



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

# HYPREP HERALD

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## PLANTED MANGROVES ARE THRIVING – *NNIMMO BASSEY*



**Nnimmo Bassey Plants Mangrove at Bomu During the Visit of Civil Society Organisations**

**HYPREP PLANTS OVER 1 MILLION MANGROVE SEEDLINGS IN OGO NI**

**SENATE C'TTEE COMMENDS HYPREP ON ACCELERATED CLEAN-UP**

**MOSOP, HYPREP SHARE COMMON VISION OF POLLUTION FREE OGO NI - PROF ZABBEY**

**HYPREP  
 HERALD  
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# THE PC'S DESK



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

The remediation activities (soil, groundwater, and shoreline) undertaken by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) are progressing with desired results. We have recorded significant progress. As the shoreline clean-up and mangrove rehabilitation progress steadily along the Ogoni shorelines, some species (e.g., periwinkles) are gradually recovering. In the Bomu tidal flats, where HYPREP is piloting mangrove restoration alongside shoreline cleanup, certain species of commercial and livelihood importance are progressively returning to the creek due to a significant reduction in the amount of oil and the fish production function (ecosystem service) of mangroves. The gradual biodiversity recovery is the fate of the shorelines of Goi, Kpor, B-Dere, and K-Dere creeks, where we are similarly cleaning the mangrove shores. It is undoubtedly a work in progress. However, we are very optimistic about the return of ecosystem services to the creeks as we record appreciable rehabilitation milestones. As always, we count on the invaluable support of the Ogoni communities and other project stakeholders. I want to use this last PC's Desk piece for 2024 to relate a bolstering encounter with a female periwinkle picker in Ogoni. On one of our recent visits to Bomu

Creek, we interviewed an elderly woman periwinkle picker harvesting the mud whelks (periwinkles) with some young persons on the tidal flats near the waterfront. Our conversation with her brought nostalgic feelings and scenic memories of how, during good tides, many persons in the riverine Ogoni communities would go fishing to fend for their families. In our interaction with the lady, she recalled how, before the clean-up, she had waded through the length and breadth of that same tidal mud flat and did not see periwinkles. She said the periwinkles came back following HYPREP cleanup and mangrove restoration efforts. She showed us her basket full of periwinkles. We discussed the need to allow the waterfront nearshore recovering periwinkle stock to grow and populate the mudflats. She replied that she would prefer to pick the mud whelks further afield if she had access to a canoe. We understood her clearly! Suddenly, I felt a sense of regret for interrupting her fishing with an interview. Thanks to the Senate Committee on Oil and Gas Host Communities Chairman, Senator Benson Sunday Agadaga, who bought the lady's periwinkles as a symbolic show of solidarity for her resilience and support of HYPREP restoration efforts. We are motivated by the spontaneous testimony of a direct beneficiary of the Ogoni cleanup project. I slept well that night and woke up lightly with renewed vigour and recommitment. I compared notes with colleagues who were on that mission, and they had the same encouraging feeling. Periwinkle is one of the many shellfishes commonly harvested from the Ogoni creeks. Another shellfish that was abundant in some of the Ogoni creeks (e.g., Bodo, Bomu, Gbe, and Kaa) and had supported the livelihoods of women and young persons is the West African bloody cockle (*Senilia sinilis* -locally called Koo). The bloody cockle is a highly relish and valued seafood. Growing up in Bodo, I

harvested bloody cockles to support my family's nutrition. I had used proceeds from selling bloody cockle to buy school uniforms and books. Sadly, the Ogoni bloody cockle stocks are extinct due to confounding human activities (e.g., overharvesting, oil pollution, fishing with dynamites). But HYPREP is determined to restore the bloody cockle on the tidal flats of Ogoni. When we announced our plan to restore bloody cockle to the Ogoni creeks, our interviewee and motivator, the lady periwinkle picker, and the community folks in the background were excited and intuitively clapped in solidarity. Again, we felt their pulse, our efforts' sync, and their expectations. Of course, we reminded the audience of the need to conserve biodiversity, including the bloody cockle, when restored. The plan to restock the Ogoni creeks with bloody cockle is a deliberate effort to restore the source of animal protein and the people's livelihood. With high spirits, we are pleased to inform you that our experiments to produce artificially bloody cockle spats (i.e., juvenile cockles) to restock the creeks is progressing well. In partnership with passionate experts and postgraduate students from the University of Port Harcourt, the Rivers State University, and the African Regional Aquaculture Centre (ARAC), we have stimulated the adult cockles to spawn. The eggs were fertilized and hatched, and the trocophore larvae transformed into the D-shape larvae (the pre-spat stage). Now, we are experimenting with the culture of algae that the larval cockles eat in the wild. This step is critical to enable the D-shape larvae to grow to the spat stage. It is the spats that settle to seed the tidal flats. We shall update you periodically as we progress on restoring the bloody cockle in the Ogoni creeks. On behalf of the HYPREP Management and Staff, I wish you a merry Christmas and a prosperous 2025!

# In this Issue

Dr. Nnimmo Bassey is a renowned environmental rights activist and campaigner known in Nigeria and around the world for his advocacy for the protection of our planet. He is the Executive Director, Health of Mother Earth Foundation. In 2009 he was named Time Magazine's Hero of the Environment and recently the winner of the 2024 Wallenberg Medal among several awards and recognition by reputable international organizations and institutions. Dr. Bassey is an architect and poet. He recently led a team of environmental right activists who attended the 2nd edition of the HYPREP/Civil Society Dialogue organized by the Peoples Advancement Centre to the HYPREP mangrove restoration site in Bomu. The visit was to have an on-the-spot assessment of the shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration project of HYPREP. He used the occasion of the visit to perform a symbolic mangrove planting in support of the restoration work. Dr. Bassey also inspected earlier planted mangrove seedlings which he confirmed were thriving and called for sustained effort towards the overall success of the Ogoni clean-up project. The report is the lead story for the December edition of the HYPREP Herald.

