

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT HYDROCARBON POLLUTION REMEDIATION PROJECT HYPREP...Remediating the Environment and Restoring Livelihoods

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PHASE 2 REMEDIATION WORKS: PROGRESS MADE Page 7

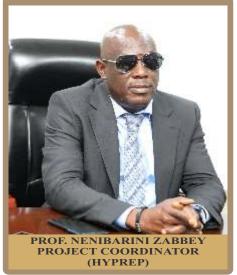
EXCAVATION OF POLLUTED SOIL

HYPREP PC, PROF. ZABBEY LEADS GERMAN COMPANY ON COMPLEX SITE INSPECTION

HYPREP INAUGURATES WATER CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION IN ELEME ...To Replicate Same In Other LGA's In Ogoni YOUNG OGONI ENTREPRENEURS TRAINED IN PROCUREMENT AND BUSINESS STRATEGY



THE PC'S DESK



Remediating hydrocarbon-polluted sites in Ogoniland, recommended in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report 2011, requires a systematic and orderly approach. Remediation means detoxifying or reducing pollutants in environmental media (e.g., soil, water) to permissible levels. UNEP recommends that remediation (cleanup) be done from the upland areas before the creeks to avoid contamination of the swamps by gradient outflow to the wetlands. Thus, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) started the cleanup programme with the contaminated upland areas, beginning with the clean-up of simple sites. Based on the levels of oil impact, the 65 polluted sites that UNEP assessed with fact sheets are categorized into simple, medium-risk complex, and high-risk, complex sites. Simple sites are lands where only the soil is contaminated. Medium-risk complex sites have contaminated soil and groundwater, but the sites are located outside residential areas. On the other hand, high-risk, complex sites are

characterized by soil and groundwater contamination within residential areas.

Twenty (20) sites constitute simple sites, split into 50 lots and remediated during phase 1, batches 1 and 2. Of these, 48 lots have been closed out by the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA). Reassessment shows that thirteen (13) of the sixty-five (65) sites had been remediated by natural processes (natural attenuation) and had similarly been closed out.

We are currently in phase 2 of the remediation process. This phase involves remediating sixteen (16) medium-risk sites divided into 39 Lots. All 39 Lots contractors have mobilized to the site and conducted site characterization. This involves field sampling, drilling of monitoring boreholes, sample analysis, and reporting of the site's physical, chemical, and biological characteristics. The Remedial Action Plan (RAP) is developed following the site characterization. RAP provides a detailed proposal of how the remediation will be conducted. The site characterization report and the RAP will be reviewed and approved by NOSDRA before the soil and groundwater remediation can commence. Implementing the remedial action plan includes the construction of an engineered biocell, soil excavation, soil treatment in the biocell, and intrusive treatment of groundwater. All 39 contractors have completed site characterization, twenty-six (26) have submitted their site characterization report and RAP for review, and 17 RAPs have been granted provisional approval by NOSDRA. Eleven (11) of the contractors have commenced active remediation works, including to ensure a stringent review of

excavation/earthworks and installation of injection wells for groundwater treatment. Other activities and processes of this stage are monitoring and treating impacted soil, monitoring and treating impacted groundwater, waste management, decommissioning and landscaping, and closing out upon regulatory certification.

We have reinforced the site characterization report and RAP review process by creating the Remediation Documentation Review Committee (RDRC). The RDRC members comprise HYPREP, the Shell Petroluem Development Company (SPDC), UNEP, the Rivers State Ministry of Environment, and civil society representatives. The RDRC conducts a project-level review of the site characterization reports and RAPs and returns the reports to the respective contractor to address the articulated concerns before HYPREP submits the revised documents (site characterization report and RAP) to NOSDRA. The review by NOSDRA also highlights technical issues that must be addressed before granting remediation approval. Sometimes, provisional approval precedes final approval. It must be stressed that reviewing and approving the RAP is one of the most critical stages that determine remediation outcomes. Thus, we take it seriously to ensure the remediation of the medium-risk complex sites is fit for purpose. HYPREP has also created a Technical Coordination Committee (TCC), whose membership is drawn from HYPREP, UNEP, and SPDC. In addition to the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, we have inaugurated the Milestone Evaluation Committee

milestones before payments are made. Moreover, we have upgraded our website with a project status component whereby the status of each contractor's performance is publicly accessible. We shall not spare underperforming contractors! We will always value constructive criticism, input, and feedback from stakeholders.

Plans are already in place to begin Preliminary Site Assessments at the fifteen (15) high-risk, complex sites, which include Nsisioken-Agbi, where UNEP investigation detected benzene in the groundwater 900 times above permissible limits. These sites are in residential areas, under residents' houses and other community infrastructures. Remediating these areas requires extreme sensitivity, the best affordable and innovative remediation technology, and the least disturbance.

Minister of Environment/Chairman of remediation works caused by flooding the Governing Council of HYPREP, of sites in or near floodplain areas are Balarabe Abbas Lawal, led the project understandably inevitable, we deeply

delegation on a technology hunt to Europe in February this year. We visited remediation sites and companies in Germany, Belgium, and Finland with reputable track records in groundwater remediation. Following the above site visits, we have invited two companies so far, namely the Belgian company - Haemers Technologies and Sensatec GmbH of Germany, to conduct a reconnaissance survey of some of the high-risk, complex sites to garner site-specific preliminary data to develop proposals for the characterization of the sites. This will result in proper scoping of the contaminated sites for effective remediation contracting and, ultimately, guarantee value for money. We plan to conduct site characterization of the high-risk, complex sites later this year and commence remediation (Phase 3) in 2025.

