



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

# HYPREP HERALD

MARCH 2025 VOL.1 No.36

## HYPREP COMMISSIONS TWO MORE WATER PROJECTS



Environment Minister, Lawal Cuts the Tape on Beeri Water Project

GOV. FUBARA CALLS FOR INCLUSION  
OF Ogonis IN CLEAN-UP CONTRACTS

UNITED NATIONS PLEDGES  
TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR HYPREP

NDDC APPLAUDS HYPREP, COMMITS  
TO SUPPORTING CLEAN-UP PROJECT

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# THE PC'S DESK



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

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report on Ogoni recommends that the Federal Government of Nigeria provides potable water for oil-impacted communities in Ogoni. However, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) aims to provide all Ogoni communities with potable water. Access to clean water is a fundamental human right. This is reinforced by the targets of the UN SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).

The HYPREP Project Coordination Office (PCO) was delighted to host the Honourable Minister of Environment and Chairman, Governing Council of HYPREP, Mallam Balarabe Abbas Lawal, the Honourable Minister of Regional Development, Engr. Abubakar Momoh and the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator (UN-RC), Mohamed Malik Fall from Monday, the 24<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, the 26 February. During the working visits, the trio and their entourages toured some HYPREP sites, including the soil and groundwater, mangrove restoration, Ogoni Specialist Hospital, and the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER). They were impressed at the levels of work done at the sites. The high point of the visitation

was the inauguration of two completed gigantic water facilities in Ogoni. The Beeri water project has a combined tank capacity of 900,000 liters and a reticulation distance of 30km. It supplies clean water to six communities: Beakorgoro, Yorh, Nyobe, Nyogho, Saar, and Luere. Similarly, the Bunu headwork has a tank capacity of 850,000 liters, supplying Kpete Bunu, Barakara Bunu, and Kaani Bunu communities. Our headworks and booster stations have extensive space for expansion to match population growth. As part of our sustainability plan, the water stations will be powered primarily by solar energy. HYPREP will maintain the facilities for two years and hand them to the Rivers State Ministry of Water Resources and Water Consumers Association (WCA). The WCA comprises respected and community-minded persons trained and inducted to manage the water facilities sustainably.

With the inaugurated Beeri and Bunu water headworks, 30 Ogoni communities now have access to potable water. Recall that Alesa, Ebubu, Terabo, Barako, Bomu, Korokoro, Kporghor, and Kpean headworks have been commissioned earlier and are supplying 20 communities. We have spent the past year constructing 21 headworks, four booster stations, a reticulation network covering 700 km, and a web of fetching outlets. The construction of the remaining water facilities is at stages nearing completion. Thus, we aim at having 60 – 80 Ogoni communities have access to clean water before the end of the year. We have already started building windmill-powered water schemes in Luekue Bagha, Bere, Yaataa, Kalaoko, Kpaa, and Wiisueko, which are relatively sparse and isolated. Similarly, we have doubled efforts to secure approvals to complete the few outstanding Phase 1 water schemes stalled by variation circumstances. These

include Ogale/Nssioken, B-Dere, Nonwa, Bori headworks, and Biara booster station.

The speed of the project delivery and the success we recorded thus far are traceable to the leadership and support of the Honourable Minister of Environment, the Governing Council of HYPREP, the responsiveness of the Board of Trustees, the support of the Ogoni communities, and the proactiveness of the Project Coordination Office (PCO). Remarkably, the minister has been visiting the project sites to boost the morale of the PCO team and the community workers. At every inauguration ceremony for newly completed water projects, he reminds the benefiting communities to own and jealously protect the water facilities. The Federal Government is highly committed to the Ogoni cleanup, which has been accelerated.

In the same vein, the Project Coordination Office is determined more than ever to implement the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on Ogoni to the letter. We are working very hard to surpass the recommendations through the various linkages and partnerships we are building. The renewed commitment of the United Nations to the project, as typified by the visit of UN-Resident Coordinator alongside the key officials of the various UN agencies, is reassuring. As we harvest the outcomes of the strategic collaboration engagement with the UN agencies, the diplomatic community, and other development partners, we shall add extra value to delivering the Ogoni cleanup mandate. As always, we are grateful to all the Ogoni communities and other project stakeholders for their enduring support. Our united service for nature and humanity is worthwhile!

# In this Issue

This edition of the HYPREP Herald leads with the cheering news of the commissioning of two water projects at Beeri in Khana and Bunu in Tai Local Government Areas. The projects are among the fourteen water contracts in phase 2 of the provision of potable water for Ogoni communities being undertaken by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP). The Beeri station was commissioned by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal and that of Bunu was inaugurated by the United Nations Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mr. Mohamed Malick Fall at a ceremony that attracted dignitaries from far and wide. One message that came out clearly at the event whether from the Ogoni people or the visitors who graced the occasion is the unanimous commendation that HYPREP is delivering on its mandate. The Honourable Minister of Environment and his Regional Development counterpart, Engr. Abubakar Momoh alongside the UN Resident Coordinator had before the commissioning paid a courtesy visit on the Governor of Rivers State, His Excellency, Sir Siminalaye Fubara at Government House Port Harcourt to brief him on the progress of work on the Ogoni clean-up project. The Governor who was impressed with the success story of HYPREP pledged the support of the State Government towards the effective implementation of the Ogoni clean-up project especially in the areas of provision of potable water, healthcare delivery, electricity transmission and distribution and community

sensitization for the protection and maintenance of amenities provided by HYPREP.

The visit of the United Nations Resident Coordinator afforded him the opportunity to tour HYPREP sites in Ogoni and even embarked on a boat ride to the mangrove restoration site in Bomu where he and his entourage planted mangrove seedlings in support of the shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration project of HYPREP. At the end of the tour, Mr. Fall, being pleased with what he saw, pledged the United Nations' support for the project in the area of technical expertise.

