



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

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LIVELIHOOD TRAINING: HYPREP BEGINS STARTER PACKS DISTRIBUTION



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Presents Starter Packs to Beneficiaries While HRM Dr. Suanu Baridam Watches on

CSO'S LAUD HYPREP OVER QUALITY/PACE OF WORK AT CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

CEER WILL OPEN OGONI TO THE WORLD - PROF. BARIDAM

HYPREP IS BEQUEATHING KNOWLEDGE LEGACY IN MANGROVE RESTORATION - PROF. ZABBEY

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THE PC'S DESK



PROF. NENIBARINI ZABBEY
PROJECT COORDINATOR
(HYPREP)

Happy New Year 2025! We are glad you made it to this new year, and we especially appreciate you for making the HYPREP Herald your monthly choice for updates on the Ogoni clean-up and related environmental issues. Last year was quite eventful for us at the Project Coordination Office (PCO) of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), as we accelerated the Ogoni Cleanup in line with the priority of the Renewed Hope Agenda. Consequently, we implemented over one hundred and thirty (130) projects, all running simultaneously. One of the year's highlights was completing the training of five thousand Ogoni youth and women in twenty different skill sets, for which we began distributing starter packs to beneficiaries in December. It is incredibly satisfying because we placed in the hands of the trainees both skills and tools that will enable them to earn a living for themselves and their dependents. As we conclude that training, we are rolling out another training stream in demand-driven skill areas, including full-stack development, GIS and remote sensing, cybersecurity, rope access, commercial diving/underwater welding, mudlogging, mechatronics, and agro-based training to boost food security. We will also commence the socio-

economic study of Ogoni in this new year. The research will produce a robust blueprint for Ogoni's post-cleanup socio-economic development. Similarly, a 3-year comprehensive human biomonitoring study of the Ogoni people will start by the second quarter. The International Agency for Research in Cancer (IARC), a unit of the World Health Organisation (WHO) will lead the research in partnership with local institutions and researchers. The study will generate essential datasets on Ogoniland's health and health challenges pattern and the relationship between exposure to hydrocarbon contaminants and illnesses. Such empirical data are needed for effective health management systems in the region.

Almost of the over one hundred ongoing projects in the thematic areas of soil and groundwater remediation, shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration, construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER), Ogoni Specialist Hospital, Buan Cottage Hospital, Ogoni Power Project, and the construction of potable water schemes will be completed this year and the facilities used by the people. The contract duration for the ongoing remediation of medium-risk, complex sites is three years. Thus, they are expected to be completed by the end of 2026. The ongoing transmission phase (construction of a 62km 132 KV transmission line and two 60MVA substations) will be completed in 2025, and the distribution phase will start. In line with the Renewed Hope Agenda of prioritizing the acceleration of the Ogoni cleanup, we shall expand the scope of the shoreline cleanup and mangrove restoration to contiguous areas. Six new water schemes will be constructed to increase Ogoni people's access to potable water. The emerging projects will require robust community content and participation. Thus, the new projects will create new jobs and enhance the capacity

of Ogoni youth and women through well-thought-out recruitment training and hands-on learning. We shall undertake a robust site characterization of the high-risk, complex sites leading to the remediation execution. Similarly, we will conduct a carbon stock assessment of mangrove restoration shorelines, commence the RAMSAR accreditation of Ogoni mangroves, and intensify the off-site research on the West African bloody cockle spat production and field stocking trials to boost local livelihood. Earlier, we announced the need to conserve remnant biodiversity hotspots such as mangrove conservation areas and traditionally protect forests. We shall keenly pursue this conservation goal and work with the people to evolve co-management models to promote environmental sustainability in the region.

Achieving the 2025 goals of the Ogoni Cleanup requires strong visibility, linkages, and partnership. We shall continue to communicate lessons learned and process our data to knowledge products to advance the knowledge and practice of hydrocarbon remediation.

In sum, we will do more in this new year with the cherished cooperation of stakeholders, particularly the Ogoni people. Our plans are bigger, better, and well-intended to deliver a sustainable clean-up and create a remediation template that can be replicated in other regions with similar experiences to Ogoni's.

We sincerely appreciate everyone who made last year a success for us. We are eternally thankful to the Honourable Minister of Environment and Chairman of the Governing Council of HYPREP, Mallam (Mene) Balarabe Abbas Lawal, for his dedication and commitment to the Ogoni clean-up project. We are grateful to the Governing Council of HYPREP members, who have been very supportive. Thanks to the Board of Trustees (BOT) Chairman of the Ogoni Trust Fund, Dr.

Mike Nwielaghi, and his team for always responding to our cash calls to implement the project. We are immensely grateful to our funders – the Joint Venture Partners led by the SPDC. To the regulators (NOSDRA, NUPRC, Rivers State Ministry of Environment, etc.), you are indeed partners in progress on the Ogoni clean-up project. We sincerely appreciate the support of civil society organizations

(CSOs) for the sustained collaborative interest in the Ogoni cleanup. We cannot thank the media enough. Gentlemen of the press were always with us throughout the event-packed 2024, wading with us through the sinking mudflats in the sun and in the rain. Above all, the Ogoni people owned the project and provided a safe and peaceful environment for us to operate. We celebrate you as good hosts.

To the Management and Staff of the Project Coordination Office, you are an asset and a formidable workforce that any organization would be proud of. I urge you to continue to hold your hands with renewed vigour, discipline and devotion in 2025 and beyond to deliver the mandate of the Ogoni Cleanup. Once again, I wish all stakeholders a happy and prosperous 2025!

In this Issue

A happy and prosperous new year 2025. This is the first issue of the year and one that announces the long-awaited distribution of the starter packs for the five thousand trainees of the HYPREP livelihood programme for Ogoni youths and women. The distribution of the starter packs is in batches and at each centre where the training was conducted for easy identification of beneficiaries and for crowd control for the safety of lives and the equipment. One notable observation at each of the centres is the fact that beneficiaries are pleased with HYPREP for redeeming its promise of giving them materials to work with at the end of their training.

