



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

HYPREP HERALD

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HYPREP EQUIPS GENERAL HOSPITALS IN OGONI



Aerial View of Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration Under Construction

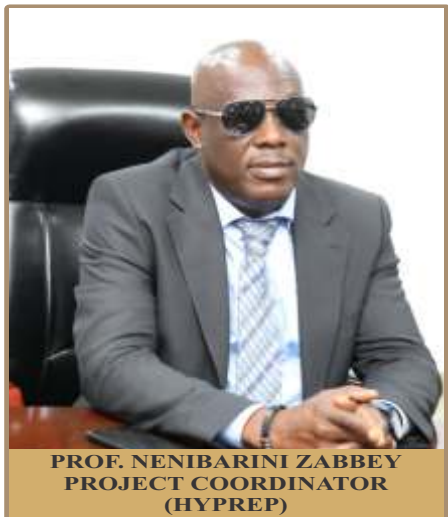
PROF. ZABBEY SHOWCASES HYPREP ACHIEVEMENTS AT INT'L CLEAN-UP CONFERENCE, AUSTRALIA

HYPREP ORGANISES MID-YEAR RETREAT FOR UNIT HEADS AND TEAM LEADS

OGONI CLEAN-UP: HYPREP SEEKS MORE SOURCES OF FUNDING

**HYPREP
HERALD
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THE PC'S DESK



PROF. NENIBARINI ZABBEY
PROJECT COORDINATOR
(HYPREP)

As the year gradually winds down, we would like to use the remaining months to serialize our plans in the key thematic areas of our operations and make projections for the new year, all to keep you informed about our performance. This month, we will focus on the remediation of the medium-risk, complex sites, for which we have recorded significant progress, the ongoing shoreline clean-up, mangrove restoration, biodiversity and livelihood recovery.

Having put in motion the process for stringent competitive bidding for contracts, we set out to complete the characterization of more sites before the end of the year. This will equip us with more accurate data that will be used for both contract awards and remediation of the sites. In the new year, we shall have achieved about 75% progress on the remediation of the ongoing medium-risk, complex sites. That will enable us to commence the remediation of the high-risk, complex sites. World-class, reputable companies will conduct the site characterization and remediation of the high-risk, complex sites. This will facilitate the transfer of technologies to the locals and deepen the region's theory and practice of petroleum hydrocarbon remediation. Effective monitoring of the remediation sites is

mandatory, and we will leave no stone unturned in our resolve to deliver sustainable cleanup in Ogoniland. Thus, we have sent a team of HYPREP technical staff for advanced groundwater investigation and remediation training. The training is led by a global leader in remediation, Laurate Prof. Ravi Naidu.

In the shoreline clean-up, we hope that before the end of the last quarter of the year, a significant number of grids (hectares) will have been completed and verified by the Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) team. SCAT is a participatory, multistakeholder team comprising representatives of the regulators (The National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency, NOSDRA), the local communities, civil society organizations (CSOs), the Rivers State Ministry of Environment, and HYPREP. The SCAT team assesses the quality of the shoreline cleanup and mangrove restoration, confirms remediated and planted grids (hectares), or recommends further cleaning or replanting when necessary. We are cleaning (Batch 1) approximately 1747.6 ha of oil-contaminated shorelines in Ogoniland. We estimate that about 75% of the batch 1 shoreline clean-up will be completed in 2025. Cleaned-up shorelines shall be earmarked for mangrove restoration next year. The ongoing pilot mangrove rehabilitation through assisted planting in Bomu will be completed before the end of 2025. However, monitoring the growth performance and biodiversity recovery following the mangrove restoration will continue for a few years. Still, within 2025, the batch 2 mangrove restoration planting would have been completed by about 50%. Similarly, the batch shoreline cleanup will commence in 2025. These will create thousands of direct and indirect jobs, enhance local fisheries, and strengthen the resilience of the communities.

We aim to get RAMSAR (the Convention on Wetlands) accreditation for Ogoni wetlands by 2025. The UNEP (2011) report on the environmental assessment of Ogoniland we are implementing recommends getting Ogoni mangrove ecosystems declared RAMSAR site. We have started the preliminary process of achieving that feat. We intend to build local capacity in carbon stock quantification and link the restored mangrove areas to the carbon market. As a first step, we will require initial studies of biodiversity-rich regions of Ogoni by the first quarter of 2025 and piloting community-led conservation of sacred forests or biodiversity hotspots. After that, we will initiate dialogue with the RAMSAR Secretariat to brief them on our recovery and conservation plans for Ogoni wetlands.

To supplement the RAMSAR accreditation goal for 2025, we aim to establish a set of protected forests, tidal flats, and mangrove areas to act as biodiversity reservoirs for Ogoni. By the end of 2025, sustainable use principles will be introduced across communities. A couple of training initiatives in sustainable resource management will be undertaken. We shall broaden our campaigns against oil theft and illegal artisanal refining to target stopping fishing with explosives (dynamite) and chemicals. This is especially important because we are trying to restore the valuable shellfish, bloody cockle (kóó), in the remediated creeks of Ogoniland through artificial breeding and restocking. With great optimism, we will commence the breeding trials, larval management, and restocking of the cockle in the last quarter of 2024.

We are committed to accelerating the Ogoni cleanup, a priority of the Renewed Hope Agenda. We continue to count on stakeholders' support and input. Happy 64th Independence Day!

In this Issue

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report on the environmental assessment of Ogoniland is a complete report submitted to the Federal Government of Nigeria which the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is now implementing. The next assessment to be carried out is the Health Study to ascertain if there is any link between disease patterns and oil pollution in Ogoniland. The Project Coordination Office of HYPREP has reached an agreement with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) to carry out the study. It is one assessment that will require worming through tons of health registers and documents at the various public health facilities in Ogoni to get accurate data on the nature, patterns and frequencies of diseases endemic to the area. In a nutshell, HYPREP will necessarily need to use the General Hospitals and Primary Health Centres in Ogoni to conduct a credible data-based health study. It is in recognition of the vital roles the health facilities will play during the study and for them to serve primary purpose of providing healthcare to the people that HYPREP had gone ahead to furnish them with medical equipment, power sources and consumables. This edition of the HYPREP Herald showcases the various medical equipment donated by the Project to a General Hospital in each of the four Local Government Areas of Ogoni.

HYPREP was at the just concluded International Clean-up Conference held in Adelaide, Australia where the Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini

Zabbey outlined to the world the modest effort HYPREP is making back home in Ogoni, Nigeria in cleaning up oil devastated sites and undertaking one of the largest mangrove restoration projects in contemporary history. The report on the conference is in this edition of the HYPREP Herald.

The National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) is a regulatory body in the oil and gas industry in Nigeria. It is one of the agencies constitutional empowered to oversee the operations of HYPREP. The newly appointed Director General of the Agency, Engr. Chukwuemeka Woke recently had a maiden meeting with the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Zabbey on ways of collaboration to achieving the Ogoni clean-up project.

