



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

HYPREP HERALD

JUNE 2025 VOL.1 No.39

OGONI CLEAN-UP: ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER CURRENT ADMINISTRATION *(Part 2)*



AERIAL VIEW OF OGONI SPECIALIST HOSPITAL UNDER CONSTRUCTION

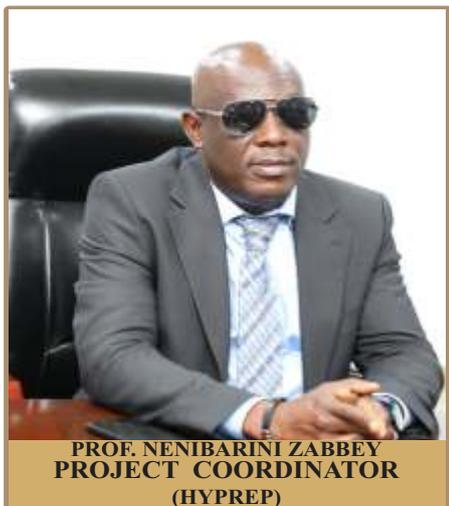
**IRELAND INDICATES INTEREST TO SUPPORT
HYPREP IN RESEARCH, EDUCATION**
- It's An Inspiration to Our Team – Prof. Zabbey

**HYPREP INSPECTS OGONI POWER
PROJECT TRANSFORMERS IN CHINA**

**OGONI SPECIALIST HOSPITAL; HYPREP
INAUGURATES TECHNICAL C'TTEE**
-Facility, Beacon of Hope – Prof. Mato

**HYPREP
HERALD
NOT
TO BE
SOLD**

THE PC'S DESK



PROF. NENIBARINI ZABBEY
PROJECT COORDINATOR
(HYPREP)

Last month, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) Project Coordination Office (PCO) began serializing some of the achievements of the Ogoni Clean-up project under the Renewed Hope Agenda. Due to limited space, we had reserved part 2 of the achievements for the June edition of the HYPREP Herald. In this edition, we will take you through the progress we have made in the areas of soil and groundwater remediation, public health, the Ogoni Power Project, research and development, and linkages and partnerships. Besides the national and international visibility that the project has gained, we have enhanced peacebuilding in Ogoni, secured external funding, and sustained engagement with the grassroots through strategic communications and town hall meetings.

Remediation of oil-polluted sites is one of the primary mandates of HYPREP in the Ogoni region. We are currently working on seventeen (17) medium-risk complex sites covering approximately 125.39 hectares of oil-impacted land. The 16 sites have been

divided into 39 Lots. In these areas, soil and groundwater are contaminated by oil. To effectively mobilize the appropriate size and quality of workforce needed on these sites, we have trained and employed 1453 community workers. The hands-on skills experience garnered by community workers (youth and women) is one of the enduring legacies of HYPREP; they can work elsewhere on similar projects.

Recall that HYPREP categorized contaminated land into simple and complex sites, further dividing the complex sites into medium-risk and high-risk complex sites. Simple sites consist of land where only the soil is contaminated. Medium-risk complex sites have both soil and groundwater contamination, but these sites are relatively far from residential areas. High-risk, complex sites are residential lands with soil and groundwater contamination. The simple sites have been remediated, certified, and closed out. While remediation of the medium-risk complex sites is ongoing, we have commenced the process of site characterization of the high-risk complex sites. Remediation of the high-risk complex sites requires advanced nonintrusive technologies. This is why the project embarked on a technology hunt to deliver sustainable cleanup in Ogoni and develop a replicable template for similar oil-impacted regions in Nigeria. Thanks to the Honourable Minister of Environment and Chairman of the HYPREP Governing Council, Balarabe Abbas Lawal, who passionately led our first technology hunt-trip to Germany, Finland, and Belgium. Afterwards, we have assessed the technologies and

competencies of other reputable international companies. Ultimately, we will achieve a site characterization, remediation, and technology transfer that is fit for purpose, supporting national development.

In public health, we have finalized discussions with the International Agency for Research on Cancer within the World Health Organization to conduct a comprehensive health study in Ogoni, as recommended by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). This three-year study will examine medical records from public health facilities in Ogoni and perform human health biomonitoring to determine if there is a link between disease patterns and oil pollution in the area. We are constructing a 100-bed Ogoni Specialist Hospital - a tertiary healthcare facility. The hospital is currently 73% complete. Similarly, we are almost done with the construction of the Buan Cottage Hospital. The 40-bed hospital, which will provide healthcare services to remote communities in the Khana Local Government Area, is now 90% complete. We have strengthened four public hospitals and health centers in Ogoni by donating state-of-the-art medical equipment and renovating existing structures.

The Ogoni Power Project is a sustainability initiative that will catalyze entrepreneurship and socioeconomic development. Improved electric power supply will stimulate small and medium-scale businesses and investment in the area. It will reduce the cost of maintaining the water, hospitals, and the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER). Construction work at the two power substations in

Wiiyaakara and Bodo is progressing steadily. Forty containers of power equipment, manufactured in China and India, have been safely received at the Wiiyaakara substation. Efforts are ongoing to possess the transmission line right-of-way.

HYPREP has fostered several partnerships (local and international) to strengthen and expand the scope of development interventions in Ogoni. These mutually beneficial collaborations add value to the Ogoni clean-up project. As the project continues to gain global visibility, the PCO has been hosting high-profile visitors, including the UN Resident Coordinator and the diplomatic community. In line with the project's knowledge enhancement objective, we have been sharing data and lessons learned with other stakeholders through presentations at conferences and workshops. It is worth mentioning that due to the visible progress we have made, HYPREP secured its first grant outside the contributory sources of funding for the project.

As we continue to check off the boxes for the number of UNEP recommendations we have implemented, we are striving to have the restored mangrove in Ogoni declared a RAMSAR site. Therefore, we have initiated the application and will work collaboratively with the RAMSAR Desk in Nigeria and the international secretariat to achieve the project objective.

We continue to utilize every available means to share the HYPREP success story with our stakeholders and the public. The Ogoni people, who directly benefit from the project, are consistently provided updates and briefs about our activities and

opportunities through our communication channels and at forums organized by the project and by other stakeholders.

In summary, the cleanup is progressing well, and we continue to add value for the benefit of the Ogoni people. The project has made significant contributions to stability, security, and peacebuilding in the region through job creation, capacity development, practical, truthful, and strategic communication, as well as engagement with stakeholders,

including underserved populations. The horizon is promising for the Ogoni clean-up and livelihood restoration project. As always, we appreciate the individuals and institutions who have helped us reach this point. We still count on your contributions. We are optimistic that together, we will make Ogoni a cleaner, greener, and more peaceful place for productive ventures.

“Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”



HYPREP Team Inspects MRI Machine for Ogoni Specialist Hospital in Germany

In this Issue

The May edition of the HYPREP Herald led with the achievements of HYPREP under the current administration. It was the part one of the achievements in just two years. We beamed the spotlight on shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration, provision of potable water, livelihood training, and the construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration and the Buan Cottage Hospital. In this issue we bring you part two of the achievements with focus on soil and groundwater remediation, strengthening of public health facilities in Ogoni and construction of the Ogoni Specialist Hospital and Ogoni Power Project. Other achievements in the last two years are in the areas of research and development, partnership with reputable national and international organizations and institutions, renewed commitment of the United Nations to the Ogoni clean-up project and an international visibility that has earned for HYPREP the confidence of the corporate world. This has made HYPREP to be highly sought after by very high-profile visitors and the diplomatic community. We have worked to make Ogoni peaceful, opening it up for development. Cases of insecurity and sabotage to national assets in the area have been on steady decline. We have secured external funding to the statutory funds of the project, and we are making progress on our application to designate Ogoni as a RAMSAR site. Our communication channels have been widened to reach more stakeholders and the public, keeping them up to date with our

operations and activities.

The Irish Ambassador to Nigeria, His Excellency, Mr. Peter Ryan was at the Project Coordination Office to meet the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey. Mr. Ryan was impressed with the progress HYPREP has made and therefore pledged his country's support for the project in research and education.

The HYPREP Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey led a delegation of project staff and contractors to China to carry out Factory Acceptance Test on the power transformers for the Ogoni Project. The visit is sequel to similar trip to Germany to also carry out Factory Acceptance Test on medical equipment for the Ogoni Specialist Hospital.

The Nigerian Conservation Foundation on Mangrove Governance recently held its conference in Port Harcourt and Prof. Zabbey was a guest speaker where he tasked stakeholders on restoration and conservation of the mangrove forest in Nigeria's Niger Delta. He was also at a similar conference organized by the Society of Basic and Clinical Toxicology. Prof. Zabbey used the annual scientific conference of the body to call for a multi-stakeholder approach to pollution management. In recognition and appreciation of the impact Prof. Zabbey has made in environmental restoration, the Ecological Society of Nigeria conferred a fellowship award on him.

A group of young environmental activists were on a fact-finding mission to HYPREP sites and they were amazed at how much progress the project has made in land remediation, shoreline clean up and mangrove restoration, provision of potable water to Ogoni communities and construction of legacy projects like the Centre of

Excellence for Environmental Restoration and the Ogoni Specialist Hospital.

