



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

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OGONI CLEAN-UP: HYPREP MARKS 10 YEARS OF SUSTAINED COMMITMENT, FLAGS OFF PHASE 2 SHORELINE, MANGROVE RESTORATION



Hon. Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas (7th) and Stakeholders of the Ogoni Clean-up Project Pose with Copies of the Socio-Economic Study Report on Ogoni, Unveiled during the HYPREP at 10 Celebration held at Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration

NIGERIA'S ENVIRONMENT MINISTER OPENS GLOBAL BIENNIAL CLEANUP CONFERENCE WITH OGONI REMEDIATION STORY

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MASSIVE BIODIVERSITY RECOVERY RECORDED IN BOMU CREEK

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**HYPREP
HERALD
NOT
TO BE
SOLD**

THE PC'S DESK



PROF. NENIBARINI ZABBEY
PROJECT COORDINATOR
(HYPREP)

Last month, the Project Coordination Office of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) rolled out the drums to mark a decade of sustained commitment to implementing the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) recommendations for the Ogoni environment. We marked this milestone with ceremonies at two important venues. First, we gathered at the Patrick Waterfront in Bodo City, where the Ogoni Cleanup was flagged off in 2016, to unveil the clean-up permanent monument. We then convened at the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, built by HYPREP in Wiiyaakara, for the main 10th Anniversary Celebration.

It was deeply gratifying to welcome stakeholders and dignitaries from across Ogoni and beyond, who had gathered to witness the visible and impactful progress HYPREP has made. For those who could not attend, I have reproduced the full texts of my addresses delivered in Bodo City and Wiiyaakara in this October 2026

edition of the HYPREP Herald.

Address at Patrick Waterside, Bodo City

"It is my pleasure to welcome once again the Honourable Minister of Environment and Chairman of the HYPREP Governing Council to Ogoni, particularly to this symbolic site, for the unveiling of the Ogoni cleanup flag-off Monument, constructed by HYPREP.

I particularly acknowledge the presence of the Honourable Minister of Regional Development and the Honourable Minister of Budget and National Planning. I also wish to welcome the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Ogoni Trust Funds Incorporated, our respected political leaders, traditional rulers, Ogoni youth and women, all project stakeholders, and other distinguished guests to Bodo City.

This unveiling is one of the activities marking the 10th anniversary of the Ogoni Clean-up, which was officially flagged off here on 2nd June 2016. Ten years is a significant milestone, and it offers all stakeholders an opportunity to visit this historic site to reflect on where we started, where we are today, and where we are going. The Ogoni cleanup implemented by HYPREP is the world's largest remediation project. Our mangrove restoration is also the world's largest restoration of oil-degraded mangrove. It is, therefore, important to preserve the legacy of the Ogoni cleanup with a remodelled permanent monument.

This unveiling ceremony therefore reminds us of the importance of working together as project stakeholders to achieve the objectives for which HYPREP was established.

The restoration of the

environment remains a key focus for HYPREP. We are advancing this through soil and groundwater remediation, shoreline cleanup, ecologically sound and community-based mangrove restoration, innovative research, and the newly constructed Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration.

In line with HYPREP's mandate, we are also working to restore and improve livelihoods, recognising that environmental restoration must go hand in hand with the social and economic wellbeing of the people, in line with the expectations of HYPREP's Governing Council.

Honourable Minister, sir, as you flag off the Phase 2 shoreline cleanup and mangrove restoration, and hand over International Maritime Organization (IMO) and swim certificates to 1420 community workers at this historic site, new jobs have been created, increasing the number of direct jobs created by HYPREP for Ogoni youth and women to over 8500.

One encouraging development we are beginning to witness in HYPREP's environmental restoration effort is the gradual return of fish and other aquatic species, which gives us hope that the restoration is producing visible results. Already, the Ogoni mangrove wetland has been designated a Ramsar Site of International Importance.

However, I wish to use this opportunity to appeal particularly to shoreline communities to protect these gains. Overharvesting poses a serious challenge to the sustainability of aquatic resources in restored areas. As biodiversity returns, we must have a controlled and responsible harvesting system so that we do not consume everything while the restoration

process is still ongoing.

The HYPREP Project Coordination Office will continue to raise awareness among local communities of the dangers of overharvesting and the need to stop indiscriminate mangrove harvesting towards protecting the ecological character of the Ogoni mangrove wetland.

Honourable Minister, sir, as you unveil this Ogoni cleanup monument today, let it remind us of where we started, the progress we have made, and, most importantly, the work that lies ahead.”

Address at the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, Wiiyaakara

“You are warmly welcome to this important stakeholders' engagement event, and it is my pleasure to have you here with us at the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, built by HYPREP, as we commemorate ten years of the Ogoni clean-up.

This Centre is one of the physical signs of the progress being made under HYPREP, and we recognise that your leadership has played an important role in making this vision a reality. There is no better place to mark this milestone than here at the Centre of Excellence, as this facility itself reflects the hard work, commitment and collective efforts of the stakeholders who have contributed to HYPREP's progress.

Today's event offers us an opportunity to reflect on the Ogoni cleanup over the past ten years, to take stock of where we are today, and, importantly, to recognise the contributions of all stakeholders. Since 2023, we have witnessed a significant acceleration in the

implementation of the Ogoni clean-up, following its elevation to a national priority under the Renewed Hope Agenda. This elevation has brought greater momentum to the Project Coordination Office's efforts. The people of Ogoni are deeply grateful to the Federal Government for its renewed commitment to the cleanup.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to inform you that HYPREP has made commendable progress in implementing the UNEP-recommended actions and the directives in the official gazette establishing HYPREP. Honourable Minister, sir, we have achieved remarkable progress in all thematic areas of the Ogoni cleanup, including environmental remediation, mangrove restoration, provision of potable water, strengthening of health services, restoration of livelihoods, and the construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration and the Ogoni Power Project. We are vigorously promoting peacebuilding, security, transparency and accountability in Ogoniland.

HYPREP is proud to carry out this important national assignment and contribute its share to community development efforts in Ogoni and to national development.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the challenges we have faced as a project have been enormous. We have encountered issues relating to community disputes, access to project sites, misinformation, sabotage and other difficulties. However, with the support and cooperation of the stakeholders, we have overcome many of these challenges.

Permit me to conclude on a lighter note, Sir. There were many occasions when we had to come before you with files and explain every detail for your consideration. Just when we thought we had done a good job, you would look at me and say, “Come back tomorrow and provide further clarification.”

While those moments sometimes meant more work for us, they also demonstrated your commitment to ensuring that every decision regarding the Ogoni clean-up is properly considered and that the right course is taken. We sincerely thank you for your leadership, guidance and commitment to HYPREP's success.

Thank you all, and may God bless the work of our hands and bless our dear country, Nigeria!”

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



The Unveiling of Remodeled Ogoni Clean-up Monument at Bodo City, Gokana LGA

In This Issue

The October edition of the HYPREP Herald leads with the exciting story of the celebration of a decade of commitment by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project to the Ogoni Clean-up Project. Activities marking the event were held sequentially at two venues in Bodo City, where the remodeled monument for the Ogoni Clean-up was unveiled by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal, and the main event at the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, Wiiyaakara, same day. The event attracted dignitaries from within and outside Ogoni who made solidarity speeches expressing appreciation for the success recorded by HYPREP in all thematic areas of the Project.

To ensure that project activities are on track and in accordance with regulatory stipulations and standards, the quarterly regulators' meeting was held with a plea from HYPREP on industry players with a watchdog role on the Project to sustain their support for the effective implementation of the UNEP report on Ogoniland.

From far away Australia, we bring you the report of the just concluded 2026 International Cleanup Conference held in Adelaide, Australia where the Honourable Minister of Environment and Chairman, Governing Council of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Balarabe Abbas Lawal, delivered the prestigious Brian

Robinson Lecture to open the Conference.

