



ECOWAS FOOD AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL FESTIVAL CULINAIRE ET CULTUREL DE LA CEDEAO



MAJOR PARTNERS



FOR ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT CONTACT:

Contact The NCWC Secretariat at: Network Of Young Female Leaders Of Ecowas Community (ROAJELF): 34/36 Suite 2A, Okotie Eboh Crescent, Utako, Abuja, Nigeria. **Tel:** 0905724317, 08022710831, 08033498460, 08074386544, 08057858226, 08063003311

E-mail: hwiorg@yahoo.com, Website: <https://efcfdiaspora.org>

WEBSITE 2: www.ecowasfoodandculturalfestival.org

Benin City Contact: +234 8034290049 (Ajayi), +234 8038758819 (Purpose).

ORGANIZING PARTNERS



**Edo State Government
HOST**



**HIS EXCELLENCY
SEN. BOLA AHMED TINUBU GCFR**
PRESIDENT FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR



**SON EXCELLENCE
PRESIDENT BASSIROU DIOMAYE DIAKHARY FAYE**
PRESIDENT OF SENEGAL AND ECOWAS CHAIRMAN
CHAIRMAN



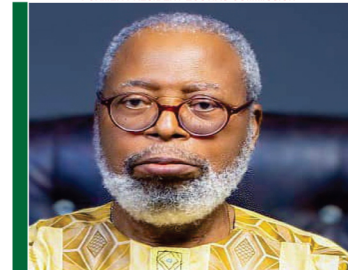
**HIS EXCELLENCY
GENERAL BIRAME DIOP**
PRESIDENT ECOWAS COMMISSION
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**CHIEF HOST
H.E. SEN. MONDAY OKPEBHOLO**
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR, EDO STATE



**DISTINGUISHED KEYNOTE SPEAKERS OF THE YEAR
DR. OMAR ALIEU TOURAY**
FORMER PRESIDENT ECOWAS COMMISSION



**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER:
PROF. SHOLA ALIU**
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL CENTRAL WORKING COMMITTEE
ECOWAS FOOD & CULTURAL FESTIVAL (EFCF)

ECOWAS FOOD AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL "EFCF NIGERIA 2026"

BENIN CITY, EDO STATE,

THEME:
"African Foods, Cultural Heritage,
Peace and Security for Sustainable
Development, Tourism and
Economic Growth".

**DATE: 27th - 31st
OCTOBER, 2026**



FESTIVAL CULINAIRE ET CULTUREL DE LA CEDEAO "EFCF NIGERIA 2026"

BENIN CITY, ETAT D'EDO

THEME:
"Gastronomie Africaine, Patrimoine
Culturel, Paix et Securite pour le
Developpement durable, le
Tourisme et la Croissance Economique"

**DATE: Du 27 au 31
OCTOBRE, 2026**

COME CELEBRATE AND SHOWCASE

Your Food, Culture, Arts, Crafts, Music, Dance, Beautiful Queens, Fashion, Traditional Boxing/
Wrestling, including Exhibition of Products/ Products information by Countries, State and Companies

VENEZ CELEBRER ET METTRE EN VALEUR

vos gastronomie, votre culture, vos arts, votre artisanat, votre musique, vos danses,
vos magnifiques reines, votre mode, ainsi que la boxe et la lutte traditionnelles.



MEDIA PARTNERS:



**HOST STATE COMMISSIONER
HON. CHRIS EWERE OKAEBEN**
COMMISSIONER FOR ARTS, CULTURE & CREATIVE ECONOMY



**HOST DIRECTOR GENERAL TOURISM
LADY VIVIAN ELABOR**
DIRECTOR GENERAL, EDO TOURISM AGENCY



AMB. PRINCE FELIX IHONRE
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
EFCF



**DIASPORA COORDINATOR
MS. ARIF B. EKEREKE**
REPUBLIC OF ISLAND, EUROPE



**DIASPORA SECRETARY
MR. DENIS RAY OGOSI**
EUROPE



**HOST STATE COORDINATOR
COMR. PRINCE INNOCENT AJAYI**
EDU STATE GOVERNMENT

ORGANIZING PARTNERS:



PROGRAMME BROCHURE & CALL FOR PARTICIPATION



SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR
HIS EXCELLENCY
SEN. BOLA AHMED TINUBU GCFR
PRESIDENT FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA &
CHAIRMAN ECOWAS

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Nigeria, we hail thee
 Our own dear native land
 Though tribes and tongues may differ
 In brotherhood, we stand
 Nigerians all, are proud to serve
 Our sovereign Motherland.

Our flag shall be a symbol
 That truth and justice reign
 In peace or battle, honour'd,
 And this we count as gain,
 To hand on to our children
 A banner without stain.

