



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



HYPREP HERALD

COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

APRIL 2023 VOL.1 No.13

FIRST BATCH OF OGO NI YOUTHS DEPARTS FOR AVIATION TRAINING



Air Cabin Crew Trainees Pose with their Handlers At PH Int'l Airport before Departing for Lagos

FG APPROVES CONTRACTS FOR OGO NI SPECIALIST HOSPITAL, CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

HYPREP OPENS BID FOR SHORELINE CLEAN-UP AND RESTORATION

HYPREP IS FOCUSED ON OGO NI INTEREST – DR. GIADOM

**HYPREP
 HERALD
 NOT
 TO BE
 SOLD**

THE PC'S DESK



The promise of training four hundred Ogoni youths in mega skills of aviation, seafaring, mechatronics, and creative arts in addition to

the training of ten thousand Ogoni people in various skills under our Livelihood Training Programme (LTP) is beginning to get fulfilled with the send forth of the first batch of air cabin crew trainees to the Crew Training Institute, Lagos. It had sounded too ambitious to be true for those who chose to believe that HYPREP was not intentional about the training. Today, not only is the truth crystal clear for all to see, the smiles also on the faces of beneficiaries and their families beam into a future of assured sustainable livelihood.

What is our goal and what legacy do we want to leave behind with these trainings? To train and equip a generation of enterprising Ogoni youths who are entrepreneurially driven with the seal of global brand on them and can compete favourably with their peers anywhere in the world. That is our target and the future we look forward to for them. We admit that so much valuable time has been lost, but we are committed to making speedy and steady improvements in the delivery of our mandate, which in this regard is the provision of alternative livelihoods for impacted communities.

As one batch of trainees completes their course, we shall send the next batch until the number we have budgeted for is trained. The

preparation to commence training in other skill areas in line with our schedule, has progressed to an advanced stage. We believe that the multiplier effect of the high skilled trainings for Ogoni youths will certainly stimulate the economic growth of Ogoniland.

Our activities in other areas of our operations keep expanding to accommodate new projects and programmes geared towards remediating the environment and empowering the people. In this regard, we are putting finishing touches to the take-off of the construction of the Centre of Excellence in Environmental Restoration and the Ogoni Specialist Hospital in Tai and the Cottage Hospital in Khana – projects that will not only add to the aesthetics of the landscape of Ogoni but also improve the quality of life of residents.

The approval, this week, by the Federal Executive Council of the contracts for these two big ticket projects was the last stage before the take-off of their construction. We are resolute in our commitment to seeing that the toga that Ogoni has worn for decades as a polluted land is replaced

by the garland of a clean and green Ogoniland. To achieve this, we are enlisting the services and support of all stakeholders – remediation companies (foreign, national, and indigenous), industry regulators, Ogoni communities and the Joint Venture Partners who are the funders. As it has become our pledge, we will ensure a judicious utilization of the funds entrusted to our care and make sure that such funds work for the Ogoni people.

We appeal to the Ogoni people, especially the youths, to let go of whatever grievances they might have had against the project and work in synergy with us to deliver on the mandate of the project. The project may have been slow in its formative years, but we assure you that, that is changing which any keen follower of the project from March last year to now can attest to that indeed there are positive changes and initiatives deliberately introduced to make the Ogoni community feel the impact of the project in line with our new slogan of moving the project 'from the field into the communities.'



HYPREP Management Staff Pose with Dr. Giadom on the Occasion of his first Anniversary as HYPREP Project Coordinator

In this Issue

HYPREP Herald – the monthly newsletter of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project is one year old this month. We made our debut in April last year with a promise to bring timely information devoid of propaganda on the operations of the project to your attention every month and in the last twelve months the editorial team have kept that promise. Every new edition of the newsletter from April last year bridged the communication gap that was mostly responsible for the public protestation against the project, especially from the Ogoni community. With more information made available to stakeholders on the operations and programmes of the project, the public became more aware of the opportunities that are available for them.

As we mark the first anniversary of the HYPREP Herald, we are more than ever committed to the responsibility vested in us to bring authentic information about the project to members of the public. In this edition, we lead with the big story of the first batch of Ogoni youths sent for training in aviation to become air cabin crew personnel. HYPREP Herald followed up with the trainees up to the institute where they are being trained in Lagos.

The Project Coordinator, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom is also a year old in office and we were able to secure an interview with him on his achievements in the last one year and

other sundry issues. The full interview is published in this edition as well as the speech he gave on the day of the anniversary.

This edition of the HYPREP Herald is loaded with celebrations either as achievements of the project or announcement of social status of individuals.

The regular segments of the HYPREP Herald (Facts about HYPREP, Poem Corner) are maintained for your information and reading pleasure.

We are open to any useful suggestion that will help us serve you better.

POETRY CORNER

THIS WONDROUS PLACE

By: Sharon Igbuzor

Amidst the field and forest green,
Where nature's beauty is seen,
A fragile balance we must keep,
Lest the environment falls asleep.

The streams that flow and the winds that blow,
Are more precious than we know,
For life depends on every drop,
And every breeze that mustn't stop.

The mountains high and the oceans deep,
Are part of a cycle we must keep,
For every life that swims and crawls,
And every creature that flies and calls.

Let's not forget the skies above,
Where clouds float like the gentle dove,
For the air we breathe is precious too,
And clean it must be for me and you.

Let's cherish the environment we share,
For all life forms depend on air,
The land, the water, and the trees,
Are part of a world meant to please.

So, let's protect this wondrous place,
And show the world our human grace,
For in the end, we are all one,
And the environment must be won.

Editorial Crew

Dr. Ferdinand Giadom	Publisher-in-Chief
Kpoobari Nafu	Editor
Faith Deekor	Reporter
Imeh Ofem	Reporter
Tombari Naadue	Camera
Yusuf Nurudeen	Column
Sweet Okundaye	Legal Adviser

Project News

FIRST BATCH OF OGO NI YOUTHS DEPARTS FOR AVIATION TRAINING

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has made good its promise last year to train four hundred Ogoni youths in mega skill areas of seafaring, mechatronics, aviation, and creative arts in addition to the training of ten thousand Ogoni people in alternative economic skills.