At the Clean-up Conference was the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, who was conferred with the prestigious crcCARE Fellowship in recognition of his sustained leadership and perseverance in advancing the restoration of Ogoniland, and for bringing together communities, researchers, government and other stakeholders to support collaborative, science-based remediation. Prof. Zabbey also delivered a lecture at the forum on "From Environmental Legacy: Africa, Ogoniland and the Path to Restoration Leadership."

We also have the report on the maiden visit of members of the Governing Council (GC) of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) to project sites across communities in Ogoni. The tour was part of the Council's oversight function on the Project.

Some leaders of Civil Society Organizations were also at HYPREP sites to have firsthand information on the status of project implementation. They were impressed with the success recorded so far and made some proposals on how to increase international stakeholders' participation in the Ogoni Clean-up Project.

In continuation of its service delivery towards attainment of corporate goals, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) commenced the process for the engagement of consultants and service providers for various consultancy and non-consultancy services under the Project. The bid opening exercise was held at the Project Coordination Office in Port

Harcourt.

To strengthen the capacity of staff in emergency response, Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited – a Joint Funder of the Ogoni Clean-up Project, organized a two-day Intensive Fire Warden Training for 30 HYPREP personnel drawn from the different Units of the Project. The training was conducted by officials of the Safety and Emergency Response Department of Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited and held at the company's facility at its Industrial Area in Port Harcourt.

We included in this edition some pictorial evidence of the performance of trainees under the HYPREP Livelihood Training Programme.

The September fish stock assesment of the Project recorded large catch of newer species of fish indicating massive biodiversity recovery at the Bomu creek.

Our poetry corner is maintained for your reading pleasure, and we encourage you to spare some time to go through this edition to keep abreast of our operations.

Happy 66th Nigeria's Independence Anniversary!



Presentation of IMO Level 1 Certificate to a HYPREP Trained Community Worker by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Lawal

News

OGONI CLEAN-UP: HYPREP MARKS 10 YEARS OF SUSTAINED COMMITMENT, FLAGS OFF PHASE 2 SHORELINE, MANGROVE RESTORATION

The Ogoni Clean-up Project was flagged off by the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2016 in compliance with the recommendations of the environmental assessment report on Ogoniland by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The Federal Government had in 2016 set up the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) to implement the recommendations of UNEP with the mandate of remediating oil polluted sites, restoring livelihoods of impacted communities, providing some emergency measures that will improve the living conditions of the people, as well as engendering peace and security in Ogoniland.

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has in keeping with its mandate carried out all the assigned roles in the last ten years, and to mark a decade of sustained commitment to its mandate, the Project Coordination Office rolled out the drums to celebrate the remarkable success recorded so far, with the flag-off of the second phase of shoreline clean-up and mangrove restoration, and the unveiling of the remodeled Ogoni Clean-up plaque at Patrick Waterside at Bodo City in Gokana LGA where the flag off of the clean-up was performed in 2016.

Other highlights of the anniversary include the presentation of International Maritime Organization (IMO) certificates to 1,420 community workers, and the handover of Ogoni Wetlands Ramsar certificates to the Chairmen of the four Local Government Areas of Ogoni,



Lawal

being the custodians of the commonwealth of the people.

The phase 2 shoreline flag off and unveiling of the remodeled plaque, which was done by the Honourable Minister of Environment and Chairman of the HYPREP Governing Council, Balarabe Abbas Lawal, preceded other anniversary activities at the main Auditorium of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration at Wiiyaakara, Khana LGA. They include a video documentary on the transformational cleanup, unveiling of the report on the Socio-Economic Study of Ogoni, Panel Discussion on the topic: “The Ogoni Cleanup: The Journey So Far,” cultural display, and goodwill messages by distinguished personalities.

While unveiling the remodeled clean-up plaque, the Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe

Abbas Lawal, described the monument as a permanent reminder of the Federal Government's commitment to the people of Ogoni, stressing that the return to the historic site after 10 years reaffirms that the government has not abandoned its promise to restore the degraded environment of Ogoni.

According to him, the Federal Government, under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, remains fully committed to implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and restoring the Ogoni environment and livelihoods of the people, noting that the elevation of HYPREP to a national priority since 2023 had accelerated remediation and livelihood restoration activities in Ogoniland.

The Minister commended HYPREP for interventions spanning

soil and groundwater remediation, shoreline cleanup, potable water provision, public health, the Ogoni Power Project, the Ogoni Specialist Hospital, Cottage Hospital in Buan and capacity-building initiatives, urging stakeholders to sustain constructive engagement. He noted that partnership, transparency and mutual respect are essential to ensuring that the benefits of the cleanup reach the people of Ogoni.

Addressing stakeholders at the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, the Honourable Minister said the 10th anniversary provided an opportunity not only to celebrate achievements but also to reflect on outstanding works done and establish a clear direction for the next phase of the intervention, and announced that HYPREP has commenced the development of a five-year Strategic Plan from 2026 to 2031.

The Environment Minister said the plan would provide a roadmap for completing outstanding interventions, sustaining restored ecosystems,



Prof. Zabbey

preventing re-pollution, strengthening community ownership and ensuring that the Project continues to deliver measurable value to the people of Ogoniland.

He further urged that the sustainability and post-remediation management framework for completed HYPREP interventions be strengthened and integrated into the

new Strategic Plan to ensure that investments made by the Federal Government and its partners remain protected and continue to benefit the people.

Lawal reiterated that the Federal Government's objectives in Ogoniland are centred on two fundamental priorities: remediating the degraded environment and restoring the livelihoods and wellbeing of the people, and also acknowledged the contributions of the Ogoni people, traditional and political leadership, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Joint Venture Partners, asset owners, the Ogoni Trust Fund, HYPREP's Governing Council and the Project Coordination Office to the progress recorded over the last decade.

The Minister expressed confidence that the next decade of the intervention would produce stronger evidence of ecosystem recovery, restored livelihoods and improved prosperity across Ogoniland, while reassuring continued funding by the



Engr. Momoh

government and the international oil companies.

On his part, the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, said the second phase of shoreline and mangrove restoration will further deepen ongoing efforts to restore degraded shorelines and mangrove ecosystems in Ogoniland.

Prof. Zabbey disclosed that the 1,420 community workers presented with IMO and swim test certificates were among beneficiaries of HYPREP's livelihood and capacity-building interventions, adding that their engagement had contributed to increasing the number of direct jobs created by the Project for Ogoni youths and women to more than eight thousand five hundred (8,500).

He said HYPREP was beginning to witness encouraging signs of

ecological recovery, including the gradual return of fin fish and other aquatic species to restored areas, noting that the Ogoni mangrove wetland had also been designated a Ramsar Site of International Importance, emphasizing that the development reinforced the need for communities to protect restored ecosystems.

The Project Coordinator consequently appealed to shoreline communities to avoid overharvesting and indiscriminate cutting of mangroves, warning that uncontrolled exploitation could undermine the ecological gains recorded, adding that HYPREP would continue to sensitize communities on responsible resource use and the need to protect the ecological character of the Ogoni mangrove wetland.

Describing the Centre of

Excellence for Environmental Restoration built by HYPREP as one of the physical symbols of the progress recorded under the Ogoni Clean-up, the Project Coordinator said it is expected to support research, training, partnerships and knowledge development in environmental restoration.

Prof. Zabbey said the 10th anniversary was an opportunity to take stock of HYPREP's progress since the commencement of the cleanup, noting that implementation had witnessed significant acceleration since 2023 following the Project's elevation to a national priority under the Renewed Hope Agenda.

