

MAY 2024

With Love, from Edo

Koyo!! [Benin] Obokhian!! [Esan] Abee!! [Afemai] Hello [English]



**MO
WA**

**NIGERIA
IMAGIN-
ARY**



9TH EDITION

PUBLISHER'S SCRIPT



Welcome to this month of May edition of the 'With love from Edo' digest.

April was a fascinating month, with the double celebration of Easter and Ramadan.

In addition, the 60th edition of the Venice Biennale took place in Italy. The Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki, served as the Commissioner of the Nigerian Pavilion for the second time, working with the Federal Ministry of Art, Culture and the Creative Economy. The Nigerian Pavilion was organized by the Museum of West African Art (MOWAA), which unveiled exceptional works by eight outstanding Nigerian artists.

Data shows that flight load factors of most domestic airlines were at a record high, and bookings were full in May.

Many Nigerians are taking full advantage of the fall in international airfares to go unwind in exotic destinations.

After a few tough years, this is an opportunity for a super rest and relaxation season.

This month of May, we will be marking International Workers Day, which is a day in celebration of the working classes across the world.

As highlighted in our last edition, the heatwave and change in global weather patterns continue to baffle us all. Typically, in April, the rainy season should have started but this year the rains have only come sparingly. This has extended the dry spell and made our outdoor activities all the more enjoyable. We are looking forward to some events in the month

1. Children's Day (National)
2. Ukpe/New Yam Festival (Edo)
3. Okpekpe 10km Athletics Road Race (Edo)

We do not agree with the well-known adage in the

business and financial world that says "Sell in May and go away".

We believe in "Come see us in May and celebrate."

We cannot wait to host you with our amazing hospitality, unique cuisine and historic sites.

This edition of the tourism digest has a wide array of interesting pieces that will keep you fully engaged.

Enjoy your read.

With Love,

OBEHI

IN THIS ISSUE

- Nigeria Imaginary
- The Edo State and Hungary partnership
- ESTA raffle draw winning trips
- Ghana's stolen artefacts returned from the UK



NIGERIA IMAGIN- ARY

Nigeria Imaginary

The Nigerian Pavilion at the 60th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia marked the second time the country has ever participated in the global art event.

The exhibition, "Nigeria Imaginary," was held in a historical palazzo in Dorsoduro, near the Gallerie dell'Accademia.

It featured an intergenerational group of nine Nigerian and Nigerian diasporic artists: Tunji Adeniyi-Jones, Ndidi Dike, Onyeka Igwe, Toyin Ojih Odutola, Abraham Oghobase, Yinka Shonibare, Fatimah Tuggar, and Precious Okoyomon.

His Excellency, the Governor of Edo State, Mr Godwin Obaseki, was the pavilion's commissioner on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Art, Culture and the Creative Economy with the forthcoming Museum of West African Art (MOWAA) Edo State, serving as its official organizer.

Aindrea Emelife, the Nigerian-British curator of contemporary and modern art at MOWAA, was the pavilion's curator. She proposed the list of artists and exhibition theme, which she said will provide "a way of looking forward to the future while also looking back—their modernity is very much rooted still in this embrace of tradition."

The concept of Nigeria Imaginary explores the role of both great moments in Nigeria's history—moments of optimism as well as the Nigeria that lives in our minds—a Nigeria that could be and is yet to be. Various forms of art are displayed, including painting, photography, drawing, installation, sculpture, AR, sound, and film.

Governor Godwin Obaseki said, "The exhibition is deeply aligned with the vision of the Edo State Government for encouraging socio-cultural and economic development through the promotion of art and tourism, and I have full confidence in the Museum of West African Art (MOWAA) to assist in organising a world-class exhibition."

The pavilion in Italy will be showcased from April 20 to November 24, 2024.

In 2025, the Rainforest Gallery, the new contemporary art space in the MOWAA Creative District, Edo State, will host an inaugural exhibition.

NIGERIA IMAGIN- ARY



Monument to the Restitution of the Mind and Soul" (2023), by Yinka Shonibare



Mr. Godwin Obaseki, Edo State Governor and Commissioner of the Nigerian Pavilion (right), with Prof Wole Soyinka, at the 60th edition of La Biennale di Venezia, Italy