The Project has consequently sent the first batch of Ogoni youths for the aviation training as air cabin crew to the Crew Training Institute, Lagos, Nigeria.

Before their departure for Lagos, a send forth ceremony was held for them at the Project Coordination Office in Port Harcourt where the fifteen youths in the first batch were briefed by the Project Coordinator, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom on right conduct and on the need to be committed to their training to be good ambassadors of HYPREP and by extension Ogoni.

Dr. Giadom who congratulated the trainees on scaling through the rigorous selection process, and emerging top out of the over fifteen thousand (15,000) youths who indicated interest in the training, expressed joy over the commencement of the training and urged the trainees to make good use of the privilege to impact positively on their communities and the nation at large.

His words, 'I am joyful to have the first batch of the Ogoni Cabin Crew trainees seated here. I have not met any cabin crew personnel of Ogoni origin all my life and was looking forward to a day like this. Today marks the beginning of a new life for you. It is an opportunity that will take you to a place you never dreamed of, for you and your future generation. Most of you will end up in international airlines and ply your trade all over the world.'



Air Cabin Crew Trainees Pose with Family and HYPREP Management during their Send Forth

He noted that the air crew training will be very tasking and competitive and therefore admonished the trainees to put in their best during their training, and remain resilient as true Ogoni, so they can compete favourably with their counterparts anywhere in the world.

'Today you have this golden opportunity, make the best out of it. It is going to be competitive. You are going to compete with the best. There is no small task, whatever you must do, do it as if your life depends on it. You will have instructors, listen to them, take instructions, and be obedient, respectful, and responsible. Ogoni people are resilient, they can survive anywhere.'

The Project Coordinator appealed to the trainees to always put God first in all they do, shun crime and bad company, be their brothers' keepers, always resolve their differences amicably instead of engaging in clashes and be good ambassadors of the Project.

'The journey will be difficult, look up to heaven during difficulties. Hard

work pays, it does not kill. The hard way is the only way. Don't take shortcuts, it leads to nowhere. Be good ambassadors of HYPREP and fly the flag of HYPREP anywhere you go.'

The Head of the Livelihood Unit, HYPREP, Mrs. Josephine Nzidee said the selection process was very thorough and reposed confidence in the trainees to excel noting that they will fly the flag of HYPREP and the Ogoni community very high. She stated that the training will be conducted by the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), and successful trainees issued licenses to fly and advised them to pay undivided attention to their instructors.

Similarly, Mr. Benjamin Dele Oyinloye Director, Support Services, HYPREP admonished the trainees to take advantage of the golden opportunity given to them by HYPREP and be committed to their studies.

In the same vein, Barr. Sweet Okundaye, Head Legal Services, HYPREP while congratulating the trainees on making it to the training

stage urged them to jettison any form of distractions, and always display exceptional behaviour.

Mr. Enuolare Mba-Nwigoh, Head of Stakeholders' Engagement commended the Project Coordinator on his vision to developing impactful

sustainable livelihood programmes and taking HYPREP from the field to the communities for the project to have direct impact on the people.

Mr. Isah Bala of the Security Unit of HYPREP advised the trainees to always have the dignity of their

families, society, and HYPREP at heart in all they do. He admonished them to avoid being lured into criminal activities in the discharge of their duties.

...ARRIVAL AT CREW TRAINING INSTITUTE, LAGOS

Perhaps the first lesson for the fifteen trainees who most of them were flying for the first time was organized by the ever-boisterous Port Harcourt weather. From take-off in the showers of Sunday, 12th March at the Port Harcourt International Airport all through the forty-five-minute flight to Lagos, the turbulence that the airplane flew in helped in preparing the mind of the HYPREP sponsored air cabin crew trainees for what to expect in their pursuit to make a living from journeys in the sky.

Finally, the plane touched down at the domestic wing of the Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Lagos and the fifteen trainees and their handlers were ushered into the friendly arms of the Chief Executive Officer of the Crew Training Institute, Lagos, Katheryn Saro Lademo, who conducted the HYPREP team into a waiting bus enroute the training Institute in Ikeja.

The training programme is a partnership between the Hydrocarbon Pollution and Remediation Project, (HYPREP) and the Crew Training Institute, and will focus on thirteen key subjects designed to enhance the knowledge, skills, and attitude of the trainees.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Crew Training Institute, Mrs. Katheryn Saro Lademo - a seasoned aviator told the trainees that the greatest gift one could have in life is skill/knowledge and urged them to take the training seriously as the cabin crew job is very intense and highly competitive.

"I expect you to work very hard and



Air Cabin Crew Trainees in Class

study because it is all about what you know. So, it is very important that you concentrate and focus in class. Make sure you are doing what you are told by the instructor and ask questions where necessary and when required and most importantly, make sure you pass your exams. It is very important to us because if you pass, you have passed."

She explained that the training which will be in five (5) stages will span over six (6) weeks where participants are going to be writing exams on each of the subjects. Madam Lademo stated further that the initial stage which is the theoretical aspect will last for six weeks after which the trainees will proceed to the competency check where officials from the Nigeria Civil

Aviation Authority (NCAA) will be present to observe and assess the trainees.

According to her, successful trainees will be exposed to evacuation drills and firefighting to ensure that they know what to do in case of ditching emergencies.

"The trainees are going to fight fire; the biggest threat of aviation is fire. In case where we have an emergency landing on water, they are going to display that they can evacuate the passengers on water, meaning that they must know how to swim."

The CEO of the Crew Training Institute stated that successful applicants will then proceed to the final stage which is the professional examination at the Nigeria Civil

Aviation Authority (NCAA) where they will sit for two Computer-Based Tests (CBT) examinations with a pass mark of at least seventy-five percent (75%) to obtain their cabin crew license.

Speaking on the career prospect of the trainees, Mrs. Lademo said cabin crew members stand the chance of meeting different people from different cultures around the world and that successful trainees can find jobs from within and outside the country due to the gradual globalization and open sky policies which call for increasing liberalization. She said although automatic employment is not a guarantee in the aviation industry, the trainees stand a better chance of getting employed if they perform excellently.

“Our trainees are always in an advantaged position to get jobs because we groom them, polish them, and teach them. We also have partners in the aviation industry. Our job is to present them to the recruiter, it is their job to pass the interview.”

