



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

# HYPREP HERALD

DECEMBER 2022 VOL.1 No.9

## FEC APPROVES 500 JOBS FOR OGOINI YOUTHS



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**HYPREP HERALD NOT TO BE SOLD**

# THE PC'S DESK



DR. FERDINAND DUMBARI GIADOM  
Project Coordinator

This December edition of the HYPREP Herald is the last for the year 2022. It is the ninth we have published for the year.

When we launched the maiden edition in April this year, it was there about my first signal to announce the change in the administration of the project and the headline aptly captioned it, New Day in HYPREP. The second edition was equally an announcer of the arrival of a substantive and current Honourable Minister of Environment, Barr. Mohammed Abdullahi. It was therefore a clean stable for me and the Honourable Minister to operate. The period coincided with the last phase of work for the remediation contracts that companies engaged by the project were executing. We were therefore to develop a new and mega set of contracts that were to cut across remediation, potable water, construction of centre of excellence, the Ogoni Specialist Hospital, livelihood trainings, and an Ogoni Power Project to provide sustainability for the various programmes of the project and to drive economic development in Ogoniland. So, between my assumption of office in late March and now, we have painstakingly set out the targets and procedures for achieving the above conceived projects. It was a foundation laying stage for us, and we had to harness available material and human resources that will make us realize set goals and objectives for the project and the larger Ogoni community that we serve.

We can say as the year rolls to an end that we are set for that giant leap, God helping us, into the new year and into the next phase of project implementation. The Federal Executive Council (FEC) had just approved the engagement of five hundred Ogoni youths as environmental vanguards to support government security agencies in the protection of HYPREP facilities on sites and other government infrastructure within Ogoniland.

The on-going water facilities in phase one under construction would be completed. Within the month also the remediation contractors in batches 1 and 2 whose lots have been successfully closed out by the National Oil Spills Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) will return to site to do the final phase of their jobs which are proper landscaping of backfilled pits and removal of debris and returning of the various sites to their original state before remediation works started. We will come back in later edition to properly set out our work plan for the new year. For now, it will suffice for us to lead you through some of the highpoints of the out-going year-2022.

Shortly after my assumption, we organized Management retreat to re-tool and re-focus members of staff and management on the deliverables of the project and how we can deliver on those set targets. The retreat which was held in the heart of Ogoniland (Wiiyaakara) away from the bustle and hustle of Port Harcourt was a success. The plan to re-engineer the project for better performance was not limited to the staff of the Project Coordination Office, the project on the sponsorship of the United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP) flew select members of the Governing Council, the Board of Trustees, the Central Representative Advisory Committee, and other relevant stakeholders to London on a study tour of remediation sites to acquaint them

with the workings and operations of how remediation is done. That was to properly position them to perform their respective roles better be it policy formulation, fund releases, project execution, regulation and monitoring and evaluation.

Alongside the technical overhaul was the organizational restructuring that saw to the unbundling of some units of the project that were encumbered with overload and the creation of new ones to cater for new projects and deliverables. The bottom line is that the project now has a smart organogramme that effectively enables it to deliver on its mandate.

Though we had planned to achieve more than we did for the year, but some unforeseen challenges slowed down our pace. That notwithstanding, we were able to navigate our way round them to keep the Project stable and formidable for the next phase of project delivery.

We assure the Ogoni people and other stakeholders of the Project that we are more than ever determined to clean-up Ogoniland and restore the livelihoods of the people which is our core mandate and other sundry deliverables of the Project.

Editorial Crew Members	
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



# In this Issue

As it is customary with the yuletide season when pleasantries and gifts are sent to loved ones in celebration of the end of the year and the beginning of a new one, this December edition of the HYPREP Herald conveys a special gift from the Federal Government of Nigeria to the Ogoni people. The good news of the approval of environmental vanguard jobs for 500 Ogoni youths by the Federal Executive Council.

On one hand it shows the commitment of the President Buhari led administration to a better Ogoniland and on the other, the high premium that the

Government of Nigeria places on the people of Ogoni and the Delta in general. This contract and others in the waiting will translate to a busy new year for HYPREP where the Project will be working to clean-up Ogoniland and putting back smiles on the faces of the people.

HYPREP was part of the Nigerian contingent to COP27 in Egypt that held mid-November. The Honourable Minister of Environment, Barr. Mohammed Abdullahi presented Nigeria's position on the mitigation of climate change which was the central discuss at the conference. The Project Coordinator of HYPREP presented a detailed programme of action by the project towards the sequestration of carbon from the atmosphere being a major contributor to global warming. Known voices in the civil society movement in Nigeria were

interviewed and all of that is featured is this edition of the HYPREP Herald.

The Project opened its area offices in Eleme and Tai Local Government Areas to bring its operations closer to the people. The colourful opening ceremonies were well attended by chiefs and other stakeholders from the area.

Our other columns on titbits to keep you informed and entertained are included to give you a pleasurable read. We hope that you find this edition as worthwhile as you have always. Please we will appreciate your feedback to enable us serve you better. You can reach us through the channels at the back page.