In Nkeleoken, Eleme where HYPREP had carried out soil remediation, the project had gone ahead to test for the efficacy of the biofertilizer it has applied to enhance soil fertility. On a later visit to the demonstration farm, the crops are doing well indicating that soil fertility has increased and the remediated sites can be put back to their original agrarian use.

The Project Coordination Office of HYPREP prioritizes the safety of workers on its sites and that informed the just concluded workshop on workers' safety. The Project also held its 2025 first quarter regulators and asset owners meeting where they were briefed on the status of the project. In this issue we also bring you the report on the drone training conducted for some technical staff of the project and the report on the commencement of the training of one hundred Ogoni youths in Creative Arts, being one of the four specialized training areas for the youths.

On one of the field visits of Prof. Zabbey, he had met two boys who were fishing during school hours and upon interrogation they had told him that they dropped out of school due to financial constraints. Prof. Zabbey had promised to personally enroll them back in school. The report of Masters Wisdom Bariaala and Kpoobari Videekor going back to school is our human angle story of the month and we appreciate Prof. Zabbey for the gesture. We have the mangrove and dishes column as well as the poetry corner featured for your reading pleasure. We do hope you will find this edition as informative as always. Please, keep us informed on better ways of serving you.

Project News

OGONI CLEAN-UP: ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER CURRENT ADMINISTRATION (PART 2)

We continue with showcasing the achievements of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) under the current administration which we started in the May edition of the HYPREP Herald.

In this edition we bring you the part 2 of the remarkable milestones covered in the last two years of the project in the thematic areas of environmental remediation, public health, Ogoni power project, international partnership, public enlightenment, among others.

SOIL AND GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION

- Remediating 39 Lots across 17 medium-risk complex sites of 125.39 ha of hydrocarbon-impacted sites (soil and

groundwater). These are areas outside residential areas in Ogoni where the soil and groundwater are contaminated by oil. This is a key recommendation of the United Nations Environmental Programme UNEP report on Ogoni with the aim of returning these sites which are mainly farmlands back to their original agrarian purposes.

- Trained and employed 1453 community workers at the 39 remediation sites. These are youths, including women, who work with the remediation contractors. They were trained in remediation techniques before being deployed to the field. Apart from their immediate engagement as community workers on sites

earning income, the skills and knowledge of remediation acquired will be a lifelong asset that can earn them jobs on similar projects in the future. Ogoni now boasts of competent manpower in the field of environmental remediation, courtesy of HYPREP training and engagement.

- Soil remediation work is 29.38% completed with a total of 18.95% treatment of soil. Volume of oily sludge recovered and evacuated is 352,000 litres. Quantity of petrified carbonized material evacuated: 523,130kg.
- Obtained NOSDRA certification for four outstanding phase 1 remediation sites. The National Oil Spills Detection and Response



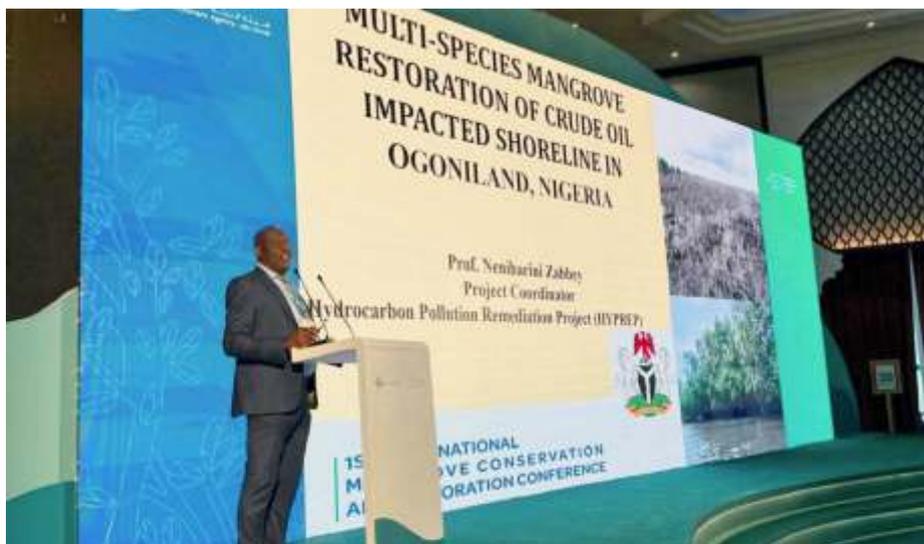
Treatment of Contaminated Soil

Agency (NOSDRA) verifies and certifies remediated sites before they are closed out. These certifications by the Nigerian regulatory agency are a credit to the standard of work HYPREP is carrying out in Ogoni.

- Conducted reconnaissance survey on six post-UNEP spill incident sites. There are oil-polluted sites in Ogoni that were either not investigated by UNEP or the pollution occurred after the UNEP study, referred to as post-UNEP sites. The post-UNEP sites require site characterization to understand the contamination level and the work scope required for cleaning. In other words, HYPREP is not leaving any polluted site behind in line with its mandate of remediating the environment to make it cleaner and greener.
- Conducted a reconnaissance survey for 16 high-risk complex sites. UNEP investigated these sites. They are sites within Ogoni residential area, whose soil and groundwater are contaminated by hydrocarbons. Remediation of these areas requires nonintrusive methods that will protect public safety. The project is deploying high tech to achieve this goal, which was what necessitated the technology hunt tour of Europe in the first quarter of 2024 by the Honourable Minister of Environment and HYPREP team.

PUBLIC HEALTH

- Strengthened four hospitals in Ogoniland (Bori, Nchia, Terabor General Hospitals and Kpite Primary Health Care Centre) with state-of-the-art medical equipment, solar power, and facility renovation. It is an



Prof. Zabbey Makes Presentation at 1st Int'l Conference on Mangrove Restoration and Conservation, Abu Dhabi, UAE

intervention by HYPREP to bridge the gap in medical equipment and supplies to give the Ogoni population access to quality healthcare delivery. These donated facilities include surgical equipment, radiology equipment, ophthalmology gadgets, general medical equipment and renovation of physical structures and construction of new ones.

- Organized periodic medical outreach in Ogoniland. The free medical care programme has benefited more than 12,692 persons in two years. Families that otherwise would have found it difficult to access quality medical care had it delivered to their doorsteps and free of charge.
- Designed and built a 43-bed Buan Cottage Hospital. The now 90% completed medical facility will deepen healthcare delivery to the grassroots, especially the remote communities in Khana Local Government Area who for distance have had it difficult to access the General Hospital in Bori.
- Designed and built a 100-bed Ogoni Specialist Hospital. The

hospital has reached a 73% completion rate. The hospital's Oncology Department shall address cancer related ailments. It will also serve the public besides the immediate Ogoni area to the neighbouring states of Abia, Akwa Ibom and beyond. It is one of the legacy projects of HYPREP that will endure even after the clean-up.

- Partnership with the Rivers State Ministry of Health and Hospital Management Board for the taking over of the Buan Cottage Hospital. This partnership is strategic as it will ensure sustenance of the facility for continued service to the people.
- Signed contract with the World Health Organization (WHO) to commence a comprehensive health study of Ogoni to determine the impact of hydrocarbon on public health. It is in keeping with the recommendation of UNEP to determine any link between exposure to hydrocarbons and disease patterns in Ogoni.
- Partnered with *Drosophila* Research and Training Institute,

and University of Ibadan in the use of novel organisms such as *Drosophila melanogaster* to understand adverse effects of petroleum contaminants.

OGONI POWER PROJECT

- Constructing transmission lines and two substations to link Ogoni communities to the national grid. HYPREP has taken delivery of some of the power transmission components from China and India with more to come. Some of the delivered items include insulators and accessories, disconnecter materials, power transformers, earthing transformers, and tower structures).
- Staff quarters at Bodo substation have been completed, undergoing electrical fittings. Construction of the Wiiyaakara substation staff quarters is ongoing. The transmission lines Right of Way (RoW) had been surveyed and some asset owners along the corridor of the RoW paid. The compensation process is still on to pay the remaining property owners.
- Created ninety-one (91) jobs for Ogoni youths who are involved in the construction of the power project.
- Trained one hundred and sixty-seven (167) Ogoni youths in basic electric power transmission lines process.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Published a user-friendly manual for mangrove restoration to drive ecologically sound, multi-species mangrove restoration in Nigeria and, by extension, applicable throughout the Gulf of Guinea. This is to ensure that the art and



HYPREP Delegation on Inspection of Power Transformers in China

science of mangrove restoration is adhered to on the Ogoni mangrove restoration project and similar projects, and that such knowledge documented for easy access and application anytime, anywhere.

- Published a framework for mangrove restoration and conservation in Nigeria, titled "Ogoniland and the Niger Delta: Mangrove Restoration and Conservation Strategy".
- Conducted fish stock assessment research needed to establish a baseline to measure the fisheries' enhancement of the mangrove restoration project.
- Use of Growcoon (biodegradable

nursery bag) in mangrove nursery establishment to prevent plastic pollution. The beauty and effectiveness of the Growcoon bag is that it is reusable and thus does not pose a threat to the environment at a time global effort is being intensified to fight plastic pollution.