Head, of Livelihood HYPREP, Mrs. Josephine Nzidee who represented the Project Coordinator, Dr. Ferdinand Gaidom in Lagos enjoined the trainees to give their full attention to the program describing it as a 'great privilege.'

'The money for the training belongs to another Ogoni as much as it belongs to you. It is not your United Nations fundamental human right to be here. Other Ogoni people can also be here, so if you have been given this privilege and opportunity, use it wisely and be good ambassadors of HYPREP.'

One of the beneficiaries, Onyeomah Constance Nwafor, a graduate of Mass Communication from the Ken SaroWiwa Polytechnic who hails from Eleme Local Government Area appreciated HYPREP for making the audition process free and transparent. 'I want to thank HYPREP for making the entire process free and fair because I do not know anybody in HYPREP. I sat for the exams, passed, and

proceeded to the next stage.' She advised applicants who could not scale the hurdle not to give up trying subsequently. 'As much as you were not among the selected does not mean that the process was flawed, hold on, for your time will come.'

Similarly, Meneyii King Barisua a native of Eweh Community in Khana Local Government Area who holds a BSC in Banking and Finance from the University of Port Harcourt appreciated the Federal Government for the establishment of HYPREP and expressed his profound gratitude to

the Project Coordinator of HYPREP Dr. Ferdinand Giadom for allowing for transparency in the selection of beneficiaries. He promised to put in his best during the training to emerge successful at the end.

The aviation training will run in batches for the one hundred Ogoni youths who scaled the screening. The screening process for applicants for the other mega skill areas of mechatronics, seafaring and creative arts is in progress.

HYPREP IS FOCUSED ON OGOINI INTEREST - DR. GIADOM

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Dr Ferdinand Giadom has assured the leadership of the Ogoni Peoples Assembly (OPA) that the Project has the interest of the Ogoni people at heart, and it is working round the clock to deliver on its mandate.

Dr. Gaidom gave the assurance when the leader of the group, Rev. William Probel led other members of the body on a courtesy visit to the Project Coordination Office in Port Harcourt. He reminded the group of his first interaction with them when he was appointed the Project Coordinator and how he has worked assiduously to see that his dreams for the project are translated into reality.

“The first time you came, I presented to you what as at then was my dream for the project. The plans that we had to bring this project closer to the people. I sit here this morning to inform you that yes, with the help of my team, we have kind of succeed in steering the process that will bring HYPREP from the field into the communities. So, the focus of everything that we do is geared towards actualizing that intent of bringing HYPREP from the field into the communities.”

Dr. Giadom disclosed that the new policy of bringing the project from the field to the communities is what informed the Ogoni Power Project, the Specialist Hospital and Sustainable Livelihood Trainings and called on the group to continue to support HYPREP achieve set goals and objectives.

The HYPREP Project Coordinator regrated that there has been a litany of ligations against the project, saying such actions will delay the benefits the project had earmarked for the Ogoni people. 'I will not say Ogoni people, persons in Ogoni or to be specific, someone in Ogoni is doing everything possible to either truncate or stall this people's project because of his personal and private gains. I have taken some time back to watch the reactions of the people. That cannot happen in many societies, that because of one person's personal interest, what will have been the collective benefits of the people is stalled.'

'I feel that Ogoni people should take the lead and make sure that we address those distractions and so I round off by saying that yes, as of today, we are proceeding with what I call the socioeconomic projects that will conduce to the social and economic development of Ogoni people by bringing down the Ogoni power project, the Specialist Hospital, the

Center of Excellence, and then at the same time also pursuing the core mandate, which is the remediation of contaminated sites in the Ogoni.'

The position of OPA which was articulated by its Secretary General, Dr Evidence Enoch is centered round more participation of Ogoni people in the operations and contracts of

HYPREP and projects that have direct positive impact on the people.

"Day before yesterday, the leadership of OPA met and among other things discussed this project so far. Matters arising - we discussed the power project, we discussed the Center of Excellence, we discussed the cottage hospital, we discussed the soil

remediation - the shoreline, remediation works. We went as far as discussing the cases in court."

The meeting was the second by OPA with the Management of HYPREP to seek ways of inclusiveness in project contracting for enhanced participation by indigenous companies.

FG APPROVES CONTRACTS FOR Ogoni SPECIALIST HOSPITAL, CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

The Federal Executive Council has approved the contracts for the construction of two major projects for the Ogoni people under the current effort by the Federal Government to clean-up oil impacted sites in the area. The contracts are the construction of the Ogoni Specialist Hospital – a hundred bed medical facility to attend to the medical needs of the people and the National Centre of Excellence in Environmental Restoration.

The Honourable Minister of Environment, Barr. Mohammed Abdullahi disclosed the features of the National Centre of Excellence in Environmental Restoration and the cost implication.

"I presented two memos, one was for the award of contract for the construction of a centre of excellence for environmental restoration in Khana Local Government Area of Rivers State in the sum of N41,472,263, 848.60, with a completion period of 24 months. The centre will contain an admin block, auditorium, research building as well as male and female dormitories, library, and clinic, among others."

The construction of the National Centre of Excellence in Environmental Restoration is a recommendation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report being the fallout of the UN Agency's assessment of the Ogoni environment between 2009 and 2011. The Centre will be a top-notch international research institute for the oil industry and will also house an Integrated Contaminated Soil



**BARR. MOHAMMED H. ABDULLAHI
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT**

Management Centre. It will be sited in Wiiyaakara near Bori - the Headquarters of Khana Local Government Area.

The second contract is the construction of the Ogoni Specialist Hospital at the cost of eighteen point three billion naira (N18.3b).

"The second memo, which is equally approved, which is also in line with the UNEP Report is the contract for the construction of Ogoni 100-bed Specialist Hospital in favour of Messrs Tannit Medical Engineering Limited, in the sum of N18,308,463,225.37, plus 7.5% of VAT, with a delivery period of 24 months.

"The scope of the project includes the construction of administrative building, main Reception, Radiology, General Outpatient, Emergency Department, General Laboratory, Staff Section, Canteen, Laundry, In-patient Department, Intensive Care Unit, High Dependency Unit, Surgical Suite, Central Sterilization and Storage Department, In-patients Department II, Maternity Wards,

Labour and Delivery Rooms, Security Rooms, and Nursery, etc."

