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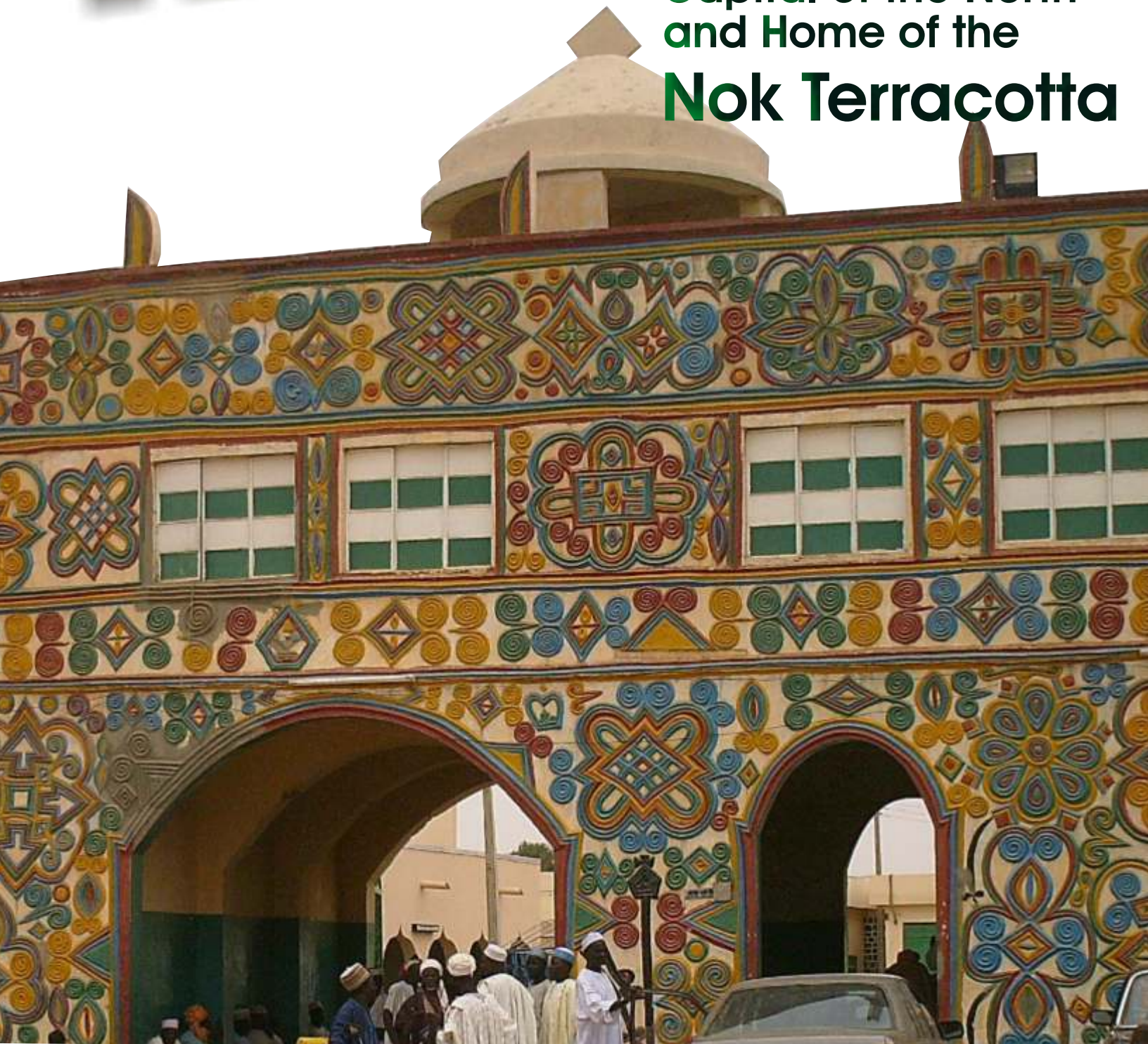
NEWSLETTER

8th Edition, April 2008

PUBLICATION OF THE NIGERIAN ARTS AND CULTURE DIRECTORY PROJECT

Kaduna...