He highlighted progress across the Project's major thematic areas, including environmental remediation, mangrove restoration, potable water provision, public health interventions, livelihood restoration, infrastructure development, peace-building, security, transparency and accountability, and acknowledged that despite the resilience and success recorded, HYPREP had faced challenges including community disputes, denied access to project sites, misinformation and sabotage, but said the Project had overcome many of these obstacles through the support and cooperation of stakeholders.

Goodwill messages were delivered by the Honourable Minister of Regional Development, Engr. Abubakar Momoh; Chairman Board of the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, Sen. Magnus Abe, the Senator representing Rivers South-East Senatorial District in the National Assembly, Sen. Olaka Nwogu; the Member representing Khana/Gokana Federal Constituency,



Sen Nwogu

Rt. Hon. Dumnamene Dekor; the Chairman, Board of Trustees, Ogoni Trust Fund Inc., Hon. Emmanuel Deeyah; and the King of Eleme, HRM, Emere Philip Obele.

In their separate speeches, they commended HYPREP for its positive impact on the environment and the people of Ogoni with various deliverables under the Ogoni clean-up, and urged Ogoni people to put aside internal differences and take advantage of the support being provided by the Federal Government to advance the cleanup and development of the area.

They also lauded the Federal Government, the Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal and the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey for their commitment to the success of the Project.

Other dignitaries at the event were the Minister of Budget and National Planning, Abubakar Atiku Bagudu represented by Dr. Sampson Ebimaro; President of KAGOTE, Chief Lesi



Hon. Deeyah

Maol; former President of MOSOP, Legborsi Pyagbara, former Vice Chancellor, Rivers State University, Prof. Barineme Fakae, the King of Tai, HRM, Gbenemene Samuel Nnee; the Founder/Team Lead, Miideekor Environmental Development Initiative, Dr. Celestine Akpobari; President, Ogoni Mothers, Chief Priscilla Vikue; Prof. Walter Ollor; Prof. Ben Naanen; Prof. Ngia Nafo;

former Nigerian Ambassador to the Netherlands, Dr. Oji Ngofa; representatives of Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited, representatives of Civil Society Organizations, traditional rulers, religious leaders, community representatives, women and youth groups, development partners and other stakeholders.



Hon. Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal and Dignitaries at the Remodeled Monument of the Ogoni Clean-up Project, Bodo City, Gokana LGA

HYPREP, A BLESSING TO OGONI - *Abe*



Sen. Abe

Chairman, Board of the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, (NUPRC), Senator Magnus Ngei Abe, has said that the establishment of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), is a blessing to the people

of Ogoni.

Abe made the submission while delivering a goodwill message at the event to mark the 10th anniversary of the commencement of the Ogoni Cleanup, organized by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, HYPREP, at the Centre of

Excellence for Environmental Restoration in Wiiyaakara, Khana Local Government Area.

He said, “If you look around you, where we are today, this entire complex, and if you look at the hospital, you look at the remediation sites, you look at the water projects, you look at all the things that have happened in Ogoniland because of HYPREP, I think we should be grateful.”

The NUPRC Board Chairman appealed to stakeholders to allow the Federal Government resume oil production in the area, to attract the needed development and improve on the livelihoods of the people.

Abe emphasized that Ogoni cannot continue to live in poverty when there is so much wealth deposit in the land.

“This land that we are standing on, we all know that we are standing, sitting and living on wealth. Millions and millions of dollar worth of oil and



Cross Section of Guests during the HYPREP at 10 Celebration at the CEER, Wiiyaakara



Hon. Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal (5th) During the Presentation of Ramsar Certificates to Local Council Chairmen in Ogoni led by KAGOTE President, Chief Lesi Maol

gas is under our feet. But our children are poor, they have no jobs, and our institutions are empty. You cannot live by the river and continue to use spits to try to take a bath. You will be dirty and you will keep smelling. You have to use the water,” he said.

Abe stated that after years of struggle, HYPREP has brought blessings to Ogoni. “I would like to say that for us, as Ogoni people, HYPREP has been a blessing. It has taken us quite a while to get to this point, but I think it is important that we acknowledge that HYPREP has been a blessing to the Ogoni people.

The former member, Board of the NNPC acknowledged President Bola Tinubu's commitment to the Ogoni cleanup, saying, “Today, we have a president, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, who was himself part of the Ogoni struggle, has shown an uncommon commitment trying to resolve the Ogoni issues and to bring us back to our rightful place in the

comity of states and nations in this country. Tinubu is committed to doing that for us. But nobody can do for you the things that you ought to do for yourself.”

He decried the disagreements among Ogoni people and emphasized

the need for unity so as to build a better public image for themselves.

“Nobody can unite us. Nobody can lend us brains. Nobody can organise us. Nobody can strategise for us. All those things are things that we must do for ourselves. And I want to



Rt. Hon. Dekor

challenge our people; there is nowhere where everybody is a leader. It is not possible. Anywhere, where everybody is a leader, you have already failed. And there is nowhere where one person knows everything. It is also not possible.

“We must work together. We must respect one another, and we must have our targets in sight. The prosperity and development of Ogoniland cannot wait for anybody anymore. We will move, and we must move together.

“So, I want to plead with all of us, you cannot like everybody, but you can respect everyone. We are not the only people that have differences, but we are the only people whose every difference is played out on social media and on radio, and none of our positives are highlighted in the same way our negatives are. If you have a family and every day you talk,



King Obele

everything you say about your family is bad, will you be angry tomorrow when people start looking down on your family? You cannot be angry because you imported that into the family.

He therefore called for unity,

urging the people to speak as a united voice. “My dear Ogoni people, it is time for us to take advantage of the love that the President is showing to us, it is time for us to organise ourselves, it is time for us to prepare, and it is time for us to bring prosperity and progress into our land,” he stated.

The NUPRC Board Chairman thanked the Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal, for his physical presence and commitment to the Ogoni cleanup since assumption of office.

He also thanked the HYPERP Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey for his doggedness and charged him not to be deterred by negative criticisms, saying, “It’s all part of what we see in leadership. But be rest assured that we are making progress, and we will continue to make progress”, he maintained.



Cross Section of Guests during the HYPERPHERALD at 10 Celebration at the CEER, Wiiyaakara

SOLIDARITY SPEECHES FOR HYPREP AT TEN

GOODWILL MESSAGE BY TAI MONARCH, HRM KING SAMUEL NNEE

PREAMBLE

Recall that the core mandate of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is to implement the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report of 2011 on the environmental assessment of Ogoniland. Since its establishment, HYPREP has made significant strides towards addressing the environmental, health, social, and economic challenges confronting the people of Ogoniland. Its transformative efforts are becoming increasingly visible across various sectors.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF HYPREP

HYPREP's transformative efforts are evident in the following key areas:

1. Environmental Remediation and Mangrove Restoration

Significant progress has been recorded in environmental remediation and mangrove restoration. Over 30 of the 65 remediation sites have been successfully closed out, while more than one million mangrove seedlings have been planted as part of the restoration efforts.

Beyond the environmental benefits, the programme has also created opportunities for our young people, many of whom have received training in various aspects of environmental remediation and mangrove restoration from highly skilled professionals and experts in the industry. This investment in knowledge and human capacity development will undoubtedly continue to yield benefits long after the completion of the Project.

2. Potable Water Supply



King Nnee

The provision of potable water is another remarkable area of HYPREP's intervention. Evidence of these projects can be seen across several Ogoni communities, where many people now have access to clean and safe drinking water, while projects in other communities are at various stages of completion.

These interventions are particularly significant because access to clean water is fundamental to public health, human dignity, and sustainable community development.

3. Public Health and Infrastructure

HYPREP's interventions in public health and infrastructure are also worthy of commendation. Projects such as the Ogoni Specialist Hospital in Kpite, the Cottage Hospital project at Buan, the donation of ambulances to four General Hospitals, and the building of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER), among others, are clear testimonies to the Project's determination to deliver on its mandate.

