



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

HYPREP HERALD

ISSN: 3115-4719

February 2026, Vol. 5, No. 2

HYPREP DONATES FIVE AMBULANCES TO ENHANCE HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN OGOINI



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OGOINI CLEAN-UP: GC, BoT CALL FOR NEWER FUNDING SOURCES

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TO BE
SOLD

THE PC'S DESK



PROF. NENIBARINI ZABBEY
PROJECT COORDINATOR
(HYPREP)

The Governing Council (GC) of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) and the Board of Trustees (BoT) of the Ogoni Trust Fund Incorporated held the first joint retreat of both organs of governance from 23 – 24 January in Ikot Ekpene, Akwa Ibom State. The two-day retreat was used to orientate the new members of the GC and BoT on the operations of the Ogoni Clean-up Project and their roles. It was an opportunity to be briefed on the milestones achieved by the Project Coordination Office.

The retreat had in attendance five Ministers, namely the Minister of Environment and Chairman of Governing Council of HYPREP, Balarabe Abass Lawal; the Minister of Budget and Economic Planning, Abubakar Bagudu; the Minister of Regional Development, Abubakar Momoh; the Minister of State, Petroleum Resources (Gas), Ekperikpe Ekpo, and Minister of State, Petroleum Resources (Oil), Heineken Lokpobiri; who was represented by his Chief of Staff, Dr. Enene Ambah.

The retreat availed the Governing

Council and the Board of Trustees the opportunity to take stock of the performance of the Project and how it can be re-engineered through policies, explore available opportunities nationally and internationally to accelerate the implementation of the Ogoni cleanup project as prioritized by the Renewed Hope Agenda. One of the key resolutions at the retreat is to explore legislative backing of the Project to deliver on its mandate and the need to secure more funding from alternative sources. It also gave me the platform to present to the GC and the BoT the status report of HYPREP performance. It is safe to conclude that the retreat was a huge success, especially because the attendees had quality time together to reflect on the Ogoni cleanup project, achievements so far, and the need to add value to the project through a strategic fund mobilization, linkages and partnerships. What a good time of the year for strategic review and planning towards achieving optimal project delivery. As we settle into the year, all the valuable input and ideas shared at the retreat will greatly shape our work plans and development results in 2026 and beyond.

In the PC's desk of last month, we had promised to kick-start livelihood training in ten demand-driven skills like Mechatronics, Air Cabin Crew Operations, Cybersecurity, Full Stack Development, Software Development, Commercial Diving and Underwater Welding, GIS and Crowd-mapping, etc. We are pleased to announce that the promise was kept with the commencement of training in Mechatronics for one hundred (100) Ogoni youths at the Offshore Training Institute of the University of Port Harcourt. We also sent nineteen (19)

Ogoni youths for Air Cabin Crew training in Lagos, and just concluded the training of seventy (70) mangrove vanguards in the art and science of mangrove nursery management and restoration. These trainings are a part of our larger inclusive programme for alternative livelihood empowerment complementing environmental remediation and restoration as recommended in the UNEP Report on Ogoniland.

The other promise made was the expansion of the provision of potable water to cover more communities in Ogoni. We have held the technical kick-off meeting with the phase 3 water contractors. Our health intervention in Ogoni is multifaceted. Constructing the Ogoni Specialist Hospital, the Buan Cottage Hospital, and strengthening other health facilities by providing laboratory and theatre equipment, furniture, and renewable power supply (solar energy) is to ensure the Ogoni people have access to quality healthcare. One of our latest health interventions is the handover of five state-of-the-art ambulances to the Rivers State Government for use in four General Hospitals and one health centre in Ogoni. We are not just providing amenities, we are building collaboration with relevant stakeholders and institutions to ensure ownership and sustainability of the health facilities. This informed our partnership with the Rivers State Government, that will thereafter run and maintain the health facilities that we are putting in place for the well-being of the Ogoni people and the general public.

We are advancing the other thematic areas of the Ogoni Cleanup such as efforts at establishing a

sustainable Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER) and an Integrated Contaminated Soil Management Centre (ICSMC), and the Ogoni Power Project. Remarkably, we have completed 100% of the phase 1 mangrove restoration project in Ogoni, covering 560 ha in the Bomu Creek. The restored mangroves are healthy and attracting mangrove associated-animals, such as crabs, fish, periwinkles and oysters.

Preliminary results of our ongoing post mangrove restoration fish stock assessment in the Bomu Creek are

reassuring of the contribution of our mangrove restoration to enhancing local fisheries. We are starting the Phase 2 mangrove restoration on a solid foundation laid during the Phase 1. This is because we are incorporating lessons learnt to steer the second phase of the restoration project. Our new set of trained mangrove vanguards are enthusiastic and already have their boots on the ground, nursing mangrove seedlings in the six coastal communities designated for the Phase 2 mangrove restoration. Similarly, remediation of soil and groundwater

of the medium risk, complex sites is advancing and we have held kick-off meeting for site characterization of the High Risk, Complex Sites.

Sustainable implementation of the Ogoni Cleanup by HYPREP requires the cooperation and support of the project stakeholders. We remain thankful to every stakeholder of the project and continue to count on your support. We will continue to implement the Ogoni Clean-up with intentionality and passion.

Our help is the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth!

In This Issue

This February edition of the HYPREP Herald shows the fulfilment of some of the promises the Project Coordination Office made last month in terms of project delivery and implementation of livelihood training and health interventions in Ogoni. The edition leads with the cheering news of the donation and handover of five ambulances by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project to the Rivers State Government to use in five public hospitals in Ogoni. The ambulances will enhance referrals and rapid health response, especially in emergencies easier.

Another promise made and fulfilled is the commencement of the phase 3 water projects which we report the kick-off meeting that HYPREP held with the contractors on how to effectively and timeously deliver on the various water projects spread across Ogoni. Also, the

promise of sending the third batch of our aviation cabin crew trainees for a six-week intensive training in Lagos is fulfilled as well. The young Ogonis were given an orientation in Port Harcourt before their departure for Lagos. It was one flag off after another in January for livelihood training that HYPREP promised Ogoni youths. The training in Mechatronics kicked off at the Offshore Training Institute of the University of Port Harcourt. The four-month training in instrumentation is one of the high-end skills that HYPREP has earmarked for the economic empowerment of Ogoni youths.

HYPREP continues to play a key role in providing an enabling environment for advancing research and practical knowledge applications, especially for students in the environmental and earth sciences. Postgraduate students of the Department of Geology, Rivers State University were at Ajeokpori, Ogale remediation site in Eleme to carry out an assessment of soil and groundwater.

