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HYPREP...Remediating the Environment and Restoring Livelihoods

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ENVIRONMENT MINISTER LEADS HYPREP TO UN, SEEKS RENEWED SUPPORT FOR OGONI CLEAN-UP



Hon. Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal Presents Copies of HYPREP Publications to UN Dep. Sec. General, H.E. Amina Mohammed both Flanked on the Left by BoT Chairman, Ogoni Trust Fund, Hon. Emma Deeyah and on the Right by HYPREP Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey at UN Headquarters in New York, USA

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**HYPREP
HERALD
NOT
TO BE
SOLD**

THE PC'S DESK



PROF. NENIBARINI ZABBEY
PROJECT COORDINATOR
(HYPREP)

In the May, June and July editions of the HYPREP Herald, we reported key milestones of the Project over the past three years under the caption 'Ogoni Clean-up: 3 Years of Accelerated Impact.' These included environmental remediation, the restoration of livelihoods, the provision of potable water, public health interventions, the building of legacy infrastructure (Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, Ogoni Specialist Hospital, 43-bed Cottage Hospital and Ogoni Power Project), improved security, and peacebuilding in Ogoni communities, among others.

In this August edition, we want to rededicate ourselves to the sustained and holistic implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on Ogoniland. Recently, I accompanied the Honourable Minister of

Environment and Chairman of the HYPREP Governing Council, Balarabe Abbas Lawal, and the Chairman of the Ogoni Trust Fund, Hon. Emmanuel Deeyah, to the United Nations Headquarters in New York, United States of America. At the UN offices, we held a strategic engagement with the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General (DSG), Her Excellency Amina Mohammed. We updated her on the milestones achieved on the project ten years after the launch of the Ogoni clean-up. We recalled that the Ogoni clean-up was launched at Sivibilagbara (Patrick waterside) in Bodo on 2 June 2016, when the DSG was the Honourable Minister of Environment. Briefing her was symbolic and a fitting honour. Of course, we used the opportunity to appeal for the UN's renewed commitments to the clean-up, especially in the areas of technical cooperation and access to international funding.

The Project Coordination Office (PCO) is making every effort to secure external funding and to use it judiciously to drive the successful implementation of the Ogoni Clean-up Project. In May 2026, the PCO supported the Board of Trustees of the Ogoni Trust Fund Inc (BOT) as the BOT hosted a high-level Conference on Donor Facilitation and Diplomatic Support Engagement in Abuja to mobilise global financial and technical partnerships for environmental restoration in Ogoniland. In the same vein, we are broadening our reach to establish partnerships and linkages with reputable organisations

worldwide to support research and training, operationalise the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, and optimise the HYPREP technical base.

We have launched the second phase of our high-demand skills programme under the livelihood training programme. These include Mud Logging, Software Development, Animation and Graphic Design, Ship Fabrication, Full Stack Development, Cyber Security, GIS/Crowd Mapping, Rope Access, and Rigging. The two thousand three hundred beneficiaries were selected through a strict, transparent process that identified only the best, who are now in training for the next four or six months, depending on the skill set. This is a deliberate effort to make Ogoni youths employable across every sector of the economy, particularly in ICT, oil and gas, and maritime. In the near future, the cumulative effect of our livelihood training will catalyse the entrepreneurial spirit of young people and women and transform Ogoni into a skills hub that will contribute to regional prosperity and national development.

In the coming weeks, phase 2 of the shoreline cleanup and mangrove restoration will begin. The more than 1,500 youth and women we have swim-tested, medically tested and trained in oil spill response are ready to be deployed. Similarly, we have gone round to inspect the mangrove nurseries established by the mangrove vanguards. We were very impressed by the quantity and quality of mangrove seedlings produced by the vanguards. We are

proud of the vanguards! We are also proud of our shoreline cleanup workers and the thousands of young people working on our various sites. Happily, the number of direct and indirect jobs created for Ogoni youth and women continues to increase.

While we are intensifying job creation and skills development to enhance employability and entrepreneurship, the restoration of traditional livelihoods, such as fishing, is gradually taking shape. The combination of shoreline cleanup and mangrove restoration improves the quality of the Ogoni creeks, reviving breeding and nursery grounds for fish and other aquatic biodiversity. Beyond creating and reactivating habitats for fin and shellfish, shoreline cleanup and mangrove restoration also promote the return of other

ecosystem services. For example, most of the planted red mangroves have produced prop (hanging) roots. Similarly, the black mangroves are already producing protruding vertical roots - called pneumatophores. These roots filter the water and act as a substrate for shellfish attachment. The topminnow (a small-sized fish) that was not seen in the area is becoming common again. This is because the thriving planted black mangroves support the topminnow recovery. Adult topminnows lay eggs in the algal mats on the black mangrove vertical roots. In other words, topminnows need black mangrove roots to breed. As the surface and beneath the surface of the sediment become safer, the animals that live on or in the sediment will thrive. No wonder periwinkles are plentiful on the

tidal flats of the restored Bomu Creek. I was very excited to see the mud crab and gobies in the bloody cockle culture beds the other day. These are indicator species. Their presence in the environment indicates improving conditions. This is the case with the razor clam and the West African lucine detected in our samples.

The transformative journey we are on calls for unity of purpose to achieve a cleaner, greener Ogoniland, where livelihoods are restored and peace prevails for shared prosperity. We would appreciate the support of all stakeholders, especially you.

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



Hon. Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal (2nd); UN Dep. Sec. General, H.E. Amina Mohammed (3rd); BoT Chairman, Ogoni Trust Fund, Hon. Emma Deeyah (4th); and HYPREP Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey (1st) at UN Headquarters in New York, USA

In This Issue

This August edition leads with the high-profile visit embarked upon by the heads of the three arms of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project – the Chairman of the Governing Council and Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal; the Chairman, Board of Trustees, Ogoni Trust Fund Inc., Hon. Emma Deeyah; and the Project Coordinator, HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey to the United Nations Headquarters in New York, United States on a strategic engagement with the world body to further seek support for the Ogoni Clean-up Project. They were received by the UN Deputy Secretary-General, Her Excellency Amina Mohammed, who reassured the HYPREP Team of sustained support for the Ogoni Clean-up Project.

The Project Coordination Office of HYPREP has commenced the training of additional 2300 Ogoni youths in high demand skills under its livelihood training programme. The induction ceremonies were conducted separately for each of the skill sets of **M u d L o g g i n g , S o f t w a r e Development, Animation and Graphics Design, Ship Fabrication, Full Stack Development, Cyber Security, GIS/Crowd Mapping, Rope Access, and Rigging.** Participants demonstrated commitment and enthusiasm in the HYPREP funded sustainable livelihood programme.

With the accelerated delivery of the mandate of HYPREP in the environmental remediation of polluted sites in Ogoni and the restoration of livelihoods, the Project Coordination Office is keen on partnering reputable organisations to leverage their technical expertise and

support to fast track the development of Ogoni. The Lekeh Development Foundation – a Non-Governmental Organisation is one of such bodies that HYPREP has expressed readiness for partnership for sustainable environmental management and community empowerment in the Niger Delta. Similarly, a coalition of local and international Civil Society Organizations was in HYPREP to have first-hand experience of the operations of the clean-up project. The coalition members were taken on a tour of HYPREP project sites in Ogoni. They visited remediation and mangrove restoration projects, potable water projects, and legacy construction sites including the magnificent Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, and the Ogoni Specialist Hospital. Needless to say, that they were thrilled by the level of work done on the various projects visited.