Year 2024 is in the second half, and it is customary for HYPREP to evaluate its operations in the first half and make projection for the remaining months of the year as well as the coming year. Accordingly, the Project's Mid-Year Financial System and Budget Performance Review Retreat was held for Heads of Unit and Team Leads where they presented their respective Unit's reports and plans for the new year. The Ogoni clean-up project is progressing on all fronts and so is the increasing demand for more funding to cater for new areas of attention of the project. To secure more funds outside

the basic contributions by the International Oil Companies, the Project Coordination Office organised a workshop on proposal writing for select staff of the project.

The Stakeholders' Engagement Unit of the Project recently met with host communities at a town hall to intimate them on the achievements of the project and also to harvest feedback from them on better ways of improving on the delivery of the project. It was a rewarding session as the community leaders opened up on their expectations from the project and HYPREP also briefed them on some challenges it faces and how they can partner the project in addressing those challenges.

The report on the on-going process on the procurement of goods and services for the project is carried in this edition of the Herald.

The new Director, Technical Services, HYPREP, Damian-Paul Aguiyi (Ph.D) talked with the Editor of the HYPREP Herald, Kpoobari Nafo and the excerpts of that interview are featured for your information.

We have included our poetry corner for your reading pleasure and do hope that you will find this edition as informative as always.

Happy 64th Independence Anniversary of Nigeria and may God bless our dear nation!

Editorial Crew

Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey	Publisher-in-Chief
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Godwin Norbana	Camera

Project News

HYPREP EQUIPS GENERAL HOSPITALS IN OGONI

The Project Coordination Office of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has provided basic medical equipment for select hospitals in Ogoniland in keeping with the recommendation of the Governing Council of HYPREP to strengthen one public hospital in each Local Government Area of Ogoni.

The hospitals are the Bori General Hospital in Khana Local Government Area, the Terabor General Hospital in Gokana Local Government Area, the Nchia General Hospital in Eleme Local Government Area and the Kpite Primary Health Centre in Tai Local Government Area.

The HYPREP Governing Committee on Public Health had also recommended the construction and equipping of an Ogoni Specialist Hospital and a Cottage Hospital with funds sourced from the interest accrued through escrow funds investment. The Ogoni Specialist Hospital is thus cited in Kpite, Tai being the only Ogoni Council Area without a General Hospital and the Cottage Hospital in Buan to cater for the remote communities in Khana Council Area that may find it difficult to access the Bori General Hospital on time in case of emergency.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report on Ogoni recommends a health study of Ogoni and in preparation for the commencement of the cohort study, HYPREP has to strengthen medical facilities in Ogoni as centres to be used to carry out the study and also in the interim provide basic medical equipment that are lacking for

effective health delivery to the people.

The Project Coordination Office of HYPREP had accordingly procured and installed basic medical equipment in the identified public hospitals that the Governing Council Health Committee in their assessment had observed that the equipment in the hospitals were obsolete and non-functional.

Contracts were thus awarded to provide key medical equipment for the hospitals, and they are digital mobile x-ray, 4D ultrasound, ventilators, mammogram, theatre table, maternity or delivery table, anaesthetic machine, hospital beds, haematology machine, electrophoresis machine, chemistry

analyzer, electrolyte machine, etc.

In addition to the provision of medical equipment and supplies, HYPREP also carried out comprehensive renovation of the theatres, laboratories, maternity and children wards, radiology buildings in all the hospitals before installing the medical equipment.

Moreover, during the needs assessment of the hospitals, HYPREP discovered that there was no regular power supply and therefore undertook the installation of a 30KWA solar system in each of the hospitals to power the installed medical equipment.



Prof. Zabbey Inspecting an Ultrasound Donated by HYPREP to the Terabor General Hospital

PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES FOR BORI, TERABOR AND ELEME GENERAL HOSPITALS AS WELL AS KPITE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTRE

ITEM	DESCRIPTIONS	NUMBERS			
		BORI GH	TERABOR GH	ELEME GH	KPITE PHC
200	RADIOLOGY, LIFE SUPPORT & POWER EQUIPMENT				
A	Mobile Digital X-Ray with accessories	1	1		
B	Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Ventilator with compressor, LCD Color, touch screen with Built – in – Battery.	2	3	2	1
C	12 Channel Digital Electrocardiograph (ECG) Machine with Touch Screen.	1	1	1	1
D	Full Digital Color 4D Ultrasound Doppler System with 4 probes (convex, transvaginal, linear and volume)	1	1	1	1
E	Digital Mammography Machine	1		-	
F	1.5 Horsepower Inverter Air Conditioner	6	6	6	6
300	THEATRE EQUIPMENT				
A	Anesthetic Machine with Double Vaporizer	1	1	1	
B	Pulse Oximeter/Patient 12.1 inches LCD screen/Monitor	2	2	2	1
C	Finger Pulse Oximeter: Blood Oxygen Heart Rate Monitor. PR bpm Reading - Heart rate (Pulse Rate Beats Per Minute)	2	2	2	2
D	Anesthetic Face Mask. Standard anesthetic face mask for theater	500	500	500	500
E	Laryngoscope Sets (Pediatrics & Adult) GIMA. Standard Laryngoscope Blades and Sets (handle + blades) - 2.5V vacuum bulb	1	1	1	1
F	Digital Blood Pressure BP Test Monitor Sphygmomanometer	5	5	5	3
G	Diving Desktop Mercury Manual Sphygmomanometer. Diving Desktop Mercury Sphygmomanometer Old Man Arm Type Manual Blood Pressure Measurement Medical Sphygmomanometer Stethoscope	5	4	4	4
H	Medical Stethoscope with high acoustic sensitivity with patented turnable diaphragm for monitoring low and high frequencies	12	9	9	5
I	Cardiology Stethoscope. Outstanding acoustics with better audibility of high-frequency sounds (adult side, firm pressure)-*Tunable diaphragm: hear high or low frequency sounds by slightly adjusting pressure on the chest piece-Dual-lumen tubing	1	1	1	1
J	Digital Thermometer	5	5	5	3
K	Manual Thermometer	10	10	10	5
L	Injection Tray. Standard stainless steel injection tray (30*19.8cm with sterilizing bottle).	5	10	10	5
M	Drip Set	20	20	20	10