The Project Coordination Office of HYPREP also received similar delegation from the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC). They had come to have firsthand information about the project and look at areas where they can add value to the Ogoni clean-up project. They too were taken to the field to appreciate the operations of the project.

The Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey led a team of management staff to appear before the Senate Committee on Public Accounts and accordingly briefed the lawmakers on the transactions of the project. He assured the senators of his resolve to uphold transparency and accountability at all times in the

discharge of his duties. The senators were satisfied with the progress report of the project vis-a-vis the funds so far expended. About the same period, Prof. Zabbey also met and briefed the Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry on the workings of HYPREP in the restoration of damaged mangroves in Ogoni.

The Project Coordination Office had a project review meeting with shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration contractors on ways to enhance performance. In recognition of the success story of HYPREP in environmental restoration and the sterling leadership qualities of Prof. Zabbey, he was inducted as a Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner (CERP) by the Society for Ecological Restoration.

In this issue we published the report of the free medical outreach that HYPREP conducted recently. We added a corner, 'Mangrove and Dishes' to this edition to showcase the rich delicacies that the Ogoni people relish from products of the mangrove forest. Our poetry corner is maintained for you, and we are sure you would want to read these two stanzas by Ken Saro-Wiwa. Take time to go through the pages and if there are ways you think we can improve on our service to you, please do let us know.

## Editorial Crew

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## Project News

# HYPREP COMMISSIONS TWO MORE WATER PROJECTS

Beerli in Khana Local Government Area and its adjoining communities and Bunu in Tai and the surrounding villages now have potable water courtesy the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP).

The additional two water projects are in furtherance of HYPREP's mandate to provide potable water to Ogoni communities whose sources of water are affected by oil pollution.

Before the Beerli and Bunu commissioning, HYPREP had commissioned water projects in Alesa, Ebubu, Terabo, Barako, Bomu, Korokoro, Kporghor and Kpean communities.

The Honourable Minister of Environment and Chairman, Governing Council of HYPREP, Balarabe Abbas Lawal who cut the tape on the Beerli water project stated that provision of potable water in Ogoni is in fulfilment of the Federal Government's unwavering commitment to sustainable peace and development as well as remediation and restoration of Ogoniland.

Lawal pointed out that the administration of His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR) is committed to the environmental sustainability and restoration of Ogoniland by ensuring that the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report are not only implemented but expedited to bring tangible benefits to the people of Ogoni.

“Access to clean and potable water is not just a necessity but a fundamental human right. Water projects, delivered



**Environment Minister, Lawal Inspects Facilities at Beerli Water Station**

under the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is part of the Federal Government's commitment to the restoration of Ogoniland. Today, we reaffirm our pledge to environmental sustainability and the well-being of the communities affected by oil pollution. Through HYPREP, we are not only remediating polluted sites but also ensuring that communities benefit from clean water supply, improved healthcare and sustainable livelihoods.”

He highlighted the benefits that Ogoni people will enjoy because of the provision of potable water in the communities.

“The contamination of water sources due to hydrocarbon pollution has devastating consequences on the health and livelihoods of the people of Ogoniland. The provision of potable water to these communities is a critical step towards improving public health, reducing waterborne diseases and enhancing the overall quality of life. It

also signifies a renewed commitment to ensuring that the people of Ogoniland reap the full benefits of environmental remediation efforts. We will continue to ensure that communities in Ogoniland have access to clean, safe and sustainable drinking water. With this initiative, we are not just commissioning infrastructure but restoring hope and dignity to communities long deprived of this essential resource.”

The Honourable Minister assured that the Government will not relent in delivering other critical needs, such as healthcare, education and economic empowerment to create a sustainable future for the people of Ogoni. “Be rest assured that HYPREP will continue to deliver on its mandate efficiently, ensuring transparency, accountability and community involvement in all aspects of the remediation process”, he stated.

He commended the Management of HYPREP under the leadership of Prof.



## UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Fall Commissions Bunu Water Station

Nenibarini Zabbey on its relentless commitment and efforts towards the actualization of a clean Ogoni and restoration of livelihoods.

“My gratitude also goes to our development partners and all stakeholders who have worked tirelessly to make these projects come to reality. I also appreciate the cooperation and patience of the communities and traditional rulers who have supported this initiative. These achievements are testament to what we can accomplish when we work together in the spirit of collaboration and dedication to environmental justice.”

The Minister of Regional Development, Engr. Abubakar Momoh in his goodwill message at the event expressed his satisfaction with the work of HYPREP and the current Management for an impressive performance.

“When I took over as Minister of Niger Delta, there were a lot of negative news about the project, but after attending meetings as a Governing Council member and

visited HYPREP and saw all the myriads of projects going on. I feel highly fulfilled that this current management and leadership of HYPREP is doing a great job.”

The United Nations Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mr. Mohamed Malick Fall who cut the tape on the Bunu water station stated that the world body remains committed to the Ogoni clean-up project and would support HYPREP to succeed in the implementation of its mandate.

The Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey who welcomed dignitaries to the event gave a brief description on both facilities.

“The commissioning of these newly completed water facilities demonstrates HYPREP's steadfast commitment to implementing the UNEP report recommendations. The Beeri water facility, with a combined tank capacity of 900,000 liters, will serve seven communities. Similarly, the Bunu facility, with a capacity of 850,000 liters, will supply potable

water to three communities. Access to clean water is a fundamental human right in sync with UN SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), and we are proud to deliver these critical infrastructures to Ogoni communities.”

Prof. Zabbey also gave an insight into what HYPREP is doing on other projects, especially the shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration project.