THE NATIONAL PLEDGE

O God of all creation
 Grant this our one request.
 Help us to build a nation
 Where no man is oppressed
 And so with peace and plenty
 Nigeria shall be blessed.





SON EXCELLENCE
PRESIDENT BASSIROU
DIOMAYE DIAKHAR FAYE
PRESIDENT OF SENEGAL AND ECOWAS CHAIRMAN
CHAIRMAN OF THE FESTIVAL

ECOWAS FOOD AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL (EFCF)



EFCF/NCWC SECRETARIAT MEMBERS IN ABUJA



SECRETARIAT MEMBERS IN ABUJA



INTER MINISTERIAL MEETING CHAIRED BY OSGF- THE PRESIDENCY



MEETING WITH OSGF- THE PRESIDENCY



MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS IN AKWA-IBOM STATE



MEETING WITH EDO STATE GOVERNMENT



MEETING WITH NIGERIA PERMANENT MISSION TO ECOWAS

BENEFIT OF POST ECOWAS FOOD AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL TO HOST AND PARTICIPATING/PARTNERING STATES/COUNTRIES/ORGANIZATIONS:

1. **Establishment of luxury Resorts, like in Maldives:** The Maldives is known for its luxury resorts, beautiful beaches, and underwater attractions, making tourism a critical part of its economy.
2. **Development of Natural landscapes and pristine beaches, like in Seychelles:** This Island nation in the Indian Ocean relies significantly on tourism, particularly due to its stunning natural landscapes and pristine beaches.
3. **Establishment of Casinos and vibrant entertainment centers, like in Macau:** As a special administrative region of China, Macau is a major tourist destination, famous for its casinos and vibrant entertainment industry.
4. **Creation of beautiful beaches, like in Bahamas:** The Bahamas has a strong reliance on tourism, with its beautiful beaches, clear waters, and range of tourist activities.
5. **Establishment of Picturesque beaches, like in Aruba:** This Caribbean Island is largely dependent on tourism due to its picturesque beaches and warm climate.
6. **Development of Sport Tourism, like in Delta State Nigeria,** Medical Tourism like in Indian etc.
7. **Development/Promotion of Poverty Alleviation/Food Security** against Hunger and Malnutrition Retreats in Remote Areas of the ECOWAS region.
8. Creation of Agro products packaging Centres for bulk sales (Import/export) in the region.
9. AI, Palani and Smart Chioce Diaspora 2-Persons and 2-Jobs in 774 LGA's in Nigeria and will be replicated in other ECOWAS Member Countries in the next 5 years.

HOW YOU/YOUR STATE/COUNTRIES/ INSTITUTIONS CAN GET INVOLVE:

- a. Active participation, collaboration, partnership, cooperate sponsorship and technical assistance including resource persons and materials provision.
- b. Donations of any amount of money, materials and facilities for Pre/During-/post Festival
- c. Sponsorship of Gift Packs, Entertainment! Refreshments for participants/contingents
- d. Printing of publications e.g Events booklets, Billboards, T-shirts/Face Caps, Banners, Venues Artists Logistics, Food and Drinks/Water, Transportation and Accommodation of resource persons/facilitators etc.
Artists Logistics, Food and Drinks/Water, Transportation and Accommodation of resource persons/facilitators etc.
- e. Fund raising for this Festival by your Institutions, State/Country, via MDAs, Government, Business Colleague/Staff, Religious Worship Centres, Schools to host a pre-event or under write a Dinner, Luncheon, Breakfast, Sponsor a Banquette etc.
- f. Help lobby and introduce this Festival to friends and other organization for funding.
- g. Advertise on the Festival Programme Booklet, Website and other social media outlets.
- h. Visa assistance to Foreign Delegates, Visitors, Resource Persons participating in the Festival, will be expedited with the collaboration of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Abuja.
- i. Sponsorship of a States/LGAs/ Countries and Institutional Delegation.
- j. Sponsorship of a State/Country/Organization's Day during the Festival.
- k. Purchase of Exhibition Booth/ Pavilion by Countries, States, LGAs, Companies and Organizations.
- l. Any other form of assistance at your reach will be highly appreciated.



HIS EXCELLENCY
GENERAL BIRAME DIOP
PRESIDENT ECOWAS COMMISSION
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



CHIEF HOST
H.E. SEN. MONDAY OKPEBHOLO
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR, EDO STATE

SPECIAL CULTURAL ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

OPENING CEREMONY:

- Masquerade Parade/Dances from Esan Land, Delta, Guinea Conocre, Lome, Ivory Coast, and other Traditional Cultural Performances,
- Traditional African Wrestling Matches (Bouts),
- Miss /Face of ECOWAS Pageantry (Men & Female) 2026
- Carnival Train Float from ECOWAS Countries, Nigeria States and Local Governments Parade
- Colloquium and Entrepreneurship Development Mindset Reengineering,
- Cultural Performances/Royal welcome reception at Airports

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS BOUQUET

A . DINNER / GALA NITE.

