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HYPREP
HERALD
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TO BE
SOLD

THE PC'S DESK



PROF. NENIBARINI ZABBEY
PROJECT COORDINATOR
(HYPREP)

On page 227 of the UNEP (2011) Report on the Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland, the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER) is recommended. The CEER shall serve as a training and research hub and a repository for the extensive remediation and restoration data generated by the Ogoni Cleanup Project. Specifically, the UNEP report states “the problems currently affecting Ogoniland are also being experienced, and on a bigger scale, throughout the Niger Delta, as well as in many other parts of the world.

The experience gained from the restoration work in Ogoniland will provide an excellent basis for establishing a Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration in Ogoniland.” According to UNEP, the CEER shall “run training courses in environmental management and remediation, enhance capacity and skills of the Ogoni community, with opportunity for employment, promote learning, both in the region and widely, including abroad.” This

is why HYPREP is constructing the CEER to serve as an international hub for multidisciplinary research, innovation, and capacity development. The CEER will create jobs, build capacity, expand research frontiers, and strengthen environmental governance. Embedded within the CEER is the Integrated Contaminated Soil Management Centre (ICSMC).

Remarkably, construction of the CEER is currently 92% complete. Our implementation approach of the UNEP-recommended actions is holistic, systematic and intentional. Recall that in May 2024, anticipating that construction of the CEER would be completed within the contract timeframe, we established a top-notch Technical Planning Committee (TPC) for the CEER's Operationalization.

Prof. Don Baridam chaired the Committee. Members of the committee included four former Vice Chancellors, seasoned academics, researchers, and industry experts. On 13th March 2025, the TPC submitted a classic report to HYPREP outlining frameworks for operationalising the CEER. These include a core curriculum framework, a funding and collaboration strategy, a staffing and recruitment strategy, a scientific reputation and technological contribution framework, and a sustainability strategy.

As expected, the Honourable Minister of Environment and Chairman of the Governing Council of HYPREP, Balarabe Abbas Lawal, graciously approved that the Project Coordination Office should implement the TPC's recommendations.

Thus, in the last week of October, we organised a three-day colloquium to operationalize the CEER and break down the TPC recommendations into actionable steps. It was a convergence of community thought leaders, civil society, authors of the UNEP report, scholars, and global experts in remediation, eco-innovation, and collaborative research.

Prof. Kirk Semple, the Director of International Research at the University of Lancaster, UK, delivered the colloquium keynote address. As a global remediation leader, his presentation drew on decades of international collaborative research and fund mobilisation, enriching working group sessions. Working Group 1 focused on Governance and Sustainability; Group 2 explored core research pillars and the innovation agenda; Group 3 designed inclusive strategies for community engagement and local capacity building; and Group 4 mapped strategic partners and defined CEER's policy advocacy strategy.

The outcome of the colloquium will shape the CEER's strategic direction and strengthen its operational framework for long-term impact. On behalf of the management and staff of HYPREP, I convey our united thanks to the colloquium participants. On this note, I am happy to inform the Ogoni Cleanup stakeholders that the CEER is 92% ready for inauguration and the frameworks for its operationalization are in place!

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

In This Issue

This issue leads with the story of the inauguration of the Bane and Gwara water projects by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal. It is another milestone in the quest to provide Ogoni communities with potable water as recommended in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on Ogoniland that the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is implementing. The event attracted dignitaries from far and wide and featured a special side show – the planting of trees by the Honourable Minister of Environment and his entourage at the Ken Saro-Wiwa Memorial Park in Bane where the daughter of the environment rights activist, Zina Saro-Wiwa joined in the exercise.

Officials of the Dutch Embassy in Nigeria were in HYPREP on a fact-finding mission and were taken on a field tour of some HYPREP projects in Ogoni. The Netherlands nationals were impressed with the giant strides of HYPREP under the administration of Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey and volunteered to mobilize support for the Project in the areas of technical expertise and financial donations.

The members of the newly inaugurated Board of Trustees of the Ogoni Trust Fund were also taken on a tour of HYPREP projects in Ogoniland to give them firsthand appreciation of what the Project is doing in terms of clean-up and other deliverables to the people.

Ogoni youths are critical stakeholders in the environmental restoration efforts in Ogoniland and therefore the Project Coordination Office met with them at the 2025 third quarter interactive session to brief them on the progress made so far on the Project. The session featured special lectures on behaviourable change and investment opportunities, all geared towards developing them for life and leadership.

The Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Ogoni Trust Fund Incorporated, Hon. Emma Deeyah were at the National Assembly where they appeared before the House of Representatives Ad hoc Committee on Mismanagement of Oil Spill Clean-up Funds in the Niger Delta to give an account of stewardship on the Ogoni clean-up project. The duo made it clear that HYPREP prioritizes transparency and accountability in the task of cleaning up Ogoniland.

The Project Coordination Office was also at the USA SER2025 to join other experts around the world working to restore ecosystems to share experience and achievement in the effort to make the earth more liveable. The mangrove restoration effort of HYPREP is being monitored by a post UNEP team and on the latest visit to project sites, the team led by Emeritus Prof. Olof Linden observed remarkable success in the recovery of biodiversity in the creeks of Ogoni where HYPREP has worked.

A key component of the mandate of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project is peacebuilding and to achieve success

in this regard, the Project has continued to train traditional rulers and other stakeholders in alternative dispute resolution to ensure quick resolution of issues to prevent them from degenerating into crisis situations that could lead to a breakdown of law and order in the communities and around project sites.

Within the month, the Project Coordination Office also met with regulators and asset owners to acquaint them with the operations of the Project. It was a rewarding session as discussions centred around ways of improving the delivery of the Project. The Ken Saro-Wiwa 30th Memorial Lecture was held in Port Harcourt and HYPREP was represented at the event where it pledged to always stand in solidarity with the Ogoni people who are the immediate beneficiaries of its operations.

It was an encouraging moment for the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Zabbey when he received two Ogoni sons in the Nigerian Army who had distinguished themselves in their service to the nation. Prof. Zabbey used the occasion to brief them on what HYPREP is doing to improve the lot of Ogoni youths.

In this issue, we also bring you the report on the celebration of five-million-man hours without injuries on HYPREP sites and in the office. It is our desire that you go through the pages of the November edition of the HYPREP Herald and familiarize yourself with the operations and progress on the Project.

News

FG REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO COMPLETION, SUSTAINABILITY OF HYPREP FACILITIES IN OGONI



Lawal

The Honourable Minister of Environment, *Mene* Balarabe Abbas Lawal has again assured Ogoni people of the commitment of the Federal Government to its obligation of funding and sustaining development projects executed through the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) in Ogoni communities.

At the inauguration of two water projects constructed by HYPREP in Bane and Gwara communities, Bane being the hometown of the famous Ogoni-born environmentalist and campaigner for justice and minority rights, Ken Saro-Wiwa, the Honourable Minister of Environment, *Mene* Lawal reiterated the Federal Government's resolve, under the leadership of His Excellency, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, to restore environmental integrity and uplift communities long affected by environmental degradation.