In light of this, the Honourable While seasonal delays of ongoing

regret delays due to avoidable community issues. These include boundary disputes within and between communities, community leadership tussles, court cases on land ownership, and erecting concrete fences to deny access to the contaminated sites. One of the objectives of HYPREP is to promote peacebuilding in the region. This is why the Zonal Representative Committee (ZRC) and the Central Representative Advisory Committee (CRAC) were created to prevent and resolve conflicts for seamless operations. We appeal to Ogoni communities to utilize the ZRC and CRAC to resolve perceived or actual grievances. Above all, we are eternally grateful to the Ogoni people for owning and supporting the project and for the confidence they have in my team. We reassure all stakeholders that we will deliver a sustainable cleanup of Ogoniland and restore and create sustainable alternative livelihoods in the region!

In this SSL

The implementation of the key mandate of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) - the remediation of the Ogoni environment is progressing with each passing day. From the humble beginning of the award of twenty-one remediation contracts in the phase 1 batch 1 simple sites through the twenty-nine contracts in phase 1 batch 2 to the current thirty-nine lots in the semi medium risk sites, there is steady progress in the clean-up of oil impacted sites in Ogoni by HYPREP. In this issue we update you with the soil and ground water of Ogoni. We

status of work done on the thirty-nine semi medium risk lots across the four Local Government Areas of Ogoniland where our work is domiciled.

In the renewed commitment of HYPREP to the remediation of oil contaminated sites, the Project Coordination Office had embarked on a technology hunt to Europe early this year and in response to that invitation by HYPREP, foreign remediation companies with the requisite expertise and equipment are beginning to visit HYPREP sites to see for themselves the scope of work to be done and to come up with suitable remediation technique to tackle the pollution in the

bring you the report of the visit of the German company, SENSATEC GMBH to Nsisioken in Eleme Local Government Area renowned in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report of having benzene contamination in the ground water. The officials of the company were first received and welcomed to Nigeria by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal at the Ministry's Headquarters in Abuja.

A critical component of the HYPREP water projects in Ogoni is the sustainability package which had remained the bane of previous water projects in the area and even across the country. To avoid this pitfall,

HYPREP upon the construction and commissioning of the various water projects in Ogoni trained some community people in the operation and maintenance of the water facilities to make them last in service to the communities. At the end of their training, they were inaugurated into a water consumers association to manage the water facilities. The first to be inaugurated is the Nchia Water Consumers Association. The event recorded a huge turnout of dignitaries in the area including the King of Eleme, His Royal Majesty, Emere Dr. Philip Obele (JP). The report is in this edition of the HYPREP Herald.

Community engagement and consultation with key stakeholders is a major focus of the Project Coordinator of HYPREP. Professor Nenibarini

Zabbey to give the people a sense of development and procurement belonging and get their buy-in into the processes to aim them with the project. The project had recently met requisite knowledge on how to with clergymen from Ogoni to brief register their businesses for them on the programmes and activities participation in federal contract bids. of HYPREP and how they can help We also have a report on the 10th drive the message of the project to the Governing Council meeting held in grassroots where they reside. It was a Abuja and presided over by the rewarding session as the religious Honourable Minister of Environment leaders were pleased to work with and Chairman Governing Council of HYPREP achieve set goals and HYPREP, Balarabe Lawal. You will as objectives.

people regarding the clean-up project day by staff of HYPREP. has been local participation in the Our poetry corner is sustained for your business aspect of the project. To reading pleasure, and we trust you will address this need, the Project find the June edition of the Newsletter Coordination Office organized a as resourceful as always. Your business summit for young feedback would be appreciated. entrepreneurs in Ogoni. The two day Happy new month! training focused on business strategy

well find a story on the celebration of One area of concern among the Ogoni this year's world occupational safety

Project News HYPREP PC, PROF. ZABBEY LEADS GERMAN COMPANY ON COMPLEX SITE INSPECTION

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has taken a German environmental remediation company, SENSATEC GMBH on an inspection visit to high-risk complex sites in Ogoniland to carry out characterization of the soil and come up with a tailored technology for clean-up.

At the end of the inspection at Nsisioken Ogale in Eleme Local Government Area, Professor Zabbey explained the rationale behind the invitation of the company and the scope of work to be done.

"This is one of the high-risk complex sites that HYPREP is planning to clean. If you look at the UNEP report, Nsisioken is one of the sites where UNEP reported a high concentration



Prof. Zabbey with HYPREP and Sensatec GMBH Officials at Nsisioken

of benzene, about 900 times above the permissible limit and so the contamination is both in the soil and in groundwater. This is a residential area, and the contamination is under people's houses, community artifacts,

shrines, churches, and schools. Dealing with this kind of site requires a high level of safety precautions. We are here today with members of Sensatec from Germany. They are here to do a reconnaissance survey of the site and they will also go to other high-risk sites to get a first-hand feel of the situation we are dealing with. It will enable them to go back and develop a robust proposal for site characterization of the high-risk complex sites. UNEP data are baseline data. Things have changed between the time they conducted the study and now because environmental conditions are dynamic.