The HYPREP livelihood programme targets every segment of the Ogoni population including secondary school students. A total of 390 students from thirteen schools in Ogoni where HYPREP has its environment club converged on the Birabi Memorial Grammar School for a life skill workshop in collaboration with the National Orientation Agency (NOA) and the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA).

The door of HYPREP remains open for visitors and partners to evaluate the work that it is doing in the field of Ogoni. Among critical visitors who called at HYPREP project sites were some

environmentalists from the Netherlands who have heard of the Ogoni clean-up project and had come to see how it is faring. The foreign nationals were led to HYPREP by the Executive Director of Health of Mother Earth Foundation, Dr. Nnimmo Bassey. They visited mangrove restoration site in Bomu and the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration at Wiiyaakara. They were impressed with the pace of work on those sites.

The Technical Planning Committee set up to develop template for the smooth running of the centre also paid an inspection visit to monitor the progress of work on the centre. Chairman of the committee, Prof. Don Baridam at the end of the inspection remarked that the centre will open Ogoni to the world given the scope of work in environmental research that the centre is designed to conduct not just for Nigeria's consumption but also for the world. The Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey was in Abu Dhabi recently on the invitation of the Government of the United Arab Emirates for the 1st International Conference on Mangrove Restoration and Conservation to share the Ogoni experience with mangrove management practitioners and researchers from around the world.

Stakeholders' engagement and especially when it has to do with briefing them on the performance of the project is an area that HYPREP does not toy with since the Ogoni clean-up project is a public trust. To this end, the Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey was at the enlarged Project Review

Meeting with Ogoni stakeholders to intimate them on the progress of work. The stakeholders were impressed with the scorecard of the project and suggested ways to improve on the performance. Similarly, the project also briefed regulators and funders on mode of operations and achievements.

The test for the selection of beneficiaries for HYPREP post graduate scholarship programme was held.

In preparation for the health impact study as recommended in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on Ogoniland, HYPREP carried out a free medical outreach to the four Local Government Areas of Ogoni. The medical outreach recorded a large turnout of patients. The Ogoni Power Project is on course and to fast-track clearance of the items manufactured overseas, the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Zabbey had a meeting with the Area 11 Comptroller of Customs, Onne Port, Mohammed Babandede.

A gold fish, they say, has no hiding place and so is Prof. Zabbey on account of his contributions to the clean-up of Ogoniland. He was recently honoured with merit awards by the Royals Organization of Bodo City and the Bodo Priests and Religious Forum of Catholic Diocese of Port Harcourt. We have a beautiful and insightful poem for you on the environment. Do well to reach us with suggestions on better ways of serving you. Once again, welcome to 2025.

Project News

LIVELIHOOD TRAINING: HYPREP BEGINS STARTER PACKS DISTRIBUTION

Following the completion of the training of five thousand Ogoni youths and women in different skill sets for their economic empowerment and livelihood sustainability, the Management of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has commenced the distribution of starter packs to beneficiaries of the trainings.

The distribution of the kits as related to their area of training is the final phase of the programme before releasing them to ply their new trades.

At an event held in Port Harcourt to present certificates and starter packs to the first set of trainees, the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey remarked that the completion of the training and the eventual presentation of starter packs to beneficiaries is a major achievement as it speaks to the restoration of livelihoods component of the mandate of HYPREP.

“Today's gathering marks a significant milestone in our collective journey towards empowerment, economic growth, and environmental restoration. Your presence here demonstrates your unwavering support for the work HYPREP is doing in Ogoni; I sincerely thank you for that. Restoring the livelihood of hydrocarbon-impacted communities and related programmes is integral to the HYPREP mandate. We have created thousands of direct and indirect jobs through our sundry projects.”

Professor Zabbey stated that HYPREP is committed to fulfilling every promise it made to the Ogoni people



Beneficiaries of HYPREP Livelihood Training at Graduation/Starter Pack Presentation

and as the project draws the curtain on the training of the five thousand Ogoni youths and women it will roll out another set of training in more specialized areas.

“HYPREP remains steadfast in its commitment to building community confidence and trust in the project. This event is a testimony to that commitment, and we assure you that we will keep our word. Also, for beneficiaries who will not be receiving their starter packs today, rest assured that you will be duly informed of the date and location for collection. At HYPREP, we believe that your success is our success, and we are determined to ensure that no one is left behind, including the underserved populations. We are rolling out another training stream in demand-driven skill areas. These include training in full-stack development,

GIS and remote sensing, cybersecurity, rope access, commercial diving/underwater welding, mudlogging, mechatronics and agric skill enhancement.”

He emphasized the importance of peace to development and announced that HYPREP is establishing a peace award to strengthen peacebuilding efforts in Ogoni to fast track more development in the communities.

“As part of our peacebuilding mandate, I am delighted to announce that we are in the process of establishing the **OGONI COMMUNITY PEACE AWARD**, which will be launched in 2025. This initiative aims to recognize and reward Ogoni communities, community-based organizations, and individuals demonstrating exemplary peacebuilding and environmental stewardship across the four Local

Government Areas of Khana, Gokana, Tai, and Eleme. At HYPREP, we believe that environmental restoration, livelihood restoration, and the implementation of unique projects and sustainable development in Ogoni can only thrive in a peaceful and cooperative atmosphere.”

The HYPREP Project Coordinator advised beneficiaries of the training to make good use of their starter packs to better their lots economically and refrain from the temptation of selling the items in their own interest.

“By embracing this opportunity, you can transform Ogoni into a hub of diverse economic activity, fostering development and collective prosperity. You must see it as such and refrain from selling the items given to you. The success of HYPREP's sustainable livelihood initiatives and the remediation project depends on your ownership and active participation in the project. Let us

work together to ensure that the progress we have recorded today is sustained.”

Prof. Zabbey acknowledged and appreciated the Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Lawal and other key stakeholders for making the training a reality.