“Your Excellencies, as you may recall, UNEP recommended a comprehensive approach to restoring Ogoniland, which includes land remediation, shoreline clean-up, the provision of clean water, health interventions, and sustainable livelihood programmes. The remediation of hydrocarbon-affected sites is progressing well. The simple sites have been remediated and certified, and contaminated soil and groundwater at the medium-risk complex sites are being remediated. As of today, we have planted 1,279,139 mangrove seedlings as part of our efforts to restore oil-degraded mangroves in Ogoniland. Our mangrove restoration programme is ecologically sound and community-driven. These efforts align with our broader vision of ensuring that the people of Ogoniland enjoy a cleaner and healthier environment that supports economic activities and other needs.”

He explained that with 30.8% of the job completion rate in phase 1 of the shoreline clean-up, aquatic lives such as periwinkles, oysters, crabs, and mudskippers are gradually returning to the mangroves.

The HYPREP Project Coordinator stated that a lot of progress has been made in livelihood training and educational advancement for the youths of Ogoni.





## The Administrative Block at the Centre of Excellence under Construction

“In the livelihood restoration effort, 5,000 Ogoni women and youth were trained in 21 skill areas, and the issuance of start-up packs to the trainees is almost concluded. Last month, we gave scholarships to 300 Ogoni postgraduate students, including 100 in PhD programmes and 200 in master's degree programmes. We are installing ICT equipment in five designated secondary schools as part of the pilot phase of our Information Technology-supported classroom project. Last week, we held the kick-off meeting as a necessary first step toward implementing the socio-economic study of Ogoniland. These interventions align with the long-term effort to create sustainable alternative sources of livelihood for oil-impacted communities.

As we intentionally build the capacity of Ogoni youth and women through demand-driven skill training, we are also engaging in innovative research to enhance the science and practice of

remediation and restoration. This includes research to improve post-remediation soil fertility with biofertilizers made from Indigenous microbes, restore the West African bloody cockle, and utilize biodegradable bags in mangrove nurseries to prevent plastic pollution.” He appreciated key stakeholders of the project for their invaluable contributions to the success so far recorded and urged the Ogoni community to constructively engage the project to get the best out of it.

“We sincerely appreciate the Ogoni people's patience and strategic support. Your resilience, understanding, and commitment to HYPREP's success have been vital to our achievements. As we continue on this path, I encourage you to responsibly exercise your civic duties, actively engage in the process, and ensure your voices are heard through constructive and meaningful dialogue. On behalf of the Project Coordination

Office, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to you, Your Excellency, the Honourable Minister of Environment, and Chairman of the Governing Council, for your strategic guidance and leadership, which have been essential in keeping HYPREP on track. I also thank Your Excellencies, the Honourable Minister of Regional Development, and the United Nations Resident Coordinator for your support and presence. We greatly appreciate the efforts of the members of the HYPREP Governing Council and the Chairman and members of the Ogoni Trust Fund.

I would also like to express our appreciation to our funding and development partners: SPDC and JV Partners, the Rivers State Ministries of Health, Environment, Water Resources and Rural Development, civil society organizations, the Central Representative Advisory Committee, Zonal Representative Committee, the security forces, as well as women and

youth, and all stakeholders who have been instrumental in assisting the Project Coordination Office in furthering the HYPREP vision.”

The Senator representing Rivers South-East Senatorial District, Dr. Barinada Mpigi and the Member representing Khana/Gokana Federal Constituency, Rt. Hon. Dumnamene Dekor expressed admiration at the new rate HYPREP is delivering on its mandate and commended the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey on his commitment and dedication to duty.

Before the commissioning, the Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey had led the Honourable Minister of Environment, Mallam Lawal and his Regional

Development counterpart, Engr. Momoh, the UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Fall on a guided tour of legacy projects (the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, Ogoni Specialist Hospital) remediation sites, mangrove restoration site in Bomu where Mr. Fall and other dignitaries planted mangrove seedlings.

The Honourable Minister of Environment also visited the Palace of the Kasimene Bangha, HRM Dr. Suanu Baridam where he conferred a chieftaincy title (Mene Kwa Keneke 1 of Ogoniland - meaning king who makes our environment better) on the Minister in recognition of his good works in Ogoni.

Dignitaries who graced the water commissioning include the Director General of NOSDRA, Engr. Emeka Woke, the Chairman of the National Agency for the Great Green Wall, Senator Magnus Abe, Senator Bennet Birabi, Prof. Barineme Fakae, Prof. Friday Sigalo and Chief Mike Baah. Others are the Rivers State Commissioner for Environment, Hon. Sydney Gbara, Chairman of Khana Local Government Council, Hon. Martins Nwigbo, the Vice Chairman of Gokana Local Government Council, Hon. Florence Kpoobe, Chief Priscilla Vikue, Paramount Ruler of Alesa, HRH Emere Emperor J.D Nkpe and the Paramount Ruler of Barako, HRH Mene Kadilo Kabari.

## GOV. FUBARA CALLS FOR INCLUSION OF OGONIS IN CLEAN-UP CONTRACTS

Rivers State Governor, His Excellency, Sir Siminalaye Fubara has advised that competent Ogoni contractors be included in the clean-up project for it to succeed and to give a sense of belonging to the people who bear the burden of pollution arising from oil exploitation in the area.

Governor Fubara who gave the advice when the Honourable Minister of Environment, Mallam Balarabe Abbas Lawal led a delegation of officials from the United Nations, HYPREP and the Ministry of Regional Development on a courtesy visit to Government House Port Harcourt, stated that integrating Ogoni people in the remediation process will bring lasting respite to years of environmental degradation they had suffered and will make them to own the project and not sabotage it.

“So, I want to appeal that while we go on with this programme, it is not just coming to commission the water



**Gov. Fubara in a Handshake with Environment Minister, Lawal at Government House Port Harcourt**

project and the few other things that have been outlined here, the Ogoni people, the people directly affected should be part of it. There should be buy-in, they should own what you are doing. The community people should be part of the process, so that they have that sense of belonging, that sense of responsibility. It also gives a sense of

protection because if they believe that they are not part of it, issues of sabotage come in.”

