with oil and solid mineral resources like bitumen, kaolin, silicon sand, ball clay, tin, marble and salt with great reserves. The state produces crude oil, and is estimated to contribute up to 12 percent of the country's crude oil production and reserves. Ondo State is Nigeria's 5th largest oil producing state. The State also possesses liquefied natural gas deposits in commercial quantity

that can produce as much as 20 million tonnes of natural gas per year thereby, creating enormous opportunities like gas extraction and conversion, marketing of crude oil, drilling operations, civil work, production and storage of crude oil.

The government, fully aware of the state's potentials in this sector is doing a lot to ensure that the people of the state and investors in the State benefit from the opportunities arising from there. For instance, the government is working



employment in the state and increase revenue generated by the state and federal governments.

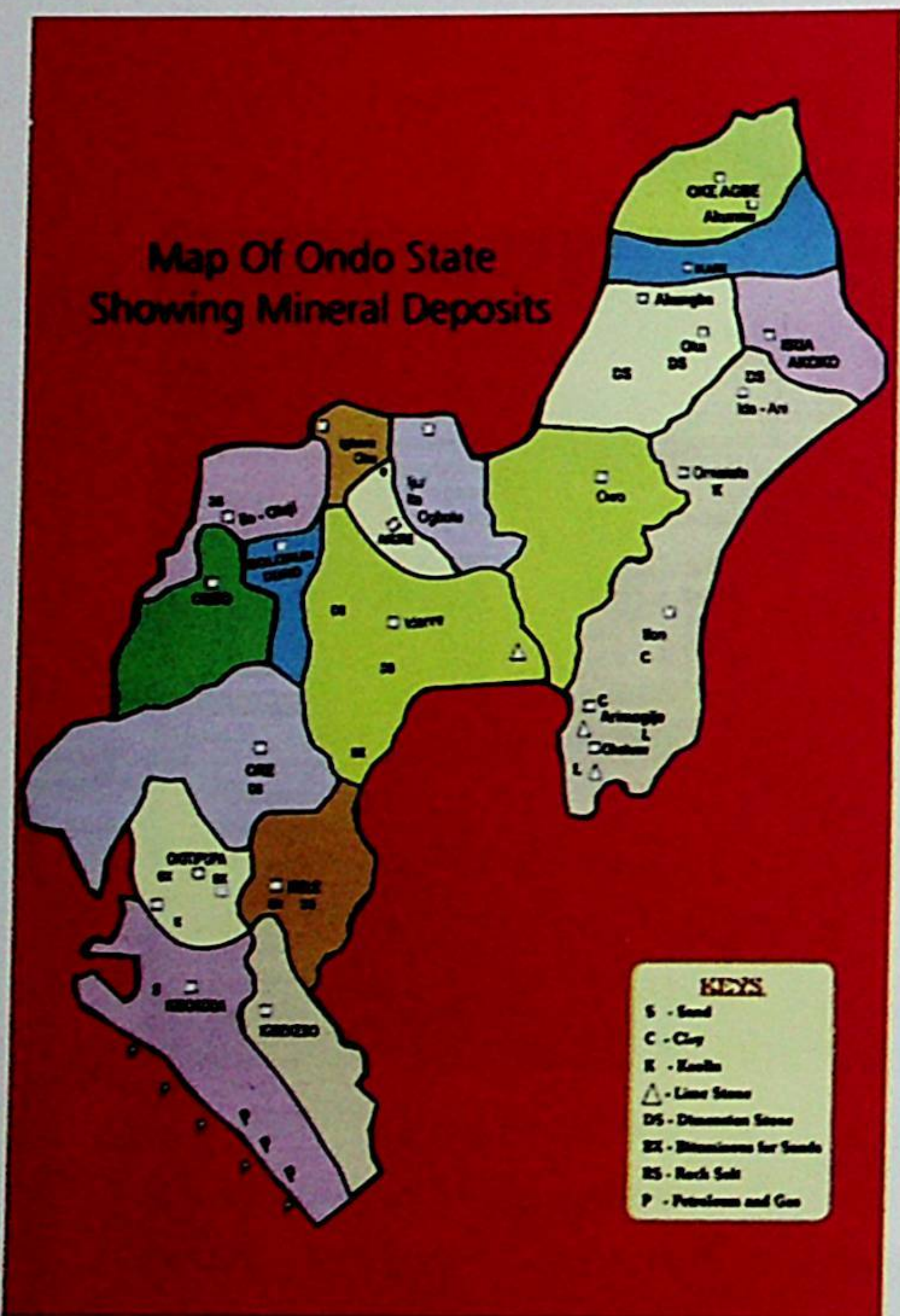
Also, the government, in April 2009 signed an agreement with Shell to produce a gas master plan to foster massive industrialization and economic development in Ondo State. The government did this to exploit the opportunities in the Lagos-Escravos gas line which passes through Ondo State. The idea behind this initiative is to use gas gotten directly from the network to generate electricity- which will be beneficial to the people of the state and will be an additional incentive for investors.

Recently, Shell submitted its report to the State Government. The report recommended that Ondo State should create three industrial hubs- One will be located in Ore-because of its proximity to the pipeline. Shell also recommended

that a second hub should be located in a central zone- Ondo-Akure-Ore- in this hub, mass production of Iron and Steel will take place. The third economic hub will be located in the northern part of Ondo- around Okeluse- where there are large deposits of lime, kaolin, coal and other mineral resources.

Also, Ondo State has a silica sand deposit of about 3 billion metric tonnes which can be processed into glass. Besides this, the state also has a deposit of 49 million metric tonnes of ball clay- providing a great opportunity for investors in ceramics.

Other resources such as kaolin clay, iron ore, quartz sand, limestone, columbite, coal, gemstone, diorite, lignite, tin, marble and granite are available in commercial quantities in Ondo State, and beckon on investors to make the most of them. In the case of granite, there is a Crush Rock Factory already in existence at Supare-Akoko.



in collaboration with the Federal Government to explore, exploit and process the large bitumen deposits (put at 42 Million barrels) to create