For decades, the people of Ogoniland have yearned for improved and effective healthcare facilities. These interventions represent important steps towards addressing some of those longstanding needs and improving the quality of life of our people.

4. Livelihood and Economic Empowerment

HYPREP has also demonstrated a strong commitment to livelihood development and economic empowerment through meaningful engagements with Ogoni women in various cooperative initiatives and the implementation of diverse livelihood programmes for our youths.

These programmes have provided training and opportunities in areas such as creative arts, air cabin crew services, mechatronics, seafaring, underwater welding, cybersecurity, and several other fields.

This broad-based approach to skills acquisition demonstrates HYPREP's commitment to developing an all-inclusive human-capital base that will outlive the Project itself.

Indeed, the saying that "No knowledge gained is ever lost" aptly captures the importance of these interventions. By equipping our young people with relevant skills and knowledge, HYPREP is enabling them to compete favourably with their counterparts nationally and internationally in their chosen fields of endeavour.

5. Educational Support Grants and Scholarships

HYPREP's educational interventions are equally commendable. Educational support grants and scholarships have

been provided to over 1,000 Ogoni undergraduates and postgraduates. This investment in education represents an investment in the future of Ogoniland. By supporting the education of our young people, HYPREP is helping to develop the intellectual and professional capacity required to drive sustainable development in our communities.

6. Provision of the Ogoni Special Power Project

Recognizing that not all communities in Ogoniland were equally impacted by hydrocarbon pollution, HYPREP has also taken a broader and strategic approach to addressing other longstanding challenges affecting the people of the region and ensuring that communities across Ogoniland benefit from the Project.

One of the most significant of these challenges is the **inadequate access to reliable electricity and the national power grid**. In response, HYPREP embarked on the Ogoni Special Power Project, representing a major investment aimed at connecting Ogoniland to the national electricity grid and addressing the longstanding power deficit in the area.

The Project is already at an advanced stage, and when completed and fully operational, it is expected to significantly improve electricity supply across Ogoniland. The importance of this intervention cannot be overstated. Reliable electricity is not merely a basic utility; it is a catalyst for **economic growth, industrial development, job creation, education, healthcare, entrepreneurship, and improved living standards**.

It is therefore our strong expectation that the successful completion and commissioning of the

Ogoni Power Project will usher in a new era of economic activity and development in Ogoniland. Small and medium-scale businesses will have greater opportunities to operate and expand, young people will have improved conditions for skills development and innovation, and communities will be better positioned to attract investment.

We believe that when this Project comes fully on stream, it will contribute significantly to the much-anticipated transformation of the economic dynamics of Ogoniland and further demonstrate HYPREP's commitment to delivering interventions that have a lasting and far-reaching impact on the people.

This is yet another reason why the gains of HYPREP must be sustained, adequately funded, and institutionalized for the long-term benefit of present and future generations of Ogoni people.

ROLES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF CRAC

As representatives of the Traditional Rulers of Ogoniland on the Central Representative Advisory Committee (CRAC), we have continued to work tirelessly in support of the objectives of HYPREP.

One of our major contributions has been in the areas of land-dispute mediation, conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and community engagement. Through these efforts, we have contributed significantly to promoting peaceful coexistence, stability, and security across Ogoniland.

Our participation in CRAC has also provided us with valuable opportunities for capacity building. Members have been exposed to various trainings, courses, seminars, and

conferences, particularly in the areas of arbitration, mediation, conciliation, alternative dispute resolution, and conflict management.

These experiences have not only enhanced our individual capacities but have also strengthened our ability, as traditional institutions, to contribute meaningfully to the resolution of disputes and the maintenance of peace in our communities.

OUR DREAMS AND DEMANDS

On behalf of the people of Ogoniland, I wish to passionately call on the Federal Government of Nigeria to institutionalize HYPREP as a permanent Federal Government parastatal, along the lines of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), subject to appropriate legislative and administrative processes.

We equally call for increased and sustained funding for the Project to enable it effectively complete its mandate and address the enormous environmental, social, health, and economic challenges confronting Ogoniland.

The progress already recorded demonstrates that HYPREP has the potential to become a lasting instrument for environmental restoration, human-capital development, economic empowerment, and sustainable development in Ogoniland.

The unique contributions of the Ogoni people to the Nigerian economy, particularly through the region's historical role in the nation's oil and gas industry, must also be taken into consideration. The people of Ogoniland deserve a sustained and properly funded intervention capable of restoring their environment, rebuilding their communities, and

securing a healthier and more prosperous future for generations yet unborn.

CALL FOR PEACE AND UNITY

In conclusion, I wish to make a passionate appeal to all well-meaning sons and daughters of Ogoniland, both at home and in the diaspora, to shun every form of animosity, division, bitterness, and unnecessary conflict. This is a time for unity, cooperation, constructive engagement, and collective responsibility.

Whatever our differences may be, we must recognize that the future of

Ogoniland is bigger than any individual, group, community, or political interest. We must therefore unite and support every genuine effort aimed at achieving the environmental restoration, human-capital development, peace, prosperity, and sustainable development that our people have long desired. Let us continue to engage constructively with HYPREP, provide the necessary support and guidance, and work together to ensure that the gains already recorded are sustained and expanded.

Together, as one united Ogoni people, we can build the Ogoniland of our dreams and aspirations, a peaceful, healthy, environmentally restored, economically empowered, and prosperous Ogoniland for present and future generations.

HRM (SIR) KING SAMUEL I A NNEE JP Amb PFIIMAC Arb D.min

Gbenemene Tai Kingdom/Paramount Ruler - Kpitem Tai, Coordinator/Convener - Supreme Council of Traditional Rulers of Ogoni

MY COMMEMORATIVE SPEECH FOR HYPREP AT TEN

It gives me immense joy to stand before you today as we celebrate HYPREP at 10. This milestone is not just a marker of time, but a testament to resilience, science, and the collective will of a people determined to restore their land.

My own journey with this project began at a critical moment. The Ogoni people, understandably suspicious of external interventions, gathered in Bori for a town hall meeting with UNEP. The hall was restless, voices raised in doubt. I was invited to speak, and I asked a simple but profound question: “Will your work in Ogoniland be guided by science?” Their affirmative response opened the door for trust, but I insisted further — that Ogoni sons and daughters of international repute must be included in the study, so that our people could believe in its outcome.

As Vice Chancellor of the Rivers State University, I provided facilities, staff, and students who actively participated in the study. UNEP recognized my role not only as a political adviser but also as a technical partner in the preparation of the Environmental Assessment Report on Ogoniland. That report, published in

2011, revealed the depth of oil pollution in our land and recommended a \$1 billion initial fund for cleanup. It was a turning point in our history.

From those recommendations, HYPREP was born in 2016. Over the past decade, HYPREP has achieved remarkable progress:

30 contaminated sites remediated, with work ongoing at more complex locations.

Over 1.5 million mangrove seedlings planted, restoring more than 1,000 hectares of shoreline.

Potable water schemes delivered to our 60 Ogoni communities.

Healthcare facilities built and upgraded, including a 100-bed Ogoni Specialist Hospital.

Livelihood programmes that have trained thousands of our youth in modern skills, creating over 8,000 jobs.

These achievements are not abstract numbers; they are lives changed, communities healed, and hope restored.

Equally significant is the establishment of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER) in Wiiyaakara, Khana LGA. This centre is envisioned as a hub for research,

training, and innovation — a place where knowledge will be institutionalized, where future generations will learn how to restore ecosystems, and where Ogoniland will serve as a model for the entire Niger Delta.