Before the visit by delegates from the HYPREP/Civil Society Dialogue there was an earlier visit by a Coalition of Civil Society Organizations on Climate Change whose mission to HYPREP sites was similar to that of the former. They too were taken on a guided tour to Goi and Bomu communities where HYPREP is undertaking shoreline clean-up and

mangrove restoration. They were informed that HYPREP had planted more than one million mangrove seedlings so far.

Another set of high-profile visitors to HYPREP sites in Ogoni were the Senate Committee on Oil and Gas Host Communities. The distinguished Senators led by the Chairman of the Committee, Senator Benson Agadaga were impressed with the progress of work and the success achieved in the thematic areas of remediation, provision of potable water, construction of legacy projects (Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, the Ogoni Specialist Hospital, the Buan Cottage Hospital and the Ogoni Power Project) and the livelihood training for Ogoni youths and women.

In recognition of the place of peace as a precondition for development, the Management of HYPREP organized a workshop on Alternative Dispute Resolution for Ogoni traditional rulers. The workshop was aimed at arming the royal fathers with the requisite knowledge in arbitration, peacebuilding and conflict resolution to enable them resolve issues on time to forestall a breakdown of law and order in their respective communities to guarantee a smooth operation of HYPREP in Ogoni.

The Project Coordination Office also held another workshop to prepare prospective beneficiaries of its Postgraduate Scholarship Support Programme for Ogoni students doing their masters and Doctor of Philosophy programmes. The scholarship support programme targets three hundred students (two hundred for master's and one hundred for Ph.Ds.).

It is now a matter of deliberate policy by HYPREP to include the underserved segment of the population (people living with disabilities) into its

programmes. To this end, a workshop was organized for this special people with special abilities to furnish them with the relevant knowledge that will enable them to make informed choice of a vocation for their sustainable livelihoods.

The Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey was in Kansas, USA in company of the Chairman, Board of Trustees of HYPREP, Dr. Mike Nwielaghi and the Spokesperson of the Central Representative Advisory Committee of HYPREP, HRM Dr. Suanu Baridam to mark the 29th anniversary of the Ogoni Martyrs. Prof. Zabbey used the occasion to brief Ogoni sons and daughters in diaspora on the performance of the Ogoni clean-up.

The Ogoni clean-up project is of great interest to the international community and therefore the Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey was recently at the Australian High Commission in Abuja to seek a strategic partnership with the country in the areas of innovation, education and environmental protection to boost the delivery of HYPREP on the Ogoni clean-up project.

In this edition of the HYPREP Herald we also bring you the report of the proposal by a foreign company, Contec Global Agro Limited to produce biofertilizers for the remediated sites that have been certified clean by the Nigerian regulatory authorities.

Prof. Zabbey and the Director, Technical Services, HYPREP, Prof. Damian-Paul Aguiyi were among other distinguished Nigerians recently inducted as fellows of the Nigerian Environmental Society.

Our poetry corner is maintained for your reading pleasure. Merry Christmas and a happy new year, 2025 in advance!

## Project News

# PLANTED MANGROVES ARE THRIVING – NNIMMO BASSEY

The mangrove restoration efforts of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) continue to gain the attention and admiration of international organizations and institutions of government who have come to monitor the operations of HYPREP in the on-going clean-up of Ogoniland.

The Executive Director, Health of Mother Earth Foundation, Dr. Nnimmo Bassey is among influential individuals who are pleased with the modest success of HYPREP so far on the Ogoni environment restoration project.

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> HYPREP/Civil Society Dialogue organized by the People Advancement Centre held in Port Harcourt, Dr. Bassey said the civil society is determined to see HYPREP succeed in cleaning up Ogoniland through advocacy and monitoring of its operations and programmes.

He acknowledged that the mangrove restoration project of HYPREP is on course and mangrove goods and services gradually returning to the creeks of Ogoni.

“The mangrove planting shows clearly that something positive is happening and that the environment is gradually returning to its normal self, and this is very critical in terms of the whole efforts of HYPREP. Because if you tell us, you've cleaned the land and swamp, yet nothing grows, that will be a lie.

Now we've seen mangroves planted earlier are thriving. We have planted some today and we hope to come back



## Celestine Akpobari Holding a Mangrove Seedling to Plant at Bomu Waterfront

and monitor to see whether they survive or not. We are going to hold HYPREP to its own terms. If HYPREP said they've done anything, we will make sure that thing is done. We really want to see the region cleaned up.”

Team Lead, Peoples Advancement Centre and facilitator of the HYPREP/Civil Society Dialogue, Celestine Akpobari in his welcome address urged the people of Ogoni to take ownership of the clean-up as HYPREP's success largely depends on community participation.

“My advice to the community people, the youth, women and men of Ogoni is that HYPREP is not doing this for itself. HYPREP is doing it for us. After planting the mangroves, HYPREP will leave. This thing will be with them (communities). So, Ogoni

people must own this project. They are the people that will fish here.”

Akpobari expressed joy at the gradual return of aquatic lives to the areas where HYPREP has cleaned up and the fact that the locals are beginning to fish again in the revegetated mangroves.