AGRICULTURE &

AGRO-PROCESSING



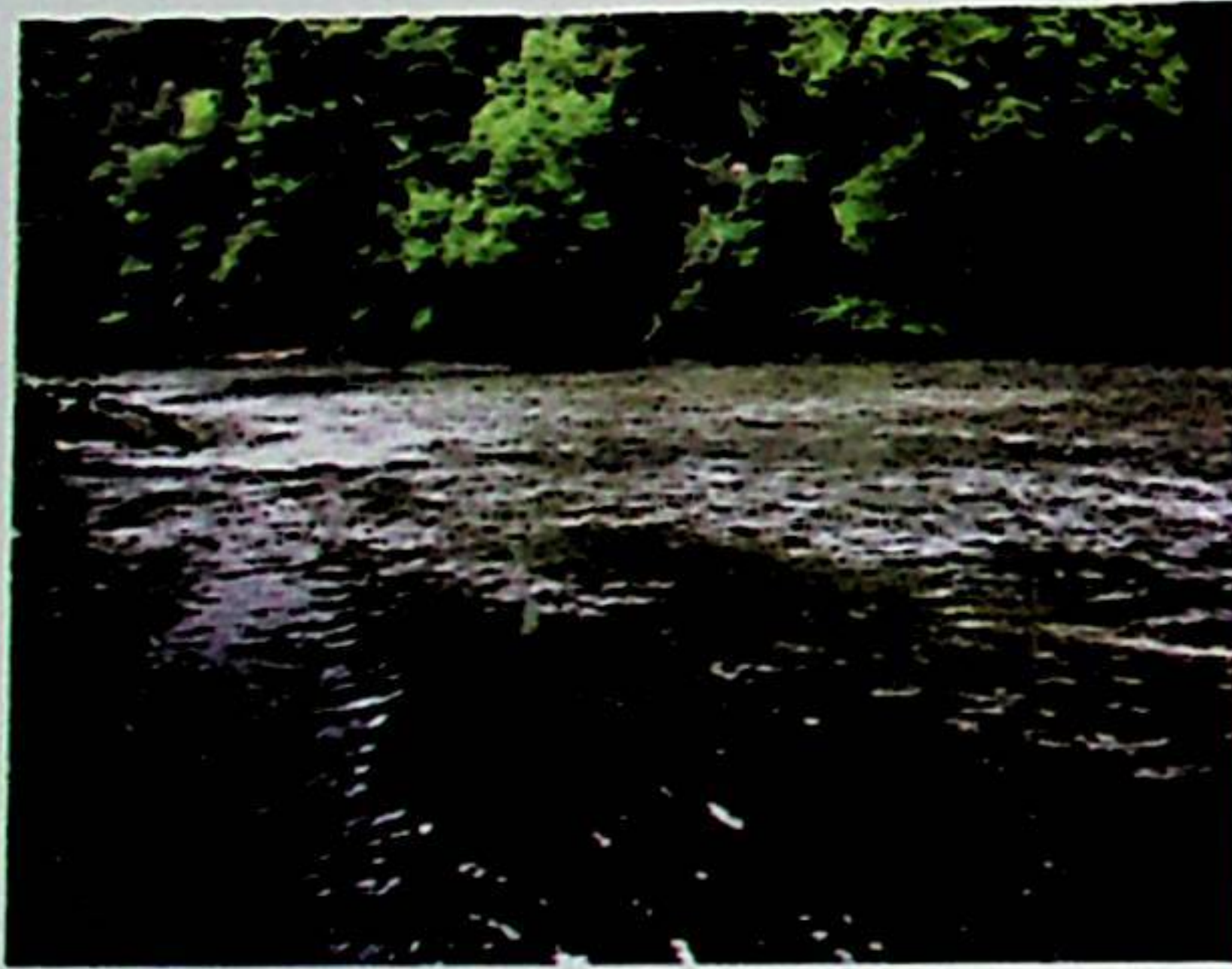
Ondo state is an agrarian economy with agriculture being the dominant employer of labour.

This should ideally

translate into high agricultural productivity, but rather, the state has recorded little productivity in agriculture due to small scale, low input subsistence farming. Cash crops like cocoa, oil palm, rubber and cashew are cultivated in the state but investors are needed for large scale production.

In the agricultural sector, cocoa is the highest revenue earner for Ondo State being the leading cocoa producing state in the country, but the cultivation of this cash crop is left in the hands of few individual farmers who in turn sell their produce to cocoa merchants. The state has stood up to its responsibility of ensuring that cocoa is commercially processed and exported. The Cocoa Catalytic Industry has been resurrected to achieve this.





The state also generates revenue from oil palm which is its second highest earner through the sale of unrefined oil palm fruit and processed oil palm production which include palm oil, palm kernel oil and spices but there is presently no independent supply of oil palm fruits, therefore, oil palm processing companies are involved in oil palm cultivation.

There are great investment potentials in fish and shrimp processing in the state, and a market for sea foods because of the strategic location of the state along the Atlantic Ocean and the presence of some other rivers like Owena, Ala and Oni in the state. However, there are no large scale aquaculture and processing activities in the state.

Another area of agriculture in the state not fully tapped is timber, considering the fact that the state is abundantly blessed with forest landscape that hosts different types of hardwood. Although a few sawmills are available in the state, they merely carry out minimal processing while the timber



logs are carried outside the country for further processing; hence providing an opportunity in the local processing of timber into finished products such as furniture, paper and pulp.