ITEM	DESCRIPTIONS	NUMBERS			
		BORI GH	TERABOR GH	ELEME GH	KPITE PHC
N	Steam Autoclave Sterilizer - Stainless Steel. Vertical, 35L Autoclave (Chamber: 300*500mm; Adjustable temperature: 105-134oC; Working pressure: 0.22mpa; Timer range:0-99min; N Class with drying function)	1	1	1	1
O	Standard General Examination Table	5	3	3	3
P	Special Gynecology Examination Bed (Delivery Bed)	1	1	1	1
Q	Manual/ Electric Theatre Table	1	1	1	1
R	Foot Stool	30	20	20	400
S	Electric Suction Machine Double Bottle	1	1	1	1
T	Patient Trolley 2 Section Deluxe1	1	1	1	1
U	Intrument trolley with Cabinet	1	1	1	1
V	Digital Baby Weighing Scale - Electronic scale with LCD display	1	1	1	1
W	Disposable Laparotomy Sheets - Waterproof CE approved Sterile Medical Disposable Surgical Laparotomy Drape Pack	2	2	1	2
X	Theatre Wears/ Scrubs - Blue customized hospital men women 45gsm disposable scrub uniforms suit for doctors and nurses of various sizes (SM, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL).	50	50	50	50
Y	Theater Lamp	1	1	1	1
Z	Standard Angle Poise Lamp	1	1	1	1
AA	Diathermy Cautery Machine (LED Electrosurgical Unit)	1	1	1	1
AB	Hospital Steel Double Bed (2 Crank)	15	10	10	10
AC	Hospital Bed (2 Crank) Foam	15	10	10	10
AD	Hospital Bed Side Cabinet	15	10	10	10
AE	Wooden Hospital Over Bed Table	15	10	10	10
AF	Standard Table and Chair	15	10	10	10
AG	Standard Benches for outpatients	10	10	10	10
AH	Oxygen Cylinder with Trolley	1	1	1	1
AI	Power Control (2KVA Relay Automatic Voltage Stabilizer - Input 100V - 280V)	5	5	5	5
AJ	Uninterrupted Power System (UPS) - Backup Power (1.53KVA UPS with Surge Protecton)	5	5	5	5
400	SURGICAL INSTRUMENT				
A	General Surgical Instrument	2	2	2	1
B	Gynecological and C-Section Instrument	2	2	2	1
C	Laparotomy Sets	2	2	2	1
500	CHEMICAL PATHOLOGY INSTRUMENT				
A	Immuno assay Hormone Analyzer (Automatic Hormone Fluorescence Immunoassay)	1	1	1	1
B	Immuno Assay Hormone Analyzer Test Cassettes	2	2	2	2
C	Electrolyte Analyzer with Startup Reagents	1	1	1	1
D	Semi – Automatic Chemistry Analyzer (Semi-automatic biochemical analyzer, using concave holographic grating as dispersive elements. Adopting grating monochromator invention patent technology)	1	1	1	1
E	Hematology and Blood Bank Refrigerator (4°C Blood Bank Refrigerator)	1	1	1	1
F	Automated Pipettes of all sizes	3	3	3	3

G	5 Parts Hematology Analyzer with Start Reagent (reagent closed system).	51	1	1	1
H	Electrophores Machine (Horizontal Electrophoresis)	1	1	1	1
I	Hematocrit Machine and Reader (Microhematocrit centrifuge and Reader)	1	1	1	1
J	Water Baths	2	2	1	1
K	Microscope	1	1	1	1
L	Incubator (Cooling & Hot Incubator)	1	1	1	1
M	Centrifuge (Benchtop High Speed Centrifuge)	1	1	1	1
N	215L Double door Refrigerator for sample storage	2	2	1	1
600	MICROBIOLOGY EQUIPMENT				
A	Hot Air Oven (Stainless Steel Laboratory Hot Air Oven). Capacity: 95L with LCD display and temperature range between 10 – 2500C.	1	1	1	1
B	Analytical Weighing Scale	1	1	1	1
C	Water Distiller - 20L water distiller with power input of 220V	1	1	1	1
D	Standard Microbiology Petri Dish	148	150	150	150
E	Standard household gas cylinder	1	1	1	1

It is worthy of note that the medical equipment and supplies have been installed, tested and calibrated except for some that were not installed pending the deployment of personnel that will operate them to avoid deterioration.

All the medical equipment including solar system installed in the respective hospitals have a two (2) year warranty.

Construction works on the Ogoni Specialist Hospital and the Cottage Hospital, Buan have reached

advanced stage and when completed will greatly ease the difficulties experienced in accessing medical care by the Ogoni people and the Local Government Areas around Ogoni.

PROF. ZABBEY SHOWCASES HYPREP ACHIEVEMENTS AT INT'L CLEAN-UP CONFERENCE, AUSTRALIA

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has stated that the project is working tirelessly to remediate the oil polluted environment of Ogoniland and restore it to produce ecosystem goods and services for the benefit of the people.

Professor Zabbey stated this in a paper he presented at the just concluded International Clean-up Conference held in Adelaide, Australia.

The paper, 'Assessment of Impact Levels for Effective Rehabilitation of the Oil-contaminated Mangrove Shoreline of Ogoniland, Nigeria', x-rays HYPREP's sustainable mangrove restoration and shoreline clean-up projects in Ogoni, emphasizing



Prof. Zabbey

attendant benefits to the environment in terms of restoration of ecosystem goods and services and biodiversity in the region.

The presentation showcased data sets garnered by HYPREP's Shoreline Clean-up Assessment Technique

(SCAT) activities, which guide the Project's shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration methods.

Alongside other members of the HYPREP technical team, the Project Coordinator also participated in the



Prof. Zabbey with Globally Revered Remediation Expert/the Conference Organiser, Laurate Prof. Ravi Naidu

training in Advanced Groundwater Investigation, Assessment, and Remediation at the Newcastle University, Australia.

Preparatory to the commencement of the clean-up of high-risk complex sites in Ogoni, the training will further

strengthen the capacity of HYPREP technical staff to monitor effectively the remediation works on the sites where groundwater is heavily contaminated.

Through its linkages and partnership initiatives, HYPREP has continued to

strategically network with remediation researchers, practitioners, and companies for potential partnership and collaboration, both within and outside Nigeria.

NOSDRA/HYPREP IN TALKS TO ACTUALIZE OGONI CLEAN-UP

The National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) and the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) have agreed to a partnership for the smooth and sustainable implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on Ogoniland.

The Director-General/Chief Executive Officer of NOSDRA, Engr. Chukwuemeka Woke disclosed this at the end of a familiarization visit by the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey to the Corporate Headquarters of the agency in Abuja.

Engr. Woke stated that the Ogoni clean-up project is one project that is of utmost importance to the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration and therefore there was need for NOSDRA and HYPREP to collaborate to see to its speedy implementation, adding that NOSDRA is determined to remove any bottleneck that would have stalled the pace of progress.

“In line with Mr. President's Renewed Hope Agenda, we decided to meet and see how we can collaborate and ensure a very smooth and hitch-free operation of HYPREP.”

“We know that the programme has a timeline. I want to ensure that our super-fast free roads do not in any way hinder the operations of the project.



Excavation of Polluted Soil in Progress

That is why we are here.”

“We have discussed extensively on the mode of operations and how to improve on how we have been relating before. And I have to assure you that the meeting was very cordial and very successful.”

The Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey disclosed that he was in NOSDRA to familiarize himself with the new Director General of NOSDRA, Chukwuemeka Woke and to solicit the cooperation of the agency towards the successful clean-up of Ogoniland.

“The Renewed Hope Agenda prioritizes accelerating the Ogoni clean-up. So, we cannot do that without the active support of NOSDRA. So, we have come to familiarize with the new Director General of NOSDRA and to encourage them to support us to accelerate the Ogoni clean-up.”