We also bring the report on the visible and appreciable signs of biodiversity recovery recorded in Ogoni creeks, where HYPREP has restored. The signs were observed when the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey led a team of Project officials and foreign observers on a tour of the mangrove restoration project in Bomu, Bodo, and Gbe communities in Gokana Local Government Area. Prof. Zabbey also visited the University of Port Harcourt, where he met with the leadership and members of the Uniport Ogoni Assembly. He used the occasion to encourage academics in the institution to explore research opportunities in the Ogoni Clean-up Project. In a similar development, the Gbaalo Nyo-Khana Social Cultural Community Group, USA, has conferred a Distinguished Environmental Leadership and Sustainable Development Award on Prof. Zabbey at its 4th Annual Unity Conference held in Georgia, USA.

Under the Public Health

Strengthening Initiative of HYPREP, the Project Coordination Office has furnished public health institutions in Ogoni with state-of-the-art medical equipment and accessories to facilitate wider access to healthcare services. The latest donation was a consignment of medical equipment to the Onne Primary Health Centre in Eleme Local Government Area.

The phase 2 mangrove planting has begun with the Project Coordination Office holding a kick-off meeting with the contractors. The meeting was presided over by the Director, Technical Services, HYPREP, Prof. Damian-Paul Aguiyi. The Project Coordination Office was among Agencies and Projects under the Federal Ministry of Environment that participated at the Ministry's Top Management Retreat held in Maiduguri, Bornu State. HYPREP Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey was among dignitaries that planted trees and handed over gas cylinders to local beneficiaries under the 4-million Tree Planting Campaign and Distribution of Clean-cook Stoves Project of the Bornu State Government, organized on the sideline of the Management Retreat.

The World Mangrove Day is annually celebrated on July 26 and to mark the day, the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey presented an address to highlight the achievements of HYPREP under its Mangrove Restoration Project. We have a feature on the livelihood training programme of the Project put together by a guest writer. Our poetry corner is maintained for your reading pleasure, and we do hope that you will find the August edition of the HYPREP Herald as informative as possible.

News

ENVIRONMENT MINISTER LEADS HYPREP TO UN, SEEKS RENEWED SUPPORT FOR OGONI CLEAN-UP

In the quest to garner more funding and technical support for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) recommended ongoing Environmental remediation and livelihood restoration project being implemented by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) in Ogoniland, the Honourable Minister of Environment and Chairman of the Governing Council of (HYPREP), Balarabe Abbas Lawal, has led a high powered delegation to discuss strategic engagement with the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General (DSG), Her Excellency Amina Mohammed.

The Honourable Minister, who was accompanied by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees (BOT) of the Ogoni Trust Fund, Hon. Emmanuel Deeyah and the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, briefed the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General (DSG), Her Excellency Amina Mohammed at the UN Secretariat in New York, on milestones achieved on the Ogoni Clean-up Project over the past 10 years.

Lawal sought renewed commitment from the UN to the Ogoni Clean-up, describing the Project as a model for the remediation and restoration of oil-impacted communities in Nigeria and globally.

The Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey presented a technical report on the Ogoni Clean-up scorecard, covering achievements in soil and groundwater remediation, shoreline cleanup, mangrove restoration, potable water, public



Nigeria Environment Minister, Balarabe Lawal with UN Dep. Sec. General, H.E. Amina Mohammed in New York

health, livelihoods and sustainable development, the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER), the Ogoni Power Project, linkages and partnerships, peacebuilding and security, transparency and accountability, inclusivity, and innovative research to advance the science and art of environmental restoration.

Prof. Zabbey concluded the presentation by thanking the DSG for the excellent foundation she laid for the Ogoni Clean-up as Minister of Environment, and appealed for sustained UN support to HYPREP.

He specifically asked for the linking of the Project with various UN Agencies, and the need to facilitate the internationalization of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration through research and training, partnerships and collaboration, and support to access

climate funds (e.g., Climate Investment Fund), leveraging HYPREP's large-scale mangrove restoration.

On his part, the BoT Chairman, Ogoni Trust Fund, Hon. Emmanuel Deeyah, appealed to the UN Deputy Secretary-General to support mobilising national and international funds for the Ogoni Clean-up.

The UN DSG, Her Excellency Amina Mohammed, commended the Minister and HYPREP for accelerating the Ogoni Clean-up, the impressive biodiversity recovery observed, infrastructural development, and efforts to restore the livelihoods of the people.

She reassured continued support for the clean-up and the Project's broader efforts towards environmental sustainability, and commended the Project's inclusive model, promising that she will visit HYPREP project

sites.

The Honourable Minister's entourage also paid a visit to the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the UN in New York, where useful development discussions were held with the mission's Deputy Ambassador, His Excellency, Martin Adamu.

The Ogoni Clean-up was launched by the Federal Government of Nigeria on June 2, 2016, in Bodo, Gokana Local Government Area, when the UN DSG, Amina Mohammed was Minister of Environment.

This strategic visit to the DSG follows the Project's effort to continue to foster engagement with strategic partners, including the

UN towards the effective and holistic implementation of its mandate in Ogoni.

In May 2026, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) in conjunction with the Ogoni Trust Fund Inc and the Federal Ministry of Environment hosted a high-level Conference on Donor Facilitation and Diplomatic Support Engagement in Abuja to mobilize global financial and technical partnerships for environmental restoration in Ogoniland.

The initiative is further aimed at rallying international partners, multilateral institutions, donor organizations, and the diplomatic community to support the Ogoni

Clean-up Project.

In his keynote address at that event, the Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal had reaffirmed the Federal Government's commitment under the Renewed Hope Agenda to the acceleration of the Ogoni Clean-up Project, and thanked the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for laying the scientific foundation of the Project.

Similarly, the European Union Deputy Ambassador to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Zissimos Vergos, had reaffirmed institutional and diplomatic support for the Ogoni Clean-up, describing it as a critical human and environmental mission.



Environment Minister, Lawal and His Entourage in Talks with UN Dep. Sec. General, H.E. Amina Mohammed and Her Team in New York

HIGH DEMAND SKILLS: PROF. ZABBEY TASKS 2300 Ogoni TRAINEES ON COMMITMENT TO TRAINING

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has flagged off the induction for two thousand three hundred (2300) trainees of Ogoni extraction in different high demand skills with a charge on beneficiaries to take the training seriously and be ready to utilize the acquired skills for personal and societal development.

Speaking at the week-long orientation programme held at different locations in and outside Ogoni, the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey congratulated the trainees, urging them to commit themselves wholly to the training by attending classes regularly, conducting themselves appropriately and demonstrating high-level discipline throughout the training and beyond.

The Project Coordinator also appealed to the trainees to ensure they put the specialized technical skills that would be acquired to use, expressing confidence that they will be sought after, considering the nature and high demands for the skills they are being trained in.

He reminded the beneficiaries that their selection went through a rigorous, transparent and merit-based process that had 17 thousand applications, but 10 thousand applicants were shortlisted for the computer-based test, adding that at the end of the six-month training designed to meet international standards, successful trainees will be issued professional certificates that will be recognized anywhere they are presented.

“I congratulate all of you, who



Cross Section of Mud Logging Trainees During their Induction

emerged through the transparent selection process, the online test. I believe you will not take this opportunity for granted, because there are so many of our young people that are desirous of being given the opportunity you have today. Please, be committed to the training; ensure you attend classes, don't peddle rumours or assume things, maintain your integrity and be ready to be among the successful persons that will use the acquired skills to help yourself for the growth and development of Ogoni, and the Niger Delta,” Prof. Zabbey said.

The Project Coordinator, who was represented by the Head, Sustainable Livelihoods, Mrs. Josephine Nzidee, reassured the trainees of HYPREP's commitment to funding their training for the six months, including provision of transport (stipends) reimbursement to them.