- After care research aimed at removing residual oil and enhancing soil fertility. Impressive results of degradation of residual oil had been recorded. We have planted some crops (tomato, cassava, maize, fluted pumpkin, cucumber, etc.) on our demonstration farm at Nkeleoken



Cables for Ogoni Power Project

in Eleme Local Government Area with fantastic results recorded.

- Cultured the African bloody cockle (*Senilia senilis*) to restock the mudflats that HYPREP is cleaning. The programme is done in collaboration with Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research, Fisheries Department, University of Port Harcourt and the Rivers State University.

L I N K A G E S A N D PARTNERSHIPS

- Established research and training partnership with UK-based Lancaster University Environment Centre.
- Established research and training partnership with the world-renowned Coopeartive Research Centre for Contamination Assessment and Remediation (crc-CARE), University of Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia. Both Lancaster University Environment Centre and the CRC-CARE Remediation Center, University of Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia will through the partnership assist HYPREP run its Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration that it is building.
- Trained 13 remediation staff in advanced groundwater assessment, remediation, and monitoring at crc-CARE Remediation Center in Australia. This is to ensure effective supervision of the remediation of the high risk complex sites.
- Established a biotechnology partnership with Contec Group to isolate hydrocarbon-degrading microbes and use the isolates to produce biofertilizers for post-

remediation aftercare to enhance fertility and remove residual oil on the sites that HYPREP has remediated. Achieved fantastic results at the trial sites.

- Established a partnership with the Nigerian Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) on ICT training support and developing Artificial Intelligence (AI) devices to monitor restored mangrove areas.
- Established a partnership with the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN). This partnership will grow and nurture entrepreneurship in Ogoni, especially among the youths.
- Established a partnership with, the *Drosophila* Institute, University of Ibadan. We are co-researching exposure to hydrocarbon and its impact on human health using *Drosophila* as the simulator.

Established a strategic link with the National Parks Service for a partnership and collaboration focusing on safeguarding wildlife and sacred forests in Ogoniland. A key component of the collaboration is to train forest rangers across Ogoniland's four Local Government Areas to preserve Ogoni's valuable forest resources. The initiative stems from the need to repopulate remediated areas with wildlife from conserved and protected forests to ensure the restoration of ecological balance.

UN RENEWED COMMITMENT TO HYPREP

Secured the endorsement and renewed support of the UN Resident Coordinator and support of the UN agencies under him. It is a technology enhancement and technical support for HYPREP.

PROJECT VISIBILITY

We have raised the visibility of the project nationally and internationally. This has attracted national and international recognition for the project through invitations to speak as a guest at international fora and high-profile visits to the project sites by key stakeholders.

PAPERS PRESENTED AT INTERNATIONAL FORA:

1. Assessment of impact levels for effective rehabilitation of the oil-contaminated mangrove shoreline of Ogoniland, Nigeria. Paper delivered at the Cleanup 2024 Conference, Adelaide, Australia, 17 September 2024.
2. Multi-species mangrove restoration of crude oil impacted shoreline in Ogoniland, Nigeria. Paper delivered at the 1st International Conference on Mangrove Restoration, 10–12 December 2024, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
3. The largest restoration of oil-degraded mangrove programme in the world: The restoration of mangrove forests in the Niger Delta: theory and practice. Paper delivered at the Swedish Academy of Agriculture & Forestry Seminar on Ecosystem Restoration for a sustainable Development, 5th February 2025.

PAPERS PRESENTED AT NATIONAL FORA:

1. Sustainable Fisheries Development: Promoting Blue Economy and Climate Change Mitigation. Paper presented at the University of Port Harcourt Fisheries Day 2023. October 10, 2023.
2. Hydrocarbon Contaminants and Human Health Risks.

A talk presented at the 11th International Conference of the West African Society of Toxicology (WASOT), held 23–25 November 2023 at the Rivers State University, Port Harcourt.

3. Freshwater Resource Management in a Digital World.

A keynote address delivered at the 5th Annual Conference of the Freshwater Biological Association (FBAN), held 16–19 July 2024 at Benson Idahosa University, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria.

4. Wetland Ecosystems: Hotspots for biodiversity.

A keynote address delivered at the 2024 Hybrid Conference of the Ecological Society of Nigeria (ECOSON), held 5–9 May 2024 at Delta State University, Abraka, Delta State, Nigeria.

5. Fish diversity baseline for mangrove restoration of Bomu Creek, Ogoniland. Paper presented at the 39th Annual Conference of the Fisheries Society of Nigeria (FISON), held at the Raw Material Development Research and Development Council, Maitama, Abuja, 28 October–1 November 2024.

6. Building Climate Resilience in the Niger Delta through Nature-Based Solutions. A keynote address delivered at the stakeholder engagement event on mangrove governance in the Niger Delta, organized by the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) at Landmark Hotel, Port Harcourt on Tuesday 20th May, 2025.

Regional Capacity Development

- Established sabbatical leave programme, linking town and gown for improved learning and knowledge productivity

- Special internship programme at the CEER for 90 Ogoni Young Graduates of Engineering and the Sciences

- Robust Industrial Training Programme. HYPREP has groomed a total of 190 students doing their industrial training from 2023 to date.

- We opened our office as a place of primary assignment for young graduates on their National Youth Service Programme. Sixty-five (65) of them have served in HYPREP office between 2023 and now.

- Academic Excursion Visits to Remediation Sites: As part of HYPREP commitment to educational development, it hosted excursion visits to Phase 2 remediation sites by postgraduate students and lecturers from the University of Port Harcourt, students from the Department of Environmental Management, Rivers State University and students of the Nigerian Maritime University, Delta State. These academic field visits provided valuable real-world exposure to environmental remediation practices and fostered dialogue between researchers, students, and field professionals.

HIGH-PROFILE VISITS TO THE PROJECT:

- Visit of the British High Commissioner to Nigeria
- Visit of the Irish Ambassador to Nigeria
- Visit of the Belgian Ambassador to Nigeria
- Visit of the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator alongside representatives of other UN

agencies (UNOHR, UNFOA, WHO, UNDP and UNICEF)

- Three times visit of the Honourable Minister of the Federal Ministry of Environment to inaugurate completed HYPREP Projects in Ogoni

- Two times visit of the Honourable Minister of Regional Development to HYPREP sites - commissioned the Kporghor water facility.

- Visit of the CEO and Managing Director of the Cooperative Research Centre for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment (crcCARE) of the University of Newcastle, Australia, Laureate Prof. Ravi Naidu to assess the CEER and high risk complex sites

- Recognizance visit of German environmental remediation company, SENSATEC GMBH to HYPREP high-risk complex sites in Ogoniland. Complex sites like the one at Nsisioken, Ogale in Eleme Local Government Area has benzene concentration about 900 times above the permissible limit and the contamination is both in the soil and in groundwater under people's houses, community artifacts, shrines, churches, and schools. Dealing with this kind of site requires a high level of safety precautions.

- Visit of Belgian remediation company, Haemers Technologies, led by its Chairman, Jan Haemers to high-risk complex sites in Alode, Eleme Local Government Area. The company is to do a comprehensive assessment of the complex site to determine the extent of contamination and site

characterization then come up with fit-for-purpose technology. It could be a mix of technologies.

- Visit and endorsement of the Senate Committee on Oil and Gas Host Communities
- Visit and endorsement of the House of Representative Committee on Host Communities.
- Nigeria Environmental Society (NES)
- Rev. Nnimmo Bassey of the Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF)
- Niger Delta conference
- Kebetkache Women Development & Resource Centre
- Ford Foundation and their Niger Delta CSO partners
- Serendib Capital and Eight Versa
- FAO Country Chair for Nigeria and ECOWAS
- Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)
- UNEP Representatives and UNEP Evaluation Consultants
- Rivers State Commissioner for Health

SECURITY

- Enhanced security in Ogoniland by mainstreaming a non-kinetic approach to complement the kinetic operations. This has ensured a safe environment on HYPREP project sites for staff and contractors to operate and public security.
- Recruited, trained, and deployed 500 civil security guards to project sites. They mine and relay intelligence to security formations.
- Eliminated illegal oil bunkering and artisanal oil refining in the Ogoni shoreline areas through security patrols, partnership with ex-artisanal refiners and robust sensitization of Ogoni youths. As a



UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mr. Mohammed Malick Fall

result of the safety of oil facilities and installation in the area, the threat of re-pollution of remediated sites has greatly reduced.

- Sustained anti-re-pollution campaigns and continuous engagement with ex-artisanal refiners.