“I saw women picking periwinkles. Five years ago, people couldn't come here to pick periwinkles. This means that the soil has been remediated and trapped oil has been taken out. That's why you are seeing those things coming back. So, the more Ogoni people allow HYPREP to work, the better for the community.”

He emphasized the importance of civil society supporting HYPREP and acting as a watchdog, especially since one of their members is now in charge of HYPREP, stating that the forum

serves as a valuable opportunity for stakeholders to assess HYPREP's progress, identify areas for improvements, and work collaboratively towards addressing environmental challenges in Ogoniland.

"I think it is time we come together to build a vibrant team to support HYPREP and act as a watch dog over this project especially now that one of our own, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey is overseeing this laudable timely intervention."

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey in his opening remarks called on Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to collaborate with HYPREP for the attainment of corporate goals particularly in community sensitization and project implementation to fast-track the restoration of Ogoniland by leveraging the expertise and networks of CSOs for effective project delivery. Professor Zabbey was represented at the event by the Team Lead, Media, Mr. Kpoobari Nafu who emphasized the importance of managing community expectations, noting that

the cleanup exercise is a long-term process that requires patience, understanding, and realistic expectations as the process is complex and time-consuming.

"As a project, we need your help in terms of managing community expectations. The truth is that this clean-up exercise is a journey. It is not an instant waving of hands in the air, and everything we were to do would be on ground. It is a journey and so there is need to manage the expectations of the Ogoni People so that they don't expect what should be done in one year for example, to happen in one month."

The Project Coordinator explained that HYPREP has expanded its scope to undertake numerous projects beyond the initial recommendations of the UNEP report, thereby necessitating extra funding to implement the additional projects and promised that any additional funding received will be utilized judiciously and for the purpose intended.

"HYPREP today is embarking on so many projects even beyond what was originally recommended in the UNEP Report, and what that means is that

there is need for more funding, and the civil society is a good ally in this. Trust us, that Professor Zabbey will be prudent in the management of those funds, deploying them for the reasons they were granted."

Prof. Zabbey stressed the importance of constructive criticism and feedback that will guide HYPREP in its operations and mandate delivery since the project is not infallible.

"We are not claiming perfection. What we are saying is that if there are areas you see that we are not doing so well, you point them out, and not just pointing them out, you also help us to proffer solutions."

He shared HYPREP's achievements with the CSO's, highlighting progress in the remediation of simple and medium risk sites and shoreline clean-up. He also mentioned that HYPREP has expanded its water project beyond impacted communities to as many Ogoni communities as possible.

In the area of livelihood trainings, the Project Coordinator noted that HYPREP has conducted various training programmes including a recent skill training for 5,000 Ogoni youths who will receive starter packs



**Women Picking Periwinkles on Rehabilitated Tidal Mud Flat, Bomu**

soon. Additionally, HYPREP is providing scholarship grants to Ogoni Ph.D and Master's students, final year students, and supports for small and medium-scale businesses across the four Local Government Areas of Ogoni.

Regarding mangrove restoration, Prof. Zabbey mentioned that over a million mangrove seedlings have been planted in the Bomu community, adding that HYPREP is constructing legacy projects like the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, the 100-bed Ogoni Specialist Hospital at Kpiti, Tai, the Buan Cottage Hospital, and strengthening of public health facilities in Ogoni.

He remarked that the Ogoni Power Project is a notable initiative that will

ensure sustainability for HYPREP's legacy projects, the water schemes and the small and medium scale enterprises that are developing in Ogoni through the HYPREP livelihood programmes and that these projects are evenly distributed across the four Local Government Areas, demonstrating the project's commitment to the comprehensive development of Ogoni.

Prof. Zabbey acknowledged the spirited efforts of Comrade Celestine Akpobari and that of Dr. Nnimmo Bassey towards the success of the Ogoni clean-up project.

On her part, the Director of Kebetkache Women Development and Resource Centre, Dr. Emem Okon announced plans to lead a women

convention to plant more mangroves in Ogoni.

“We have been informed that over one million mangroves seedlings have been planted already in Ogoni and more will be planted. I have been an advocate of Niger Delta clean-up, and I am still advocating that more polluted areas in the Niger Delta be cleaned. So, all of us have a mandate to support HYPREP to actively execute the clean-up project.”

Participants at the HYPREP/Civil Society Dialogue were led on a site visit to Bomu community where they planted some mangrove seedlings to support the HYPREP mangrove restoration efforts in Ogoni.