Prof. Zabbey further stated that beyond land remediation, shoreline clean-up, and restoration of oil-degraded mangroves, HYPREP has other social projects and programmes that directly impact on the life and livelihoods of the people.

“We are also providing potable water for the Ogoni people. So, we have fourteen (14) schemes we are constructing that will provide potable water to sixty-eight (68) communities in Ogoni land. We are also strengthening health systems in Ogoni.”

“We are building the Ogoni Specialist Hospital. We are building the Buan Cottage Hospital. We are also building the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration.”

The National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency plays a regulatory role over the operations of HYPREP.

HYPREP ORGANISES MID-YEAR RETREAT FOR UNIT HEADS AND TEAM LEADS

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has called for collaboration among Units of the Project to achieve corporate goals and objects as it implements the 2024 budget for the last quarter of the year and make preparation for next year.

Professor Zabbey made the call at the 2024 Mid-Year Financial System and Budget Performance Review for Management Staff and Team Leads held in Port Harcourt.

He welcomed participants to the retreat, urging them to use the opportunity provided by the retreat to evaluate their performance and make projection for the coming year.

“I am pleased to welcome you all here today to the 2024 Mid-Year Financial System and Budget Performance Review, for the Project Coordination Office, Management Staff and Team Leads. I want to specially thank the Management Staff and all the Team Leads for their dedication to work. I recognize the support of SPDC, the support of Post UNEP Team, the role of the Director of Technical Services, Heads of Unit, Team leads and every staff of HYPREP. For me, this gathering provides an opportunity for Management Staff and Team Leads to access progress and to address challenges to enhance the project performance.”

“The purpose for the Retreat is to review the implementation of the Governing Council approved budget in line with the strategic objectives of HYPREP. We're also to review or evaluate project performance by assessing the financial performance of all units within the Project



Chris Newson of Post UNEP Team Making Presentation at the Retreat

Coordination Office against the set budget for quarters 1 and 2. We're in the 3rd quarter already but since it's the Mid-Year review, we will focus mainly on quarter 1 and quarter 2 to recognize and analyze administrative and financial management challenges if any hindering optimal budget utilization. So, it requires open communication, and critical analysis of all we have been doing over the year.”

“The next objective of this retreat is to make actionable recommendations for improving financial processes and budget performance of the project and finally to improve transparency and accountability in the project implementation process.

Director, Technical Services of HYPREP, Prof. Damian-Obiora Aguiyi asked participants to hold the principle of honest communication and identify challenges in their various Units for proper solutions to be proffered to them.

“My expectations are that we take a health check, and we are to state our challenges the way they are and if you

don't state your problems or challenges no body will know and therefore cannot help you. On the 2025 budget the goals will be shared so that we will all fall in line and develop our plans alongside.”

Chris Newson of the Post UNEP Team advised Units of the project to draw out only plans that can be implemented before the current budget year comes to an end as well as work in synergy to achieve project goals.

“Identify what is feasible to achieve in the remaining three months of the year. Look at those projects that should be implemented in 2025 in line with the overarching goal of the project and the Honourable Minister of Environment. There is need for strong collaboration between Units to achieve set goals. Every project carried out must have lessons learned to improve on delivery and correct errors.”

Highlights of the two-day retreat were presentations by Units on lessons learned and plans for year 2025.

OGONI CLEAN-UP: HYPREP SEEKS MORE SOURCES OF FUNDING

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has said that outside the immediate scope of HYPREP there are other areas of work calling for attention that will enhance the sustainable development of Ogoniland and the Niger Delta region as a whole.

Professor Zabbey stated this when he declared open the workshop on writing winning proposal for Management and Staff of HYPREP.

Zabbey highlighted current efforts by HYPREP to ensure a secured economic future for Ogoni as well as ongoing plans to conduct a health impact study in Ogoniland as recommended by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

“On behalf of the Management and Staff of HYPREP, I am very happy and optimistic about this important committee. As you are aware, we are looking beyond today and we are looking beyond tomorrow, and that is why we are setting up the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Remediation which will serve as a repository for data. Not just environmental data, but also livelihood and socio-economic data. We are also aware that we are about to commence the socio-economic study of Ogoniland that will develop a blueprint that will define socio-economic development in Ogoni, post our remediation efforts.”

“We are also in the process of commencing a comprehensive health study of Ogoni that will be driven by the World Health Organization and the Institute for Cancer Research. The study is also to come up with a framework that will drive health



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Addressing Participants at the Proposal Writing Workshop

management, not just in Ogoni, but in the entire Niger Delta. It means that HYPREP is providing leadership, and I am very glad that Professor Etela mentioned that we are providing leadership in the area of environmental restoration. As a Catholic, one of our prayers usually ends with the fact that even the Father will not give you more than you request. It is also clear in the Bible that when you knock, it will be opened to you. Now, outside HYPREP, the perception is that we have too much money. There are those who think that we are minting money here. The expectations are high. Some individuals have even formulated their personal objectives of what HYPREP should achieve. They want us to do everything without thinking about the scope of the work of HYPREP. We understand and we also want to align those expectations with the fact that the work we are doing is contributing to virtually all the sustainable development goals. From goal one to goal seventeen which is partnership for development. We are contributing

to all the SDGs.”

The HYPREP Project Coordinator stated that funds to drive new areas of work are not available and it was therefore necessary to seek funding from elsewhere hence the need to organize the workshop on writing winning proposals to attract funding for the project.

“Having been saddled with these strategic responsibilities of driving the sustainable development of Ogoni, we cannot achieve all these things with the funding that is contributed by those who are mandatorily supposed to contribute to funding the activities of HYPREP. In the course of implementing these activities, we also realized that there are needs for other interventions. For example, we are restoring mangroves in oil-degraded places in Ogoni. But that is not just the problem.”