The Environment Minister said the projects' inauguration is a fresh start for the people of Bane and Gwara after decades of hardship caused by

pollution, and that the completion of these water facilities is a product of collaboration, diligence, and shared vision, which also reflects the Federal Government's enduring commitment to environmental restoration, public health improvement, and the upliftment of the standard of living of the people.

He noted that access to clean, safe, and steady water supply remains one of the most critical determinants of public health and human dignity, and that beyond being a basic need, it is a fundamental human right and represents hope as well as renewed confidence in government's commitment to restore dignity, health, and sustainable development for the people.

"On behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria, I reaffirm our unshakable commitment to the complete and transparent implementation of the UNEP recommendations, and to the sustainable development of Ogoniland. The Ministry of

Environment through HYPREP will continue to prioritize projects that improve the lives of our people, ensuring clean water, healthy soil, productive livelihoods, and a safe environment. Together, we will rebuild trust, heal the land, and lay the groundwork for a brighter, greener future for Ogoni and all of Rivers State.

"The people of Ogoniland have long endured the impact of environmental pollution. Through HYPREP, our mandate goes beyond cleanup, it includes restoring livelihoods, providing vital infrastructure, and promoting sustainable development. This administration is committed to fully implementing the UNEP report and making Ogoniland a model of environmental recovery and resilience through an integrated approach that safeguards both people and the environment," Chief Lawal assured.

The Honourable Minister, while commending all partners who contributed to the success of the projects, said the collective effort exemplifies the principle of partnership that lies at the heart of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland, which continues to guide government interventions. "This is yet another demonstration of what can be achieved when government agencies, communities, and development partners work hand-in-hand for a common goal," he expounded.

Describing the provision of water to the communities as a milestone, Lawal who has bagged several chieftaincy titles in Ogoni, passionately called on the people of Bane and Gwara to take full ownership of the water facilities,

saying the projects should be protected, used responsibly so that they remain functional for a long time.

“I urge you to continue to support and protect what has been built for your benefit. May these projects serve as a symbol of renewal of hope, and sustainable progress for generations to come. Our actions today will shape history and echo throughout eternity,” the Minister said fervently.

Noting that sustainability begins at the community level, he particularly thanked traditional rulers for their steadfast leadership and guidance, as well as the youths, women and civil society organizations for their continuous positive engagements and cooperation with government agencies, adding that the mutual cooperation has been instrumental in the success of HYPREP's projects in the area, especially in sustaining the peace and partnership necessary for progress.

In his welcome address, the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey said

the several visits of the Honourable Minister, Balarabe Abbas Lawal, and his consistent commitment and support towards the ongoing implementation of the UNEP report on Ogoniland have been a source of good news, joy and renewed hope for the people of Ogoni, as they signify progress and tangible results through the commissioning of completed projects.

The elated Project Coordinator also said the commissioning of the two water facilities in Bane and Gwara in Khana Local Government Area reflects HYPREP's efforts to restore dignity, health, and improved living conditions in Ogoni beyond being a vital step in fulfilling UNEP's recommendations, adding that the facilities, like others inaugurated earlier, are a lifeline, and that the latest inauguration stands as proof that the vision of a restored and thriving Ogoniland is steadily taking shape.

Highlighting HYPREP's advancement across all its thematic areas, Prof. Zabbey disclosed that in environmental remediation, the

Project has achieved 94% completion in phase 1 of the mangrove restoration effort, while shoreline and phase 2 land remediation have reached 67.1%, and 36.55%, respectively.

In the area of provision of potable water, he said 14 completed water facilities have been inaugurated thus far, supplying water to 40 Ogoni communities, and that the commissioning of the Bane and Gwara facilities has increased the number of communities with access to clean and safe drinking water to 45.

Prof. Zabbey explained that the construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration has progressed to 92% completion stage, and the process of operationalizing the Centre has begun with the just-concluded colloquium, while the Ogoni Power Project is systematic, with wayleave compensation and construction works at Bodo and Wiiyaakara sub-stations ongoing.

He rated that the Ogoni Specialist Hospital is at 76.8% completion, while the Buan Cottage Hospital has



GM, Relations & Sustainable Development, RAEC, Igo Weli Cuts the Tape on Gwara Water Station

reached 98.7% completion, along with other public health interventions, adding that Ogoni Public Health Study being handled by the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), is also underway.

Under HYPREP's livelihood intervention, Prof. Zabbey revealed that over 7,000 women and youths have benefited from various employment opportunities, while over 5,000 have been trained in multiple skills and provided start-up kits, assuring that workshops, education grants, scholarships, and other empowerment programmes will be sustained, in addition to trainings in other demand-driven skill areas, such as cyber security, full-stack development, mud logging, software development, GIS, and commercial diving, which will start this quarter.

Delightedly, he explained that the ICT-Supported Classroom Project has been successfully introduced in five pilot secondary schools, comprising projectors, solar-powered systems, internet subscription and computers, to encourage digital literacy and alternative livelihoods in the long term.

He reassured that the Project Coordination Office will remain guided and resolute in its determination to ensure that every project initiated is completed and delivered within the time frame for the use and benefit of the people, and that this resolve underscores his belief that sustainable progress can only be achieved through consistency, transparency, and accountability.

While acknowledging that challenges may arise along the way, whether technical, community-related or administrative, he however, believed that with the continued cooperation of project stakeholders and the pro-activeness of the Project Coordination Office, these issues will be promptly addressed and resolved, stressing that their focus remains on building a system that listens,

engages, and delivers.

"We continue to work closely with community leaders, youth and women, contractors, and other stakeholders to ensure solutions are identified and implementation continues smoothly. We remain guided by the principle of partnership, dialogue, transparency, and accountability, knowing that sustainable progress is best achieved through collaboration and mutual understanding. That is the hallmark of HYPREP.

"Beyond HYPREP's core environmental remediation and livelihood restoration, we are making sure that other benefits reach the grassroots. A good example is the Pilot Clean Cookstove Project, earlier flagged off by the Honourable Minister, which seeks to improve household energy efficiency and promote environmental sustainability," he said.

He therefore appealed for continued reinforcement of peace and understanding, using dialogue as a vital tool for resolving disputes, especially around project sites and within communities, stressing that the concurrent implementation of over 100 projects across Ogoni reflects the seriousness and dedication of

HYPREP, a momentum that must be sustained through mutual trust and collaboration.

"Let me appeal to the Ogoni people to continue to channel their concerns or grievances through the HYPREP Area Offices at the four Ogoni Local Government Council headquarters or through the Project Coordination Office located on the Ken Saro-Wiwa Road, Port Harcourt. Issues that can be resolved through engagement should not be taken to social media or other channels that may hinder cooperation.

We are open, accessible, and always ready to engage in good faith. By standing united and collaborating with all project stakeholders, we can be confident that every goal and objective of HYPREP will be achieved," he echoed.