It is important to note that while much of the Niger Delta suffers pollution, only the four LGAs of Ogoniland have had the cost of remediation scientifically estimated. This was possible because the Ogoni people never relented in their demand for restoration. Their persistence has made Ogoniland the template for environmental recovery in Nigeria.

As we celebrate HYPREP at 10, let us remember: this is not just a project, it is a PROJECT — a mission entrusted to us all. I call on every Ogoni and every Niger Deltan to embrace it, to own it, and to give it the support it needs. Together, we can ensure that the restoration of Ogoniland becomes the beacon of hope for environmental justice across the Niger Delta.

Thank you.

Prof. Barineme Beke Fakae

NIGERIA'S ENVIRONMENT MINISTER OPENS GLOBAL BIENNIAL CLEANUP CONFERENCE WITH OGONI REMEDIATION STORY

The Honourable Minister of Environment and Chairman Governing Council of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Balarabe Abbas Lawal, delivered the prestigious Brian Robinson Lecture to open the International Cleanup Conference 2026 in Adelaide, Australia.

The Cleanup Conference, which holds every two years, brings together remediation experts, researchers, students, policymakers, and industry leaders from around the world.

The Minister's lecture, "Protecting People and Planet: Shared Responsibilities and Policy Lessons from Large Scale Remediation in Ogoniland," provided the international community with valuable insight into the scale, complexity, and policy dimensions of one of the world's most significant environmental remediation



Lawal

programmes.

Lawal was accompanied by the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Prof Nenibarini Zabbey, and three members of HYPREP's technical team.

On the sidelines of the

Conference, the Minister and the HYPREP Project Coordinator held bilateral meetings with the Australian Environmental Protection Agency, as well as with global scientific and technology leaders, Shimadzu Corporation and Agilent Technologies.



Hon. Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal (2nd), HYPREP Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey(1st), MD/CEO crcCare, Laureate Prof. Ravi Naidu (4th) During the Int'l Clean-up Conference in Australia

Discussions centred on forging valuable partnerships to advance the technical and analytical capacity supporting HYPREP's remediation work.

In another meeting with the Nigerian High Commissioner to Australia, Amb. Dr Olufemi Pedro, the Minister of Environment, Lawal with the Project Coordinator of HYPREP,

Prof. Zabbey held strategic partnership meetings with three Australian Ministers, focusing on environmental management and sustainability.

The meetings with the Australian Minister for Environment and Water, Senator the Hon. Murray Watt; the Minister for Trade and Tourism, Senator the Hon. Don Farrel; and the

Minister for International Development, Dr Anne Aly, took place in the ministers' offices at Parliament House in Canberra.

The engagements reflect HYPREP's ongoing commitment to partnership for development and learning, and contributions to global best practice, while positioning Ogoniland's remediation as a model for large-scale environmental

PROF. ZABBEY HONoured WITH crcCARE FELLOWSHIP -AS OGONI CLEANUP DOMINATES AFRICA SESSION AT CLEANUP CONFERENCE IN AUSTRALIA

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, has been conferred with the prestigious crcCARE Fellowship. The conferment took place at the just concluded Cleanup Conference 2026 Gala Night in Adelaide, Australia.

The Fellowship, presented by the Managing Director & CEO of crcCARE and Conference Chair, Distinguished Laureate Professor Ravi Naidu, recognised Prof. Zabbey's "sustained leadership and perseverance in advancing the restoration of Ogoniland, and for bringing together communities, researchers, government and other stakeholders to support collaborative, science-based remediation."

Prof. Zabbey, who delivered the opening lecture of the Conference's Africa Session, titled "From Environmental Legacy: Africa, Ogoniland and the Path to Restoration Leadership," framed Ogoniland's remediation journey within the broader context of Africa's future environmental remediation and restoration prospects and challenges, highlighting lessons learned, success drivers and the continent's emerging role in shaping global remediation

leadership.

Alongside the PC's lecture, members of HYPREP's technical team delivered technical presentations on various aspects of the HYPREP Project, sharing insights into the scientific and operational dimensions of the Ogoni Cleanup, which is one of the world's most ambitious environmental cleanup programmes.

Presentations on the Ogoni Cleanup accounted for 83% of the papers presented at the Africa Session.

The milestones reinforce HYPREP's growing profile on the international stage and its contribution to shaping Africa's role in advancing global environmental remediation knowledge and practice.



HYPREP Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey Posses with an Award at the just Concluded Int'l Clean-up Conference in Australia

HYPREP URGES REGULATORS TO SUSTAIN SUPPORT FOR Ogoni CLEAN-UP, INCREASES WOMEN PARTICIPATION TO 45%

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has called on Regulators and Asset Owners to use the Project's regular quarterly meetings as platform to re-enforce their support for the implementation of the Ogoni Cleanup.

The Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, who made the appeal in Port Harcourt, during the 2026 third quarter meeting of key regulators and asset owners on the Ogoni Clean-up, also disclosed that the Project has achieved inclusivity milestone with a surge in female participation from 5% to 45%. "As part of an inclusive, human-centred restoration strategy, women's participation in the Ogoni cleanup programme has risen from five per

cent in 2023 to forty-five per cent. This is as the Federal Government intensifies efforts to make the project more inclusive and sustainable," he said.

Prof. Zabbey explained that the Project was being implemented through a human-centric and multi-stakeholder approach, designed to ensure that the environmental restoration programme delivers lasting benefits to the people and ecosystems of Ogoniland.

"We are implementing the recommendations of the UNEP report on the environmental assessment of Ogoniland, and in doing that, we have decided to adopt a multi-stakeholder and human-centric approach," he said, adding that regular meetings with asset owners, regulators, civil society

organizations and other stakeholders were critical to sustaining collaboration, reviewing progress and addressing challenges affecting the clean-up.

He further noted that the quarterly meeting was particularly significant as it coincided with activities marking the 10th anniversary of the Ogoni cleanup, and that HYPREP had recorded significant progress in mangrove restoration and other thematic areas of the Project, urging stakeholders to support the protection of the Ogoni mangrove wetland, which has been designated a Ramsar Site of International Importance.

The Project Coordinator also called for greater investment in ecotourism, saying it would help conserve Ogoni's biodiversity while creating economic opportunities for residents.

In healthcare, the Project Coordinator said HYPREP had gone beyond the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) by implementing a series of health interventions across Ogoni, explaining that four public health facilities had been strengthened with modern medical equipment and solar power systems, while five fully equipped ambulances had been provided for General Hospitals in Ogoni to improve emergency and referral services.

"Those that have visited the Onne Health Centre recently will attest to the fact that since we installed our solar system in February this year, light has not blinked in that facility," Prof. Zabbey said, adding that HYPREP had completed construction



Prof. Zabbey



Participants at the HYPREP Quarterly Meeting with Regulators and Asset Owners

of the 43-bed Cottage Hospital at Buan and was awaiting the posting of personnel by the Rivers State Government to commence operations. The Ogoni Specialist Hospital, he said, was about 80 per cent complete, with an Oncology Unit expected to provide cancer screening and treatment, as the hospital would be equipped with a state-of-the-art MRI machine, adding that HYPREP had inspected the equipment in Germany. “We are bringing the latest MRI, and what that means is that it will be the second latest MRI in this country,” he said.

The Project Coordinator also informed participants that HYPREP had commissioned the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) to conduct a three-year comprehensive health study of Ogoni, saying that the study had entered its second year, with blood sample collection already underway.

While identifying litigations, communal land and chieftaincy disputes as major obstacles to the remediation project, he explained that heavy rainfall had flooded some remediation sites, particularly those located around floodplains, forcing work to stop temporarily.

“When they are flooded, remediation activities will have to stop. You cannot, under that condition, excavate the soil and treat it. You cannot, under that condition, install your bio-sparging devices,” he said.