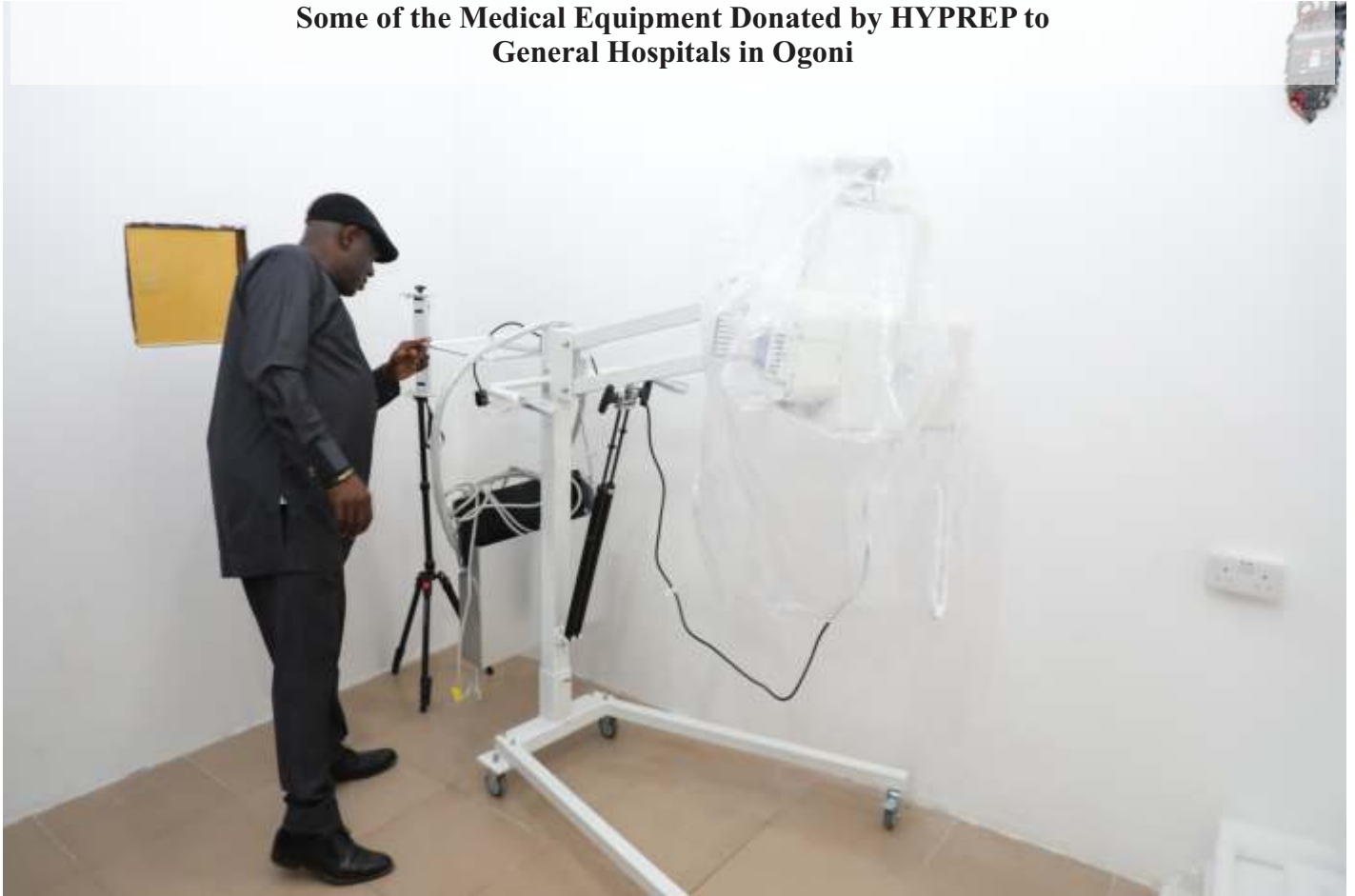
“In the eastern flank of Ogoni, especially the Imo River basin, we have the big issue of nipa palm invasion. If you go to Kono creek, for example, it is one of the few creeks in Niger Delta that is not yet polluted by

cont'd. on page 14

Some of the Medical Equipment Donated by HYPREP to General Hospitals in Ogoni



Some of the Medical Equipment Donated by HYPREP to General Hospitals in Ogoni



Some of the Medical Equipment Donated by HYPREP to General Hospitals in Ogoni



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**Some of the Medical Equipment Donated by HYPREP to
General Hospitals in Ogoni**

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Remark: Terabo general hospital in Gokana

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Local: 18 Oct 2023 11:42:55 GMT+01:00

Timestamp
Camera 360



Participants at the Proposal Writing Workshop

cont'd. from page 9

oil. I used to describe it as near pristine. So, they need our support and intervention because the fisher folk there are saying the nipa palms are taking over about 80% of the tidal flats which is impacting on their fishing. They cannot even go in because it is a bit dark and looking at the base of nipa palms they occupy a lot of space. It is not like our native mangroves that have prop roots that you can see through, so it provides an excellent habitat for food species that the people depend on. They are asking us to remove them. It falls outside the scope of our intervention. At the same time, we are preaching inclusion, we are saying that we don't want to leave anybody behind. Are we going to leave Kono creek behind? No. We are to do something.”

“We have the opportunity to expand the scope of our work to benefit the larger population and to contribute to lifting them out of poverty. That is the

main reason why this committee was set up. We really need to tighten our belts, especially leveraging on the fact that we have a lot of good stories to tell funders to say that we have been able to do these things and that we want to do more to enhance the sustainability of what we are doing. We want to expand it. We want to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. We want to build community resilience. We have enough data that will support our proposals to funding bodies or grantors. In doing that, there is a need to articulate our point and make our argument potent and compelling. There is a need for us to write winning proposals and in writing winning proposals, many ideas would coalesce, meet, and be refined to be able to convince the grantors.”

He expressed optimism that the purpose of the workshop will be realized as the project will secure

funding that will enable the project to go into other areas of remediation as well as develop templates and remediation technologies for the Niger Delta region.

“This workshop gives me hope and the choice of all of you also gives me hope that in the coming months, we will be able to secure funding that will expand or deepen the work that we are doing in Ogoniland. Of course, the model we are developing is a sustainable one that we hope will be replicated in other parts of Nigeria starting from the Niger Delta region. I will urge all of us to take it seriously. Looking at the content of the programme that Prof. Etela hinted about, it is very compact.”

“The third module that has to do with “Beyond environmental remediation and restoration” is also very apt. We went on project inspection and when we got to the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Remediation, they showed me the current design for the

Integrated Contaminated Soil Management Centre. Thoughtfully, we have included in that design an area for phyto remediation. For those who are in the business of assessment and remediation of the environment, when we go to artisanal refinery sites, we see the level of contamination. We also see some luxuriant plants. It tells us that there are potential phyto remediation candidates. We need to back such speculations with scientific data. So, having an area dedicated to phyto remediation is apt. That is what leadership is all about. When that Centre is up and running, and we go to the field and see plants that are thriving very well in the midst of hyper-contamination, it tells us that there are phyto remediants. It tells us that we need to go and check why they are thriving. Is it based on their anatomy or their physiology? Are they releasing the contaminants or are they bio-accumulating? If they are bio-accumulating, why are the contaminants not killing them? It will contribute to cleaning the environment as well as innovative ideas and technologies that will drive remediation and restoration in the whole of the Niger Delta.”

He emphasized that the time has come to drive home the message of environmental restoration and conservation to make it a part of the people's culture.

“Of course, the microbes are the key agents of bioremediation. They are the ones that do this work effortlessly. What we just need to do is to enhance their functionality. The concept of eco-philosophy is also very apt because it must be driven by philosophy. It should be a way of life. It should be inherent, that is, borne out of passion. In solving one problem, we need to be mindful of the complexity of life and the need to ensure that our

activities do not contribute to other problems. That is why we are using a multidisciplinary approach. We are using a holistic approach, checking the pros and cons of the different approaches. We are also exploring opportunities for integration so that as we solve one problem, the multiplier effect in terms of benefits will be so much. That is what sustainable development is all about.”