- Musical Orchestra Band Stand and African Musical Concert
- Cultural Dance Troupes from Nigeria and other ECOWAS Countries

B. TASTE OF ECOWAS / NIGERIA/ OTHER COUNTRIES DELICACIES

- Local Food and Drinks Showcase of NIGERIA / ECOWAS member States, other countries
- Presentation and Opening of Sponsored ROYAL DISHES of NIGERIA / ECOWAS member States and other countries in the world
- Business Round - Table for Inter Regional market windows.

C. ARTS & CRAFTS EXHIBITION: • Arts fair. • Crafts fair.

- Business Round - Table for Inter Regional market windows.

D. FASHION SHOW .

- Local / Regional Fashion trends: Lagos, Cotounu, Free Town, Monrovia.
- Fashion Runway showcase: Jos, Dahome, The Gambia, Guinea Bisau, Cape Verd
- Business Round - Table for Inter Regional market windows.

E. GOLF TOURISM GUESTS KITTY.

- Sponsored Golf Kitty between IBB Golf Club , Abuja and Edo Benin City Golf Club for VIP's, Governors Heads if State/ Government.

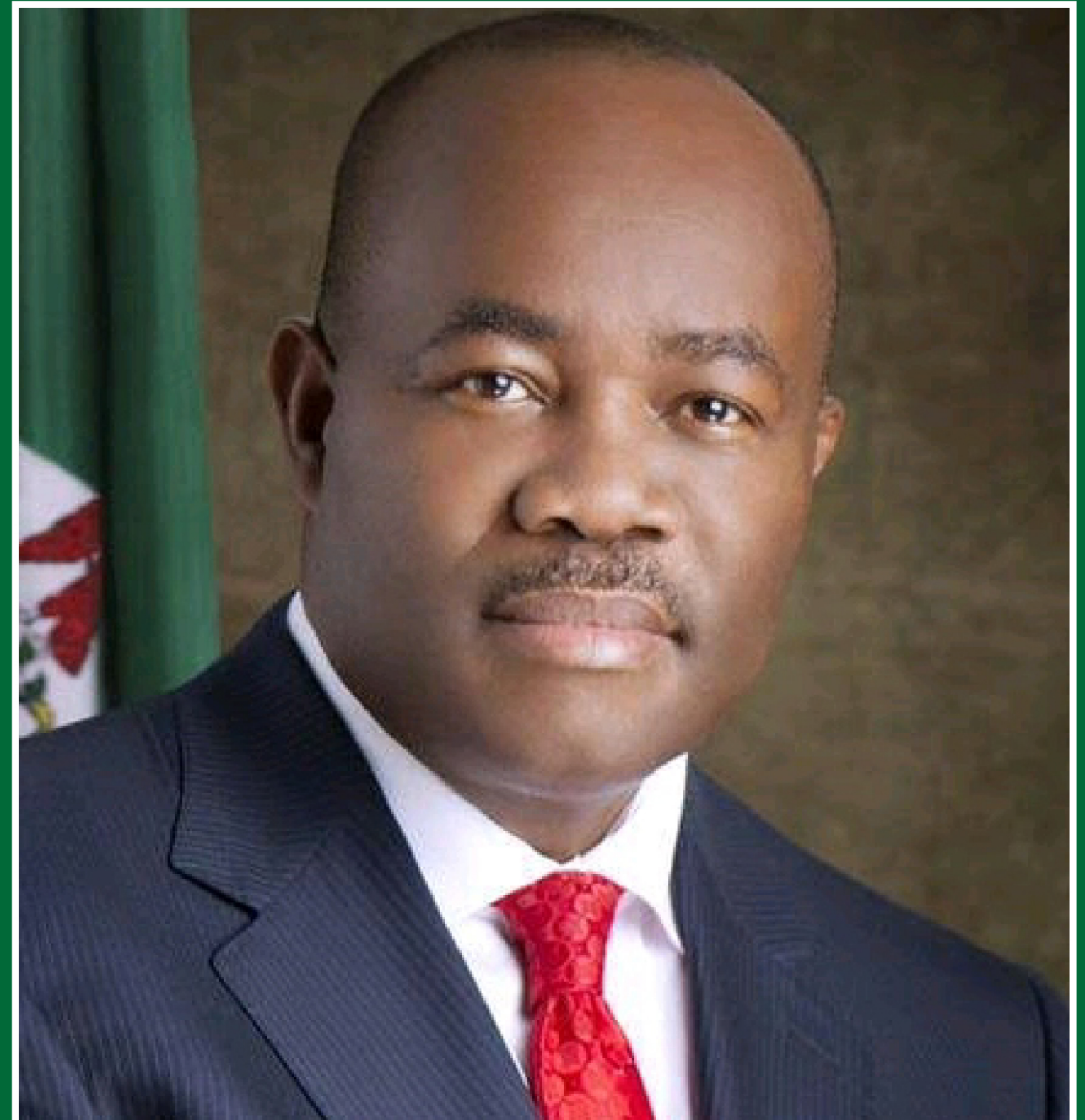
TOURISM SUB – COMMITTEE: Activities During the Festival