“This training gives you the opportunity of securing employment in the oil and gas industry. And let me also remind you that the training

programme forms part of HYPREP's sustainable livelihood restoration initiatives, aimed at building local technical capacity and creating employment opportunities for the teeming youths of Ogoni,” the Project Coordinator emphasized.

Presentations were made by the various professionals engaged for the different training courses, during which they explained the objectives of the training and outlined the training procedures and modules for the participants in the different fields.

They also emphasized the need for dedication on the part of the trainees, reminding them that 100% attendance is required of them, assuring them of their preparedness to provide the best of classroom work and field practical to participants.

The consultants commended HYPREP for initiating and fully funding the programmes that ordinarily would have been a huge financial burden on individuals, saying that by giving the Ogoni youth skills, they are being prepared to be

engaged by the multinationals gearing up for oil production in Ogoniland.

Also speaking, Prof. Lovina Odoemelum commended HYPREP for committing such huge fund into providing skills to the teeming Ogoni youths, appealing to the consultants to put in their best in ensuring that the trainees are given the required attention in class and during field

engagement.

Prof. Odoemelum who is on sabbatical in HYPREP also urged participants to ensure strict compliance to rules and regulations on the training, reminding the trainees of the significance and benefits of the skills they will acquire.

The HYPREP funded livelihoods high demand skills include Mud

Logging, Software Development, Animation and Graphics Design, Ship Fabrication, Full Stack Development, and Cyber Security. The rest are GIS/Crowd Mapping, Rope Access, and Rigging.

The trainees were selected from different communities in the four Local Government Areas (Eleme, Tai, Gokana and Khana) of Ogoni.

Officials of HYPREP with Trainees in High Demand Skills during their Induction



HYPREP PARTNERS NGO ON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROMOTION IN NIGER DELTA

As discussions on climate change mitigation and adaptations continue to gain global attention, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is advancing sustainable collective action to promoting constructive dialogue, environmental sustainability, hydrocarbon pollution remediation, and community empowerment in the Niger Delta.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey is confident such collaborations will further enhance local capacity for better environmental management and promotion as well as ensure livelihoods and sustainable development in the region.

This, Prof Zabbey noted, informs HYPREP's partnership with the Lekeh Development Foundation, a non-governmental organization and other stakeholders for a community-driven, cleaner, healthier and more resilient

Niger Delta, which is one of the goals of HYPREP as enshrined in its Establishment Gazette 2016.

Prof. Zabbey stated this in Port Harcourt at the Niger Delta Climate Change Conference (NDCCC) 2026, organized by the NGO, with the theme: ***UNITE FOR JUSTICE: NIGER DELTA COMMUNITIES RISE FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND REPARATIONS***, stressing that such a platform offers valuable opportunities for government institutions, development partners, the academia, civil societies, and host communities to share knowledge, strengthen partnership, and develop practical solutions for environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

He remarked that the HYPREP Phase 1 Mangrove Restoration Project, where over 1.5 million mangrove seedlings were planted across 560 ha underscores the Project's commitment to Nigeria's

Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to climate change mitigation and adaptation, while calling for greater efforts in preserving mangroves in the region given their numerous benefits to the environment and livelihoods.

In attendance were the Minister of Regional Development, Engr. Abubakar Momoh, who was represented by his SA, Fred Odika; Vice Chancellor, Federal University of Environment and Technology, Prof. Prince Chinedu Mmom, Executive Director, Health of Mother Earth Foundation, Rev. Nnimmo Bassey; Director of Amnesty International in Nigeria, Isah Sanusi; a Director from the International Secretariat of Amnesty International, Mark Dummett; the Executive Director of Miideekor, Dr. Celestine Akpobari; and representatives of Civil Society Organizations.



HYPREP Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey (M) Flanked on the Left by Rev Nnimmo Bassey and on the Right by Dr. Celestine Akpobari During the Niger Delta Climate Change Conference held in Port Harcourt

CLIMATE CHANGE COALITION COMMENDS HYPREP ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION EFFORTS

A coalition of local and international Civil Society organizations has again expressed satisfaction with the cumulative achievements of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) in the implementation of the UNEP recommended environmental remediation and livelihood restoration Project in Ogoni.

Leaders of the various Non-Governmental Organizations gave the commendation during a tour of some key facilities and remediation sites of the Project. Some of the sites visited include the mangrove restoration site in Bomu community, Gokana LGA; Centre of Excellence for



Ghana Coordinator, African Just Transition Network, Marina Ayetimeyor Plants Mangrove at Bomu Creek

Environmental Restoration (CEER), in Wiiyaakara, Khana LGA; and the soil and groundwater remediation site in Ogale, Eleme LGA.

While at the mangrove restoration site, leaders of the group took turns to plant mangrove seedlings. They include the Executive Director/Founder of Women in Action for Positive Development and Gender Enhancement Centre (WAPDAGEC), Prof. Lady Roibito Ekpiken-Ekanem; Consultant to the Minister of Regional Development, Prof. Magnus Onouha; Ghana Coordinator, African Just Transition Network, Marina Agortimeyor; representative of Amnesty International, London, Mark Dummett; and Executive Director of Lekeh Development Foundation, Friday Barilule Nbani.

Other representatives of the civil society groups numbering over 50, on the HYPREP facility tour, include the Executive Director of Society for Women and Youths Affairs (SWAYA), Dr. Stella Amanie; a Professor of Environmental Education, University of Port Harcourt, Prof. Mbales Onyeka Festus; and the Paramount Ruler of Kaani Community, HRH, Chief G. B. Apere, Gbeneakpa X11.

In separate speeches, the Civil



Representative of Amnesty Int'l, London, Mark Dummett Plants Mangrove at Bomu Creek

society leaders said they are impressed with the remediation efforts leading to the return of aquatic life (biodiversity) in the area, particularly, the mangrove restoration sites where HYPREP is carrying out extensive mangrove planting, expressing delight with the sighting of thriving mangrove vegetation along the Bomu coastline and locals picking periwinkles.

“We have seen the good works on ground here at the mangrove restoration site. Some of us have been here on several occasions, and we can see the changes now, particularly, the local people picking periwinkles. We will go and develop our key performance indicators, based on what we have seen, but we commend HYPREP for what is on ground here, and the numerous livelihoods programmes carried out,” Nbani said.

Collaborating the statement by the Executive Director of Lekeh Development Foundation, Mr. Friday Nbani, the Ghana Coordinator, Africa Just Transition, Marina Agortimeyor,

said they have heard the success stories of HYPREP works in Ogoniland in the media, and have decided to come and see and engage with the Project.

She noted that the HYPREP facility tour was part of activities for the groups that were in Port Harcourt for the 4th Annual Niger Delta Climate Change Conference themed: “Unite for Justice: Niger Delta communities Rise for Climate Action and Reparations.”

While commending the construction of the magnificent Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, the group expressed confidence that the HYPREP vision will be sustained and that the expectations of stakeholders of the Project will not be compromised, urging the management of HYPREP not to lower the quality of any of the projects, instead work for their sustainability.

The Livelihoods Programmes of HYPREP were not left out, as the

visitors lauded the various initiatives through which thousands of Ogoni natives, including women and the youths have been trained and empowered in high demand skills, and pledged their willingness to collaborate with HYPREP in areas of manpower and institutional development.

HYPREP Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, had earlier enumerated the various activities and achievements of the Project, assuring the CSO members of sustained commitment by the HYPREP team, to fully deliver on the Project mandate, adding that at the moment, HYPREP has even surpassed the UNEP recommendations with its concurrent execution of the recommended activities and additional funded livelihoods initiatives.