Capital of the North
and Home of the
Nok Terracotta



FROM THE EDITORIAL DESK

The Nigerian Arts and Culture Directory (NACD) Project is an initiative of the Presidency, under the supervision of the National Gallery of Art – a Parastatal of the Federal Ministry of Tourism, Culture and National Orientation. The Directory being the first of its kind is anticipated to be a repository of Nigerian works of art, artists, writers, musicians, art centres, tourist sites, museums & monuments, traditional institutions, festivals, film, indigenous games, fashion, languages, cuisine & culinary, and stakeholders of arts, culture and tourism in Nigeria.

The Directory Project is being implemented in phases, beginning with the Web Version, the Print Version and then the CD Version. At the moment, the Project research team, has been going round the States of the Federation in order to collect, collate and verify data for documentation in the Directory.

The Research team's recent working visit to Bayelsa State formed the theme of the 7th Edition of the Project's Newsletter, and incidentally the first in Print, whose 'soft copies' had hitherto been received by millions of Internet users world-wide.

In this edition, we invite you to come aboard, as we take you on a dream experience of the rich and largely untapped, Arts, Culture and tourism potentials of the wonder that is known as Kaduna State – the Centre of Learning.

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In line with the Nigerian Arts and Culture Directory Project's mandate of promoting and creating a grass root consciousness among Nigerians of the rich culture and tourism endowments in the 36 States of the Federation and Abuja, the NACD Project is organizing a Cultural Quiz Competition for students in Secondary and Tertiary Institutions. General knowledge questions will be asked on Nigeria's Arts, Culture and Tourism. It is intended, that in the long run, young Nigerians will be encouraged to learn more about our culture as a people; hence winners will be awarded scholarships as a form of motivation. **Watch Out for Details in subsequent editions or visit us @ www.nacdonline.net / www.nacd.gov.ng.**

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We also bring you a report on the recently concluded Conference on Nigerian Youth Art and Culture organized by the National Youth Festival of Arts and Culture (NAYOUFEST), in Abuja.

Stay with us as we take you on a tour of Nigeria, as the Nigerian Arts and Culture Directory strives to be the most authoritative source of information on Nigerian Arts, Culture & Tourism!!!



NATIONAL INSURANCE COMMISSION



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KADUNA- NIGERIA'S CENTRE OF LEARNING

As the Capital and Administrative Headquarters of the old Northern Region, present-day Kaduna State found itself in an advantageous position. Every aspect of the former Northern region's development planning was tested and perfected in Kaduna, its capital city. The first premier of the region, Sir Ahmadu Bello, a frontline nationalist, an acknowledged visionary leader of the region during his short reign, charted the course of a landmark development master plan for the whole of the region. Most of Sir Ahmadu Bello's legacies were contained in his developmental blue print documented and preserved for implementation by successive governments in the region, which is today found in the State's museum of history located inside the premises of the famous Arewa House. These projects cover infrastructural development such as Road networks, Airports, Textile Industries, Hotels, Media Houses and provision of social amenities like electricity and pipe-borne water for the whole region.

The Arewa House, which served as the Secretariat of the former Northern Region, now a historical museum and research centre of the Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, apart from containing the former Premier's development blue print also houses some of the best collections of

these relics to be found anywhere in the country. Both pre-colonial and colonial antiquities of the Northern region's political, economic and social sectors are preserved within its walls.



Office furniture used by Sir Ahmadu Bello (Sardauna of Sokoto) at Arewa museum of History



Its library equally boasts of some of Nigeria's earliest media publications including journals, newspapers and magazines. It contains a blend of rich volumes of literary and historical works that will hold a visitor, tourist or researcher's attention. Indeed, the NACD Project research team, who were on a one-week working visit to Kaduna State was as awe-struck as anyone else would have been when led on a guided tour of the facility.

It is worthy of mention that Arewa House is just one out of numerous other institutions of higher learning and research, which the state inherited from its days as the capital city of old Northern region. Within the State is a host of other Institutions of Higher Learning, namely, Ahmadu Bello University, Kaduna State University; Polytechnics; Monotechnics; the Nigeria Defence Academy; the Command and Staff College; etc, that justifies its acronym as Nigeria's Centre of Learning.