Compliment of the season from all of us at the HYPREP Herald!

## POETRY CORNER

### JUSTICE FOR EARTH

By: Anne Ekong

How long will we batter our environment?  
How long will we keep undressing our homes?  
Habitats grown to nurture all her children  
Are destroyed by the greed of human evolution  
Species, land and forests disappear in man's wake  
The earth weeps as the elements explode  
Showing how vulnerable humans are in their humble abodes  
Catastrophes spread across the globe  
Around us, pollution rages  
No flowers to grace our surroundings  
Stop the pollution, let our earth breathe

How long can earth take our disservice to nature?  
Has she not provided all that we need?  
Yet we repay her with contempt as we feed  
Our land is parched and scorched  
As man continues to fire the furnace  
Our pesticides kill off the bees  
No birds to sing their songs  
All we see are people and their craft of destruction

Earth dies for lack of greenery.  
And life cries for her death from uncleanness  
Who is culpable but us?  
For staining her beauty and garment

Stars tainted by Pollution's haze  
And rivers once alive with fish now a pool of death  
Pollution is not the only culprit, we aided this crime  
But we can make restitution by loving wildlife and  
planting trees

It's time to wake up and see the pain  
We inflict on our precious gift- the earth  
We can stop the bleeding and start breeding saner  
and cleaner earth.



Dr. Ferdinand Giadom Making Presentation at COP 27, Egypt

## Project News

# FEC APPROVES 500 JOBS FOR OGOINI YOUTHS

The Federal Executive Council presided over by President Muhammadu Buhari has approved the contract for the engagement of five hundred (500) Ogoni youths as environmental vanguards.

The five hundred youths are to complement deployed conventional government security to protect and safeguard HYPREP sites and other government infrastructure in Ogoniland.

The approval for the five hundred jobs

follows an earlier recommendation by the Governing Council of HYPREP for the engagement of five hundred Ogoni youths as environmental vanguards to secure HYPREP facilities and to serve as an empowerment package to dissuade them from negative tendencies like illegal oil bunkering and artisanal refining that pollute the environment.

With the approval, five hundred Ogoni youths will be taken out of the labour market and thus reduce youth restiveness within the communities.

Already HYPREP is in the process of screening applicants for four hundred slots in aviation, mechatronics, seafaring, and entertainment under its livelihood trainings. The four hundred slots in the mega skill areas are besides the ten thousand training slots for Ogoni people.

Other proposed projects coming up are the construction of the Ogoni Specialist Hospital, the Centre of Excellence in Environmental Restoration and the Ogoni Power Project.

## NIGERIA COMMITTED TO CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION – BARR. ABDULLAHI

The Honourable Minister of Environment, Barr. Mohammed Abdullahi has said that Nigeria is not relenting in its effort to mitigating the effects of climate change through the institutionalization of legal framework, green growth, and sustainable economic development.

Barr. Abdullahi said this during activities to mark the Nigerian day at the Conference of Parties (COP27) of the United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

You will recall that Nigeria has committed to Net Zero Emissions by 2060, signed the Climate Change Act 2021, kicked start its Great Green Wall Programme in the North and the Mangrove Restoration and Re-vegetation Programme in the South of the country. The Mangrove Restoration and Re-vegetation Programme is being handled by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP).

The Honourable Minister of



**Barr. Mohammed Abdullahi**

Environment noted with satisfaction the commitment of Nigeria to a safe and clean world.

“The Climate Change Act 2021 paved the way for the establishment of several institutions and action plans including the National Council on Climate Change, which is charged with the powers to implement Nigeria's

Climate Action Plan, the Energy Transition Plan, Emissions Trading Scheme and the Carbon Trading Framework, all geared towards one goal – meeting Nigeria's net zero energy target and rescuing our world from the debilitating effects of climate change.”

He said COP27 provides an opportunity for Nigerians to under one roof to share ideas and contribute towards addressing the increasing effects of climate change on the environment and humans showcase the efforts that Nigeria is making in mitigating it through various programmes like energy transition and afforestation by way of the great green wall and the Ogoniland mangrove seedlings planting.

Barr. Abdullahi noted that though the challenges are daunting, but Nigeria remains relentless in her commitment and collaboration with other African nations and those in the global south to achieve emission reduction target soon.

“Specifically, a major milestone in our effective response to reducing carbon emissions is the development of Nigeria's Emissions Trading Scheme which will serve as a valuable incentive in the journey to achieve Nigeria's climate targets and possibly enable Nigeria to attract more than \$3 billion from the \$175 billion global carbon market. With the establishment of Nigeria's Emissions Trading

Scheme, we are further demonstrating to the rest of the world our readiness and commitment to providing leadership in climate governance both regionally and internationally.”