- ☐ Visits to Tourism sites and Museum in Benin City, Edo State
- ☐ Oba's Palace Benin City, Obi of Agbor, Olu of Warri etc
- ☐ Experience Durba from Kano in Benin City, Dance from Senegal, Ghana, Togo, Cote D'ivore
- ☐ EXPO and other Masquered show in Edo / Delta State, Borno, Niger, Gambia, Free Town etc.





**NCWC/LOC COURTESY VISIT TO
HIS EMINENCE EDIDEM EKPO OKON ABASI OTU V, KSM, THE OBONG OF CALABAR,
(NATURAL RULER TREATY KING AND GRAND PATRIARCH OF EFIK KINGDOM CROSS RIVERS STATE.
AT THE OBONG OF CALABAR PALACE IN CROSS RIVERS STATE 2023, WHO'S TRADITIONAL RULERS
COUNCIL MEMBERS ENDORSES FULL SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT OF HIGH LEVEL PARTICIPATION
IN THE FORTH COMING ECOWAS FOOD AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL IN AKWA IBOM STATE.**



**PRINCIPAL GUEST OF HONOUR
H.E. DIST. SEN. GODSWILL OBOT AKPABIO ^{GCON}
SENATE PRESIDENT, FEDERAL REP. OF NIGERIA**



GUEST OF HONOUR/SPECIAL SPEAKER
RT. HON. TAJJUDEEN ABBAS GCON
 SPEAKER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE,
 FEDERAL REP. OF NIGERIA

SUMMARY: PROGRAMME TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

DATE	ACTIVITIES	LOCATION/VENUE	TIME
Pre-Events	Press Briefing /Sensitization/Advocacy	Abuja, Benin City, Lagos, Dakar Senegal, Kano	
	Allocation of Exhibition Boots/ Pavilion to Subscriber	Exhibition/Cultural Village	
Pre-Festival	Arrival of Delegates /Resource Persons	Benin Airport & Motor Parks.	
	Registration and Accreditation	Protea Hotel, Benin City	
	Youth/Women/CSOs Forum Opening	Sir Victor Uwaifo Cultural Centre	
	Cocktail Party/ Pageant Camping Opening.	John Oyegun Centre	
DAY1			
DAY 1	Opening Ceremony: Peace Caravan Float train from Nigerian Cities & 18 LGA's in Edo / 25 LGA's in Delta State to Benin City/Accreditation of Participants.	John Oyegun Centre	
	Official Opening Ceremony by the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Address by ECOWAS Chairman, welcome Speech by Host State Governor and Keynote by ECOWAS President.	Samuel Ogbemudian Stadium, Benin City, Edo State	
	Cultural Parade/ Match Past	Sir Victor Uwaifo Cultural Centre	
	Welcome Address/Goodwill Messages	Samuel Ogbemudian Stadium	
	Dinner/Food Fare to Kick out hunger	Streets in Benin City/Stadium	
	Miss/Face of ECOWAS Food & Cultural Peagant/Fashion Runway	Protea Hotel, Benin City	
DAY2			
DAY 2	International Trade and Investment Summit on Food Security, Culture & Tourism in Africa: Promoting Indigenous Food, Cultural Renaissance and Tourism Development	Festival Hall Government House/ Protea Hotel/Sir Victor Uwaifo Cultural Centre	
	Skills Acquisition and Training Workshop (Youth/Women/NGOs) Forum	Festival Hall, Government House, Benin City	
	Side events spaces are available for Interested Corporate Organizations/Sponsors.	Stadium, Protea Hotel, Sir Victor Uwaifo cultural Centre, Oyegun Centre	
DAY3			
DAY 3	Exhibition and Cultural Show	Cultural Village @ Sir Victor Uwaifo Cultural Centre	All Day
	Leadership/Business CEOs/ LGA's Forum & NGOs /CSOs/ Media Parley Networking	Protea Hotel, Benin City	
	Free Food Display & Cultural Exhibition	Victor Waifo Cultural Centre	
	Miss/Face of ECOWAS Food & Cultural Festival: Pageant/Fashion Show final outing and price giving	Victor Uwaifo Cultural Centre	
	Leadership/ Business CEOs Summit		
	Conference for Local Govt. Chairmen, State Commissioners and Federal Perm. Sec./ Directors of Agriculture, Regional Dev., Health, Education, Information, Police Affairs, Culture, Tourism, Diaspora Youth & Women.	Festival Hall Government House/ Protea Hotel	
	Skills Acquisition and Training Workshop.	Yet to be decided	
DAY4			
DAY 4	International Leaders and Investment Summit Closing Ceremony	Festival Hall, Benin City	
	Skills Acquisition and Training Workshop. Float train carnival and boat regatar	Protea Hotel, Benin City	
	Conferences/activities Wrap up/Plenary & Communiqué/World Press Conference	Festival Hall	
DAY 5	Cultural Carnival/Musical Float, food Expo Women/Youth Advocacy /CSOs/ NGOs Forum	Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium	
	Exhibition/Unveiling of 2027 Logo/Host Official Closing Ceremony/Musical Concert VIPs State Banquets/ECOWAS ICON Awards /Concert.	Government House Benin City	
DAY 6	Exhibition Tour and Departure	Victor Uwaifo Cultural Centre	

