



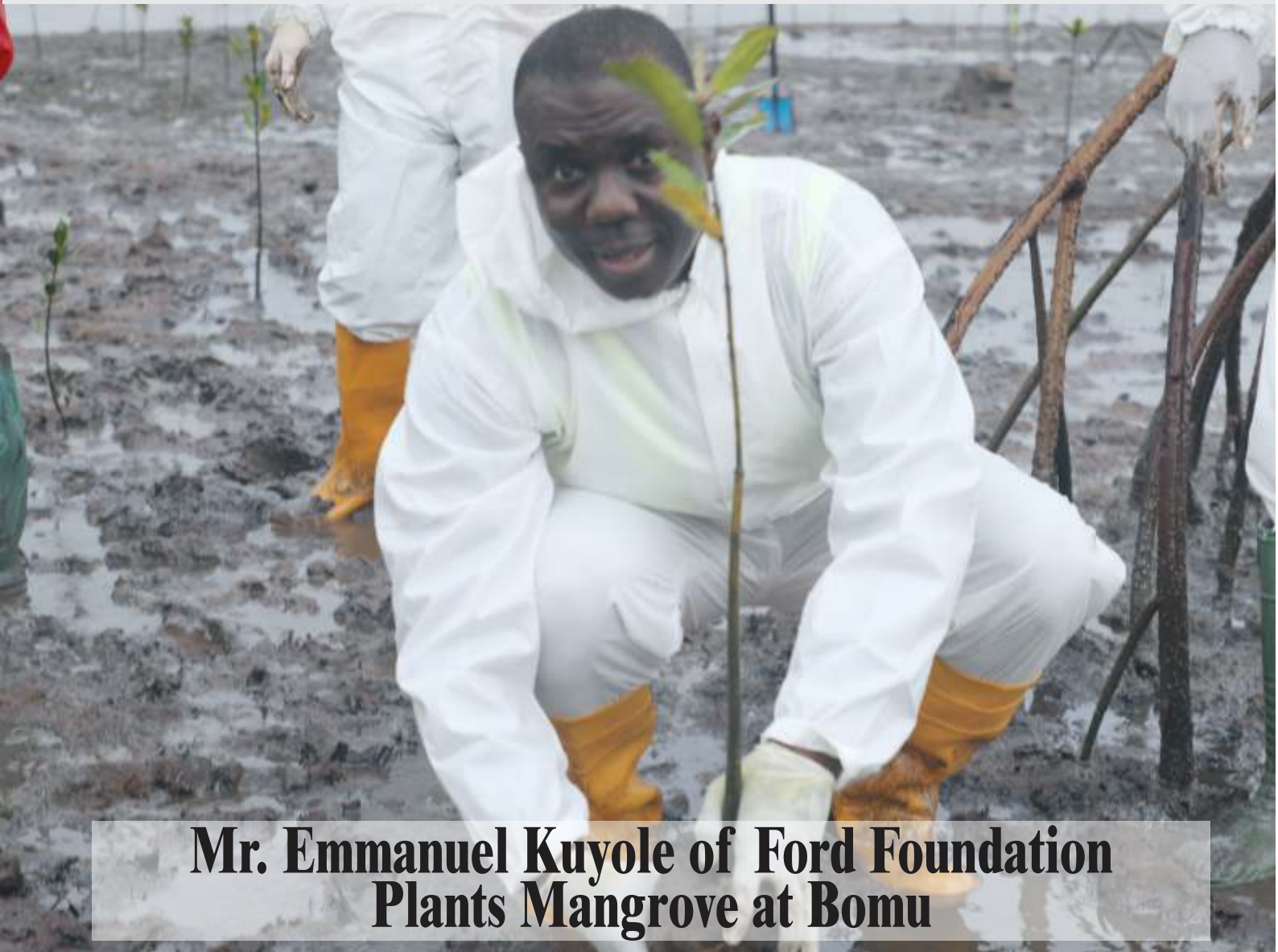
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT  
HYDROCARBON POLLUTION REMEDIATION PROJECT  
HYPREP...Remediating the Environment and Restoring Livelihoods

# HYPREP HERALD

NOVEMBER 2024 VOL.1 No.32

## FORD FOUNDATION IMPRESSED WITH OGONI CLEAN-UP

*-Pledges Support for HYPREP Mangrove Restoration Project*



**Mr. Emmanuel Kuyole of Ford Foundation  
Plants Mangrove at Bomu**

ARTISANAL REFINING DROPS IN OGONI  
FOLLOWING HYPREP LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMME

UNIPOINT RECOGNIZES HYPREP'S CONTRIBUTION  
TO PEACEBUILDING IN OGONI

NUPRC/HYPREP PARTNER FOR  
SUSTAINABLE CLEAN-UP

HYPREP  
HERALD  
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# THE PC'S DESK



**PROF. NENIBARINI ZABBEY**  
**PROJECT COORDINATOR**  
**(HYPREP)**

Last month, we unveiled what we want to achieve in 2025 for the thematic areas of soil and groundwater remediation, shoreline clean-up, and mangrove/biodiversity restoration and what we are doing in this last quarter of 2024 to actualize the 2025 roadmap. We also promised to inform stakeholders of our plans for other thematic areas. Thus, this edition of the HYPREP Herald outlines the goals of creating alternative livelihoods for Ogoni youths and women, as well as the Ogoni Power Project. The power project is a strategic initiative that will underpin the sustainable socio-economic development of Ogoniland. We have completed the survey of the powerline right-of-way, tower spotting, and the ancillary geotechnical surveys.

We have paid compensation for crops and assets along the right-of-way in the Khana local government area (LGA) and are about to compensate the asset owners along the right-of-way in Gokana LGA. After that, we shall proceed to Tai and Eleme. Most of the power construction equipment will be imported. The items are manufactured based on specific project designs. On the other hand, a letter of credit (LC) is required to guarantee payment to the manufacturers. We have established the LC, and manufacturing of various offshore items for the Ogoni Power

Project has started in India, Egypt, China, and Turkey. The first Factory Acceptance Test (FAT) of the equipment in India is scheduled for the second week of this month (November 2024). At the same time, the construction of civil works at the two substations in Wiyakara and Bodo has commenced and should be completed before the end of the first quarter of next year. To recover the lost time due to establishing the LC, we will begin studying the distribution network in the first quarter of 2025 to enable quick power distribution and operationalization as soon as the construction of the transmission lines is completed.