They were impressed with the

processes and methods that HYPREP is adopting for the removal of contaminants from the environment.

As HYPREP recorded a hundred percent completion in its phase 1 mangrove restoration project, it has commenced the process for the kick-off of phase 2 with the training of seventy (70) mangrove vanguards who will nurse and supply mangrove seedlings to the contractors. The training is both a livelihood and restoration programme for the empowerment of the coastal communities in Ogoni. With the completion of phase 1 mangrove restoration project, it was necessary that HYPREP carried out a post restoration fish stock assessment in the Bomu Creek where the restoration project was started. The results showed a notable improvement in fish stock, catch of new species as well as an increase in fish sizes.

The Project Coordination Office held a budget retreat to brief management and team leads on the direction of project implementation as preparation to draw up a realizable budget for 2026 begins. The new

members of the Governing Council of HYPREP and the Board of Trustees had a retreat to familiarize themselves with the operations of the Project.

In this edition, we serialize the

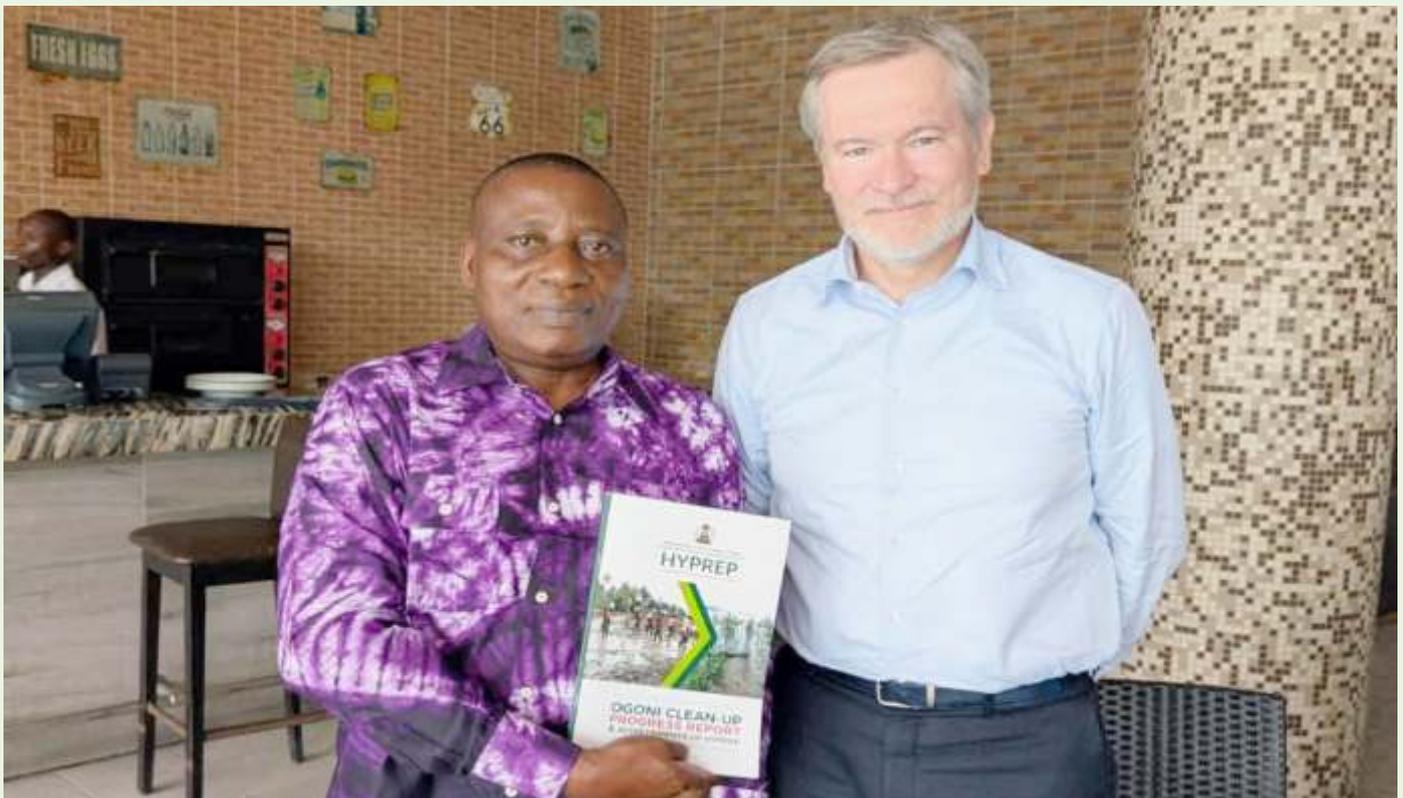
major achievements of 2025, and it will continue in subsequent editions of the HYPREP Herald. Our poetry corner is maintained for your reading pleasure and conscientization on good

stewardship to the environment. We welcome your feedback on better ways of serving you.

SEE WHO READS THE HYPREP HERALD



Mr. Celestine Akpobari Presents Copies of HYPREP Herald to EU Ambassador, Gautier Mignot



Mr. Celestine Akpobari and EU Ambassador, Gautier Mignot Pose with a Copy of the Ogoni Clean-Up Progress Report

News

HYPREP DONATES FIVE AMBULANCES TO ENHANCE HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN OGONI

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has officially handed over the five ambulances it purchased for rapid health care delivery in Ogoni to the Rivers State Government for onward distribution to the benefiting public hospitals in Ogoni.

The hospitals are Bori General Hospital, Terabo General Hospital, Nchia General Hospital, Bodo General Hospital and Kpite Health Centre.

Rivers State Commissioner of Health, Dr. Adaeze Oreh who received the donated ambulances on behalf of the Rivers State Government at the

Nchia General Hospital, Ogale described them as massive gifts that will enhance health care delivery in Ogoni.

“I am the acceptor of the very massive gift. Kudos to HYPREP for the project. Rivers State Government assures HYPREP of continued collaboration in ongoing health services in Ogoni. We are glad, and we plead with the people of Ogoni to be patient with the Project Coordinator because he has a lot for you,” she said.

She stated that the Rivers State Government deeply appreciates the gesture and extra commitment that the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has shown in

making health care accessible and affordable to the people of Ogoni and their neighbours.

The Rivers State Health Commissioner particularly commended the Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey for showing capacity in the implementation of the cleanup recommendations and taking the health and well-being of the people seriously, adding that the donation of the well-kitted ambulances to the State Government will greatly enhance effective health service delivery to the people of Ogoni.