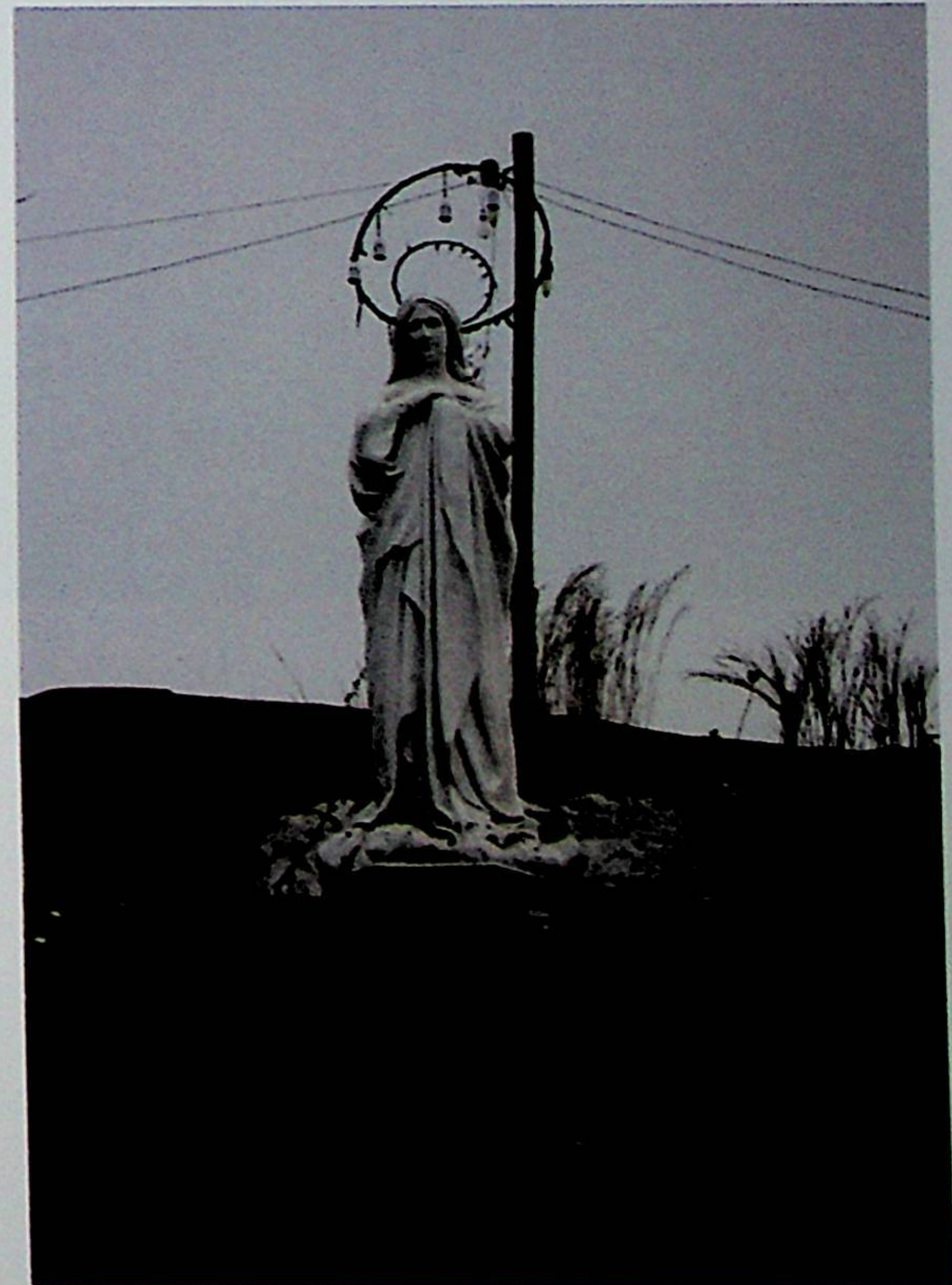


TOURISM

Tourism is a sector which many governments are beginning to take notice of, and Ondo state is not left out of this buzz. The state can boast of tourist sites which if well developed, are capable of attracting tourists from far and wide. The very popular Idanre Hills is a place worth visiting, so are other places such as the Owo museum monument and the Palaces of the Deji of Akure and the Olowo of Owo.

There is much to be done to improve the state of tourism in Ondo state, such as providing essential support services like tour operators, standard hotels and healthcare facilities. This cannot be achieved alone by the state government. Investors are also needed in partnership with the state government to develop existing tourist sites and establishment of new tourist sites such as amusement and theme parks.

More recently, the Ondo State Government gave tourism a boost when it laid the foundation for the construction of The Dome- the State's 2,500capacity International Cultural and Events Centre in Alagbaka, Akure. The Dome, when fully constructed will be an architectural masterpiece that will serve as a multi-purpose centre for the promotion of





culture, arts, business and leisure in the State. It will have facilities such as a 5-star hotel, a spacious car park and conference centres amongst others.

The Mare festival- an international mountaineering carnival which pilot edition witnessed a large turnout of tourists and professional mountaineers, is another initiative that promotes tourism in Ondo State.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Good, adequate and functional infrastructural fittings are the bedrock of development of any nation/state. One way or the other, it affects the growth of every other sector of the nation. With the many investment potentials which Ondo state possess, there is a need for infrastructural upgrades to make the state more attractive to intending investors.

There is a need for the provision of road and water transport services to cater for the movement of agriculture produce and also effective movement of people in and out of the state for business.

As a state involved in cultivation of cash and food crops for consumption and commercial purposes, there is need for sinking of boreholes and construction of dams as water poses a problem for farming in the state and also provision of storage facilities for agricultural produce. There are

opportunities for machineries such as tractors for large scale production and agricultural input such as fertilizers, fingerlings and seedlings. In the aspect of housing accommodation, there are inadequate low cost and modern houses in the state which are worth investing in.

To improve productivity in a state, constant power supply is needed but with the rate of epileptic power supply in the country, Ondo state is not left out of the menace of poor electricity supply, therefore, there is need for independent power projects in the state. There is the Omotoso Power Plant Project of the federal government and the new power plant to be located at the Ore - sunshine city in Ore, Odigbo Local Government

All these are needs which the present administration in Ondo State is aspiring to meet. The Government will need service providers and partners to transform Ondo State into an enviable one.



INCENTIVES FOR

POTENTIAL INVESTORS

The government is prepared to make acquisition of lands and certificates of occupancy easy through the Ministry of Lands and Housing. Also, application for letter of consent to mortgage property on the state industrial Estates is processed free. The Government also charges a two-year moratorium for the payment of tenement rates on business premises after commissioning.

Ondo State also boasts of low cost labour pool and a domestic market. Beside this, the existence of the Olokola Free Trade Zone project- being developed in partnership with the Ogun State Government also shows its desire to

encourage investment in the state.

Investors will agree that an enabling environment is a major investment incentive. The Ondo State Government recognizes this, and has ensured the protection of lives and properties of people in the State- resulting in its being peaceful and incident free.

Ondo State Government also promises the promotion of free advisory and counselling services on investment opportunities, sources of plant and machinery and raw materials to prospective investors as well as a ready pool of skilled labour that can be easily integrated into industries due to high literacy rate in the state.

ONDO

BECKONS

Ondo State has many natural resources that cut across numerous revenue yielding sectors. It is peaceful, and it has got a credible government that champions positive change.

With opportunities in the aforesaid sectors, Ondo is poised to play a significant role in global trade. It beckons to investors far and wide. Will you heed the call?

You can find out more about investment opportunities in Ondo State on her official website:

www.ondostate.gov.ng



Mare Festival- Encounter Ondo's colourful cultural carnival

It is big, colourful and unique- It is Mare- Ondo State's massive international cultural festival- Find out more...

MARE: THE MOUNTAINEERER'S DREAM FESTIVAL

There are lots of festivals in Nigeria but there hasn't been anything as innovative as Mare Festival in years. Early in Governor Mimiko's administration, an idea was conceived in conjunction with 'Motherland Beckons' to put one of its emblems (Idanre) on the global map in terms of tourism.

Idanre, a renowned town in Ondo State situated among the highly celebrated Idanre hills, would play host annually to Nigerians and tourists from across the globe with the newly introduced 'Mare' Festival. Mare is a multi-faceted festival that blends several activities ranging from mountaineering, music, live-drama performances, exciting adventures and feasting, to cultural displays. Mare is set to become one of the most colourful international cultural festivals in the world.





WHAT DOES 'MARE' MEAN?

The name of the festival is an offshoot of the present Ondo State Government's tradition of making the label of policies, events and ideologies easily decipherable to the people of Ondo. 'Mare' was clipped from the phrase 'Mare ba' which means 'Don't fall' in English. From this, one can easily associate height and hills, both emblems of Idanre, with the event. Mountaineering being the highpoint of the festival has foreigners trooping to the ancient city. In addition, thousands of people in the state participated in the colourful series of activities.

MARE- THE SUCCESSFUL PILOT EDITION

The pilot edition of MARE, which held towards the end of year 2009 was a historic one, as people of Idanre poured out in the streets, while visitors marvelled at the magic the mountainous community could muster—the event was massive.

A lovely float of activities including dance, traditional music, juggling, acrobatic display and many more took place on the streets of Idanre for about two hours. Thousands of people were entertained by the colourful procession led by the Governor of Ondo State- Dr. Olusegun Mimiko and other top government officials as well as distinguished guests to the state.



The acme of the event was when Richard and Alan, international professional climbers, led others to the zenith of Idanre hills which is estimated to be at 3000 feet above sea level. They employed the use of equipment such as ropes, bolts, hooks and harnesses.