The site characterization of this site and other high-risk complex sites will give us the true picture of the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of these sites in terms of the contamination. It will give us workable data on the vertical and horizontal spread of the contamination. It will also give us foundational data that will enable the clean-up process to be fit for purpose. For example, the site characterization will help us to understand the hydraulic conductivity and the flood dynamics, the level of contamination as well as the spread. With all that, we will be able to do a proper scoping. It will also enable us to achieve value for money because, with that level of data, we will be able to structure the remediation in such a way that it will be more economical. We are here to show the team members the sites so that they will take samples, analyze them, do their site characterization design and share the proposal with us."

Professor Zabbey further explained the apparent growth of greenery in the area which could lead to doubts about the level of pollution reported by UNEP. He states, "The contaminants percolate and that is why the groundwater is contaminated because they follow a natural gradient. This means that, when a spillage occurs, it could be surface or subsurface but no

in the water but the components that projects from very complex sites. cannot dissolve will continue to sit on "We have good experience working in washed in runoff. There are also community." species will be tolerant but what Ogoni people and with HYPREP." see around."

last due to its complexity.

"This is a high-risk complex site, so this year is for comprehensive site polluted by hydrocarbon. characterization. After a robust site characterization, we will be good to go with the actual clean-up next year." He further stated that there are fifteen high-risk complex sites on record with few requiring recategorization. The recategorization, he said, will be done with the National Oil Spill Detection

matter the source, it will percolate. and Response Agency (NOSDRA).

The percolation means that the oil will The Head of African Operations for continue to drip down until it gets to Sensatec, Mr. Harry Ylikangas, the water table and when it gets to the explained that his company water table, because of density specializes in the treatment and differential, the oil will sit on the remediation of hydrocarbon sites and groundwater and when that happens, has done so since 2005 with a track the soluble components will dissolve record of more than 500 successful

the water and that's what we refer to as communities and big cities. We are free face. That is the situation. The here at the invitation of Professor groundwater is contaminated. Of Zabbey and we are grateful for this course, over time, even if the spill opportunity. We have enjoyed the happens above the surface of the soil, hospitality and we hope that we can there will be natural healing because live up to the expectations and help this is a wet area and there will be clean up these sites and make sure that precipitation, so some of them will be the groundwater is safe for the

organisms, the microbial flora that Mr. Ylikangas indicated his degrade hydrocarbon and which are company's readiness to work with the everywhere. Over time the microbial community people, stating that it flora will continue to degrade the would not make sense to bring hydrocarbon especially because everything they need to work with oxygen is abundant at that level. That from Germany. "We will not come natural healing process will lead to a here by ourselves", he said, "So, we bit of recovery. However, it is masking look forward to working with the local the problem that is below in the people. It doesn't make sense for us to subsurface. Of course, the bring everything from Germany. We environment is resilient, and certain look forward to cooperation with the

shows whether an environment is fine The inspection by the German or not is the diversity of the species we company is sequel to the visit early this year to Europe on a technology He gave an insight into the timeframe hunt for the best remediation that the entire process is expected to techniques and companies with track records to remediate complex sites in Ogoni. Complex sites are sites where we are not in a hurry. As I said before, both soil and ground water are



Contaminated Land, Nsisioke

HYPREP INAUGURATES WATER CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION IN ELEME

... To Replicate Same In Other LGA's In Ogoni

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), in conjunction with the Rivers State Ministry of Water Resources and Rural Development has inaugurated a Water Consumers Association (WCA) for the Nchia axis of Eleme Local Government Area whose responsibility will be to manage the water facilities to serve the communities sustainably.

The inauguration is HYPREP's way of ensuring continuous and sustainable access to potable water for the people of Alesa, Alode, Agbonchia, Aleto, by two years of managing the facility and parts of Ogale. The Water Consumers Association consists of eleven members from the different communities within the catchment area that it has jurisdiction.

Speaking at the event held at Aleto townhall, the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey, explained that the inauguration of the WCA is an important step in ensuring the sustainability of the HYPREP water projects in Ogoniland by allowing for active community involvement and Prof. Zabbey further explained that the participation.

"HYPREP's mission is clear: to restore the environment and community livelihoods, strengthen public health, and improve the quality of life for the Ogoni communities. Today, we take a critical step in realizing an aspect of the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Assessment Report on Ogoniland. The Operational Sustainability strategy for the water schemes in Ogoniland is robust. Upon completion of a water scheme, the



Prof. Zabbey with Eleme King, Emere (Dr.) Philip Obelle (JP). at the Inauguration of Nchia Water Consumers Association

by HYPREP, after which the operations and management of the facility are transferred to the Water Consumers Association and the Rivers State Ministry of Water Resources and Rural Development (RSMWRRD). During the two years of HYPREP's operation of the water scheme, we train the members of the Water Consumers Association for effective management, including sensitizing and mobilizing beneficiary communities for ownership."