Lead Facilitator of the Workshop and Officer Overseeing the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, Professor, Ibisime Etela explained some of the benefits of having a Centre of Excellence especially as it relates to the Ogoni clean-up project.

“Globally most organizations that are doing something and know what they are doing and the direction they are going, always set up a Center of Excellence. Some of the things that the Center of Excellence does for them are things I have listed here, and these are

the things that CEER is expected to do for HYPREP. The reason for the Center is to showcase the successes of HYPREP. One of the things we do as a Center is to provide research, leadership, and direction in environmental and livelihood restoration. After you remediate the environment, what do you target? You restore the livelihood and support capacity building for personnel.”

Other presenters at the workshop are Professor C.J. Ogugbu who took participants on 'Partnering with Beneficial Microbes for Environmental and Livelihood Restoration'; Professor Alubabari Desmond Nbeta on 'Adopting the Principles of Ecophilosophy in Managing HYPREP Livelihood Projects'; and Professor Franklin Tanee who looked at 'Beyond Environmental Remediation and Restoration: Beneficial Flora to the Rescue.'

HYPREP HOLDS TOWN HALL MEETING WITH HOST COMMUNITIES

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has dialogued with the leadership of communities playing host to its projects at four separate town hall meetings held in each of the Local Government Areas of Ogoniland to collate feedback on the activities of HYPREP.

HYPREP Project Coordinator Professor Nenibarini Zabbey who was represented at the townhall meeting by the Head, Stakeholders' Engagements, Richard Mkpee, expressed his appreciation for the support HYPREP has enjoyed from the communities right from the beginning of the project. He explained that the forum is an interactive and fact-finding session

with stakeholders to identify and address perceived gaps in the activities of HYPREP in the communities, adding that the forum would enable HYPREP collate ideas and suggestions from the community members for an all-inclusive clean-up programme.

“The essence of this meeting is to generate feedback from our host communities. You are aware that HYPREP is doing quite a lot across Ogoni communities. We want to feel your pulse, what are your feelings about these projects. Do you feel in your opinion we are doing the best; what do you think we are not doing enough?”



Cross Section of Participants at the Townhall

Mkpee also noted that the townhall was called to ensure that the host communities are well represented, and their voices are heard and to know how to hold HYPREP accountable.

Members of the communities were briefed on recent achievements recorded in the various thematic areas of the Project including remediation, sustainable livelihoods, potable water, public health, (Ogoni Specialist Hospital, Buan Cottage Hospital), Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration and the Ogoni Power Project.

On livelihood programmes, a staff of the Livelihoods Unit, Alex Badom stated that HYPREP has built capacity of five thousand (5000) Ogoni youths and women by training them in economic skills, another four hundred (400) Ogoni women in agricultural skills, provided educational support for fifty (50) final year students of Ogoni origin in tertiary institutions, established environmental clubs in secondary schools in Ogoni, provided business support for small/medium scale businesses in the four Local Government Areas of Ogoni,

purchased back to school items for primary school pupils and concluding plans to carry out the socio-economic survey of Ogoni communities, amongst others.

Head, Public Health, Dr. Kpobari Nkpa who was represented by Ms. Lesere Albert informed that HYPREP has carried out medical outreaches in Ogoni at various times where teams of medical personnel were engaged and patients with different health challenges attended to, adding that HYPREP had also strengthened health centres in Ogoni with medical facilities especially the laboratories, theatres and labour wards.

Members of the host communities were informed that the Ogoni Power Project is on course and two hundred (200) Ogoni Youths have been trained in the first batch. It was also noted that the remediation, shoreline and mangrove programmes are running concurrently. On the provision of potable water, Head, Potable Water, Mr. Lucky Ikue, Head, said that the projects were at different stages of completion, while others have been completed and commissioned and

supplying water to communities.

In his goodwill message, High Chief Akpos Loveday Nkobazor lauded HYPREP for the several on-going projects and enjoined members of the communities to support HYPREP, drop litigation and channel their grievances through the appropriate quarters.

The HYPREP delegation paid homage to the palace of the Gbenemene Tua Tua Tai and Paramount Ruler of Kpite community HRM, King Samuel Nnee, who doubles as a member of the Central Representative Advisory Committee of HYPREP, in acknowledgement of his continuous support for the HYPREP project.

King Nnee urged HYPREP to carry out the Ogoni clean-up project with utmost dedication and expertise, assuring that the Ogoni community will continue to support HYPREP to succeed. He expressed gratitude to HYPREP for the construction of the Ogoni Specialist Hospital in Tai, noting that the project will greatly impact on the health of the people positively.

“HYPREP projects are our baby, and

we assure you of continuous peace and supervision of such projects. I will continue to ensure a smooth relationship between HYPREP and the people of Ogoni as a member of the Supreme Council. We are happy HYPREP considers Tai for the construction of the Specialist Hospital and everyone in Tai will key into the protection of the hospital.”

The Royal Father enjoined HYPREP to stick to its mandate as

recommended in the UNEP Report and deliver quality service to the people of Ogoni.

The town hall meeting which was well attended by community leaders addressed various critical areas of concern, including livelihood training starter packs, expanded water reticulation, completion of on-going water projects, community workers' welfare, communication gap between HYPREP and the community,

payment of compensation to landowners for the Ogoni Power Project, amongst others. The HYPREP delegation also paid a courtesy visit to the Palace of the King of Eleme HRM, Emere Philip Obele and that of the King of Baghan, HRM, King Dr. Suanu Baridam who doubles as the Spokeperson of the Central Representative Advisory Committee of HYPREP.

HYPREP OPENS BIDS FOR GOODS AND WORKS

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has organized a bid opening ceremony on invitation to tender for goods and works.

For CATEGORY A: the works are construction of 160M ASPHALT access road for the cottage hospital in Buan, Khana LGA. Provision and installation of 30KVA solar energy in K-Dere health center. Provision of document storage space (2 PORTACABINS).

In CATEGORY B: the goods are procurement and installation of

30KVA solar power system in additional health care centers in Ogoniland. Upgrade of the data management and repository system to accommodate environmental information management. Procurement of GIS tools for mapping exercise. Provision of educational support materials to selected pupils in Ogoniland.

Other bids opened are for the procurement and installation of medical equipment and furniture in Cottage Hospital Buan, Khana Local Government Area. Renovation of the

admin block of hostel block at K-Dere Health Center. Provision and installation of medical equipment at the K-Dere Health Center. Fencing of Ogoni Specialist Hospital. Provision and installation of additional laboratory/radiology equipment and supplies, laboratory infrastructure facilities in another 4 facilities in the 4 Local Government Areas in Ogoniland (Bodo General Hospital, Taabaa, Nonwa and Onne Primary Health Care Facilities in Ogoniland).

WE WILL WORK TO DELIVER Ogoni CLEAN-UP AS ENVISAGED BY UNEP – AGUIYI

The newly appointed Director, Technical Services of HYPREP, Damian-Paul Obioma Aguiyi (Ph.D), in this interview with the Editor, HYPREP Herald, Kpoobari Nafu; speaks on his experience in the field of environmental remediation, his venture into academics and how he intends to give direction to the technical units under his Directorate. Aguiyi assures stakeholders of the project, the Ogoni people especially of his determination to ensure that the UNEP report which HYPREP is set up to implement is followed to the letter and every contractor delivers to



Aguiyi

specification.