Dr. Oreh expressed satisfaction with the achievements of HYPREP in health care intervention, which she



The Five Ambulances Donated by HYPREP to Rivers State Government for Healthcare Services in Ogoni

**Dr. Oreh**

witnessed firsthand while on a facility inspection of the Buan Cottage Hospital being built by HYPREP, and called on the people of Ogoni to be patient with the Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey, saying he has a lot to offer.

She observed that HYPREP is sincere in its effort at making Ogoni better, and that the Rivers State Ministry of Health is looking forward to a more productive collaboration with the Project.

Earlier, the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey had in his welcome address thanked the Honourable Commissioner of Health, Dr. Adaeze Oreh, for honouring HYPREP's invitation, and for the sustained supports by the Rivers State Ministry of Health towards the successful implementation of HYPREP's public health programmes in Ogoni.

Prof. Zabbey stated that the

objective of the donation was to enhance service delivery of five Rivers State Government owned health facilities in Ogoni, expressing confidence that the ambulances will significantly improve response to medical emergencies at the community level, strengthen patient referral systems and ensure timely access to life saving care for the people as each of the hospitals plays a critical role in serving their respective communities and the general public.

He noted that the intervention was in line with the recommendations of the UNEP Report, which emphasized the need to address public health challenges in the area, and that environmental restoration must go hand in hand with measures to protect and strengthen public health systems.

Prof. Zabbey further said the donation of the ambulances was part of HYPREP's comprehensive efforts to strengthen public health services in

communities across Eleme, Tai, Gokana and Khana Local Government Areas.

They include the ongoing public health study conducted by the International Agency for Research on Cancer of the World Health Organization (IARC-WHO), the construction of the 100-Bed Ogoni Specialist Hospital, the 40-Bed Buan Cottage Hospital, periodic medical outreaches, and the strengthening of some public health facilities in Ogoni.

The Project Coordinator specifically pointed out that HYPREP has strengthened the Bori Zonal Hospital, Terabo General Hospital, Nchia General Hospital, and Kpitem Primary Health Care Centre to improve access to quality healthcare for the people of Ogoni, adding that the intervention included the installation of critical medical equipment, including X-ray systems, full digital ultrasound systems, chemical pathology analysers, haematology analysers, and microbiology laboratory equipment, as well as theatre equipment and surgical instruments.

Other supporting infrastructure provided include hospital furniture, patient support equipment, essential clinical accessories for theatre rooms and laboratories, sterilization protocols, and compliance with operational standards.

Prof. Zabbey added that the Project has provided renewable energy support at the Nonwa, Onne, Kwawa, and K-Dere Primary Health Care Centres, and at Bodo General Hospital, by installing a 36-kilowatt solar power system at each facility.

The Project Coordinator noted that HYPREP intentionally provided the ambulances to reflect its strong



Prof. Zabbey

belief in partnership, collaboration, and respect for institutional roles, believing that sustainable public health outcomes can only be achieved when projects, including public health initiatives are implemented in synergy with existing government structures, policies and professional expertise.

He assured that HYPREP will continue to work with the Rivers State Government and Local Government Councils in Ogoni to implement its projects and activities and will be equally committed to playing its role diligently and responsibly, in line with the directives of the Government of Nigeria through the Federal Ministry of Environment.

According to the Project Coordinator, the beauty of HYPREP's work is that it does proper stakeholders' mapping, emphasizing that HYPREP remains open to collaborations and partnerships across the various thematic areas of its mandate, and that such collaboration is essential to ensuring the Project's overall success, sustainability and credibility.

“The Ogoni Cleanup is a national priority of the Renewed Hope Agenda. Thus, HYPREP is accelerating cleanup by concurrently implementing multiple interventions aligned with UNEP-recommended actions, alongside complementary

development initiatives. As these activities scale up across Ogoniland, there is an increasing need for public understanding, ownership, and support.

“The success of our collective efforts depends not only on infrastructure and policy, but also on the cooperation, protection, and trust of the people we serve. We continue to work with the Rivers State Government and Local Government Councils in Ogoni to implement our projects and activities. We are equally committed to playing our role diligently and responsibly, in line with the directives of the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Environment,” he said.

Prof. Zabbey disclosed that HYPREP's policy thrust in 2026 is focused on completing and operationalizing key infrastructure projects, including the Ogoni Specialist Hospital, the 40-bed Buan Cottage Hospital and the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, stressing that the overarching aim is to ensure environmental sustainability and the functionality of the facilities, and to support efforts towards economic rebirth, through increased stakeholder engagement, with visible and measurable impact in the daily lives of the Ogoni people.

Goodwill messages were given by the Chairman, Board of Trustees, Ogoni Trust Funds, Hon. Emmanuel Deeyah, King of Eleme Kingdom, HRM, Emere Dr. Philip Osaro Obele, Project Support Lead, Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited, Engr. Ehioze Igbinomwanhia, and Chairman of Eleme Local Government Council, Hon. Obarilomate Ollor.

PHASE 3 WATER PROJECTS: PROF. ZABBEY URGES CONTRACTORS TO STICK TO TIMELINE, APPROVED STANDARDS

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has kicked off Phase 3 of the provision of potable water in Ogoni communities with strict directives to contractors to ensure compliance with project specifications on timeline, standards and best practice.

Speaking at the Phase 3 Water Project Kick-Off Meeting with contractors at the Project Coordination Office in Port Harcourt, the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey congratulated the firms on their emergence as contractors for the project through a transparent, standard and statutory procurement process.

Prof. Zabbey informed the contractors that HYPREP will ensure stringent monitoring and supervision of the water projects in the various communities, appealing to them to make sure that only qualified personnel, including Engineers, HSE and other staff are engaged for the job throughout the duration of the project.

He said HYPREP will assess all project equipment and carry out intermittent checks on them to ensure efficiency and seamless operations, assuring that no compromise will be tolerated on the project.

Prof. Zabbey further called on the contractors to prioritize peace building, community involvement and transparency in community relations, which are key and deliberate actions for successful implementation of community-based projects.

“Once again, we congratulate you on your successful emergence as contractors on the project. As you all



HYPREP Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey Addressing Contractors of Phase 3 Water Project

know, potable water is essential for people's survival, and we must demonstrate utmost commitment to providing it to our people and communities, even as it was recommended by the United Nations Environment Programme.