The event also featured cultural display and symbolic issuance of educational support items to two primary school pupils, marking the flag-off of the distribution of school bags, shoes, and other items to over six hundred (600) students in schools across Ogoni. According to the Project Coordinator, an additional fifty thousand (50,000) exercise books will soon be distributed across Primary



Environment Minister, Lawal Plants Tree at Ken Saro-Wiwa Memorial Park, Bane

Schools in Ogoni, explaining that the efforts are meant to ensure that every segment of Ogoni society feels the impact of HYPREP and to ensure that no one is left behind.

Goodwill messages were given by prominent sons and daughters of Ogoni, including the Member representing Khana/Gokana Federal Constituency, Rt. Hon. Dumnamene Dekor, Senator Magnus Abe, Chief Kenneth Kobani, Board of Trustees Chairman of Ogoni Trust Fund Inc., Hon. Emmanuel Deeyah and Prof. Roselyn Konya.

Others are the Managing Director of Renaissance Africa Energy Company Ltd, Engr. Tony Attah, represented by the General Manager, Relations and Sustainable Development, Engr. Igo Weli, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Environment, Mahmud Kambari and Permanent Secretary, Rivers State Ministry of Water Resources and Rural Development, Nwizug Gonee Gordon while the Chairman of Khana Local Government Council, Dr. Bariere

Thomas gave the vote of thanks.

Earlier, the Honourable Minister and his entourage, including members of the HYPREP Governing Council and BOT members paid homage to Mene Bua Kenwigbara, HRH, Mene D.Y. Barile at his palace in Bane, where the Minister was given the chieftaincy title, Mene Nua lemaa 1 (*the King who brings good water*), and another on Prof. Zabbey, Mene Si letam 1 (*the King who does good works*), by the Chief and Bane Council of Chiefs and Elders. The Minister's entourage later proceeded to inspect the turtle vivarium of the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Zabbey, located at the Ken Saro-Wiwa Memorial Park.

While at the Park, the Minister and the dignitaries took turns to pay tribute to the legendary Ken Saro-Wiwa by planting trees in memory of the Ogoni leader. Those who planted include: The Minister of Environment, Chief Balarabe Abbas Lawal; the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey; Chairman of

National Agency for the Great Green Wall, Senator Magnus Abe; Ogoni Trust Fund, BoT Chairman, Hon. Emmanuel Deeyah; Director General, National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency, NESDREA, Prof. Innocent Barikor; Managing Director, Renaissance Africa Energy Company Ltd, RAEC, Tony Attah, represented by Igo Weli; Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Environment, Mahmud Kambari; and Zina Saro-Wiwa, daughter of the renowned human and environmental rights advocate, Ken Saro-Wiwa.

Meanwhile, after cutting the ribbon on the Gwara water facility by the Managing Director of RAEC, Engr. Tony Attah, represented by Igo Weli, the Minister and his entourage proceeded to inspect the level of work at the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration at Wiiyaakara in Khana Local Government Area.

HYPREP OPENS BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR OGONI – Dutch Embassy

Beyond figures, the abundance of visibly completed and on-going projects carried out by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) informed the optimistic position of the Dutch Embassy that HYPREP holds a brighter and prosperous future for the people of Ogoni and other ethnic nationalities in the Niger Delta.

Speaking while on a facility tour of some project sites of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project in Ogoniland, the Political Officer of the Netherlands Embassy, Anneloes Hoff, congratulated the people of Ogoni on their tenacity in demanding environmental justice, and commended Nigerian Government on setting up HYPREP for the remediation of polluted communities in Ogoni.



Prof. Zabbey Points at Signs of Biodiversity Recovery to Visiting Dutch Embassy Official at HYPREP Rehabilitated Bomu Creek

The Dutch Embassy official said she is pleased with what is on ground as success and outcome of the Ogoni cleanup implemented by HYPREP and particularly extolled the competence and commitment of the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey to the implementation of the UNEP report on Ogoniland.

Hoff hinted that the Netherlands Government is happy with the current pace and quality of programmes carried out by HYPREP, considering the potential benefits to the people of Ogoni and the Niger Delta by extension.

"I'm pleased with what I have seen, from the water provision to mangrove restoration, and the research centre. I really appreciate HYPREP. Clearly, the Project is in good hands, and we're confident in the Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey to continue and implement the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme.

"I'm very excited seeing the

CEER nearing completion. We hope that both the people of Ogoni and Nigerian Government will ensure sustainability of the projects," she said.

On collaboration, she said the Dutch Government will not only continue to encourage good governance and community development but will strengthen and propel its collaboration with civil society organizations to partner HYPREP in areas considered necessary, particularly, research, human and institutional development.

The Dutch Embassy Political Officer had earlier attended the colloquium organized in Port Harcourt by HYPREP for the operationalization of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration.

Thrilled by the visit and validation by the Netherlands Embassy Official, the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey said the endorsement will hasten HYPREP's commitment to deliver on its mandate,

describing the relationship between Nigeria and the Netherlands as fruitful.

The Project Coordinator who conducted the Dutch official round project sites, reassured the international community of HYPREP's readiness to collaborate with interested partners in areas of funding, management and sustainability of the facilities.

He reiterated that efficiency, excellence, transparency and accountability remain the hallmark of the Project.

The Dutch Embassy Political Officer, Anneloes Hoff and the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Zabbey planted mangrove seedlings at the Bomu mangrove restoration site.

Other areas visited include Eteo water station in Eleme Local Government Area and Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration at Wiiyaakara, Khana Local Government Area.



Prof. Zabbey Leads Visiting Dutch Embassy Official on Guided Tour Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, Wiiyaakara

DIALOGUE, PEACE, COLLABORATION, CRITICAL FOR PROJECT SUCCESS, PROF. ZABBEY TELLS Ogoni YOUTHS

- Says PCO, Area Offices Open for Feedback

In line with the maxim, “no society develops in a state of rancor or hostility,” the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey has again called on the youths of Ogoni to continue on the path of dialogue, peace and collaboration, which he said are fundamental for the progress and success of the Ogoni clean-up, as they engage with the project.

Speaking to about a thousand Ogoni youths of Ogoni who converged on Port Harcourt for the HYPREP 2025 third quarter interactive session, Prof. Zabbey commended participants who were representatives of the several youth groups from the four Local Government Areas of Eleme, Tai, Gokana and Khana on their peaceful disposition, noting that the forum which was initiated in 2023 has remained a veritable avenue for dialogue and collaboration for the success of the Ogoni clean-up project.

Prof. Zabbey while acknowledging the regular engagements with the youths as enablers for sharing ideas, gathering feedback, and brainstorming on the next line of interventions, in compliance with the directives of the Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal, appealed to the youths to continue supporting the project by promoting peace, discouraging misinformation, and collaborating with project teams working in their communities.

He enumerated the successes



Prof. Zabbey

recorded on the various projects of HYPREP, stating that the achievements are pathways to a better Ogoniland, and that the Project Coordination Office (PCO) and the Area Offices are open for feedback, urging the people to continue to engage constructively with the Project through dialogue rather than confrontation.