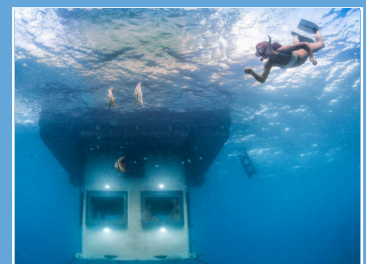
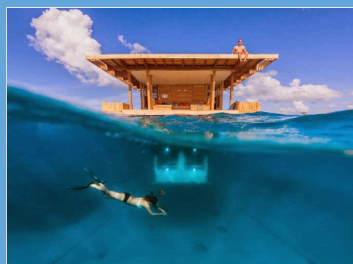
L-R: Andrea Emelife (Curator); Hannatu Musa Musawa (Honourable Minister of Art, Culture, and the Creative Economy of Nigeria); Mr. Godwin Obaseki (Edo State Governor), and Philip Ihenacho (Director of MOWAA), at the 60th edition of La Biennale di Venezia, Italy



GLOBAL TOURISM

- 🇮🇹 From April 2024, day trippers to Venice, a UNESCO World Heritage site now have to pay a €5 charge (\$5.36) to enter the city.
- 🇳🇮 Bendel Insurance Football club of Benin, defending champions of the Nigerian Federation Cup and 4 time winner have qualified to the round of 32 of the 2024 Federation Cup.
- 🇮🇳 India's Kota Tourist Zone, Corbett's new zone, is now open to the public.
- 🇬🇧 Gran Canaria, United Kingdom to introduce new tourist tax as it follows in Tenerife's footsteps

Africa's first underwater hotel



The Underwater Room, Manta Resort, Pemba Island, Zanzibar

RAFFLE DRAW WINNERS



MEGA CONCERT

1st



Touring Ivory Coast

2nd



Experiencing Ghana

3rd



3-day all expense paid vacation at Protea Hotel



Edo State and Hungary

A partnership to look out for



His Excellency, Dr. Lorand Endreffy, the Hungarian Ambassador to Nigeria



The MD of the ESTA with Mr. Spencer Onosode (President, NHCC) & Dr. Lorand Endreffy

Fun Fact: The modern ball point pen was invented by a Hungarian journalist called Laszlo Biro.



Mr. Isaac & Mrs. Sedina Osunde of Triosed Nigeria Limited with the MD, ESTA



Mrs. Endreffy with the MD.

Fun Fact: The Pulitzer Prize was named after a Hungarian called Joseph Pulitzer.



The MD of the ESTA with the Directors NHCC



Edo State and Hungary

A partnership to look out for (Cont'd)

On Friday 19th April 2024, the Nigerian-Hungarian Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with the Embassy of Hungary, officially commissioned the Chamber's office in Ikoyi, Lagos.

The Managing Director of the Edo State Tourism Agency, Mrs. Obehi Aire-Okafor, was a special guest of His Excellency, Dr. Lorand Endreffy, the Hungarian Ambassador to Nigeria at the prestigious commissioning.

The NHCC is reputed for its extensive work in business and trade. In this era of economic diplomacy as a support for international trade, this initiative is a continuation of its extensive work in extending its footprint in Sub-Saharan Africa. It will also go a long way in reducing Nigeria's over-reliance on petroleum to achieve accelerated and sustainable growth. In addition, it will serve as a platform for information and exchange of ideas that will aid in the promotion of bilateral trade and investment relations.

Some of the target sectors, such as tourism, agriculture, and information technology, are areas of mutual interest for the Edo State Government and the Hungarian Government.

Edo State and Hungary are committed to improving their tourism infrastructure and ecosystem. In this era of renewed interest in tourism, the relatively affordable costs in both countries will be a source of comparative advantage for both countries. Both nations boast of historical structures that preserve their unique heritage. In Edo State, we have the Egedege N'Okaro (the first storey building in Benin - 1906) and the Benin City Moat (1460 AD) as a few examples on the one side; with the Hungarian Parliament Building (1904) and St. Stephen's Basilica (1905) on the other.

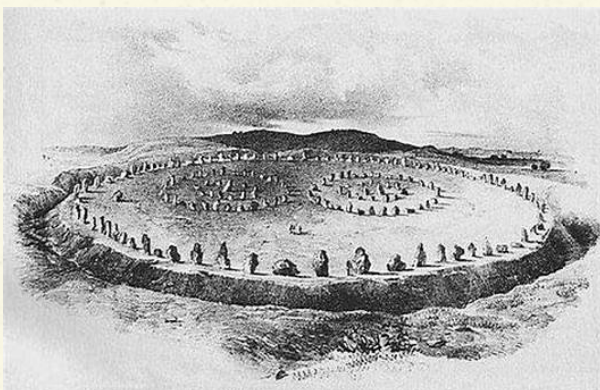
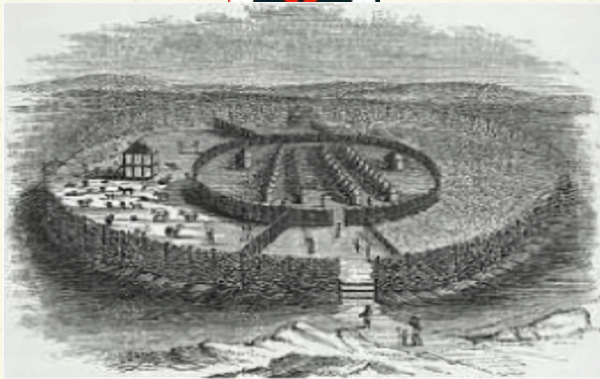
There are endless opportunities to explore the various sectors of our economy. We look forward to a successful collaboration between the Edo State Government and the Hungarian Government as Nigeria and the Republic of Hungary begin the process of building a mutually beneficial relationship across various sectors of their economies.