On communal disputes, Prof. Zabbey said the Project had adopted mediation and alternative dispute resolution rather than force, while training community leaders and members of its conflict-resolution structures in dispute management.

Assuring that HYPREP would fast-track remediation activities after the rainy season to recover lost time, he said the Project had made progress in preventing re-pollution linked to

illegal artisanal refining and oil theft by engaging former artisanal refiners in its programmes.

According to him, hundreds of former artisanal refiners are currently being trained in commercial diving and underwater welding to equip them with skills for employment in the oil and gas and the maritime sectors.

Prof. Zabbey said HYPREP was also training 300 persons living with special needs in five skill areas, and that the Project was determined not to leave vulnerable groups behind, urging asset owners, regulators and other stakeholders to remain committed to collaboration, saying the success of the Ogoni cleanup was ultimately in the public interest.

“This is not just for Ogoni. HYPREP is doing the cleanup in Ogoni to develop a sustainable template that will be applicable to other impacted communities in Nigeria,” he said.

Participants reviewed works

covering ongoing land remediation, upcoming shoreline and mangrove restoration, the delivery of potable water systems, power project, public health intervention, peace building measures, and the construction of the magnificent Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration and the Integrated Contaminated Soil Management Centre.

Also, the forum provided an opportunity for stakeholder synergy, as regulators and asset owners offered technical feedback and reaffirmed cooperation for quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) on HYPREP projects across Ogoniland.

Participants commended HYPREP for demonstrating commitment and professionalism in the implementation of the cleanup, acknowledging great improvement in work done after the previous meeting.

The Coordinator of the Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD), Dr. Nubari Nabien, particularly commended HYPREP for adopting a community-centred approach, stating that civil society organizations were motivated to support the clean-up because of HYPREP's engagement with communities.

While calling on the youth not to go back to re-pollution, he commended HYPREP for the reported reduction in re-pollution and pledged CEHRD's continued support for the Project.

"We will continue to support HYPREP in any way possible, and we encourage that HYPREP, please, keep it up with a community-centred approach," Dr. Nabien said.

In his vote of thanks, the Director of Technical Services, Prof. Damian-

Paul Aguiyi, thanked participants for their sincere contributions and commitment to ensuring that the Project succeeds.

He reiterated HYPREP's preparedness to sustain the collaboration with stakeholders and to remain transparent in the discharge of its responsibilities.

The meeting brought together representatives of key stakeholders across multiple sectors, which include regulators and asset owners: NOSDRA, NUPRC, NPSCL, and Renaissance Africa Energy Company; Government Ministries: Officials from the Federal and Rivers State Ministries of Environment, Water Resources and Rural Development, Health, and Power; Civil society groups and the Academia: SDN, CEHRD, and SWAYA; HYPREP Management and the media.

OGONI CLEAN-UP: HYPREP GC INSPECTS PROJECTS, EXPRESSES SATISFACTION WITH ENVIRONMENTAL, LIVELIHOOD RESTORATION EFFORTS

As part of their oversight functions, members of the Governing Council (GC) of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) have carried out a two-day maiden inspection of HYPREP projects in communities across Ogoniland.

The inspection, which also served as familiarization exercise for the newly inaugurated Council, also had some members of the HYPREP management and technical team led by the Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, represented by the Director of Technical Services, Prof. Damian-Paul Aguiyi.

Projects inspected include the ongoing livelihood training of 100 Ogoni youths and women in Cyber



Governing Council Members on Visit to HYPREP Project Site

Security, the K. Dere reticulated potable water facility, land and groundwater remediation site in K. Dere, Yeghe water station, Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration at Wiiyaakara, and land and groundwater remediation site in Eleme.

The Governing Council rounded off the exercise with visit to the livelihood training centre for 152 Ogoni youths in Software Development at Rivers State University, Port Harcourt, 100-Bed Ogoni Specialist Hospital at Kpite, B. Dere water station, shoreline remediation site in B. Dere, Bomu mangrove restoration site, and the 132KVA Ogoni Power Project Substation in Bodo.

At the end of the exercise, a member of the Council representing Ogoni communities, Prof. Michael Barinedum Nwibere, said the Governing Council was impressed with what they saw on ground, and commended HYPREP for the commitment and quality of project executed in the communities.

The Governing Council also assured HYPREP of prompt response to requests that would enable contractors return to sites for the completion of their works that were stalled on grounds of delayed payment. They particularly said issues on Lots 11 and 15, Ajeoktori, Ogale, Eleme, will be looked into for work to commence accordingly.

“We have gone round and have seen the various livelihood trainings and status of the land remediation projects. We're impressed, seeing that HYPREP is quite focused. The livelihoods trainings for 2,300 are quite commendable. We're happy seeing all of that.

“On the issue of B. Dere water project, we have seen the situation and will do the needful, to ensure it starts running as soon as possible. The issues of cost variation will be addressed,” they assured.

Describing the Ogoni Power Project as one of the best, the Governing Council said it hopes to resolve the communal issues surrounding the construction activities in the respective communities to ensure quick delivery of the project, saying they are going back better informed.

The HYPREP Governing Council also appealed to the people of Ogoni, particularly communities where projects are sited and the over 8000 beneficiaries of the various livelihood programmes to give testimonies of their participation and usefulness of the trainings, and desist from demarketing the Project.

While calling on the people to protect and support the sustainability plans of HYPREP, the Council members said, on their part, they will do whatever needs to be done to ensure completion of delayed and ongoing projects and the commencement of new ones.

They particularly commended the Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey and other HYPREP officials for their dedication and professionalism demonstrated in the implementation of the Ogoni Cleanup, reiterating their resolve not to allow any roadblocks in the execution of projects henceforth.

The Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey thanked the GC members for the visit, describing it as a natural course, and that it is an assessment exercise that enables members have a feel of what is happening.

Prof. Zabbey represented by the Director of Technical Services, Prof. Damian-Paul Aguiyi, expressed confidence in the ability of the GC members to carry out their statutory functions that will be felt positively by the Project.

“Their visit is a welcome development. It was an interesting two days. It will help unblock the little challenges”, he said, believing that the visit will foster closer work relationship between the Project Coordination Office and the Governing Council.

“Their commitment and ability is not in doubt. It will be a good new day,” the Project Coordinator believed.

The HYPREP Governing Council comprises the Honourable Minister of Environment who serves as Chairman of Council, and the Coordinator of HYPREP as Secretary.

The other members are Loanyie Barituka, who represents the Civil Society Organizations focused on the environment, Bright Onyebuchi Jacob and Henry Obiabure, who represent the Niger Delta communities, Prof. Barinedum Michael Nwibere and Barrister Baride Abdul Gwezia are representatives of the Ogoni Community on the Council.

The nine oil-producing states have two representatives on the Council: Gideon Onyebuwa Melfor and Dr. Ibikunle Omotehinse.

There are four alternate members of the Council, representing Ogoniland and the Niger Delta: Rev. Canon Dr. Abraham Olungwe and Engr. Maeba Power Ekpobari are the alternate members of the Council representing Ogoniland. Joseph Akedesuo and Beauty Warejuowei represent the Niger Delta.

HYPREP OPENS BIDS FOR CONSULTANCY AND NON-CONSULTANCY SERVICES

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has commenced the process for the engagement of consultants and service providers for various consultancy and non-consultancy services under the Project.

The exercise, held at the HYPREP Project Coordination Office, Port Harcourt, attracted prospective bidders, representatives of civil society organisations, heads of Unit within the Project and representatives of Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited - a Joint Venture funder of the Project.

Speaking on behalf of the Project Coordinator, the Head of Legal Services, Gowon Ichibor conveyed the greetings of the Project Coordinator, who he said was unavoidably absent from the occasion.

He described the bid opening as an indication of the confidence reposed in

the Project by the participating organisations, noting that the exercise provided an opportunity for submitted bids that had successfully gone through the required accreditation process to be openly presented.