The completion and commissioning of the power project will set the foundation for an all-time economic boom in Ogoniland, catalyzing the ease of doing business in the area. It will become the lifeline for the survival and sustenance of the small and medium-scale enterprises that our livelihood training programmes create in Ogoniland. This is because adequate power supply is a critical factor for the success of most businesses.

Recall that in March 2024, we conducted Ogoni Power Technical Training for about 200 Ogoni artisans, which focused on basic electricity transmission, distribution, and maintenance. This means that Ogoni youths and women will be integral to every aspect of the construction and operationalization of the Ogoni Power Project. We shall upskill those we have trained and train more youths as we move along. Thus, the Power Project will create a quantum of direct and indirect jobs and support small and medium-scale businesses to thrive while improving the living conditions of the Ogoni people. In particular, it will reinforce the emplaced solar system and contribute to the sustainability of the HYPREP potable water schemes in Ogoniland. It will energize health facilities in the region.

The distribution of starter packs to the 5000 youths and women we trained in 21 skill areas will be completed in the last quarter of 2024. We will continue our drive to support their progress by linking them to industries where their skills are needed. We will track and report on how they are doing and report the impact of our livelihood training interventions to stakeholders. We shall commence the socio-economic study of Ogoniland in January 2025, which shall develop the roadmap for a post-cleanup Ogoniland. We have started the selection process for the 300 postgraduate scholarships for Ogoni youths. In designing the cleanup and livelihood restoration projects, HYPREP is committed to planning with the communities as directed by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Mallam Mene Balarabe Abbas Lawal. We are consulting the Ogoni Postgraduate Association and directly with the potential beneficiaries to frame the scholarship selection process.

Similarly, we will commence selecting trainees for sundry demand-driven skill acquisition training this quarter. The skill areas include geographic information systems (GIS) and remote sensing, full-stack, mud logging, cybersecurity, and rope access. As we roll out these interventions, we will continue mainstreaming gender and social inclusion, ensuring that underserved populations (e.g., women and people living with disabilities) are adequately involved.

As we approach the end of 2024, we continue to appeal to Ogoni youths and other project stakeholders to give us the necessary support to deliver on the project's mandate. As managers of the Ogoni clean-up project, we assure all stakeholders of diligent and inclusive implementation of HYPREP's environmental remediation and livelihood restoration mandate.

# In this Issue

In the last couple of months, it has been one commendation after the other for the Management of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) on the pace and progress of work on the on-going Ogoni clean-up project. The latest is coming from Ford Foundation whose officials were on a working visit to the Project Coordination Office. The visitors who came in company of some Non-Government Organizations were also taken on a tour of HYPREP project sites across Ogoniland. The report of the visit to remediation sites, Bomu mangrove restoration project and the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration is our lead story for this edition.

As the year comes to an end, the Project organised a management retreat for heads of unit and team leads to equip them in the strategic areas of leadership and management to properly position them to deliver on current projects and those earmarked for commencement in 2025. The retreat was facilitated by the Director of the Port Harcourt School of Management and Economics and former Vice Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Prof. Don Baridam. The retreat proved to its bidding of training the management staff to carry out their functions in the way and manner that is expected of sponsors and stakeholders.

The 3rd quarterly project meeting of regulators and other stakeholders held, and it was noteworthy that the livelihood training programmes of HYPREP have catalysed a decline in the illegal activity of artisanal refining and oil bunkering that are responsible for environmental pollution. The good

news emanating from that is that since illegal oil bunkering and artisanal refining are major factors of repollution of remediated sites, the threat has now been largely mitigated through the engagement of ex-artisanal refiners in alternative sources of livelihoods.

With a marked difference between the Ogoni before HYPREP and the Ogoni now where the works of the project are impacting the Ogoni people positively thereby engendering peace and security in the communities, more organisations and institutions are appreciating HYPREP for creating the needed environment for development to take place. One of such appreciation is the one coming from the authorities of the University of Port Harcourt who recently conferred on the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey a fellow of the Centre of Peace and Security Studies, University of Port Harcourt in recognition of his apt and timely resolution of conflicts in the communities. The honour was conferred on him by the Vice Chancellor of the university, Prof. Owunari Georgewill.

The Regional Coordinator of the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), Dr. Musa Zagi was among high profile visitors to the Project Coordination Office. He had come to explore areas of strategic alliance and collaboration with the project for optimum delivery of the Ogoni clean-up project. The Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory

Commission is a key government institution responsible for the regulation of the oil and gas industry in Nigeria.

The Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey was at the National Headquarters of the National Parks Service in Abuja to seek a partnership with the service for the protection of sacred forests in Ogoniland. The aim is to conserve wildlife that will repopulate the damaged forests that HYPREP is restoring. The mission of the HYPREP Project Coordinator was well received by the Conservator General of the Service, Ibrahim Musa Goni.

In keeping with its scheduled briefing of stakeholders on the progress of work, the leadership of the project had a quarterly meeting with Ogoni youths where it announced several programmes it is embarking on for their good including the planned postgraduate scholarship for Ogoni youths in Nigerian universities. The event which was well attended by Ogoni youths was also used to enlighten them on proper conduct and the need for patience for them to get maximum benefits from the project.

We also have in this edition the report on a waste to wealth workshop that HYPREP participated as well as two featured writings galvanizing support for the HYPREP project. Our poem corner is maintained for your reading pleasure. We look forward to your feedback on how to better serve you. Happy new month!

## Editorial Crew

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



## Project News

# FORD FOUNDATION IMPRESSED WITH Ogoni CLEAN-UP *-Pledges Support for HYPREP Mangrove Restoration Project*

After touring some remediation sites in Eleme Local Government area, the mangrove restoration project at Bomu in Gokana Local Government Area and the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration at Wiiyaakara in Khana Local Government Area, the Programme Officer for Natural Resources and Climate Change, Ford Foundation, in Charge of West Africa, Mr. Emmanuel Kuyole has affirmed that the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is making significant effort in the clean-up of Ogoniland and restoration of alternative livelihood for local communities as well as building legacy projects that will develop human capital and improve the living condition of the people of Ogoniland and beyond.