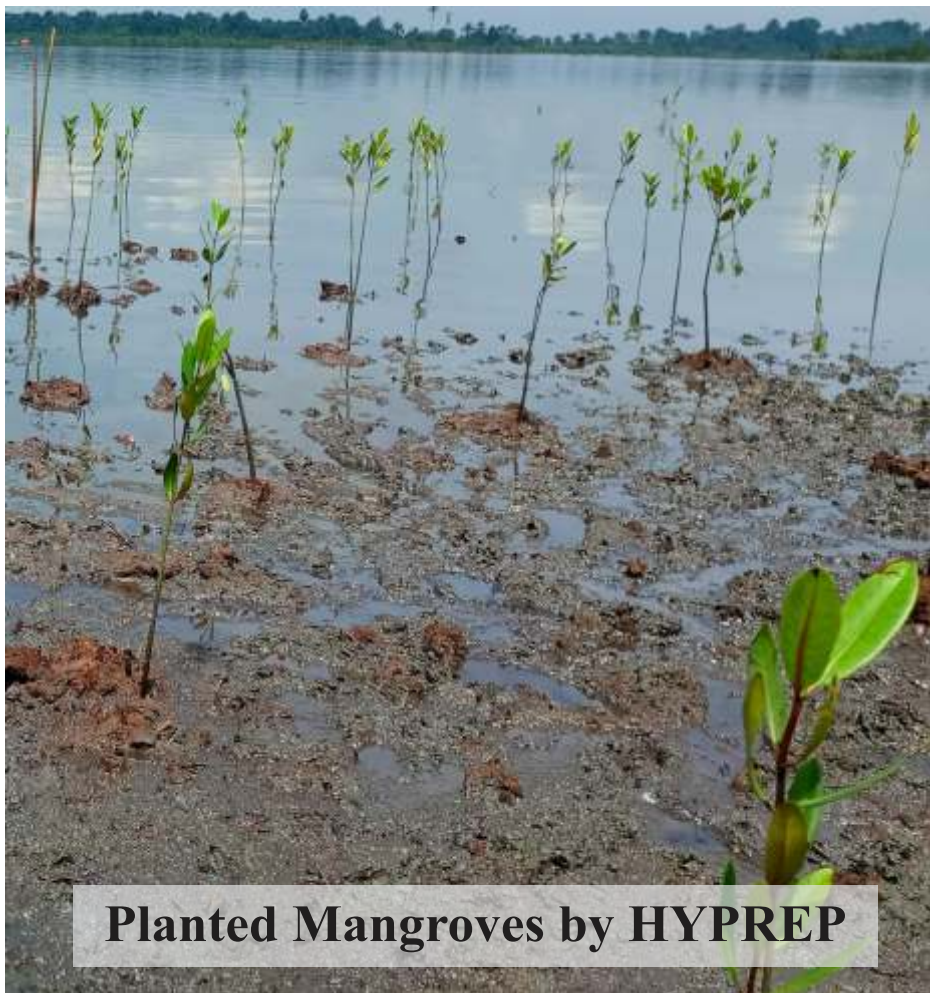
## **HYPREP PLANTS OVER 1 MILLION MANGROVE SEEDLINGS IN Ogoni**

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, HYPREP has successfully planted over one million mangrove seedlings in Ogoni under its on-going shoreline and mangrove restoration project in an effort to restore the devastated marine ecosystems polluted by oil.

This was disclosed during a field trip to HYPREP project sites by a Coalition of Civil Society Organisations on climate change and environmental restoration in the Niger Delta.

Members of the group were conducted round shoreline clean-up sites in Goi and Bomu communities where HYPREP is working to restore the marine ecosystems polluted by oil spills.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey stated that the planting of over one million mangrove seedlings was crucial in the restoration



**Planted Mangroves by HYPREP**

of the biodiversity and ecological balance of Ogoniland, which has been devastated by decades of oil pollution. Prof. Zabbey who was represented by his Technical Assistant on Shoreline Clean-up, Peter Lenu emphasized that regarding climate change mitigation, HYPREP's efforts include mangrove restoration, shoreline clean-up, environmental remediation and provision of potable water to Ogoni communities.

“They (civil society groups) requested for a field trip to HYPREP work sites for a first-hand knowledge of environmental remediation, restoration and other projects of HYPREP in addressing the impact of oil pollution in Ogoniland.

So, we went to Goi, being one of the heavily impacted communities in Ogoniland and they saw how the

shoreline contractors were on sites addressing the oil pollution in Goi. We also went to Bomu where HYPREP is carrying out mangrove restoration, specifically we went to areas where HYPREP has planted mangrove seedlings to revegetate and restore the devastated ecosystem. We have planted over a million mangrove seedlings as we speak, and we are still planting more.”

A participant and lecturer at the University of Port Harcourt, Dr. Chika Nwankwo expressed satisfaction with the progress made since her last visit to Ogoniland seven years ago.

Nwankwo, who lectures at the Department of Science Laboratory Technology referenced the drastic improvements in environmental conditions compared to previous years, when oil contamination was

more pronounced.

“We understand that HYPREP has been on mangrove restoration project and so we decided to go and have a look at the sites, to see what is going on and how the intervention of HYPREP has been. HYPREP has done a great job. There has been a lot of improvement from the last time I was here seven years ago. Seven years ago, I took samples of oil spills from Gokana as part of my PhD thesis, and you could even see the oil on the water and the heavy impact then, but today there is a huge difference and with what I have seen so far, there is hope for the Niger Delta and Ogoniland.”

Several high-profile individuals and organizations have visited HYPREP project sites lately to have a first-hand information on the progress of work on the Ogoni clean-up project.



**Members of Coalition of Civil Society Organisations during their Visit to Goi Waterfront**

# SENATE C'TTEE COMMENDS HYPREP ON ACCELERATED CLEAN-UP

The National Assembly Senate Committee on Oil and Gas Host Communities has commended the Management of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) under the leadership of Professor Nenibarini Zabbey on the accelerated implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report recommendations which it says has positively impacted the environment and lives of the Ogoni people.

The Committee led by its Chairman, Senator Benson Sunday Agadaga gave the commendation during its visit to HYPREP project sites in Ogoniland.

The Senate Committee on Oil and Gas Host Communities visited Medium Risk Sites in Ogale, Eleme; Shoreline remediation site in Goi, Gokana; Kporghor Water Station; the Ogoni Specialist Hospital; the Buan Cottage Hospital; Centre of Excellence for Environmental Remediation, Wiiyaakara; and the mangrove revegetation site in Bomu.

Senator Benson Agadaga while addressing journalists at the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, Wiiyaakara, appreciated the increased pace of implementation of the Ogoni clean-up project.