Present at the event were the Senate Committee Chairman on Ecology and Climate Change, Lawal Hassan Anka, Senior Special Assistant to President Buhari on Environment and Climate

Change, Engineer Hassan Musa, the Director General of the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), Mr. Idris Musa, the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom, nationals of other countries, among other dignitaries.

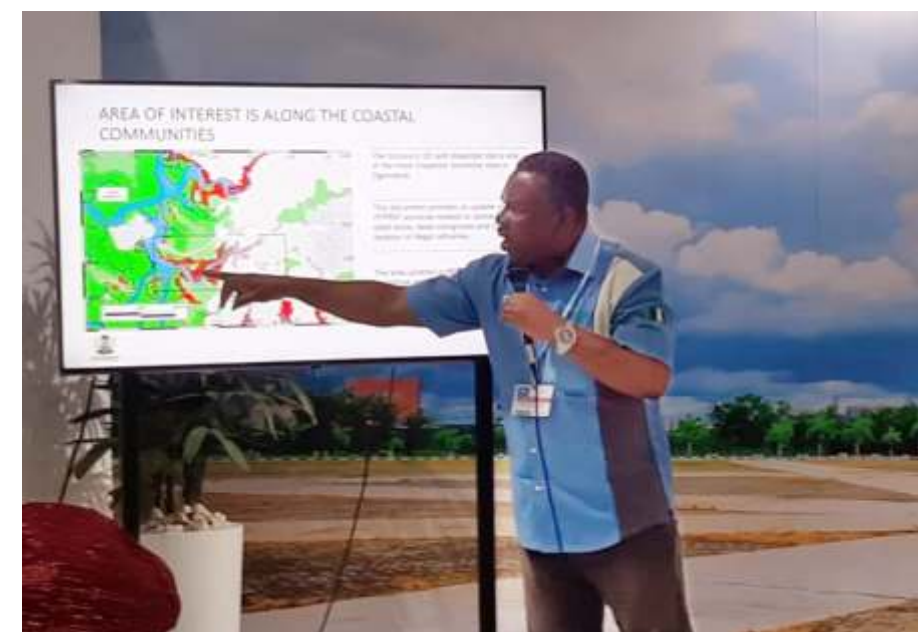
## **HYPREP LEFT FOOTPRINTS AT COP27** **– DR. GIADOM**

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Dr. Ferdinand Giadom has said that the Project left reassuring impressions on the world with the presentation of its carbon sequestration programme at the United Nations COP27 Conference held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

Dr. Giadom stated this in an exclusive interview with the HYPREP Herald at the end of his presentation under the caption, “Oil Spills, Remediation Projects & Climate Change Mitigation – The HYPREP Intervention.”

He said HYPREP did not sit as a mere observer at the conference but made significant and active contribution to the key issue of decarbonization by showcasing the Project's programme of activities towards mitigating the effects of climate change.

“HYPREP participated fully in the proceedings of COP 27, not only participating as observer, but we also participated actively by presenting, what we call the HYPREP intervention and contribution towards a global effort of mitigating the impact of climate change. What do I mean by this? We have shown through our presentation that the mangrove restoration project that targets the



**Dr. Ferdinand Giadom Making Presentation at COP 27, Egypt**

planting of five million seedlings of mangrove will be achieved by the end of 2025. It will in a long way contribute to a global effort of decarbonization which is stripping carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Again, we presented to the global community that the mangroves that are found in the shorelines of Ogoni have been described to have the capacity of stripping carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, five times more than any tropical plants. We showcased that of the seven species of mangrove that we have globally at least four species are prominently represented along the Ogoni coast

lines and these four species when we complete their restoration will significantly contribute in a way to strip the atmosphere of carbon.”

The HYPREP Project Coordinator disclosed that over 2500 hectares of impacted shorelines are to be restored and mangrove seedlings replanted which he said has been described as one of the largest restorations of the mangrove ecosystem anywhere in the world and that HYPREP footprints in COP27 were well established.

Dr. Giadom pointed out that the mangrove restoration programme of HYPREP will create several green



jobs in Ogoniland with their multiplier effects on the local economy.

“In spite of the depressed environment in which we are living, we are making conscious effort at restoring it to some level of functionality. We made demonstration aimed at creating hundreds of green jobs thereby jump starting the green economy around the Ogoni area and we believe that this is going to be sustainable because our mangrove restoration effort is not something that will last for only three years. You must nurture the mangrove ecosystem for about twenty-five years before it can grow to maturity and succession. By succession we mean that not only planting mangroves, but we must also groom them to ensure that they can produce the next generation of mangroves, and this happens after twenty-five years. So, if we keep this sustained effort, we would have by all means jump started the green economy.”

He said with commitment to global climate change mitigation action plans such as HYPREP is doing and proper reward system for complying nations, the earth temperature can be restored to acceptable levels.

“We have also seen that the global community is very concerned about the state of earth climate and striving hard to maintain the average temperature of the earth at not greater than 1.5 degree Celsius above preindustrial levels. This is a tall order but there are so many incentives that are coming on board to make sure that developing countries especially those in the tropics carry out programmes such as the one we are embarking on, 'the restoration of mangrove ecosystem' in other to ensure that the global temperature does not rise above that target level.”