Mr. Kuyole made this position known at the Centre of Excellence in Wiiyaakara at the end of his working visit to HYPREP Project Coordination Office in Port Harcourt and its project sites in Ogoniland.

He commended the Management of HYPREP on work done so far in the implementation of recommendations contained in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report on Ogoniland.

The Ford Foundation official underscored the importance of remediation work in regions affected by oil exploration and production, stating that though environmental remediation is a difficult and expensive task, it is essential to restoring the health of the Niger Delta, and emphasized the need for



**Mr. Emmanuel Kuyole Plants Mangrove at Bomu While Staff of HYPREP and Ford Foundation Watch on**

collaboration between civil societies, government, and local communities. “We’re looking at how to support communities and people whose lives and livelihoods have been impacted by oil, gas, and mining extraction and how we can work with partners to make our contributions to address some of the challenges. Visiting HYPREP was an opportunity to see how the project is trying to address this.

The mangrove restoration project was also something that we took particular interest in because the Niger Delta as we know it, of course, most people know the Niger Delta because of the oil and gas extraction but the Niger Delta is not just about oil; it is Africa’s largest wetland, with immense ecological value.”

He disclosed that the Ford Foundation will support projects that are geared towards the remediation and restoration of the environment to keep it producing its goods and services to

man.

“If cleaned up, it could make a significant contribution to Nigeria’s and West Africa’s climate goals. Mangrove restoration plays a key role in this by acting as a natural carbon sink. We are committed to supporting initiatives that address the deep inequalities resulting from oil and gas extraction.”

In a significant move to remediate oil-contaminated areas in Ogoniland, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, HYPREP has in recent time established links with local and international organizations to seek support for the Ogoni clean-up project following the expansion of the scope of the project to cater for other areas of needs not captured in the UNEP Report and the solicited partnership with the Ford Foundation to restore mangroves in the area is one of such efforts.

HYPREP Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey briefed his guests



**Officials of Ford Foundation & Some NGO's Pose with Director, Technical Services, HYPREP, Prof. Damian Aguiyi during a Field Visit to HYPREP Sites**

on various projects HYPREP was undertaking to address the environmental challenges in Ogoniland and restore the livelihoods of the people.

Prof. Zabbey emphasized that the HYPREP mangrove restoration project was crucial for achieving environmental sustainability in Ogoni and disclosed that HYPREP was currently restoring mangroves on five hundred and sixty (560) hectares of naturally attenuated mangrove areas being one of the largest mangrove restoration efforts in the world impacted by hydrocarbons.

“We are undertaking the world's largest mangrove restoration project in hydrocarbon-impacted areas, where natural attenuation processes have sufficiently reduced oil contamination to levels that can support new growth. Mangrove restoration is vital, not only for the environment but also for the livelihoods of the local communities.”

Apart from mangrove restoration, Prof. Zabbey listed shoreline cleanup, land remediation, and construction of

water schemes to supply potable water to over sixty-eight (68) Ogoni communities, noting that HYPREP had also trained two thousand five hundred (2,500) Ogoni women and youths in International Maritime Organization (IMO) levels 1 and 2 to work on the shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration project.

“HYPREP has also empowered over two thousand five hundred (2,500) women and youths by training them in various environmental remediation techniques, including mangrove nursery establishment, through a partnership with the International Maritime Organization.”

The HYPREP Project Coordinator emphasized that ensuring community involvement is essential to the long-term success of the project, which aims to foster inclusivity and prevent distractions that could derail progress.

“Communities are being directly involved in supplying mangrove seedlings, which will be planted by contractors, while locals are engaged in the clean-up operations. This

ensures that the project is not only sustainable but also owned by the people.”

Prof. Zabbey told his visitors that the regulatory agency of the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) has closed out the simple sites that HYPREP had cleaned up during the first phase of remediation which involved only soil contamination.

He further stated that HYPREP is in the process of remediating the medium risk complex sites, which consist of contaminated soil and water that are located away from residential areas and will thereafter move on to the high risk complex sites, which are sites having soil and ground water contamination within residential areas and that these sites require caution because HYPREP does not want to tamper with people's facilities.

The Executive Director of the Kebetkache Women Development and Resource Centre, Dr. Emem Okon who was on the entourage of the Ford Foundation pledged civil societies’



continued support in sensitizing local communities and managing expectations of the Ogoni people for HYPREP to succeed.

Other Civil Society Organizations on the Ford Foundation entourage to HYPREP are the Stakeholder Democracy Network, We the People,

Partnership Initiative for the Niger Delta, Health of Mother Earth Foundation, among others.

## OGONI CLEAN-UP:

### PROF. ZABBEY SEEKS MGT. COOPERATION TO ACHIEVE MANDATE

The 2024 Annual Management Retreat of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPPREP) presented a crucial opportunity for Unit Heads and Team Leads to engage in meaningful dialogue, reflect on strategic objectives, and collaboratively explore innovative solutions to challenges of the project.

At the retreat held in Port Harcourt with the theme “Leadership and Management Skills for Senior Executives,” the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey called on members of management to deploy their intellectual resources for the smooth running of the project and attainment of corporate goals.

“Your expertise and insights are invaluable as we strengthen our organizational framework and enhance our impact. Throughout this retreat, we encourage you to engage actively in discussions, share improved practices, and cultivate synergies to propel HYPREP toward achieving its mission. Together, let us foster an environment of excellence and leadership that inspires our teams and drives sustainable progress.

We have a joint mandate to restore the hydrocarbon-impacted Ogoni environment, restore the people's livelihoods, improve the quality of life, and build sustainable structures for peace and stability in the region. With unity and a common focus, we can maintain project timelines and the



**Retreat Facilitator, Prof. Don Baridam Interacting with Participants**

impact we seek and are mandated to achieve. Let this retreat remind us that our strength lies in solidarity and togetherness.”

Prof. Zabbey urged participants at the retreat not to see it as an opportunity to step away from the daily pressures of work schedule but as an essential occasion to reflect on strategies, share experiences, connect, and equip themselves with the knowledge necessary for driving the project forward.