“HYPREP's goal is to ensure that the benefits of the Ogoni cleanup reach all categories of Ogoni youth, whether you are involved in business, farming, advocacy, education, entrepreneurship, or community development. This project belongs to all of you, and its success depends mainly on your participation, unity, and constructive engagement. And with your support, we are confident

that all challenges will be addressed in the overall public interest.

“This quarterly engagement was therefore designed as an inclusive strategy to ensure that youth voices are heard, concerns are addressed, and progress updates are provided transparently. Also, it reflects our firm belief that a project of this magnitude must be people-centred, accountable, and participatory,” he said.

The Project Coordinator informed participants that HYPREP remains on course to achieve its mandate as outlined in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report on the Ogoni environment and the official gazette establishing it, assuring that HYPREP is committed to transparency and accountability in the implementation of the clean-up



Prof. Badey

and other deliverables of the Project. He disclosed that the Project Coordination Office continues to receive series of requests from different youth groups and individuals seeking audience, partnership, and engagement, but regrettably, while the PCO is committed to listening to everyone, time and operational realities make it difficult to respond to all requests individually.

According to him, the various thematic areas of the Project continue to record steady progress. “In environmental remediation, HYPREP has achieved 94% completion in phase 1 of the mangrove restoration effort, and shoreline remediation is at 67.1%, while the phase 2 land remediation has progressed to 36.55%.

“In potable water supply, 14 completed water facilities have been inaugurated, supplying potable water to 40 Ogoni communities. We will commission the Bane and Gwara

facilities next week, increasing the number of communities with access to clean and safe drinking water to 45.

“The process of operationalizing the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Remediation has begun, while the Ogoni Power Project is progressing steadily with way leave compensation and construction works at Bodo and Wiiyaakara sub-stations ongoing.

“The Ogoni Specialist Hospital is at 76.8% completion, and we have achieved 98.7% completion at the Buan Cottage Hospital, in addition to other public health interventions. The Human Bio-Monitoring Survey is also in progress,” he disclosed.

The Project Coordinator also acknowledged and commended the continuous effort of the Chief Security Officer of HYPREP and his team in maintaining peace and security across project locations, contributing to stability in the communities, saying

their professionalism and dedication are deeply valued.

While wishing applicants for the HYPREP Postgraduate Scholarship 2025 the very best in their Computer-Based Test (CBT), the Project Coordinator said HYPREP is proud of them for their desire to advance academically and looks forward to seeing them contribute meaningfully to the development of Ogoni and the nation in general.

Highlights of the interactive session include keynote address on the theme: “Unity of Purpose in Ogoni: The HYPREP and Youth Connection,” by Dinebari Badey - a Professor of Development Sociology, University of Port Harcourt, and an Intervention on “Ogoni Youth in Business,” by an Ogoni-born international oil and hospitality industry mogul, Engr. Solomon Akere.

In his insightful discourse, after defining who a youth is, Prof. Badey identified problems of the youths to include cultism, drug abuse, unemployment, etc., stating that HYPREP as a Project provides opportunities for the youths to connect and realize themselves, build skills and engage in meaningful livelihoods as leaders whose future starts today.

Among other roles, he said youths must always embrace peace, and be agents of development, buy into HYPREP's programmes, work with the traditional rulers, and prepare themselves for the future, by acquiring knowledge, desist from rumour mongering, know their culture, be skillful and protect their commonwealth.

On his part, Engr. Akere admonished the youths to be of good



Cross Section of Participants at the Youth Forum

conduct and be enterprising. “You to be successful in business,” he said. HYPREP, and to be sensitive to have to be adventurous, patient and Engr. Akere fervently called on government development plans and have the right navigation if you want Ogoni youths to protect and support actions in the area.

OGONI CLEAN-UP: HYPREP ASSURES NASS OF TRANSPARENCY

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has affirmed to the National Assembly that its operations in Ogoniland bears the seal of transparency and standards to making sure that the people get the best out of the clean-up project and other deliverables associated with it.

The Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey gave the assurance when he led other management staff and the Chairman, Board of Trustees, Ogoni Trust Fund (OTF), Hon. Emma Deeyah to appear before the House of



Prof. Zabbey Addressing Reps Adhoc C’ttee on Mismanagement of Oil Spill Clean-up Funds in the Niger Delta



Members of the Reps Adhoc C'ttee on Mismanagement of Oil Spill Clean-up Funds in the Niger Delta

Representatives Ad hoc Committee on Mismanagement of Oil Spill Clean-up Funds in the Niger Delta.

Addressing the Honourable Okpolump Etteh led Committee, Professor Zabbey stated that funds for the Project have been judiciously used for the implementation of the cleanup programme in line with the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report on Ogoni Environment.

Prof. Zabbey explained that the judicious use of funds is evident in the on-going current execution of over one hundred and twenty (120) projects and others that have been completed like the simple-risk land remediation sites and some phase 1 water projects of HYPREP.

He listed some of the on-going projects to include the provision of potable water for forty (40) Ogoni communities, construction of the 100-bed Ogoni Specialist Hospital and the 40-bed Buan Cottage Hospital, the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER),

the Ogoni Power Project, Mangrove Restoration, Land and Shoreline Remediation Projects, Alternative Livelihood Programme, Capacity Development and Peacebuilding in Ogoniland.

Prof. Zabbey maintained that HYPREP's operations are transparent and in full compliance with the Public Procurement Act 2007 and other extant regulations. In line with the 'HYPREP COME AND SEE' mantra, he requested the Committee to visit HYPREP project sites in Ogoni to gather first hand information that will deepen their investigation of the Project.

Chairman, Board of Trustees of the Ogoni Trust Fund (OTF), Hon. Emma Deeyah supported the submission of Prof. Zabbey, noting that the Ogoni clean-up has recorded significant milestones with the financial commitment of Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited (RAEC) and the Joint Venture Partners, assuring that the Ogoni Trust Fund will cooperate with the Committee on its investigation.

Hon. Deeyah appealed to the National Assembly to push for the institutionalisation of HYPREP as an agency of government through legislation to sustain the achievements of the Project and attend to other polluted sites in the country.

In his remarks, Chairman of the House of Representatives Ad hoc Committee on the Mismanagement of Oil Spill Clean-up Funds in the Niger Delta, Hon. Okpolump Etteh said the committee seeks to investigate how the funds released to HYPREP and other agencies for the clean-up of the Niger Delta and other related matters have been used in line with best standards, transparency, accountability and in the overall interest of the people. The public hearing continues for other agencies.

HYPREP under Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey continues to prioritise transparency and accountability. This includes operating an open-door policy, regular stakeholders' meetings, quarterly performance scorecards, monthly, quarterly and annual financial audits by internal and external auditors and the Auditor-General of the Federation.

Other measures put in place to ensure transparency and accountability include the establishment of a Milestone Evaluation Committee to oversee contract milestones to ensure quality control and value for money, the Technical Coordination Committee (TCC) for strategic guidance and the Remediation Document Review Committee (RDRC) for evaluating site characterisation and remedial action plans.