“On behalf of the staff and management of HYPREP, I extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Honourable Minister of Environment and Chairman of the Governing Council of HYPREP, Balarabe Abbas Lawal, for graciously approving the purchase and distribution of these starter packs. I also want to thank the members of the Governing Council of HYPREP, the Chairman and Members of the Board of Trustees of the Ogoni Trust Fund, the Shell Petroleum Development Company and the Joint Venture Partners, community leaders, youth and women, the trainers, the civil society, security formations, the

media as well as all those contributing to the success of HYPREP. We recognize and appreciate your effort.”

The Spokesperson of the Central Representative Advisory Committee of HYPREP and King of Banghan, HRM Dr. Suanu Baridam cautioned youths of Ogoni against peddling falsehood against HYPREP and rather work to support the project achieve its mandate which is the clean-up of Ogoni and restoration of livelihoods of the people.

One of the trainers, Mrs. Soetan Ireoluwa urged participants to see the training as the beginning of a transformative journey with the potential for global success.

“To all the participants who were on the training, you have just started a journey that should not end. For some of you, we are hoping that we will see you in the streets of Lagos and London. For some of you, we will get into a restaurant somewhere in the



Head, Livelihood, Mrs. Josephine Nzidee Poses with Trainees Upon Receipt of their Starter Packs

world, and we will see you making food for the people there. We want to see your clothes and designs everywhere in the world. So, we are really excited that you all took out the time to learn as we celebrate your achievements today. We hope that you continue to rise higher and higher.”

Head, Sustainable Livelihoods, HYPREP, Mrs. Josephine Nzidee encouraged the trainees to put their skills into practice to change the fortune of Ogoni economically.

“There is no such programme of this magnitude that can be carried out

without challenges, without issues and concerns. But the good thing about all these is that we were able to scale through. We expect the 5000 beneficiaries of this programme to be able to change the economic situation across the four Local Government Areas of Ogoni. We have trained you in 20 different skill areas, and the project is expecting to see the positive impact of your knowledge.”

She explained that the distribution of the starter packs will be in phases and at the various centres where they were trained.

“Of course, we cannot have all 5000 persons here today, and so we have picked people from different centers in different areas and to ensure that all the four LGs are here represented, from Tuesday the 10th of December, we will continue with the distribution of the starter packs in different centers.”

Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, Barinua Joseph, expressed their gratitude to HYPREP for the training and promised to be good ambassadors of the project.

390 SECONDARY STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM HYPREP'S VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Thirteen secondary schools selected from the four Local Government Areas of Ogoniland participated in the maiden career coaching workshop organized by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) to develop entrepreneurial and vocational skills and to orientate them in the path of moral rectitude.

The three hundred and ninety students who are also members of the HYPREP Environment Clubs – the Green Frontiers converged on the famous Birabi Memorial Grammar School (BMGS), Bori for the workshop with the theme, “Career Coaching: Developing the Young Minds.” The workshop was held in collaboration with the National Orientation Agency (NOA) and the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA). Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey who declared the workshop open stated that it is aimed at engaging the minds of the young ones positively as well as dissuading them from going into crimes.

Prof. Zabbey who was represented by



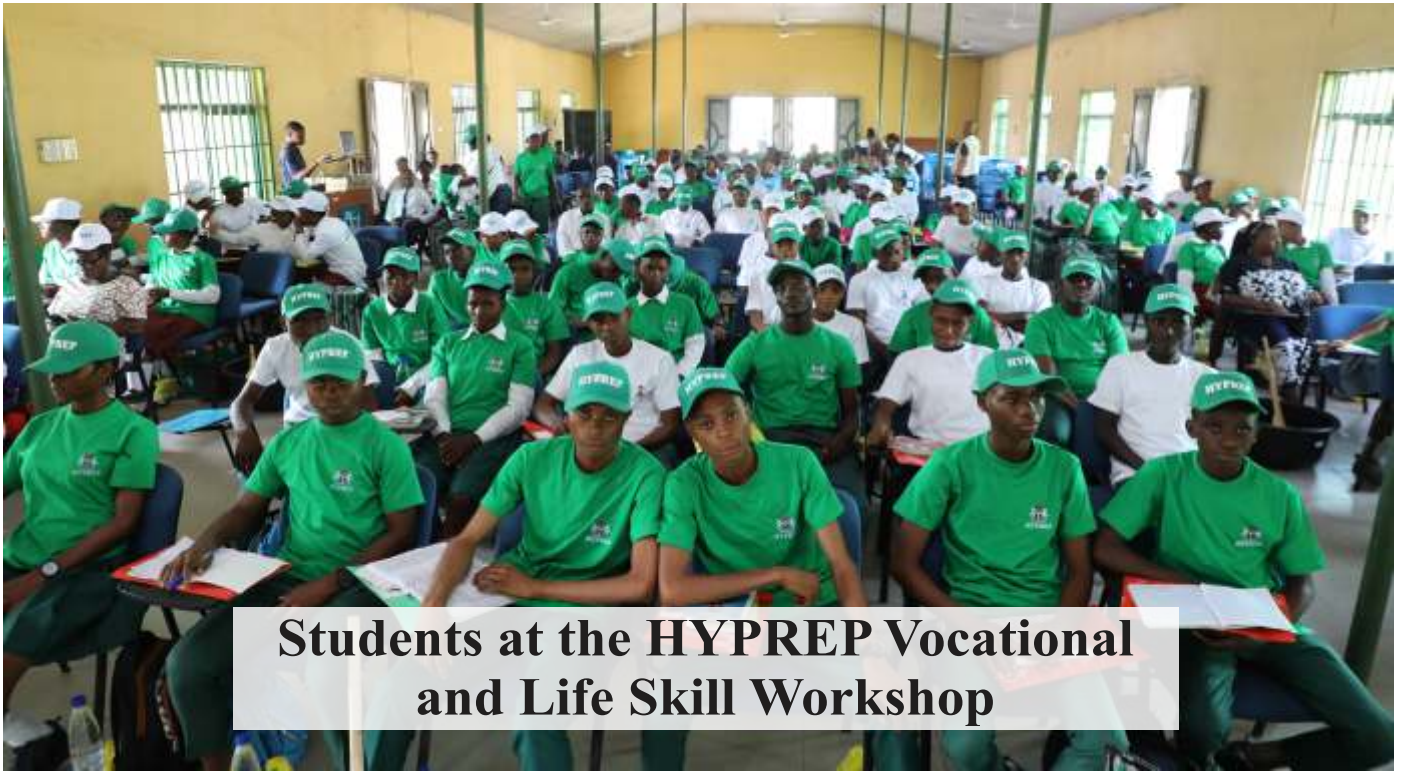
Mrs. Nzidee Addressing Participants at the HYPREP Vocational and Life Skill Workshop