“We urge you to ensure strict compliance to specifications. Ensure best practice and do things that we will all be proud of, and satisfied with, because we will not accept anything less,” Prof. Zabbey admonished.

The event featured presentations on contractual agreements, contract deliverables, variation and duration of work, as well as sustainability plan, particularly on maintenance and operations during and after the construction works.

The construction work is expected to be completed in twelve (12) months, and another twelve (12) months for maintenance and operations.

In his presentation, the Head,

Stakeholders Unit, Mr. Richard Mkpè tasked the contractors on smooth collaboration with HYPREP, and to ensure they work together with stakeholders in the various communities to achieve success on the project.

Also speaking, the representative of Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited/JV Support Lead for HYPREP, Engr. Ehioze Igbinomwanhia assured that the International Oil Companies will continue to work closely with the Project Coordination Office to ensure that standards are kept, and work delivered on schedule. “We at Renaissance are pleased with what HYPREP is doing and will continue to work together with the Project team to do what is right and acceptable,” he said.

Responding to enquiries during the question-and-answer session, the Director of Technical Services, Prof. Damian-Paul Aguiyi, re-emphasized

**Cross Section of Phase 3 Water Contractors**

that no work should be carried out on site without supervisors and qualified site Engineers, adding that HYPREP Engineering team must be consulted on engineering issues.

The phase 3 water project is

expected to provide reticulated potable water to Aletto community in Eleme; Ban Ogoi, Gbaken in Tai; Baen, Duburo, Pue, Sii, Kaani Babbe, Betem, Luawii, Wiiyaakara, and Kabangha communities in Khana and

Yeghe community in Gokana.

The meeting was attended by technical personnel and managers of the various construction firms.

19 OGO NI YOUTHS DEPART FOR CABIN CREW TRAINING

As follow-up to the training of the first and second batches of Ogoni youths in aviation cabin crew operations, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has organised an orientation programme for the third batch of nineteen Ogoni youths in preparation for their six weeks cabin crew training in Lagos.

At the orientation programme held at the HYPREP Project Coordination Office in Port Harcourt, the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabby congratulated the participants on meeting the requirements for the training and

**HYPREP Sponsored Cabin Crew Trainees**

urged them to take the training seriously.

In his words, “this is the beginning of a new chapter in your lives, in terms of building a career in the aviation industry.”

Prof. Zabbey stated that many trainings in high-end skills will be conducted this year to accelerate the livelihood restoration programme of the Project for the empowerment of Ogoni youths.

The HYPREP Coordinator also noted that “a gentle revolution is taking place in Ogoni because all of you will be able to earn a living, and when you earn a living, it will affect your personal life. It will also affect the lives of members of your family and impact your communities.”

He informed the participants that being selected as cabin crew trainees

means that they are key agents of the restoration that is taking place in Ogoni and carriers of hope because their career will contribute to the economic impact that HYPREP is pushing for, as well as register the presence of Ogoni nationally and internationally, and therefore urged them to be good ambassadors of the Ogoni Clean-up Project.

The Project Support Lead for Renaissance Africa Energy Company in HYPREP, Engr. Echioze Igbinomwanhia joined the Project Coordinator of HYPREP to urge participants to take the training seriously as a lot of resources have been committed to the training and must not fail.

He further advised participants to make good use of every opportunity that present itself while in training.

“Do not let any opportunity to network, opportunity to talk to people, opportunity to know people pass you by,” he said.

Head, Sustainable Livelihoods, HYPREP, Mrs. Josephine Nzidee emphasized the need for participants to devote their time and energy to the training because according to her, only successful trainees will be issued cabin crew certificates.

The Director, Technical Services, HYPREP, Prof. Damian-Paul Aguiyi, in his closing remarks, also encouraged participants to do their best and concentrate on the training they are being sent for. “Whatever you learn, whatever you acquire is yours, nobody can take it away from you.”

The nineteen Ogoni youths have since departed for their cabin crew training in Lagos.



HYPREP Sponsored Cabin Crew Trainees Depart Port Harcourt for Lagos

HYPREP COMMENCES TRAINING OF 100 OGO NI YOUTHS IN MECHATRONICS

In continuation of its human capacity development programme, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has formally launched another of its initiative to provide specialized and in-demand technical skills training for 100 youths in Ogoni with a call on participants to be focused on the training, and to use the skills to be so acquired effectively to improve their lots in line with HYPREP's broader goal of sustainable livelihood restoration in Ogoni.

The flag-off was performed by the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey at the Offshore Training Institute (OTI) of the University of Port Harcourt, and was followed by the orientation of the trainees on “The Anatomy of Mechatronics in the Fourth Industrial

Revolution (4IR),” which was handled by the National Coordinator, Embedded AI Project in Nigeria and Professional Mentor, Prof. Bourdillon O. Omejeh.

Declaring the four-month-intensive training open, Prof. Zabbey, congratulated the trainees on their emergence as successful candidates from the meticulous selection process, and commended the Training consultant for guiding the process professionally.

The HYPREP Coordinator, who was represented by the Director of Technical Services, Prof. Damian Paul-Aguiyi expressed appreciation to the Vice Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Prof. Owunari Georgewill, for always supporting and participating in the activities of HYPREP.

He maintained that HYPREP is making good its commitment to

moving from low- to high-end skills, as evidenced by the rollout of ten of such programmes this year, including the mechatronics training, adding that HYPREP is dedicated to giving the best to the people of Ogoni.

This, the Project Coordinator stressed, informed the choice of the University of Port Harcourt's Offshore Technology Institute and a competent facilitator for the training, a perfect blend of best practice, industry experience and academics, and enjoined the beneficiaries to take the training seriously.

“HYPREP is dedicated to give Ogoni the best. We want you to take this training seriously, because what you learn is your own, how you apply it determines how far you will go in life. Like the Paramount Ruler of ancient Barako community said, this is the best time to be an Ogoni. An industry specific training for an Ogoni



The One Hundred Mechatronics Trainees with HYPREP Officials and Vice Chancellor of Uniport, Prof. Owunari Georgewill

is apt now.

“We commend the digital Vice Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt for his good works and for always been very supportive of our programmes here. Our partnership with Uniport is intentional to get the best of practice and academic resources,” he said.

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Prof. Owonari Georgewill extolled HYPREP for the gesture, noting that the training will equip participants with skills that are globally relevant and economically viable, and urged them to leverage the opportunity by showing commitment to learning.

The training Consultant and Managing Director of Competent Samco Technical Nigeria Limited, Mr. Makozi Samuel, highlighted the vision, objectives and training methodologies, explaining that the 4-month training will involve theoretical and hands-on sessions.