OGONI MANGROVE RESTORATION GAINS FURTHER VISIBILITY AT USA SER2025

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey has informed participants at the just concluded 11th World Conference of the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER2025) that HYPREP is undertaking one of the most extensive restoration of oil-degraded mangroves in the world.

Prof. Zabbey stated this in Denver, Colorado, United States, venue of the 2025 Conference of the Society for the Ecological Restoration.

The conference provided a platform to showcase HYPREP's ongoing efforts in ecological restoration, particularly the ongoing mangrove restoration in Ogoniland.

At the conference, Prof. Zabbey delivered a presentation on the “Restoration of Degraded Mangrove

Shoreline Impacted by Petroleum Hydrocarbon in Ogoniland, Niger Delta, Nigeria,” highlighting HYPREP's community-based and multi-stakeholder approach to mangrove restoration as well as the recorded biodiversity recovery and social impacts of the work on the environment and the local population.

The SER2025 reinforces HYPREP's global visibility, opening opportunities for strategic partnerships and technical collaborations. A case in point is the reconnection of Prof. Zabbey with a long-time ally, Alfredo Quarto, Founder of the Mangrove Action Project (MAP) and one of the world's leading advocates and promoters of sustainable mangrove management.

The visibly elated Quarto and Prof. Zabbey hugged profusely during their physical reunion eighteen (18)

years after they both co-signed the Lampung Declaration at a North-South Consultation on the impact of industrial shrimp farming on mangroves in 2007 in Lampung, Indonesia.

Prof. Zabbey and his fellow Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioners had an interactive evening together, while African participants at the conference networked to achieve continental restoration outcomes.

By engaging with the international restoration community through SER, HYPREP continues to align with and observe global restoration standards and principles, ultimately contributing to climate resilience, biodiversity recovery, and sustainable livelihoods in Ogoniland. The conference was held from September 30 to October 4, 2025.



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey with some Participants at USA SER2025

FACILITIES AT BANE WATER STATION



FACILITIES AT GWARA WATER STATION



POST-UNEP TEAM DELIGHTED WITH BIODIVERSITY RECOVERY IN OGONI

The post-UNEP team has rounded off its spot check on the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) shoreline and mangrove restoration project in Ogoni, commending the Project on the progress made, asserting that remarkable success has been recorded in the recovery of biodiversity in the creeks.

Emeritus Professor Olof Linden and BR Ravishankar made the assertion when they visited the Project Coordination Office (PCO) to debrief the Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey.

The team hinted of partnering HYPREP to increase publicity of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER) and publish papers and reports on the Project.

Furthermore, the team said HYPREP has emerged as a global model for environmental remediation and will leverage the gains and experiences of the Ogoni cleanup to train people in other parts of the world,



L-R: BR Ravishankar, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, Emeritus Prof. Olof Linden, Prof. Damian-Paul Aguiyi During the Post UNEP Team Visit to HYPREP

especially in South America and the Middle East who are affected by oil pollution.

Prof. Zabbey appreciated the post-UNEP team for its submissions on process improvement, assuring that

the Project is committed to delivering a clean-up project that meets best standards. HYPREP's Director of Technical Services, Professor Damian-Paul, Aguiyi attended the session.

OGONI CLEAN-UP CONTRIBUTING TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – *Prof. Zabbey*

The implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report recommending the clean-up of Ogoniland and other social amenities like potable water is contributing to peace building and national development.

Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey stated this at the second

workshop on the mechanism for alternative dispute resolution and other peace building techniques for traditional rulers and key stakeholders in Ogoni with the theme, “Strengthening Capacity of Community Leaders in Peace Building and Non-Adversarial Engagement During HYPREP Implementation.”

Prof. Zabbey stated that the ongoing Ogoni environmental

restoration effort, potable water provision, livelihood restoration, public health interventions, the Ogoni Power Project, alongside various projects and activities have significantly engendered peace and development in Ogoni.

He noted that it is in recognition of this development that the Honourable Minister of Environment and Chairman of the HYPREP Governing Council, Balarabe Abbas Lawal



Prof. Zabbey

greatly values and appreciates the Ogoni leaders' efforts in promoting peace and stability across Ogoni communities and HYPREP's project sites.

Prof. Zabbey explained that by improving living conditions in the various communities and creating economic opportunities for young people, HYPREP is reducing societal pressure that often fuels conflict, saying HYPREP is proud of this service to the Ogoni people and the country in general.

The HYPREP helmsman explained that development cannot thrive without communication and trust, saying that there must be constant talk and engagement with one another, which helps to prevent disputes from degenerating into violence.

According to him, the second

edition of the workshop on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) was carefully designed to build on the successes recorded during the first edition, sustain the gains made and deepen the collective understanding of alternative dispute resolution, adding that the workshop was a strategic step towards strengthening the capacity of traditional rulers in peace building and using local mechanisms for resolving disputes to prevent them from escalating into crises, especially on and around project sites and in the communities.

He further stated that the workshop is also tailored towards reinforcing the Ogoni dialogue process, which HYPREP continues to support in line with its mandate on peace building, as clearly stated in the gazette establishing HYPREP.

Prof. Zabbey highlighted the

relevance of dialogue to preventing and resolving conflict, explaining that mediation, negotiation, and consensus-building are tools that can be applied to resolve disagreements peacefully.

“We must all agree that peace is not an option but a necessity. Without peace, there can be no development; without unity, there can be no progress. The consequences of conflict are always negative as violence destroys lives, divides families, disrupts livelihoods, and delays development.

“Under the directive of the Honourable Minister of Environment, and in line with the Renewed Hope Agenda of His Excellency President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, HYPREP is working tirelessly to ensure that the Ogoni cleanup benefits reach the grassroots, where they are needed the most.

“Peace building is everybody's business. Government alone cannot enforce peace; it must be built by the people, with the people, and for the people. I, therefore, urge all of you to continue to contribute your quota to sustainable peace and development in Ogoni,” Prof. Zabbey pleaded.

The Project Coordinator emphasized that the time has come for all Ogonis to unite for development, leaving behind perceptions that do not serve their collective progress, and that as leaders, they must also be mindful of their actions, words, and body language because people look up to them, and what they say and do can either promote peace or fan the embers of conflict.

He put forward basic questions leaders should always ask themselves in any given situation and they are: “Is



Participants at the ADR Workshop Organised by HYPREP

my position on this matter in the interest of the people? Does it promote unity and progress? Will it enhance development?

“ADR is a powerful peace-building strategy that complements traditional and contemporary conflict-resolution systems. HYPREP is actively promoting ADR, alongside other mechanisms, across its project sites and other areas of operation to foster unity, fairness, and mutual respect, as well as faster dispute resolution— qualities necessary for the future of Ogoni. If we are to build a community that we are proud of, we must embrace peaceful methods for resolving grievances,” he clarified.