“What we have seen today is impressive. We know that this Project was launched in 2016. It appears what we are seeing for the past two years, and this year is accelerated development. We are impressed about what we are seeing. As an interventionist body, we are happy that this thing is going to transform Ogoniland and in fact, the Niger Delta and Nigeria at large.”

Senator Agadaga remarked that the



**Senator Agadaga**

Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration will groom skilled labour in Nigeria, specializing in environmental studies and pollution control and emphasized that the Niger Delta is in dire need of such a centre to address environmental challenges and promote sustainability. At the Bomu mangrove restoration site, Agadaga was impressed at the gradual restoration of the ecosystem and its goods and services thus providing livelihood support for the locals.

“We've been able to purchase periwinkles from residents who've gone out to collect them. This is a significant change from the past when nothing like this was visible here.”

He also commended the Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey on work done so far and expressed optimism that the world is beginning to

recognize the efforts made on the Ogoni clean-up project.

“I think the dream of our forefathers who fought for the recognition of the Niger Delta is actually being fulfilled. I want to thank God for the new leadership of the Project, and I want to urge the contractors to live up to expectation so that the deadline for the completion of projects will be met.”

Former Governor of Ogun state and member of the Senate Committee on Oil and Gas Host Communities, Senator Daniel Olugbenga expressed delight at the progress made in the area of provision of potable water for the people of Ogoni.

“I am particularly excited with the number of social responsibilities, and I am hoping the project is extended. Water has been a major issue, and I am happy with the water schemes I have seen, and I have been informed that





**Prof. Zabbey Addressing Members of the Senate C'teeon Oil & Gas Host Communities and & SPDC Officials**

close to 10 kilometers of pipeline has been reticulated to support the number of villages. I have seen the hospitals, and I advocate for massive support in funding.”

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey expressed joy at the visit of the Senators, saying it provided an opportunity to conduct them round the over 130 project sites of HYPREP including the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, which is expected to be completed by November next year all things being equal.

“Today, we are hosting the Senate Committee on Oil and Gas Host Communities to showcase our ongoing projects in Ogoniland. We are proud of our progress, with 130 projects underway, including the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, which will be completed by November next year. This facility will host research

centers and vocational trainings. We are also currently providing potable water to 68 communities.”

According to Prof. Zabbey, HYPREP is committed to quality work, beating deadlines, and project sustainability, adding that HYPREP use solar to support the powering of its water facilities and is seeking partnerships for long-term success. “Our goal is to make the Ogoni clean-up a replicable template for the Niger Delta and beyond”, he said.

On the second day of their visit, the committee went to Bomu and participated in the ceremonial mangrove seedling planting to support the HYPREP mangrove restoration project in Ogoniland. The Senate Committee also held a stakeholders' meeting with the Ogoni people where they discussed a more efficient way to speed up the clean-up project and restore the Ogoni environment.

The committee's visit was part of its ongoing efforts to ensure that the

concerns of oil and gas host communities are being addressed, and they were impressed with the progress HYPREP has made in implementing the UNEP report on Ogoni.



**Sen. Agadaga & Sen. Olugbenga**

## PEACE BUILDING:

# HYPREP TRAINS OGO NI TRADITIONAL RULERS IN ADR

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has called on traditional rulers in Ogoniland to champion peacebuilding efforts as a vital tool for the successful implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report on Ogoni.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey who made the call at a workshop on “Mechanism for Alternative Dispute Resolution and Peacebuilding Techniques For Ogoni Traditional Rulers and other Key Stakeholders,” emphasized the critical role of community leaders in fostering unity and dialogue among stakeholders.

Prof. Zabbey explained that the success of the Ogoni clean-up project is hinged on the peace and collaboration cultivated within the Ogoni community, and highlighted

ongoing projects aimed at addressing environmental degradation and restoring livelihoods in Ogoniland.

He stated that over seven thousand (7,000) Ogoni youths and women were currently engaged on HYPREP project sites, contributing to shoreline remediation and health initiatives, noting that significant progress has been made in providing access to clean water and construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration.

“I call on you to build bridges of understanding to address challenges within your jurisdiction. Your leadership and integrity in these areas will ensure that Ogoniland remains where progress and development can thrive. When we come together with a shared vision and common goals, there is no limit to what we can achieve as a people.

I implore you to embrace your role as peace ambassadors. Your duty as traditional rulers and stakeholders is to champion the cause of environmental remediation and actively promote peace, reconciliation, and dialogue. These efforts will enhance HYPREP's ability to implement projects effectively and ensure that the dividends of these projects reach every corner of Ogoniland.”

According to Prof. Zabbey HYPREP's operations have been slowed down due to a number of challenges including community leadership tussles, restricted access to project sites due to disputes, multiplicity of community-based groups and sustained pressure for recognition, and malicious spreading of misinformation about HYPREP through various media platforms and called for their intervention.



**HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey with Participating Ogoni Traditional Rulers at the ADR Workshop**

“The Ogoni people have a rich history of advocacy, and today, HYPREP stands as a testament to your resilience. Our shared responsibility is to ensure that these efforts are not in vain. For this to happen, peace must be a priority. You can mediate conflicts, unite divided factions, build bridges for progress, and encourage dialogue among all parties in the public interest.”

The workshop which was facilitated by the Centre for Peace and Security Studies, University of Port Harcourt was aimed to promoting peacebuilding and its sustainability in Ogoniland, as HYPREP can only succeed with the cooperation of Ogoni traditional rulers.

Director, Centre for Peace and Security Studies, University of Port Harcourt, Prof. Martin Ifeanacho stated that the workshop organized to

utilize alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to resolve conflicts and promote lasting peace in Ogoniland for sustainable development.

