



## **THE INFLUENCE OF MONUMENTS ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF KOGI STATE**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Monuments which are concrete erections to commemorate an event or an important person have significant relevance to a group of people or a nation as they strike a remembrance of historic times or portray certain cultural heritage. An investigation into the influence these structures have to stimulate emotions, affect the cultural life as well as influence the believe system of the people was carried out. This data for this research was gotten from the National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM), Kogi state ministry of culture and tourism, artifact collection and visit to various museums and locations to identify the monuments available in Kogi State. Monuments are found to serve as historic products and relics, valuable for appreciating history. The socio-economic impact of monument includes its tourism potentials and ability to stimulate socio-economic activities in the region. Result from this study also shows that most of these sites and memorials are unkempt, and dilapidated, requiring the attention, conservation, improvement and due commercialization. Recommends are made for need to properly document the available monuments in Kogi state, identify their locations, understand their historic, social as well as tourism and economic viability.*

**KEYWORDS:** *artifact, development, economic, monument, relics, tourism*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The word Monuments has Greek and Latin origin; the Greek word “mnemosynon” and the Latin word “moneo or monere” which means to remind or remember. The original words used connote to have a remembrance of the past in preparation for the future. Monuments include statues of great leaders, gods, war lords and memorials, buildings of historical relevance, archaeological sites, and cultural heritage (Ukaegbu,

2011). Monuments are artistic, historical, cultural, political, or architectural structure that significantly influence a group of people. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO, 2010) defined monument as “any object, natural or artificial, fixed permanently in the soil as an indication, evidence or token of some fact or intended to commemorate a person, nation, event or idea”. They therefore comprise of architectural, sculptural or

painted or structural works that create reminder of distinguished or cherished person, persons or event (Microsoft Encarta Dictionaries, 2009). El-Hakim, et.al 2002 defined monuments as explicit structures created to commemorate a person or important event or which bear importance to a social group as major part of their remembrance of past occurrence.

Monuments have tremendous potential to promote tourism and recreational activities, which stimulates social and economic development (Orji, 2010; Jiboku and Jiboku, 2010). Kogi State, particularly Lokoja that served as the first seat of power for Nigeria during the colonial rule, plays a key historical role as it arguably has the highest concentration of historical relics in Nigeria (Kogi State Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2010).

Monuments have great potentials to drive the socio-economic life of Kogi people. Their designs and attraction appeal to people's sense of historicity, curiosity, interest, origin, as well as religious or cultural positions. They are educative tools for history of important figures, people and events that appeal to the people. Monuments also attract a lot of tourists who travel from all over the world to view them; thus generating huge economic gain to host communities. According to Orji (2010: 83), monuments if properly managed and utilized, will greatly impact on the promotion of tourism in Nigeria. Similarly, Jiboku, and Jiboku, (2010) asserted that monuments, have the capacity to stimulate tourism and international patronage. However most unfortunately, these potentials have been untapped, mitigating the socio-economic gain of the nation. Heritage and historic resources such as Monuments are pivotal portraits upon which tourism is advanced, promoted and sustained world over in modern days with the attendant social and economic benefits accruing.

Monuments do not just serve economic purposes. Their presence helps people to improve their self-worth and originality. Boosting their sense of history, self-discovery, pride in their culture and better understanding of their origin. Notable monuments of tremendous importance and public interest make their way into the renowned UNESCO World Heritage Site. In a bid to preserve monuments, historic sites and structures for their socio-cultural relevance, they simultaneously serve as tourism attractions that could bring about sustainable development (Royal Government of Cambodia, 2000).

Lokoja as a result of its historic relevance in Nigeria, is arguably the city in the country with the highest concentration of relics with historical relevance (Kogi State Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2010). Unfortunately, as stated by their literature on "Inventorization of the Immovable Cultural Heritage within a Plural Setting: The Nigerian challenge" Olorunnipa and Eboreime (2009:3) recognized that

monuments and historic sites are largely threatened by a lot of factors ranging from environmental degradation to the push for development and modernization, lack of awareness of their importance, etc. They also stated that it is not just environmental factors that is militating against monuments, other threatening issues include: spoils resulting from fire, mining activities, weathering and erosion, theft or vandalism, and unplanned or uncontrolled development (Orji 2010:2). Generally speaking both human and natural factors are responsible for defacement of monuments. This calls for constant renewal and conservation which is the basic task of the National Commission for Museums and Monuments (Abu (1990), a task that has become extremely challenging largely owing to funds availability.

The National Council for Preservation Education in Canada (2007) provided an international standard and best practices guidelines for conservation of monuments of historic relevance. The following conservation techniques or approaches are required:

- (i) Preservation: Based on their importance and the confronting issues of dilapidation, preservation is vital processes to protect, maintain monuments to avoid defacement to reduce damage, destruction or deterioration (Bodam, 1997).
- (ii) Rehabilitation: This involves repairing of monuments, in such a manner that their heritage value is carefully protected.
- (iii) Restoration: When monuments and historic relics are in bad condition, damaged or dilapidated, there is a need to bring them back into good state. This is what restoration does. This involves some level of professionalism involving high level of professionalism. Employing the services of architectural conservators, historic planners, preservationist, preservation engineers, historic site administrators and craftsmen.