While urging participants to listen attentively, share knowledge and apply the skills they will acquire in resolving conflicts, the Project Coordinator charged them to leave behind a legacy of peace, unity, and development for future generations of the Ogoni people.

Resource persons at the event include the Director, Centre for Peace and Security Studies, University of Port Harcourt, Prof. Chioma Daisy Onyige; Dr. Kinikanwo Anele, who took participants on Introduction to Alternative Dispute Resolution, and Dr. Gbenemene Kpae who spoke on the Role of Leadership in Community Development.

Others are Prof. Olariwanju Lawal whose lecture focused on “Conflict Analysis and Conflict Management”; Dr. S. Lebura made presentation on Peace building.

Day 2 of the programme featured lectures "Early Warning and Early Response Mechanism in Conflict Abatement", by Prof. Chioma Daisy Onyige; "Negotiation and Mediation in Dispute Resolution" by Prof. Kiale Nyiayaana; "Conflict Handling Styles," by Dr. Aaron Anyanabia; and "Psychology and Conflict Management," by Dr. Destiny Agwanwo.

The workshop was very interactive and participatory and had sessions for questions and answers.



Participants at the ADR Workshop Organised by HYPREP

HYPREP RE-ASSURES REGULATORS OF QUALITY PROJECT DELIVERY

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has restated its commitment to the delivery of quality and impactful projects in Ogoni Communities, as it consolidates result-driven collaboration with strategic stakeholders on the Ogoni clean-up Project.

The HYPREP's position was reiterated during the third Quarter Meeting held in Port Harcourt, which brought together key stakeholders, including regulators, asset owners, civil society organizations and technical experts to evaluate progress, share updates, and address emerging challenges to the Project.

At the forum where participants reviewed and adopted previous deliberations and resolutions, the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey said productive partnerships with critical stakeholders is part of HYPREP's transparency and accountability mechanism to guarantee adherence to quality assurance and international environmental standards in project delivery.

Prof. Zabbey noted that the consistent quarterly meetings with the HYPREP's key stakeholders emphasize the invaluable roles the regulators and asset-owners play in the project's quality control and quality assurance framework, while highlighting HYPREP's commitment to excellence, and appealed for feedback from the stakeholders.

He also noted that the meeting further affirms the Project's commitment to the environmental restoration of Ogoniland through



Prof. Zabbey Addressing Participants at the 2025 3rd Quarter Meeting with Regulators and Asset Owners

robust synergy with stakeholders, including regulators and asset owners to ensure the full implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report on Ogoni Environment.

"This meeting serves a dual purpose; first to provide a platform for HYPREP to share updates on the status of the Project and areas where further support is required, and secondly to allow regulators and asset owners to provide constructive feedback that will help strengthen our collective approach.

"This third quarter meeting is a

direct response to those recommendations, serving as mechanism to deepen and strengthen the bond between HYPREP and regulators/assets owners," the Project Coordinator said.

As a key part of HYPREP's policy framework, Prof. Zabbey stated that the Project prioritizes Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) at all levels, while urging regulators and assets owners' continued support to ensure quality project delivery.

"As we continue to consolidate the gains made so far, HYPREP remains steadfast in adhering to international

standards, processes and protocols.

"As an interventionist and community-based project, we will continue to engage all stakeholders transparently as we address challenges that may arise during project implementation

"Your continuous support and constructive feedback remain vital in helping the Project Coordination Office overcome these challenges and sustain the momentum of progress," he stated.

Setting the tone for the business of the day, the Project Coordinator, reeled out the significant progress made across the Project's thematic areas, including remediation of hydrocarbon-impacted sites, mangrove restoration, provision of potable water, public health interventions, the Ogoni Power Project, and environmental awareness and capacity building in environmental management, livelihood restoration, construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration and building global partnership and linkages for sustainability.

On the operationalization of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, Prof. Zabbey disclosed that the Hon. Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal has given approval to all the recommendations of the Technical Planning Committee (TPC), especially the establishment of a Directorate, adding that advertisement will be made for the engagement of a Director for the Centre.

He revealed that the Project is working with the post-UNEP team to develop short programmes to advance research in environmental

remediation and restoration and generate knowledge products from the Ogoni cleanup project.

Excitedly, the Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey informed the stakeholders that in addition to the forty (40) communities that HYPREP has provided water so far, three more water projects will be ready for commissioning this year. They are the water schemes in Bane and Gwara communities in Khana Local Government Area, and K-Dere community in Gokana Local Government Area.

Prof. Zabbey hinted that Professor Christy Mato led Technical Planning Committee (TPC) for the 100-bed Ogoni Specialist Hospital is ready with its report and hopes that the recommendations will help HYPREP achieve its aim of actualizing access to quality healthcare for the Ogoni people.

He mentioned that training for

high demand skills for Ogoni women and youths will soon commence, following the award of contracts for training in mechatronics, underwater welding, commercial diving, full-stack development, GIS among others.

The HYPREP Coordinator further reiterated the Project's resolve to increase women's inclusion to 45% in the next phase of the shoreline and mangrove restoration project that will soon start.

He maintained that these coordinated interventions are gradually restoring confidence in the clean-up effort and bringing renewed hope to Ogoniland.

Participants at the meeting commended HYPREP on the milestone achievements, especially in the mangrove restoration project, provision of potable water and the construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental



Prof. Aguiyi Making intervention at the 2025 3rd Quarter Meeting with Regulators and Asset Owners



Participants at the 2025 3rd Quarter Meeting with Regulators and Asset Owners

Restoration, while assuring of their continuous support for the Project.

The Technical Lead, Projects and Services, Ogoni Restoration Project, Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited, Oke Oguns expressed satisfaction with HYPREP's strides in project implementation and the improvement in connecting strategic institutions and communities and urged HYPREP to train more mangrove vanguards as it gets set to commence the next phase of the Mangrove Restoration Project in Ogoni.

Dr. Meshach Uyi who represented the Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD), described HYPREP's remediation model as one of the most comprehensive in Africa and urged drivers of the Project to sustain the momentum and consistent reporting to the public.

In like manner, a Deputy Director

at the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency, NOSDRA, Dr. Abam Kommomo while appreciating HYPREP's efforts in achieving its mandate, emphasized the need for continuous field inspections and stronger inter agency collaboration.

Similarly, the Rivers State Ministry of Water Resources and Rural Development, represented by Wilcox Balafama, particularly commended the pace of work in all thematic areas in the past two years, and restated the Ministry's support for the maintenance and management of completed water facilities.

Meanwhile, the regulators and asset owners were commended on their honest contributions and presentations at the meeting, as well as their avowed commitment to support HYPREP in the implementation of the Ogoni cleanup project.

In his closing remarks on behalf of HYPREP, the Head, Remediation

Unit, Mr. Friday Raphael Saue noted that the stakeholders' resolve to deepen cooperation amongst the partners has produced good outcome, stressing that without such collaboration and dedication the achieved milestones would not have been possible.