According to him, "It is a show of the confidence you have bestowed in the Project. It is also to show that everything you submitted has been passed and reflected in the opening of the bids."

Ichibor assured participants that the procurement process would be conducted in a competitive, open and transparent manner.

"It is going to be competitive, open and transparent. There is no hanky-panky," he said, adding that the assurance was specifically conveyed by the Project Coordinator.

He urged participants to remain committed to the process and wished them good luck in their bidding.

The bids opened covered a wide

range of consultancy and non-consultancy services, including the engagement of a consultant for the development and maintenance of a software application for field monitoring of remediation projects; survey and registration of land with the Rivers State Government; computer-based training for SS2 students; and additional specialised training in various skill areas, including oil and gas operational skills.

Other areas include the engagement of a monitoring and evaluation consultant; capacity building on transmission lines and substation equipment maintenance; professional printing services; preliminary/tier 1 and tier 2 assessment of post-UNEP sites; vehicle insurance services; environmental impact mitigation monitoring; cleaning services; and civil security services for the



HYPREP Officials and Companies' Representatives at the Bid Opening

HYPREP Project Coordination Office.

The exercise was witnessed by representatives of civil society organisations, including Right Advocacy and Development Centre, Salvage Africa Advocacy Initiative and Cornerstone Liberty and Love Foundation.

In his closing remarks, the Head of Procurement, Mr. Abdulazeez Salawu, reiterated the Project's commitment to ensuring fairness throughout the procurement process.

"We assure you of fairness in this process," Mr. Salawu said, while thanking the prospective bidders, observers and other stakeholders for

attending the bid opening exercise.

The exercise underscores HYPREP's commitment to transparency, accountability and due process in its procurement activities, as the Project continues to implement initiatives aimed at remediating and restoring the Ogoni environment and livelihoods of communities.

HYPREP SEEKS CARBON CREDITS FOR OGONI COMMUNITIES

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey Prof Zabbey has stated that as part of its mangrove conservation initiative, HYPREP is exploring carbon stock measurements in Ogoni mangrove areas for carbon credits and that while this is underway, HYPREP is seeking collaboration with Non-Governmental Organizations to sensitise communities about inclusive benefit sharing.

Prof. Zabbey made the disclosure at Bomu when he led some project staff to the bloody cockle culture beds in the community to assess the rate of growth recorded by the hitherto extinct species due to oil pollution.

Mature cockles were stimulated to breed by increasing the salinity (salt content) of the holding water. The resulting cockle larvae were released into the creek to disperse with the tidal currents, while spent cockles (i.e., the adult cockles after artificial breeding) were implanted in the established culture beds. This is part of HYPREP's strategic effort towards enhancing biodiversity recovery in Ogoni.

Prof Zabbey, excited by the increasing recovery of food species (e.g., periwinkle, dogwhelk, swim crabs), noted that the Project will



Prof. Zabbey Examines Bloody Cockles Installed by HYPREP at Bomu Creek

sustain cleanup efforts and gains, especially as the Phase 2 Shoreline Cleanup and Mangrove Restoration is underway.

The team was delighted to see a southern pink shrimp leap from a shallow creek onto the exposed tidal flat.

The HYPREP Coordinator used the opportunity of the visit to interact with some of the periwinkle pickers, sensitising them on sustainable harvesting. They appreciated HYPREP for the cleanup successes and the return of food species, noting an improvement in their livelihoods.

Prof. Zabbey was however concerned that human factors are slowing restoration in the creeks

which include over-harvesting of periwinkles, cutting juvenile mangroves for firewood, and trespassing and poaching in the bloody cockle culture beds.

The Bomu tidal flat is now a beehive of activities for periwinkle harvesters, with no fewer than 55 locals showing up daily to eke a livelihood out of periwinkle picking.

In response to the situation, Prof. Zabbey said the Project is engaging with communities on need for sustainable harvesting and the imposition of a moratorium (temporary stopping of harvesting) to allow accelerated biodiversity recovery in affected areas.

HYPREP HEALING OGONI WOUNDS – *Dr Okonta*

- Commends Project Coordinator's Transformational Efforts

A renowned human rights activist and author, Dr. Ike Okonta has described the achievements of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) as transformational and healing the wounds of the people of Ogoni.

Okonta, who is also a research fellow in Oxford University's Department of Politics and International Relations, and had authored several books stated this during a visit to HYPREP facilities in Ogoniland by some Civil Society leaders.

The visitors who included the Executive Director, Spaces for Change, Victoria Ebezim-Ohaeri, were led to the mangrove restoration site in Bomu and the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, Wiiyaakara, by the HYPREP Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, accompanied by the Director of Technical services, Prof. Damian-Paul Aguiyi.

At the mangrove restoration site, the civil society leaders took turns to plant mangrove seedlings, demonstrating their support and commitment to the total restoration of the Ogoni environment.

At the end of the tour of HYPREP facilities, Dr. Okonta expressed satisfaction with the level of achievements made by HYPREP, particularly under Prof. Zabbey as Project Coordinator. "For me, this is a wonderful day. For a very long time, the Ogoni story was tragedy and pain. But now, we see a brand-new day, environmental remediation and hope," he said.



Dr. Okonta (m) Plants Mangrove Seedling Supported by Prof. Zabbey at Bomu Creek

While commending Prof. Zabbey for demonstrating passion and commitment to the restoration of the Ogoni ecosystem and the people's livelihood, he thanked the Federal Government for making efforts to addressing the plight of the people of Ogoni, and recalled his contact, involvement and relationship with the Ogoni struggle and the environmental rights activist and author, Ken Saro-Wiwa. "This is a great step," he said.

Earlier, at the HYPREP Coordination Office in Port Harcourt, the rights activist and thinker had some conversation with the Project Coordinator on the possibilities of bringing some international environmental activists, scholars and researchers to see and engage with the Project.

Okonta emphasized the need for partnership between HYPREP and reputable international research institutes, particularly as the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration gets onstream.

"We can now write something positive about Ogoni. I'm now happy than before. The past was tragic and

painful, looking at the Ogoni struggle experience. Prof. Zabbey is doing a town crier job that will attract people to appreciate. HYPREP has made us happy, and I congratulate the Project Coordinator for making this happen," he expounded.

On her part, the Executive Director, Spaces for Change, Victoria Ebezim-Ohaeri, expressed contentment with the implementation of the Ogoni clean up by HYPREP, and that she was very proud to be part of the team visiting the Project and seeing the monumental achievements on ground in Ogoni communities.

"For us, today has been the most enlightening day of our advocacy in the Niger Delta. We are here on a field visit, by HYPREP's invitation. So, we are on a tour of restoration sites, especially, the mangrove restoration site across areas that were previously polluted in Ogoniland. It's been enlightening because for use, we've been able to see the great steps HYPREP has taken, not just to clean, but to restore the environment, the efforts to take the environment to where it ought to be, before the

pollution took place.

“We saw returns of sea and aquatic animals, we saw the periwinkles, we saw the plantations, we saw aquatic life, we saw the ecosystem regenerating. So, I think it's commendable for an advocacy group like Spaces for Change. For many years we had advocated for remediation,” she explained.

Ebezim – Ohaeri said, what they have seen during the visit attests to the effectiveness of their advocacy, that some institutions like HYPREP are already beginning to put remediation as the first step before any other activity in the Niger Delta region. “So, we are really happy with what we have seen today,” she concluded.

Similarly, the HYPREP Coordinator, Prof, Nenibarini Zabbey expressed happiness over the visit of the frontline rights activists, and particularly described Dr. Ike Okonta as “one of the few non-Ogonis who are genuinely more Ogoni than some Ogonis.”