A cruise along the streets of the State's capital is a tourist's delight, with its level of



Sir Ahmadu Bello's residence : Arewa House

urban development and organized social life. It also hosts the liaison offices of states in the old northern region, bringing the past very close, which is ever-present in different forms, making Kaduna, a city of contrasts. Colonial monuments stand proudly alongside State-of-the-art structures, while traditional cultural practices such as old modes of dressing are quite normal when viewed against the backdrop of the fashion conscious nature of Kaduna people.

This Liberal State is known to have produced majority of Northern Nigeria's elites and academia with a long history of peaceful co-existence. The import of this unity in every aspect of Kaduna society cannot be overemphasized. The reason for this is not far fetched. Being a multi-ethnic State, Kaduna can be described as Nigeria in miniature with a multiplicity of tribes, cultures, traditional and religious practices. The State has attained a level of religious tolerance not seen in any other. This was not achieved accidentally but by careful planning, awareness campaigns and persistence in the face of monumental odds. Even the arts and cultural displays have been fashioned over time to project the essence of 'unity in diversity'. The 'BAZOBE' dance for instance is the State's version of the Unity Dance. BAZO-BE is an acronym of the word "come",



Sir Ahmadu Bello's regalia on display at the museum

coined from southern Kaduna tribes, Hausa and Gbagyi, respectively. This puts the message across better than words can hope to do.

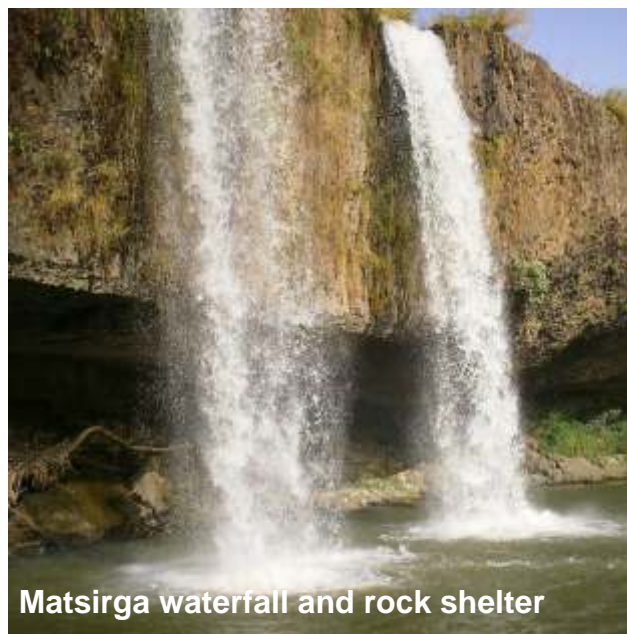
THE TOURISM PERSPECTIVE

The Tourism sector in Kaduna State happens to be one of the most organized and developed in Nigeria. Every site visited by the NACD Project in the course of its one-week working visit to the State testifies to this fact. The people themselves, being aware of the huge gains accruable from tourism, are ready and willing to showcase what they have in terms of art, culture and tourism endowments. Their enthusiasm was aptly shown as they led the visiting team from one magnificent site to another. This is a demonstration of the level of grassroots mobilization and education going on in the State on the imperative of tourism development as an agent of social and economic transformation.

SOME TOURIST SITES IN KADUNA STATE



Queen Amina's residence at the Emir's Palace in Zaria



Matsirga waterfall and rock shelter

Kaduna to say the least is blessed with an abundance of heritage sites. From the ancient palace of the Emir of Zazzau, built by legendary Queen Amina in the 16th century, to the famous Nok museum of antiquities; home to one of Nigeria's oldest civilizations, caves, waterfalls, amusement and relaxation parks, Kaduna has no shortage of tourist attractions to keep an adventurous tourist busy for several weeks. Every tourist has or will eventually come to realize that the most important advantage of tourism is the first-hand information it affords. The case was not different as the NACD Project team made some startling discoveries not wholly unexpected.

At the Emir's palace in Zaria, it was revealed by the palace secretary who acted as tour guide that Zazzau Emirate in the past covered most parts of Kaduna and environs until 1995 when new independent chiefdoms were created.