Dr. Giadom who was awarded the



**Dr. Ferdinand Giadom**

National Association of Engineering Geology and the Environment man of the year 2022 said the project was able to use the avenue provided by the COP27 to seek collaborations that will enhance the work of the project.

“The incentives come in form of biodiversity and carbon credits. We made a lot of linkages with other multilateral organizations within the COP 27 and these linkages are there to support our effort in providing a platform with which we can log into other platforms with which we can subscribe to the carbon credit scheme and that is been provided by the global north to support activities in the global south where we belong.”

He advised Ogoni people back home to shun activities and practices capable of disrupting the mangrove restoration effort of the Federal Government in Ogoniland.

“If we keep the sustained effort and do what we are doing now, we are sure that in five, ten years or even earlier we can begin to reap the benefits of becoming part of the nations, societies, communities that are

benefitting from the global carbon credit facilities that are been giving. And I will also say that beyond just striving to earn some pecuniary gains from this effort in the long term, the environment is said to be a resource that we have borrowed from our children and as a resource that we have borrowed from our children, we must handover this resource in a viable and sustainable way to the next generation. We are only custodians, our forefathers handed over a very viable sustained environment to us and so it is our responsibility, and I say again the onus lies on the present generation, to hand over this same environment in a viable sustainable way to the next generation.”

For the HYPREP Project Coordinator, the high point of the COP27 conference for him was the arrival of the President-Elect of Brazil, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva who declared his intention to save the amazon as his country, 'Brazil is back in the world.'

“The high point of the event was the presence or the participation of the President-elect of Brazil, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva who came there to re-energize the effort at environmental conservationism. He has said that as soon as he assumes power in January, he is going to set up systems and institutions that are going to protect the forest. We can also lash on this. We in our own little way can strive towards protecting our natural resources in other to grow our biodiversity.”

Dr. Giadom explained that protecting the mangrove forest does not mean that it would not be harvested but that it must be done in such a way that it does not expose it to depletion.

## THE WORLD LOOKS UP TO PROJECTS LIKE HYPREP TO SAVE IT - AKPOBARI

One strong warning message that came out of the just concluded United Nations COP27 Conference on Climate Change held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt is the fact that if nothing is done to reverse the effects of climate change, then the world would be on the fast lane to hell.

A participant at the conference and member of the Governing Council of HYPREP, Mr. Celestine Akpobari who elaborated on the import of the message in an interview with the HYPREP Herald called for hands to be on deck in sensitizing and training people in the skills of mitigating climate change.

“One serious message I got from COP27 is that the world is on a fast lane to hell and so HYPREP and communities like Ogoni must begin to train the people on mitigation and adaptation measures. I consider that information a timely warning signal for fragile ecosystems like that of the Ogonis.”

In this regard he commended HYPREP on its planned programme of planting about five million seedlings of mangrove that will help to douse the effect of carbon on the environment.

“The effort by HYPREP to plant five million mangrove seedlings is a welcome development and the world is waiting to see that happen. I can assure you that HYPREP will attract serious financial and technical support from some international organizations as soon as the project is kick started.”

The environment rights activist urged civil society organizations to mobilize support for HYPREP in its quest to save the planet.



**Mr. Celestine Akpobari**

“I will advise civil society organizations to support and partner with HYPREP in achieving the purpose for setting up the Project. I am particularly interested in the plan to plant five million mangrove seedlings and I will mobilize my constituency as soon as I get some detailed information on the activity.”

He commended organizers on putting up a well-planned event and facilities that showed an improvement on previous conferences.

“In terms of organization and facilities, Egypt, the host country of COP27 tried immensely. Participation was excellent too. The only short coming I noticed was the non-availability of a good number of volunteers like previous COPs. On decisions and outcome, we didn't

make any remarkable progress in curbing emissions. Although COP27 succeeded in setting up Loss and Damage Funds but there was no actual commitment as to how much they are contributing to support poorer nations.”

The United Nations COP27 Conference on Climate Change was held between 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November at the International Convention Centre in the green city of Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

# **CLIMATE CHANGE**

## **FMR MOSOP BOSS CALLS FOR MORE FUNDS FOR RAVAGED COMMUNITIES**

Climate Change comes with divers and adverse effects on humans and environment, and they include, floodings, global warming, food and water shortages, disruption of flights among others.

Among several other measures to mitigate the effects of climate change, an Adaptation Fund was established which is a financial instrument under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol (KP) to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in developing country parties to the Kyoto Protocol. The Fund is financed with a share of proceeds from Clean development Mechanism (CDM) project activities as well as through voluntary pledges of contributing governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals. The Funds primarily cover such areas as, agriculture, water management, health, capacity building, infrastructure development, information technology, disaster risk reduction and the rest.