Governor Fubara however expressed joy at the progress reports by the Honourable Minister of Environment indicating success on the clean-up of Ogoni.

He urged the Minister to ensure that





**L-R: Gov. Fubara (8<sup>th</sup>), Balarabe Lawal (7<sup>th</sup>), Engr. Abubakar Momoh (9<sup>th</sup>), Mr. Mohamed Fall (6<sup>th</sup>), Dr. Mike Nwielaghi (11<sup>th</sup>), Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey (5<sup>th</sup>), Mr. Dominique Kouacou (12<sup>th</sup>), Prof. Paul Aguiyi (2<sup>nd</sup>), Engr. Ekiyokenegha Clark (16<sup>th</sup>) During a Courtesy Call on Gov. Fubara at the Government House, Port Harcourt**

the water project that has been completed under the supervision of HYPREP and commissioned must be truly functional to give the people sustained access to potable water.

His Excellency stated that the Rivers State Government will convoke a meeting of critical stakeholders in the benefitting communities to emphasize the need for them to protect the projects from vandalism and ensure proper maintenance.

He appreciated HYPREP for the Ogoni Power Project it is working on and disclosed that his administration has paid for electricity meters for consumers in Eleme, Tai, Khana, Gokana and Andoni Local Government Areas to ensure the availability of electricity to the people and boost economic production.

“So, I am happy that you are also doing something to that effect,

because if we are talking about development coming into Ogoniland, you cannot develop the area without power.”

The Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal informed the Governor that his delegation was in Rivers State to inspect ongoing projects and commission completed water projects in Beerli and Bunu communities.

He stated that the Specialist Hospital that HYPREP is building will address health challenges especially as they relate to environmental pollution.

“Accordingly, we are building a state-of-the-art hospital, which has gone more than 50 percent now. It is going to address some of the bigger issues related to pollution. We also have so many cottage hospitals we are trying to do, which will link to that. In that area, we have been receiving a lot of

cooperation from the State Government.”

In his remarks, the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mohamed Malick Fall commended the Governor on his administration's support to the ongoing clean-up in Ogoniland, and expressed the optimism that the partnership will help all parties achieve the recommendations contained in the UNEP Report on Ogoni.

The Honourable Minister of Environment was accompanied on the visit by the Minister of Regional Development, Engr. Abubakar Momoh and the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey.



# UNITED NATIONS PLEDGES TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR HYPREP

The United Nations has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) achieve its mandate of remediating oil contaminated sites in Ogoni and restoring the livelihoods of the people by providing technical support to enhance the project's efficiency.

In 2011 the United Nations through its agency – the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) submitted its report on the assessment of the Ogoni environment to the Federal Government of Nigeria prompting the latter to set up the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project to address observed environmental concerns in Ogoni.

To assess the work HYPREP has done in Ogoni, the United Nations Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mr. Mohamed Malick Fall was at the HYPREP Project Coordination Office in Port Harcourt on a familiarization visit to gain firsthand knowledge of the project's implementation.

The UN's promise to provide technical support for HYPREP in the restoration of the environment and promoting sustainable development in Ogoni is to address decades of oil pollution as recommended in the UNEP report.

The UN Resident Coordinator acknowledged the positive impact HYPREP is making on the environment and the people of Ogoni. “We recognize the importance of this project and the impact it has on the lives of communities affected by pollution. The UN is committed to supporting HYPREP's efforts to restore the environment, promote sustainable development, and

improve livelihoods.”

Mr. Fall recalled the foundation work that the UN did that gave birth to the establishment of HYPREP and commended the project on the success it has recorded in its various thematic areas of operations. “UNEP has collaborated with HYPREP to address pollution and land contamination in the Niger Delta and Ogoni areas. We've observed progress in various areas, including mangrove restoration, improved livelihoods, access to safe water, and healthcare. While there's still work to be done, we acknowledge the advancements made and reaffirm the UN's commitment to supporting this project.”

The UN Resident Coordinator emphasized that addressing environmental pollution is a critical aspect of UN's mandate. “Environmental degradation poses significant threats to humanity, including pollution, drought, rising sea levels and heatwaves. The work

being done here aligns with the UN's role in promoting sustainable development and human rights.”

Mr. Fall also highlighted the moral obligation to respond to the needs of impacted communities. “The work you're doing today is not only physical restoration but also the implementation and fulfilment of a moral obligation to the impacted communities,” he said. “Whatever we achieve here in terms of response to contamination, to pollution could serve as a blueprint for other areas where oil exploration is taking place.” He announced plans to provide technical assistance to HYPREP in the areas of shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration and cassava production to develop aquaculture and ensure food security in Ogoni communities as well as women empowerment with a focus on improving livelihoods, data collection and monitoring of carbon emissions. According to him, the UN will also be



**Mr. Dominique Kouacou of the Food & Agriculture Organisation (left) Mr. Mohamed Fall (right) During a Courtesy Call on Prof. Zabbey (backgroud) in Port Harcourt**

training the HYPREP team to gather data and provide support in the coming months.

“Don't feel alone in this endeavour, you have UN and its different entities, and everyone of these entities will provide technical assistance to livelihood restoration, access to potable water, to health, promoting people's rights, creating conducive environment for children to grow, developing social cohesion. All these areas UN has an asset that we can lend but above all, UN has a voice, a voice that can be heard. Working together is not an option; we must do it. That is why I am here today.”

Mr. Dominique Koffy Kouacou, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), representative in Nigeria stated that FOA will volunteer its expertise in mangrove restoration and livelihood development to create jobs for the Ogoni people as well as collaborate with HYPREP to ensure a clean environment for future generations. In his words, “the Food and Agriculture Organization is committed to being part of a global effort to address environmental challenges.”