EFCF Benefits to Sponsors/Partners/Supporters in General:

1. Participation in the ECOWAS Food and Cultural Festival will attract benefits to the participating Countries, States, and Organizations/Individuals as follows:

- Participation/Attendance Certificate for various categories.
- Best Performance Awards to States/Countries/Organizations Delegations.-
- Speaking/Interactive opportunities with Heads of Country Delegations, Presidents, Ministers Parliamentarians, Governors, Diplomats, Business CEOs etc.
- Presentation of Receipt/Certificate/Awards to Partners, Sponsors and Donors
- Participation in the **International Leaders/Business CEOs Summit on Food Security in Africa** which will be graced by Heads of States and Government in ECOWAS
- Diplomatic Commerce exchange and inter-idea crossbreed.
- Participation in the Preparatory Technical Session for all events.
- Participation in Talk Shows, side entertainments and street parades.
- Corporate Branding of Products/Organization information on the events publications e.g. Booklets, T/Shirt/Face Caps, Mega Banners, Stage Backdrops, Billboards, Radio/T.V, News Papers, Flyers and other Festival Publicity Materials.
- High mileage Publicity via adverts placement of sponsor Logo on the event invitation package, publicity materials, Reports and Social Medial Outlets with over 300 Million Tele - Media viewers Worldwide.
- Opportunity for organizations to exhibit their products/information at Venue (s) and reach wide audience including Promotional Talks during Plenaries, Concert, Leaders/Business CEOs Summit etc.
- Announcement Placement of sponsor's names/logo on Radio/TV jingles and program background.

With the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it is expected that many Presidents/Heads of States/Government, Parliamentarians, Governors, Ministers, Heads of Diplomatic Missions, International Organizations, Business CEOs, Traditional Leaders, MDAs, Academic Institutions, Banks/Financial Institutions, CSOs/NGOs, Youth and Women groups, Cultural Troupes, Exhibitors, Investors, Beauty Pageants, Trainers, Motivational Speakers, Innovators, Entrepreneurs, Artists, etc. in ECOWAS and World over will attend.



DISTINGUISHED KEYNOTE SPEAKER **H.E. DIST. SEN. GEORGE AKUME**

SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION,
THE PRESIDENCY, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



CO-HOST MINISTER
AMBASSADOR BIANCA ODUMEGWU-OJUKU
 HONOURABLE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Benefits of ECOWAS Food and Cultural Festival to the Host State/Country:

Economic Impact: Food and cultural festival will stimulate the economy growth of Edo State by attracting visitors, generating tourism revenue and boosting sales for local business such as restaurants, hotels, and shops. The influx of visitors will lead to increase spending on accommodations, transportation and souvenirs to the benefit of the States/Partnering Institutions on a short and long term bases.