the Head, Sustainable Livelihood, Mrs. Josephine Nzidee stated that the workshop will equip them with skills that would make them generate their personal incomes.

“This initiative will mitigate crime in this region, because this life skill will actually take the students' minds off these things that make them commit crime, while their peers are out there trying to engage in negative activities, they will be busy making their petroleum jelly and liquid soap. We are also going to talk to them about

entrepreneurship, after the practical, how to keep their records, how to start their small businesses for them to earn their own income. We have start-ups for the 13 secondary schools that we have established our clubs, we have 30 students per school, and we will be giving them their own start up as we are teaching them the skills, we will give them all the necessary tools. We have 390 students from 13 schools, 30 students per school in Khana, Gokana, Eleme and Tai.”

He further stated that apart from the



Students at the HYPREP Vocational and Life Skill Workshop

skills, the students would be sensitized about the dangers of drug abuse and the need to imbibe the virtues of discipline, tolerance, and respect for people irrespective of their ethnic or religious backgrounds.

“This initiative is designed to keep students occupied during the festive season to prevent them from engaging in vices. With the support of the NOA and NDLEA, we are teaching them about life values, the dangers of drugs, and providing entrepreneurial skills such as making petroleum jelly and liquid soap. We believe these activities will keep their minds engaged and help them develop sustainable

livelihoods.”

The Rivers State Director of the National Orientation Agency (NOA), Young Ayo-Tamuno, highlighted the importance of inculcating national values in the youths who are the leaders of tomorrow.

“This programme aligns with the National Values Charter, which promotes discipline, resilience, and sustainable development. By grooming these students now, we prepare them to face future challenges and contribute meaningfully to the country's development. Today we are talking about sustainable development. Sustainable

development is meant for the younger people, the future generations to come, so by organizing a programme like this, we groom the students for the future.”

The Principal of BMGS and host of the event, Barr. Bob Agbozi commended HYPREP on conceptualizing the workshop, saying it combines practical skills with value orientation - two key ingredients for the all-round development of an individual.

The benefiting students thanked the Management of HYPREP for taking keen interest in their development.

CSO'S LAUD HYPREP OVER QUALITY/PACE OF WORK AT CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

The Executive Director, Health of Mother Earth Foundation, Dr. Nnimmo Bassey is optimistic that the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration that the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is building will play a key role in the environmental restoration of Ogoniland as well as

provision of technical expertise and template for other regions around the world grappling with environmental degradation.

Dr. Bassey gave the indication at the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, Wiiyaakara under construction when he led members of Civil Society

Organizations and some environmentalists from the Netherlands to inspect the progress of work on the facility.

He commended the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) on the quality of work and the visible progress on the Centre of Excellence for Environmental



The Team of CSO's at the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, Wiiyaakara

Restoration being a critical recommendation in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on Ogoniland to research into environmental pollution and develop the necessary manpower and technical capacity for addressing it.

Bassey noted that the centre would help communities better understand the extent and causes of pollution in their environment, turning Ogoni into a “laboratory of a degraded environment” from which global lessons can be drawn.

“The structure is impressive, and we are optimistic that it will serve as a center of global excellence for environmental restoration,” he stated.

Dr. Bassey however emphasized that the center's long-term success depends on adequate funding, particularly from the international oil companies

responsible for the degradation of the environment.

He stressed the importance of ensuring that the facility remains well-equipped and properly staffed to achieve its ambitious goals of environmental restoration.

“We are impressed by the level of work done by the visible quality of workmanship, and we know that for any engineering structure, at the end of the day, it's how the facility is fully kitted. We have seen the structure, and we are hoping that the finishing and all the equipment needed would also be provided.”

Comrade Celestine Akpobari of the Peoples Advancement Centre emphasized that the centre must produce tangible outcomes that will benefit the people of Ogoni and as well contribute to solving global environmental challenges.

Akpobari stressed that while the physical structure of the CEER is being built, it remains “just the carcass” without the vital resources, research, and intellectual input needed to make it a true Centre of Excellence that will become a hub for serious research and innovation, generating products and solutions that are valuable to governments, communities, and the global public.

“This is just the beginning. What we need is not just a building but a serious center of learning,” Akpobari said.

He also called for the enactment of an act to protect the establishment and operations of HYPREP while calling on the government to pay its counterpart funds and also make budgetary allocation for the running of the Center of Excellence and the execution of other HYPREP projects.

CEER WILL OPEN OGONI TO THE WORLD-*PROF. BARIDAM*

The Technical Planning Committee for the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER) has expressed optimism that the Centre when fully functional will open Ogoni to the world given its enormous potentials to attract both local and international researchers and visitors. Chairman of the Technical Planning Committee, Professor Don Baridam made the assertion when he led other members of the committee on an inspection of the facility under construction at Wiiyaakara, Khana Local Government Area.

Prof. Baridam who expressed satisfaction at the level of progress made on the project noted that the blueprint for the project points to the immense benefits it holds for the people of Ogoni, adding that an effective management of the Centre would generate huge revenue for its sustenance and operations.