WCA is an operational plan to sustain projects after completion which would be replicated across all HYPREP water facilities in Ogoniland. He stated that the efforts put in towards water sustainability can only succeed if the communities are empowered to take ownership and manage the resources and infrastructure that have been put in place.

"We will build the capacity of the Water Consumers Association members and the wider community to manage and sustain the water facility effectively. This association will be contractor runs it for a year, followed instrumental in ensuring the continued

functionality and efficiency of the water infrastructure. By taking on this responsibility, the people of Alesa and other communities serviced by this scheme will be equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to maintain their water supply, address issues promptly, and safeguard this vital resource for future generations.

HYPREP's commitment to the Water Consumers Association includes comprehensive training programmes, including the training, the association members had to undergo before this event, technical support, and other resources for effective management. This collaboration between the Federal Government represented by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project of the Federal Ministry of Environment, the Rivers State Government represented by the Rivers State Ministry of Water Resources and Rural Development and the Alesa community typifies our dedication to collaboration. community participation, and sustainable community development."

Prof. Zabbey extended his gratitude to



the people of Eleme for their support and cooperation, while encouraging the WCA members to be steadfast in carrying out their duties,

"I encourage all members of the Water Consumers Association to embrace this responsibility with pride and dedication. The success of this initiative depends on the community and our collective effort and commitment. The association is more than an organization; it symbolizes our shared vision for participatory stakeholder engagement. HYPREP is doing its part, and we expect the communities to complement our efforts. Let us work together to ensure the sustainability of the Alesa Water Scheme and other HYPREP water schemes across Ogoniland and remain inspired by the spirit of cooperation for peace, security, and progress."

The Chairman of the WCA, Reverend Loveday Nwafor assured the people that the WCA will carry out its responsibilities and expressed his gratitude and that of his exco for the opportunity to serve the Ogoni people and solicited the cooperation of all stakeholders to deliver on their mandate. The King of Eleme, King Dr. Philip Obelle, who was spoken for by His Royal Highness, Emere Emperor J. D. Nkpe, in his goodwill message at the event, expressed his happiness over the positive impact of HYPREP on the communities of Ogoni and called for more life transforming projects and programmes.

"HYPREP is an international organization that the people of Ogoni are strongly behind, and we will keep on doing that. In the area of employment, the king has asked me to tell you that you should be able to create some areas for the citizens and youths of Eleme to be part of your organization."

The acting General Manager of Rivers State Small Towns Water Supply and Sanitation Agency, Dr. Queen Amachree who represented the Permanent Secretary in the Rivers State Ministry of Water Resources, Barr. Mrs. Patience Omereji encouraged the newly inaugurated WCA to be dedicated to the service of providing safe drinking water for their people.

"You have all been selected from your various communities as members of

the Water Consumers Association to manage the water project in your communities. For that, we are appealing that all of you should be dedicated to the service of providing safe water for your people. On that note, on behalf of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Water Resources, I officially inaugurate you all today to function effectively."

A Former General Manager, Rivers State Small Towns Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RSSTOWA), Engineer Martin Mmeo in a presentation entitled 'Enhanced Community Participation for Water Supply Sustainability" explained that the involvement of communities in water supply management is a great way to ensure that water resources are managed in a way that benefits everyone and the water needs of future generations.

The Executive Director of the Society for Women and Youth Affairs (SWAYA), Mrs. Stella Amanyie declared her organization's support for the WCA, promising that SWAYA will work with them to achieve the water sustainability goal of HYPREP so that the communities can continue to enjoy potable water.

PHASE 2 REMEDIATION WORKS: PROGRESS MADE

Following the success recorded on the phase 1 remediation contracts for the clean-up of hydrocarbon impacted sites in Ogoniland, certified by the Statutory Regulator, the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency, (NOSDRA), the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) initiated the phase 2 remediation works to clean up more sites affected by environmental degradation caused by decades of oil pollution. This second phase of remediation works involves addressing soil and groundwater contamination across 17 sites in the four Local Government Areas of Ogoniland, covering a total area of 1,215,814sq.m. The phase 2 work is divided into 39 lots and accordingly awarded to thirty-nine (39) environmental management HYPREP using the UNEP template

90

(remediation) contractors.

Works in this phase comprise of two major stages: Site characterization/assessment and remediation action. The site characterization process involves site specific detailed investigation consisting of collection and analysis of soil and groundwater samples across the sites to determine the level and extent (lateral and vertical) of contamination in both media. Site characterization is the more comprehensive investigation into the conditions of contamination and their attendant risk levels to humans and the environment in furtherance to the previous assessment conducted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the reconnaissance surveys undertaken by

provided for capacity building. Though the combined assessment report of UNEP and HYPREP allows for preliminary lateral-vertical delineation and computation of volume of contaminated soil, which gives the work scope for tendering, these data do not provide sufficient data for delineation of the plume of contaminated groundwater, groundwater flow configuration, site specific geologic and microbial conditions which are critical information needed for suitable remedial technique selection. The additional site characterization that is being undertaken by contractors is for the acquisition of the missing information required for selection of appropriate remediation techniques. The remediation action works involve implementing appropriate measures



to clean up the site and restore it to its natural state.