He said amongst other

deliverables, the training will enhance the capacity of trainees for creative solutions to complex engineering challenges; develop trainees' abilities to manage teams and projects in modern digital oil and gas industries; and inculcate in the trainees the need to adhere to safety regulations, environmental standards, and ethical guidelines in engineering practice.

In their goodwill messages, member of the Uniport Governing Council and Paramount Ruler of Barako community, HRH, Mene Kadilo Kabari; Renaissance Africa Energy Company/JV Representative in HYPREP, Engr. Ehioze Igbinomwanhia and the Director, Offshore Technology Institute, Uniport, Dr. Ebigenibo Saturday, highlighted the enormous opportunities and prospects the skill offers. They re-echoed the charge on trainees to make the most of the opportunity.

Engr. Igbinomwanhia particularly reiterated Renaissance's commitment

to the Ogoni Cleanup Project and its support for HYPREP's human capacity development initiatives.

Head of Sustainable Livelihood, Mrs. Josephine Nzidee was elated that the training has commenced, and assured that HYPREP will continue to place premium on capacity development and value addition for Ogoni through these high-demand skills, which will better position the youths for emerging industry demands.

The one hundred (100) beneficiaries for the Mechatronics training were selected through a Computer-Based Test (CBT) administered in February 2023. This year, HYPREP will be conducting training in other high-demand skill areas, including Full-stack Development, GIS and Remote Sensing, Cyber Security, Rope Access, Commercial Diving/Underwater Welding, Mud Logging, and Agric-skill Enhancement.

HYPREP ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH IN NIGERIA – PROF. NWANKWOLLA

The Head of Department of Geology, Rivers State University (RSU), Professor Hyacinth Nwankwolla has commended the management of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) on its commitment to advancing research and practical knowledge application in the study of environmental and earth sciences, by opening its remediation sites to research students.

Professor Nwankwolla gave the commendation when he led pioneer postgraduate Geology students of the Rivers State University to the phase 2



RSU Postgraduate Geology Students on Visit to HYPREP Remediation Site

remediation site at Ajeokpori, Ogale in Eleme Local Government Area.

The students were in the field to carry out an assessment of the soil and groundwater remediation projects being undertaken by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project in Ogoni.

At the end of the exercise, Prof. Nwankwolla stated that the primary objective of the field visit was to provide students with firsthand knowledge on the complexities of polluted sites and noted that the trip gave the students the opportunity to study characterization methods and practical knowledge of the bio-remediation method being used by HYPREP to restore the environment in Ogoni. In his words.

"Having observed the operations here, particularly at Lot 12, it is evident that the contractors are strictly

adhering to scientific methods. Their efforts thus far in restoring these impacted sites are highly commendable."

The technical briefing was done by Professor Freeborn Abowei of Fibow Petroleum Environmental Engineering Consult Limited, the contracting firm handling the remediation project. Prof. Abowei provided a detailed update on the biosparging operational and execution plans for the project.

He informed the visiting team that the project has successfully navigated five out of the six critical phases of the work, and they include community engagement and public relations, active soil remediation, comprehensive waste management, sampling and analysis of soil samples for remediation tracking and landscaping, backfilling and grading.

Prof. Abowei further noted that the project is currently in the final phase of continuous monitoring, in strict compliance with the contract scope, to ensure the long-term success of the restoration.

Providing further technical insight, the HYPREP supervisor on site, Mr. Ernest Abity explained the underlying principles of the bio-remediation process to the students, highlighting the progress of the biosparging execution plan, and noted that the work is nearing completion with significant reduction in groundwater contamination.

By opening its project sites to the academic community, HYPREP continues to nurture a new generation of environmental experts equipped with practical skills necessary to tackle pollution challenges in the Niger Delta and beyond.

PHASE 2 MANGROVE RESTORATION: HYPREP TRAINS 70 VANGUARDS

The Phase 2 Mangrove Restoration Project of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project has progressed with the training of 70 Mangrove Vanguard recruits from seven Ogoni communities, which include Bomu, Bodo, K. Dere, Gbe, Kpor, Lewe and Goi.

The training, which took place at the Gberesaakoo Hall in Gokana Local Government Council Secretariat, Kpor, was well attended by the Mangrove Vanguard recruits, which comprises 10 persons from each of the seven communities in Gokana Local Government Area.

Speaking during the training, the Team Lead, Mangrove Restoration, Izuchukwu Uche said the

commencement of the second phase of the mangrove restoration project was informed by the success of the first phase, adding that the success recorded was so huge, and the lessons learnt will help in carrying out phase 2 of the project.

According to him, 45% of the 70 Mangrove Vanguard recruits are women, and are trained in mangrove restoration and nursery set-up, adding that the phase 2 mangrove restoration has 28 Lots in 7 communities.

Uche further explained that the training is an empowerment initiative of HYPREP, because apart from the skill to be acquired, the mangrove vanguard recruits will be given grants to start up their mangrove nurseries in their various communities.

"HYPREP is equipping community workers (vanguard recruits) for large-scale mangrove nursing, planting and conservation in Ogoniland. They are trained to grow and supply seedlings for the extensive restoration efforts happening within phase 2," he said.

He noted that HYPREP will continue to engage the youths as part of the sustainability plan and will also monitor the process to ensure success and proper utilization of the grants given to the beneficiaries.

Uche disclosed that the phase 2 mangrove vanguard recruits are new set of beneficiaries, and that the training will afford them the skill to set up and maintain mangrove nurseries, and can further train others and sell mangrove

seedlings for personal income.

Explaining the objectives of the training, the Lead Facilitator, Prof. Franklin Tanen said it will enable participants identify the different species of mangrove prevalent in their localities and provide them the skill to set up viable mangrove nurseries for planting and commercial purposes.

He added that the training will equip the trainees with the knowledge of possible threats, benefits or value of mangrove, and how to conserve it and become successful entrepreneurs.

"From the training, the participants will be able to earn a living from mangrove nurseries and also serve as ambassadors of mangrove restoration in Ogoni and wherever they are," he said.

Also speaking on the training, one of the mangrove vanguards, Mr. Baridi Kobani, from Goi community, commended HYPREP for what he called "resourceful training", noting that the training will impact them with

knowledge and skill in mangrove planting and preservation.

"This training is an opportunity to get skill and knowledge. And by this, we are empowered to be self-reliant, because we will judiciously invest the grants that will be given to us by HYPREP.

"I am very happy with the training and the grant. I will extend the knowledge and awareness to others," Kobani assured.