Zaria was and still remains the administrative headquarters of Zazzau, or what little of it that is left. Again, it was discovered that Zazzau as a name was derived from the sword of Queen Amina, with which she fought and won many battles as the head of her army. Zaria city was named after Amina's sister whom she



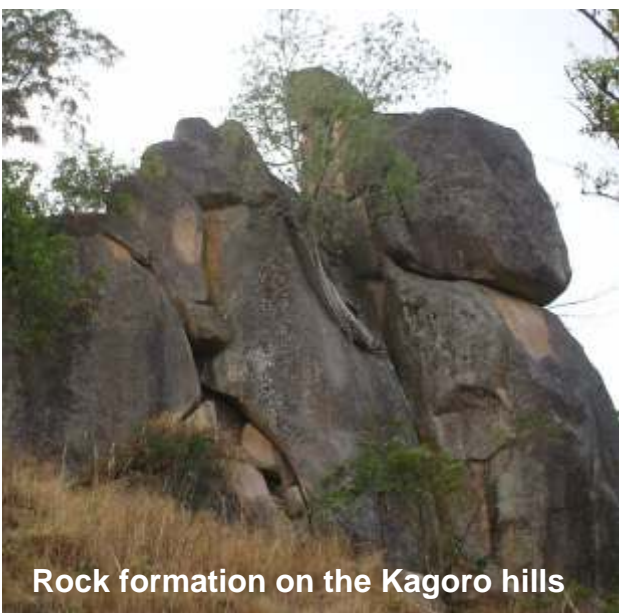
Queen Amina's stone chair atop the Tandama hill

loved dearly; their father Bakwa having no male issue to succeed him had, as a matter of necessity desired to be succeeded by one of his daughters. At his death, Amina assumed the throne and eventually moved it from Turunku to Zaria- a city named after her younger sister- having fought and conquered the original settlers and tribes along the way.



ROCKS & HILLS

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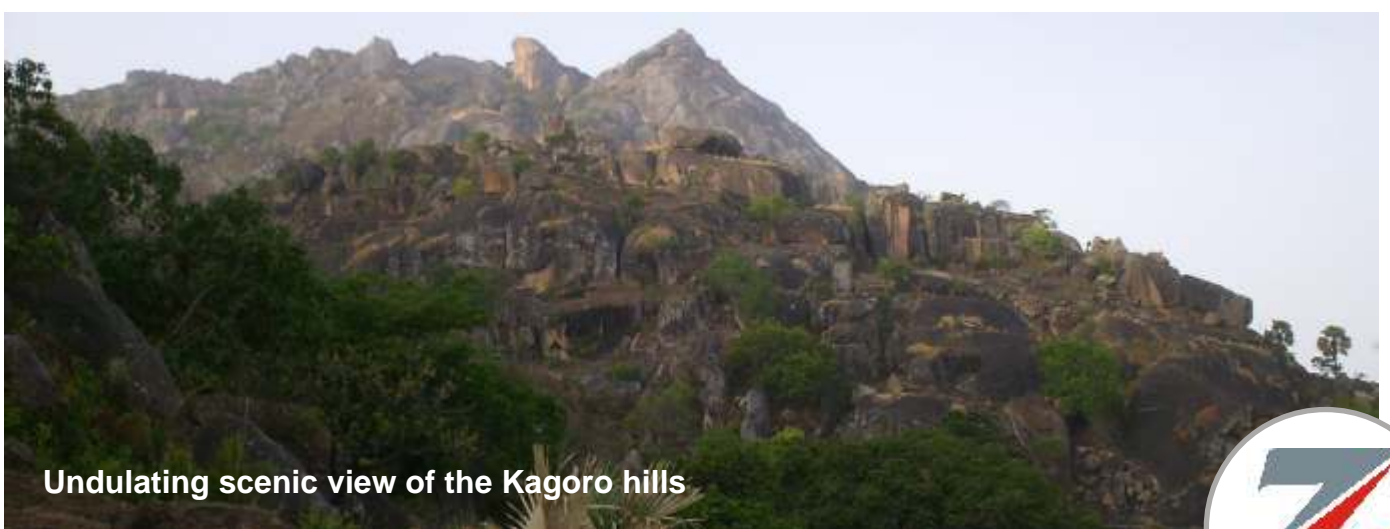
Rock formation on the Kagoro hills