Upon completion of the site characterization works, reports are submitted for review and approval before the commencement of the remediation phase. To ensure accountability and transparency, HYPREP has set up a Remediation Documentation Review Committee comprising key project stakeholders to undertake the first level of review. The outcome of the first level of review is forwarded to the statutory regulators for final approval for the commencement of the implementation of the remedial actions by the contractors.

The project is progressing steadily, and the contractors have achieved various success milestones in their works. All the 39 contractors had successfully mobilized to the site and completed the site characterization field works. Ten (10) of the mobilized contractors have started the remediation action phase after obtaining the necessary approvals for their site characterization report and remediation action plan. These contractors are using a combination of in-situ and ex-situ treatment methods. Currently, the overall completion percentage for Phase 2 Remediation

Works stands at 11.83%, with all of the contractors mobilized, completed site characterization activities, and 10 already at the remedial action stage. This is a positive sign of progress. The work status for each lot activity is presented in the table overleaf.



Excavation of Polluted Soil



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Monthly contractors' project Honourable Minister of Environment, performance review meetings are being held to ensure that HYPREP and its key project stakeholders are regularly updated on the contractors' progress. During these meetings, the contractors present their work processes and the challenges encountered while carrying out their works and participants brainstorm possible solutions to overcome them. The purpose of the meeting is to ensure that the project objectives are met, to support the contractors to achieve timely and quality delivery of their works. By evaluating their performances on monthly bases, the contractors make necessary adjustments to ensure the project stays on track for successful completion. The project has witnessed visits of the

Balarabe Lawal and the Honourable Minister of State for Environment, Dr. Ishaq Salako both accompanied by the Chairman and Members of the Board of Trustees and the Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey to review progress and ensure that all activities proceed as planned. These visits have allowed the Ministers to assess progress, interact real-time with HYPREP and other key project stakeholders and have firsthand realities on the field activities. The status of performances of the Lots are often reviewed to ensure that all remediation works are carried out promptly and efficiently.

It is worth noting that the project is also engaging with the communities to ensure a peaceful and harmonious

relationship while working in the communities. Additionally, the project provides employment and human capacity development opportunities for community workers, who are engaged and trained in the different aspects of the work.

Overall, HYPREP Phase 2 Remediation Work is a crucial step towards addressing the environmental degradation caused by decades of oil pollution in Ogoniland. The regular monitoring and review of contractors' performance is to ensure that the project goes as planned and completed successfully. With continued support and collaboration from all stakeholders, the project will proceed according to plan, and the environment will be restored to its natural state.

OGONI CLEAN-UP: LAWAL RESTATES COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY

The Honourable Minister of Environment and Chairman, Governing Council of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Balarabe Abbas Lawal has reiterated Council's commitment to transparency and accountability in the implementation of the Ogoni clean-up project.

Lawal who restated the commitment at the 10th Meeting of the Governing Council of HYPREP held in Abuja underscored the importance of community support and ownership of The Honourable Minister of in the Niger Delta: Restoration

make it a success.

Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini mangrove management. The reports Professor Nenibarini Zabbey and Zabbey provided a comprehensive are: (1) Ogoniland and the Niger UNEP's senior consultant, Emeritus update on the progress of work in the Delta: Mangrove Restoration and ProfessorOlofLinden. projects' thematic areas.



the project by the Ogoni people to Environment led other Council Manual, and (3) Niger Delta members to unveil three HYPREP Mangrove Restoration: Brief Field At the meeting, the Project reports for public use on sustainable Guide. The reports are co-authored by Conservation Strategy, (2) Mangroves

PROF. ZABBEY SOLICITS CLERGY'S SUPPORT FOR INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has solicited the support of religious leaders in Ogoni towards the dissemination of information on the programmes and activities of the project in their respective congregations and beyond. Professor Zabbey who made the appeal at a meeting with some religious leaders from Ogoni urged them to work with HYPREP for the attainment of set goals.

"I am glad to stand before you not just as a representative of HYPREP but also as a fellow steward of our shared environment. We are all united by a common purpose, which includes remediating the hydrocarbonimpacted Ogoni environment, restoring livelihoods, peacebuilding, and paving the way for a more sustainable ecosystem and a prosperous future.

I invite you to lend your voices to our cause and amplify the message of environmental stewardship and civic education within your congregations and beyond. Lend your voices against targeted misinformation against the Project and use your platforms to disseminate relevant information on the progress of work."

The Project Coordinator noted that the overall success of the Project is hinged not only on technical expertise and financial resources but also on the active participation and engagement of every segment of the Ogoni society, including the religious leaders whose sacrificial role cannot go unnoticed, stating that the meeting was organized as a mark of respect to the clergymen and Christendom as a whole. He



enjoined the religious leaders to use their deep-rooted connections at the grassroots to mobilize, support, foster unity, and instill a sense of shared responsibility in the people for the well-being of the Ogoni people and their environment.

"At the Project Coordination Office, we recognize the crucial role that religious leaders play in the fabric of Ogoni society. Your moral authority, wisdom, and influence extend far beyond the walls of your places of worship, shaping the hearts and minds of your congregations and the Ogoni community. It is in this spirit of partnership and collaboration that we convene today, seeking your guidance and support in realizing the full potential of HYPREP.

