

Religious Tourism and Sustainable Development: A Study of Eyo Festival in Lagos, Nigeria

By

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Abstract

The study basically establishes the fact that religion is not just a mere spiritual affair and communion between man and God, but also, it deals with the personal, inter-personal, social and economic dimension of life. Religion is perceived as retarding progress and invariably it does not give room for national development. However, the problem of social disorder, wars, religious crisis and chaos which result from man's desires, wants and particularity of religious groups can be solved if government invests in religious tourism as a means for sustainable development. The fear of African religion going into limbo of anachronism with the advent of Christianity and Islam can also be solved through religious tourism. The paper addressed all these attendant problems thereby strengthening the argument on the socio – economic impact and value of African religion particularly through exploring religious tourism potentials as embedded in the Eyo festival in Lagos State, Nigeria. This study established the nexus between African religion and tourism by using the Eyo festival in Lagos State. It is important to note that humanity as a whole is dynamic, so society and religion cannot be static. The study posited that lots of tourism potentials are enshrined in this festival and if government could harness this potential, it will lead ultimately to sustainable development in Nigeria.

Keywords: *Religious Tourism, Eyo Festival, Sustainable Development, Lagos*