Prof. Zabbey said considering the several activities and successful programmes carried out by HYPREP, especially following the recent 10th anniversary event, it became necessary that people who have made huge sacrifices for the Ogoni struggle like Ike Okonta come to see what has happened in the cause of the implementation of the UNEP recommended Ogoni Clean-up Project.

“Today, we are very happy to have some of our colleagues in the civil society sector, especially Dr. Ike Okonta, who has been in the forefront of the struggle for environmental justice, and also our colleague, Victoria, that came to do a programme in Port Harcourt and decided to stop by

HYPREP to see what we are doing. So, we've been to the office. In the office, we only exchanged pleasantries. I told them that our mantra in HYPREP now is “come and see.” “It is a rainy day. But we decided to go to the field for them to see what we are doing in terms of mangrove restoration and in terms of this beautiful Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration.

“Symbolically, we planted mangroves to support our restoration efforts. we have completed the first phase of mangrove restoration covering 560 hectares. The mangroves are doing very, very well and that has stimulated the recovery of many species. We walked to the culture bed, and we saw some interesting species, especially indicators of improved ecosystem. We saw a goby fish. We also saw dogwhelk. Before our intervention, we didn't see any of these species. And then we also saw the African mud crab which is basically sedentary. So, it's also an indicator of a healthy ecosystem. Then we saw the different kinds of mangroves and how they are thriving. They were able to see the mangroves that we planted two years ago that have started producing seeds or propagules. And those seeds are beginning to mature and then drop in the system and sprout to fill the gaps. So, you can see the tremendous improvement in the system,” Prof. Zabbey noted.

The Project Coordinator further explained that one ecosystem service that mangroves provide is fish production function and as the mangroves are expanding in the canopy cover and the root architecture also becoming complex, many fishes, especially commercial fishes, will come in and breed and that will give



Ebezim-Ohaeri Plants Mangrove Seedling Supported by Prof. Zabbey at Bomu Creek

protection to the young ones to grow before they go into the deeper waters.

Prof. Zabbey clarified that the ecosystem recovery will translate to improvement in local fisheries, and that was why a lot of people were seen picking periwinkles during the visit, disclosing that during his previous visit to the creek, over 55 people were counted harvesting periwinkles.

He expressed excitement about the improvement and the fact that the human rights crusaders have come to see things by themselves and also visited the magnificent Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration. “We just stepped out of the auditorium that is now furnished. What that means is that the centre is almost ready for commissioning. We hope that before the end of the year, Mr. President will come and cut the tap on this beautiful centre to commence cutting-edge multidisciplinary research in remediation and restoration that will deepen the knowledge of remediation and restoration, not just for Nigeria but for the global community because this centre is going to be an international hub. So, every day we come around like this with friends and visitors, it is always exciting,” Prof. Zabbey concluded.

MASSIVE BIODIVERSITY RECOVERY RECORDED IN BOMU CREEK

As the Phase 2 Shoreline Cleanup and Mangrove Restoration Projects are underway, the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, is elated by the visible signs of biodiversity recovery in the Ogoni Creeks.

Prof. Zabbey expressed renewed optimism about biodiversity recovery after the Project's Fish Stock Assessment Team presented him with a large African jack (weight: 4.45 kg) caught during September's fish stock assessment at Bomu Creek, Gokana Local Government Area.

The Fish Stock Assessment aims to monitor ecosystem recovery, particularly fish production, by comparing baseline data (pre-HYPREP Shoreline Cleanup and Mangrove Restoration) with post-restoration data.

The latest fish stock assessment



Prof. Zabbey displays a massive African Jack caught during September Fish Stock Assessment in Bomu Creek

recorded a massive catch, signalling that the creeks are healing and that biodiversity recovery is increasingly evident.

The highlights of September's Fish Stock Assessment include species

caught for the first time:

1. Needle fish
2. African jack
3. Chub mackerel
4. White mullet



A Staff of HYPREP displays a massive African Jack caught during September Fish Stock Assessment in Bomu Creek

CAPACITY DEV.: HYPREP PARTNERS RENAISSANCE IN FIRE SAFETY TRAINING FOR STAFF

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), in collaboration with Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited, has concluded a two-day intensive Fire Warden Training for 30 staff drawn from the different Units of the Project.

The training, which was conducted by officials of the Safety and Emergency Response Department of Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited, was held at the company's facility at its Industrial Area in Port Harcourt, from September 23 to 24, 2026.

Speaking on the objective and relevance of the training, the Project Support Lead, Renaissance Africa Energy Company Ltd in HYPREP, Engr. Ehioze Igbinomwanhia, said the fire warden training was to demonstrate the company's commitment to safety of personnel and facilities, which is a core value of Renaissance Africa Energy Company.

"In Renaissance Africa Energy Company, we pride ourselves of being global leaders in performance and especially in safety. The Ogoni Cleanup Project is very special to us. It was born out of our desire to see Ogoniland restored to its beauty, and also to see the improvement of Ogoni people. So, this fire warden training, which we have undertaken actually is for us, a success on many fronts.

"First of all, it demonstrates very clearly our commitment to safety, in this case, fire safety. We are aware that the building where HYPREP operations are undertaken needs to meet international standards with respect to fire safety policies and practices, and also to have qualified fire wardens. As a gesture of our

commitment to, number one, promoting such practices, Renaissance has offered, and has now gone ahead to train over 30 staff of HYPREP as fire wardens. This will keep up both for the headquarters and for the Annex areas," he said.

Engr. Igbinomwanhia further stated that the training is a demonstration of the fact that Renaissance has also established a partnership with HYPREP, because prior to this training they carried out a fire safety audit of the HYPREP headquarters and recommendations have been pulled up, listed or prepared, which are expected to be effected and improve the fire safety quality of the building.

He said, by this training, Renaissance has stretched out its hands to HYPREP, and that the gesture also shows that Renaissance is having a handshake or a commonality in ensuring that its fire department draws closer to HYPREP, and be available to support it in as many ways as they can. The Renaissance representative concluded that as funders of the Cleanup Project, it is important to them that those who work in the company and those who undertake the

tasks of the cleanup of Ogoniland are kept as safe as possible. "This is our little contribution to ensuring their safety," he emphasized.

Similarly, the Lead, Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Team, Dr. Boma Eddie-Amadi, said the Fire Warden Training was part of HYPREP's commitment to strengthening fire safety preparedness and emergency response arrangements within the workplace.

She added that the basic firefighting training with Renaissance Africa Energy was intended to equip nominated personnel working on the Project with the knowledge and practical skills to support fire prevention, early response, evacuation, and emergency coordination in the event of a fire incident, and appealed to the trainees and the entire staff of the Project to be committed to maintaining a safe workplace.

On his part, one of the trainees, Dr. Joseph Aadum described the training as well organized and one that was conducted by professionals from Renaissance Africa Energy. The fire warden training included theory and practical works.



Cross Section of Trainees at the Fire Safety Training

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

RIVER IN NEED

By: Akachukwu Chisom

I am the river of the Delta.
Once I sang through mangroves and mud.
Children drank from my hands.
Fishermen pulled silver from my body.
Now they pour fire into me
And call me black and tired.
I wear oil like coat.
My fish have left me for the ocean bed.
I still move, carry canoes, stories and grief too.
I am empty now
Do not forget me.
I remember the taste of rain.
I remember the weight of nets.
I remember your songs at dusk.
Give me time to clean
Or better still clean me
Give me mangroves to hold unto
That will cleanse my systems.
I am not dead.
I am waiting.
And if you let me,
I will sing again

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Photo:HYPREP



THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE

“We owe it to ourselves and to the next generation to conserve the environment so that we can bequeath our children a sustainable world that benefits all.”

– *Wangari Maathai*

Photo:HYPREP

... for a cleaner and greener Ogoniland

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