The Project Coordinator, who was represented by the Head of Environmental Remediation, Friday Raphael Saue, expressed delight at the coming of the civil society groups,



Coalition of Local and International CSOs at Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, Wiiyaakara

reiterating HYPREP's readiness to work with development partners and the need for support for the Project.

He explained that while the Ogoni Specialist Hospital and the Ogoni Power Project have reached advanced stages of completion, the Buan Cottage Hospital will soon be commissioned, in addition to the success story of the provision of reticulated potable water in over 50 Ogoni communities.

Mr. Saue also acknowledged the acceptance and ownership of the Project by Ogoni communities, which, he said, significantly aided HYPREP's commitment to completing projects and facilities in the area, disclosing

that the second phase of the mangrove restoration and remediation work has commenced, and there will be increased presence of HYPREP staff and contractors in the respective communities in the coming days.

Also speaking, the Team Lead, Mangroves Restoration, Dr. Uche Izuchukwu said HYPREP has restored over 560 hectares of shoreline and planted over 1,537,885 seedlings of different species of mangrove, achieving an impressive 90% survival rate despite environmental challenges, adding that there is increased participation of community workers in the clean-up activities, thus generating income for themselves and their

dependents.

Dr. Izuchukwu explained that under the mangrove restoration project, community people have been trained as Mangroves Vanguard, 45% of whom are women, who were taught in the arts and science of mangrove nursery set-up and provided them with start-up grants.

"The second phase of the project covers 27 to 28 restoration lots across 7 communities, and there is a community-led green economy where at least 50% of the seedlings are sourced from the local nurseries," he said.

MORE SIGNS OF BIODIVERSITY RECOVERY IN OGONI CREEKS

There are growing indications that the shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration project being carried out by the Hydrocarbon pollution remediation project (HYPREP) in Ogoni is yielding desired results as more seafood and other biodiversity are beginning to resurface in the once polluted creeks.

In following up with the installation of bloody cockle beds on the tidal flats of Bomu, the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey, recently led some technical officers on the Fisheries Restoration Project to introduce more bloody cockles on the culture bed setups.

Prof. Zabbey observed that the earlier introduced bloody cockles are thriving and fast acclimatizing to the new environment.

During the process, gobies (locally called kpulu) and African mud crabs (locally called kokoo) were seen



Prof. Zabbey Displays Goby Fish Indicating Return of Biodiversity to Restored Bomu Creek

on the tidal flat. The other species sighted during a benthic sample collection was a juvenile razor clam (*Tagelus adansonii*). It is a tasty shellfish that is now very scarce in the Niger Delta. The species was locally extinct in Ogoni due to human activities, including oil pollution. There were also specimens of indicator bivalve, likely the Niger

Delta endemic lucine (*Keletistes rhizoecus*).

These are indicator species, and their gradual return to the creeks of Ogoni further underscores significant biodiversity recovery in the region, validating the gains of HYPREP's Shoreline Cleanup and Mangrove Restoration Project in the area.

MANGROVE RESTORATION: HYPREP ASSURES COMMUNITIES OF MORE BENEFITS IN PHASE 2

As the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) prepares for Phase 2 of its mangrove restoration project in Ogoni, the Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has assured communities of their active participation and the benefits they stand to gain.

Prof. Zabbey gave the assurance during an inspection visit to mangrove nurseries set up by trained HYPREP Mangrove Vanguard in Bomu, Bodo, and Gbe communities in Gokana Local Government Area, and expressed delight at the quality of

seedlings they have nurtured.

He explained that HYPREP has put in place a robust framework that will not only ensure the transfer of the arts and science of mangrove nursery management and planting but also empower local communities through the off-taking of seedlings by contractors.

In January, HYPREP trained 70 Mangrove Vanguard recruited from 7 Ogoni communities, including Bomu, Bodo, K-Dere, Gbe, Kpor, Lewe, and Goi. The training was an empowerment initiative of HYPREP. In addition to the skills acquired, the

Mangrove Vanguard were given grants to start up mangrove nurseries in their various communities.

The training also equipped them to maintain viable mangrove nurseries for planting and commercial purposes, and to train others.

The Mangrove Vanguard will also serve as Ambassadors of Mangrove Restoration and Conservation in Ogoni, as part of HYPREP's sustainability measures.

Prof Zabbey was accompanied on the visit to other mangrove sites in Bomu by a Portuguese professional filmmaker, Salome Lamas.



Prof. Zabbey in Company of other Officials Inspects Mangrove Nurseries Set up by HYPREP Trained Mangrove Vanguard

PROF. ZABBEY CALLS ON ACADEMICS TO EXPLORE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES IN OGONI CLEAN-UP PROJECT

As the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) continues its accelerated impact in Ogoni communities, the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey has urged scholars of Ogoni extraction to take advantage of research opportunities that abound on the Ogoni Clean-up Project.

Prof. Zabbey gave the advice at the Uniport Ogoni Assembly (UOA) Get-together organized for all sons and daughters of Ogoni in the University of Port Harcourt, and appealed to them to support the cleanup project, which he said is a transformative journey that requires the input of every person in Ogoni, including those in diaspora.

"We are doing everything concurrently. So, everybody should contribute to what is going on. And as Ogonis working in this university, you have a lot to contribute. For example, those in the teaching segment of this university can encourage their students to do research that will be focused on the clean-up.

"I was in the creek yesterday. Interesting recovery is taking place. Those in Animal and Environmental Biology, Fisheries and all that can encourage their students to focus their research on the cleanup sites. Even those who are into Conflicts, Gender Studies, Law, we want to see, and get explanation to why we are seeing the pattern of litigation that we see in association with the clean-up.

"We want to see how our Central Representative Advisory Committee, CRAC, and the Zonal Representative Committee have been able to prevent



Prof. Zabbey

conflict in Ogoni. It could lead to developing models that other communities would learn from, because what we are doing in Ogoni is basically developing a template that will be replicated in other parts of Nigeria. And so, we must seize this opportunity to do a lot of cutting-edge research that will contribute, not just to national development, but to advancing knowledge of remediation globally. So, everybody has a role to play. So, I want to encourage you to support what we are doing," he stated.

The HYPREP Coordinator further explained that the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER) has reached advanced stage of completion, and will soon be commissioned for full operationalization, adding that the CEER is a hybrid center that also has the Integrated Contaminated Soil Management Center (ICSMC), and it

is where cutting-edge innovative research in remediation and restoration will take place, stating that the Centre will be an international hub for research.

He pointed that the Centre also has a Faculty for Vocational Skill Acquisition, where Ogoni youths and women, and other Nigerian youths will be trained from time to time and will attract development to the area.

"The CEER is not a building. It's a campus sitting on 28.8 hectares with very interesting facilities, and it's currently 96% complete and we expect that before the end of the year, Mr. President will come and commission the Center and the Ogoni Specialist Hospital," Prof. Zabbey disclosed.

The Project Coordinator stated that the Federal Government is determined to clean up Ogoni, and that the current administration has given



Cross Section of Members of Uniport Ogoni Assembly

HYPREP a charge to accelerate the Ogoni clean-up, and that is exactly what has been going on in the past three years, reassuring the people that the cleanup of Ogoni will continue to go on well.

According to him, HYPREP has done a lot in the implementation of the UNEP recommendation, from land remediation that involves soil and groundwater remediation, through shoreline cleanup, mangrove restoration, building a Center of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, to strengthening public health services and existing health facilities in Ogoni, building the 43-bed Buan Cottage Hospital, the Ogoni Specialist Hospital, and even the recently launched comprehensive human biomonitoring of Ogoni that the World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer is carrying out in Ogoni, that will last for three years.