Baring his mind on the adequacy of the funds in an interview with the HYPREP Herald after a presentation by the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom on efforts by the project to mitigate climate change, a former President of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP), Mr. Legborsi Pyagbara said there was need to increase funding for adaptation and the local communities which the funds are meant for are given direct access to the facility.

“The Ogoni struggle and what we are looking at in Ogoni is also encapsulated within the contest of



**Mr. Legborsi Pyagbara**

what the indigenous people are asking for in this conference, one of which is the question of direct access to funding for indigenous communities to do their own mitigation and adaptation activities, so, that is one thing we are pursuing strongly and secondly, we are also addressing the question of loss and damages. We feel strongly that the old question about climate change and its resultant impact on communities deserve to be paid for by those who cause the issue of climate change, because those of us in the third world country particularly from the indigenous communities, our ways of life are so sustainable that we have never in any way contributed to the current climate change crisis.”

“We are asking the governments meeting in this COP27 particularly from the west to put more money into adaptation because adaptation is the core thing that affects us as indigenous communities. Our lands are destroyed, people can no longer farm. In what ways would they adapt to that kind of

situation. So, we need more money put into adaptation mechanism so that communities like us, mind you, if you look at the different funding mechanism available between the contest of UN, adaptation funding is the least funded and we are saying how will adaptation be the least funded. Today there is the issue of flood all over the world particularly when it happened to Germany, they invested about \$2billion dollars then a whole adaptation funds that third world countries should have access to is what they are putting just \$500 million dollars on an annual basis. So, we are saying the whole question for adaptation funds needs to be up scaled. Today we are talking about global goal adaptation, what goals are you setting if you are not putting down the money for communities to be able to do the little work that they are doing around climate change.”

The former President of MOSOP called on the people of Ogoni to support HYPREP in its effort at restoring damaged mangrove forest in the area.

“The HYPREP presentation dwelt on oil clean up and remediation with emphasis on the issue of mangrove restoration, which of course is one of the key components of the UNEP report. The whole issue about remediation and clean up should lead to a massive mangrove restoration in Ogoni. The fact that HYPREP had started mangrove restoration in Ogoni means that we are well set to embark on that journey of restoring mangrove, but the most important thing is not just about mangrove restoration. The fact that today mangrove has been identified as one key plant for sequestration of carbon means that the Ogoni people can also make money out of the carbon credit for restoring



mangrove and protecting mangrove in the area. So, for me it is something that our people in Ogoni should welcome and support.”

Pyagbara who was on the first Governing Council of HYPREP maintained that apart from the biological benefits that come with a thriving mangrove forest, the money to be earned from carbon sequestration can also improve the economy and livelihood of the Ogoni people.

## **HYPREP IS WORKING CONTRARY TO INSINUATION -EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ERA -Calls for Increased Pace**

The Executive Director of Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria (ERA/FoEN), Barr. Chima Williams has said it is not true, the insinuation in some quarters that the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is not working.

Barr. Williams stated this on the sideline of the just concluded COP27 Conference on Climate Change held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

He stated that it would be unfair to say that HYPREP is not carrying out its mandate for which it was set up to do.

“I think that anybody that is saying that HYPREP is not doing anything is not being truthful and honest to himself or herself. There is no parastatal, no agency, where you say it has been established and empowered to do things, or you say it is not doing anything at all. That does not exist. The only thing that we are saying is that the speed with which we expected HYPREP to work or to act, that speed is not there yet, because we are not seeing everything that we expected to see tangibly on the ground, but

HYPREP is doing what they are supposed to do, given all the inhibitions that surround them and they can do better, they can do more. It is a collective work, not an individual's work.”

He said his organization's criticism of the Ogoni clean-up project is done with good intention to bring out the best in the interest of the Ogoni people and the body saddled with the responsibility of remediating Ogoniland.

“As civil society, our duty is to criticize to strengthen, not to criticize to destroy. When we begin to criticize to destroy then we should check ourselves, whether we are still fulfilling our obligations but when we are criticizing with the view that we want to correct, we want to improve, we want to synergize to get the best out of whatever agency, government or even amongst ourselves, okay, then that is when we are being real to our responsibilities.”

“Yes, we must criticize HYPREP, we

must, it is a must. Okay, but in criticizing, we must criticize, having at the back of our mind that if HYPREP, you know succeeds, we all would have succeeded in creating a better society, a better Ogoni land, a better Niger Delta, a better Nigeria, but if we condemn everything, now, let's imagine that through our condemnation, HYPREP is cleaned off, who are we trusting that would be brought to do it? Do we have angels that will come from heaven, or we want expatriates to come and handle the affairs of Nigeria?”

The ERA Executive Director further stated that he does not believe in criticizing without making suggestions on how to do it better as that will amount to witch-hunting and recommended areas that HYPREP can explore for quick wins.