A member of the committee and former member of the Governing Council of HYPREP, Professor Roselyn Konya said the construction of the CEER is a dream come through, stressing that it further places Ogoni on the world map and that its construction is a clear indication that HYPREP is on course to delivering on its mandate.

In the same vein another member of the committee, Professor Eucharia Oluchi Nwaichi, remarked that the visit evoked a sense of optimism and urgency, noting that it is a pointer to the realization of the goal to achieving a sustainable remediation technology and training ground to breed resources for the clean-up of the rest of the Niger Delta and Nigeria as a whole.

She stated that the Centre is in a way



Members of the Technical Planning Committee Inspecting Progress of Work at CEER, Wiiyaakara

showcasing the contribution of the Niger Delta to the petroleum industry in Nigeria and called for collaboration and commitment to the sustainability of the template for the Centre.

The Officer Overseeing the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, Professor Ibisimi Etela said the visit by the Technical Planning Committee had afforded them the opportunity to see firsthand the level of progress made, adding that the Project is committed to meeting stakeholders' expectation to deliver a world class Centre of Excellence as recommended by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report on the clean-up of Ogoniland.

The 13-member Technical Planning Committee which was inaugurated on 31st May 2024 by the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey, includes former Vice Chancellors, academics, environmentalists and seasoned administrators.

The constitution of the Committee is part of HYPREP's larger strategic sustainability plan for the Centre and the committee has among other terms of reference the responsibility to recommend a sustainable template for the operationalization of the Centre.

At over 70% completion, the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration is expected to be commissioned towards the end of 2025.

The Centre's primary mandate is to research and disseminate information on best practices in environmental remediation, restoration and management with special emphasis on the remediation of hydrocarbon pollution in soil, sediments, groundwater and air. It has the ambition to be a known one stop shop for sustainable solutions in restoring the environment and livelihood sources for communities affected by hydrocarbon induced pollution.

HYPREP IS BEQUEATHING KNOWLEDGE LEGACY IN MANGROVE RESTORATION – PROF. ZABBEY

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey is confident that the mangrove restoration work in Ogoniland being carried out by HYPREP will bequeath a new approach in mangrove management and harnessing of its goods and services to the world.

Prof. Zabbey was one of the plenary speakers at the 1st International Conference on Mangrove Restoration and Conservation held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates from 10th – 12th December 2024.

The conference brought together mangrove management practitioners, researchers, and policy actors to share lessons learned and innovative thoughts on enhancing mangrove ecosystem services.

In the presentation entitled “Multi-species Mangrove Restoration of Crude Oil Impacted Shoreline in Ogoniland, Nigeria,” Prof. Zabbey informed his audience that the Ogoni mangrove restoration project that HYPREP is carrying out is



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Making a Presentation at the 1st Int'l Conference on Mangrove Restoration and Conservation Held at Abu Dhabi, UAE

community-driven and underscored the knowledge legacy of HYPREP's publications on mangrove restoration and conservation strategy, as well as the user-friendly mangrove restoration manual, noting that the reports would guide mangrove restoration efforts in Nigeria and similar regions of the world.

Prof. Zabbey further stated that HYPREP's next cause of action will be to consolidate on the immediate and

long-term gains of the mangrove restoration project and they include restoring the West African bloody cockle, eradicating single-use plastic bags for growing mangrove seedlings, monitoring the impact of mangrove restoration on shoreline elevation using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), monitoring the impact of the mangrove restoration on fisheries, and assessing the carbon stock of the restored mangroves.

PILOT MANGROVE RESTORATION RECORDS 75% SUCCESS

The key thematic areas of soil remediation, shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration, provision of potable water, livelihood trainings and construction of legacy projects have recorded significant success in the ongoing Ogoni clean-up project.

This was made known by the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey at an enlarged project review meeting held in Port Harcourt to brief Ogoni stakeholders on the operations of the project.

Prof. Zabbey stated that the pilot



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Addressing Participants at the HYPREP Project Review Meeting

mangrove restoration at Bomu has recorded a 75% success and that it is crucial to the protection of biodiversity and promotion of sustainable livelihoods in the affected communities.

“Our community-led restoration of 560 ha of oil-degraded mangroves is 75% completed. Shoreline clean-up has progressed to a 20% completion rate, while the soil and groundwater remediation of the medium-risk, complex sites have advanced substantially. Interestingly, as contaminated lands are remediated and shorelines cleaned up, more areas will be freed up for farming, fishing, and other productive uses. The rehabilitation efforts will significantly enhance the food security and livelihoods of the people of Ogoni and, by extension, other contiguous regions that depend on the ecosystem goods and services that the remediated

lands and creeks provide.”

He revealed that the socio-economic study of Ogoni will commence early in the year and that the research outputs will lead to the development of a blueprint for the socio-economic development of Ogoni, adding that so far over seven thousand jobs have been created for the locals who are working on HYPREP sites.

“The various HYPREP project activities in Ogoni have created 7000 direct jobs and ancillary indirect jobs for the youth and women of Ogoni. We continue developing people's capacity through skill acquisition training and hands-on skill enhancement. For example, the unique internship programme for forty young Ogoni science and engineering graduates at the Centre of Excellence site is intentional. It will strengthen their employability capacity. Under our livelihood programme, we have

trained 5000 youths and women in 20 skill areas, and the trainees are given skill-specific starter packs. The distribution of the livelihood starter packs is progressing seamlessly at the different training centres, and we urge the beneficiaries to use the tools meaningfully to build sustainable livelihoods, uplift their communities, and contribute positively to the national economy.”

Prof. Zabbey further stated that HYPREP is exploring innovative ways to promote sustainable development in the region. “We are in exploratory talks with the Africa Development Bank to establish an agro-industrial processing hub in Ogoni”, he said.