He emphasized the importance of clear vision and strategic thinking as foundational skills for effective leadership and asked members of management to make it a point of duty to espouse the vision of the project to team members to facilitate collective participation in the delivery of the mandate of the project.

“A clear and compelling vision provides direction for the organization and inspires team members to align their efforts with broader goals. During our 2024 Mid-Year Financial System and Budget Performance Review held 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> September, we rolled out the project's goals and objectives for 2025. We urged team leaders to cascade the formulated vision and strategies to the team members. We are mindful that a project vision statement that resonates with staff and stakeholders is crucial to our success. A well-communicated vision helps ensure everyone understands the present, mid-, and long-term goals.”

Prof. Zabbey encouraged management to be exemplary in their conduct by showing devotion to work and warned against behaviours that

can sabotage the operations of the project.

“In every organization, some work with discipline and devotion. Some prefer to be idle, uncommitted to contributing to attaining the set goals. Some complacent individuals sometimes strive to take unearned credit for the successes recorded. The worst category includes those who work at cross purposes and sabotage the organization's efforts and goals. This is an opportunity for personal reflection, rethinking, and rededication to the HYPREP mandate. Management will continue to provide a conducive work environment and empower staff members to contribute optimally to achieving our mandate. I want to seize this opportunity to direct the Admin Unit to propose a framework for rewarding the outstanding staff on the project. We shall jointly review the proposal in this

year's last management meeting and start implementing the reward system in January 2025.

Similarly, inappropriate or unethical behavior, such as insubordination, lateness, truancy, lousiness, and inappropriate relationships with project contractors, will not be tolerated.

This list is inexhaustive. Therefore, unit heads should extensively instruct team members on the need to shun acts that could bring the project into disrepute. Management will not hesitate to penalize erring staff.”

The HYPREP Project Coordinator particularly emphasized the need for quality assurance and control as an area the project will continually strive to improve since the credibility of work depends on set standards, adding that as senior executives they are responsible for ensuring that all processes, procedures, checks, and

supervision, from the field to the office, reflect the highest quality.

He disclosed that he has asked the Director of Technical Services to prioritize assessing the remaining undocumented oil-polluted sites in Ogoniland to aid in the development of the project's multi-year strategic plan for completing the Ogoni clean-up project.

Facilitator of the retreat and Director, Port Harcourt School of Management and Economics, Professor Don Baridam shed light on the importance of routine training of leaders for the proper functioning of any organization.

“The purpose of any training programme is to develop new talents and to upgrade old ones. A training like this, I believe that has been able to develop some new talents and upgrade old ones and with the performance of the students who took part in this



**HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey, Unit Heads, Team Leads & Facilitators in a Group Photograph at the Retreat**



training I think certainly there will be an improvement in their performance. We talk about challenges, any organization that is operating in an environment that is unstable certainly will have challenges and the challenges as we all know are challenges in the areas of resources, security, behaviour of the individuals within the organization.”

Prof. Baridam stated that one of the causes of conflict in an organization is the inability of leaders to properly analyze an idea before introducing change within the system and advised

that managers of institutions to always do an in-depth cost/benefit analysis.

“They should do a cost/benefit analysis to see whether there is any need for the changes. If the cost outweighs the benefits, I don't think there is any need for the change in that area. So, any change that must be introduced they must weigh the cost and the benefits before they introduce it.”

The two-day retreat featured lectures on modules like transformational leadership, visionary leadership, introduction to team dynamics,

conflict resolution techniques, time and energy management, the power of positive thinking, administrative procedures (minutes, and memo writing/filing procedures), critical success factors for managing change, etc., and they were anchored by seasoned academics and administrators.

Special highlights of the retreat were presentation of certificates to participants, aerobic exercises to keep fit and a gala night.

## ARTISANAL REFINING DROPS IN OGONI FOLLOWING HYPREP LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMME

The Management of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has said it would continue to implement with dedication and a sense of responsibility its strategic plan to combat pollution which includes specialized training for ex-artisanal refiners and the livelihood programme for five thousand (5,000) Ogoni women and youths which has accounted for a drop in illegal oil bunkering and artisanal refining in Ogoniland.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey stated this commitment at the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly key stakeholders and regulators meeting held in Port Harcourt to discuss the progress and future of the Ogoni clean-up project.

Prof. Zabbey who was represented at the event by the Director, Technical Services, HYPREP, Professor Damian-Paul Aguiyi restated the Project's commitment to a thorough clean-up of Ogoniland and restoration of livelihoods of communities whose sources of income have been affected by oil pollution.

“HYPREP remains committed to

environmental remediation and community development. These livelihood initiatives demonstrate our dedication to creating lasting positive impacts in Ogoniland.”

He further stated that HYPREP would carry out the clean-up in a transparent and accountable way and in partnership with stakeholders of the project.

“HYPREP remains committed to openness, inviting stakeholders and regulators to review and contribute to the project's success. This platform provides a unique opportunity for participatory review, ensuring effective project delivery through interventions and submissions from participants.”

The HYPREP boss said the stakeholder engagement forum demonstrates HYPREP's willingness to engage with key stakeholders and regulators, fostering a spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding, noting that by encouraging feedback and inputs, HYPREP ensures that the project's implementation aligns with the needs and expectations of the affected



**Prof. Aguiyi**

communities.

Professor Zabbey expressed gratitude to stakeholders and regulators for their continuous support, acknowledging the critical role they play in the project's success. “We value your contributions, criticisms, comments and observations. We are open to learn and take advice and look forward to continued collaboration,” he said.

In their goodwill messages, stakeholders and regulators uniformly emphasized the need for HYPREP to prioritize strategic measures aimed at preventing the re-pollution of already



remediated sites.

In a show of appreciation and encouragement, Engr. Akpama Aliekomie of the Federal Ministry of Environment acknowledged the significant strides made by HYPREP in restoring the environment of Ogoniland, while commending the project's accomplishments on site, he emphasized the need for HYPREP to intensify its efforts to accomplish more.