“I think one thing that HYPREP should pay more attention to because the people want what they can see first and foremost, okay, is the livelihood training, which impacts directly and would be seen by the Ogoni people. Remediation is good, but people must be alive to benefit from the remediated



L - R, Barr. Chima Williams, Kpoobari Nafu, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom at COP 27, Egypt

environment. And we know that the time span for remediation and recovery, you know, as given by UNEP is thirty years and how many persons will live to see that remediation and recovery fully come to happen. So, the livelihood training that the average Ogoni man will see is what matters most. The other issue is provision of potable water. Okay, these are key things that HYPREP, if they can rejig and pay more attention to, you will see that the narrative and the thinking of the people will begin to change.”

He commended the idea of 'Ogoni Power Project' which HYPREP has introduced as a sustainability component to the water project in Ogoniland.

“Of course, it is great not just welcomed. It is a great one because you will see that if that grid comes on, okay, some of these issues will naturally resolve themselves, because the people will have it better than they have ever thought or imagined, and this is where you see that those that

were condemning will begin to sing the praises of HYPREP. So, this value addition is something unique.”

Barr. Williams stated that electricity being a key factor that opens an area to development will greatly enhance the economic fortunes of Ogoniland when the Power Project is completed.

## REPS C'TTEE RESOLVE EMPASSE BETWEEN SPDC AND KPOR, BOMU COMMUNITIES -Handover Clean-Up To HYPREP

The Federal House of Representatives Committee on Host Communities have amicably settled the case brought before it by Kpor and Bomu communities in Gokana Local Government Area of Ogoniland against the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) over the pollution of their lands.

The communities had suffered oil spills from SPDC facilities between 2008 and 2014 and had thus written to the National Assembly to compel the oil company to own up and clean-up the area.

In response to the petition brought before it by both communities, the Committee had paid a working visit to the spill sites in February 2022 to ascertain the extent of damage towards a peaceful resolution of the matter. By August 2022 a tripartite meeting of the Committee, SPDC and HYPREP was held, and decision taken.

At the November meeting held at



5th from Left, Chairman C'ttee on Host Community, Reps, Rt. Hon. Dumnamene Dekor Presiding over SPDC, Bomu/Kpor Peace Meeting

the Gberesaakoo Peace Hall at the Gokana Council Secretariat, that had in attendance, members of the House Committee on Host Communities, the leadership of Kpor and Bomu communities, representatives of SPDC, and officials of HYPREP, the Chairman of the Committee, the Honourable Dumnamene Dekor read out the resolutions reached at

the earlier meeting in August.

“HYPREP is to carry out the clean-up of the affected sites in these communities. That the Bodo model of remediation be adopted in the clean-up of the Kpor and Bomu impacted sites and that HYPREP be allowed immediate access to the sites by the communities for scoping towards remediation.”



The Right Honourable Dekor thanked the Management of HYPREP for accepting to carry out the clean-up of the impacted sites in both communities on behalf of the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC). The lawmaker equally thanked the communities for their peaceful disposition while the case lasted and the SPDC for their cooperation and acceptance of the verdict of the committee and expressed optimism that HYPREP will do standard remediation works in the communities.

The representative of SPDC and Manager, Ogoni Restoration Project, Dr. Vincent Nwabueze commended the Reps Committee on Host Communities on a work well done and HYPREP for accepting the extra work of cleaning of the affected communities.

“From SPDC point of view, your recommendations are laudable and welcomed and we will fully align with HYPREP to ensure that the clean-up was peacefully carried out in Bomu and Kpor communities. I want to appreciate HYPREP and its management for accepting to pilot this activity going forward.”

While accepting to clean-up the impacted sites in Kpor and Bomu communities, the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom stated that the core mandate of HYPREP is to undertake the clean-up of impacted sites and therefore will carry out the remediation of the sites according to specifications and in line with the Bodo model as HYPREP is asked to do.

“We want to assure the Kpor and Bomu communities that we will do

that. Dr. Vincent Nwabueze and I were the architect of the Bodo Mediation Initiative (BMI) model. The operationalization of that model is not very easy, but we can rely on the experience from the past in implementing it and can even produce a better model. What is required from the two communities is your support and understanding and to have us establish a relationship for open communication when you observe things that may not proceed as you have desired.”

The leadership of both communities thanked the National Assembly members, representatives of SPDC and officials of HYPREP for their time and resources invested in making the dialogue a fruitful one and assured of their support and cooperation to making the clean-up of their lands a success.



Reps of NASS, SPDC, HYPREP, Bomu, Kpor in Group Photograph at the End of Peace Meeting Held at Gokana Council

## DR. GIADOM COMMISSIONS AREA OFFICES IN ELEME AND TAI

To engender grassroots participation in the Ogoniland Clean-up Project, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has inaugurated for use, two of its area offices in Eleme and Tai Local Government Areas.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom who commissioned the offices on behalf of the Honourable Minister of Environment, Barr. Mohammed Abdullahi noted that the completed 4-room bungalow will bridge the communication gap between the Project and the Ogoni community.