“We recognize that any project, no matter how well-intentioned, will fail to achieve its objectives if there is no peace and security. That's why we're emphasizing the importance of ADR, which focuses on mediation and negotiation to achieve a win-win situation.”

Prof. Ifeanacho explained that conventional court systems often declare winners and losers, leading to unresolved conflicts and resentment, whereas alternative dispute resolution promotes mutual understanding and cooperation.

“The peace obtained through ADR is lasting because it addresses the underlying issues and involves all parties in finding a solution. The

partnership is part of the Centre's mandate from the National Universities Commission to provide intellectual solutions to local problems. By working with HYPREP, the centre aims to extend its expertise to Ogoniland and contribute to the region's development. This collaboration demonstrates our commitment to using our academic expertise to address real-world challenges. We're proud to support HYPREP's efforts to restore Ogoniland and promote economic growth.”

The workshop on dialogue and conflict resolution is among several efforts by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) to create a peaceful environment for the implementation of the UNEP report on Ogoniland.

## **HYPREP HOLDS WORKSHOP ON ITS POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT**

As follow-up to the post-graduate scholarship support announced at the last quarterly meeting with Ogoni youths, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has organized a sensitization workshop for postgraduate students of Ogoni origin to introduce them to the educational support programme specifically designed to promote education and community development in Ogoniland.

The initiative is part of HYPREP's holistic strategy to create alternative livelihood sources in hydrocarbon impacted Ogoniland in line with the recommendations of the UNEP Report.

Addressing postgraduate students at the workshop, HYPREP's Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini



**Cross Section of Participants at the Post Graduate Scholarship Workshop**

Zabbey emphasized that the selection process for the scholarship programme would be transparent, with information openly communicated through HYPREP's channels, with the active participation of community-based organizations and civil society representatives to ensure transparency.

“I want to assure you that this scheme is rooted in integrity, fairness, and inclusivity, ensuring each candidate receives an equal opportunity to participate and benefit accordingly. We have put in place measures to ensure transparency in the process, and all information you require will be made available through our communication channels. We are pleased to have community-based organizations as well as representatives of the civil society closely involved, adding another layer of accountability and guidance to this process.”

Prof. Zabbey noted that the workshop is designed to ensure that interested students understand the purpose, process, and benefits of the scholarship programme, adding that it will equip them with the knowledge needed to participate confidently and effectively. “HYPREP has set up this workshop to answer your questions, clarify our objectives, and help you

envision how your education can be transformed into impactful contributions to Ogoniland and the nation.”

The HYPREP Project Coordinator encouraged the students to embrace the opportunity and take full advantage of the programme and urged them to consider the strength that comes from unity, forming clusters for innovation and peace, and coming together as one to amplify the potential for peacebuilding and community development in Ogoniland.

He emphasized that HYPREP's mission in Ogoniland demands collective effort, incorporating students' perspectives and enthusiasm, and that as postgraduate students from Ogoni, they are vital to the long-term impact of HYPREP's initiatives.

Beyond environmental restoration, Prof. Zabbey noted that HYPREP aims to reengineer Ogoni's social fabric, requiring peace and collaboration among communities, with postgraduate students serving as champions of harmony. “When you support HYPREP, you support the development of Ogoniland. To attack HYPREP is in essence to attack development and the future of Ogoniland.

While we value constructive feedback

and innovative ideas, we caution against spreading misinformation and distorted facts. We urge you to verify information before sharing, as disseminating incorrect details about HYPREP's mandate and progress jeopardizes our efforts and impacts the Ogoni community's well-being.”

The Project Coordinator briefed the postgraduate students on the more than 130 HYPREP projects in Ogoniland in the areas of environmental remediation, provision of potable water, public health facilities strengthening, livelihood interventions, and infrastructure development such as the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER), the Ogoni Power Project, the Ogoni Specialist Hospital and the Buan Cottage Hospital, adding that these projects create direct and indirect jobs for youths and women and in turn promote economic empowerment.

The scholarship support programme, he said, underscores HYPREP's dedication to promoting education and empowerment among Ogoni youths, while fostering a culture of openness and accountability in its operations.

The programme featured mentorship sessions and goodwill messages, providing a valuable platform for knowledge sharing and networking.

## **PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED PERSONS TO BENEFIT FROM HYPREP LIVELIHOOD TRAININGS**

In addition to the training of youths and women of Ogoniland under its sustainable livelihood programme, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is developing an enlarged skill acquisition programme for physically challenged persons to give them a sense of inclusion in the Ogoni clean-up project.

This was disclosed at a life skill workshop with people living with special abilities in Ogoniland.

The Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey who was represented at the event by the Head, Sustainable Livelihood Unit, Mrs. Josephine Nzidee assured participants at the workshop that the livelihood programme of HYPREP targets all

segments of the working population and urged them to have a positive mindset about life.

“No Ogoni person will be left behind in this HYPREP clean-up project. You are a very special target group, because you have decided to live beyond disabilities. And that kind of mindset will make you to go places because you are not looking at any



## Cross Section of Physically Challenged Persons at the Workshop

form of disabilities, you are living beyond it. You are special people with special abilities.

You have shown HYPREP today that, being disabled does not make you a lesser person. You can stand equal with your peers in the society, and that is very interesting for us at HYPREP. Today we know that whatever programme or activity that we put in place for this special target group will be achieved because you are looking beyond disabilities.”

Prof. Zabbey explained that the workshop provides a forum to educate them on health, security and career development and counseling and advised them to choose the type of skills that are best for them.