EXTERNAL FUNDING/FUND MOBILIZATION

- Secured HYPREP's first external grants (28,550 GBP). Grantor: Commonwealth Blue Charter. Project title: Rapid assessment of policy gaps for sustainable mangrove management in the Niger Delta, Nigeria under the commonwealth Blue Charter Project Incubator. Research collaborators are Mangrove Action Project, Portsmouth University, Commonwealth Blue Charter, University of Colorado Boulder, Rivers State University.
- Established HYPREP's Proposal Writing Committee chaired by Prof. Ebisime Etela. This is to equip staff with the requisite knowledge to seek funds from grantors to enable HYPREP embark on emerging projects not captured in the UNEP report.
- Co-applied for the UNDP-GEF-

Government project "Accelerating Nature and Climate Action to Advance Nigeria's Net Zero and '30x30' Targets" (NZNP Nigeria Child Project) under the Net Zero Nature Positive Accelerator Integrated Programme.

RAMSAR SITE

- Initiated application to make Ogoni mangrove wetland a RAMSAR Site. This is a UNEP recommendation and HYPREP is working hard to achieve the declaration.

COMMUNICATION

- Launched HYPREP Herald on Radio to deepen communication to local Ogoni communities on activities and programmes of the project. Ogoni communities who are the direct beneficiaries of the project would appreciate the operations of the project more and avail themselves of every opportunity that HYPREP has to offer if they are properly informed about the programmes and activities of the clean-up. The radio enlightenment programme is therefore a necessity to convey such information to members of the public.

IRELAND INDICATES INTEREST TO SUPPORT HYPREP IN RESEARCH, EDUCATION

- It's An Inspiration to Our Team – Prof. Zabbey

The Irish Ambassador to Nigeria, His Excellency, Mr. Peter Ryan has affirmed visible transformation of the lives and landscape of the Ogoni people through the various environmental and human capital development projects of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) in land remediation, shoreline and mangrove restoration, livelihood trainings and construction of legacy projects.

The Irish Ambassador stated this during a working visit to the Project Coordination Office of HYPREP in Port Harcourt.

Mr. Ryan is impressed with the outstanding performance of the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey, stating that the success recorded so far is rooted in his love for the Ogoni people and pledged his country's commitment to the effective implementation of the United Nations

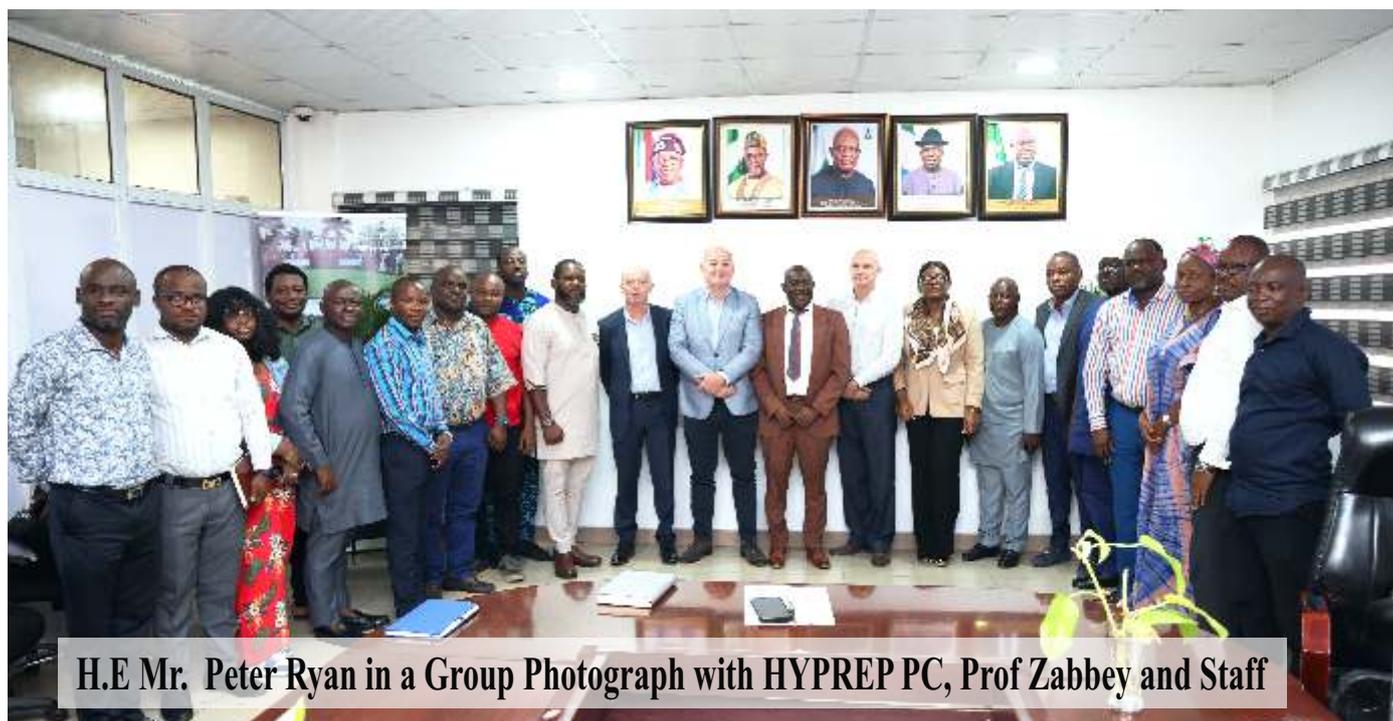


Irish Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Peter Ryan

Environment Programme (UNEP) report on Ogoni.

“The remediation of contaminated land and restoration of livelihoods by HYPREP is a multi-generational endeavor. This project is all about the people. I am deeply impressed by the

commitment of Prof. Zabbey and his team, who are clearly motivated and genuinely grounded in the interests of the community. This is a great opportunity to build collaboration with Ireland. It makes perfect sense for us to be part of this journey together.”



H.E Mr. Peter Ryan in a Group Photograph with HYPREP PC, Prof Zabbey and Staff

The partnership, he revealed, is to strengthen the good relationship between the people of Ireland and Nigeria and expressed Ireland's interest in the operationalization of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration that HYPREP is building, stating that the centre is an initiative with huge potentials and impacts and should be utilized and owned by the communities as proposed.

The Irish Ambassador who came in the company of officials of the embassy and some Irish entrepreneurs commended Prof. Zabbey and his team on the various community-driven initiatives, and on upholding the philosophy establishing HYPREP. Responding, the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey

thanked the Irish Ambassador and his entourage for considering it fit to visit and share experience with HYPREP.

Prof. Zabbey welcomed the interest of the Irish Government to partner HYPREP in ensuring that the mandate of the Project is fully delivered to the people of Ogoni, noting that such collaboration will boost the morale of the HYPREP team.

He reiterated the dedication of the team under his watch, assuring total commitment of the Project to transparency, accountability and sustainability, adding that the collaboration is in line with the United Nations SDG 17 on Partnership.

“HYPREP is dedicated to its mandate. We would ensure the people own the project to ensure sustainability of the project, and it is our responsibility to

transfer difficult situations to opportunities. HYPREP will continue to discuss with all interest parties for the Project to succeed, and we will do what the people and the international community will be proud of.”

He enumerated the various initiatives of HYPREP to include, land and shoreline clean-up with huge success in mangrove restoration, construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, building of the Ogoni Specialist Hospital and Buan Cottage Hospital, the Ogoni Power Project, alternative livelihood initiative, as well as plans for the commencement of an agro-hub, which will create juicy opportunities and address the social security needs of the youths and women.

HYPREP INSPECTS OGO NI POWER PROJECT TRANSFORMERS IN CHINA

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey has led a technical delegation to JSB Zhejiang Jiangshan Transformer Company Limited in Jiangshan, China for the Factory Acceptance Test of transformers for the Ogoni Power Project.

The technical team comprised HYPREP's technical staff, representatives of the Ogoni Power contractor, Energovod Engineering Limited and the project supervision consultant, Oska-Jo and Partners Limited.

The equipment inspected include, four 60 MVA power transformers and six 300 KVA earthing transformers for the Bodo and Wiiyaakara Substations. Satisfied with the equipment's functionality and compliance with



Prof. Zabbey Poses with HYPREP Power Transformer in China

contract specifications, the Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey signed off on the test results, authorizing the shipment of the equipment.

The inspection is part of HYPREP

Project Coordination Office's efforts to deliver a fit-for-purpose power transmission line and substations in Ogoniland.

Before this visit, a total of forty

containers of tested power equipment for the Ogoni power project have been shipped from India and China to Onne Sea Port and safely hauled to the Wiyaaakara Substation.

PROF ZABBEY TASKS STAKEHOLDERS ON MANGROVE RESTORATION, SUSTAINABILITY - *Emphasizes Importance of Building Climate Resilience through Nature-Based Solutions*

As part of global efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change and environmental degradation, the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey has called on all stakeholders to collaborate in building resilience against the destruction of the mangrove and to value all eco system services.

Prof. Zabbey stated this at a stakeholder event organized by the Nigerian Conservation Foundation on Mangrove Governance in the Niger Delta held in Port Harcourt.

Speaking on the topic, “Building Climate Resilience in the Niger Delta through Nature Based Solutions”, Prof. Zabbey explained that climate change has continued to pose greater challenge to the environment and livelihood of the communities, and stakeholders which include government agencies, traditional institutions, the academia, civil society organizations, the private sector and the communities should play strategic and concerted roles in the restoration, conservation and resilience for mangrove survival.