Also speaking, Senior Human Rights

Adviser in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Madam Adwoa Kufuor reaffirmed the commission's commitment to inclusivity and assured that the commission will support HYPREP in any role the project requires, demonstrating a strong dedication to human rights and environmental protection.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey appreciated the UN for the visit, noting that partnership for development is a key aspect of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

“Partnership for development is SDG 17, and we are excited about this visit because it aligns with our goals,” he said.

Prof. Zabbey explained that HYPREP has grown significantly over the years and that the visit by the UN Resident Coordinator and his team offers an opportunity for deepening collaboration and making positive impact on the Ogoni people.

“We have grown like a baby, and this visit is an opportunity for us to collaborate and deepen our impact.”

He identified areas of potential

collaboration with various UN agencies to include land remediation, shoreline clean-up, mangrove restoration, and alternative livelihoods.

The HYPREP Project Coordinator appealed that the visit should not be a one-off engagement, but rather the beginning of a sustained collaboration between HYPREP and the UN and stated that the project is developing a template for environmental restoration and sustainable livelihoods that can be replicated in other parts of the Niger Delta and beyond.

Zabbey also highlighted the fact that HYPREP's initiatives and programmes are developed having the benefiting communities in mind.

“All our projects are designed with the communities at heart, ensuring that every aspect of our work benefits the Ogoni people.”

Other UN agencies on the delegation were the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

## **NDDC APPLAUDS HYPREP, COMMITS TO SUPPORTING CLEAN-UP PROJECT**

The Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) has indicated interest in supporting the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) to achieve success in its ongoing mangrove restoration efforts in Ogoniland.

NDDC Director, Environmental Protection and Control, Dr. Henry Asuquo Okokon gave the indication during an inspection visit to HYPREP's projects at K-Dere and

Bomu communities in Gokana Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

Dr. Okokon called on HYPREP Management to keep NDDC informed on its challenges and areas of need and promised that the commission remains open to strengthening collaboration towards a successful implementation of the Ogoni clean-up project.

“We came here today because we needed to know what HYPREP has done over time and then to find out

how we can assist them and learn from them. From what we have seen today, we really appreciate their efforts on what they've done. I am highly impressed with the restoration project because one wouldn't have thought that this has been done. We have seen that much has been done and we want to appreciate the efforts put into it.”

The NDDC Director, Environmental Protection and Control added that the mangrove restoration project is a

*(Cont'd. on page 14)*



# FACILITIES AT BEERI WATER STATION



# FACILITIES AT BEERI WATER STATION





# FACILITIES AT BUNU WATER STATION



# FACILITIES AT BUNU WATER STATION





(Cont'd. from page 9)

game changer for the ecosystem. "We have been told that HYPREP has planted 1.2 million mangroves, give it the next five years these mangroves will appreciate."

To sustain and support the work done so far, Dr. Asuquo called for strong partnership and enhanced financial support to see the project through to completion.

"From what we have seen today, HYPREP is doing well and we want to encourage them that they should liaise with other bodies in terms of finance, so that what is left, they will be able to complete it."

The Director, Technical Services, HYPREP, Prof. Paul Aguiyi disclosed that discussions were already on with key agencies of Government and international organizations, including the African Development Bank and the United Nations to secure additional funding and partnerships for the project.

"We have actually opened up some level of discussion for collaboration between agencies like the NDDC and other partners. The United Nations' country representative in Nigeria will visit our projects, participate in some



**NDDC and HYPREP Officials at a Remediation Site in K-Dere**

of our commissioning activities, and plant a symbolic mangrove in Bomu. We believe such association will bring in the much-needed partnership and collaboration that will attract more funding."

He told the NDDC officials that the shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration project is beginning to yield positive impact on the local communities as fisherfolks have resumed fishing, and the ecosystem gradually recovering. "Today, crabs, oysters, and periwinkles are gradually

returning, showing a significant impact from what we have done so far," he stated.

Before the NDDC officials left for HYPREP project sites, they were briefed by the Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey on the activities of the project and the success recorded in shoreline clean-up, mangrove restoration, construction of legacy infrastructure and livelihood trainings for Ogoni youths and women.

## **OGONI CLEAN-UP: PROF. ZABBEY RESTATES COMMITMENT TO TRANSPARENCY**

Aware of the enormous responsibility the Project Coordination Office of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is saddled with and the expectation of stakeholders to deliver a sustainable clean-up and one that meets the standards set by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for the remediation of polluted sites in Ogoni and the restoration of livelihoods of impacted communities, the Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini

Zabbey has reiterated his commitment to a transparent and accountable implementation of the clean-up programme.

Prof. Zabbey made this position known when he appeared before the Senate Committee on Public Accounts to brief them on the activities of HYPREP.

He informed the committee of his long-standing stance on transparency and accountability as a rights advocate and as a lecturer in the university.

"I have always been a strong advocate for transparency and accountability, even before assuming my current role as the Project Coordinator of HYPREP."

While briefing the Committee on the activities of HYPREP and efforts made at ensuring accountability and transparency, Prof. Zabbey noted that the Project is making significant progress on the cleanup and called on members of the public to always visit the website of HYPREP,



### Members of the Senate Committee on Public Accounts

[www.hyprep.gov.ng](http://www.hyprep.gov.ng) to get regular updates on project activities.

The Project Coordination Office has introduced specific measures to ensure transparency and accountability on the project and they include, monthly contractors' meeting to ensure that works are carried out according to specification and within the timeline, the constitution of a Milestone Evaluation Committee that reviews contract milestones to ensure quality control and value for money, the Technical Coordination Committee (TCC) for strategic technical guidance and the Remediation Document Review Committee (RDRC) for reviewing remediation site characterization and remedial action plans.

In line with its policy of transparency and accountability, HYPREP also organizes regular meetings with its stakeholders across strata, including youths, community leaders, Civil Society Organizations, sponsors, and regulators. This has created a robust stakeholder engagement that has enabled HYPREP to manage stakeholders by keeping them abreast of activities, harvesting helpful feedback and planning with them.