Remember also that we are partners in the campaign against re-pollution and illegal refining. The Project is also grappling with roll-out delays, which are usually occasioned by community disputes and chieftaincy tussles. Hence, we enjoin you to complement our peacebuilding efforts by actively promoting alternative dispute place internal monitoring and

resolution at the community level. Together, let us harness the power of faith to inspire hope, resilience, and collective action."

Professor Zabbey assured that HYPREP is committed to fostering an inclusive and participatory approach to decision-making that respects the diversity and values that define the Ogoni community, and assured the religious leaders of the importance of their feedback as the project navigates the complexities of the HYPREP implementation process.

While reiterating the commitment of the Federal Government to implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report on Ogoniland, Zabbey said the enormity of the task before HYPREP and the moral burden of delivering on its mandate of a cleaner Ogoni environment and the restoration of the livelihood of the people have continually inspired HYPREP to do the right things.

According to him, HYPREP has put in

evaluation mechanisms to ensure that projects are not only fit for purpose but are also delivered within cost and contractual time frame. He explained that HYPREP is at a critical phase in its implementation process with over three hundred and thirty (130) active projects running simultaneously, including land and shoreline remediation, mangrove restoration, provision of potable water, construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER), the Ogoni Specialist Hospital and the Buan Cottage Hospital, Ogoni Power Project, and the Livelihood Training Programmes.

Speaking on behalf of the religious leaders, the Bishop of the Ogoni Diocese of the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) and President of Ogoni Church Leaders' Council, Rt.

Coordinator of HYPREP for calling the meeting to foster interaction between the Christian community and HYPREP." HYPREP.

on the several HYPREP projects going on in Ogoni communities and pledged the unwavering support of the Christian community for the programmes of HYPREP. He used the opportunity to appeal for support from the project for the Church Leaders Council.

Coordinator on the level of projects going on. I have seen some in so many communities and one is also cited in my community. Our prayer is that whatsoever you people have set your hands to do, like the scripture says that the hand of Zerubbabel started this

Rev'd. Solomon Gberegbara (DSSRS) work, and the hand of Zerubbabel will expressed gratitude to the Project complete it. We pray for God to help the HYPREP team to actualize the programmes and projects of

Another clergyman, Apostle Professor The Cleric congratulated Prof. Zabbey J.B. Lema while appreciating the Project Coordinator for empowering the people of Ogoni, appealed to HYPREP to build ecumenical centres in the four Local Government Areas of Ogoni to ease Christian worship in Ogoniland.

The event featured prayers for the Project Coordinator for God to give "I want to congratulate the Project him wisdom to continually steer the affairs of the HYPREP Project aright. The meeting was attended by over eighty (80) religious leaders from the four Local Government Areas of Ogoniland.

YOUNG OGONI ENTREPRENEURS TRAINED IN PROCUREMENT AND BUSINESS STRATEGY

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has organized a two-day Procurement and Business Strategy Workshop for entrepreneurs in Ogoniland to address concerns about low community participation in the procurement processes and business opportunities emanating from the Ogoni clean-up project and to empower them with the requisite knowledge to bid for contracts.

The Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Zabbey in his opening remarks at the workshop emphasized that while the job of environmental remediation is going on across Ogoniland, other projects in the thematic areas of livelihood training, provision of potable water, construction of legacy projects are



Cross Section of Ogoni Youths at the HYPREP Procurement/Business Strategy Workshop

ongoing concurrently and expressed his desire to see sustainable economic prosperity in hydrocarbon-impacted communities of Ogoni.

"It is necessary to note that while the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is committed to environmental remediation: we are also fostering sustainable development, empowering local communities, and building structures for peace. As you may know, HYPREP is at a point where projects in various thematic areas such as remediation, provision of potable water, public health, livelihood restoration and more are being implemented concurrently and we are steadfast in ensuring that the benefits of its implementation extend far beyond mere cleanup efforts. In addition to this, we envision a future where the livelihoods of hydrocarbonimpacted communities are fully restored for economic prosperity that is inclusive and sustainable, where the Ogoni people also play a central role in shaping their destiny by embracing new ideas for progressive ends. As a community-based project, we recognize that there have been concerns within the community regarding low community participation in the procurement processes as well as access to business opportunities due to a limited understanding of some processes and procedures.

We hear your concerns about delays and community quota. We are optimistic that at the end of this workshop, participants would have learned that there are specific requirements and also timelines within which every procurement process must be carried out. We are here to address some of those concerns head-on and to chart a new course forward, one that prioritizes community participation, transparency, fairness, and inclusivity. We will continue to provide platforms such as this for interaction, knowledge acquisition and collaboration."

The Project Coordinator expressed hope that the business owners would take full advantage of the workshop so they could fully benefit from the opportunities presented by HYPREP, believing that amongst others, it would grossly reduce the need for involvement in illegal oil refining activities. He also made a case for the inclusion of women, youths and other marginalized groups in business opportunities that they would otherwise not have access to. In his words:

"As entrepreneurs and businessminded individuals, I urge you to seize this opportunity to further engage with HYPREP, learn about our procurement procedures, and explore potential business partnerships within the Ogoni community and beyond. Your participation is not just welcomed but it is essential for the success of our livelihood restoration effort. We need your expertise, your innovation, and your passion to drive positive change in Ogoniland, the Niger Delta and the nation.