He decried environmental degradation which escalates the impacts of climate change, noting that recent studies have revealed that sea levels could rise by as much as 6.5cm by 2100, submerging vast coastal plains, displacing



Participants at the Mangrove Governance Conference

communities, and threatening the very fabric of society.

“Oil spills continue to pollute the waters, poisoning marine life and crippling local economies. The habitat that once flourished with fish, birds, and other wildlife now face an alarming decline in biodiversity, crop failures, dwindling catches, and livelihoods hanging in the balance.”

Among other solutions, he pointed out that stakeholders should strive to address human activities that destroy mangrove and community resilience, strengthening multi-sectorial partnerships by sharing best practices, mobilizing resources, and supporting community-led initiatives for climate adaptations and mitigation, as well as providing support policy and

regulatory frameworks. This, according to him, includes enacting and enforcing data driven policies and laws that protect mangroves and wetlands, and establishing a national forest registry, and developing mechanisms for carbon financing.

While stressing the need to create mangrove conservation and protected areas, the HYPREP Project Coordinator called for the expansion of restoration initiatives that will scale successful models across the Niger Delta region, and provide technical support, seedlings and funding for community-based nurseries and restoration projects.

He particularly noted that the multi-stakeholders' approach should prioritize investment in citizen

science, like training and equipping local communities to collect and share environmental data for informed policy actions, as well as empowering local communities, recognizing them as custodians and active participants in restoration efforts, and ensuring that they benefit economically and socially from conservation initiatives.

Prof. Zabbey further called on all stakeholders to minimize the use of plastics and stop converting wetlands to residential areas and urged them to protect the remaining forest covers and wetlands in line with the vision of the United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration.

He said the conservation of the restored mangrove is essential, and that conservation strategies include reducing the wood harvesting pressure and creating alternative livelihood opportunities and disclosed that in this regard, HYPREP has distributed clean cook stoves to hundred (100) women living near mangroves in Gokana, while efforts are being made to quantify the carbon stock of the restored mangroves.

While commending the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) on the sustained advocacy and on-the-ground biodiversity protection initiatives towards environmental sustainability, and for providing an opportunity for him to share some thoughts on how to build climate resilience in the Niger Delta, using nature-based solutions, the HYPREP Project Coordinator highlighted the tremendous efforts by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project in achieving its mandate to remediate and restore the hydrocarbon-impacted sites in Ogoni and improve the livelihoods of the people.

Prof. Zabbey stated that HYPREP is building local capacity to promote environmental sustainability, conducting innovative research, providing access to potable water and enhancing public health in Ogoni, and therefore expects NCF and other stakeholders to propagate the concept of mangrove conservation using the HYPREP developed user-friendly manual on mangrove restoration in the Niger Delta, which provides the steps for nursery management of the red, black, and white mangroves.

He noted that following the publication of the manual, over 90 Ogoni youths and women have been trained in mangrove nursery establishment and restoration, adding that the trainees who are also referred to as Mangrove Vanguard, were given grants of one hundred thousand naira (100,000.00) each to set up their nurseries.

“The vanguards have in turn trained over 400 persons who have also established mangrove nurseries. The vanguards and the vanguard mentees supply the mangrove seedlings to the restorative planting contractors engaged by HYPREP, who plant the

red, black, and white mangroves at a ratio of 8:1:1, which is the natural relative abundance of the region's native mangroves.

“As at today, HYPREP's mangrove restoration project has attained a 91% completion with a total of 1,371,862 seedlings of various species already planted.”

On monitoring, he disclosed that HYPREP, alongside regulatory and civil society partners will continue to monitor the growth performance and the return of ecosystem goods and services of the rehabilitated mangroves. “We have recorded a commendable recovery of periwinkle in the 'restored' creek, crabs, dogwhelks, shrimps, oysters, and finfish are gradually recovering”, he said.

Earlier, the Director General of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation, Dr. Onoja Joseph Daniel, had identified causes and effects of mangrove destruction and said the forum was to brainstorm on ways of addressing the problems and called for a stop to the over harvesting of mangroves.



HYPREP Planted Mangroves

YOUNG ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS EULOGIZE HYPREP ON MANDATE IMPLEMENTATION

A group of young people working on environmental issues in the Niger Delta has commended the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) on keeping to its mandate and being at the forefront of ensuring environmental remediation of Ogoniland.

The young activists, under the auspices of Young Climate Activists Coalition gave the commendation during their tour of various sites and projects of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), in the four Local Government Areas of Ogoni.

Members of the Young Climate Activists Coalition, who were conducted round the projects by the Head of Communications, HYPREP, Dr. Enuolare Mba-Nwigoh visited Mangrove restoration site in Bomu community, Gokana LGA, Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration and Integrated Contaminated Soil Management Centre in Wiiyaakara, Khana LGA,

Ogoni Specialist Hospital, Kpite and Water Facility in Kporghor, Tai LGA, as well as the land remediation site in Ogale, Eleme LGA.

At each of the project sites, the young activists engaged the HYPREP officials on ground with questions on the level of success recorded.

The young activists expressed satisfaction with the efforts made so far by HYPREP in remediating the environment and providing livelihoods, health and potable water to the people.

They particularly lauded HYPREP on its sustainability plan for the water and health initiatives, describing the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration as a world class facility second to none in Sub-Saharan Africa, and called on the people of Ogoni, the Niger Delta and indeed, all potential users of the resource centre to protect and ensure good use of the facilities.

According to the Coordinator of the Coalition, and Executive Director of

Livegreen Climate Change Initiative, Diolu Tobechukwu Prosper, HYPREP has made significant successes that should be commended and supported to do more.

He said the group is willing to collaborate with HYPREP on its drive to achieve a clean and safe environment, thanking the management of the Project for its openness and opportunity given them to access the various facilities and sites of operations.

On his part, another leader of the group, Comrade Collins Lebeteh Kenneth, particularly commended the Project Coordinator, Prof. Neniibarini Zabbey on being transparent in the implementation of the project.

While pledging the group's commitment to the envisaged robust collaboration between them and HYPREP, Comrade Kenneth observed that the tremendous milestone achievements they have seen on ground convince them about HYPREP's ability to restore the



Young Environmental Activists at a HYPREP Shoreline Clean up Site in Bomu

environment.

He also appealed to the Federal Government of Nigeria and the International Oil companies to review the funding of HYPREP to ensure comprehensive remediation of Ogoniland, given the 14-year gap since the report's release before its implementation, as the initial \$1 billion injected, based on the 2011 UNEP Report, was not enough, considering the enormity of the damage caused by the extractive multinationals over the years.

Also speaking, the Executive Director of Grassroots to Global Sustainable Development Network, Ibisio Ikiroma-Owiye, lauded HYPREP for

making the project community-driven, expressing satisfaction with the involvement of women and youths in the scheme of operations and various initiatives and observed that agriculture, which is a major means of livelihood for the people, particularly, the women, will now thrive with the remediation of the land.

On her part, the Executive Director of Budget Foundation, Mercy Eberechi Eze, said she is no longer in doubt with what she has seen on ground, noting that HYPREP is truly delivering on its mandate and called on the Government and all funding agencies to support HYPREP in putting smiles on the faces of the people by making

the environment productive again.

In like manner, the Project Officer of Voices for Change, Gift Saro Meelubari, called on the Ogoni communities to own up the projects and facilities located in their various territories by protecting them and ensure their sustainability.

She added that they are satisfied with the several initiatives and programmes of HYPREP, noting that Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey is one good thing that has happened to the Project, and he should be encouraged and commended for showing commitment and expertise in leading the Project

SOIL RECOVERY DEMONSTRATION SHOWS FERTILITY IN REMEDIATED LAND

The soil remediation being carried out by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is aimed at restoring the environment to its original use and in this case farming by the locals whose source of livelihoods depends on it.

At a site where the soil has been remediated at Nkeleoken in Eleme Local Government Area, HYPREP has embarked on a post-remediation soil management demonstration that farming on the remediated sites can now resume for crop production.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey who paid a working visit to the post-remediation soil management demonstration site at Nkeleoken stated that the demonstration forms part of HYPREP's broader strategy to address soil fertility challenges following remediation and it is being used to evaluate the effectiveness of biofertilizers, particularly those

developed by Contec Global Agro Limited (CGAL), in enhancing the productivity of previously contaminated lands.

Prof. Zabbey inspected the experimental plots where crops like maize, cassava, fluted pumpkin, cucumber, and tomato are being cultivated to test the effectiveness of the biofertilizers developed by Contec

Global Agro Limited (CGAL) and Oil Zapper products.

He expressed delight at the lush growth and promising results from the treated plots, stating that the "initiative offers a promising solution to one of the lingering challenges of Phase 1 remediation; how to manage and rehabilitate nutrient-depleted topsoil" and that the initiative "could reshape



Prof. Zabbey at the Nkeleoken Demonstration Farm

the future of sustainable agriculture in previously contaminated lands.”