“The ministry recognizes HYPREP's dedication to environmental remediation and applauds the progress made thus far, however, we urge the project to continue striving for excellence, addressing the complex challenges inherent in this critical endeavour.”

Engr. Akpama reaffirmed the Ministry's unwavering commitment to supporting HYPREP's initiatives, emphasizing that the Ministry would maintain an active role in facilitating the project's success.

“The ministry remains steadfast in its support for HYPREP, providing necessary resources and expertise to ensure the project's objectives are met,” he assured.

He said to bolster HYPREP's progress, the Ministry is proactively addressing petitions and resolving potential bottlenecks. According to him, this proactive approach aims to eliminate hindrances and create an enabling environment for the attainment of HYPREP's mandate.

A Director at the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) Dr. Kenneth Aroh assured of the agency's commitment to supporting the Project Coordination Office of HYPREP through rigorous monitoring and oversight.

He said the collaboration will ensure that HYPREP's activities align with



**L-R: Engr. Ekiyokeneghare Clark, Prof. Iyenemi Kakulu, Prof. Damian Aguiyi, Mr. Akeem Yinka, Prof. Franklin Tanee During the HYPREP 3rd Quarterly Meeting with Stakeholders**

regulatory standards, and NOSDRA will continue to provide guidance for the successful implementation of the Ogoni clean-up project.

In the same vein, Mrs. Wilcox Doris of the Rivers State Ministry of Water Resources and Rural Development applauded HYPREP's efforts in providing water projects and promised that her Ministry will utilize its community-driven approach to ensure the project's continued success.

Key recommendations made by stakeholders at the meeting include implementation of robust measures to prevent re-pollution, putting in place effective mechanisms to safeguard already cleaned-up areas, ensuring long-term sustainability of the remediation efforts, provision of sustainable alternative livelihoods, offering viable economic alternatives to artisanal refining to discourage harmful practices and promote sustainable income streams for local communities.

Participants stressed the need for equitable access to essential social

infrastructure, including healthcare facilities, clean water, and electricity, to enhance the overall quality of life for the Ogoni people. They noted that by prioritizing these critical areas, HYPREP can consolidate on the gains made thus far, ensuring the durability of the facilities provided by the project, and fostering a thriving, sustainable environment in Ogoniland.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Unit of HYPREP presented a status report detailing remarkable progress made in different thematic areas of the project. The report highlighted a 68% in the completion for the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, a 72% completion for the Buan Cottage Hospital, amongst others.

The meeting drew a diverse range of participants, including representatives from: Federal and State Ministries of Environment, National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission



**Participants at the HYPREP 3rd Quarterly Meeting with Stakeholders**

### SHORELINE CLEAN-UP OVERALL PERFORMANCE

S/N	DISCRIPTION OF WORK DONE	QUANTY OF WORK DONE	% OF WORK DONE	Remarks
1	Total Area for flushing , Agitation and Nipa removal	1,747.6 Ha	-	
2	Area of grids completed	109.46 Ha	6.3	Work in Progress
3	Total of Grids	486	-	Work in Progress
4	Grids completed (Confirmed).	45	9.26	Work in Progress
5	Grids SCAT ready for verification	17	3.85	Work in Progress
6	Solid waste generated	454,000 kg	454 tonne	Work in Progress
7	Liquid waste of oily sludge recovered	127,000 kg	127 tonne	Work in Progress

### COMMUNITY COVERAGE FOR WATER PROJECT

LGA	COMMUNITIES COVERED	COMMUNITIES NOT COVERED	TOTAL NO OF COMMUNITIES COVERED	TOTAL NO OF COMMUNITIES NOT COVERED	TOTAL NO OF COMMUNITIES	PERCENTAGE COVERED PER LGA	PERCENTAGE NOT COVERED
Khana	Uegwere, Kono Boue, Gbam Boue, Nyorkwiri Boue, Kono Boue, Kereken Boue, Kaa, Taabaa, Nyorkuru, Luusue Sogho, Zor Sogho, Akporo, Barakaani, Teka, Kaani, Okwale, Baa, Lueku, Buan, Kono, Kwawa, Ewee, Bane, gwara, Eken,	Bagha, Ko, Luawii, Sii, Wiyakara, Baen, Luubara, Pue, Kaazu, Betam, Kaani babbe, Zaakpon, Duburo	30	13	43	69.77	30.23
Gokana	Bera, Biara, Barako, Nweol, Lewe, Gbe, Mogho, Kpor, Glokoo, B-Dere, K-Dere, Bodo, Bomu, Deeyor, Deken, Nwebiara	Yeghe	16	1	17	94.12	5.88
Tai	Kpife, Horo, Ueken, Korokoro, Bunu, Nonwa, Barayira, Seme, Nonkpo, Botem, Gbeneue, Borobara, Kira, Gio, Kporgor, Bara-lue, Barayira, Sime, Bara-ale, Norkpo, Koroma.	Ban-ogoi, Gbam	21	2	23	91.30	8.70
Eleme	Alesa, Ogale, Aleto, Ejamah, Agbeta, Agbalor, Onne, Eteo, Agbonchlia	Akpajo	9	1	10	90.00	10.00



*cont'd from page 8*

(NUPRC), Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) Joint Venture, Rivers State University (RSU), Rivers State Ministry of Water

Resources and Rural Development, Rivers State Ministry of Health, Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD),

Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN) and Society for Women and Youth Affairs (SWAYA).

## UNIORT RECOGNIZES HYPREP'S CONTRIBUTION TO PEACEBUILDING IN OGONI

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has asserted that the ongoing clean-up project in Ogoni is contributing significantly to peace and security in the region.

This is as the Project is embarking on over one hundred (100) projects - remediation (soil, groundwater, shoreline, mangrove restoration,) the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER), Ogoni Specialist Hospital, potable water, Ogoni Power Project and livelihood programmes that are creating jobs for the teeming Ogoni youths and women, thus contributing to peace and security of the area.

Professor Zabbey gave this position at the University of Port Harcourt during his investiture as a fellow of the Centre for Peace and Security Studies, University of Port Harcourt by the Vice Chancellor of the university, Professor Owunari Georgewill.

Receiving the award, the Project Coordinator stated that in handling community issues, HYPREP has been tactful and resilient in managing various stakeholders' interest, considering the human dynamics involved in implementing a project of this magnitude, an approach he noted has been effective in peacebuilding in the region.