He further explained that although the United Nations

Environment Programme's Report that HYPREP is implementing recommended that potable water be provided for impacted communities, but HYPREP feels that access to potable water is a fundamental human right, and that every Ogoni community should have access to potable water.

“So, as we speak, over 42 communities already have access to potable water. We are constructing another 26 water headworks and 9 booster stations that will reticulate potable water to additional 70 communities. So, by the grace of God, by this time next year, every community in Gokana and Tai would have had access to potable water. At least 88% of Khana would have had access to potable water. Then of course, we are building the Ogoni Power Project, and the essence of the power project is to contribute to sustaining all the facilities, and also to stimulating the local economy in Ogoni. Because access to electricity is

very, very important in terms of maintaining the water facilities and all the facilities we are putting in place in Ogoni.

“In the area of livelihoods, we are doing a lot. We've given scholarships to graduate students. The second batch has been awarded and they will receive the money any moment from now. Of course, we are doing a lot of training for our people, because human capital development is the foundation of sustainable development. And so, investing a lot in building the capacity of Ogoni youth and women is very, very important in terms of sustainability, in terms of the economic rebirth of Ogoni. And so, apart from the over 5000 Ogoni youths and women that we have trained in various skills in the past two years, we have now graduated to the high-demand skills. So currently, we are training Ogoni youths and women in mechatronics.”

Prof. Zabbey also stated that HYPREP has trained 100 Ogoni youths in Seafaring, and another 100 in Creative Arts with the selection of another batch of trainees in the recently concluded computer-based tests for training in Software Development, Cybersecurity, Mud logging, Full-stack Development, Animation, GIS and Crowd Mapping to ensure that no segment of the Ogoni population is left behind.

He also informed the gathering that currently 300 persons living with disabilities are being trained in five skill areas.

“Just two weeks ago, if you have been following our activities, I was with some of them in Bori, at the Ken Saro-Wiwa Polytechnic, where they are learning Fashion Designing, Shoemaking, Computer Appreciation.



Cross Section of Members of Uniport Ogoni Assembly

And our training comes with startup kits or what they call starter packs, providing them with aids that will enable them to establish their businesses and contribute to their families and community,” he said.

He said HYPREP believes nobody should be left behind. So, it gives attention to the underserved population, and for those that cannot work, when they conclude the training in the next three months, they would be given wheelchair and money to

start up their businesses.

To ensure that there is sustainable power in Ogoni, he said HYPREP invested in the Ogoni Power Project, to connect every Ogoni community to electricity supply, and that the Ogoni Power Distribution Study has been completed, and will be going into the next phase of the Power Project, without necessarily waiting for the completion of the transmission phase.

Prof. Zabbey commended organizers of the event for the

initiative and promised to support efforts that promote peace and unity in Ogoni. The Get-together, which was the first in recent years, offered members opportunity to collectively unwind.

In attendance were the Paramount Ruler of Barako Community and Member, Uniport Governing Council, HRH Kadilo Kabari; President of KAGOTE, Chief Lesi Maol; Prof Ben Naanen, among other academic and non-academic staff of the university.

HYPREP RESTATES COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH IN OGONI

Pursuant to its commitment to enabling access to quality healthcare services through strengthening of public health facilities in Ogoni, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has provided state-of-the-art medical equipment and accessories to the Onne Primary Health Centre in Eleme LGA, one of the four (4) Government facilities in its phase 2 Public Health Strengthening

Initiative.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey who was at the hospital to inspect the newly installed facilities, noted that the medical equipment will greatly improve quality healthcare delivery in the community, as they will enable the people have access to medical care and also boost the efficiency of health personnel working in the Health

Centre.

“It is one thing to have a beautiful hospital building, but it is another thing to have the right equipment that will enable health personnel to do their work effectively. This is a health centre, but the equipment we have provided is more advanced than what is available in many General Hospitals”, he stated.

While explaining that the



Prof. Zabbey Inspects Medical Equipment Donated by HYPREP to Onne Primary Health Centre

provision of the equipment was in response to the needs assessment of the hospital, he urged the facility manager and the community to protect the facilities.

"We want to come back here in a couple of years and see all these facilities intact and being utilized to provide quality healthcare services to the people. That requires community ownership - protecting the equipment and sensitizing the community to understand that this is for the public good. It belongs to them, and they should ensure that nothing happens to it. It also requires partnership between the community and the health managers.

"The reason is because if there is no proper ownership, then before you know it, many things will happen. But if the community owns this facility, takes stock, takes inventory of the equipment here, and visits from time to time to see how the equipment is being managed by the health

professionals. We are not saying they should interfere with the operations. We are saying the community should own the facility because it is for the people. It is for the benefit of the community members and other patients who will come here to seek medical help."

He added that the Project will continue to strengthen its collaboration with the Rivers State Government through the Ministry of Health in the areas of strengthening personnel and providing protective oversight to ensure that all the equipment remains intact and being used optimally for the benefit of the people.

Prof. Zabbey stressed that HYPREP multi-sectoral approach in the clean-up programme is improving the general wellbeing of the people. For instance, the provision of potable water, land remediation, groundwater treatment, shoreline clean-up, mangrove restoration, construction of

the Ogoni Specialist Hospital and the Cottage Hospital in Buan, the various livelihood programmes and job creations are improving the well being and health of the people, he noted.

"We are happy that we are taking a holistic approach to implementing all the recommendations of the UNEP Report. It is not only about health services. It is also about improving the quality of the environment and providing potable water. We are building potable water facility here in Onne. When it is completed, the people will have access to clean drinking water. As they drink potable water, many illnesses associated with poor water quality will be eliminated. If anyone does become sick, they will have access to quality public health facilities. So, the approach is truly comprehensive.

"At the same time, we are remediating the contaminated environment. We are planting mangroves and about to launch the

Greening Ogoni Initiative, through which we will encourage our people to plant economic trees, especially species that are becoming increasingly scarce. While protecting biodiversity and preventing the local extinction of trees that support livelihoods, these trees will also improve air quality.

"In collaboration with the former artisanal refiners, there has not been any incident of illegal refining along the coastline of Ogoni. This means issues relating to poor air quality have been significantly addressed. We achieved this through a non-kinetic approach by engaging young people in intelligence gathering, employing them as community security personnel, and creating direct jobs for them. So far, we have created over 7000 direct jobs.

"We have also established some of our base camps for mangrove restoration and shoreline up. In the coming weeks, more than 1500 Ogoni youths will be employed, increasing the total number of jobs created to nearly 9000," The Project Coordinator explained.

The Medical Officer of the Modern Primary Health Centre, Onne, Dr. Boma Banigo and the Chairman of the Community Development Committee of Onne, Mr. Godfrey Maate, both commended HYPREP on upgrading the health facility.

In his words, Dr Banigo recalled thus: "We are all aware when this facility was built across the state, over ten, fifteen years ago, it was fully equipped, but over time, the equipment, even with all the effort of government to replenish from time to time, was never enough. And this intervention of HYPREP is timely.

"We have been managing with what we have. But the upgrade



Prof. Zabbey Inspects Medical Equipment Donated by HYPREP to Onne Primary Health Centre

HYPREP has done now, I mean it is state of the art. It is the best you can find in any government or private hospital around this Local Government, if not the state." Dr. Banigo promised that the hospital will make optimal use of the equipment.

Mr. Maate, acknowledging the extensive upgrade of the facility, confirmed that the Health Centre is one of the best in the area, and assured that the community will synergize with the management to protect the hospital and sensitize the community to access quality healthcare services.