The meeting was also attended by representatives from the Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, Rivers State Ministries of Health and Power, and Civil Society Organizations, including Stakeholders Democratic Network, Society for Women and Youth Affairs and African Indigenous Foundation for Energy and Sustainable Development. Other participants were the Director, Technical Services, Prof. Damian-Paul Aguiyi and other management staff of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, HYPREP.

HYPREP ACTUALIZING OGONI DREAM OF A BETTER ENVIRONMENT – *Prof. Zabbey*

Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has reaffirmed that HYPREP stands in solidarity with the Ogoni people in their quest for environmental justice and sustainability.

Prof. Zabbey who was represented by the Director Technical Services, HYPREP, Professor Damian-Paul Aguiyi at the Ken Saro-Wiwa 30th Memorial Lecture which was held in Port Harcourt, maintained that HYPREP is committed to the full implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on Ogoni, stressing that the people's struggles for environmental justice are being translated into realities through the projects and programmes of HYPREP.

The memorial lecture at the event, which was organised by a coalition of environmentalists and civil society



Participants at the Ken Saro-Wiwa 30th Memorial Lecture

organisations was delivered by human rights lawyer, Femi Falana (SAN) and had in attendance the Executive Director of the Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF), Rev'd. Nnimmo Bassey and other dignitaries.

Ken Saro-Wiwa was a founding member of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) that began campaigns in the early 90's for a better environment and

fair share of the natural resources in Ogoni for the people.

He was accused of complicity in the murder of four Ogoni chiefs in 1994 at Giokoo in Gokana and tried and executed along eight of his compatriots in 1995 by the General Sani Abacha regime. He was however granted full state pardon together with the eight by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on June 12, 2025.

PROF. ZABBEY HAILS OGONI YOUTHS' PERSEVERING SPIRIT

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has hailed the resilience of Ogoni youths as they continue to distinguish themselves and positively represent the region in their various fields of endeavour.

Prof. Zabbey gave the commendation when he played host to Lt. LN Gbiih and 2nd Lt. PT Lele, both of whom are officers of the Nigerian Army. 2nd Lt. PT Lele

emerged the overall best in the Short-Service Course 48 (Army).

The HYPREP Coordinator promised that the Project will continue to prioritise Ogoni youths in its scheme of things as they form a critical mass of the beneficiaries of the cleanup project.

This, he explained, is evident in their active participation in the Project's programmes and activities, stressing that the Project's quarterly youth engagement, capacity development, alternative livelihood,

job creation, scholarships among other interventions are all targeted at better positioning Ogoni youths to develop their potentials, actualise their dreams and contribute positively to the development of the region and the nation in general.

He commended the gallant officers on their commitment and resilience in their pursuits and service to the nation. Both officers commended HYPREP on its achievements on the Ogoni cleanup project.

STAKEHOLDERS COMMEND HYPREP ON ACHIEVING 5 MILLION MAN-HOURS NO LOST TIME INJURY

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has continued to receive commendations on attaining five-million-man hours without injury on its project sites across Ogoni and in the office.

Speaking during the celebration of the five Million Man-Hour Lost Time Injury (LTI) Free event organized by HYPREP, a representative of Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited (RAEC) attached to HYPREP, Engr. Ekiyokenegha Clark congratulated the management, technical and non-technical staff of HYPREP on the achievement, describing it as a great milestone.

Engr. Clark said as a representative of RAEC on the Project, he believes that HYPREP has surpassed five million man-hours without fatality, saying it's a feat worth celebrating.

He stated that the oil major is impressed with the achievement, and would keep supporting HYPREP with resourceful personnel, policies, ideas, finance, techniques and all that it takes for the Project to fulfil its mandate.

Clark urged HYPREP to work towards attaining 50 million Man Hour Lost Time Injury Free and ensure the staff are rightly motivated.

He took time to explain the importance of celebrating such achievement, saying a five-million-man hour LTI free is a significant safety milestone, where a company or project has completed five million consecutive workhours without a single lost time due to injury.

The achievement, he emphasized,

is a key indicator of success on high-risk projects, as it demonstrates a robust safety culture, adherence to stringent safety processes and dedication from all personnel involved in high-risk ventures like oil and gas, construction and nuclear energy plants.

Also commending HYPREP on meeting the five-million-man hour milestone, the Chairman, Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Rivers State Council, Comrade Paul Bazia said it is exciting to hear such great achievement on the Project.

The State NUJ Chairman lauded handlers of the Project, particularly the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey for not compromising safety standards in the implementation of the Ogoni clean-up project.

Comrade Bazia believed that achieving five-million-man hours of no lost time due to injury is an indication that HYPREP maintains high safety protocols, operational excellence, stakeholder engagement and employees' commitment.

“In addition to the above key performance indicators, it is obvious that the Project has prioritized

employee well-being, regulatory compliance, and organizational culture, which prove the effectiveness of training, vigilant monitoring, and a shared commitment to safety,” he noted.

On his part, the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey had in his speech at the celebration of the five-million-man hour without lost time injury congratulated the management and staff of HYPREP, describing the achievement as a collective feat.

The Project Coordinator who said the Project success depends on the cooperation of all staff, explained that a project is like a relay race, where only one person cannot run and win. He pointed out that the milestone is worth celebrating, looking at the challenges that have been surmounted while implementing the Project in the communities.

Prof. Zabbey also called on staff to sustain the effort to achieve the next target of fifty-million-man hour without fatality in the coming days and appealed to staff to continue to show respect and compliance with set rules and policies.

Highlights of the event include an eye awareness pep talk, question and answer session and presentation of gifts to deserving individuals.



Cross Section of Participants at the 5000000 Man hours Injury Free Event

WE'LL SUPPORT HYPREP PROJECTS TO COMPLETION - *BoT Chairman*

Impressed with the progress of work at all sites of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), the Chairman and members of the Ogoni Trust Fund Incorporated have assured of necessary support to facilitate speedy completion of all development programmes and activities of the Project.

The Chairman, Board of Trustees (BoT) of Ogoni Trust Fund Incorporated, the Hon. Emmanuel Nwiika Deeyah gave the assurance at the end of the Board's tour of HYPREP's sites and facilities in Ogoni.

Deeyah stated that members of the BOT are enthralled with the progress of work at various sites and are also proud of the number of projects so far completed in the Local Government Areas of Ogoniland.

"We're satisfied with the quality and number of projects completed and some on-going. We are very, very proud of what HYPREP is doing, and we will support the Project's activities and programmes, and ensure their completion," he said.

He emphasized that HYPREP has done well in all its thematic areas, especially the construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, mangrove restoration, provision of potable water to about 40 communities, the various livelihood initiatives and the health facilities.

The BOT Chairman explained that members of the Board decided to go on the maiden site visit to familiarize themselves with the operations and stages of activities on ground, assuring the Project Coordination Office (PCO) of productive cooperation, while appealing to HYPREP to continue to strive to promote peace and transparency on the Project.

On his part, the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, Prof.