Professor Zabbey informed the Senate Committee that for fiscal responsibility, the Project's books are audited monthly, quarterly, and annually by internal, external auditors, and the Office of the Auditor General of the Federation.

He stated that currently, HYPREP is implementing over 100 projects, namely, 39 Medium Risk Remediation Sites, 34 Shoreline Remediation Sites, 9 Mangrove Restoration sites, the construction of

the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER), the 100 Bed Ogoni Specialist Hospital and the Buan Cottage Hospital. Others are the construction of 14 water schemes in addition to the 6 water schemes in the phase 1 water scheme, construction of the Ogoni Power Project, and livelihood programmes, besides several other human capacity development initiatives, including the latest scholarship award to 300 Ogoni Postgraduate Students.

Professor Zabbey apologized to the Committee for failing to appear before it at previous invitations, citing exigencies of office which were duly communicated to the Committee in writing and stated that his office highly regards the National Assembly and will not disregard the members.

Chairman, Senate Committee on Public Accounts, Senator Aliyu Wadada accepted Prof. Zabbey's explanation and requested that the Project furnish the Committee with more documents when next it is called upon to appear before it and adjourned the meeting sine die.



**The HYPREP Team During their Appearance before the Senate Committee on Public Accounts**



## PROF. ZABBEY BRIEFS SWEDISH ACADEMY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY ON HYPREP MANGROVE RESTORATION PROJECT

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has said that one of the notable achievements under the mangrove restoration programme of HYPREP is the engagement of community people that the project trained to drive the restoration effort even after HYPREP has completed its work in Ogoni.

Prof. Zabbey stated this in Abuja at an international seminar organized by the Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry on Ecosystem Restoration for Sustainable Development.

In a virtual presentation on the topic, "The Largest Restoration of Oil-Degraded Mangrove Programme in the World: The Restoration of Mangrove Forests in the Niger Delta: Theory and Practice," Prof. Zabbey stated that HYPREP has achieved remarkable milestones in the

restoration of mangrove in Ogoniland with tangible benefits by way of mangrove goods and services for the people.

He highlighted the focused and systematic approach adopted by the Project in mainstreaming the knowledge and practice of community-based and ecologically sound mangrove restoration, stating the multiplier effect of training 90 Ogoni youths and women as mangrove vanguards, who, in turn have used the HYPREP user-friendly mangrove restoration manuals to train over 200 of their family members to set up mangrove nurseries.

Prof. Zabbey informed his audience that HYPREP is determined to restore key livelihood species that once inhabited the mangrove tidal flats such as the West African bloody cockle (*Senilia senilis*).

The conference lead facilitator,

Emeritus Prof. Olof Linden commended Prof. Zabbey on the efforts he has made in shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration and noted that the international community is keen to see the Niger Delta environment restored.

After the seminar, Prof. Zabbey joined the Permanent Secretary and some Directors in the Federal Ministry of Environment to celebrate the birthday of the Honourable Minister of Environment and Chairman, Governing Council of HYPREP, Mallam Balarabe Abbas Lawal.

Prof. Zabbey on behalf of the management and staff of HYPREP wished the Honourable Minister good health and the wisdom to pilot the affairs of the Ministry in general and HYPREP in particular towards achieving environmental sustainability in Nigeria.

## SHORELINE CLEAN-UP:

## HYPREP IN MAIDEN REVIEW MEETING WITH CONTRACTORS

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has convened its inaugural project review meeting with shoreline contractors at the project's office in Port Harcourt.

The meeting is aimed at fostering collaboration and transparency in the implementation of the on-going shoreline contracts and ultimately ensuring the successful implementation of the Ogoni clean-up project.

Director Technical Services, HYPREP, Professor Damian Aguiyi who represented the Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey at the event, emphasized the



Director, Technical Services, HYPREP, Prof. Aguiyi Addressing Contractors at the Project Review Meeting

importance of regular interactions between HYPREP and its contractors to track progress, identify challenges, and provide support where necessary.

“Distinguished contractors, ladies, and gentlemen, I am pleased to welcome you to this inaugural review meeting. This meeting marks a significant milestone in our collective efforts to remediate the polluted sites in Ogoniland. We recognize that the success of this project depends on our ability to work together, share knowledge, and learn from each other's experiences.”

The meeting is also called to identify areas that require improvement and provide feedback on better ways to go about implementing the project as well as provide guidance and focus on meeting project objectives and timelines.

“We want to ensure that we are on track to meeting our objectives, and that we are addressing the concerns

and challenges faced by our contractors. We recognize that our contractors are critical partners in this endeavour, and we are committed to providing the necessary support and resources to ensure their success.”

The Technical Assistant to the Project Coordinator, Peter Lenu provided statistical updates on the shoreline remediation work.

He stated that as of December 31, 2024, the project had achieved 25% completion and 26% completion of the entire work area by February 2025, adding that thirty-four contractors are working across five communities in Gokana, and HYPREP is committed to ensuring they receive the necessary support to complete their tasks on schedule.

The shoreline remediation contractors expressed satisfaction with the review process, describing it as a step in the right direction. According to one of the contractors, Dr. Evidence Ep-aaBari,

the meeting was a “self-appraisal and evaluation process that allows contractors to up their game and it should be monthly and compulsory.”

Another contractor, Pauk Mogaba praised the initiative, stating that, “prior to this, contractors faced challenges in getting responses from HYPREP. This new approach enables us to share ideas and solve problems together.”

The meeting also provided an opportunity for contractors to raise concerns and seek clarification on specific issues. HYPREP officials responded to the concerns, providing guidance and information on project objectives and timelines.