He added that the Project has taken further steps to engender peace and security in Ogoni with the introduction of the Guidelines and



**Uniort VC, Prof. Owunari Georgewill Presents an Award to HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey**

Rules for Contract Administration, Community Engagement and Conflict Resolution on Project sites, explaining that the document seeks to harmonize the operations of HYPREP across communities so as to maintain a peaceful and coordinated project implementation.

Prof. Zabbey revealed the Project is stepping up its non-kinetic approach by increasing community participation in providing security around its project sites, while also encouraging increased participation of women and underserved groups in project activities. "The Project has increased female participation in its projects from an initial 5% to 40% and through a needs assessment providing opportunity for People Living with Disabilities to acquire skills," he said.

While commending the Vice Chancellor and the Centre on the award, Professor Zabbey mentioned that HYPREP is open for partnership

and collaboration with the University of Port Harcourt in areas of research development in its projects like the mangrove restoration and livelihood programmes among others.

The award is in recognition of Prof. Zabbey's immense contribution to his profession and peace building in the society.



**Prof. Zabbey**

# NUPRC/HYPREP PARTNER FOR SUSTAINABLE CLEAN-UP

In a significant move that promises to accelerate the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report on Ogoniland being carried out by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) is strengthening strategic alliance with HYPREP to drive a sustainable clean-up of Ogoniland and address emerging associated challenges.

Regional Coordinator of NUPRC Dr. Musa Zagi who made this known in Port Harcourt during a familiarization visit to HYPREP's Project Coordination Office, noted that the collaboration aims to curb any bottleneck to the actualization of the clean-up project.

“We want to partner and collaborate with HYPREP to clean-up and restore the environment that has been contaminated by hydrocarbon. We identify HYPREP as one of our key stakeholders, so we want to share your experiences, see that we achieve our common objective of remediating and restoring the environment and fostering a good working relationship with the operators and the communities.”

While stressing the importance of community ownership of the project, Dr. Zagi urged HYPREP to adopt an eco-friendly approach to remediation, emphasizing the importance of using environmentally sustainable methods to clean up contaminated sites in Ogoni. He warned that traditional remediation methods can sometimes create further environmental problems, such as generating



## Visit of NUPRC Regional Coordinator, Dr. Musa Zagi to HYPREP Project Coordination Office

hazardous wastes or disrupting ecosystems and suggested that adopting an eco-friendly approach, HYPREP can ensure that its remediation efforts not only restore the environment but also promote long-term sustainability and protect public health.

“We want to urge you to adopt environment friendly approaches to remediating the environment so that we do not create further environmental problems. We need to collaborate on this and any other area necessary that will require our support. We are not here to regulate, we are here to partner and collaborate with you so that at the end of the day, we will succeed.”

The Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey who was represented by the Director, Technical Services, Prof. Damian Aguiyi showed enthusiasm about the collaboration with NUPRC, stating that it marked a significant milestone in the clean-up project, stating that the partnership signals a new level of

acceleration of efforts to restore the environment.

According to him, by pooling resources, expertise, and knowledge together, HYPREP and NUPRC can expedite the clean-up process, tackle challenges more efficiently, and achieve greater progress. “This collaborative approach is a testament to the commitment of both organizations to prioritize environmental remediation and ensure a sustainable future for the Ogoni community,” he said.

He further stated that HYPREP's commitment to a sustainable environment is also evident in its various projects and initiatives, such as the provision of potable water, the Ogoni Power Project, shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration, the construction of the Ogoni Specialist Hospital and the Buan Cottage Hospital, the construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration and the provision of alternative livelihood for the people of Ogoni, especially ex-





**Visit of NUPRC Regional Coordinator, Dr. Musa Zagi to HYPREP Project Coordination Office**

artisanal refiners.

Prof. Aguiyi added that HYPREP has shifted its approach from simply telling people about its activities and accomplishments to actively showing them the impact and value of its work. “We have moved away from telling

people what we do, to showing them what we do. This means we are now focusing on tangible demonstrations, visual storytelling, and real-life examples that illustrate the positive changes we are making.” The visit by the Management of the

Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission is among recent high-profile visits by organizations and partners to seek better ways of delivering on the Ogoni clean-up project.

## **PROF. ZABBEY IN TALKS WITH NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE FOR OGOINI FORESTS CONSERVATION**

Restoration and conservation of forest resources are key components of the mandate of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) and to achieve that the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey has held a strategic meeting with the Conservator General of the National Parks Service, Ibrahim Musa Goni. The meeting which was held at the Conservator General's office in Abuja was convened to explore a partnership and collaboration focusing on safeguarding wildlife and sacred

forests in Ogoniland. A key component of the collaboration is to train forest rangers across Ogoniland's four Local Government Areas to preserve Ogoni's valuable forest resources. The initiative stems from the need to repopulate remediated areas with wildlife from conserved and protected forests to ensure the restoration of ecological balance. The HYPREP Project Coordinator noted that "conserving traditionally protected forests and maintaining

ecological connectivity corridors will aid biodiversity recovery of remediated and restored areas in Ogoniland." The Conservator General, National Parks Service, Ibrahim Musa Goni was pleased with the visit of the HYPREP Project Coordinator and his proposal for the protection of forests in Ogoni and indicated his commitment to providing the necessary technical support for HYPREP.

# HYPREP ANNOUNCES POST GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PLAN FOR OGONI STUDENTS

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has announced plans by the project to award post-graduate scholarship to some Ogoni students studying in Nigerian universities.

Professor Zabbey made the plan known in Port Harcourt at the quarterly interactive session with Ogoni Youths.

He stated that the gesture is aimed at empowering Ogoni youths to 'pursue advanced education in fields that will benefit the Ogoni community and nation at large,' explaining that the scholarship initiative is designed to create a cadre of skilled professionals in line with HYPREP's efforts to develop alternative sources of livelihood for youths.