- **Cultural Exchange and Understanding:** This festival will provide an opportunity for the Host State to showcase its cultural heritage, traditions, and culinary diversity to a wider audience. This will foster cross-cultural understanding, promote diversity, and create a platform for cultural exchange, leading to greater appreciation and respect for different cultures.
- **Community Engagement:** ECOWAS Food and Cultural Festival will involve local residents, community groups, and artisans in the Host State/Partnering Institutions to contribute to the festival through food preparations, cultural performances, and artisanal crafts. These engagements will strengthen community bonds, pride, and a sense of belonging as well as provide opportunity for local artists and performers to showcase their talents.
- **Promotion of Local Cuisines and Products:** ECOWAS Food and Cultural Festival will highlight the flavor and culinary traditions of Host State, Co-Host/Partners, thereby promoting cuisines, agricultural products, and culinary expertise. It will lead to increase visibility and recognition for local food producers, farmers, and artisans, potentially boosting sales and demand for local products.
- **Educational and Recreational Opportunities:** ECOWAS Food and Cultural Festival will offer educational experiences through cooking demonstrations, **Global Leaders/ Business CEOs Summit on Food Security, Culture and Tourism Development in Africa**, Cultural Workshops, and interactive activities that will provide opportunities for learning about different cultures, traditions and cuisines. Additionally, the festival will offer recreational enjoyment for residents and visitors alike (**Happy Hour**), thereby contributing to the overall quality of life in the Host State and environs.

Revitalization of Public Spaces: ECOWAS food and cultural festival will take place in public spaces such as parks, plazas, and water fronts, thereby bring life and vibrancy to these areas in the Host State, which will enhance the overall appeal of the State, attract visitors to underutilized spaces, and contribute to the beautification and revitalization of Host State, and Partners environment.



- **Revitalization of Public Spaces:** ECOWAS food and cultural festival will take place in public spaces such as parks, plazas, and water fronts, thereby bring life and vibrancy to these areas in the Host State. Which will enhance the overall appeal of the State, attract visitors to underutilized spaces, and contribute to the beautification and revitalization of Host Edo State.

EFCF Benefits to Sponsors/Partners/Supporters in General below:

1. Participation in the ECOWAS Food and Cultural Festival will attract benefits to the participating Countries, States, and Organizations/Individuals as follows:
 - Certificate of Participation/Attendance for various categories.
 - Best Performance Awards to states/countries/organization Delegation
 - Speaking/Interactive opportunities with Heads of Country Delegations, Presidents, Ministers, Parliamentarians, Governors, Diplomats, Business CEOs etc.
 - Presentation of Receipt/Certificate/Awards to Partners, Sponsors and Donors
 - Participation in the **International Leaders/Business CEOs Summit on Food Security in Africa** which will be graced by Heads of States and Government in ECOWAS
 - Diplomatic Commerce exchange and inter-idea crossbreed.
 - Participation in the Preparatory Technical Session for all events.
 - Participation in Talk Shows, side entertainments and street parades.
 - Corporate Branding of Products/Organization information on the events publications e.g. Booklets, T/Shirt/Face Caps, Mega Banners, Stage Backdrops, Billboards, Radio/T.V, News Papers, Flyers and other Festival Publicity Materials.
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With the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it is expected that many Presidents/Heads of States/Government, Parliamentarians, Governors, Ministers, Heads of Diplomatic Missions, International Organizations, Business CEOs, Traditional Leaders, MDAs, Academic institutions, Banks/Financial Institutions, CSOs/NGOs, Youth and Women groups, Cultural Troupes, Exhibitors, Investors, Beauty Pageants, Trainers, Motivational Speakers, Innovators, Entrepreneurs, Artists, etc. in ECOWAS and World over will attend.

NCWC/LOC WELCOMES YOU TO BENIN CITY



HOST MINISTER
HANNATU MUSA MUSAWA, Esq.
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ARTS, CULTURE, TOURISM AND
THE CREATIVE ECONOMY



CO-HOST MINISTER
SEN. ABUBAKAR KYARI

HONOURABLE MINISTER
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

Significant Importance of ECOWAS Food and Cultural Festival to the Host State, Nation and the Region are as follows:

1. Celebration of Cultural/Culinary Heritage and showcasing Tourism/Investment potential.
2. Promotion of ECOWAS Region Cuisines and Culture particularly the Host State/Region
3. Food and Cultural Exchange amongst participating Countries/Private organizations
4. Economic Impact which aims to contributing to the Host State/region Economy and Cultural Development on both short and long term benefits
5. Preservation of Culture and Food traditions among Host and participating Countries
6. Cultural/Culinary Education will showcase modern and technological awareness that will improve the packaging and distribution process of good and services for export
7. Diplomatic Commerce exchange and inter-idea crossbreed between Host State and Participating Countries/Organizations, thereby stimulating Mass Employment, Job Creation, Peace and Sustainable Development, for economic growth.