The Model Primary Health Centre, Onne has 24 hours solar powered electricity provided by HYPREP. Other equipment provided by HYPREP for the Centre include:

Digital Electrocardiograph (ECG) Machine, Hormone Analyzer, Full Digital Color 4D Ultrasound System with 4 probes (Convex, transvaginal, linear and volume), wheelchair, air conditioner, Patient Monitor, Finger Pulse Oximeter, Blood Oxygen Heart Rate Monitor, Anesthetic Face Mask, Laryngoscope set (Pediatrics & Adult)

GIMA, Digital Blood Pressure BP Test Monitor Sphygmomanometer and Diving Desktop Mercury Manual Sphygmomanometer.

The rest are Medical Stethoscope (Littman Classic 11 Medical stethoscope, Cardiology Stethoscope), Digital Thermometer, Manual Thermometer, Injection Tray, Drip set, 2540EAT Tutt Nauer 2540EA Autoclave Sterilizer and Stream 18L Potable Autoclave Sterilizer. Others are Glucometer, Fetal Monitor and Water baths, Standard General Examination Table, Special Gynecology Examination Bed (Delivery Bed), Electric Suction Machine Double Bottle Shadowless LED 700 mobile theatre light with battery backup, Diathermy Cautery Machine, hospital bed, Benches for out-patient with Trolley, Oxygen Cylinder with Trolley, Stabilizer, incubator (Cooling and hot), Refrigerator and Freezer, Oxygen Concentrator, Printers, Desktops among others.

HYPREP SEEKS STAKEHOLDERS' PARTNERSHIP FOR OGO NI DEVELOPMENT

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey has reiterated the commitment of the Project towards achieving sustainable peace and development across Ogoniland.

Prof. Zabbey gave the assurance in his goodwill message to the leadership and members of the Gbaaloo Nyo-Khana Social Cultural Community Group, on their 4th Annual Unity Conference held at Stone Mountain, Georgia, USA.

He informed the Ogoni group in diaspora that HYPREP remains committed to partnering the association and all stakeholders to promoting peace-building and inclusive development across Ogoniland, and that he is pleased to

inform them that HYPREP was already implementing impactful projects in Nyo-Khana.

While appealing to them as sons and daughters of Ogoni to continue working together for the progress of Nyo-Khana and Ogoni in general, he emphasized that their shared responsibility should be to promote unity, peace, and collaboration for sustainable development in the various communities.

“As we continue this journey, your support as a diaspora community remains invaluable, particularly in tackling misinformation, resolving disputes and sustaining progress. We urge you to actively support peacebuilding efforts, which are a critical component of HYPREP's mandate. Many of the challenges we face as a project, including complex

land disputes and chieftaincy issues, can be effectively addressed through your constructive engagement and intervention,” he said.

The Project Coordinator commended the Gbaaloo Nyo-Khana Social Cultural Community Group for their show of commitment to unity and HYPREP's efforts to advance Ogoni, noting that the event was deeply significant, as it reinforces the enduring spirit of togetherness, cultural identity and collective responsibility among the Nyo-Khana people in the diaspora.

He expressed sincere appreciation to the group for conferring on him the *Distinguished Environmental Leadership and Sustainable Development Award*, in recognition of HYPREP's efforts towards



Members of the Gbaaloo Nyo-Khana Social Cultural Community Group, USA

environmental and livelihood restoration in Ogoni, noting that the recognition brings honour and pride to HYPREP, and further strengthens the Project's resolve to the sustainable implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) recommendations and the objectives enshrined in the HYPREP Establishment Gazette 2016, in the interests of all stakeholders, particularly the Ogoni people.

According to him, "the theme of the 4th Annual Unity Conference resonates strongly with HYPREP's vision for restoration, peace and sustainable development in Ogoniland. Indeed, "Gbaaloo", meaning unity, remains a critical pillar of progress. It is this spirit of unity that will propel the people of Nyo-Khana and the wider Ogoni to greater heights.

HYPREP remains committed to partnering with your association and all stakeholders to promote peace-building and inclusive development across Ogoniland. I am pleased to inform you that HYPREP is already implementing several impactful projects in Nyo-Khana."

While encouraging the people to seek accurate updates on project activities through HYPREP's official

communication channels, including the social media platforms and documentaries, he used the opportunity to enumerate some giant strides by HYPREP in the last three years.

The Project Coordinator said "HYPREP is working hard to provide all Ogoni communities with potable water, and that as of today, 50 communities across Ogoniland have access to clean, safe drinking water, adding that HYPREP's core mandate, including soil and groundwater remediation, shoreline cleanup, and mangrove restoration, have advanced significantly. Notably, we are witnessing the gradual return of aquatic life, a clear sign of ecosystem recovery. To sustain this progress, we are intensifying research to ensure that all project objectives in this area are fully realized."

He added that, HYPREP constructed the UNEP-recommended Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, which will house the Integrated Contaminated Soil Management Centre, and that the Ogoni Power Project is progressing steadily, while the 43-bed Cottage Hospital in Buan has been completed, and the

construction of the Ogoni Specialist Hospital is 78.6% complete.

The Project Coordinator said HYPREP has also carried out various public health interventions, including medical outreaches, strengthening hospitals and health centres, and delivering ambulances to hospitals across Khana, Gokana, Tai, and Eleme Local Government Areas, in addition to the livelihood restoration initiatives, which have also achieved remarkable success, with over 5,000 Ogoni youths trained in various skills in the first phase, and over 7,000 Ogoni youths engaged as community workers across more than 100 project sites across Ogoni.

Prof. Zabbey informed the Ogonis in diaspora that the second phase of HYPREP's livelihood restoration effort is ongoing, with over 2300 youths and women benefiting from the intervention, including 300 persons living with disabilities, adding that the current phase of high-demand skill training for Ogoni youth and women includes Cybersecurity, Mudlogging, Rope Access, Software Development, GIS and Crowd Mapping, Full-stack Development, Mechatronics, and Animation.

PHASE 2 MANGROVE RESTORATION: HYPREP DIRECTOR URGES SYNERGY BETWEEN PROJECT STAFF, CONTRACTORS

The Director, Technical Services, Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Prof. Damian-Paul Aguiyi has appealed to contractors engaged to plant mangroves in the Phase 2 of the Mangrove Restoration Project to ensure synergy between them and field officers of the Project.

Prof. Aguiyi, who stated this at the Mangrove Phase 2 Planting Contractors Meeting held at the Project Office in Port Harcourt, also emphasized that contractors meet all pre-mobilization activities and requirements to ensure smooth commencement of work at the various sites.

He disclosed that site activities are

expected to commence in the coming weeks, and all hands must be on deck to ensure smooth take-off, assuring HYPREP's commitment to provide the necessary support.

On his part, the Head of Environmental Remediation Unit, Mr. Friday Raphael Saue said documentations by contractors must be met and that all challenges

experienced by contractors must be communicated immediately to HYPREP.

He assured contractors that security will be adequately provided, but they must work according to set rules and guidelines of the Project.

Also, the Team Lead on Mangrove Restoration, Dr. Uche Izuchukwu explained the status of base camp set-up in the various communities, which includes; Gbe, Bodo, Bomu, Lewe, Goi, Kpor, and K-Dere.

He stated that the aim of the meeting was to learn, interact and seek ways of achieving success in the Phase 2 Mangrove Restoration Project, and charged the contractors to work with HYPREP supervisors and Community Development Officers (CDOs).

On the need to provide guidelines on community engagement to the

contractors, the Head, Stakeholders Engagement, Mr. Richard Mkpee said the revised document had just been launched by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal, and would be distributed to contractors very soon.

Mr. Mkpee also explained that it is the responsibility of the CDOs to take the contractors to the communities and not the other way round.

In his contribution, the CDO for Gokana, Mr. Peter Zabbey informed that Goi, Bomu, Gbe and Bodo sites have been cleared for base camps set-up, requesting that contractors should be provided with local security phone numbers.