“Additionally, we are pleased to announce that as part of HYPREP's expanded livelihood programme, we are rolling out a new initiative to provide local postgraduate scholarship support to Ogoni students starting in October 2024. This is a significant development, and our objective is to empower Ogoni youths to pursue advanced education in fields that will benefit the Ogoni community and the nation at large. We believe that education is critical to long-term development, and this scholarship initiative is designed to create a cadre of skilled professionals in line with HYPREP's effort to develop alternative sources of livelihood for youths who will lead Ogoniland into a green and prosperous future.”

Zabbey added that HYPREP through its livelihood programmes has provided support to small and medium-scale businesses, youth



**Prof. Zabbey Addressing Participants at the Quarterly Meeting with Ogoni Youths**

training, capacity building, and other empowerment initiatives to build the people's capacity especially the Ogoni youths, to move up the income ladder. According to him, the project has also developed special programmes for people living with disabilities, to equip them with the information, skills, education, and resources needed to live more meaningfully and therefore solicited the cooperation of the youths towards achieving the mandate of HYPREP.

“As we look to the future, remember that you must ensure the success of the Ogoni cleanup. Therefore, I want to reassure you that HYPREP remains fully committed to ensuring that Ogoni youth are integrated into the empowerment opportunities in the project and that projects are completed within timelines. We also acknowledge a few challenges, such as access and land boundary issues, but we are confident we will achieve all our objectives with your support, cooperation, and patience. Remember,

it is your duty as Ogoni youths to contribute accordingly.”

The Project Coordinator further disclosed that HYPREP has continued to build capacity of youths through trainings and workshops including the Procurement and Business Strategy Workshop it organized earlier this year to better position them for the opportunities on the project.

“The scale of the HYPREP Project is vast, and we must all exercise strategic patience as these opportunities are rolled out over time. Rest assured, as our work progresses, more opportunities will become available for you. Please be encouraged if you are not selected immediately on any HYPREP site. We are working to ensure that every willing and capable Ogoni youth, female or male, will eventually have the chance to contribute through fieldwork and other ways toward the success of HYPREP.”

He mentioned that the Project has achieved significant milestones in the





### **Cross Section of Participants at the HYPREP Quarterly Meeting with Ogoni Youths**

construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER), which according to him, has become quite visible on the skyline of Ogoniland, adding that the facility will stand as a beacon of cutting-edge research and a repository of the science and art of environmental remediation, placing Ogoniland at the forefront of environmental remediation in Nigeria and across West Africa.

On the economic value of the Centre, Zabbey said that the Centre will serve as a hub for learning, vocational skill training, and innovation in the national effort against environmental degradation.

“When completed, the CEER will serve as a hub for learning, vocational skill training, and innovation in the national effort against environmental degradation. I am pleased to inform you that construction is progressing steadily, and we anticipate the Centre will be operational in 2025. The Technical Planning Committee, which is developing the framework for operationalizing and managing the

center, has made significant progress.” In the area of provision of potable water for Ogoni communities, Prof. Zabbey stated that HYPREP is committed to improving access to clean water across Ogoniland, and at present the project is constructing fourteen (14) water schemes across the four Local Government Areas of Ogoni.

“HYPREP is also committed to improving access to clean water across Ogoniland. The potable water facilities we are constructing across the four Local Government Areas of Khana, Gokana, Tai, and Eleme are critical to ensuring all Ogonis can access safe, clean drinking water. This effort directly responds to the long-standing need for clean water, particularly in communities where pollution has rendered local water sources unsafe. I am happy to report that significant progress has been made on this front, and soon, we will be commissioning additional completed water facilities just as we did earlier in July.”

Professor Zabbey informed the youths

that significant progress has been made on the Ogoni Power Project, which will connect Ogoni communities to the national grid. He said that the active phase of the project which would include the erection of pylons is about to commence, as geo technical survey has been carried out, and the manufacturing of the power components which are project specific is currently ongoing.

The HYPREP Project Coordinator mentioned that the project has achieved a lot in remediation, shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration, construction of the Ogoni Specialist Hospital and Buan Cottage Hospital and reiterated the commitment of the project to carrying out a comprehensive health study of Ogoniland as recommended in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report, stressing that the construction of the Ogoni Specialist Hospital and Buan Cottage Hospital are part of HYPREP's holistic approach to improving the health and wellbeing of the Ogoni

people.

While assuring of HYPREP's commitment to fully integrate Ogoni youths into the empowerment opportunities on the project and the timely completion of contracts, Professor Zabbey charged them to continue to maintain the peace in their various communities, adding that the benefits are far-reaching as it paves the way for youth empowerment,

economic prosperity and sustainable development.

The well attended event which had in attendance the Director of Technical Services of HYPREP, Professor Damian-Paul Aguiyi, Heads of Unit and the representative of the SPDC/JV Partners on the project, Engr. Ekiyokenegha Clark, featured interactive sessions and a keynote address delivered by Dr. Sorbarikor

Lebura.

The Project Coordinator's quarterly interactive session with Ogoni Youths is part of HYPREP's strategic policy of inclusivity and stakeholder engagement to keep its stakeholders abreast of the activities of the project, thus providing them a platform to contribute meaningfully to the successful implementation of the UNEP Report on Ogoniland cleanup.

## **HYPREP COMMITTED TO A WASTE FREE ENVIRONMENT – PROF. ZABBEY**

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has stated that HYPREP will continue to support organizations that are working to keep the environment free of harmful wastes.

Prof. Zabbey stated this at the waste to wealth, packaging and safety summit held in Port Harcourt with the theme, 'Transforming Waste into Opportunity: Empowering Community Through Sustainable Packing and Waste Management Practices.'

Prof. Zabbey who was represented by the Director, Technical Services of HYPREP, Prof. Damian Aguiyi used the occasion of the event to brief participants on the mandate of HYPREP.

“Primarily what HYPREP does is to remediate impacted areas, find alternative livelihood to people whose livelihoods have been truncated by the spills and oils that contaminated the soils of Ogoniland. So, my principal has asked me to tell you that we are both partnering in this, we are both supporting this summit in our own little way, we have taken up a plan and we are displaying. We are not heavy into waste management. The fact that



**Prof. Aguiyi Addressing Participants at HYPREP Pavilion during the Waste Management Workshop**

we are not heavier on waste does not mean we do not have waste.