Interestingly, a 10-year hold Junior High School Boy, Akinwunmi, achieved the same feat with his bare hands and feet. After dazzling the mammoth crowd, Governor Mimiko awarded the young climber and promised that the State Government would sponsor him on educational and professional training.







THE HILLS WORE MAGICAL COLOURS

The closing ceremony was as electrifying as the opening performances. The fireworks were so amazing that the hills became garbed in multi colours. A lively jubilation and celebration followed.

Other attractions that added more colours to the festival was the helicopter ride for fun seekers wishing to have a bird eye of the hill expected to span 20 minutes with over 3, 000 feet above the sea level to conquer. The ride however was for a fee.

Also to complement the limited hotel rooms available within the town and its environs, the organizers constructed hundreds of large tents to cater for people. Indigenous and international entertainers also graced the event- which surpassed expectations- attaining the status of an international festival on its pilot edition.

MARE HAS MUCH MORE FOR ALL

Basically, Mare would promote the tourism potentials of the State thereby making the town of Idanre more glaring on the





global map. The influx of people to Ondo for the festival would eventually metamorphose into a big boost in the socio-cultural, economic and tourism sectors of Ondo State.

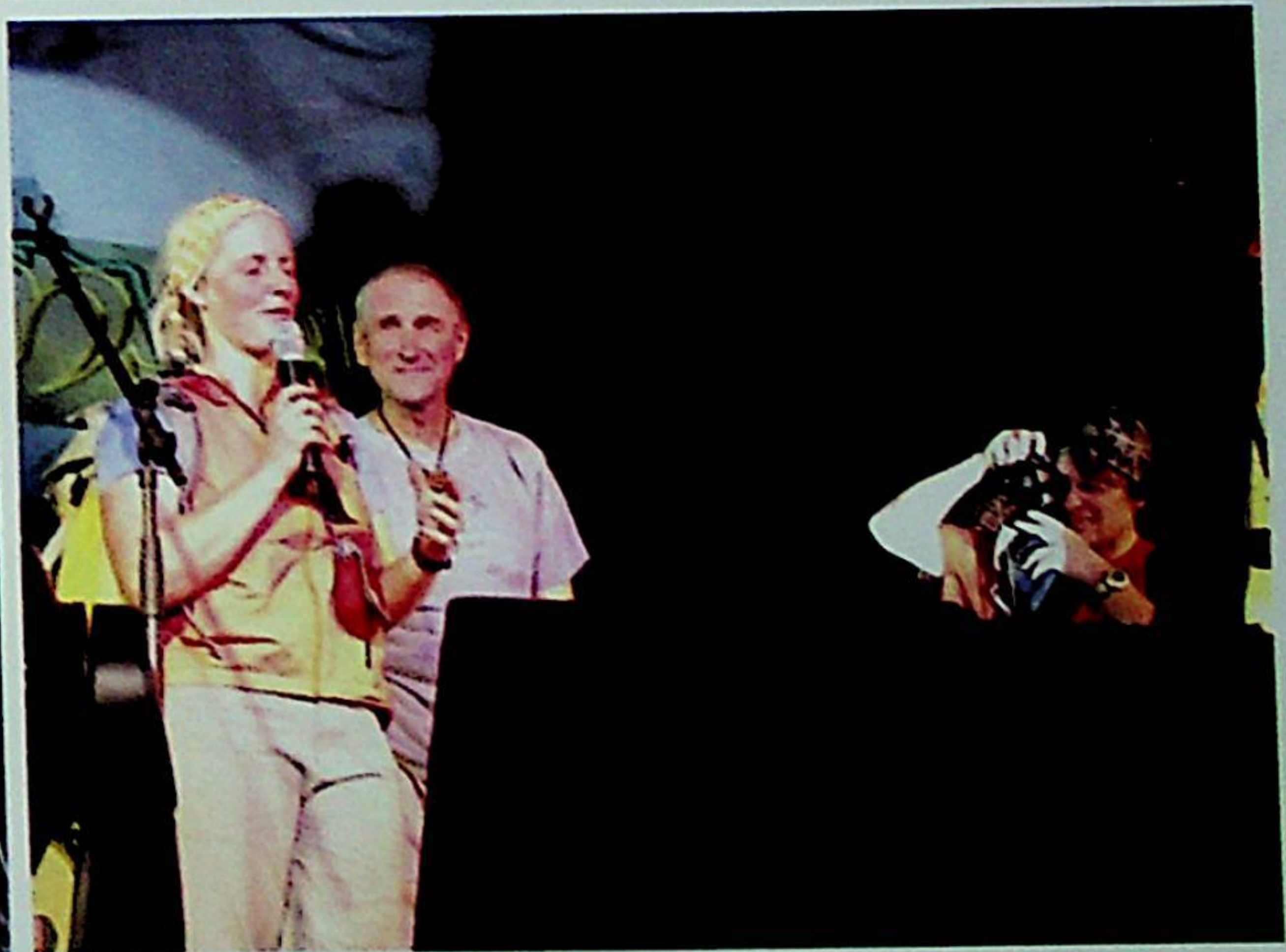
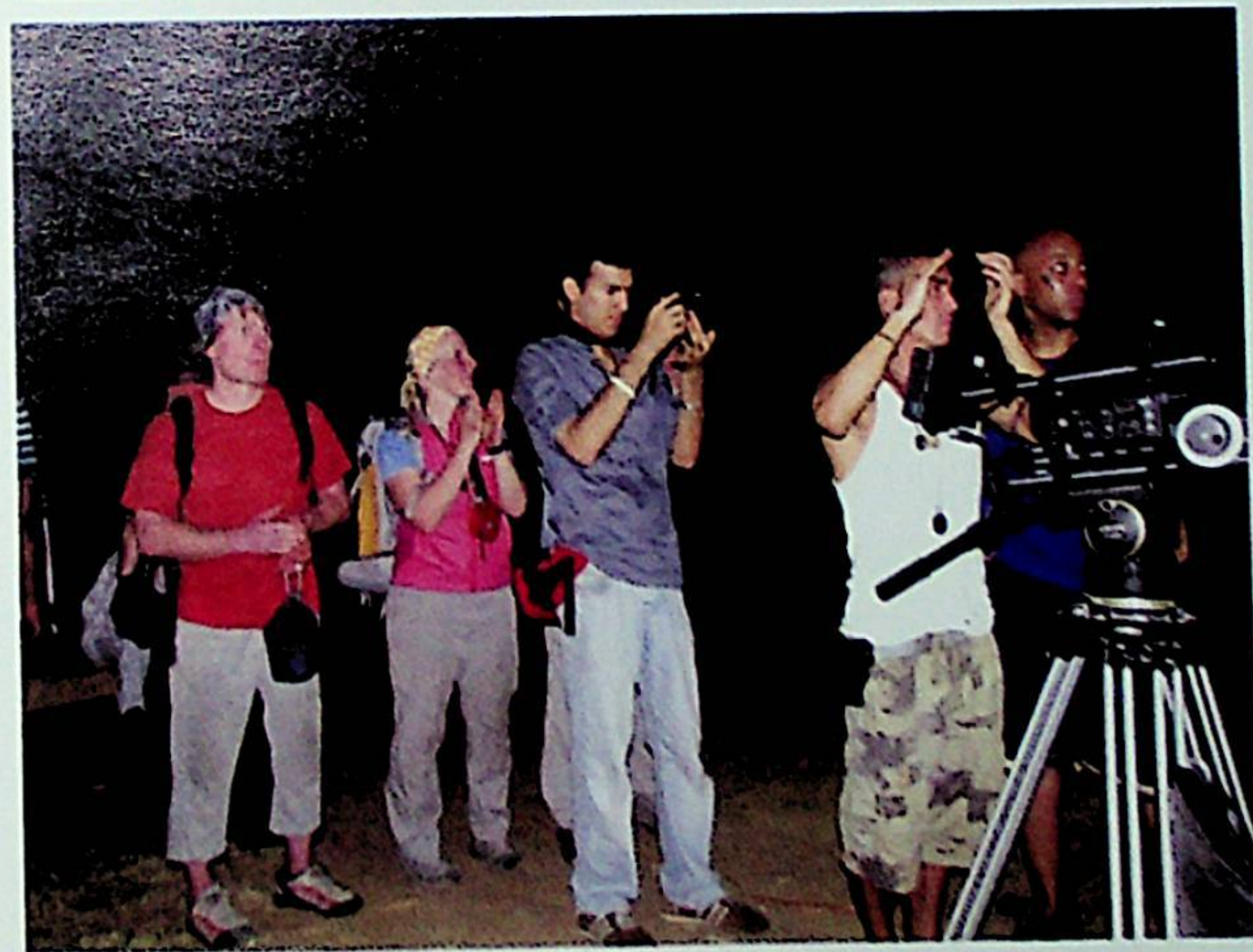
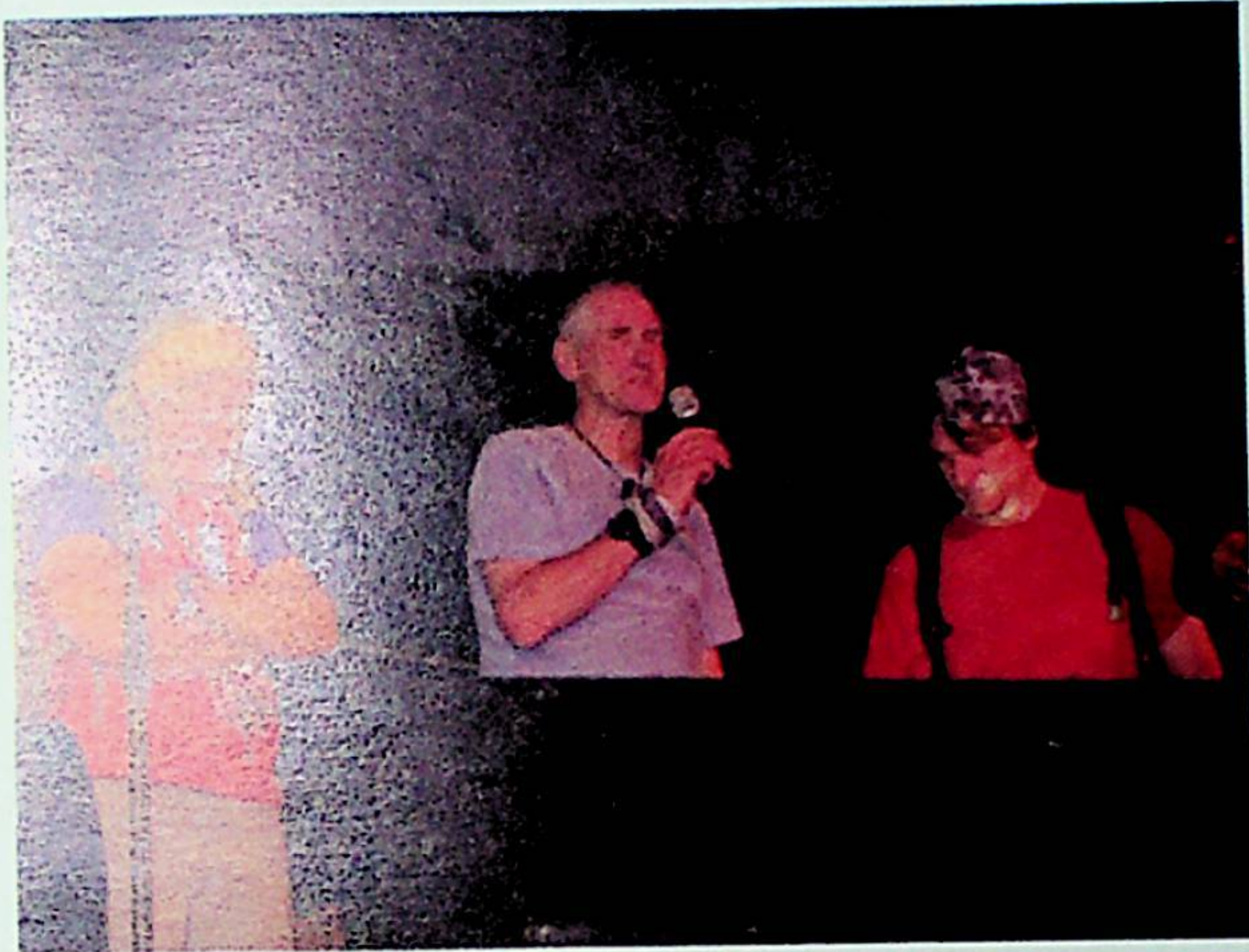
Tourists and lovers of adventure all over the world have a great opportunity presented in Mare Festival to explore the hills of Idanre.