Aims and Objectives:

- To attract Foreign Investors/Investment to Host State, Nigeria and ECOWAS region
- To promote African Cultural heritage, Food security/Hospitality Industries for Tourism, Trade (Export and Import), Peace and Development in the region and the world over.
- To promote a region for sustainable/qualitative/quantitative Food, Tourism, Cultural and Industrial Revolution.
- To promote Friendship, Peace, Economic Integration and trade in ECOWAS with Global Community.
- To expose the Economic/Cultural/tourism Potential of Host State/Country/Region to the World
- Promote Youth/ Women Development, Employment and Internal Revenue to the Host State/Country/ECOWAS Region.
- To stimulate a Food/Cultural competitive event with Awards/Prices to winners for Peace and Development in the region.

Goals: Towards a Food and Cultural Revolution, Zero Hunger tolerance and no Poverty in West Africa for Peace, Security and Sustainable Development including Investment that will promote source of livelihood for Employment and Nutrition.

Our Target: That every family in ECOWAS region, should be able to boast of three (3) square meals a day without stress or pains within the next five years and beyond.

Participants Expected: ECOWAS/Invited Countries, the Host Country/ States/ Local Government Areas, Institutions/Organizations worldwide.

Benefits to Participating/Partnering/Supporting Countries/ States/ Institutions:

Branding and publicity, cultural exchange, showcasing of cultural/tourism potentials, Best Performance Awards and Prices, Speaking Opportunities to Heads of States/ Government/ Countries Delegations/Ministries / Governors / Parliamentarians/ Business CEOs/ Investors, Awards to Partners, Sponsors, Donors, Supporters, Certificates of Participation attendees etc. Including participation in the Post-Festival Activities/ Legacy Projects.

ECOWAS FOOD AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL (EFCF) "NIGERIA 2026"

THEME: "AFRICAN FOODS, CULTURAL HERITAGE, PEACE AND SECURITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND ECONOMIC GROWTH".

27 – 31 OCTOBER, 2026:

BENIN CITY, EDO STATE NIGERIA

The National Central Working Committee (NCWC) of EFCF Chaired by **Prof. Sola Aliu**, the Inter-Governmental Affairs (IGA) Chaired by **Hon. Makan Sallau** and the Director General, **Amb. Prince Felix Ihonre**, the Host State Coordinating Team and Diaspora Coordinators brings warm greetings from the "Nigeria 2026" Secretariat in Abuja to your high esteemed personality and State/Country/Organization.

This Festival is planned with the Support and Partnership of the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF) - The Presidency Nigeria; ECOWAS Commission; with the Technical/Professional Support of the Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, Tourism and the Creative Economy; support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs- ECOWAS Unit Abuja; Federal Ministry of Police Affairs; Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corp (NSCDC); Department of State Security Service (DSS) Hqs; Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation; Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS); etc. It is jointly organized by the Network of Young Female Leaders of ECOWAS Community (ROAJELF) Nigeria, Africa for Millennium Change Initiative, High World International Organization, STAOLA Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (SCED) Ltd/GT; Society for the Development of Rural Economy, Archi - Use Production with partnership/collaboration of some Traditional Institution as Custodians of Cultural Heritage, Civil Society Organizations, with the envisaged Hosting approval of the Edo State Government under His Excellency Sen. Monday Okpebholo, Executive Governor Edo State.

ECOWAS Food and Cultural Festival is an annual project of the West African heritage, it's Culture, Tourism and Food Security. This Edition of the Festival is expected to attract over **2,000 Visitors** to the Host State/Environ and the entire Country. It will bring together Participants, Visitors, investors and Delegates from the **36 States/FCT/774 LGAs in Nigeria, ECOWAS/West Africa member Countries**, Stakeholders from other Countries and Special Invitees in the Arts/Culture/Tourism and Agricultural Industry from and around the World to explore possible opportunities for Investment, Partnership and Collaborations that will stimulate sustainable Development and Economic Growth in the Region.

In cognizance of the economic contributions of food and cultural festivals to our local economy in financial terms, vis-à-vis the seemingly fierce competitive pressures among destinations, government/private sector destinations, marketing organizations usually use local/traditional festivals as the lynchpin for economic and business development. e.g. the **taste of Chicago festival in Illinois, USA**, which feature a wide array of local and international cuisines and the **Notting Hill Carnival in London, UK**, is a vibrant celebration of Caribbean culture that actively foster a sense of pride, unity, and collaboration among participants and attendees.



CO-HOST MINISTER
SEN. IBRAHIM GEIDAM
HONOURABLE MINISTER, OF POLICE AFFAIRS



CO-HOST MINSTER/KEYNOTE SPEAKER
ENGR. PROF. JOSEPH TERLUMUM UTSEV FNSE
 FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES
 AND SANITATION



Participants Expected: ECOWAS/Invited Countries, the Host State, Local Government Areas, Institutions, Organizations worldwide.