Another participant in the training, Ms. Florence Farah, expressed joy over her inclusion as a woman, saying she learnt a lot, and will put into use the knowledge acquired from the training.

Ms. Farah, who is from K. Dere community, also described the training as being very impactful, and lauded HYPREP for the careful and transparent selection of the mangrove vanguards.

While condemning the decimation of mangrove forest in

shoreline communities, she expressed the confidence that the steps taken by HYPREP will restore the lost mangrove vegetation and aquatic lives, including periwinkles, crabs, oysters, bloody cockles, etc., that disappeared from the creeks.

According to her, with the replanting of the mangrove, aquatic lives will gradually return to the creek, especially with the considerable awareness creation and sensitization of the community people that HYPREP has done.

"I thank HYPREP for the training. They have created awareness in the community about why we should not cut down mangroves as firewood or engage in illegal bunkering. The awareness is also in the community on how to nurse the mangrove. I will receive the grant with gladness of heart, and will use it well," Ms. Farah said.



The Seventy Mangrove Vanguards Trained by HYPREP

POST-FISH STOCK ASSESSMENT REVEALS NEW SPECIES, INCREASED SIZES - HYPREP Re-Engineering Social Cohesion in Ogoni – Prof. Zabbey

Beyond the primary mandate of remediating oil impacted sites and restoring livelihoods, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is also re-engineering social cohesion and gradually restoring cultural bonds in Ogoni.

That was the submission of the Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey when he led a team from the University of Port Harcourt, technical staff of HYPREP, and some local fisherfolks in Bomu, Gokana Local Government Area, for the Post-Fish Stock Assessment.

This follows HYPREP's successful restoration of 560 ha of lost mangrove areas, with one million, five hundred thousand mangroves planted in the phase 1 of the mangrove restoration project.

The follow-up phase of the post-restoration fish stock assessment in Bomu creeks is part of a study initiated in November 2023 to undertake a science-based investigation into fish stock and species abundance, as well as biodiversity recovery in the area, in line with HYPREP's commitment to restoring the hydrocarbon-devastated ecosystem of Ogoni as recommended by the United Nations Environment Programme on Ogoni Environment.

Accordingly, the study aims to assess the fish stock in the area one year after restorative mangrove planting and to correlate the results with pre-restoration data. The study employs local techniques of fish fencing methods across three study stations in Bomu, with distinct mangrove vegetation spread to quantitatively assess the volume of



HYPREP Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey Conducts Post Restoration Fish Stock Assessment in Bomu Creek

catch as well as species abundance.

The study revealed a notable improvement in post-restoration fish stock assessment, showing the migration of new species and increased fish stock sizes in the creeks and species abundance. This indicates a gradual restoration of ecosystem goods and services, one year after the HYPREP intervention process.

Mangrove restoration will significantly improve the physical structure of the shoreline habitat and provide suitable breeding and feeding grounds for fish species and contributes organic matter and nutrients to the water, fostering the growth of microorganisms that form the base of the aquatic food chain.

Beyond the science of mangrove restoration lies a significant impact on local communities, economies, and socio-cultural connectivity. Notably, the post-fish stock assessment engendered some synergy between science and socio-cultural reawakening.

After the science, was the cultural aspect of the activity as the fisherfolk, community women, the Project Coordinator, and his team converged on the Bomu waterfront to celebrate the catch. The locals also confirmed that there has been a significant improvement in the air quality of Bomu following the shoreline clean-up in the community.

PROF. ZABBEY TASKS HYPREP MANAGEMENT ON EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF 2026 WORK PLANS

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has called on management and staff of the Project to give their best in the discharge of their duties so as to achieve the overall goal for 2026.

Prof. Zabbey made the call at the 2026 budget retreat held in Port Harcourt to intimate management and team leads on the direction of project implementation and goals for the year.

He informed participants at the retreat that 2026 is for HYPREP a year of consolidation where key projects would be completed and inaugurated and new ones initiated for the benefit of the Ogoni people.

“I welcome all of you to this important budget retreat. This is the foundation of our work for 2026, and it

is very important that we commit our energy and intellect into considering the budget for 2026 and in my PC's Desk for January, we mentioned that this year is a year of consolidation, a year of operating key infrastructures, and capacity building. What that means is that we are to strive to complete the medium risk complex sites. We have to finish the site characterization for the high-risk complex sites. We have to start the phase 2 of the mangrove restoration, phase 2 of our shoreline cleanup and the phase 3 of our water project and also ensure that all the livelihood training we have applied for the year are completed.”

The HYPREP Coordinator therefore urged Units of the Project to come up with only projects and programmes that add value to the

overarching objectives of the Ogoni clean-up project.

“For 2026 we expect only activities that will add value to what we are doing. So, what that means is that we have to be very critical in reviewing the activities. We will not just accept everything submitted here. We want value for money. We want value addition. We want activities that will improve on our development results. We have to remain focused on things that would add value to the project. We have to contribute to achieving the mandate of the project. The mandate is clear; we are all familiar with it,” Prof. Zabbey said.

The retreat featured reviews of the performance of the 2025 budget and guidelines for the preparation of the 2026 budget.



Cross Section of HYPREP Staff at the 2026 Budget Retreat

OGONI CLEAN-UP: GC, BoT CALL FOR NEWER FUNDING SOURCES

The Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal has called on members of the Governing Council of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) and the Board of Trustees of the Ogoni Trust Funds to live up to their responsibilities of effective project monitoring and fund mobilisation in keeping with the Federal Government's commitment to the implementation of the Ogoni Cleanup Project.

Lawal made the call at a two-day joint retreat for members of the Governing Council of HYPREP and the Ogoni Trust Fund Incorporated held in Ikot Ekpene, Akwa Ibom State, aimed at strategically repositioning the Project towards effectively meeting its mandate as recommended in the United Nations Environment Programme Report on Ogoni Environment.