Every human activity generates a form of waste. I agree with people when they say waste is what you decide it to be, because in all honesty and reality, what is waste to you because you have no need for it or is adding no value to your activity can be the main raw material for somebody else. For those of us who own cars, if your battery runs down and you want to change it, the first question the dealer will want to ask you is if you have the old battery and if they can buy it. These days it is between N20,000 to N25,000 for a car battery while the bigger or large ones cost about N30,000 to N35,000. So, the waste value chain has a lot of benefits and leads to generating a lot of

income to people who are involved.”

He emphasized on the particular task of soil remediation, the method adopted by HYPREP to removing contaminants from the soil and the vision of the project.

“What we are doing in HYPREP in terms of remediating the soil is basically removing the hydrocarbons that are in concentration greater than what it should be in the soil and in some places, we recover oil and pay people to treat it for us because we want to be world standard operators that account on how we manage our waste.”

The summit was attended by participants drawn from the private and public sectors.



# Feature

## MONARCH CONDEMNS CALLS FOR REMOVAL OF HYPREP COORDINATOR, PROF. ZABBEY

The Paramount ruler of Kwawa community in Khana Local Government Area of Ogoni, Mene Magnus Edooh has condemned the call by a faction of the National Youth Council of Ogoni People (NYCOP) led by Comrade Raymond Marcus Nwibani demanding the removal of Professor Nenibarini Zabbey as Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP).

Mene Edooh described the call as "inimical, provocative, primitive and insulting," arguing that demanding for the removal of individuals who have worked hard to develop themselves, without input from the community, goes against the principle of the Ogoni Bill of Rights seeking the appointment of Ogoni sons and daughters into positions of trust.

The traditional ruler urged the people behind the call to retrace their steps as

it creates division within the Ogoni community and more so as NYCOP did not consult the Ogoni community before making the demand for the removal of HYPREP Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey.

Mene Magnus Edooh therefore announced the withdrawal of his support for NYCOP until they apologize publicly or privately for their actions.

## UNITING FOR OGOINI'S PROGRESS

As patriots and leaders, it is time to protect our heritage and the fruits of our struggle in HYPREP. We must resist divisive voices and sponsored media wars driven by greed and unrealistic expectations that hinder peace and development in our community.

As a passionate advocate for community growth and youth empowerment, I advise we prioritize community and country's progress over personal sentiments and immediate gains.

The Ogoni people are fortunate to have Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey a renowned and passionate environmentalist, as the Project Coordinator (PC) of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP). His passion, conviction and training is rooted in Ken Saro-Wiwa's ideology, and his community-centric style of leadership is invaluable. The PC's proven track record of environmental stewardship, including efforts that secured the release of the Ogoni 20 from prison

and mangrove planting projects in his community, and in environmental justice struggle in the Niger Delta and trenches long before HYPREP was instituted, is evidenced in the numerous awards to his credit by international organizations and groups.

Unfortunately, some leaders see Prof. Zabbey as a threat to their business interests. It should be on record that the Ogoni youths, comrades and patriots have resolved to resist all attempts to undermine his leadership and stability in HYPREP as we focus on peace building in Ogoni and solidarity towards our community progress and the ultimate success of the programme.

To this effect, we call on our leaders, critical stakeholders and all organizations playing the role of watchdog to reposition themselves and ensure the following:

- Let go of any misconception cum miscalculation and unite for community progress;
- Ensure there is commitment to

placing community interest over personal gains;

- Embark on sentiment-free advocacy and engage in constructive criticism when the need arises and put in results-oriented contributions that would move Ogoni forward;
- Our people must learn to forgive one another and reconcile for a united movement within harmonious environment that would prioritise the responsibility to protect the project and the overall interest of the Ogoni people; and
- As a people, we must be futuristic, focus on the bigger picture, resolve differences through dialogue, and secure a brighter future for our youth and posterity.

Ledogo Amabu (Project Converner, Love for Country Campaign) writes in from Port Harcourt.

# PICTURES OF THE MONTH



**HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabby in a Handshake with Prof. Baridam During the HYPREP Management Retreat**



**HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabby Presents Certificate of Participation to HYPREP DTS, Prof. Aguiyi During the Management Retreat**



**Prof. Zabby in Group Photograph with Staff of Ford Foundation & Some NGO's During their Visit to HYPREP Office**



**HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabby Flanked by Officials of Ford Foundation during their Visit to HYPREP Office**



**Executive Director, Kebetkache Women Development and Resource Centre, Dr. Emem Okon Plants Mangrove at Bomu**



**Prof. Iyenemi Kakulu Addressing Participants During the HYPREP 3rd Quarterly Meeting with Stakeholders**



**Comrade Menele Nzidee Making Intervention at the HYPREP Quarterly Meeting with Ogoni Youths**



**Cross Section of Participants at the HYPREP Quarterly Meeting with Ogoni Youths**



# OGONI CLEAN-UP ...HYPREP SPEARHEADING MANGROVE RESTORATION



## POETRY CORNER

### POLLUTION WITHOUT BORDERS

Oil stifles the air in the creeks,  
And refuse stinks in the cities.  
Pollution, both land and air destroys  
Water and soil in need of saviour  
And every day mourn his delayed arrival.  
Man, as enemy of his own existence  
Foe to same environment that hosts him,  
Day by day scrap piles heap upon heap  
And mountains of dirt form in the streets  
To nauseating height of rubbish,  
And to cover the sight, plucks out his own eyes.  
Lands are sacrificed that would've grown crops,  
Groundwater poisoned from the leach.  
For no space the sip transferred to bulging stomachs  
Dropping dysentery and cholera along the way  
Entire population stools in pandemic connection  
In waste circling taken for water circle  
Man drinks his own waste tapped from pollution.  
For how long before the line is turned off  
And man and his environment rescued?

Photo:HYPREP





26<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024  
WORLD MANGROVE DAY 2024  
HONORABLE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT  
#alorabe Abhas Lawal (HAL)  
HYPREP  
SYMBOLIC MANGROVE PLANTING

**THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE**  
“The true meaning of life is to plant trees; under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”  
– Nelson Henderson

**Photo:HYPREP**

# ... for a cleaner and greener Ogoniland

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