Please can you tell us a little about yourself?

I am Damian-Paul Obioma Aguiyi

(Ph.D.). I am at present, as you know, the Director Technical Services for HYPREP. I'm a fellow who has been

around the world as they say. First and foremost, I am an academic, and my basic training is in Geology specializing in Hydrogeology/Geophysics. I have worked in the academia and was a Senior Lecturer before I left to join the oil and gas industry. I joined the oil industry as a Senior Environmental Adviser with Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited (SPDC). I played a lot of roles in Shell. I left Shell in 2018 because I had met the requirement for early pension and so I retired from Shell as Head of Remediation, Shell Nigeria. I thereafter, went back to the thing that gives me joy the academia and not serving in one specific university. I became a visiting Professor in three universities. I also did some consulting at the side as an independent consultant.

I had run a company earlier in my life, but I do not see myself running a company now. In between my Masters (1994) and my Ph.D. (2001), I had a job that allowed me do stuff like that. I was working for Chevron in those days, and I could do fourteen days in, fourteen days out in the field at Escravos. It gave me time to do other things. I had too much time for myself. Initially I wasn't married but later I got married in that process and I ran a company, a small company "Damian and Associates". The major thing we did then was the entire NLNG right of way geophysical survey for the pipe laying process. So, I ran a company but at retirement and taking a small pension I felt I didn't need to keep running any business at all, and so I consulted for people as an individual, as Damian. I went to the University of Ibadan for my first degree, Masters and Ph.D. at various times. I had my first degree in 1988, my Masters in

1994 and my Ph.D. in 2001. I am a fellow who has never been unemployed in my life before.

I have been involved in HYPREP before coming to HYPREP. Somehow because I have done a couple of things for HYPREP. A friend of mine, after I retired from Shell won the phase 1 Remediation Project and he needed somebody he could trust to manage the Project for him, and I worked for him as a Technical Project Director. The specific project he had then was "Remediation of Hydrocarbon Impacted Site in Nkeleoken Alode Lot 006, Eleme in Ogoniland". The company is called Environmental Resources Managers Limited (ERML), but they don't do government jobs. I don't know who convinced them in the first place to bid and accept the HYPREP job. I am sure they thought it was a UNEP project. They did it but didn't participate in any further HYPREP jobs following their realization that it is actually a government agency. So, I ran the project for them and I think it was a master class project. Earlier on when HYPREP wanted to do community workers level remediation training, I was consulted to set up a team that was significantly an internal HYPREP team and that's how I happened to know almost everybody in HYPREP before coming to HYPREP. I was brought to chair the panel for the training to develop the training protocol and work with other professionals to develop the training manual because it was a requirement for HYPREP to deliver templates on Remediation for the people who were involved in the first phase of the remediation project. We went around the four Local Government Areas of Ogoniland training people on soil and groundwater remediation.

Outside that I teach Environmental Management, I also earlier worked for ERML as Deputy Managing Director (DMD) amongst other positions. I was lead consultant for geology and hydrogeology for the Niger Delta Environmental Survey (NDES), an ERML managed project that covered the entire Niger Delta and was funded by the oil industry and the Federal Ministry of Environment. That was from 1994 to 1996 we did that project. We (ERML) also worked for the old Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) to develop the protocols for Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) mapping for Nigeria. The above include some of the major things that I have done in the environmental space in Nigeria. When I joined Shell in 2002, we did a lot of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), Post Impact Assessments (PIAs), and thereafter I moved on to Oil Spill Response and Remediation (OSRR) and spent most of my time at Shell with the OSRR team. That's basically me.

We will come back to specific industry experience but tell us how you became the Director Technical Services of HYPREP?

There was a solicited advert as it were, and people were asked to apply and submit their CV's. I applied, I guess it was in April 2024 and for a while, things just went dead. There was really nobody in HYPREP to follow up with to find out what was happening or not happening. All I knew was that there was a vacancy. The then incumbent whose contract elapsed and it was not going to be renewed or whatever and so the position was vacant and needed to be filled. I applied, I didn't hear anything until a month ago (August 2024) or there about. I was actually out on vacation with my family and had

been out for a week, when I got a mail on the 9th. I'm not sure or maybe I'm mixing up dates in my head but that was last month, so I got a mail either on the 5th or the 9th for an interview that was fixed for the 17th or 19th. My vacation wasn't due to be over by then, but we had to adjust. I did the interview and I remember that there were six persons for the interview but only five were physically present and attended while the sixth person had a virtual interview. Unfortunately, I didn't have the privilege to know everybody that came for the interview, but I knew three or four that came for the interview. We were called in batch by batch, I got there a few minutes to 11am the advertised time. I was interviewed by a panel of seven physical persons, two or three support persons who were not technically participating in the interview were also present and it was recorded. There was a very distinguished lady who chaired the interview panel, the Project Coordinator was there, some other people I didn't know were on the panel too. I remember the distinguished lady, was the only one who introduced herself in full. I spent an hour, thirty minutes with them and then I left. That day was a Monday the 19th of August 2024. On the 22nd of August 2024, I got a call from Mr. Roland Ngorbor who is the Head of Admin., HYPREP to come and collect my letter of appointment, so, I went to HYPREP, signed and collected the letter. I was to resume the next day and also visit a government clinic to do a medical fitness test and get a medical certificate of fitness. I came back to give Roland the medical report. The Project Coordinator wasn't around the first two days I came, because he was in Abuja.

Congratulation sir on your appointment as the Director

Technical Services, HYPREP. You told us part of your experience earlier. Are there specific industry experience that you want to tell us that better prepare you for this job outside the ones you mentioned.

Okay, between 2008 and 2013, I was Head, Spill Response and Remediation at Shell West Operations at Warri. I oversaw all the issues relating to spill response and remediation. Shell deals on mainly crude so I oversaw the Spill Response and Remediation for roughly five-to-six-years, 2008 to 2013. That was my role, and I did lot of remediation then and I came back to do spill management without doing remediation for a while. At some point I was Head, Remediation in the entire Shell organization in Nigeria and I manned that beat for a year and half, so collectively for remediation proper I have had some twelve to thirteen years of big projects in remediation management. When I was Project Services Lead for spill response and remediation, I carried the budget for which Shell funded HYPREP. So, I was carrying a budget of one hundred and eighty million dollars every year for five consecutive years which was the seed money from Shell and its partners for Ogoniland remediation following the UNEP report. I was responsible for requesting and defending the project funding. The budget that I managed for spill response and remediation moved up from like twenty to thirty million dollars per year and we woke up one morning and it was two hundred and twelve to two hundred and twenty million dollars and there was just one big ticket that was shooting it up that way, which is the line item for seed money for Ogoni clean-up. So, I carried that budget for five years.