Besides, there would be an unprecedented rise in commercial activities before, during and after the three-day festival. Several opportunities, in terms of commerce, present themselves for the people of the state.

In addition, the image of the State as pioneers of such a fully loaded festival—undoubtedly a first, as seen in the delightful mix of traditional events with activities popular in the western world—is indeed an accomplishment in the tourism sector which the State Government is keen on developing.

For more information on Mare please visit the Ondo State Government Official website: www.ondostate.gov.ng





Tour Ondo- Discover Ondo's exciting tourist attractions

High Mountains, deep rivers, attractive monuments and very creepy forests...
Discover Ondo State's awesome tourist destinations

ONDO'S ATTRACTIONS WILL DO MORE THAN THRILL YOU

Ondo State has a wide range of attractions for tourists to consider.

Arranging for a total experience like taking a tour round the high mountains, deep rivers, attractive monuments and very creepy forests would be terrific idea. It's actually a question of choice. The unending thrills you get from these attractions are constant. Here's a rundown of some of the attractions you may want to visit:





Ebomi Lake

CAVES OF ASHES

These caves have archeological discoveries that would amaze you. Iho Eleeru (caves of ashes) as it is called in the local parlance, is located in Ifedore Local Government area of the state, about 24 meters from Akure the State Capital. A visit to the state, especially for the curious and academicians wouldn't be complete without checking the caves of ashes out.