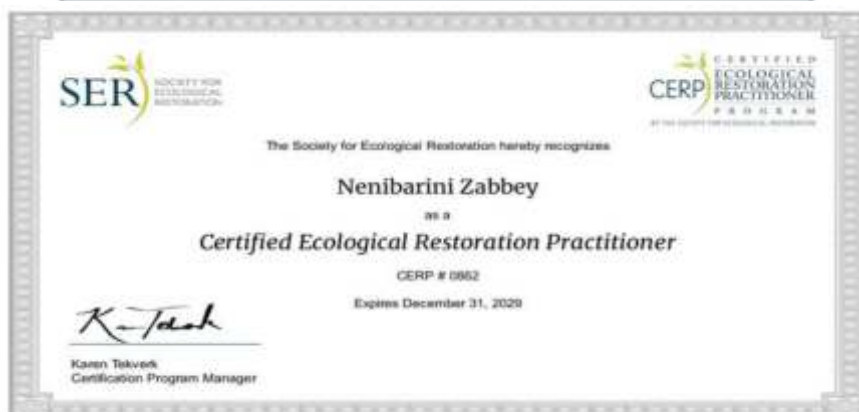
The Management of HYPREP used the meeting to assure contractors of its commitment to a successful remediation of polluted sites in Ogoniland.

## SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION INDUCTS PROF. ZABBEY AS CERP

The Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) – a global organization has inducted the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey as a Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner (CERP).

The induction is in recognition of the commitment of Prof. Zabbey to the clean-up of the polluted Ogoni environment and restoration of its biodiversity.

The letter which conveys the announcement and signed by the secretary of the Society's Certification Programme Manager, Karen Tekverk reads in part that, “in your acceptance package, you will find your CERP





certificate and a digital version of your CERP stamp. You are encouraged to use the stamp and the CERP acronym for professional purposes.”

The Society commended Prof. Zabbey on earning the distinguished honour and encouraged him to continue to contribute to the field of ecological restoration and implement high-quality ecological projects.”

Prof. Zabbey is an erudite scholar and Professor of Biomonitoring and

Restoration Ecology who has through research and fieldwork demonstrated an uncanny commitment to advancing the science and practice of ecological restoration through various community-based projects.

The Ogoni Cleanup's many restoration projects, including large-scale mangrove restoration and bloody cockle restoration, build on the impressive, flourishing career of Professor Zabbey, who is committed

to environmental restoration and conservation.

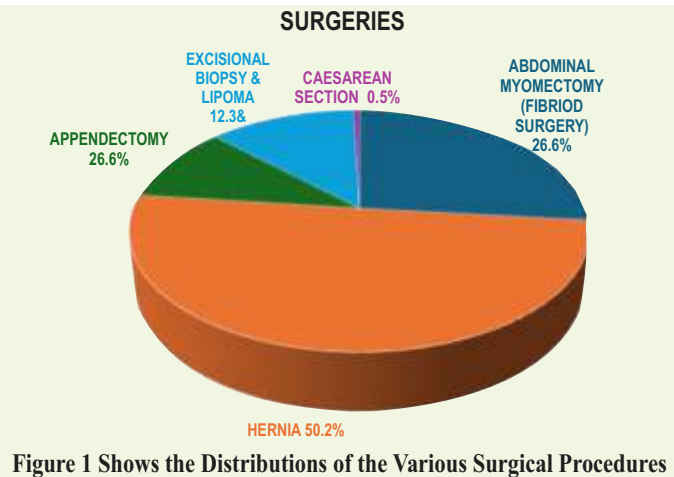
His recognition as a Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner (CERP) is well deserved and perfectly signifies his enduring love and passion for environmental restoration and conservation through inclusive community engagement.

## AN ABRIDGED REPORT ON THE FREE MEDICAL OUTREACH CONDUCTED IN Ogoni BY THE HYDROCARBON POLLUTION REMEDIATION PROJECT (HYPREP) IN DECEMBER, 2024

<p><b>ACTIVITY SUMMARY</b></p>	<p>A total of Seven Thousand, Three Hundred and Thirty -Five (7,335) patients attended during the clinic consultation, inclusive of both medical and surgical.</p> <p>Two Thousand and Fifty -Seven (2,057) patients were further renewed by the optometrists and opticians with a total of 825 Eyeglasses issued as well as eye-drops for their various degrees of refractory errors and eye conditions.</p> <p>One Hundred (100) patients had successfully cataract surgeries across the 4 L.G.As while Four Hundred and Seventy Six (476) patients had dental care and evaluation across the 4 L.G.As especially for scaling and polishing alongside dental education.</p> <p>In addition, Two Hundred and three (203) general surgeries were carried out during the program including Hernias, Abdominal Myomectomy and Appendectomy as well as Excision Biopsy and an emergency caesarian section.</p>	
<p><b>OBJECTIVES</b></p>	<p>The broad objectives of carrying out the free Medical and Surgical Outreach in the four (4) L.G.As were aimed at providing succor to the various health challenges that are faced by the people and to gather basic health indices of Ogonis as part of the mandate given to HYPREP by the Federal Government of Nigeria to restore and improve the livelihood of the impacted communities. With support from existing structures and strong collaboration with the leadership of HYPREP, the objectives were specially to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Embark on Public Health Awareness and Sensitization (Health Talks) on Malaria, Measles, Oral Hygiene, Acute Watery Diarrhea, Hypertension, Diabetes, Malnutrition, General Hygiene, Immunization, HIV/AIDS, and Tuberculosis, etc.</li> <li>2. Conduct health checks for rural residents; by carrying out Free Medical Consultations, Treatments, Administration of drugs, and proper health counseling.</li> <li>3. Conduct free eye checks and glasses for correction of various eye defects or refractory errors by the Optometrists and Opticians.</li> </ol>	

4. To carry out free Dental care and Procedures such as Scaling and Polishing, Tooth Extractions (Surgeries) by the Dental Surgeons.
5. Also, 60 free cataract surgeries for all indigent patients from Ogoniland by consultant Ophthalmologists.