"These are projects that are tied to the clean-up programme, as contemplated by the UNEP Report, apart from the remediation component to support the wellbeing and welfare of the people who have been impacted by the negative effects of contamination in those areas."

President Muhammadu Buhari had in the third quarter of 2022 given approval for the design of the hospital which upon completion will house a department of telemedicine and a specialization in oncology due to the prolonged exposure of residents of Ogoni to hydrocarbon contaminants of concern.

The hospital will be sited in Tai being the only Local Government Area in Ogoni that does not have a General Hospital and it is conceived to serve as a reference hospital for the entire Niger Delta region to be a fully sustainable top brand hospital to meet the medical needs of today and tomorrow.



**Visit to Wiiyaakara Site
for Centre of Excellence**

HYPREP OPENS BID FOR SHORELINE CLEAN-UP AND RESTORATION

The much-awaited shoreline clean-up of contaminated areas in Ogoniland in Rivers State is set to begin as the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), has opened bids for the pre-qualification of contractors to undertake the first phase of shoreline clean-up in Ogoni communities.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom who was represented by his Senior Technical Adviser (STA), Jimmy Okoroh stated that shoreline clean-up is not an all-comer affair and urged the companies that would eventually get the contracts to show capacity and commitment to the clean-up of the shorelines as it is one project that HYPREP looks forward to its successful implementation on time, cost, and target.

'The shoreline remediation is not a haphazard process; it is a methodical system that is scientific and so you must bring your best foot forward for those that will win.'

Dr. Giadom disclosed that HYPREP had put in place a system that upholds transparency, accountability, and honesty in the bidding for contracts and advised bidders to always approach the project for clarification on issues relating to due process.

Director, Technical Services, Professor Philip Shekwolo reminded contractors of the nature of the environment they are to work being an inter-tidal area characterized by high and low tides which will require the use of special technology and personal protective equipment (PPEs).

Professor Shekwolo stated that remediation work in the swamp includes the removal of oily-soaked debris and stumps, raking of alga mat, flushing of sediment, recovery of waste crude to a treatment center, and most importantly the re-vegetation of mangrove after the clean-up and that

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Project (HYPREP), has opened bids for the pre-qualification of contractors to undertake the first phase of shoreline clean-up in Ogoni communities. Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom who was represented by his Senior Technical Adviser (STA), Jimmy Okoroh stated that shoreline clean-up is not an all-comer affair and urged the companies that would eventually get the contracts to show capacity and commitment to the clean-up of the shorelines as it is one project that HYPREP looks forward to its successful implementation on time, cost, and target. one project that HYPREP looks forward to its successful implementation on time, cost, and target.

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Bid Opening for Shoreline Clean-up

INTERVIEW

MY SECOND YEAR WILL BE FOR PROJECT DELIVERY – DR. GIADOM

Dr. Ferdinand Dumbari Giadom (MFR, FNAEGE) the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, speaks on his appointment, achievements and challenges, his work with UNEP during the environmental assessment of Ogoniland between 2009 and 2011 and as a university lecturer, as he marks his one year in office in this interview with Kpoobari Nafo and Imeh Ofem.

Congratulations sir on your first one year in office and we want to find out from you, how you felt that day when you were announced the new Project Coordinator of HYPREP?

Thank you, my brother Kpoobari. Well, first of all, there are certain times in your life when things happen and all you can just say is, whoa, and the next thing is that you drop on your knees and raise your eyes to the heaven and say, we thank thee, Lord. I was completely overwhelmed because, you know, it was preceded by a very fierce, competition and contest and to have been announced among some many equally very experienced and qualified contenders, it gives me joy beyond expression. But the next thing that happened almost immediately which couldn't allow me to savour the moment was the sudden realization that this whole project that is tied to the aspiration of the Ogoni people for over many decades has suddenly been placed on my shoulders. Expectations, I knew will be high, the challenges will be many and then stakeholders also are at various levels and in many places, so it was a moment of great joy, also mixed with a feeling of apprehension for the mission ahead but sitting down one year after and the modest achievements we have been able to pull through, I can only say, I thank the lord for His grace which abounds and His mercy that endures forever.

Sir, you participated in the assessment of Ogoni land that was

undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and later consulted for UNEP on the HYPREP Project. What will you consider as the high point of your working for UNEP then?

The high point of my working for UNEP was on two occasions which I cannot separate. The first occasion was the very first day that the UNEP team went to the field and we went to Ejamah, Egbu and we were trying to locate the epic centres of contamination and there was a spot that was jointly chosen by the entire scientific crew and then we placed down the augers and we were drilling and trying to find contamination and we thought that contamination will be in the next one-two-three metres. We have drilled up to seven metres and we have not found contamination. At the point of maybe almost giving up and changing the location but I looked around and I still felt we were at the right position and just when we were about giving up, I took a sheet of paper and drew out what was the theoretical scientific frame work, and I said we are approaching the capillary fringe and a little drill more because I was examining the soil cutting that was coming up and I said a little drill more will bring us to the capillary fringe. And just barely had I finished saying that we hit the capillary fringe and then the first smell of hydrocarbon was noticed and then of course everyone who was around including the foreign technical expert, the Chief Scientist himself, Mr. Thorsten Kallnischkies turned around and looked at me and just smiled and just little moment later we hit a very heavy layer of contamination, that was day one.

The second occasion was at Nsisioken Ogale several months later, when I moved out of the area that we were allotted, the area that was mapped to be worked and I went a little further into the community and stumbled into a compound where they are drilling a water well and I will say that I logged the cause from top to bottom almost 60

metres and then the level of contamination encountered was such that I had no option but to give my report, my preliminary field report that same afternoon and send it to the office in Geneva because at the time, I was the Lead Scientist on site. The Chief Scientist was away on leave, so I reported to him and also sent my findings to the office in Geneva because my report and the format showed the cause, when the report got to Geneva, they were full of disbelief. In fact they said that it was not possible and it wasn't supported in theory by any known scientific fact but I insisted that, that was what I found in the field and so they sent a very Senior Scientist, in fact and indeed he was a Nuclear Chemist, who came down with certain equipment and validated my findings, and it was at that point that preliminary samples were taken to Geneva and they discovered benzene in groundwater at Nsisioken in Ogale. So, again, that, my findings or that effort of mine, which was made outside the UNEP remit of classifying a borehole down to 60 metres. If you look at the UNEP report, that borehole at that location, is the only location where we had bores down to 60 metres. That was a private borehole logged by me. In fact, they find it difficult to understand why we would find benzene in groundwater 60 metres below but it ended up being the story. So, the entire story of benzene in groundwater was more or less a discovery that I started but also brought in more detailed investigation and then it became what it became and then everybody keyed into it. Well, these are the little credits that we can subscribe to.