The site trials are designed to tackle lingering issues in remediated soils, especially low fertility and the loss of beneficial microbes that support healthy plant growth by reintroducing biofertilizers and microbial amendments to breathe life back into the soil, making it productive again.

The HYPREP Project Coordinator emphasized the importance of the work, noting that the success of the intervention at Nkeleoken could be replicated across other remediated sites in Ogoni and described it as a potential long-term solution to the challenge of managing degraded topsoil.

Advanced methods such as gas chromatography and molecular tools are also being used to monitor the reduction of leftover pollutants and track microbial activity in the soil. The



Nkeleoken Demonstration Farm

broader goal is to fast-track land recovery and support sustainable agriculture in areas once considered unfit for farming. It is more than just growing plants, it is about restoring livelihoods, boosting food production, and ensuring that the lands to be

returned to communities are not just clean but fertile which is the goal of HYPREP to develop a science-driven, people-centred solution for environmental recovery in Ogoni.

PROF. ZABBEY RECOMMENDS MULTI-STAKEHOLDER APPROACH TO POLLUTION MANAGEMENT

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has recommended a multi-stakeholder commitment to combating the menace of pollution in Nigeria.

Prof. Zabbey made the recommendation in a keynote address he delivered at the 3rd Annual Scientific Conference and General Meeting of the Society of Basic and Clinical Toxicology held at the Rivers State University, Port Harcourt.

Prof. Zabbey who was represented at the conference by the Director, Technical Services, HYPREP, Professor Damian-Paul Aguiyi stated that toxicologists, policy makers,

scientists and citizens should act to protect the environment through collective efforts in scientific research, policy engagement and citizens' actions.

The HYPREP Project Coordinator emphasized the importance of mobilizing citizens' actions for environmental sustainability and non-science citizens to bridge data gaps for improved environmental management.

He maintained that HYPREP is contributing to mitigating the effects of oil contamination in Nigeria through its activities which are environmental remediation and restoration, public health intervention, provision of clean drinking water,

livelihood restoration, institutional strengthening and capacity building among others.

Professor Zabbey was inducted at the event as a fellow of the Society of Basic and Clinical Toxicology Nigeria along side other personalities.

Similarly, Prof. Zabbey attended the conference on Biodiversity Genomics and One Health in West Africa held in Port Harcourt where he was represented by the Head, Public Health, HYPREP, Dr. Kpobari Nkpa.

He noted that biodiversity genomics when paired with the One Health framework holds the potential to protect food systems, conserve ecosystems, reduce health risks, and support community resilience.

HYPREP TO START NEW PROJECTS, COMPLETE OLD ONES

- Health Study Launches Soon

The Management of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is making frantic efforts to complete all on-going projects and start new ones in furtherance of its mandate of remediating oil impacted sites, restoring livelihoods and building structures that strengthen peace and socio-economic development in Ogoni.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey made this known at the 2025 first quarter key regulators and asset owners meeting in Port Harcourt.

A key project that is coming on stream is the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report recommendation for a health study to determine any link between oil pollution and disease patterns in Ogoni among other projects that HYPREP has lined up in the next phase of project implementation.

“Drawing from the Renewed Hope National Agenda which emphasizes the acceleration of the Ogoni Clean-Up, the policy thrust for 2025 is clear: we are intensifying efforts to complete various ongoing projects including remediation works and mangrove restoration, potable water facilities, the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER), the Ogoni Power Project, Buan Cottage Hospital, the Ogoni Specialist Hospital and many more within stated timelines and deliver them for commissioning and subsequent community use.

We will also commence a new set of shoreline cleanup, mangrove



Prof. Zabbey Fielding Questions from Members of the Press

restoration, water, and livelihood training projects to sustain the momentum of implementing the Ogoni Cleanup. We shall conduct detailed site characterization of the high-risk, complex sites leading to remediation execution works at the sites. We are delighted to inform you that socio-economic study of Ogoni has started, and we have contracted the International Agency for Research on Cancer of the World Health Organization to commence in the next quarter a three-year human health biomonitoring in Ogoniland.”

Prof. Zabbey described the initiative as a milestone in health-focused environmental remediation and disclosed that the study which begins in July will focus on investigating cancer-related health risks among Ogoni communities exposed to carcinogenic hydrocarbons.

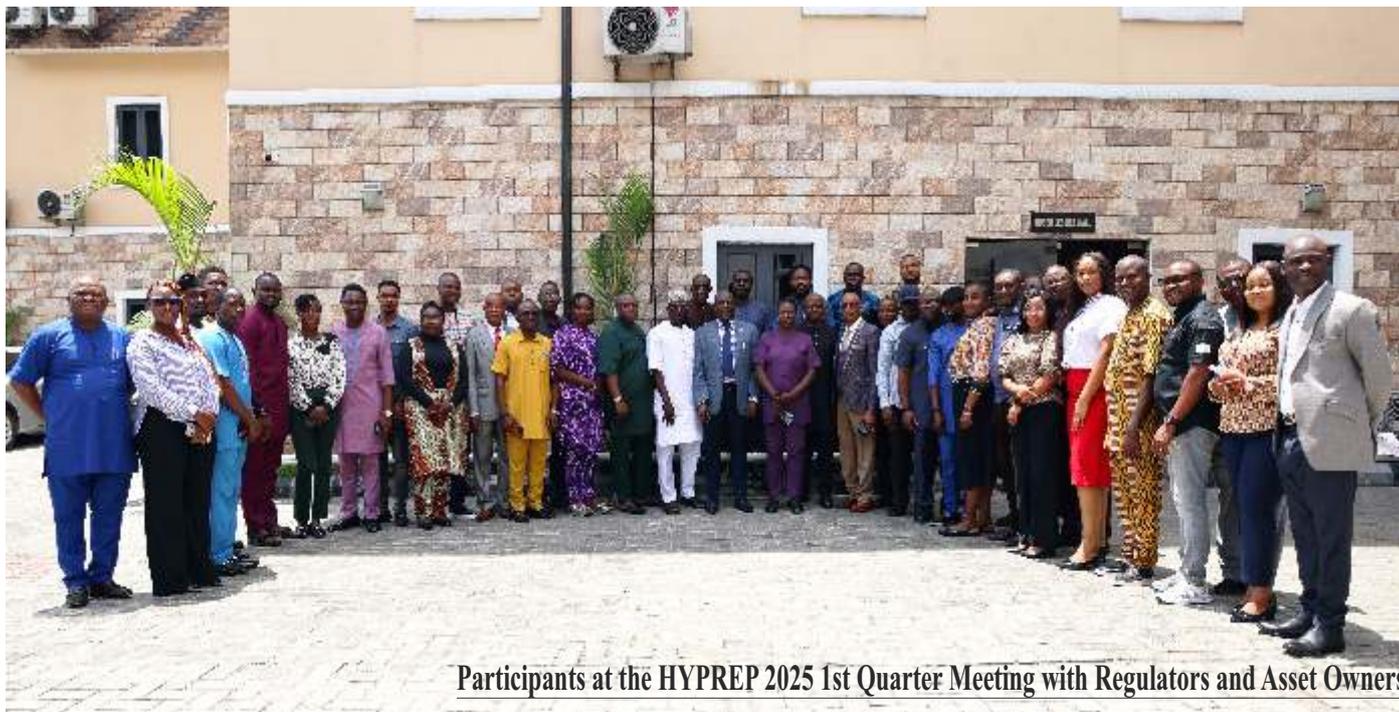
He confirmed that officials of the World Health Organization will arrive

in Nigeria by mid-July to finalize logistics and begin stakeholder engagements, including meetings with the Rivers State Ministry of Environment and local institutions like the University of Port Harcourt and the Rivers State University and assured that HYPREP will not influence the results of the study.

“Local researchers are critical. They understand the terrain and the people. WHO won't conduct this study in isolation, they'll collaborate with our universities and hospitals to ensure data integrity and relevance.

Recall that UNEP recommended that the environmental study be followed by a health study. Our people have been exposed to carcinogenic hydrocarbons like benzene, and ethyl benzene through their drinking water. We don't want to assume outcomes, but we must begin to investigate now.

We're providing the enabling environment, then stepping back to



Participants at the HYPREP 2025 1st Quarter Meeting with Regulators and Asset Owners

allow the experts to carry out their work. Their findings will guide long-term healthcare interventions for the people of Ogoni.”

To support the health component of the remediation programme, Zabbey stated that HYPREP is building the Ogoni Specialist Hospital, which would be equipped with advanced diagnostic tools, including the latest MRI technology.

“We just returned from Germany after a factory acceptance test for the equipment. I'm happy to announce that we will install the most advanced MRI system in the region at the Ogoni Specialist Hospital. The hospital will house all the key units of a tertiary health facility, including gynaecology and infectious diseases units, to serve the specific needs of this population.”

He emphasized that HYPREP's broader mission goes beyond cleaning the environment, describing the project as a model for sustainable development and research-led restoration.

“What we're doing in Ogoni is about developing a template that can be

replicated across the Niger Delta. It's not just remediation; we are also generating knowledge that will transform the socio-economic landscape.”