On HSE Pre-Mobilization activities, the HSE officer, Dr. Boma Amadi emphasized the need for contractors to adhere to PPE specifications, urging them to conduct

induction for community workers, and that no contractor should use auxiliary nurse on site.

She explained the need to obtain Permit to Work (PTW) before commencement of work, reminding contractors to submit their mangrove planting plan to HYPREP, and to collect accurate HSC statistics and to submit same also.

An expert in mangrove restoration, Prof. Franklyn Tanen advised the contractors to integrate the communities in their work, particularly in mangrove seedling purchase from the mangrove vanguards who are from the communities, and that contractors are responsible for the transportation of the seedlings from nursery to planting site.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY, CORE VALUES TO HYPREP'S OPERATIONS – PROF. ZABBEY

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey has stated that effective communication, occupational health and safety are fundamental principles driving the implementation of the Ogoni Cleanup Project.

The Project Coordinator made the disclosure at the Professorial thanksgiving, Book launch, and dinner in honour of Prof. Cynthia Obiorah in Port Harcourt, congratulating her as Africa's first Professor of Occupational Health, Safety, and Environment, noting that in demonstration of HYPREP's commitment to the health and safety

of the staff and community workers, the Project has recorded more than 9.8 million man-hours without injuries or fatalities.

Prof. Zabbey commended Prof. Cynthia Obiorah for her outstanding contributions to research, education, and professional practice in occupational health, safety, and environmental management, describing her achievement as remarkable and historic milestone that marks a significant advancement for the occupational health and safety profession across Africa.

He explained that Prof. Obiorah has provided a comprehensive guide, reinforcing the principle that effective communication is indispensable to

building a strong safety culture, preventing workplace incidents, and ensuring the successful implementation of environmental remediation programmes, a principle central to HYPREP's operations.

“As we continue to implement the Ogoni Clean-up, which remains one of the world's most ambitious environmental restoration initiatives, we recognise that technical excellence must be complemented by clear communication, stakeholder engagement, and a commitment to protecting people and the environment,” the Project Coordinator stressed.

HYPREP PARTICIPATES IN FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT'S TOP MANAGEMENT RETREAT

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey has joined the Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal to flag off the 4-million tree planting campaign and the distribution of clean-cook stoves and 5000 cooking gas cylinders and accessories donated by the Executive Governor of Borno State, Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum to school teachers.

The exercise was performed on the sideline of the just concluded Federal Ministry of Environment's Top Management Retreat, held in Maiduguri, Borno State.

Prof. Zabbey also accompanied the Honourable Minister on visits to the headquarters of the Chad Basin National Park in Maiduguri; the Federal College of Forestry, Jere and a courtesy visit to the palace of the Shehu of Bornu, His Eminence Alhaji Dr. Abubakar Ibn Umar Garbai Al-Amin El-Kanemi.

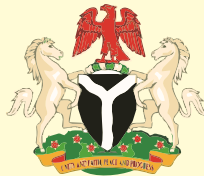
The retreat was declared open by the Executive Governor of Borno State, His Excellency Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum with different speakers presenting papers on Governance and Accountability in the Public Service: Roles and Responsibilities, and Performance Management System: A Driver for Innovative Sectoral Growth and Collaboration, among other lectures.



Prof. Zabbey Plants Tree under the Borno State 4-Million Tree Planting Campaign/Distribution of Clean Cook Stoves



Prof. Zabbey Presents Gas Cylinder to a Beneficiary under the Borno State 4-Million Tree Planting Campaign/Distribution of Clean Cook Stoves



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
HYDROCARBON POLLUTION REMEDIATION PROJECT
(HYPREP)

2026 WORLD MANGROVE DAY: HYPREP INCREASES SYSTEMATIC RESTORATION OF OGONI MANGROVES TO BOOST CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) joins the global community to mark World Mangrove Day, 26 July 2026, reaffirming the Project's commitment to restoring oil-degraded mangroves in Ogoniland and to promoting community-led conservation and citizen stewardship.

As we celebrate this significant day, it is worth noting that HYPREP is combining modern ecological science with traditional knowledge to restore vital mangrove biodiversity in Ogoni communities and engaging local communities in conservation measures, which aligns with this year's theme: "Raise Awareness of the Importance of Mangrove Ecosystems for Sustainable Conservation, Management and Use."

This year's theme reminds us that raising awareness is essential to the sustainable conservation, management and use of mangrove ecosystems, which are among the world's most productive and valuable natural assets. It also emphasises ecosystem resilience, coastal protection and the blue economy. The theme focuses on local restoration highlights, community action and integrated coastal management, all of which HYPREP is committed to and promoting in Nigeria.

HYPREP has made deliberate and concerted efforts in its mangrove restoration programme, recognising the significant benefits mangroves provide to the people of the Niger Delta. Mangroves protect coastlines from erosion and storm surges, improve water quality, provide breeding and nursery grounds for fin fish and shellfish, conserve biodiversity, and store vast amounts of "blue carbon," making them critical in combating climate change. They maintain biogeochemical cycles, provide essential goods, and are excellent sites for recreation, education and spiritual engagement. For the people of the Niger Delta, mangroves are the foundation of livelihoods, food security and climate resilience.

Guided by the recommendations of the 2011 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on the Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland, HYPREP has made remarkable progress in reversing decades of mangrove degradation caused by oil pollution and unsustainable human practices, such as overharvesting for firewood and unregulated conversion for other development. We are proud to announce that Phase 1 of the HYPREP Mangrove Restoration Programme successfully restored 560 hectares of oil-degraded mangrove, achieving over 90 per cent seedling/sapling survival after two years. Monitoring data show an impressive recovery of mangrove-associated fauna. Building on the Phase 1 success, Phase 2 is currently underway across seven communities (Bomu, Lewe, Kpor, K. Dere, Bodo, Goi, and Gbe) in Ogoniland, restoring an additional 438 hectares of degraded mangrove.

Our restoration programme also supports Nigeria's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC 3.0) by enhancing carbon sequestration, strengthening climate resilience and advancing nature-based solutions to climate change. One of HYPREP's landmark achievements is the successful designation of the Ogoni Mangrove Wetland as a Ramsar Site of International Importance, fulfilling another key recommendation of UNEP. This international recognition underscores the ecological significance of the Ogoni mangrove wetlands and serves as a vital enabler of ecotourism investment and

long-term protection.

The ecological and socio-economic benefits of mangrove restoration are already evident in the region. A two-year post-restoration fish stock assessment recorded significant improvements in fish diversity within restored mangrove areas, reflecting the recovery of vital breeding and nursery habitats. Equally encouraging is the return of other biodiversity, with species previously absent from degraded sites now reappearing as the ecosystem recovers. This includes a range of fauna: the reappearance of various crabs, periwinkles, bloody cockles, oysters, shrimps, mudskippers, gobies, and other fin fish in the rehabilitated tidal creeks. We have also implemented systematic control (clearing and removal) of invasive nipa palms from the rehabilitation zones.

Recognising that lasting conservation depends on community ownership, HYPREP has undertaken extensive consultations and awareness campaigns to encourage communities to stop unsustainable mangrove harvesting and adopt more sustainable resource management practices.

To date, our large-scale remediation framework has made historic strides, with HYPREP continuing to champion community-centred initiatives—such as introducing eco-friendly Growcoon nursery bags to replace single-use plastics and distributing 200 low-biomass energy cookstoves as part of a pilot clean-energy initiative—helping conserve mangroves by reducing dependence on mangrove wood for cooking and improving household energy efficiency.