You were a university lecturer before your appointment as the Project Coordinator of HYPREP. Do you miss the classroom and research?

I miss research and the classroom

every day of my life. You see, I was born for moments like this. I think I was born to be a teacher and at every opportunity I still try to teach as much as possible. I miss my students; I miss the classroom setting and I miss the university. In fact, and indeed, the university is indeed a citadel of sort. It's a place to be. A place of total freedom. I really miss the classroom.

Here you are as the Project Coordinator. One year down the line, what will you consider as your major achievement for the project?

Major achievement? The Ogoni power project. You see at the beginning of time God said let there be light and there was light, which separated the darkness from the light and then we had day and night and that was day one of God's creation. So, the very first thing God did was to shine light into darkness that covered the earth. I feel that provision of power to all Ogoni communities will be the beginning of real socio-economic development of Ogoni. Every other thing that happens will only complement this particular achievement. So, the Ogoni power project in my opinion will stand out to be my greatest achievement.

And in addition to that?

Well, the Ogoni Specialist Hospital ranks second because it is again a tertiary health institution domiciled in Ogoni. From the recommendations that happened on the floor of the Federal Executive Council/ yesterday (29th March), there were suggestions that we should turn it into a Federal Medical Centre. So, the Ogoni Specialist Hospital ultimately becoming a Federal Medical Centre to be handed over to the Federal Ministry of Health will again be another great achievement of mine. It will rank as my second and the third will be the Centre of Environmental Excellence which in every way will also be a top-notch research centre for the Niger Delta, for Sub-Saharan Africa and then something that will be a star project in Ogoni.

That new information on the Ogoni Specialist Hospital that the



Dr. Giadom

Federal Government is proposing that it be handed over to the Federal Ministry of Health to be a Federal Medical Centre of a sort will bring sustainability to the hospital project. What do you think?

Yes, that is the key question because it was the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Mohammed Bello who himself suggested that. Looking at the infrastructure that will be put in place and then the amount of funds that will be deployed, that it will only be good for us to begin to consider the sustainability of that project from the get go and so haven't said that, yes, I am so relieved that the sustainability is being worked on immediately and ultimately with the partnering with the Federal Ministry of Health, we can have that as, yes, a Federal Medical Centre to ensure the sustainability in terms of quality personnel and also the right quantity and then also other hospital management personnel.

Yes, let's look at other areas of the project and this time potable water provision. What is keeping the project from completing its batch one water contracts and proceeding to the second batch of potable water for Ogoni communities?

Well, the completion of the batch one

water project is on cause, it's under way but there were some issues with the initial conceptualization and design and these issues upon the audit of the water project and the processes, we decided to convoke a team of experts to really evaluate what will be the best way forward for that project. And then upon the submission of their report, we found out that there were certain additional works that were to be done for us to actually finish that project. So, these additional works are being compiled and it will require additional procurement process to bring them to bear but what we have done is that instead of waiting for all that to happen, we will look at components of that project that can be completed and also be commissioned for use and do such. So, we will in the coming weeks commission some of the water stations that we have been able to complete the works that needed to be done.

The other area is remediation and even the power that you talked of earlier. Recently, new contracts were awarded for remediation and also power. What is the status of those projects?

For the 39 remediation LOTs, yes, contracts have been awarded. Yes,

contracts have been signed. APGs (Advance Payment Guarantees) have been granted and what we are doing now is to sensitize communities for the eventual hand over of the sites to the individual contractors. When we were to start the sensitization, it coincided with the political season. the political season is over now and so we have to proceed into the actual implementation of this site by carrying out sensitization and hand the project over to the contractors.

You've been at the helm of affairs of this project for this past one year. Are there challenges that you are facing in running the project?

Yes, a project that hold high promise for the Ogoni people, for the people of Niger Delta and then other stakeholder groups around the world, yes, it will be fraught with different challenges, but these are not challenges that are not unsurmountable. Challenges come in various forms. First, there is the misunderstanding of what the project is about and there is also some degree of mistrust from various stakeholders who feel that the project is not delivering on time and on schedule and some of the times, yes, I understand these frustrations because for instance look at the UNEP report that was released in August 2011 and there were emergency measures that were stipulated to be carried out immediately, like the provision of potable water in 2011, stating that there are communities that are consuming water contaminated with carcinogens particularly benzene 900 times above allowable water drinking limit and then more than 12 years later, we are still talking about provision of water. So, these are things that are not excusable and haven't said that we are trying to make haste in order to fulfil these promises but for a people who have waited for so long and then again haven't waited for 12 years, you can understand their frustration.

So, for me until we deliver on this project, it is not just saying we have approvals for project, until the day that we will switch on the laver and there will be light in Ogoni communities,

”Again, I say within the next one year, you will see these projects at various stages of progress and with sure eyes on the target for delivery. Especially since we have timelines, the Ogoni Specialist Hospital is to be delivered in 24 months so is the Centre of Excellence, the phase one of the Ogoni power project is to be delivered in 12 months.”

until the day that anybody will switch on a tap and there will be water flowing in their communities, until the day that the Specialist Hospital will be open to receiving patients and treating them, until the day that the Centre of Excellence will be producing research papers and open its doors to training Ogoni youths and others in environmental science and engineering, then we will continue to have this doubt. But what I can tell stakeholders is that we are on cause, we are committed to delivering on these promises and of course I have said that it is just 365 or 370 days that we have been in the saddle, or we assumed duty. The public can measure the steady progress that we have made within this period, and I dare say that, yes, they should give us the benefit of the doubt.