As we delve into the intricacies of procurement and business strategy, let us remember that the ultimate goal is to create a thriving ecosystem where local business interests can benefit and flourish from opportunities made available through HYPREP, where alternative livelihoods are created that discourage illegal refining, repollution, and other unwholesome acts. At the end of this workshop, we expect that Ogoni entrepreneurs, youth, women and the underserved population will leave the sidelines to participate as key players in the mainstream. On this note, I urge once again, for you to come together to build business partnerships and clusters for progress. Study the materials handed over to you for knowledge and periodically purchase the Federal Tenders Journal and other related sources to explore contract opportunities available in HYPREP and other public entities."

Professor Zabbey reiterated HYPREP's commitment to the implementation of the UNEP report, assuring Ogoni people of transparency, integrity and accountability to ensure a bright future for the Ogoni people and encouraged them to learn with purpose so they can, in turn, impart the knowledge they have acquired to other people.

"I want to assure you that HYPREP will continue to implement the recommendations of the UNEP Assessment Report on Ogoniland with transparency, integrity, and accountability. We will work with you to ensure that opportunities are accessible, regardless of individual background or affiliation. Together, we can build a future that we can all be proud of, where the Ogoni community is not just a passive observer, but an active participant. As representatives of various groups, we expect that you will relay and teach others what you will learn here today to enable them benefit accordingly. We are also beaming this programme in real-time to make it possible for others to participate in the proceedings. So, let us roll up our sleeves, acquire these life-changing skills, engage in business activities, and chart a path towards collective peace and prosperity."

Head, Procurement, HYPREP, Mr. Yusuf Isiaka Adisa took the first

lecture on the rudiments of the Public Procurement Act 2007. This was intended to acquaint the group with procurement procedures that they may otherwise not have been familiar with. He also enlightened them on HYPREP's procurement processes and procedures that they are required to be familiar with to stand the chance

of winning contracts.

Other resource persons who gave lectures at the event include Engineer Eric Onyeiwu, who talked on the Principles of Business Sustainability, Dr. Sorbarikor Lebura, a Senior Lecturer at the Rivers State University whose lecture was on "Identifying Opportunities in the HYPREP Projects" and Mr. Lesi Maol, the CEO of Giolee Integrated Services who gave a talk on his experiences as an Ogoni man in Business.

The workshop was well attended by business owners and entrepreneurs from the various communities in Ogoni.

WORLD OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SAFETY: **YPREP COMMEMORATES DAY**

The representative of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) in the Project Coordination Office of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Engr. Ekiyokenegha Clark has expressed his satisfaction with HYPREP's adherence to health and safety standards and procedures in the work environment.

Engr. Clark gave the commendation at an event to commemorate the 2024 World Occupational Health Safety Day held at HYPREP's office in Port Harcourt.

He stated that his employer, SPDC prioritizes safety at work and that he is pleased to see that HYPREP is adopting that culture of safe work environment.

"Health and safety are important to Shell, and we are very happy to see that HYPREP is imbibing strongly the culture, the message, the attributes, and the message of health and safety in the workplace."

The Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey while welcoming HYPREP staff and guests to the event, explained the importance of World Occupational Health Safety Day and why HYPREP staff must take note and observe safety procedures in their operations.

"The work of HYPREP is mainly in

the field and wet areas where we do are all ailments that studies have require a high level of safety, awareness, and protective actions. So, we deem it fit to join the rest of the world to mark the World Occupational Health Safety Day. The World Occupational Health Safety Day explores the linkages between climate change and occupational health safety. Studies have shown the connection between the effects of climate change, workers' health hazards, safety issues, and diseases. If you look through literature, you'll see that even cancer ailments have been linked to the effects of climate change. Cardiovascular diseases, kidney dysfunction, and respiratory diseases

shown that climate change contributes to their prevalence.

Now, if we want to domesticate it to our region, we immediately think about flooding. The rise in sea levels is one of the effects of climate change and the Niger Delta is one of the wettest regions in the world. One of the effects of climate change is extreme weather conditions so it could be extreme heat or extreme rainfall. When there is extreme rainfall, there will be flooding and when that happens, a lot of socioecological impacts will be felt. For workers, some might drown, some might be out



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Addressing Staff at the 2024 World Occupational Health Safety Day

of work, and the incidence of vectorborne diseases like malaria will increase and we all know what that means to every worker."

Professor Zabbey explained that HYPREP activities are tailored towards the mitigation of the effects of climate change.