He urged both Governing Structures of the Project to leverage the renewed commitment of all the Ministers on the Governing Council



Lawal

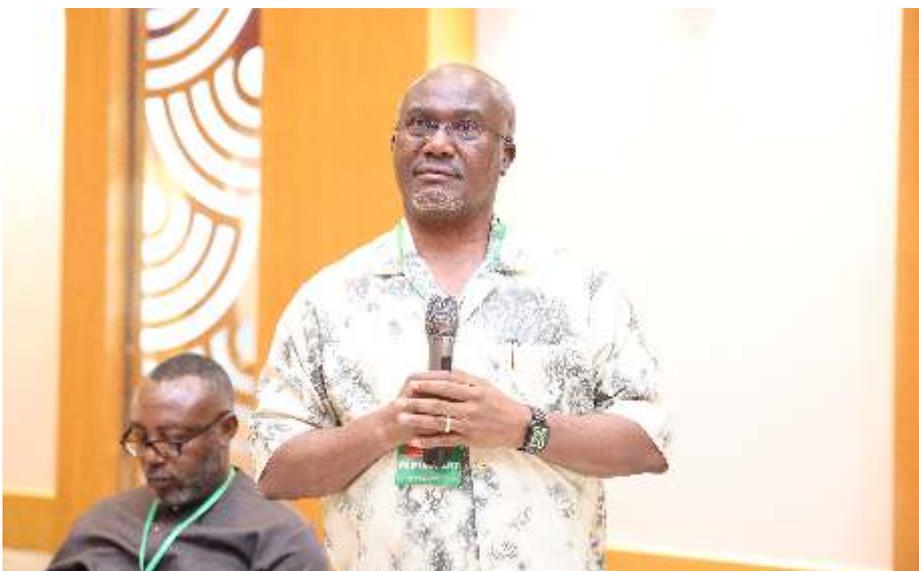
and the Board of Trustees of the Project to garner the needed governmental interventions for the Ogoni Clean-up Project.

The Honourable Minister of Environment emphasized the need for both the Governing Council and Board of trustees to work collaboratively with critical stakeholders to ensure that HYPREP's

functions are carried out in line with the gazette establishing it.

The Environment Minister's position was echoed by the Honourable Ministers of Budget and Economic Planning, Senator Abubakar Atiku Bagudu; Regional Development, Engr. Abubakar Momoh; Petroleum (Oil), Senator Heineken Lokpobiri (Ph.D); and Petroleum (Gas), Honourable Ekperikpe Ekpo who commended the Honourable Minister of Environment and the Project Coordination Office of HYPREP on their efforts in the clean-up of Ogoni and suggested alternative sources of funding for the Project.

The Chairman of the Ogoni Trust Funds Incorporated, Honourable Emma Deeyah submitted that for the Project to work effectively, it should be made an agency of government, and advised HYPREP to develop a holistic project implementation roadmap that will enable it deliver on its mandate.



Hon. Deeyah



Participants at the Joint GC and BoT Retreat

The General Manager, Relations and Sustainable Development, Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited, Mr. Igo Weli, who spoke for the Joint Venture, said they are committed to the success of the Ogoni Cleanup Project, and called for prudent utilization of available funds.

Presenting the Project Status Report to the joint session of the Governing Council and Board of Trustees, the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey highlighted HYPREP's key milestone achievements across thematic areas, including soil and shoreline remediation, mangrove restoration (biodiversity recovery), provision of potable water, livelihood interventions, special projects (construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, Ogoni Power Project), public health interventions among other value added projects.

Also present at the retreat were the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Gas). Rt. Honourable Ekperikpe Ekpo, Chairman, BoT, Ogoni Trust Fund, Inc., Honourable Emma Deeyah; Project Coordinator, HYPREP and Secretary of Governing Council, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey; MD/CEO Renaissance Africa Energy Company, Engr Tony Attah, represented by Mr. Igo Weli, General Manager, Relations & Sustainable Development and the Project Manager, Environment and Ogoni Restoration Project, Mr. John Ede; as well as Joint Venture partners from Total Energies and Oando.

The rest were the National Security Adviser, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, represented by Alhaji Usman Iya Abba; Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Environment, Mr. Mahmud Kambari; and other members of the Governing Council and Board of Trustees.

The Retreat, with the theme: 'Strategic Governance for Sustainable Remediation of Oil-impacted Environment,' provided a veritable platform for participants to robustly appraise project performance, review policy frameworks, and make invaluable interventions in the implementation of the Ogoni Cleanup Project.

Essentially, discussions centred on specific mandate areas of HYPREP, the need for synergy among Project stakeholders, effective policy development, fundraising dynamics, policy and strategy reviews, performance evaluation and accountability, and effective project implementation.

Participants later had a breakout session to discuss the general challenges and opportunities of the Project.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2025

In this edition we begin the serialization of major achievements of the Project in 2025, and it will continue in subsequent editions until we exhaust them.

G R O U N D W A T E R R E M E D I A T I O N

In 2025, HYPREP made significant progress in soil and groundwater remediation across Ogoniland, consolidating the close-out of Phase 1 (simple sites) and scaling up the full implementation of phase 2 remediation of medium-risk complex sites. The year marked a clear transition from early implementation into sustained, large-scale remediation delivery.

1. Successful Close-out of Phase 1 Remediation

A major milestone achieved in 2025 was the effective completion of phase 1 remediation works.

- Additional four (4) lots were closed out and certified by NOSDRA, bringing the cumulative total to forty-nine (49) out of fifty (50) phase 1 lots fully remediated, closed out, and certified by NOSDRA. Their certification confirmed compliance with approved remedial action plans and regulatory requirements.
- Two sites were technically reviewed and reclassified as high-risk complex sites for further assessment and treatment under subsequent remediation phases.
- With these outcomes, phase 1 remediation was substantially completed, representing the first

remediation phase successfully concluded under the Ogoniland clean-up project.

2. Full Operationalisation of Phase 2 Remediation

Phase 2 remediation transitioned into sustained, full-scale execution in 2025, reflecting a significant improvement in delivery momentum.

- Overall phase 2 completion increased from 23% in 2024 to 39% by the end of 2025, representing a substantial year-on-year performance gain.
- All 39 phase 2 contractors fully mobilised across 17 medium-risk complex sites (39 lots).
- Thirty-six (36) contractors actively executing remediation works following regulatory approvals of Remediation Action Plans.
- Remediation activities carried out in accordance with approved Remedial Action Plans, addressing both soil and groundwater contamination.

Soil Treatment

- Over 1.8 million cubic metres of hydrocarbon-impacted soil treated using approved remediation technologies.
- Several sites progressed from active treatment to backfilling and site restoration, demonstrating advancement towards remediation completion.
- Engineered biocells, supported by complementary in-situ treatment systems successfully deployed across lots.

Groundwater Treatment

- Groundwater remediation systems deployed across 25 phase

2 lots.

- Active treatment and monitoring recorded significant reductions in Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH) concentrations across several sites.
- Five (5) contractors achieved groundwater TPH concentrations at or below the regulatory target of 600 µg/L, validating the effectiveness of biosparging, pump-and-treat, and hybrid remediation systems.