Again, I say within the next one year, you will see these projects at various stages of progress and with sure eyes on the target for delivery. Especially since we have timelines, the Ogoni Specialist Hospital is to be delivered in 24 months so is the Centre of Excellence, the phase one of the Ogoni power project is to be delivered in 12 months. Things are being put in places to ensure that these things happen. The sites for the 132KVA, 2 by 60 MVA

sub-stations have been acquired. The sites have been prepared, then we are just about to commence the process of setting out the transmission Right of Way so within the next one year, Ogoni people and other observers will see a lot of work taking place in the field. This in itself will assuage the anxiety of the people and will help pacify the doubts, the mistrust and then the frustrations. So, I believe that in a little while some of the challenges that we face will actually be overcome.

Yes, and that is the prayer. Going by the books, the operations of HYPREP are to be over seen by several regulators in the industry. How are you able to manage them to ensure that there are no conflicts, that could slow down your own project?

Well, I, all times welcome a second look at whatever one is doing. Peer review is a gradual process because it enables somebody who is removed from the everyday activity to take another critical look at your deliverables, at your methods. So having different regulators such as the NUPRC (Nigerian Upstream Regulatory Commission) and NOSDRA (National Oil Spill Detection Response Agency), working with HYPREP gives us that comfort because a dancer does not see his back. These are the people that will look at our methods, the outcome of our methods and be able to tell for sure that yes, you have done well, there are areas that you need to do better. So even civil society organizations, even Ogoni people themselves, everyone is welcome. We are very transparent; we have an open-door policy to actualizing these goals.

Sir, would you consider an amendment or suggest an amendment to the legal framework establishing the project for effective service delivery.

Well, for me we should learn to walk before we run. As far as I am concerned, we can operate to a very

high degree of success even within the present framework. There is always room to make things better. There have been calls that the project should be turned into an agency and give it that legal standing. Again, within the framework as a project under the ministry, I know the usual bureaucracy of the ministry interferes with the pace of work but for me these checks and balances are also necessary for a very sensitive and complex project as HYPREP with lots of interest and multiple stakeholders. You know our fundings come from the International Oil Companies (IOCs) who want to see the judicious use of the funds which they released. So, to get another layer of control of checks and balances for me is not out of place. It shows due diligence. It shows that all procedures have to be put in place so that when you say you delivered, you are playing by the rules. The only that I will say is that, yes, since it is a special project, when matters come to the higher level for consideration it should be treated with dispatch. For me I have no issues within the present framework or if in the future, there is another legal framework that establishes HYPREP as an agency of government and not only as a project.

You are Ogoni. Are your people back home giving you the needed support to succeed?

I will start by saying that I stumbled upon an old report about Ogoniland, given by a particular Divisional Officer in about 1923 way back pre independence. The man wrote that the Ogoni people are not monolithic, which in my own interpretation, if 100 years ago, the Ogoni people were already identified as a people that are not monolithic and again this has been underscored, verified and highlighted

by the book, *The Ogoni of the Eastern Niger Delta* written by Dr. Sonpie Kpone-Tonwe, and that book traces the history of Ogoni for close to a 1000 years if not more and it still comes to support the opinion that the Ogoni people are not monolithic. What am I saying, Ogoni people have very diverse opinions, very diverse approaches to issues on virtually everything so, you will seldom find a situation where you will see the Ogoni people rally around a point entirely as one. The only time in recent history where Ogoni people rallied around a point was the era of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP). Just about 1989, 1990 when the Ogoni Bill of Rights was issued, and everybody identified that because it was a clarion call. All Ogonis in Ogoni, in diaspora began to look inward for their survival and of course we are all affected but today you have seen the outcome of that struggle. Within three years it started falling apart and from then till now you can see that the Ogoni people seem to find it difficult to sing from the same song sheet. So, you have various opinions, various shades of interpretation to issues, various modes of reaction to issues. So I will answer this question you asked about the support from the Ogoni people to be a mixed bag. Yes, there are people who have being very supportive, a lot of people have always called and told me that their prayers are for me, they are with me and they support the ideas and the things we are doing but again, there have been a lot of people that have been so pissed off with what we are attempting to do especially people don't feel comfortable that we are steering the project in a different direction. What I describe as taking the

project from the field into the communities. So having said this, I have had a mixed bag of support, some a number of ordinary Ogonis who support and appreciate what we do and some others who feel otherwise but whichever way that is the society for you. In republican societies such as Ogoni you will need to see things from all shades of opinion but I know that once we are able to deliver on this project most especially the Ogoni power project, it will go a long way to convincing those who are still in the realm of doubt and I really don't blame those who are in the realm of doubt. There have been several failed promises and so just coming and talking and bringing out these new ideas will not automatically win the doubters to become believers. There will be doubters until we are able to actually bring this project from the pages of paper into the realm of implementation.

What are we expecting from the project as you proceed into your second year?

Well, as I proceed into my second year, it will be delivery, delivery, delivery. Now if for nothing, we have three-star projects and every day of the next one year will be actual supervision to make sure that these projects are delivered on time, to make sure that they are delivered on cost, to make sure that they are delivered on target. So, you will find us in the field every day. There will be multiple activities, multiple supervisory roles, job opportunities and business opportunities for Ogoni people and so the next one year is going to be quite very busy for us as we do our best to deliver on these promises.

Thank you so much sir.

Thank you, my brother.

Facts About HYPREP

DISPUTE RESOLUTION MECHANISM

(1) In the event of any dispute related to the HYPREP arising between impacted communities, oil companies, contractors and Government -

(a) there shall be established a dispute resolution mechanism to assist in the resolution of any dispute that may arise in connection with the work of HYPREP.

(b) parties to a dispute shall meet and attempt in good faith to resolve the dispute through negotiation; and

(c) where the Parties to a dispute (which includes a community) fail to resolve a dispute through negotiation, they shall submit the dispute to mediation or conciliation by:

i) the Zonal Representative Committee (communities) who shall endeavor to resolve the dispute

amicably between the parties;

ii) where the dispute remains unresolved by the Zonal Representative Committee, Parties shall submit the dispute to the Central Representative Committee (Traditional Rulers) for resolution;

iii) any Party to a dispute not satisfied with a decision of the Central Representative Committee (Traditional Rulers) shall submit same to the Governing Council who shall resolve the dispute iv) notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph, where a dispute involves a crime, the matter shall be reported to the Nigeria Police or any other law enforcement agency for investigation and prosecution.