“The high point of today is for us to identify what you want to be trained in as special people with special abilities. Do not allow anybody to make you choose what they want. Know what you want. So, when you get the form, if you need any form of clarification, if there is something you do not understand, please, ask question before you pick your skills.”

He however advised them to limit their expectation to areas covered by the HYPREP mandate as the project is

not resourced to address all their needs.

“HYPREP cannot meet all your demands because HYPREP has what we call a mandate to remediate impacted sites and provide alternative means of livelihood, provide potable drinking water to communities. There are things the Federal Government has asked HYPREP to do in each Local Government Areas. There is a lot HYPREP is doing but do not expect HYPREP to attend to all your demands. If your demands are not within the mandate of HYPREP and it is not within the scope of what the Federal Government asked HYPREP to do, HYPREP may not be able to meet up those expectations.”

The HYPREP Project Coordinator also stated that those of them who are already doing business and therefore may not elect for skill acquisition, the project will give them grants to boost their businesses.

“For those of us that have something doing. That is, small businesses that you are currently doing as your main source of income or livelihood may not be able to participate in the training session that will be coming up. HYPREP has something for you

because we know that everybody cannot be part of the training, so we are going to work with your leadership. We will give them the number of slots that they will bring for people that are already doing small businesses and we will support those small businesses with a grant, something to put into your business and make it better.”

This set of the physically challenged persons will also benefit from a special training on how to run their businesses sustainably.

“We will train you on how to run a business then we will give you the money so that when that money gets into your hand, you will know that this money that has been given to you is to run your business better. When you are selected, you will be interviewed to be sure that you are actually doing business. We will as well visit your business to see what you are doing before we train you and give you the money.”

President, Ogoni Association of Persons Living with Disabilities, Baridapdo Ngo on behalf of members of the body appreciated the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey for including them in the livelihood training programme.

“I want to use this opportunity to thank HYPREP led by Professor Zabbey for this wonderful workshop. This is unique in the history of persons living with disabilities in Ogoniland and we want to say thank you for finding time to include us in your programme. You said you were going to make people living with disabilities top priority and you have started it. We say thank you very much for our inclusiveness.

He appealed to HYPREP to consider the employment of some members of the association who have the requisite qualifications to work on the Project.

# MOSOP, HYPREP SHARE COMMON VISION OF POLLUTION FREE OGONI - PROF ZABBEY

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has said that the Project and the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) share same vision of an Ogoni free from pollution, poverty and discord.

Professor Zabbey made the declaration at the MOSOP USA November 10 commemoration of the hanging of environment rights activist, Ken Saro-Wiwa and the other Ogoni martyrs held in Kansas, USA, where he charged MOSOP to support HYPREP achieve its mandate of remediating polluted sites in Ogoni and restoring livelihoods aimed at bringing the people out of poverty.

He urged MOSOP to foster in the Ogoni people the spirit of brotherliness and reconciliation and setting aside their differences while working together as a people to achieve a shared prosperous future.

While emphasizing the need for peace and unity, which he noted are necessary requirements to addressing decades of pollution and break the circle of poverty in Ogoni, Prof. Zabbey urged the group to work hand in hand with HYPREP to accelerate the pace of the ongoing environmental and livelihood restoration and the implementation of special projects aimed at leaving a legacy of healing, prosperity and sustainability.

Prof. Zabbey further enjoined members of the group to complement HYPREP's efforts by channeling their international networks, resources, expertise and media platforms to foster growth and development in Ogoni, adding that acknowledging and supporting the progress the



**Prof. Zabbey Showcasing HYPREP Achievements to Members of MOSOP, USA**

Project has made on the Ogoni cleanup would bolster the foundation for further success.

He reiterated the unwavering commitment of the Federal Government of Nigeria under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda and the guidance of the Honourable Minister of Environment and Chairman of the HYPREP Governing Council, Mallam Mene Balarabe Abbas Lawal to the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme Report (2011) on Ogoniland, maintaining that HYPREP is working assiduously to accelerate the clean-up in accordance with Priority 3, Deliverable 3 of the National Agenda. Prof. Zabbey stressed that the actualization of these presidential directives and other initiatives of the Project require the active involvement, support and trust of all Ogonis.

Presenting the Project's scorecard to the group, the HYPREP Project

Coordinator explained that the about 130 projects being carried out by HYPREP in Ogoni have been carefully designed to implement the recommendations of UNEP and to achieve the objectives of HYPREP as stipulated by the gazette establishing it.

He listed the on-going projects of HYPREP to include soil and groundwater remediation, shoreline clean-up, mangrove restoration, potable water provision, strengthening of public health facilities in Ogoni, sundry livelihood interventions, and the construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER), the Ogoni Specialist Hospital, the Buan Cottage Hospital and the Ogoni Power Project, all of which create direct and indirect jobs for the critical mass of Ogoni youths and women.

The Chairman, Board of Trustees (BoT), Ogoni Trust Fund, Chief Mike Nwielaghi was also at the event where he presented update on the financial status of the Ogoni clean-up project.

# ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: HYPREP SEEKS AUSTRALIA'S PARTNERSHIP

The Project Coordination Office of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is seeking a strategic partnership between the Project and Australia in the areas of innovation, education, and environmental protection.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey gave the indication when he paid an official visit to the Australian High Commission in Abuja.

As HYPREP advances towards the completion of its Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, fostering international partnerships with organizations committed to sustainable environmental management, research, and knowledge exchange is essential to keep the centre running sustainably.

According to Prof. Zabbey such collaborations will further support HYPREP's goal of positioning the Centre of Excellence as a global hub for environmental research and vocational education.