SURGERIES	NO. OF CASES	FREQUENCY
ABDOMINAL MYOMECTOMY (FIBRIOD SURGERY)	54	26.6%
HERNIA	102	50.2%
APPENDECTOMY	21	10.3%
LIPOMA	25	12.3%
CAESAREAN SECTION	1	0.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>100%</b>



The figure above shows the distributions of the various surgical cases that were carried out during the program. A total of 203 surgical interventions were done with Hernia constituting 50.2%, while Abdominal Myomectomy and Appendectomy were 26.6%, and others are Emergency Caesarean Section, Excisional Biopsy etc. The data illustrates the needs for continuous engagements and targeted interventions for the indigent patients as the team strives to improve the health indices of the Ogonis.

#### DATA SUMMARY

The analysis provides comprehensive insights into the participants' demographics, health conditions, and the range of healthcare services delivered during the program. A total of seven thousand three hundred and thirty-five patients (7335) were attended to during the clinic flow inclusive of both medical and surgical cases and about two thousand and fifty-seven (2,057) patients were



**Surgical Procedure During the HYPREP Free Medical Outreach in Ogoni**

further reviewed by the Optometrists and Opticians with a total of 825 eyeglasses issued and eye drops for their various degrees of refractory errors and eye conditions.

In addition, a total of 100 patients had successful cataract surgeries across the 4 LGAs, while a total of 476 dental

cares and evaluation were carried out across the 4 LGAs especially for scaling & polishing, alongside dental education.

Also, a total of 203 surgical interventions were carried out during the program with Hernias constituting about 50.2%, while abdominal



myomectomy and appendectomy was 26.6%, and others were emergency caesarean section, excisional biopsy etc. The data illustrates the need for continuous engagements and targeted interventions for the indigent populace as the team strives to improve the health indices of the Ogonis.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We recommend that a quarterly or biannual medical and surgical outreach be conducted within the four Local Government Areas of Ogoni

land as a way of reaching out to more indigent patients and improving their quality of life.

2. The team encountered several chronic illnesses during the programme that required more attention, especially in a highly populated LGA like Khana with 3 kingdoms. We therefore recommend that more days be added during subsequent outreaches to reach out to more people in need of medical care.

3. During this programme, we screened and booked over 250 patients

for cataract and pterygium surgery and over 100 cases were done, thanks to the intervention of the Project Coordinator during his onsite visit. Also, about 100 cases of booked fibroid patients and 110 cases of various types of Hernias were not attended due to the resources and time available for the program as more people became aware. We recommend that a more robust budget be made available during subsequent outreaches.

## MANGROVE AND DISHES YÀÀKÀÑWÀ: THE UNSUNG TASTY CRAB

A complete Immune system builder crab species called YAAKANWA by the Ogoni people of Rivers State. A tasty variety of the sea crab, found mostly in the mangrove swamps, within the creeks of the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria. It is the only crab species that is harvested on the trees, unlike its other cousins, the blue crab, which is a submersible "area boy", that goes to depths beyond our eyes and lives in holes along the banks.

YAAKANWA has a catchy red and white shades of colour, and its limbs and claws are hairy, tinier and longer to enable them to move fast away from fishermen and sea predators. It operates mostly on the dangling stilt roots of the mangrove trees, and climbs up and down on it, and swims so fast that harvesting it is as nightmarish as catching breeze in your palms. Young boys catch them in a variety of ways, including baiting them with some blended leaves and dropping them on the swamps. Though mudskippers are also attracted to the leaf bait, and they go sleepy after eating it. They also use long sharp-pointed arrows to spike the

crabs as well.

The Yààkàñwà is the most beautiful crab in looks, and even tastier than other crab species. Local legends will gladly tell you that even though it's not popular or valued on top of the food chain... but it provides more calcium, potassium, protein, to the body, plus an undetermined hidden aphrodisiac capability for men, than any other crab.

Shall we therefore be wary of Rivers men who eat this crab a lot, as their Solomonic functions and inheritance can manifest and multiply on auto-motivation levels. What is the name of this exotic rare crab in your area. What is its English name.

**Blessing Wikina  
Kono, Ogoni**



**Photo: Nwiyor Akpobari**



## PICTURES OF THE MONTH



L-R: Minister of Regional Development, Engr. Momoh, HRM, Dr. Suanu Baridam and Environment Minister, Balarabe Lawal at the Palace in Bangha



L-R: Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, Senator Barinada Mpigi, Dr. Fred Kpakol, Dr. Mike Nwielaghi and Senator Magnus Abe at Bomu Mangrove Restoration Site



Rivers State Commissioner for Environment, Hon. Sydney Gbara (Holding Plaque) after Planting Mangrove Seedling at Bomu Mangrove Restoration Site



Event Anchor, Kpoobari Nafu and UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Mohamed Fall at Beeri Water Project Commissioning



Cross Section of Ogoni Women at the Beeri Water Project Commissioning



Cross Section of some Ogoni Chiefs at the Beeri Water Project Commissioning



Cross Section of Guests at the Beeri Water Project Commissioning



Cup Bearers at the Beeri Water Project Commissioning



# OGONI CLEAN-UP

## ...HYPREP SPEARHEADING MANGROVE RESTORATION

### POETRY CORNER

Ogoni hymn

By: Ken Saro-Wiwa

Creator of Ogoni  
Land of glory and wealth  
Grant us thy peace and lasting love  
Plant justice over our land  
Give us thy wisdom and the strength  
To shame our enemies.

Creator of Ogoni  
Land of glory and wealth  
Grant everlasting blessings Lord  
To the people of Gokana  
Khana, Eleme, Tai and Babbe  
Glorious Ogoniland.

Photo:HYPREP





## **THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE**

**“Trees give peace to the souls of men.” - Nora Waln**

**Photo:HYPREP**

# **... for a cleaner and greener Ogoniland**

A Publication of the Communications Unit of HYPREP

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