BoT Members on Inspection of HYPREP Facilities

Nenibarini Zabbey, who led the BOT members on the HYPREP's facility tour, said the Project Coordination Office is delighted to have a Board of competent members, who are also poised to do their best for the good of the people, assuring the Board of the preparedness of the PCO to work with them.

Prof. Zabbey who was accompanied by the Director of Technical Services, HYPREP, Prof. Damian Paul Aguiyi, again used the opportunity to enumerate the several projects and successful actions taken by HYPREP so far, saying that under his watch the PCO and other drivers of the Project will not rest on their oars in the quest to surpass the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) recommendations on Ogoniland.

He disclosed that so far, HYPREP has over 120 project sites in Ogoni, and it is determined to have them completed on schedule, adding that the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration is 92% completed, and that the 8% left is for furnishing of the Centre, which will be done before the end of the year.

The HYPREP Coordinator urged the BOT to objectively engage the Project and do the best that is obligatory of them for the Project to

succeed.

The places visited include Ogoni Power Project site; Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration in Wiyaakara, Khana Local Government Area; completed water station in Bomu, on-going water facilities in K. Dere and B. Dere communities in Gokana Local Government Area; Ogoni Specialist Hospital site, Kpite in Tai Local Government Area; and land and ground water remediation sites in Ogale and Nchia communities in Eleme Local Government Area.

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu recently inaugurated a new Board of Trustees and Governing Council for HYPREP.

Members of the reconstituted BOT of Ogoni Trust Fund Incorporated are the Hon. Emmanuel Nwiika Deeyah as Chairman, Fred Mbombo Igwe, Dr. Fred Barivule Kpakol, Mrs. Dorcas Amos and Chief Jide Damazio as members. Permanent members of the Board are Minister of Finance, Minister of State for Environment, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Representatives of Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited and the United Nations Environment Programme.

HYPREP DEEPENS ACTIONS ON OPERATIONALIZATION OF CEER

The Ogoni people and other potential researchers around the globe will soon have a befitting research citadel in Ogoniland as the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has taken a strategic step towards the operationalization of the Centre of Excellence for Environment Restoration (CEER).

To kickstart the implementation of the recommendations of the Prof. Don Baridam's led 14-man Technical Planning Committee for the CEER which have been approved by the Hon. Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal, HYPREP organized a colloquium to brainstorm on the operationalization of the centre.

Speaking at the opening of the 3-day event in Port Harcourt, the Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey noted that the colloquium marks another critical milestone in HYPREP's effort to implement the United Nations Environment Programme's recommendation on setting up a centre of excellence in environmental restoration. Prof. Zabbey insisted that the decision of the Federal Government to make the Ogoni cleanup a national priority has brought renewed hope to the Project, accelerating implementation across all components of the clean-up project.

"HYPREP is advancing firmly and faithfully in all thematic areas of intervention, including remediation of impacted sites, provision of potable water, public health, sustainable livelihood programmes, shoreline clean-up, mangrove restoration, and critical infrastructure development such as CEER and Ogoni Power Project. The CEER remains one of the flagship projects under the HYPREP mandate."

He said the Centre has reached 92% completion, and will soon be commissioned, maintaining that HYPREP is focused on the timely completion of all



Participants at the HYPREP Colloquium on Operationalization of CEER

ongoing projects, including the Buan Cottage Hospital, which is at 98% completion.

He explained that the Centre, when operational will be an international hub for innovative research and training in environmental remediation and restoration, vocational skill development, job creation and local capacity development of the Ogoni people and the Niger Delta.

"It will host advanced laboratories, academic programmes, technical certification courses, and policy innovation platforms and position Nigeria as a leader in global environmental restoration, bridging science, policy and community development.

"It will attract local and international scholars, industry experts and development partners to collaborate on solutions for oil pollution remediation and climate resilience," Prof. Zabbey explained.

He expressed optimism that the outcome of the colloquium will shape the CEER's strategic direction and strengthen its operational framework for long-term impact, and through collective efforts, position the Centre as a legacy of national pride.

In their goodwill messages, the Vice Chancellors of the Rivers State

University, Prof Isaac Zeb-Opibi, Federal University of Environment and Technology, Prof. Prince Chinedu Mmon, Mike Cowing of the Post UNEP and Anneloes Hoff, Political Officer of the Dutch Embassy all commended HYPREP for organizing the colloquium, promising to collaborate with the Project for its actualization.

Prof Kirk Semple, Director of International Research, Lancaster University delivered the Keynote Address in which he provided feasible models for the operationalization and the sustainability of the Project and advancing a robust synergy for the Project, funding/development partners and the government.

The three days interactive sessions facilitated by Prof. Barineme B. Fakae, Prof. Etela Ebisimi and Chris Newson, had participants drawn from the academia, international partners, heads of agencies, Civil Society, industry experts, professionals and HYPREP staff engaged in enriching technical sessions, covering sustainability and governance frameworks, partnership building, policy harmonization, community engagement strategies, research collaboration, knowledge transfer and eco-innovation pathways.

PICTURES OF THE MONTH



Environment Minister, Lawal (4th from Left) During the Bane Water Inauguration



Cross Section of Dignitaries at the Bane Water Station Inauguration



Cross Section of Dignitaries at the Bane Water Station Inauguration



Prof. Zabbey Supports Dutch Embassy Official, Anneloes Hoff to Plant Mangrove at Bomu Creek



Officials of Lancaster University, Dutch Embassy & HYPREP Staff at CEER



Participants at HYPREP ADR Workshop



Visiting Ogoni Born Nigeria Army Officers to HYPREP



Perm. Sec., Fed. Min. of Environment, Mahmud Kambari Presenting School Kits On behalf of HYPREP to Pupils

OGONI CLEAN-UP ...HYPREP SPEARHEADING MANGROVE RESTORATION

POETRY CORNER

THE FUTURE IN A SEED

A seed, so small, yet full of might,
Buried deep in earth's warm light.
With gentle hands and patient care,
We plant the future, here and there.

The soil may tremble, the roots may grow,
Through winding paths, they seek below.
In time, a sprout will pierce the ground,
A silent promise, all around.

With every leaf that unfurls wide,
A breath of life, a steady guide.
Through storm and sun, the branches sway,
A testament to the hope we lay.

For in this tree, the world shall find
A refuge, shelter, peace of mind.
A gift to earth, to sky, to sea
The living legacy we set free.

So let us plant, both young and old,
A forest deep, a future bold.
Each tree a story, each leaf a song,
In nature's chorus, we all belong.

Editorial Crew

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26th JULY 2024
WORLD MANGROVE DAY 2024
HONORABLE MINISTER OF
ENVIRONMENT
Balarabe Abbas Lawal
(BAU)
HYPREP
SYMBIOSIS MANGROVE
PROJECT

THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE

“Only by planting trees, we will be able to overcome global warming.”

– Vivek

Photo:HYPREP

... for a cleaner and greener Ogoniland

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All Correspondence to the Editor: #8 Ken Saro-Wiwa Road, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Email: info@hyprep.gov.ng website: www.hyprep.gov.ng twitter: @HYPREPNigeria