It is believed to have been a place of refuge for the people of Isharun in the past, but it holds more significance than this: in 1964, two renowned British Archeologists, Professor Thurstan Shaw and Steve Daniels excavated a skull, suspected to belong to pre-historic man. At the end of the analysis of the skeleton of excavated man, it was radio-carbon dated to be about 9991 years old, and to have lived at about 8,000BC.

The Cave of Ashes' immense significance to educational research makes it a must-visit as it tells of man's history and journey through time.

DEJI'S PALACE, AKURE

Almost every traditional palace in Nigeria is a potential tourist attraction. The palace that houses the monarch of Akure known as Deji of Akure has

more than potentials.

Its artistic structure at first sight takes the breath away and teleports your mind to centuries back in time.

Deji's palace has got features and a very unique, though traditional architecture that has survived for 700 years and outlived many rulers. For instance, it has at least 18 courtyards, impressive drainage system and landscaping and scores of carvings and sculpted images. Its gate for instance has brasslike designs of animals and images that are of significance and that decorate the palace.

Its courtyards have various uses, for instance, 'Uha lila' is the largest of the courtyards where the Oba receives his guests.

'Uha Ojukoto' is used for the installation of chiefs and Uha Ibura' for oath-taking- to establish the truth or falsehood of claims.

What's more, there is a traditional justice system within the walls of the palace, and it hosts numerous colourful festivals- reminiscent of Akure's rich cultural heritage.

All these and more earned Deji's Palace its position as a national monument with a very pertinent cultural significance.



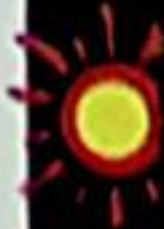
EBOMI LAKE

The lake named Ebomi, meaning "something mysterious" is about 115km drive from Akure, the state capital. Every minute spent at this large body of water can't be anything short of a refreshing experience. The lake is surrounded by two other lakes that give very nice vistas. Apart from that, the people believe that Ebomi is the most quiet of the lot and that's one thing that makes it special. Hundreds of meters away, you could hear the rumbling noise of the other two

lakes while Ebomi's tides sing an unending quiet melody.

Fishing in the lake is forbidden, and locals advise that red clothing should not be worn near the lake. Ideally, the lake has small rocks around its banks, but Ebomi covers them up in the rainy season. Large tree stumps can be found on it, and green vegetation surrounds it, but can hardly be found on the lake- something else that locals deem mysterious.

Ebomi is a real must-see for all visitors to the sunshine state.

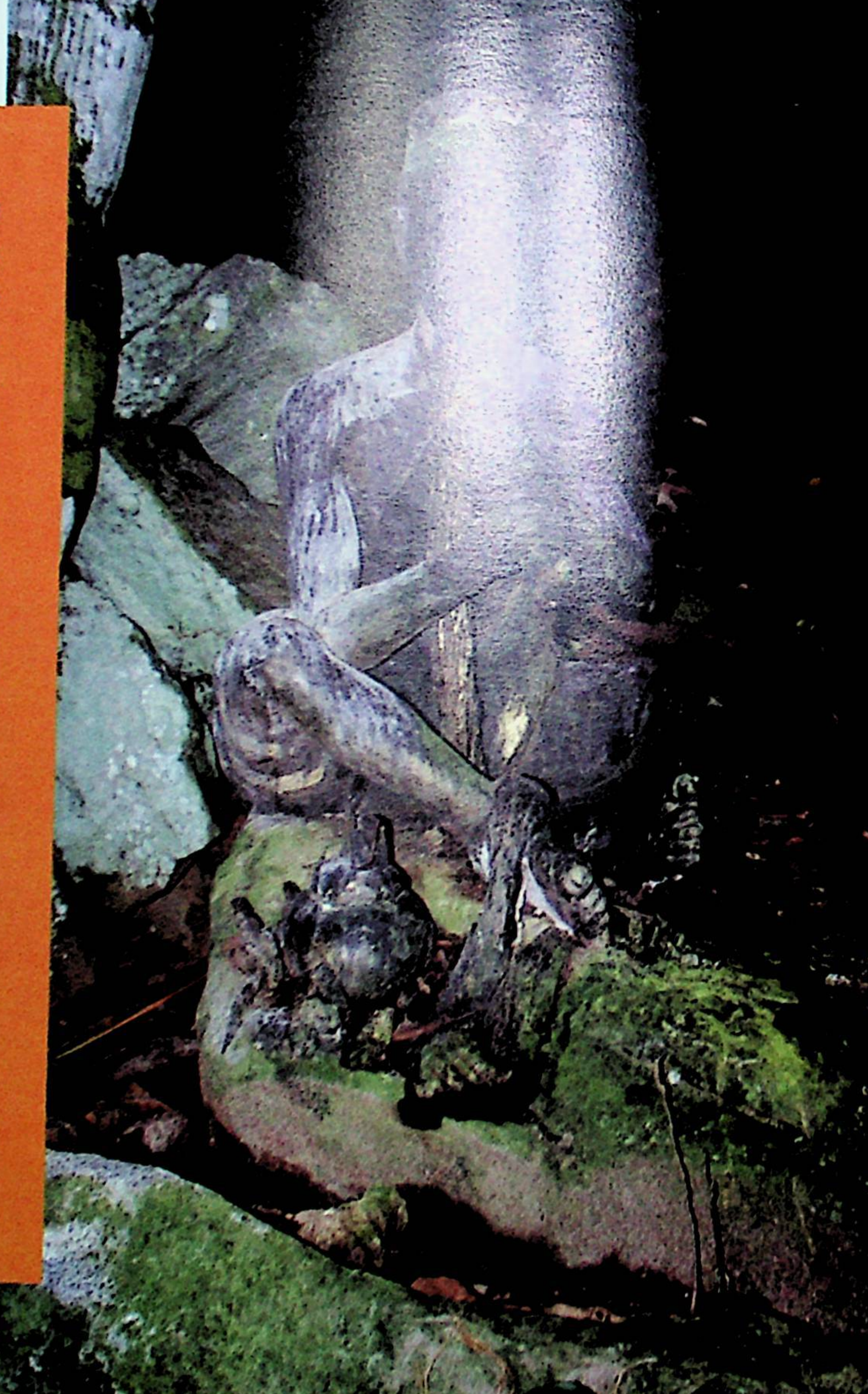


IGBO OLODUMARE (FOREST OF THE ALMIGHTY)