He mentioned that the construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER) is now 70% complete. “This centre is expected to play a crucial role in



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey in a Group Photograph with Participants at the HYPREP Project Review Meeting

building the capacity of youths and women in Ogoniland, equipping them with vocational skills and cutting-edge research expertise”, adding that the centre will also serve as a knowledge hub, storage of valuable data and experiences gathered by HYPREP for future reference.

The HYPREP Project Coordinator told the stakeholders that the Buan Cottage Hospital, the Specialist Hospital, and the Power Project are progressing steadily and disclosed that regarding the power project, 'an inspection team comprising representatives of the Federal Ministry of Environment, HYPREP, the supervision consultant, and the Ogoni power project contractor is in China conducting a factory acceptance test (FAT) on some of the manufactured items.'

In addition to the above milestones, Prof. Zabbey highlighted the significant strides made in the provision of potable water for Ogoni communities, stressing that clean water is vital for public health and wellbeing and that HYPREP is working diligently to expand and sustain the water scheme to cover more communities.

The HYPREP Project Coordinator urged all stakeholders to play their part actively and responsibly as their contributions, vigilance, and constructive engagement are crucial in overcoming challenges and achieving shared objectives.

“HYPREP cannot succeed in isolation; the active participation of Ogoni communities, traditional institutions, and all other partners in a constructive manner is fundamental to

the success of this transformative initiative. I would like to emphasize that HYPREP remains fully committed to remediating the oil-impacted environment, empowering communities through its livelihood programmes, and leaving a legacy of sustainable development in Ogoni. Let us seize the opportunity and platform of this Project Review Meeting to deepen collaboration, address challenges, and chart a path forward that prioritizes the well-being of our people and environment.”

Attendees at the meeting, representing a broad spectrum of the Ogoni society, including politicians, traditional rulers, academics, and youth groups, thanked the Project Coordinator for his commitment to the clean-up project, and urged him to sustain the tempo.

HYPREP BRIEFS REGULATORS ON MODE OF OPERATIONS, ACHIEVEMENTS

In keeping with its commitment to transparency and accountability, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has hosted its final quarterly regulators meeting for 2024. The event brought together key regulators, project stakeholders, and relevant experts to discuss progress, address challenges in an attempt to ensure collaborative approach to achieving project objectives.

The Director of Technical Services, HYPREP, Prof. Damian Aguiyi while delivering the opening remarks on behalf of the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey emphasized that the meeting was a pivotal moment for HYPREP and stakeholders to come together, share perspectives, and collaborate on project development. He said that by encouraging open



Director Technical Services, Prof. Damian Aguiyi Addressing Participants at the HYPREP Stakeholders Meeting

communication, transparency, and accountability, the meeting will help strengthen relationship between HYPREP and its stakeholders. “This meeting is our opportunity to relate

with stakeholders, have feedback and get constructive criticisms on our activities, budgets and pace of work.” According to the Director, Technical Services, insightful feedback,

regulatory instructions, and constructive criticisms have played a crucial role in shaping HYPREP's focus and approach, enabling the project to improve on its overall performance and intended outcomes.

Prof. Aguiyi noted that the feedback has been instrumental in helping HYPREP navigate complex regulatory requirements, address emerging challenges, and capitalize on opportunities for growth and innovation, ultimately ensuring that the project remains on track to deliver on its mandate.

“I must tell you that your feedback, instructions, criticisms, have helped us in all our activities and projects. Please keep giving us this feedback. It will only make us better.”

Stakeholders at the event reaffirmed their commitment to the Ogoni clean-up project and acknowledged the significant progress and tangible benefits the clean-up project has brought to Ogoni communities.

A Representative of the Federal Ministry of Environment, Mr.

Adenigba Olabode commended the Project Coordinator on the success of the clean-up, which he said has demonstrated HYPREP's capacity to deliver on its promises. He encouraged HYPREP to expedite action on the water project and expand it to cover more communities.

Also speaking at the event, Mr. Meshack Uyi of the Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD), commended the stakeholders on their synergy and cooperation, assuring of CEHRD's continuous support for the clean-up and advised HYPREP to maintain a receptive stance, acknowledging and incorporating feedback into its operations to ensure the process remains on track and yields desired outcomes.

A Director at the Rivers State Ministry of Power, Engineer Osele John expressed optimism that a collaboration with the Ministry would facilitate speedy implementation of the Ogoni Power Project.

His counterpart from the Rivers State

Ministry of Health, Dr. Ndubisi Akpah reiterated the Ministry's interest in supporting initiatives that would enhance the health and well-being of the people, and commended HYPREP on its laudable programmes and activities.

Another participant at the meeting, Mrs. Stella Amanie of the Society for Women and Youth Affairs applauded HYPREP's diligence in convening regular meetings and pledged SWAYA's steadfast support for the clean-up project.

The meeting featured presentation of HYPREP's Project Status Report, which provided update on project progress, highlighting notable milestones achieved in environmental remediation, potable water provision, construction of critical infrastructure such as the Centre of Excellence, Specialist Hospital, and Buan Cottage Hospital, as well as livelihood projects encompassing the distribution of starter packs to 5000 trainees.

OVER 800 APPLICANTS SIT FOR HYPREP POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP TEST

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has conducted a Computer Based Test (CBT) for the selection of beneficiaries for its Postgraduate Scholarship Support Programme for three hundred Masters and two hundred Doctor of Philosophy students of Ogoni origin studying in Nigerian universities.

Over eight hundred (800) applicants participated in the Computer Based Test which was conducted in Port Harcourt under strict and transparent condition to select only the best for the scholarship programme.



Applicants During the HYPREP Computer Based Test for Post Graduate Scholarship

The scholarship grant is part of HYPREP's robust livelihood initiative to engender human capacity development of Ogoni youths.

The Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey, had in September 2024 at an Ogoni Youth Forum announced the scheme for the category of postgraduate students

following the successful award of support grants to undergraduate students.

Students who participated in the Computer Based Test testified to the orderly and transparent manner the test was conducted, describing the process as seamless and commended the Management of the Hydrocarbon

Pollution Remediation Project on the initiative which they said will greatly ease the financial difficulties they face in their studies.