This initiative between the Edo State Tourism Agency and the Hungarian National Chamber of Commerce will be a major milestone in driving the collaboration between investors, tourists and business leaders in both countries.



THE BENIN MOAT

*A testament to Edo's
Creativity and Innovation*



Edo State is well-renowned for its rich artistic heritage and skills, which are well highlighted in the famous sculptures (Benin Bronzes), as well as its wooden carvings. But the bronzes and sculptures were not the only legacy passed down from the great Benin Kingdom, filled with skilled craftsmen and builders. The Benin Moat, also known as the Walls of Benin, was acknowledged by the Guinness Book of World Records in 1974 as one of the world's most significant man-made structures by length, second only to China's Great Wall. The construction began around 800 AD and was completed in the 14th century. It consisted of a combination of ramparts (earthen walls) and intricate moats (ditches) that encircled the city of Benin.







The primary purpose of the Benin Moat was defensive. It served as a fortification to protect the city of Benin from external threats, including invasions from neighbouring kingdoms and European colonizers. The moat was part of a sophisticated defensive system that included walls, gates, and strategic placement of settlements and military structures. The entire system was designed to slow down and deter invading forces, giving the defenders time to organize and mount a defense. The innermost ditch was the deepest and widest, making it a formidable barrier for any would-be attackers, and encircled the most vital areas like the royal palace and chiefs' residences.

The Benin Moat is of significant historical and cultural importance. It showcases the expertise of the people with earth (clay) and symbolizes the ancient Kingdom of Benin's military strength and organizational prowess.



Restored Heritage

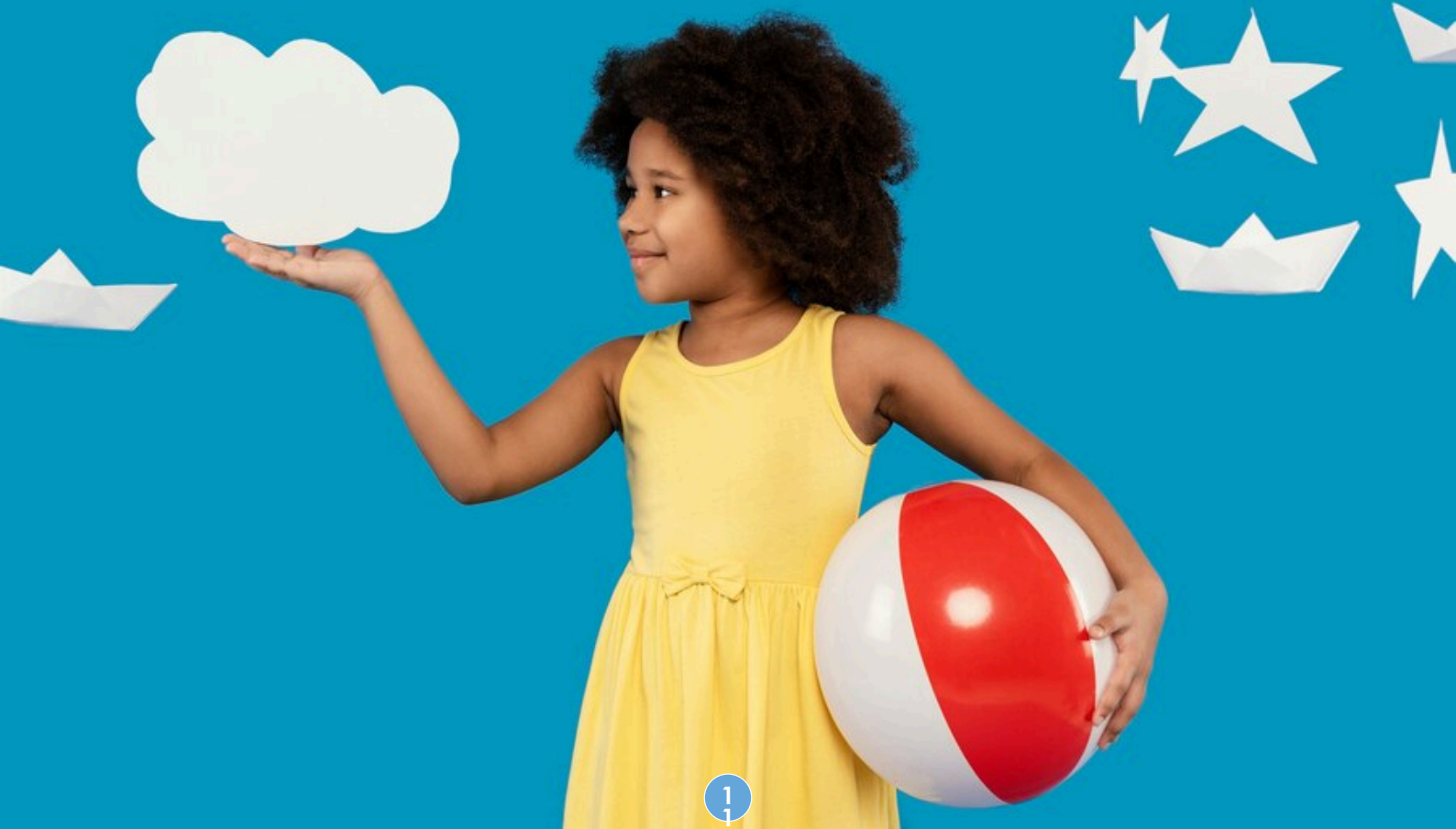
UK Returns Asante Artefacts to Ghana After 150 Years