Dr. Giadom stated that the idea of the area office was conceived to bring HYPREP closer to the people of Ogoni, stressing that the offices were fully equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for effective service delivery. “This HYPREP area office that we are commissioning today is the fulfilment of that promise that HYPREP wants to be closer to the people. The planning and execution of HYPREP programmes will not start and end in

the Port Harcourt office. It will start and end in the area offices. The people that will work in the area offices are people from each LGA. We took this step to bring the Project closer to the people.”

He advised the people of Ogoni to route their correspondences through the area office. “We have taken this step so that when the good people of Ogoni have any contributions, observations, or complaints to make about the Project, they don't need to spend on travel and be subjected to inconvenience on the road while traveling to Port Harcourt. They will come to this office and meet officers who are here. This office is equipped with all tools that they will work with.”

The HYPREP Boss told invited guests at the commissioning ceremony that the process of connecting Ogoni to the National Grid, which will change the socio-economic index in Ogoni has reached advanced stage. He said that 600 electrical engineers and

technicians around Ogoni will be trained and engaged to work on the transmission and distribution lines as well as the maintenance upon completion of the power project which will have two (2) mega sub-stations, and thirteen (13) injection stations.

On water, he explained that the first phase of the water project is at different levels of completion and attributed the delay in its completion to inflation in prices of materials. Dr. Giadom said the provision of potable water to impacted communities in line with UNEP report has been on the front burner and that HYPREP is committed to the provision of a water scheme that meets the World Health Organization (WHO) standards. In his words,

“we commit to the fact that all the water projects will be completed, and water reticulated to your neighbourhood and you will have water in your homes. We are working day and night to make sure that we achieve this.”



Dr. Giadom Cuts the Tape on HYPREP Area Office



Similarly, Giadom disclosed that the livelihood component of the Project is getting its due attention following the introduction of new and mega skill areas of Mechatronics, Aviation, Sea faring and Entertainment. He said that the project is at the last stage of selecting successful applicants for the training.

The Project Coordinator further disclosed that the Project is at the final stage of planning for the Health Impact Study. He said that HYPREP will be partnering two foremost institutes of Public Health Research in Nigeria - the African Centre of Excellence for Public Health and Toxicological Research (ACE-PUTOR), University of Port-Harcourt and the Institute of Advanced Medical Research and Training (IAMRAT), University of Ibadan to carry out the health study in Ogoni and appealed for patience and cooperation from the people of Ogoni.

“Be patient with us, we might be slow, but it will surely come. We are working hard to make sure we meet up with our promise to you.”

At the commissioning of the Tai Area Office, the Executive Chairman of Tai Local Council Area, Hon. Friday Mbakpone Okpe expressed appreciation to HYPREP for the completion of the Area Office and assured that the Tai community would continue to support the policies and programmes of HYPREP and ensure that the core mandate of HYPREP is actualized.

A former Commissioner in Rivers State and a member on the immediate past Board of Trustees of HYPREP, Dr. Peter Medee enjoined the people of Ogoni to support HYPREP. “My people, let us continue to support and embrace HYPREP. Let us lead the way and support this laudable project.”

In his speech, Chief Bebe Okpabi who doubles as the Paramount Ruler of Ogale community and member of the Board of Trustees of HYPREP commended the Project Coordinator

on the mega projects he had conceived for the Ogoni people upon assumption of office. He enjoined him to always uphold fairness in the implementation of the programmes of HYPREP and assured that the people of Eleme will continue to support HYPREP to succeed.

Also, HRH Emperor J.D. Nkpee - the Paramount Ruler of Alesa community appreciated HYPREP for providing potable water in Alesa and appealed for the extension of the water project to other communities in Eleme Local Government Area.

In his intervention, Elder Israel Abbey - the President of the Eleme General Assembly noted that visible positive changes have been recorded since Dr. Giadom assumed duty as Project Coordinator.

“It is not the office that makes things happen but the occupant. We have been privileged to have several Project Coordinators but what we are seeing

now is different. The impact and presence of HYPREP is here with us.”

Dr. Mrs Patience Osarjiji commended HYPREP on its water project and planned programmes and appealed for more participation for women in the activities of HYPREP.

Interventions were also made by Barile Gbezia - member of the Governing Council of HYPREP, HRH King Samuel Nnee - Paramount Ruler of Kpita and member of CRAC, Rev. Cannon Dr. Abraham Olungwe - member of CRAC representing Eleme LGA and High Chief Friday Ngbihero who spoke for the youths.

The event, which recorded massive turnout, was held separately at the HYPREP Area Offices in Eleme and Tai Local Government Areas. The Khana Area Office was earlier commissioned in 2021 and work on the Gokana Area Office is at advanced stage of completion.