Benefits to Participating/Supporting Countries/States/Institutions: Certificates of attendance/Participation, Best performance Awards/Prices, Speaking Opportunities to Heads of States/Governments/Countries Delegation/Ministers/Governors/CEOs, Awards to Partners, Sponsors, Donors, Supporters etc. Including Brand Promotion, High Milage Publicity of over 30 Million Tele Media Viewers, Benefitting from the Post Festival Projects, Programmes and Activities.





HOST STATE COMMISSIONER
HON. CHRIS EWERE OKAEBEN
 COMMISSIONER FOR ARTS, CULTURE & CREATIVE ECONOMY,



AMB. PRINCE FELIX IHONRE
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
EFCF



DIASPORA SECRETARY
MR. DENIS RAY OGOSI
 EUROPE



HOST DIRECTOR GENERAL TOURISM
LADY VIVIAN ELABOR
 DIRECTOR GENERAL, EDO TOURISM AGENCY



DIASPORA COORDINATOR
Ms. ARIT B. EKEREKE
 REPUBLIC OF ISLAND, EUROPE



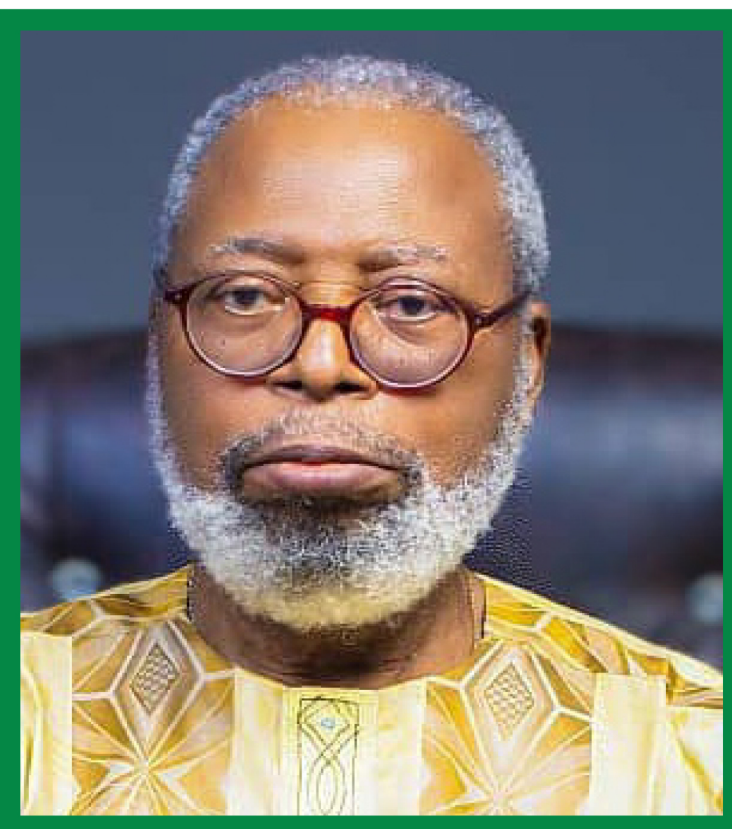
HOST STATE COORDINATOR
COMR. PRINCE INNOCENT AJAYI
 BENIN CITY, EDO STATE



CO-HOST MINISTER/GUEST SPEAKER
RT. HON. OLUBUNMI TUNJI-OJO
 HONOURABLE MINISTER OF INTERIOR



**DISTINGUISHED KEYNOTE SPEAKER/MAN OF THE YEAR
HIS EXCELLENCY
DR. OMAR ALIEU TOURAY**
FORMER PRESIDENT ECOWAS COMMISSION



**HOST NCWC CHAIRMAN
PROF. SHOLA ALIU**
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL CENTRAL WORKING COMMITTEE
ECOWAS FOOD & CULTURAL FESTIVAL (EFCF)



Palani AI: Smart Resilience for Cities and Communities

Palani AI is an AI-powered planning and decision-support platform inspired by challenges encountered by ANSER during the development of the SAEE Economic City in the DRC. Integrating real-time data from satellites, sensors, and control rooms, Palani AI enables early warning, predictive risk analysis, proactive flood prevention, and informed decisions for sustainable urban development and climate-resilient infrastructure.



The Business and Job Creation Initiative Network (BIZ & JOB) is an economic development initiative designed to accelerate Africa's digital economy, empower young people through entrepreneurship, stimulate innovation, create sustainable employment, and generate new sources of economic value and government revenue. The initiative aims to establish at least two new businesses each month in every local administrative area across ECOWAS member states, supported by practical training, mentorship, technology, and business development services.

In August 2026, a project submitted by our Congolese partner achieved the highest score in a competition and received a government award, patent, and medal, highlighting the DRC's commitment to scientific research, innovation, industrialization, and economic transformation.