Benard Fagg's cottage standing on a rock at the Nok village

The most common singular natural heritage to be found in Kaduna State is rocks and hills. These exist in different shapes and sizes in every part of the State, ranging from the common to the exotic. These rocks and hills will in the future form the bedrock of the State's tourism sector when all plans are eventually put in place. Going by information received from the State's Ministry of Culture and Tourism, elaborate plans have been made by the government towards creating a tourist paradise out of these natural dscapes. Some of those which the NACD

Project team visited during its research exercise include the amazing rock formations of the Nok village, Kagoro hills, Tandama hill in Turunku, where Queen Amina lived before moving to Zaria, among others. The beautiful topography of Kaduna is such that, wherever one turned, there was one amazing rock or another that will keep a tourist spell bound. A brief explanation of some of these wonderful gifts of nature, Kaduna State is endowed with becomes necessary, to prepare the mind of a visitor to this land of tourism possibilities.



Undulating scenic view of the Kagoro hills

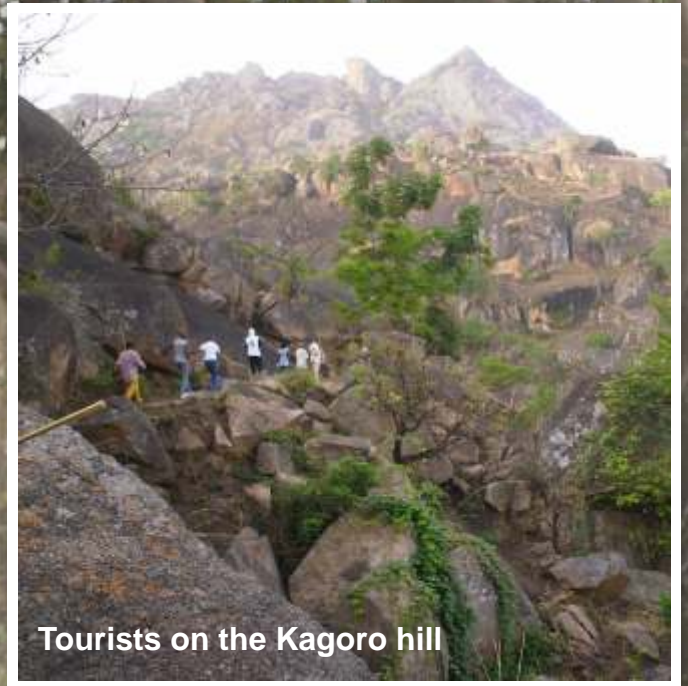


THE NOK VILLAGE

Nok is a village in Kaduna State. It is home of the Ham people, famous for the Nok culture pre-dating 500BC. According to Alhaji Ibrahim Nok, the Traditional Ruler of Nok village, Nok is a village in Ham, a tribe that originally migrated from Egypt many millennia ago. At the onset, the land of their settlement was virgin and bordered by impregnable hills and forests infested with deadly reptiles which also served the purpose of keeping off intruders and enemies alike. To protect themselves from their neighbours, the people took shelter in caves and natural rock shelters that abound in the area. These provided them protection from warring tribes until the coming of the Europeans, who ended the era of inter-tribal wars. However, while sheltered from prying eyes of other warring tribes, the Nok people developed an advanced judicial and political system that was later copied by the European visitors, as the traditional judicial system of Nok was earlier than the European system. To ensure adjudication of cases, there were open courts, area courts, high courts and appeal courts. These courts were used to investigate and uncover the truth in both minor and major crimes, as the people strongly believed that every crime attracts a curse capable of wiping out a guilty family if not well handled. Suspects were brought to an open court presided over by a chief priest, who sits on a high rock chair surrounded by elders of the various clans, sitting in a semi-circular rock arrangement for oath taking. At the centre of the court are two stone monoliths male (smaller in size) and female representing the gods of the land.

The most interesting is the site of the famous Nok Terracotta find within the Nok village which was excavated in 1943.

Details of the information can be read from the upcoming Kaduna State's page in the NACD website.



Tourists on the Kagoro hill

THE KAGORO RANGES

This particular hill in the Kafanchan District is worth more than a cursory mention. Not as publicized as other heritage sites in Kaduna state, the Kagoro ranges enjoys a special place of its own as a natural tourist haven. The plateau atop the hills stretches for tens of kilometers, connecting with the Jos and Bauchi plateaux as it towers above present-day Kagoro - home to the same town over a hundred years ago. The people had dwelt atop these ranges for centuries, only moving to their present location at the foot of the hills at the advent of colonialism. Till date, many settlements still exist atop the serene amazing hill tops with a school built for the Kagoro's where they receive formal education. The top of the hills cover an unbelievably large expanse of undulating plains, offering a natural harbour of safety for the people during the era of inter-communal wars.