Physically challenged candidates were also given the opportunity to participate in the postgraduate scholarship screening exercise.

WHO To Conduct Ogoni Health Impact Study

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has announced that it is in talks with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer to conduct the health impact study as recommended in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on Ogoni in the early part of 2025.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey made the announcement at the Terabo General Hospital during the flag-off of the HYPREP free medical outreach for Ogoni people.

The free medical outreach has become an annual programme of HYPREP in Ogoni to facilitate access to healthcare and gather preliminary data for the health impact study.

The United Nations Environment Programme has recommended in its 2011 report on Ogoni that a comprehensive health study be carried out to determine any link between oil spill and disease patterns in Ogoni.

Prof. Zabbey confirmed that HYPREP is now set to implement that recommendation of UNEP.

“HYPREP is in talks with the World Health Organization (WHO), International Agency for Research on Cancer to conduct that biomonitoring initiative of HYPREP. So, from next year the World Health Organization (WHO) will be in Ogoni to conduct



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Declaring Open the HYPREP Free Medical Outreach to Ogoni

that study and the study will last for three years. Of course, they will come and leverage on existing capacity, existing institutions in Rivers State to be able to conduct that study. We expect that the Ogoni Doctors Initiatives will also partner with the World Health Organization to ensure that the study is as comprehensive as we all anticipate, and it is fit for purpose so that the outcome of the study will be used for proper health management of the Ogoni people.”

He stated that in 2024, HYPREP strengthened health facilities in the four Local Government Areas of Ogoni to boost healthcare delivery.

“HYPREP has been strengthening health systems in Ogoni. We have strengthened this Terabo General Hospital with state-of-the-art

equipment and solar power. We have also strengthened the Bori General Hospital. We have strengthened Nchia General Hospital and Kpite Primary Health Centre. Early next year (2025) we will focus on the Bodo General Hospital, Taabaa Primary Health Centre, Onne and Nonwa Primary Health Centres.

In addition, we will also renovate the K. Dere Primary Health Centre. Beyond the renovation of that facility we will want to build the state-of-the-art medical hostel for students that usually come from the University of Port Harcourt and probably the Rivers State University now that they have started medicine. We will come here and do community medicine the way we used to do some years ago and before now the students usually

looked for accommodations in private homes but now, we want to make their stay in Ogoni seamless by providing a hostel for them. Of course, we will make sure that power and things like that are provided in that facility.”

The HYPREP medical outreach was conducted at the Bori General Hospital, the Terabo General Hospital, the Nchia General Hospital, the Onne Primary Health Centre, Taabaa Primary Health Centre, Kpite Primary Health Centre, Nonwa Primary Health Centre, and Bodo General Hospital and featured minor and major surgeries, general consultations, dental care and treatment of other ailments.

“So, we expect that this medical outreach will provide medical consultations to Gokana people and will also provide dental care as well as surgical operations for the good people of Gokana which include surgical removal of hernia, appendicitis, fibroid, cataract and other ailments that the doctors will treat. HYPREP is very deliberate, that is why we decided to partner with the Ogoni Doctor Initiatives, because they are from here.

They are Ogoni sons and daughters they understand the issues and we



Patients Receiving Medication at the HYPREP Health Outreach

“speak the same language so they will be able to interact patiently with all of you, with all the persons that will come for this outreach and understand your issues, give you medications and if it requires surgery they will conduct the surgery and then after three days they will move from here to the other Local Government Areas. Three days per Local Government Area. We do not want to leave anybody behind. We want everybody to be attended to.”

Prof. Zabbey informed the people that HYPREP was doing a lot in other areas like livelihood, Ogoni Power Project, building of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental

Restoration, shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration, land remediation and provision of potable water with additional fourteen water schemes to expand reticulation in sixty-eight more communities in Ogoni.

The medical outreach witnessed large turnout of beneficiaries and a comprehensive report on the programme would be featured in subsequent editions of the HYPREP Herald.

Officials of the Rivers State Ministry of Health were at the flag off of the medical outreach.

OGONI POWER PROJECT:

HYPREP SEEKS NIGERIA CUSTOMS SERVICE COLLABORATION

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has appealed for the collaboration of the Nigeria Customs Service in the delivery of the mandate of HYPREP especially in the construction of the Ogoni Power Project.

Prof. Zabbey made the appeal when he received the Area 11 Comptroller of Customs, Onne Port, Mohammed

Babandede at the Project Coordination Office in Port Harcourt.

The HYPREP Project Coordinator intimated the Customs Area Comptroller of the mandate of HYPREP and its numerous ongoing projects in Ogoniland, including soil and groundwater remediation, shoreline cleanup and mangrove restoration, construction of water schemes, the Ogoni Specialist Hospital, the Centre of Excellence for

Environmental Restoration, the Ogoni Power Project and sundry livelihood projects.

Prof. Zabbey hinted the Area Comptroller that HYPREP is expecting about thirty (30) containers of equipment for the Ogoni Power Project through the Onne Port and therefore requested the cooperation of the Customs in the clearance of the expected equipment which he said would benefit the national economy

and boost the productivity of the Ogoni people.

In his response, the Area 11 Comptroller of Customs, Onne Port, Mohammed Babandede, appreciated Prof. Zabbey for the warm reception

accorded him and assured the HYPREP Project Coordinator of the willingness of the Nigeria Customs Service to provide the needed support for the smooth delivery of the Ogoni Power Project.

The Chief Security Officer of HYPREP, AIG Emmanuel Effiom (Rtd.) and some officers of the Customs Area 11, Onne Port were in attendance at the meeting.

TWO GROUPS HONOUR PROF. ZABBEY ON CONTRIBUTION TO CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

The leadership of oil producing and bearing communities in the Niger Delta has been advised to take a strong stand against oil theft and illegal refining to stop further degradation and re-pollution of the environment especially in Ogoni communities where the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is cleaning.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey gave the advice at the Annual Forum of the Royals Organization of Bodo held in Bodo City where he was a guest of honour and a recipient of a merit award in recognition of his contribution to the sustenance of the environment.