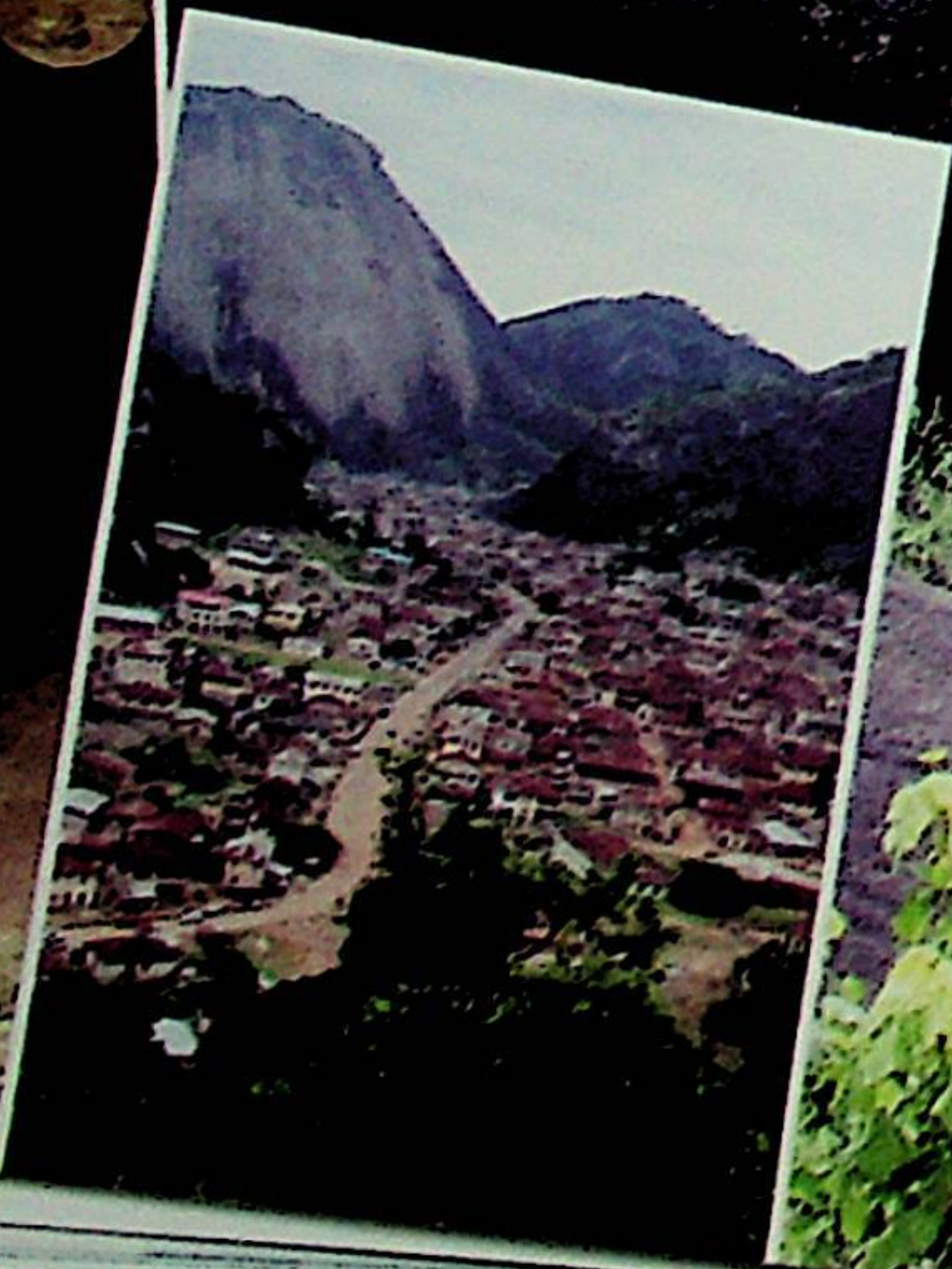
For those who never gets tired of spine-chilling adventures and have an ever famished curiosity, Igbo Olodumare may just provide the thrills and thrills you need. Igbo Olodumare translated Forest of the Almighty, is a wonderful village whose incredible charm inspired the first ever novel to be published in Yoruba, a classic that was remarkable enough to be translated by Professor Wole Soyinka, Nigeria's renowned Nobel Laureate. The author, D.O Fagunwa wrote *Ogboju Ode Ninu Igbo Irunmole*, which Prof. Wole Soyinka translated as *The forest of a Thousand Daemons*.

Located in between Oke-Igbo and Ile-Oluji Local Council in Ondo State, Igbo Olodumare's lovely physical features tell of nature's wonders- like a fountain, large rocks and plenty of vegetation, birds and animals almost in the ethereal manner of D. O Fagunwa's tale.

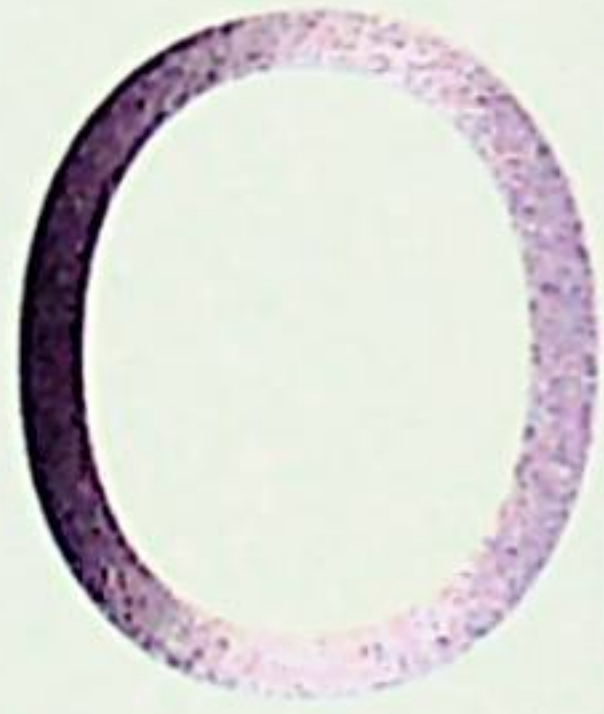
Indeed, meters to the forest, a signage reads:
"This is the way to the Forest of the Almighty, where a snail is bigger than a tortoise".
Fact, fiction or both? Visit Igbo Olodumare and see things for yourself.







OKE IDANRE



Oke Idanre, also known as Idanre Hills is an assemblage of hills of various shapes and sizes located in Idanre Local Government Area, Ondo State. It is one of the most captivating natural attractions in the South West region, and in Nigeria as a whole.

The influx of visitors, climbers, and sightseers to the hills is amazing.

Oke Idanre was in fact, a town where the people of Idanre settled into, perhaps because of the security the hills had to offer- The tallest of the hills rise about 3000ft above sea level, and the topography is unique- indeed a fortitude for ancient residents. The attraction has 460 steps and six resting points to cushion the physical challenge of climbing the hills.

There are a number of attractions that make Oke Idanre an interesting place to visit. One of them is the Omi Opaara- a narrow stream on one of the hills is believed to have gushed out when lightning struck the hill as a result of a bitter feud between two powerful chiefs who were a couple!

Other attractions that make the climbing more fun include the Arun River, a small crystal clear river atop the hills, "Noah's Ark", a carving on one of the hills that looks like an ark (said to be very difficult to reach), and the Agboogun Footprints, believed to be magical footprints which will be the size of any visitor's legs (however big or small) when thrust on existing footprints on the hill.

Surely, a real adventurer's spirit must have been stimulated by now. This is a terrific opportunity to have a long stretch of fun!