From the foot of the hills, the hilltop dwellers have forged secret pathways along and around cliffs and crevice, nooks and crannies, streams and brooks, all the way to the top of the hill. These trails were

obviously forged with safety in mind as they are naturally concealed from view of strangers to the town. With the aid of native guides however, a visitor or tourist is allowed a peep into the wonders that abound along the way to the top.

The journey uphill is an adventure on its own, and takes more than two hours to reach the peak. It is believed in Kagoro that a stranger must seek the permission of the Chief before ascending the hills. The contrary might prove disastrous as the whole area is secured by sacred bees that could sting an intruder to death (thus, it is customary that tourists are advised prior to the hill climbing to avoid the use of perfumes in order not to attract the bees.)

LIFE ON THE HILLTOP

In the past, life on Kagoro hilltop was so complete that its inhabitants had no need to leave this protective enclave in search of anything. With its abundance of fresh water even in dry season, surprisingly rich vegetation, fertile farmlands and livestock, the people lived life to the fullest. On the first day of January, the Kagoros celebrate the Afan Festival, a hunting festival by able bodied men. This festival is a period of renewal and reunion of the Kagoro people living on the hill top and those who dwell at the bottom of the hills. Although, modern conveniences; goods and services; medicare; education opportunities have forced the hilltop dwellers to descend the hills more often, however, the sight of women and children, tramping along the trail on nimble feet, laden with bundles of purchases from the local market is still commonplace.

Each village on the hill is made up of clusters of family compounds. This is an evidence of extended family practices. Each group of compound comprise of mud buildings hedged in with thick cactus



A hedged family compound atop the Kagoro hills

bushes, demarcating the lands and ensuring privacy. A typical Kagoro hilltop household contains two or more mud bungalows, some roofed with thatch while the more recent ones boast of corrugated iron roofing. A barn for grains storage, a pig sty, fruit trees, gardens and in rare cases, a reception area characterize a typical Kagoro hilltop settlement. Like other neighbouring traditional settlements, the largest political unit is the village. The village is headed by a Chief, assisted by a council made up of his Deputy, Secretary and Ward Heads; who oversees the socio-political and economic well being of the people.

The NACD Team visited the Chief and members of his council, who briefed the team of typical life on the hills and efforts being made to better the living conditions of the people, and which is evident in the existence of a school and health centre built for the people.

THE ANCIENT ZARIA CITY WALLS

What remains of the great city wall built by Queen Amina at the beginning of her reign in the 16th century can still be found standing alongside the new city wall. As a protective structure against invaders, the walls were built thick and sturdy to withstand any attempt at breaching it, as is customary in ancient war tactics. History had it that Queen Amina on relocating her Administrative Headquarters from Turunku to Zaria, decided to fortify the city as befitting its emirate status. It is said that the process of building these great walls required the sacrifice of a virgin boy and girl who were buried alive at the gate of the wall. This sacred ritual was believed to make the gate to the city of Zaria impregnable. Though dilapidating, the remains of the old Zaria city wall continue to defy the elements and are still visible to remind the people of their past and history of greatness.

More of Queen Amina's legacies will be exposed in the Kaduna State Tourism page on the NACD website.

GOVERNMENT PRESENCE

The efforts of the Kaduna State government are visible in every aspect of tourism development. Whether on its own or partnering with the private sector in most cases, the State government through her Ministry of Culture and Tourism established several relaxation parks, undertakes the preservation of historical monuments, the development of natural heritage sites and the construction of new ones. This is evident in the laying out of lands, survey

beacons and machines indicating different stages of developmental work in progress. Government is equally anxious of the empowerment of her citizens who are practitioners of arts and crafts. Marraba Pottery and Craft Centre for instance, run by Umar Aliyu was described to the NACD Project team as the government's pride and joy. Many rivers in the State have been dammed for agricultural purposes and water sports to create recreational and leisure facilities for tourists and visitors. The fact that Kaduna State has joined the category of those whose arts, culture and tourism endowments have been documented by the NACD project speaks volumes about its zeal along this line.