-  In April 2024, the UK returned 32 gold and silver artefacts to Ghana after more than 150 years.
-  Artefacts were taken during 19th-century conflicts between the British and Asante people.
-  Returned items include a gold peace pipe, a sword of state, and gold badges worn by officials.
-  Artefacts are part of Asante royal government symbolism, believed to hold the spirits of former kings.
-  The returned items are on a long-term loan to Ghana from the Victoria & Albert Museum (V&A) and the British Museum.
-  On May 1 2024, the Asante King displayed the artefacts for the first time at Manhyia Palace Museum in Kumasi to mark the Asante King's silver jubilee.



Happy
Children's
Day

May 27



GOOD TO KNOW

- 1 What is the world's largest man-made structures by length ?
- 2 The 60th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia was titled ?
- 3 How many gold and silver artefacts were returned by the UK to Ghana in April 2024 ?

Answers are in the word puzzle

WORD PUZZLE

FROM THIS EDITION

E	H	G	N	A	O	E	F	Q	J	Z	N	A	O	L
D	L	V	H	T	N	Q	C	R	R	F	E	W	S	G
T	D	Y	R	A	N	I	G	A	M	I	R	X	E	D
H	P	H	K	O	L	C	H	S	R	L	D	T	C	R
J	Q	Z	N	I	G	E	R	I	A	N	L	R	U	O
U	P	K	S	C	N	W	K	M	T	Y	I	B	H	C
L	A	V	I	T	S	E	F	M	Z	X	H	N	T	E
G	T	H	I	R	T	Y	O	A	T	S	C	E	E	R
H	U	V	K	S	L	A	W	Y	W	W	P	X	D	B
K	H	I	H	J	T	W	O	W	E	N	O	A	S	T
M	P	V	N	N	C	U	R	H	A	I	O	Y	G	P
Q	L	O	W	N	U	D	L	E	F	R	A	N	A	O
Z	T	Y	W	U	E	T	D	G	Y	M	O	R	C	W
E	A	D	U	E	W	S	S	H	E	O	T	W	J	S
D	T	I	B	L	P	X	S	B	B	Q	W	H	S	K

ART
FESTIVAL
BENIN
CHILDREN
DAY
NIGERIA

GUINNESS
MAY
MOAT
NEW
RACE
RECORD

ROAD
THIRTY
TWO
WORLD
YAM
IMAGINARY

EVENTS

Ukpe

May

New yam festival

Ighele

June

Peace and prosperity

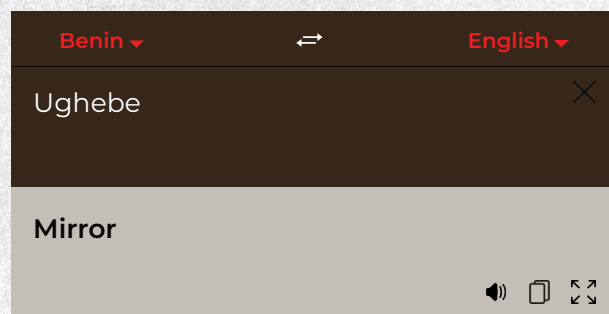
Eria

June

For good harvest



LINGO



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