## METHODOLOGY

### Description of Study Area

Kogi state is one of the states in Nigeria formed in 1991 from parts of Benue and Kwara states with capital in Lokoja, the confluence of rivers Niger and Benue. The state is made up of the former Kabba Province of Northern-Central Nigeria comprising of 21 LGA's with three major ethnic groups - Igala, Ebara and Okun and other minor groups such as: Bassa, Oworo, Nupe, Kakanda, Kupa, Ogori-Magongo, Gwari etc (Alabi, 2009). It was in Lokoja that the name Nigeria was coined by Flora Shaw, later Flora Lugard wife of Lord Lugard the then British colonial administrator while gazing out at the river that stretched before her in the late 19th century. Lokoja

also was the first seat of government in Nigeria before its amalgamation.

**Data Collection**

Data collection shall be by data collection from available museums and monuments in the study area, also field visitations to locations of interest, where certain monuments are erected, to investigate their level of preservation and potential for socio economic impact

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

Some monuments in Kogi State Include:

**World War Cenotaph in Lokoja:** The cenotaph is a concrete structure put up in memory of soldiers who fought and lost their lives in the Second World War. It is a massive concrete block mounted with an old artillery. Light cannons and machine guns are mounted on small pavements beside it. Names of the soldiers who fought vigorously and distinguished themselves during the wars are also written on the wall of the cenotaph (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Cenotaph was built in memory of soldiers who died during the Second World War

**Lord Lugard’s Rest House on Mount Patti:** Lord Lugard built his rest house at the top of Mount Patti measuring about 4×6 metres. Mount Patti is a mounting that plateaus at the top with a height of about 458.3 metres above sea level (Kogi State Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2010). Figure 2 is a Lord Lugard rest room untop of mount Patti with Lord Lugard and his wife’s status erected infront.



Figure 2: Lord Lugard’s Rest House on top of Mount Patti



**The Iron of Liberty:** Lokoja as a result of its vantage location and the banks of River Niger, is an important location for slave trade during slave trade era. To regain their freedom, freed slaves were meant to touch the Iron of liberty to symbolically regain their freedom. It was also

the route path through which missionaries and European explorers settled in the country in the early 19th century. The Iron of Liberty is shown in Figure 3.



**Figure 3: Iron of Liberty**

**European Cemeteries:** The European cemetery in Lokoja (Figure 4) is the biggest in Nigeria housing the remains of European soldiers of the West African Frontier Force (WAFF) until 1926 and those of

missionaries from Europe who died in Nigeria in that period. Most of the tomb stones used in the cemeteries date as far back as 1867.



**Figure 4: European Cemetery**

**Awo Tunnel:** This is a tunnel about one kilometre long dug during the reign of Attah Onoja Obani (Attah of Igala kingdom) which serves as a hiding place for the Igala royal family members during the wars in Idah.

**The Inikpi statue:** This is probably the most visited monument in Igala land, built in memory of

Inikpi, the daughter of the legendary Attah of Igala kingdom who offered to be buried alive on the recommendation of the Oracle to grant her father and the Igala army victory during the Jukun war. Inikpi status is located at Ega in Idah market in Idah Local Government Area of Kogi State. Inikpi became the heroine, a model of sacrifice and love for her people.

She was a beloved daughter of the then Attah Igala (Ayegba, the 4<sup>th</sup>) who willingly gave herself up to be buried alive in order to salvage the Igala Kingdom

from enemy forces during inter-tribal war with the Jukuns (Ebiloma 2019). Inikpi status is shown in Figure 5.



**Figure 5: Status of Inikpi in Ega, Idah**

**Late Atta of Ebira’s Palace:** Built in 1927, this magnificent palace was constructed with the

combination of ancient and modern architecture(Figure 6).



**Figure 6: Palace of Late Atta of Ebira land in Okene**

**Royal Niger company flag:** The location where the Royal Niger Company Flag was lowered to commemorate Sir Fredrick Lugard who became the

first governor general of Nigeria on January 1 1900 (Figure 7).



**Figure 7: The location where the Royal Niger Company Flag was lowered**

**Princess Oma-Odoko Status:** While Princess Inikpi sacrificed herself for the safety of Igala land during the Igala-Benin conflict, Princess Oma-Odoko was buried alive through the time of the Igala-Jukun conflict. Her loss of life and the conflict are additionally carefully linked to the cursed Inachalo river. Omodoko's statue (Figure 8) close to her shrine

commemorates her bravery and her function within the preservation of the Igala folks and tradition.



**Figure 8: Status of Oma-Odoko in Idah Kogi State.**

**Odogo:** This building located in Idah Kogi State is a historical edifice, a tall tower made of local materials used by the Ata's security details as watch towers for war surveillance against enemy invasion on Igala kingdom. Odogo is arguably the first storey building in Nigeria because the popularly acclaimed first storey

building in Nigeria located in Badagery Lagos was built in 1845, under the supervision of a missionary named Reverend C.A. Gollmer, while Odogo located in Idah has existed for more than 600 years. Figure 9 below shows the picture of Odogo.





**Figure 9: Odogo tower, located in Idah, Kogi State**

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