I'm basically a Geologist. I have

worked for the old Directorate for Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) in the 1980's. I worked for DFRRI in the Water and Sanitation Unit. I was Senior Geologist and Unit Ahead for water. I was involved in the drilling of boreholes and hand dug wells in Plateau State. I did some borehole-based projects. Some of them required reticulations and overhead tanks. I was also Project Manager for the old Aba Municipality borehole-based water scheme. It was funded by the World Bank. I have had experiences in remediation both in land, groundwater, swamp and shoreline. I have experience in Municipal and Rural Water Schemes. I have had experience in a lot of stakeholder engagement. In Shell I used to be secretary for People and Environment workshop where we were basically dealing with stakeholders, people and environmental issues. We managed that beat and I was secretary for four years. I was responsible for organizing it, taking the notes for the various units and publishing the reports in the Shell people and environment report. Part of my role in Shell at a time was Head, Environmental Reporting apart from being the Editor of the Peoples and Environment Report. The report was our showcase beat and some sometimes I had to go and defend those reports and engage people externally with the likes of the New York Times and Associated Press. I also played the role of Head of Reporting for over two years in Shell. That was different from being editor of the people and environment report. I have been involved with community development efforts, livelihood and rural management, rural people empowerment. I will say I have significant experience in the various components of the HYPREP technical

units under my Directorate.

HYPREP is building some legacy projects like the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, the Buan Cottage Hospital and the Power Project. You've got any near experience with such?

I'm a certified training director in spill response and contaminated site management. You know I'm an academic first and foremost. So, I am conversant with the kind of things that will happen at the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration. I am not bragging; I will be among top three to five persons in Nigeria when it comes to environmental remediation. On the Specialist Hospital, I have been involved with lot of rural health projects and I was a middle level manager at DFRRI even though the mandate of DFRRI is not exactly akin to the mandate of HYPREP. DFRRI had a scheme on health and disease protection, so all the primary health centres that were set up in the country during that era was done by the old DFRRI. Looking at the Specialist Hospital; from the family background, my dead mom, God bless her soul, was a Queen's nurse and retired as a Director of Nursing Services in my state, so I have been a hospital kind of person not as a patient but as a child who is familiar with hospital operations. The Ogoni Specialist Hospital will be a master piece project if HYPREP delivers on time and it will go a long way in changing the lives of our people in Ogoniland.

Your office is not new. It has been in existence before you came, so, tell us what are you going to do differently or better to delivering on your mandate?

I am personally committed to improving on what I met on ground. I'm still at the learning curve stage

even though a lot of people feel I probably have enough information on HYPREP but that was from an external perspective. What I am doing at the moment is to get a full grip of what happens internally here and how it impacts on the project overall. I cannot sit here now and tell you I will do this differently from that, because I haven't seen all of how things are done here. I have only met at the moment with my direct reports, the Heads of Unit under me. I am going to have a larger meeting with the entire personnel of the Directorate. In the learning curve, I will need a month or two to abreast myself fully and identify what changes need to be made. I will look at what works and will sustain the things that are working well and if things are not working well, I will need to find solutions to them. I believe that is my primary responsibility. I'm going to bring changes, but they will be positive changes. If something is going well, I will enhance it. If something is not going well, we will stop it and retune it to the right direction. That is the promise I can make at this moment. I will bring positive improvement all around, including things that you think are going well. They can always be better.

Do you have your forehead strong enough to confront any defaulting contractor?

I think the answer to that question is a straightforward, 'yes'. Like you already know, two things; I have got a name to protect, my own name and the name I inherited from my parents. I keep saying to anybody who cares to listen that it is almost impossible for anybody, be you contractor, be you consultant, be you whatever to be playing in this space, without our path having possibly crossed in the past. Even if you know me or you are my

friend and you are a contractor, when you come to do a job, you are going to do that job first and foremost and my friends who are contractors know that if you are given a job, it must be done. Nobody under my watch will do the wrong thing in the project execution process of this beat and get away with it, you know one thing? I can wake up one morning and walk away. I don't need this job desperately. The last time I checked, I am doing this job because I see an opportunity to help actualize the vision of those who drafted the project and issued the Ogoni environmental report. So, I don't need this job to be who I am, but I want to support this project, the Project Coordinator and every other person who is doing the right thing on this project.

The Ogoni people who are the immediate beneficiaries of the project will be so glad to hear from you. So, what will be your message to them?

My message to the Ogoni people is that for as much as it is within my power and control, we will deliver the project to their benefit the way UNEP envisaged it, the way drafters of the gazette envisaged it. I will do that and there will be no shortcut to it. We will give them the best-in-class restoration and facilities delivered to their advantage. We will also change the livelihood of the people. It is not going to be easy, but it is something I personally commit to, and some Ogoni people already know me in my working for Shell and a few who know me can vouch for me and in terms of competence that is not what I lack.

Thank you, sir, for your time and may God help you to deliver as you have promised.

Thank you!

PICTURES OF THE MONTH



Prof. Zabbey (m) with HYPREP Delegation to the Int'l Cleanup Conference in Australia



HRM King Dr. Philip Obele During the HYPREP Townhall Meeting with Stakeholders.



HRM King Samuel Nnee During the HYPREP Townhall Meeting with Stakeholders.



HRM King Dr. Suanu Baridam During the HYPREP Townhall Meeting with Stakeholders.



HRH Emere Emperor J.D. Nkpe Presenting Copies of HYPREP Herald to Head of Political, Aliyu Manda at the Nigeria High Commission, Nairobi, Kenya



L-R: Prof. Nbeta, Prof. Tanee, Prof. Etela, Prof. Ogugbu at the HYPREP Proposal Writing Workshop



Cross Section of Participants at HYPREP Mid-Year Retreat



Participants at HYPREP Mid-Year Retreat

OGONI CLEAN-UP ...HYPREP SPEARHEADING MANGROVE RESTORATION



POETRY CORNER

RIVER WITHOUT FISH

By: Kpoobari Nafo

The same river that once boasted of schools of fish
Each in their unique uniforms swam along the tide
And at every thrown line breasted the fisher's net
To the joy of the canoe whose bowel, fish is packed full.

The same river is now bereft of her fingerlings
In a pollution that silenced the scaly dwellers
And poisoned the saline environment
Making it a desolate coast.

The only inhabitants now are loitering crude
Filming the surface of the repugnant water
That runs like residents out of a ravaged town
Escaping to an equally conquered nearby town.

The last ebb had returned with good tidings
Of mixed multitude of home coming mullets and sardines
Long in exile waiting for Ogoni shoreline clean-up
And a before river without fish is populated again.

Photo:HYPREP



26th JULY 2024
 WORLD MANGROVE DAY 2024
 HONORABLE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT
 Halorabe Abhas Lawal (HAL)
 HYPREP
 SYMBOLIC MANGROVE PLANTING

THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE
 “Until you dig a hole, you plant a tree, you water it and make it survive, you haven't done a thing. You are just talking.”
 – Wangari Maathai

Photo:HYPREP

... for a cleaner and greener Ogoniland
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