It was in this high spirit that the Project team, led by its Director, Prince Chinedu Obi paid a courtesy call on the State's Governor, represented by his Deputy, His Excellency, Mr. Patrick Ibrahim Yakowa at the Government House, in company of top officials of the Culture and Tourism Ministry, including the Commissioner; Mr. Allahmagani Yohanna, as well as the

Special Adviser to the Executive Governor on Culture and Tourism, Mrs. Florence Aya. The Deputy Governor under whose office the Ministry of Culture and Tourism falls directly was excited when viewing a presentation of the work so far carried out by the NACD Project. This increased his anxiety to have Kaduna State listed in the website's "Fully Developed" category. The NACD Project Director intimated the

team to keep it up. Kaduna State, he said is endowed with abundant art, culture and tourism potentials. And the opportunity provided by the NACD Project will be maximized to the fullest towards selling the State's tourist endowments to the world.



NACD Project Director showing the project's website to His Excellency, the Deputy Governor, Mr. Patrick Ibrahim Yakowa, the Commissioner for Culture and Tourism, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Culture and Tourism and Ministry officials

Governor on the mandate and mission of the project, which he described as a public and private-sector driven. The Director harped on the benefits that will accrue to the State's tourism development plan if the State partners with the NACD Project in realizing its laudable objectives.

Responding, the Deputy Governor thanked the NACD Project team for its good works in the sector, especially in bringing to world attention, the arts, culture and tourism potentials of the country. He described the Project as laudable and encouraged the



The Lugard Bridge at General Hassan Usman Katsina Park

MULTI-SECTORAL APPROACH IN ACHIEVING A VIBRANT ARTS, CULTURE AND TOURISM SECTOR.

In a paper presented at a recently-concluded 4-day conference on Nigerian Youth Art and Culture, organized by the National Youth Festival of Arts and Culture (NAYOUFEST), a non-governmental initiative, Project Director of the Nigerian Arts and Culture Directory (NACD) Project, Prince Chinedu Obi, reiterated the need for a synergy of efforts between the public and private sector to bring local arts to the fore as an important driver of tourism in Nigeria. The paper titled "Partnership by Cultural Stakeholders for the Promotion of the Art" pointed out the loopholes and cogs impeding the sector's development in Nigeria and the way forward. According to the Director, art must be seen in Nigeria as a means of economic development, encompassing every aspect of human endeavour, not just a means of pleasure, a lopsided impression that has failed to achieve its intended purpose.

To buttress this point, he went on to cite the Nigerian Cultural Policy which he described as lacking a realistic art policy by not making any specific inference on arts development. The result is that art, a vital tool of social, cultural and technological transformation was relegated to the background. Other challenges include the abandonment of great initiatives by past governments, absence of focus, platitudes on government's part towards involving the private sector in this developmental strategy, lack of encouragement of practitioners by stakeholders and the absence of links between arts and other sectors of the economy.

From the tourism perspective, the Director argued that besides hotels and natural tourist attractions, works of art on display often play a more vital role in attracting tourists to any country. Unfortunately, Nigeria has not been able to harness its rich cultural art in attracting art tourists.

In the course of his assignment as Project Director, NACD Project, a Presidential initiative aimed at documenting and exposing the arts, culture and tourism endowments of the country, he realized the need for reorganizing and re-strategizing through functional partnership between stakeholders in the sector (for a stable growth). To effectively do this, the following steps must be considered:

1. Use of a multi-sectoral approach.
2. Inclusion of information on the sector as part of curricula of primary and secondary schools.
3. Yearly competitions based on the subject at local, state and national levels.
4. Creation of an arts development fund by stakeholders.
5. Marketing and awareness creation through the media networks of different organizations.
6. Intercultural dialogue between Nigerian artists and their foreign counterparts.
7. A collaboration between concerned agencies such as CBAAC and NGA for the annual assessment and progress evaluation of the impact of various strategies adopted for the purpose.
8. Need for refurbishment and protection of Nigerian museums against economic saboteurs at home and abroad.

The conference was put together by Mr. Richard Uboh-Ekong, CEO, National Youth Festival of Arts and Culture.

Kagoro Village

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