Community empowerment remains central to our restoration efforts. HYPREP has trained more than 160 local women and young people, known as “Mangrove Vanguard,” to run community-managed nurseries and serve as conservation ambassadors. The Mangrove Vanguard establish mangrove nurseries and produce seedlings. These seedlings are purchased from the vanguards for restoration, creating sustainable livelihood opportunities and ensuring a reliable supply of quality planting materials. In addition, 1,380 community workers have earned income through restoration activities, including nipa palm removal, planting native mangrove seedlings, maintenance, and environmental monitoring.

HYPREP remains committed to implementing the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) recommendations to secure lasting environmental health and economic prosperity for the peoples of the Niger Delta and calls on the communities to continue supporting the Project's activities to ensure the successful conservation and sustainability of the provided facilities and other restoration initiatives in the communities.

As we commemorate this important day, HYPREP calls on governments, development partners, civil society, researchers and local communities to strengthen collaboration to protect and sustainably manage mangrove ecosystems. Raising awareness must inspire collective action to safeguard these invaluable ecosystems for future generations. Together, we are restoring degraded landscapes, rebuilding livelihoods, conserving biodiversity and contributing to global climate action.

Let us all renew our commitment to protecting mangrove ecosystems—because when we protect mangroves, we safeguard our environment, our communities and our shared future.

Happy International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem.

Being an address delivered by HYPREP Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey on the occasion of the 2026 World Mangrove Day Celebration.

FEATURE

RESTORING MORE THAN THE ENVIRONMENT: HYPREP'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS IN OGONILAND

By: *Ununuma Favour Nnamdi*

For many Nigerians, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is synonymous with the cleanup of oil-polluted lands and water bodies in Ogoniland. Images of excavators, remediation sites and environmental restoration efforts have come to define the Project in the public imagination. Yet, beyond the visible work of restoring degraded ecosystems lies another story - one that is changing lives, restoring dignity and creating opportunities for the people whose future is inseparable from the land they call home.

Environmental restoration, as envisioned in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report on Ogoniland, was never intended to end with the removal of pollution. It also called for interventions that would engender peace, rebuild communities, strengthen local economies and provide sustainable alternatives for people whose livelihoods have been disrupted by decades of environmental degradation. It is within this broader vision that HYPREP's Sustainable Livelihood Programme continues to play a vital role.

In the last three years, HYPREP, under the leadership of the Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has intensified efforts through a range of carefully designed empowerment programmes aimed at equipping Ogoni people with practical skills, promoting entrepreneurship and preparing communities for a

future beyond environmental remediation. Together, these initiatives reflect a simple but profound reality: restoring the environment also means restoring the people and their sources of livelihoods.

Perhaps the training in high demand skills in Commercial Diving/Underwater Welding, Cybersecurity, Mudlogging, Rope Access, Software Development, GIS and Crowd Mapping, Full-stack Development, Mechatronics, Animation, etc., better illustrates this philosophy. For example, artisanal refining for years was a source of income, albeit illegal; for many young people in Ogoniland despite its devastating environmental consequences. Rather than merely discouraging the practice, HYPREP adopted a restorative approach by providing participants with access to highly specialized training (Commercial Diving/Underwater Welding) that opens doors to careers in the offshore, marine, oil and gas, and industrial construction sectors.

The initiative represents far more than vocational training. It is a deliberate investment in human capital - one that transforms environmental challenges into economic opportunities. By equipping former artisanal refiners with globally relevant skills, HYPREP is helping beneficiaries transition from informal and environmentally harmful activities to sustainable professions capable of improving household incomes while contributing positively

to national development.

This commitment to economic empowerment extends across numerous sectors. While we recognise that no single profession can meet the aspirations of an entire population, the Sustainable Livelihood Programme of HYPREP has diversified the Project's interventions to provide opportunities for different interests, talents and career paths.

So far, HYPREP has organised training programmes in Fish Farming, Fashion Designing, Shoe Making, Photography, Mechatronics, Basic Computer Studies and Air Cabin Crew, etc. Each programme reflects a strategic effort to equip beneficiaries with practical, market-driven skills that encourage entrepreneurship, improve employability and create sustainable sources of income.

Equally significant is the Project's commitment to inclusive development. Through the training of 300 persons with disabilities, HYPREP reaffirmed that livelihood restoration should leave no one behind. The initiative recognises that sustainable development can only be achieved when opportunities are accessible to all, particularly vulnerable members of society whose potentials are often overlooked. By investing in their development, the Project is helping to foster greater economic participation and social inclusion across Ogoniland.

Beyond vocational and entrepreneurial development, HYPREP has also invested in cultivating environmental

consciousness among the younger generation. The second edition of the Environmental Club Quiz Competition for select secondary schools in Ogoniland provided students with a platform to deepen their understanding of environmental sustainability while strengthening critical thinking and academic excellence.

The competition, which culminated on World Environment Day, brought together outstanding schools from the four Ogoni local government areas after weeks of preliminary contests. While Community Secondary School, Yeghe emerged as the overall winner, the true achievement of the initiative lay in its broader purpose of instilling environmental consciousness in these future leaders. By strengthening environmental education and encouraging students to become ambassadors of environmental sustainability within their communities, the programme

reinforces the understanding that lasting restoration depends not only on today's interventions but also on tomorrow's environmental stewards.

Taken together, these initiatives reveal an important dimension of HYPREP's work that often receives less public attention than remediation itself. They demonstrate that environmental restoration is not solely about reclaiming polluted land or rehabilitating contaminated water bodies. It is equally about rebuilding confidence, expanding opportunities and empowering individuals with the skills needed to participate meaningfully in a changing economy.

The diversity of HYPREP's livelihood programmes also reflects an understanding that resilient communities are built through investment in people. Whether by transforming former artisanal refiners into commercial divers and underwater welders, equipping young people with vocational and digital skills, supporting persons with

disabilities or inspiring environmental responsibility among students, HYPREP continues to pursue restoration in its fullest sense - one that embraces both ecological recovery and human capital development.

As Ogoniland steadily progresses on the path of environmental recovery, HYPREP's livelihood interventions serve as a reminder that the ultimate success of restoration cannot be measured by fertile soils and cleaner rivers alone but also in citizens' empowerment, thriving enterprises, educated young people and communities with renewed confidence in their future.

For HYPREP, restoring Ogoniland has never been solely about remediating the environment. It is also about rebuilding lives alongside landscapes, ensuring that when the land heals, the people heal with it.



HYPREP Commercial Diving/Underwater Welding Training for Ogoni Youths

OGONI CLEAN-UP ...HYPREP SPEARHEADING MANGROVE RESTORATION POETRY CORNER

PORT HARCOURT RAINS

By: Kpoobari Nafo

This sky that keeps weeping
Crying all day over changing climate
And would not stop shedding tears
Because season is bereft of one of her twins
And only rain is left
Being bereaved of her sister
She mourns her all-year round
Her face steadily gloomy
Even in her sister's birth period
Instead of celebrating, her eyes always wet
And all her basins in the Delta
Filled to the brim with storm water
So that streets are running
That had no hands in the demise of dry season
Residents too in mass relocation from scene of crime
Flee their homes for fear of arrest, nay being trapped
By the ravaging floods
Maybe the authorities should intervene
And unblock all channels of communication
So that constant messages of downpour
Are swiftly dispatched to the sea.
Rains come to sympathize with a moody cloud
But Port Harcourt rains visit even when the sky is happy.

Editorial Crew

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Photo:HYPREP



THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE

“When the last tree is cut, the last fish is caught, the last river is polluted and when to breathe the air is sickening, you will realize, too late, that wealth is not in bank accounts and that you can't eat money.”

– Alanis Obomsawin

Photo:HYPREP

... for a cleaner and greener Ogoniland

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