Prof. Zabbey explained that preventing re-pollution is a key recommendation of the United

Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on Ogoniland and therefore all must work towards its realization in the interest of the environment and the Ogoni clean-up project.

“Your recognition inspires me to redouble my efforts as a servant to the public and a steward of our environment. I urge you to join other well-meaning citizens in encouraging the communities to take a strong stand against oil theft and illegal artisanal oil refining to prevent the re-pollution of the shorelines we are cleaning and the rehabilitated mangroves. This is one of the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP, 2011) report on Ogoniland.”

The award conferred on Prof. Zabbey is in recognition of his professional engagement in the Niger Delta by way

of restoration of the ecosystems and biodiversity leading to the restoration of mangrove goods and services for the local communities and mitigation of climate change and according to the HYPREP Project Coordinator it will spur him to do more for the environment and the people.

“This award strengthens my resolve and my colleagues at HYPREP to champion the remediation of our environment, sustainable development, economic empowerment, and capacity-building for our people with discipline and devotion.”

He expressed his sincere appreciation to the leadership of the Royals Organization of Bodo City for recognizing his effort at making the Ogoni environment clean and green again and solicited their continuous support for him to achieve the mandate of HYPREP in Ogoni.

“With gratitude and utmost humility, I stand before you today to accept this merit award of excellence. To be recognized by one's community and one's roots is a profound honour that words alone cannot fully express. Therefore, I sincerely thank the Royals Organization of Bodo City for this exciting recognition and the warm reception you graciously extended to me. It is a privilege to be acknowledged for the unifying vision of restoring and protecting our cherished ecosystem and biodiversity here in Ogoni and nationally.



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey (m) Being Presented with a Merit Award of Excellence by the Royals Organisation of Bodo City

Today, I am reminded of the strength of our community and the remarkable potential we possess when we work together. The journey towards restoring our environment has been challenging yet rewarding. Through the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), we have started to heal the scars on our land, water, and livelihoods. These efforts are not only about removing hydrocarbon pollutants but about restoring hope; hope that our children will grow up to see an Ogoni and Niger Delta teeming with life, prosperity, and communal harmony. However, this work cannot be achieved in isolation. It requires the continued engagement, collaboration, and support of communities and stakeholders like the Royals Organization.”

The group also used the occasion of its 2024 Annual Forum to accord Prof. Zabbey a well-deserved reception following his appointment as the Project Coordinator of HYPREP and for what it described as his expertise and unflinching commitment to the restoration of a clean and green Ogoni. Similarly, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey was also given a meritorious award of honour by the Bodo Priests



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Receiving a Merit Award of Excellence by the Bodo Priests and Religious Forum of Catholic Diocese of Port Harcourt

and Religious Forum of Catholic Diocese of Port Harcourt in recognition of his services to humanity and effort towards the restoration of Ogoniland.

The award was presented to him at St. Patrick Catholic Church Bodo-City. Prof. Zabbey is also the recipient of the ASLO 2022 Ruth Patrick Award

for research and engagement with critical impact on the recovery of the Niger Delta ecosystem from Oil Spill and environmental justice for affected Communities.

He is the only African recipient of the Ruth Patrick Award since the award was established twenty-four years ago.

HYPREP: BELLAGIO AIR OFFERS EMPLOYMENT TO FIVE HYPREP TRAINED CREW MEMBERS

The Management of Bellagio Air has engaged the services of extra three Ogoni youths trained as cabin crew by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) in addition to the earlier two the Airline employed last year at a job fare held in Wiyaaakara, Ogoni.

The latest three were the ones engaged by the other Airline at the job fare but had operational challenges and Bellagio Air has graciously taken them as their own staff.

At a meeting held at Bellagio Air Head Office in Lagos to strengthen the already established relationships between the Airline and the Crew Training Institute that trained the crew members, the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey appreciated the Management of Bellagio Air for employing the five candidates and promised to maintain a thriving partnership with both organizations.

The Chief Operating Officer of

Bellagio Air, Bernice Kunbi Leshi commended Prof. Zabbey on the progress he has made on the Ogoni clean-up project and requested a travel partnership with HYPREP and urged Prof. Zabbey to extend the HYPREP Livelihood training to other areas in the aviation industry such as Pilot Course and Aeronautical Engineering which would be highly sought after in the coming years.

PICTURES OF THE MONTH



UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, Mohamed Malik Fall (5th from left) During His Visit to Environment Minister, Balarabe Lawal (6th from left)



L-R: Prof. Zabbey; Sen. Benson Agadaga; Environment Minister, Balarabe Lawal; Rt. Hon Dumnamene Dekor



Prof. Zabbey with COO of Bellagio Air, Bernice Kunbi Leshi



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Poses with Staff of Bellagio Air



Cross Section of Participants at HYPREP Project Review Meeting



Cross Section of Participants at HYPREP Project Review Meeting



Cross Section of Participants at HYPREP Project Review Meeting



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Signing the Condolence Register in Memory of HRM G.N.K Gininwa

OGONI CLEAN-UP ...HYPREP SPEARHEADING MANGROVE RESTORATION

Editorial Crew

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

POETRY CORNER

HYDROCARBON POLLUTION REMEDIATION

Drenched and oily
And smelly too
From crude burst
Running through mangroves
And forest paths
Entering every burrow
Snuffing out lives.
The land laments,
Hands in air
Over sipping spills.
Your cry heard.
Here comes HYPREP,
To the rescue.
Soil and groundwater,
Mangroves and sediments
In restoration efforts.
Exiled lives return,
Lost livelihood restored
And Ogoni cured
Of decades devastation.

Photo:HYPREP



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

THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE

“Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.”

– Warren Buffett

Photo:HYPREP

... for a cleaner and greener Ogoniland

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