Prof. Zabbey reiterated that actualizing the mandate of HYPREP requires strategic and inclusive partnerships which align with the UN Sustainable Development Goal 17 which is partnership for the goals.

“Even if we have the in-house capacity to drive the project, we must partner with asset owners, regulators, civil society, and state governments. That's why meetings like this are vital, they help us provide updates, get feedback, and ensure every decision we make is sustainable.”

He emphasized that the people of Ogoniland and indeed the nation look to the project with hope and expectation and therefore called on the regulators and asset owners to work with diligence, transparency, and a renewed sense of purpose to achieve set goals.

“As we press forward, we count on all our stakeholders, including regulators

and asset owners, to remain resolute in supporting HYPREP's work. We particularly expect each regulatory agency and asset owner represented here to deepen their involvement and continue to provide strategic support to the project.

I sincerely thank you all for your continued participation, and for your constructive contributions to this quarterly meeting. I am also pleased to state that your partnership is the bedrock of our success, and we look forward to the rich discussions and actionable resolutions that will emerge from today's engagements.”

The meeting had in attendance representatives of the Federal Ministry of Environment, National Oil Spills Detection and Response Agency, Nigerian Pipelines and Storage Company, Rivers State Ministries of Health, Water Resources and Rural Development, Power and Environment, the Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited, Civil Societies and HYPREP.

100 OGO NI YOUTHS COMMENCE TRAINING IN CREATIVE ARTS

In continuation of its training in specialized areas for Ogoni youths, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has inducted and given orientation to one hundred (100) beneficiaries for Creative Arts.

The induction ceremony for the beneficiaries drawn from Khana, Gokana, Tai and Eleme Local Government Areas was held at the CRAB of the Department of Theatre Arts, University of Port Harcourt.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof Nenibarini Zabbey who welcomed the trainees to the programme, stated that HYPREP keeps to its promises which is evident in the commencement of the Creative Arts training.

He pointed out that in planning its livelihood programmes for Ogoni youths, HYPREP has taken time out to look for skills that would add value to the lives of beneficiaries.

Prof. Zabbey who was represented at the event by the Director of Technical Services, HYPREP, Prof Damian-Paul Aguiyi said by packaging the Creative Arts training, it is expected that Ogoni will have its version of Nollywood.

To achieve this goal, the Project Coordinator explained was the reason for choosing a reputable establishment like Halibiz Consult Limited to partner the Department of Theatre Arts of the University of Port Harcourt, which he described as one of the most prestigious in the Niger Delta for the training of the beneficiaries.

He indicated that HYPREP would want to see emerging talents that will help the Ogoni people grow in the film industry and urged the beneficiaries to put in their best so that in the next three



Cross Section of Trainees at the Creative Arts Training Induction Ceremony

to five years, they would carve a niche for themselves and become forces to reckon with in the film industry in Nigeria.

HYPREP's Head of Sustainable Livelihood, Mrs. Josephine Nzidee disclosed that the process of selecting beneficiaries for the training started three years ago through public auditioning that was conducted by veterans in the film industry in Nigeria.

She disclosed that the training consists of three major aspects, which are acting, script writing and make-up.

Mrs. Nzidee noted that though the programme is a specialized training that does not come with starter packs but professional certification, it would launch beneficiaries into the Nollywood industry in Nigeria.

She stated that the Creative Arts training is one of the four specialized training courses put together by HYPREP to ensure that Ogoni people are well positioned in vital industries like Aviation, Maritime and

Mechatronics.

The last training in the specialized areas is Mechatronics and that would take off in the coming months.

The External Relations Manager of Halibiz Consult Limited, Alabo Experience Douglas said his company places premium on standard and quality and assured that the firm would groom the trainees to standards.

Head of Department, Theatre Arts, University of Port Harcourt, Dr. Ovunda Ihunwo said the CRAB had nurtured, groomed and produced Nollywood actors and actresses like Bobmanuel Udokwu, Ejike Asiegbu, Francis Duru, Hilda Dokubo, Monalisa Chinda, Julius Agwu, and a host of others and assured the beneficiaries that they were on fertile ground to hone their talents.

Each beneficiary of the training who fully participates in the programme is to get a monthly allowance of N150,000 for transportation and feeding.

HYPREP TRAINS STAFF IN DRONE OPERATIONS

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has organised a training in drone operations for its Geographic Information System (GIS) staff to enhance their capacity in data gathering, mapping and monitoring of projects, especially the shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration.

Participants are pleased that the six-day training had enhanced their proficiency in the use of drones to get high-quality precision pictures, mission planning and data analysis.

They are also happy that the training will cut down on operational costs for such services and activities as they can competently handle such operations now instead of hiring the services of



Drone Operation Training in Session

outsiders.

is an attestation to HYPREP's commitment to professionalism and improved work skills for its staff.

With the training and certification, the participants can now operate drones in line with best practices. The development

OGONI SPECIALIST HOSPITAL: HYPREP INSPECTS EQUIPMENT IN GERMANY

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey has reiterated HYPREP's commitment to furnishing the Ogoni Specialist Hospital with the best of medical equipment to enhance quality healthcare delivery in Ogoni.

Prof. Zabbey stated this when he led a composite delegation to Siemens Healthineers facilities in Erlangen and Forchheim, Germany for the Factory Acceptance Test of the medical equipment for the Ogoni Specialist Hospital under construction.

He noted that one of the equipment, the Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is the latest on the global market.

The delegation consists of HYPREP's technical team, a representative of the Honourable Minister of Environment and Chairman of the Governing



HYPREP Team at Siemens Healthineers, Germany

Council of HYPREP, the hospital contractor, Tanit Medical Engineering Limited, the Project Supervision Consultant, Halibiz Consult Limited and an expert radiologist from the Rivers State University Teaching Hospital.

Key equipment inspected include Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) system (MAGNETOM Sola), Computed Tomography (CT) scanners (Somatom Edge Plus and Somatom

go. Now), a radiotherapy system (Varian Halcyon), a mobile X-ray unit (Mobillet Elara Max) and an ultrasound system (Juniper).

All the equipment were tested for functionality, compliance with specifications, software integration, and readiness for deployment.

The HYPREP team discussed post-installation training and maintenance support for the Ogoni Specialist Hospital with Siemens.

PROF. ZABBEY REITERATES HYPREP'S COMMITMENT TO WORKERS' SAFETY

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has said the project is committed to strengthening the occupational health safety (OHS) of all actors involved on its sites.

Prof. Zabbey stated this at a three-day technical training in HSE and Risk Management for field operatives particularly regulators, contractors, community workers and civil society organizations associated with the work of HYPREP in the clean-up of Ogoni.

He said the workshop is aimed at building shared understanding of health and safety associated with environmental remediation in hydrocarbon-impacted zones.

Prof. Zabbey further stated that the

workshop would promote best practices in risk prevention, emergency response, community engagement and essentially foster collaboration among all stakeholders to create a safety-first culture across every stage of HYPREP's operations.

The HYPREP Project Coordinator maintained that occupational health and safety remain a core pillar of the Project's remediation strategy, stressing its commitment to implementing international best practices for site and environmental protection.

He announced HYPREP's recent achievement of 2 million manhours without fatality at the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER) which reflects the Project's commitment to safety

standards and added that the workshop will help sustain the gain and called for collective commitment that prioritizes regulatory compliance and ethical responsibility leading to a holistic safety ecosystem for the Project.

The technical workshop with the theme: "Building a Culture of Risk Awareness and Response Through Partnership and Capacity Development" has participants drawn from HYPREP, the National Oil Spills Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), the Rivers State Ministry of Environment, the Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD), the Society for Women and Youth Affairs (SWAYA) and the Social Democracy Network (SDN).

ECOSON CONFERS FELLOWSHIP ON PROF. ZABBEY

The Ecological Society of Nigeria (ECOSON) has inducted the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey as a fellow of the society.

The fellowship was conferred on Prof. Zabbey at an event organised by the body and held at the University of Port Harcourt.

The honour is in recognition of Professor Zabbey's immense contributions to the society and environment sustainability.

The nomination letter to Prof. Zabbey from ECOSON reads in part, "Your nomination to this exalted position of excellence took adequate recognition of your past contributions to the society and environmental



Prof. Zabbey after being Conferred a Fellow of ECOSON

sustainability. It is hoped that you would continue to bring to bear your invaluable suggestions and contribution to move society forward."

There has been several awards and

fellowships conferred on Prof. Zabbey in recognition and appreciation of his contributions to the advancement of the society and sustainability of the environment.

PROF. ZABBEY SENDS WISDOM BARIAALA AND KPOOBARI VIDEEKOR BACK TO SCHOOL

Like many of their colleagues who had dropped out of school due to lack of sponsorship, Master Wisdom Bariaala and Master Kpoobari Videekor were going about their menial fishing to support their families when fortune smiled on them on that fateful day of 27th February 2025 as they encountered the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey at a creek channel in Bomu.