IGBOKODA

BEACH FRONT

Igbokoda beach front is located in Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State. Ilaje is a riverine area that has one of the largest rivers in Nigeria. Igbokoda is thus a beachfront upon which recreational activities such as swimming, sailing, beach parties, beach sporting, sport fishing and boat regatta ceremonies can take place.

Locals are on standby to offer boat rides and teach visitors fishing for a token.



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OKE - FIKIKI OUNDO STATE
ANNUAL NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE
SECOND THURSDAY TO SATURDAY FEBRUARY
WEEKLY PARISH PILGRIMAGE
EVERY THURSDAY 12.00 NOON
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SET

OKE MARIA

Translated Mary's Hill, Oke Maria is located in Oka-Akoko, Akoko South-West LG. Oke Maria is a special resort centre which Roman Catholics visit, particularly in February, every year. The hill has some steps that lead up to the top, where the Virgin Mary statue is sculpted. The statue is reported to have been donated by Dr. Olivomi, a catholic missionary.

A catholic church is situated meters away from the Hill, and the locality is quite accessible to visitors. Journeying to Oke Maria from Akure will take about an hour. There are other hills and beautiful sceneries around Oke Maria, they make the hill an interesting place to visit.



COME TOUR ONDO!

We've talked about tourist attractions that you would love to explore. What hasn't been said but should be emphasized is that Ondo people are very hospitable and would be willing to make your tour a memorable one. With the attractions getting more fun, the thrills you will get from touring Ondo is guaranteed.



Community-driven city and coastal region renewal in Ondo State

The Ondo State Government set a 10-year programme for the urban renewal of cities in the State- a long term plan with immediate, measurable benefits.

This renewal has started in earnest in Akure, the State Capital, where model markets are being constructed for traders. Neighbourhood markets are being constructed in Akure to relocate traders from crowded parts of the city to places where the traders will be able to display and sell their wares without impeding the flow of traffic in the city, or causing insecurity of lives and properties.

The government, in seeking to relocate the traders did so with "A Caring Heart" by giving them a lengthy

notice and ensuring that the model markets are fully constructed before asking them to relocate. The Government also ensured that the markets have facilities that surpass those existing in the markets in which they previously traded.

The neighbourhood markets have facilities such as portable water, efficient sanitary system, a guest house, large car parks, good lighting system amongst other facilities. The Neighbourhood markets will improve the lives of the traders and the aesthetics of the city, reduce traffic congestion in the city, and on the long run, increase an inflow of visitors and tourists to the City.

Two of these neighbourhood markets are fully



A prototype of the Dome under construction in Akure





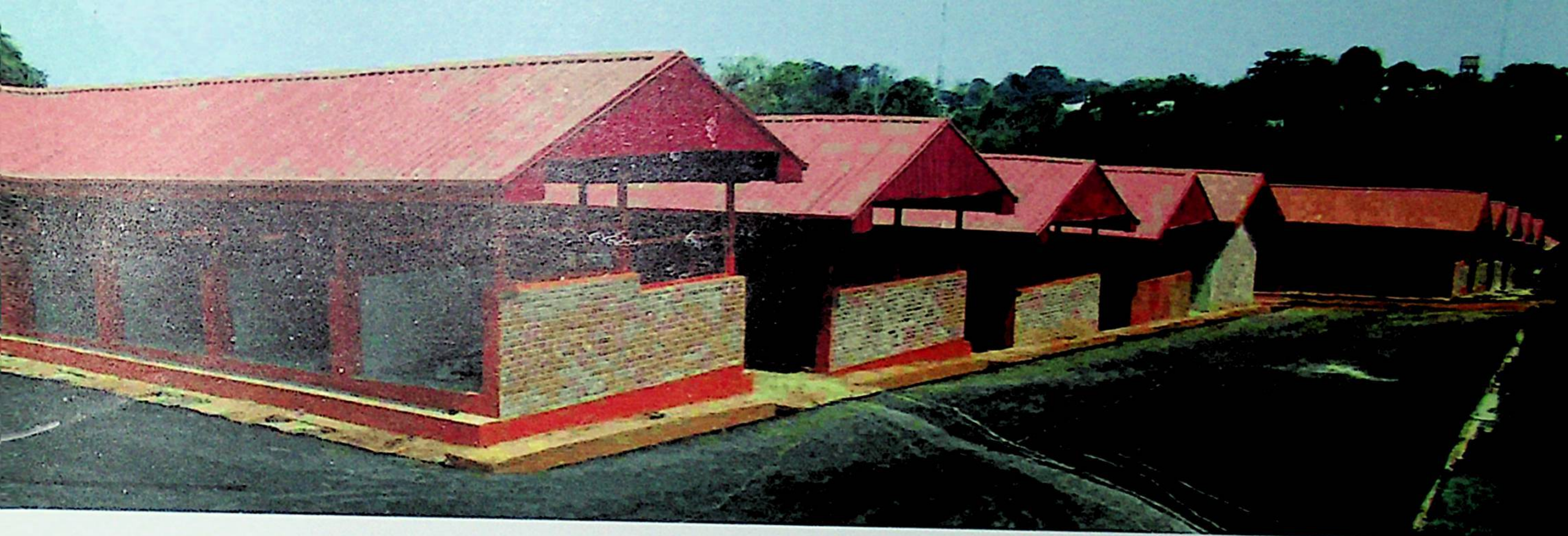
completed, with 514 stalls made up of 240 at NEPA and 274 along Afunbiowo Street behind Cash Hold Petrol Station, all set up for traders who will be relocated from Oba Adesina road and NEPA area in Akure, the Ondo State capital.

Also, an ultra-modern auto market is being constructed in Akure for auto-dealers.

Besides the neighbourhood markets and their positive impact on Ondo State, the Mimiko-led Government has also undertaken other developmental projects. For instance, it has commenced the construction of a 2,500 capacity Ultra-modern International Cultural and Events Centre to be known as The Dome, along Igbatoro road in Akure, the state capital. The Cultural and Events Centre, when fully constructed will be an architectural masterpiece that will serve as a multi-purpose centre for the promotion of culture, arts, business and leisure in the State.

The government is also renovating the Cooperative House along Ilesha-Owo Expressway in Akure, after re-acquiring it for the sum of 25 million Naira. The





Cooperative House is to accommodate about three ministries, making service delivery better in the State's Civil Service.

The government has also ensured that its cities stay clean and attractive. Highway attendants have been employed, and are actively engaged to ensure cleanliness within and outside the State capital.

With respect to coastal renewal, the government has moved to tackle issues of sea incursion in coastal communities of the state. The Ajapa and Orotu communities of Ilaje Local Government Area had suffered immensely from this. Reportedly, insects were often poured on land in Ajapa, every time there was a sea surge, and these insects ate

up the ironwood which they used in building houses. The Government set up a committee which was mandated with the task of discovering the cause of the problem and recommending solutions. The committee has made its discoveries, and the governor has assured the people of his administration's commitment to restore these communities.

Ondo State recognizes that its cities are essential to living up to its reputation as Nigeria's emerging destination; the government is therefore upgrading infrastructure and renewing its cities and communities.