The Political Officer at the Australian High Commission, Mr. Calum Walker expressed appreciation for the visit and commended Prof. Zabbey on his outstanding efforts in the clean-up of Ogoniland.

He affirmed Australia's interest in supporting and collaborating with HYPREP in the shared areas of innovation, education, and environmental protection.

The HYPREP Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey was accompanied on the visit to the Australian High Commission by members of the post-UNEP team, Michael Cowing, Chris Newsom and Geraint William who are providing technical support to HYPREP.



**Prof. Zabbey at Australian High Commission in Abuja with Members of Post UNEP Team**

## COMPANY PROPOSES BIOFERTILIZER FOR HYPREP REMEDIATED SITES

With more remediation sites of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) being certified clean by Nigerian regulatory agencies, a technical team from Contec Global Agro Limited, led by Dr. Rohit Berry has visited the HYPREP Project Coordination Office to propose the use

of one of their products – a biofertilizer for the rejuvenation of the soil where remediation has been completed and closed out.

The soil rejuvenation project which would be a partnership between the company and HYPREP will utilize a biofertilizer, uniquely synthesized



**Prof. Zabbey with Officials of Contec Global Agro Ltd. during their Visit to HYPREP Office**

from indigenous microbes isolated from Ogoniland, to restore petroleum hydrocarbon-contaminated soils for sustainable agricultural productivity. The biofertilizer which would be applied in a technology demonstration on a Phase 1 remediated site is to be tested for its effectiveness in revitalizing degraded soils. If successful, this technology would be

adopted to fully restore other petroleum hydrocarbon-contaminated soils remediated by HYPREP to boost their potential for agricultural productivity.

The visitors were received by the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey.

Contec Global Agro Limited, an international biotechnology company,

specializes in advancing sustainable agriculture through the development of organic inputs such as biofertilizers and biopesticides.

Other officials of Contec Global Agro Limited on the company's entourage to HYPREP Project Coordination Office are Abishaek Samuel, Dipankur Maini, and Tarun Sharma.

## **NES INDUCTS HYPREP PC, PROF. ZABBEY; DTS, PROF. AGUIYI FELLOWS**

The Nigerian Environmental Society (NES) has inducted the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey and the Director, Technical Services, HYPREP, Professor Damian-Paul, Aguiyi fellows of the society at its 33rd National Conference and Annual General

Meeting held in Lagos State, Nigeria.

The conferment is in recognition of professionals who have distinguished themselves by displaying knowledge and contributed significantly to the evolution and development of the profession.

This further affirms the quality of the present HYPREP leadership's proven track records and ability to deliver on

the Ogoni clean-up project and a show of confidence by professional bodies like the Nigerian Environmental Society.

The latest honour is among several others conferred on Prof. Zabbey in recognition of his sterling leadership qualities.



**L-R: HYPREP DTS, Prof. Aguiyi and HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey after their Induction as Fellows of NES**





# *Season's Greetings!*

*The Management and Staff of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) wish our esteemed stakeholders and the Christian community a merry Christmas filled with joy, peace and prosperity in an atmosphere that is in tune with nature which is what we are recreating in Ogoniland under our environmental remediation and mangrove restoration project.*

*Merry Christmas and a happy new year 2025 in advance!*

*Signed, Management*



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT  
HYDROCARBON POLLUTION REMEDIATION PROJECT

**HYPREP**

# PICTURES OF THE MONTH



**Prof. Zabbey with Members of the Senate C'ttee on Oil & Gas Host Communities**



**L-R: Dr. Nwielaghi, Prof. Zabbey, HRM Baridam at MOSOP USA 2024 Ogoni Martyrs Memorial in Kansas, USA**



**Prof. Zabbey Presents Certificate of Participation to HRH Bebe Okpabe at HYPREP ADR Workshop**



**Cross Section of Ogoni Traditional Rulers at HYPREP ADR Workshop**



**Cross Section of Participants at HYPREP/Civil Society Dialogue**



**HYPREP Herald Crew at HYPREP/Civil Society Dialogue**



**President of Ogoni Association of Persons living with Disabilities, Baridapdo Ngo with HYPREP Officials**



**Cross Section of Persons with Special Abilities at the HYPREP Livelihood Workshop**

# OGONI CLEAN-UP

## ...HYPREP SPEARHEADING MANGROVE RESTORATION

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Imeh Ofem	Reporter
Praise Ake	Reporter (NYSC)
Tombari Naadue	Camera
Godwin Norbana	Camera

## POETRY CORNER

### Guardians of the Tides

By: Sharon Igbuzor

Beneath the sky, where salt winds sigh,  
The mangroves stand, a watchful eye.  
Their roots like fingers, tangled deep,  
In brackish waters where secrets sleep.

They cradle life, a fragile hue,  
The heron's perch, the crab's first view.  
A nursery, a shield, a breathing lung,  
Where ancient songs of Earth are sung.  
were severed, the tides turned wild,  
Leaving barren shores and ecosystems exiled.

But hope takes root where hearts align,  
With hands that toil and dreams entwine.  
Saplings pla  
Yet axes fell, and waters bled,  
The mangroves bowed where greed had tread.  
Their roots nted with tender care,  
Their futures whispered in the air.

The tides return, the waters sing,  
The mangroves rise, a healing ring.  
They guard the coasts, they mend the scars,  
A constellation beneath the stars.

Oh, champions of this verdant lore,  
Restore the mangroves, forevermore.  
For in their roots, our future lies,  
Beneath the tides, beneath the skies.

Photo:HYPREP



26<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024  
 WORLD MANGROVE DAY 2024  
 HONORABLE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT  
 Halorabe 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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