Prof. Zabbey had come alongside, Mangrove expert, Emeritus Professor Olof Linden and Mike Cowing of the Post UNEP Team to the Bomu mangrove restoration site for monitoring when he spotted the boys who were fishing during school hours.

Upon interaction with them and the discovery that they were forced to drop out of school due to financial constraints, Professor Zabbey had promised to personally enrol them back in school. Prof. Zabbey also



Masters Wisdom Bariaala and Kpoobari Videekor were Fishing during School Hours when Prof. Zabbey Spotted Them and Promised to Enrol Them in School

taught the young fishers how to fish with the scoop net.

The promise was fulfilled recently when Wisdom Bariaala (JSS 3) and Kpoobari Videekor (JSS 1) were enrolled into UBE Kpor and UBE

Bomu respectively.

Prof. Zabbey was represented by his SA, Women and Youths, Stephenie Fiiwe and his PA, Dumbari Nnaa at the enrolment.



Promise Kept: Wisdom Bariaala and Kpoobari Videekor Enrolled in School

OGONI SPECIALIST HOSPITAL: HYPREP INAUGURATES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE *-Facility, Beacon of Hope – Prof. Mato*

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is not resting on its oars in delivering significant and impactful services and facilities to better the lot of the people of Ogoni.

To this end, and in pursuant to the Federal Government policy to improve public healthcare services to its citizens, the Federal Ministry of Environment through HYPREP has inaugurated a multidisciplinary expert and stakeholder Technical Planning Committee for the Ogoni Specialist Hospital (TPC-OSH).

The 14-Member Technical Planning Committee, which was inaugurated by the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey in Port Harcourt, is headed by renowned Professor of Anaesthesiology and former Vice-Chancellor of PAMO University of Medical Sciences, Prof. Christie Nwidum Mato.

The TPC-OSH, which comprises experienced healthcare professionals, academics, community and International Oil Company representatives, and relevant government officials, is expected to develop, among other strategic objectives, a comprehensive master plan for the Ogoni Specialist Hospital, define the scope of medical services, specialized units, and technical capacities of the hospital.

Other members of the TPC-OSP are Prof. Charles Tobin-West, Dr. Richard Okoye, Prof. Vincent Ndemyor, Dr. William Mube, Prof. Rosemary Ogu, Dr. Leziga Kinanen and Prof. Kennedy Nkporbu. The rest are Mr. Legborsi Pyagbara, Dr. Tombari Gbeneol, Dr. Leziga Ndi, Dr.



Prof. Mato

Lebatam Ndegwe, Engr. Ekiyokenegha Clark representing Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited and a representative of UNEP. Inaugurating the Committee, the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Zabbey said the Ogoni Specialist Hospital project is a vital component of the Federal Government's public health initiative, implemented through the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) in Ogoniland.

He noted that the Ogoni area has faced environmental challenges, and the ongoing remediation works are addressing these issues, adding that the strengthening of public hospitals, including the construction of the Buan Cottage Hospital and the Ogoni Specialist Hospital by HYPREP, addresses public health concerns, reaffirming the Federal Government's commitment through HYPREP to the continuous implementation of the UNEP Report's recommendations.

Prof. Zabbey disclosed that the construction of the Ogoni Specialist Hospital is 76% complete which

makes the inauguration of the Technical Planning Committee expedient to enable the Project Coordination Office meet its set timelines for the operationalization of the facility.

The Committee, he said, is further tasked with developing a comprehensive operationalization roadmap that takes into consideration an efficient management and governance structure, ensuring the facility meets both national and international standards in public health service delivery.

Prof. Zabbey urged the TPC-OSH to provide their professional insights and recommendations to ensure that the project serves the best interests of the Ogoni people and contributes to the overall public health landscape in Nigeria, explaining that the facility is expected to have various units, such as oncology, ophthalmology, dental, obstetrics, gynecology, and emergency.

According to the HYPREP Project Coordinator, the Committee has four months to work and appealed to the Ogoni people to continue to support HYPREP and to remain steadfast, reassuring them of accelerating the cleanup.

“We acknowledge the weight of expectation from the community, and we assure you that this process is being conducted with the utmost sense of duty and transparency. I want to thank each member of the Technical Planning Committee for accepting this nomination and for making yourselves available to contribute to the success of HYPREP”, he said.

The Head, Public Health Unit of

HYPREP, Dr. Kpobari Nkpa enumerated the scope of work of the Committee to include, proposing management and governance structures aligned with extant regulations and best practices, recommending staffing structure, recruitment plans, and other necessary human resource activities and to propose a long-term financial model and funding strategy for the hospital, including government funding, donor support, and public-private partnerships.

Chairman of the TPC-OSH, Prof. Christie Mato thanked the Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey and management of HYPREP for the confidence reposed in them to serve as members of the Committee.

Prof. Mato noted that it is an opportunity to address the plight of the poor women, widows, children and the vulnerable people in the communities, explaining that she is encouraged by the caliber of professionals on the Committee,



Members of the Technical Planning C'ttee of Ogoni Specialist Hospital

describing the Ogoni Specialist Hospital as a beacon of hope to the people and all potential users of the facility and assured HYPREP management of their eagerness to work as professionals that they are in delivering on their mandate.

“We'll ensure that the goals of HYPREP are met, especially on strategic planning. We will hit the

ground running and shall deliver on our tasks”, she said.

The Director, Technical Services, HYPREP, Prof. Damien-Paul Aguiyi thanked the Committee members for accepting to serve, reiterating that the Ogoni people have high expectations of them and reassured them of HYPREP's support to ensure smooth completion of their task within record time.

MANGROVE AND DISHES

SARDINE (Kabàri, Súngú)

In Khana it is called kabari while the Gokana speakers call it bàri with a small 'b' to differentiate it from 'Bari' as God is called in Ogoni. This species of the saltwater sardine is popularly referred to as sungu within the markets across the Niger Delta of Nigeria. It is a close relative of bonga which has a lot of bones.

Kabari is the most widely eaten fish among the Ogonis, as it goes well with zaaramuuro, zaizai muulo or yeereden maaro, (depending on which of the Ogoni langauges you speak) - the everyday transparent soup eaten on the farmlands by all sections of Ogonis.

The sweet aroma of kabari, plus the accompanying oil that comes with it, and the unique taste of this fish, particularly when smoked, makes it a constant item on the menu of Niger Deltans.

In Port Harcourt markets, we now have the Oron variety from Akwa Ibom, the Nembe variety from Bayelsa, and the native Andoni/Ogoni species.

Ogoni fishermen track sardine to neighbouring Cameroun through the high seas. They smoke it, dry it, and return home annually with stacks of them for the local markets.

It is great for yam pepper soup, okro soup, sauce and stew for white rice on

Sundays. I'm still surprised that our bole women (roasted plantain sellers) are ignoring the environmentally scented sungu as accompaniment for roasted plantain in Port Harcourt city.

Try sipping Ogoni garri with dried sungu, when you are hungry...that's when you know that there is heaven on earth.

How I wish disaster management committees would start adding it to their list of relief materials for distribution to displaced victims...

Sungu! God's goodness for our enjoyment.

Blessing Wikina
Kono, Rivers State.

PICTURES OF THE MONTH



Irish Ambassador to Nigeria, Peter Ryan (2nd) and HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey (3rd) Flanked by Embassy Officials



HYPREP Team on Inspection of Power Transformers in China



Prof. Zabbey Presenting Souvenir to Chairman, Technical Planning C'ttee of Ogoni Specialist Hospital, Prof. Mato



Participants at HYPREP HSE Workshop



Participants at a Mangrove Governance Conference



Director Technical Services, HYPREP, Prof. Damian Aguiyi Addressing Creative Arts Trainees



Participants at HYPREP 2025 1st Quarter Meeting with Regulators and Asset Owners



HYPREP Staff in Drone Operation Training

OGONI CLEAN-UP ...HYPREP SPEARHEADING MANGROVE RESTORATION

POETRY CORNER

THE FISHES MEET

In exile to chart their way home
Their meeting in embrace of the news
'Home, now free of floating gases'
That let tears drop through the water

The fishes meet to plan sail homewards
Now that Ogoni waters are as pure as the people
Drained clean of deadly oily debris
And shores that beckon a swim-back to base

The fishes meet for reunion with missed friends:
For children long unfed, tasty meals to prepare
And men who for no catch had dried their nets
To again invite women to their trade in scales

The fishes meet this time to celebrate life
Re-engineered by a researching HYPREP
In studies of sustainable biodiversity restoration
The fishes meet in saline pool of new life.

Editorial Crew

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Faith Deekor	Reporter
Imeh Ofem	Reporter
Clara Azubuike	Reporter
Esther Esu	Reporter (Intern)
Tombari Naadue	Camera
Godwin Norbana	Camera
Lekue Akpo	Camera

Photo:HYPREP



THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE

“Acts of creation are ordinarily reserved for gods and poets, but humbler folk may circumvent this restriction if they know how. To plant a pine, for example, one need be neither god nor poet; one need only own a shovel.”

– Aldo Leopold

Photo:HYPREP

... for a cleaner and greener Ogoniland

A Publication of the Communications Unit of HYPREP

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