"What we are doing in HYPREP is contributing to mitigating the effect of climate change. As you are aware, we are currently restoring mangroves in Ogoniland. All over the world mangroves are recognized as one of the best carbon sinks. A mangrove plant can store carbon both below ground and above ground. What we are doing in Ogoniland is a local or national initiative that has a global impact. If you pay attention, there is a lot of discourse around carbon financing. While industrialized countries keep emitting carbon dioxide which is a major greenhouse gas, our ecosystem, like the mangroves which are not degraded will continue to counter the effects of climate change. What we are doing in Ogoni is very important in terms of Nigeria's national contribution to reducing carbon emissions globally." "Today's programme", he continued, "is important because if you want to look at the practicality of why what we are doing in Ogoni is very important in relation to climate change, you can reflect on what happened during the Indian tsunami in 2004. It was a massive tsunami in which the waves traveled 600 kilometers per hour so coastal communities were affected. After the tsunami, researchers have gone back to look at the impact on communities that are located behind mangrove ecosystems and those that have lost their mangrove ecosystem and the result was clear. Communities that had lost their mangroves were

highly impacted, houses were organizational safety procedures. destroyed, and a lot of lives were lost. "I will urge you to pay attention to the However, those situated behind intact presentations that will be made today. mangrove ecosystems were protected. I also urge you to leverage this although parts of the mangrove died. platform to ask questions so that you The reason is that apart from can understand more about sequestering carbon to reduce the occupational health and safety. I wish carbon released into the atmosphere, that as we do all that we are doing in mangroves' complex architecture Ogoni, the main activities from the ensures life is protected. So, when construction of water schemes to waves are coming towards residential remediating medium-risk sites to areas, they are dampened. Mangroves shoreline cleanup, to mangrove have other functions like fish planting or restoration in Ogoniland, production, water purification, and and even the many livelihood training maintaining water quality."

climate change.

climate change but at the same time, everybody that we encounter in our we are concerned about the effect of daily lives will continue to operate climate change on occupational health safely." safety. So, we decided to join the rest Dr. Nabie Nubari Francis, a specialist of the world to mark the International surgeon and public health expert gave as citizens, we have a role to play to importance of CPR knowledge role to play in creating awareness in mostly work in coastal areas. He our communities and neighborhoods encouraged every staff to take mitigating climate change. We are also help save a life in case of emergencies. using today to remind ourselves that at Dr. Chris Mitchell Osazuwa, an all times, we should be safety executive member of OSHA-UK consciousness and are vulnerable to change as a challenge with a special accidents and other occupational emphasis on workplace personal hazards."

everyone present to pay close global warming. attention to gain the full benefits of the lectures and presentations on

centers that we are superintending, we He stated that HYPREP being aware want to ensure that not just our of the effects of climate change and the workers but the beneficiaries should dangers that come as a result of go there and come back to their homes exposure to them deemed it necessary safely. We want to ensure that the to sensitize its workforce as way of people who participate in our protecting them from the hazards of activities and all the people we interact with which includes our family "We are contributing to mitigating members, the Ogoni community, and

Day for Safety, to create awareness a presentation on cardiovascular amongst all of us, and to remind us that diseases and CPR. He emphasized the mitigate climate change. We have a especially to HYPREP staff who about the effects of climate change and seriously all the demonstrations of how citizens' actions can contribute to CPR that will be shown which could conscious. We should know that when delegated to the event, also presented a there is extreme heat, we may lose lecture on how best to address climate safety tips in the light of the reality of Professor Zabbey encouraged the effects of climate change and

PICTURES OF THE MONTH



L-R: Prof. Zabbey and Minister of Environment, Balarabe Lawal at 10th GC Meeting



Prof. Zabbey Presented with Thomas Sankara Award



Prof. Zabbey (middle) with Officials of Sensatec GMBH



Cross Section of Clergymen at the Stakeholders' Meeting



Editor, HYPREP Herald, Kpoobari Nafo Presents Copies of Newsletter to Alesa Monarch, HRH Emperor J.D. Nkpe



Cross Section of Guests at the Nchia Water Consumers Association Inauguration



HYPREP Staff at the 2024 World Occupational Health Safety Day



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey with other Guests at the weeding of the Daughter of the CEO, Giolee Global Resources, Lesi Maol

Shun Illegal Oil Bunkering/Refining It Destroys The Environment



Photo:HYPREP

Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey Kpoobari Nafo Enuolare Mba-Nwigoh Faith Deekor Imeh Ofem Chiamaka Ikea Tombari Naadue Godwin Norbana

Editorial Crew

Publisher-in-Chief Editor Head Reportorial Reporter Reporter (NYSC) Camera Camera

POETRY CORNER

IN FOREST DEEP By: Blessing Monsi

In forest deep, where spirits roam, And river flow, their voice hone. Mountains tall, their heads they raise, Guardians of these ancient days.

Yet humans come with headless stride, Their greed and waste, they cannot hide, They plunder land and poison air, Ignoring nature's gentle prayer.

Oceans vast, with depths untold, Their beauty fades, their stories untold. Plastic islands mar their grace, A legacy we must erase.

But hope still blooms in every seed, In every child who dares to heed, The call of Earth, our mother dear, To cherish, protect, and hold her near.

For in our hands lies destiny, To heal the wounds and set her free, Let's tread with care, love and might, And save our planet's precious light.

THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE

" "People who will not sustain trees will soon live in a world that will not sustain people."

-Bryce Nelson

19TH DECEMBER 2023

HONODITABLE MINISTER OF **ENVIRONMENT** ABBAS LAWAL

BALARABE SYMBOLIC MANGROM PLANTIN ROMU

Photo:HYPREP

... for a cleaner and greener Ogoniland A Publication of the Communications Unit of HYPREP

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