(2) Where a dispute remains unresolved after applying any of the

ADR mechanisms referred to under subparagraph (1) of this paragraph any party to the dispute may submit the dispute for settlement by arbitration in accordance with the provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act Cap A.18, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

(3) Parties shall respect and execute the decision of the arbitrators without delay unless such decision has been appealed.

(4) Each party shall bear its own cost of arbitration.

(5) The venue of any arbitration shall be the Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration, Lagos, Nigeria.



Dr. Giadom Poses with Exco of OPA during their Visit to the Project Coordination Office

1ST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HYPREP HERALD – the official Newsletter of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is a year old.

Many hearty cheers to the Editorial Crew for sustained publication in the past one year and the readership for continuous interest in our reports.

We are grateful to the Publisher-in-Chief, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom and Management of the Project for the sponsorship enjoyed in the last one year.

We are more than ever determined to keep you up to speed on the operations and activities of the project.

**Kpoobari Nafu
Editor**

AN ADDRESS BY THE PROJECT COORDINATOR OF THE HYDROCARBON POLLUTION REMEDIATION PROJECT (HYPREP), DR. FERDINAND GIADOM, (MFR, FNAEGE) ON HIS FIRST ANNIVERSARY AS PROJECT COORDINATOR OF HYPREP THIS 8TH DAY OF MARCH 2023.

Today marks my one year in office as the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP). A year ago, precisely on 8th March 2022, the Federal Government through the Ministry of Environment appointed me to pilot the affairs of the Project Coordination Office for which I am grateful to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari for the confidence reposed in me. That honour was doubled when in the year, His Excellency conferred on me the National Honour of Member of the Order of the Federal Republic (MFR) in recognition of the privileged opportunity given to me to contribute towards making the environment better.

Indeed, the past one year has been

eventful for me as the helmsman of the project. We came in and immediately settled down to duty – refocusing the project on its deliverables and even expanded its scope to encompass sustainability of existing projects and conceptualizing new ones like the Ogoni Power Project which the site preparation of the 132 KVA Power Transmission Sub-stations and alignment surveys of the transmission line Right of Ways have begun, the training for four hundred Ogoni youths in mega skill areas of mechatronics, seafaring, creative arts, and aviation. In the next few days, the first batch of candidates for the aviation training drawn from the four Local Government Areas of Ogoni will depart for the Crew Training Institute (CTI) Lagos, for their training which is being modulated by the national regulator – the Nigerian

Civil Aviation Agency (NCAA).

Within this one year, we completed the phase 1 batches 1 and 2 of hydrocarbon impacted sites in Ogoni that my predecessors started, made the taps to run in Alesa and its adjoining communities being one of the six lots in batch 1 of contract for the provision of potable water in Ogoniland, fast-tracked work on the remaining five lots which are now at their different stages of completion. We designed a one hundred bed Specialist Hospital that the procurement process is now at an advanced stage and contract about to be awarded for its construction. The architectural design for the National Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration is done and the site prepared for the take-off of its construction. It is one of the legacy projects that HYPREP will bequeath to the Ogoni people and will serve as a

knowledge resource and research centre.

With the successful completion of the first phase of remediation, we have proceeded to awarding contracts for the remediation of thirty-nine medium risk lots which the contractors are in the process of mobilizing to site. We have also opened the bid for the clean-up of shorelines and in the coming weeks that process will dovetail into award of contracts and massive job creation for the youths.

As we progress into my second year of coordinating the affairs of HYPREP, I dedicate myself more to the delivery of the mandate of the Project and those programmes and initiatives that will better the lives and environment of the

Ogoni people. I also commit to the frugal management of the resources; material and human, of the project and strive towards building the confidence of sponsors in the ability of HYPREP to deliver as well as meet the expectation of the Ogoni people who are the ultimate beneficiaries of the project.

It would be needless to say, that I need the continuous support of all stakeholders to succeed, and that success is our collective success. On assumption of office, I spent considerable time and resources meeting with key stakeholders to brief them on the plans and programmes of the project and that is because I consider them an invaluable segment of our public.

As I mark this first anniversary, I will not fail to thank my team of Management and Staff, the support team of Shell Petroleum Development Company to HYPREP, the technical support team of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for your dedication to duty and sustained support for the project. My special thanks to the Honourable Minister of Environment, Barr. Mohammed Abdullahi for your abiding love for the Ogoni people and the project. I equally want to thank all partners especially from the academia, the civil society, and regulators for your passion to see that the project succeeds. Together we will lift Ogoni from the present state of pollution to a clean and green future where opportunities abound for all.

Easter Celebration

The Project Coordinator,

*Dr. Ferdinand Giadom (MFR, FNAEGE), Management and Staff
of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project HYPREP
celebrate with the Christian community the resurrection
of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead.*

*It is our prayer that the sacrifice of love and victory that the risen
Christ wrought for mankind will fill your heart and soul with the
will to work for the peace and prosperity of society.*

Happy Easter!

***Signed,
Management***

Happy Ramadan Mubarak

The Project Coordinator,

Dr. Ferdinand Giadom (MFR, FNAEGE),

Management and Staff of the Hydrocarbon Pollution
Remediation Project HYPREP

wish all Muslim faithful the peace, strength, and grace for
this period of the Ramadan fast and pray that our dear
nation, Nigeria will experience the peace and blessings of
Allah.

May your supplications be answered by the Almighty.
Amin!

Ramadan Kareem!

Signed,
Management



**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
HYDROCARBON POLLUTION REMEDIATION PROJECT (HYPREP)
Office of the Project Coordinator**

The Project Coordinator, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom (MFR, FNAEGE),
Management and Staff of the Hydrocarbon Pollution
Remediation Project HYPREP celebrate with the
Spokesperson of the Central Representative Advisory
Committee of HYPREP, His Royal Majesty, Mene Dr.
Suanu Timothy Yormaadam Baridam, Gbenemene &
Kasimene VII of Ancient Bangha on the recognition and
elevation of your stool to first class by the Rivers State
Government.