MANGROVE RESTORATION

1. 100% Completion of Mangrove Restoration Project (MRP) Phase 1

- The Mangrove Sub-Unit of the Environmental Remediation Unit achieved a 100% completion of its phase 1 mangrove planting project with a total of one million, five hundred and thirty-seven thousand, eight hundred and twenty-five (1,537,825) seedlings
- A total of 104 grids established for long-term monitoring
- Survivability of plants after 12 months is 90%
- Visible return of biodiversity is seen in the planting area
- Successful implementation of the mangrove vanguard scheme. Mangrove vanguards are community people trained by HYPREP in the art and science of mangrove restoration to nurse and sell mangrove seedlings to contractors

2. Commencement of MRP Phase 2 Project

- Documentation of MRP phase 2 mangrove planting contractors has

commenced

3. Distribution of 100 Clean Cook Stoves

- 100 clean cook stoves were successfully distributed to families living in shoreline communities who depend on mangrove wood for cooking. The aim is to reduce dependence on mangrove for firewood

4. Designation of Ogoniland Wetland as Ramsar Site

- HYPREP commenced the process of designating Ogoniland a Ramsar site. Documentation and upload of data collected from the Ogoni wetland have been done.

5. Restoration of Bloody Cockle

- HYPREP MRP commenced bloody cockle restoration by artificially cultivating bloody cockle in the laboratory and culturing the cockles in the wild. Significant success has been

recorded from both methods.

SHORELINE CLEAN-UP

1. Summary of Work Progress

- 342 of 487 grids completed representing 70.2%
- 1022.75 hectares of oil-impacted wetland cleaned in readiness for chemistry closeout sampling for

mangrove planting

- 1,965 tons of oily sludge and 2,395 tons of solid waste recovered
- Internal chemistry verification sampling continues
- NOSDRA Close-out of SCAT completed on 88 grids.

Project Performance Summary @		16-Dec-25				
Total Area for Flushing, Agitation and Nipa Removal (ha)	Area Completed (ha)	%_Area Completed	Grids Total	Grid Confirmed	%_Grid Confirmed	Grids SCAT - Ready
1747.6	987.78	56.5	487	342	70.2	33

Hydrocarbon Waste Generated to date	
Oily Sludge (Tonnes)	Solid Waste (Tonnes)
1965	2395

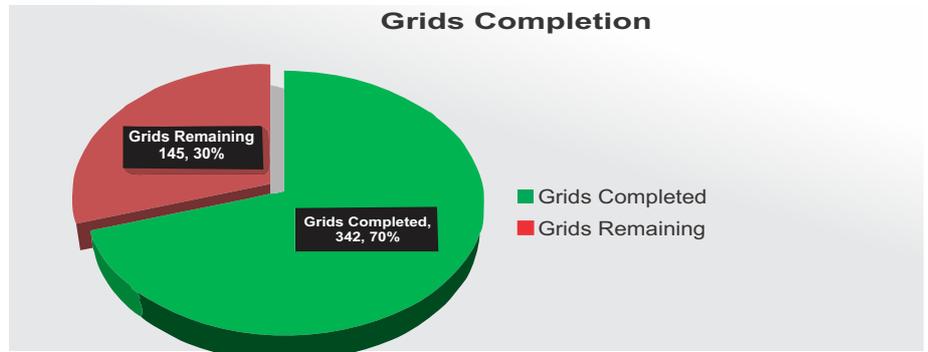


Figure 1: Summary of work Progress

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

Summary of Performance: 93.5% Introduction

The UNEP 2011 report recommended the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER), and an Integrated Contaminated Soil Management Centre (ICSMC). In response to the recommendations of UNEP, HYPREP is currently developing the blueprint and physical infrastructure for the CEER and ICSMC. Considerable progress has been made with the development of the physical infrastructure and institutional framework for CEER, which is being developed as a research, training and development

institute that would bring together a cohort of experts in diverse fields to promote practices that safeguard the environment and people's socio-economic, physical health and wellbeing. In 2025, the Centre of Excellence for Environmental

Restoration progressed to 93.5% completion. 2025 saw an acceleration in the construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration. The following are some of the achievements for the year.

Completion of the Tartan Track and Tootball Pitch: (100%)



Construction of the ICSMC: (70%)



Administrative Building: (97.35%)



Internal Road Works: (90%)



Residential Area Works: (93%)



Landscaping, Grass and Tree Planting: (90%)



Auditorium: (99.47%)



Library: (99.48%)



Classroom block: (3 units) 99.48%



Hostel: (Male and Female) 99.48%**Club House: (97.36%)**

PICTURES OF THE MONTH

Minister of Environment, Balarabe Lawal (R) and other Participants during the GC/BoT Retreat



Minister of Budget and Economic Planning, Abubakar Bagudu during the GC/BoT Retreat



Minister of Regional Development, Abubakar Momoh during the GC/BoT Retreat



Minister of State, Petroleum (Gas) Ekperikpe Ekpo during the GC/BoT Retreat



GM, Relations & Sustainable Development, RAEC, Igo Weli during the GC/BoT Retreat



Cross Section of Participants at the GC/BoT Retreat



HRM, Emere Philip Osaro Obele During the HYPREP Presentation of Ambulances to Rivers State Government



HYPREP DTS, Prof. Damian Aguiyi Flanked by HRH Kadilo Kabari (L) & Uniport VC, Prof. Owunari Georgewill (R)

OGONI CLEAN-UP ...HYPREP SPEARHEADING MANGROVE RESTORATION

POETRY CORNER

MAN AND EARTH: TWINS IN NEED OF HEALTH

The earth remembers every scar we make,
Each river's cough, each forest torn apart;
Yet still it waits, resilient at its core,
For human hands to heal what greed did start.

We plant again where silence used to stand,
Let mangroves rise where oil once stained the sand;
With patient care, the soil relearns its song,
And broken ground grows fertile, deep, and strong.

Restoring land restores the people too
Clean water teaches hope how to return;
The wind carries a promise through the leaves:
What we protect is what we get to learn.

So let us choose repair instead of loss,
And walk more gently on this shared domain;
For when the earth is given room to heal,
It answers us with life, and not with pain.

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Camera

Photo:HYPREP



THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE

“To be poor and be without a tree is to lack more than money, it is to lack hope.”

- Joan McCracken

Photo:HYPREP

... for a cleaner and greener Ogoniland

A Publication of the Communications Unit of HYPREP

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