May your reign bring peace and development to your people.

Congratulations!

Signed,
Management



**His Royal Majesty
Mene Dr. Suanu T. Y. Baridam**
Gbenemene & Kasimene VII of Ancient Bangha



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
HYDROCARBON POLLUTION REMEDIATION PROJECT (HYPREP)
Office of the Project Coordinator

2023 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS

The Project Coordinator, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom (MFR, FNAEGE), Management and Staff of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) join in the celebration of the 2023 International Day of Forests with a reaffirmation of the mandate of the project to remediate oil impacted sites in Ogoniland towards the re-vegetation and restoration of the mangrove forests that were depleted by oil pollution. As we clean-up the shorelines and other areas of Ogoniland, we do so in the firm belief and alliance with the theme of this year's celebration, 'Forests and Health' to give the Ogoni people and indeed the world a healthy environment to live in.

Happy International Day of Forests!

Kpoobari Nafu

Head, Communications, HYPREP

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PICTURES OF THE MONTH



Dr. Ferdinand Giadom Shortly after FEC's Approval of Ogoni Specialist Hospital Contract at Aso Rock Villa, Abuja.



Director Technical Services, Prof. Phillip Shekwolo during Bid Opening for Shoreline Remediation



Director Support Services, Mr. Benjamin Oyinloye during Sendforth of Air Cabin Crew Trainees



Head Legal Services, Barr. Sweet Okundaye during Send forth of Air Cabin Crew Trainees



Mr. Isa Bala of the Security Unit during Send forth of Air Cabin Crew Trainees



CEO, Crew Training Institute, Mrs. Katheryn Saro Lademo Instructing Trainees



SPDC Representative in HYPREP, Engr. Clark Ekiyokenegha during Send forth of Air Cabin Crew Trainees



Head, Stakeholders Engagement Unit, Dr. Enuolare Mba-Nwigoh during Send forth of Air Cabin Crew Trainees

Shun Illegal Oil Refining It Destroys the Environment

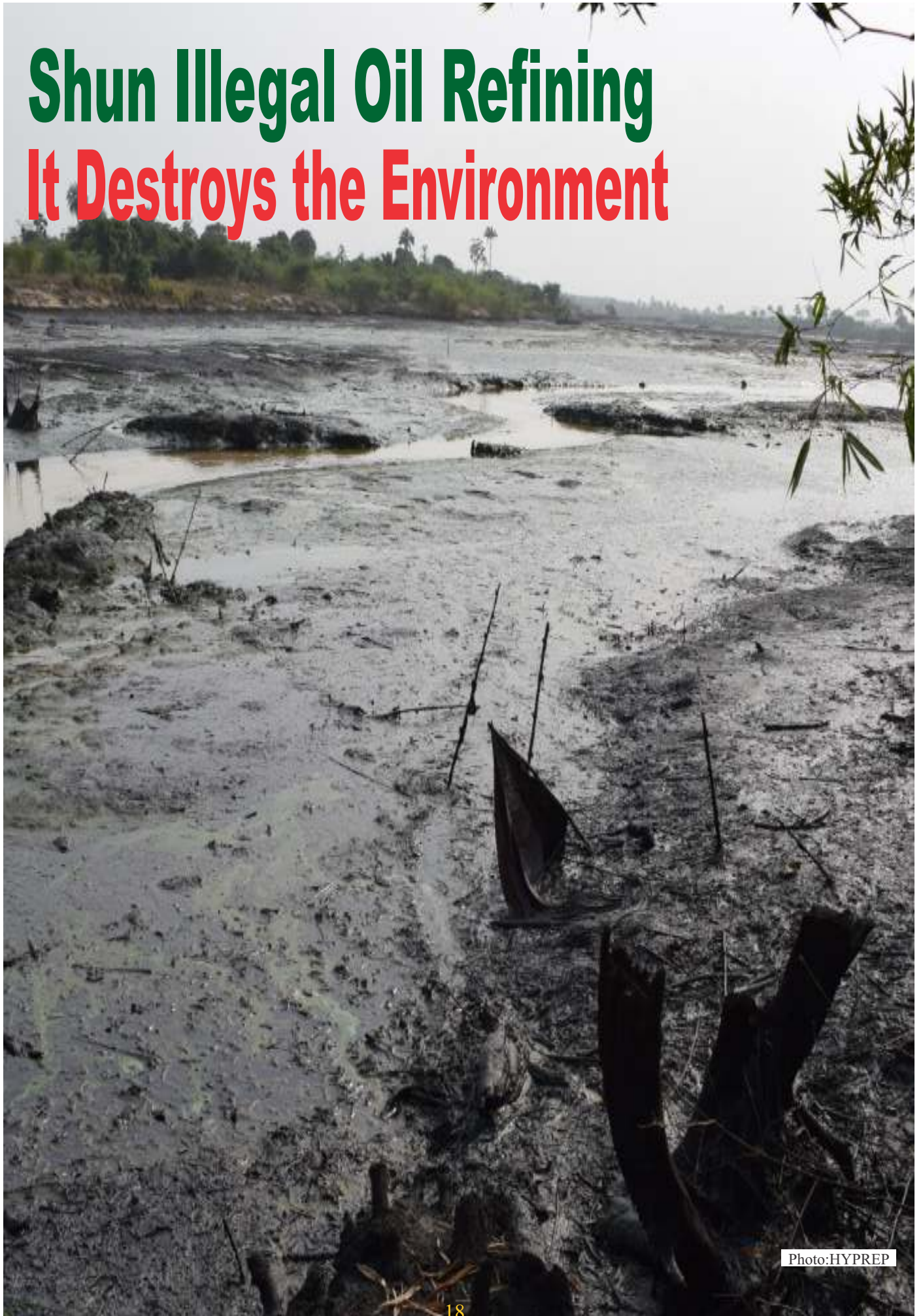


Photo:HYPREP



THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE

**“Be nice to the environment. Be nice to animals.
Be nice to people. If you do that, you will leave a
mark on the world.”**

- Enock Maregesi

Remediated Land

Photo:HYPREP

... for a cleaner and greener Ogoniland

A Publication of the Communications Unit of HYPREP

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