**HYPREP Area Office**

# Facts About HYPREP

## FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(1) The functions of the Board of Trustees are to –

(a) Carry out financial oversight that ensures the use of financial controls and that funds are prudently utilized in accordance with established financial policies related to HYPREP;

(b) liaise with, and manage disbursement of the funds gifts and grants-in-aid from national, bilateral and multilateral organizations, agencies and bodies, including Fund Contributors and Participating

Entities, for any approved Project related to an established Trust Fund;

(c) release funds to the office of the Project Coordinator or the Project Coordination Office (PCO) as approved by the HYPREP Governing Council;

(d) carry out internal and external financial audit of allocated or disbursed funds;

(e) ensure that funds are timely made available for the implementation of activities as may be approved by the HYPREP Governing Council; and

(f) execute an escrow agreement with an Escrow Bank approved unanimously by the Board of Trustees

(g) ensure that the Project Coordinator

or the PCO prepares a funding schedule for each Calendar Year at least prior to 30th September of the previous Calendar Year and each Funding Schedule shall set out the estimated cash requirements of HYPREP or the PCO, for each quarter of the Calendar Year to which it relates, for the Project execution based on the annual work programme and annual budget approved by the Governing Council.

(2) The escrow account to be opened pursuant to the escrow agreement (“Escrow Account”) referred to in sub-paragraph (1) (f) of this paragraph, shall provide and the Board of Trustees shall ensure that, within the Escrow Account, sub-accounts (the “Sub-Accounts”) are established in respect of each Fund Contributor to the related Trust Fund.



**Dr. Giadom Takes Stakeholders on Guided Tour of Area Office**





# Season's Greetings

*Merry Christmas  
And A  
Prosperous New Year!*

From Management and Staff of HYPREP

# SAFETY TIPS

## Workplace Violence Prevention: Office Safety Tips



### Workplace violence is:

Any threat, disruptive behaviours, intimidation, physical aggression, or act of violence in the workplace including homicide. It ranges from threats and verbal abuse to physical assaults. It can affect and involve employees, clients, customers, and visitors. According to OSHA, over 2 million people report being victims of workplace violence every year. Some Contributing Factors are: time of day worked, geographical area of work. Working alone or in small groups also have an impact on whether someone is more likely to experience workplace violence.

## WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION:

### Conduct a security assessment

How can you, the business owner or leader, keep your employees and your assets safe?

Every business has slightly different needs regarding security, so it's best to begin with a thorough assessment of your security vulnerabilities. A threat assessment enables you identify your company's potential weaknesses

### Make sure your building and parking lots are well lit

Often, attackers will use dark or poorly lit areas in and around your building to hide and wait for an opportunity to strike. Outside, remember that street light may not provide enough illumination, so you may have to add exterior lights. If employees enter and leave your building before daylight or after dark, be sure they have a well-lit path to and from the building, especially around doorways and in the parking lot.

### Install security cameras and make them visible

While a high-tech security system that has all the bells and alarms is preferred, it may not be in your budget. But, this doesn't mean you can't create a convincing image that your workplace is well protected.

Make your security cameras especially visible in your most likely danger zones, including over doors, in parking lots, at the reception area and in IT server rooms, etc.

When criminals see video surveillance, they can't necessarily tell whether cameras are on, and it might be enough to discourage them from targeting your workplace.

### Keep your storefront and windows clean and clear

A well-kept storefront not only helps you set an attractive stage for staff and visitors, it also discourages criminals. To the criminal mind, if you're willing to invest time and money into making your building look good, you've probably spent some time and money protecting it as well.

As with security cameras, appearances alone are sometimes enough to convince an offender to find an easier target. To that end, resist the urge to cover your windows with advertisements, signs, posters or decorations. Also avoid stacking boxes, old furniture, and other clutter in front of windows.

When you keep your windows clean and clear, it's easier to view things happening outside. This allows your workers to spot threats before they get into your building.



## **Encourage employees to report vulnerabilities**

Despite your best efforts to provide a safe office environment, you can't be everywhere or know everything. So, it's vital you encourage employees to report their safety concerns. Your team should be comfortable telling you about:

- Lights that need to be replaced
- Unsecured machines or rooms containing valuable equipment
- Domestic issues that have the potential to spill into the workplace
- Suspicious behaviour, workplace bullying or significant personality changes of other employees or customers

It's also important that you act on any safety concerns brought to your attention. Nothing kills employee cooperation faster than feeling ignored.

## **Implement a no-tolerance policy and stick to it**

Often, violent employees or visitors/customers aren't first-time offenders. Many times, they will display warning signs or act out on a smaller scale first. Don't let these incidents go unnoticed - and don't tolerate bullying or let employee feuds simmer.

For example, if employees start acting suspiciously or you notice a significant change in behaviours, meet with them and address your concerns immediately. If, at any point, anyone (employee or non-employee) acts aggressive or threatening, call the security operatives right away.

## **Train your employees to recognize potential danger**

Just as you regularly train employees to recognize phishing attacks through unsolicited emails, you should train them in workplace safety. Remind them about proper procedures for handling suspicious packages, upset visitors and unauthorized personnel in secured work areas.

As part of manager training, you should also train your organisation's leaders to recognize and stop behaviours that can trigger violence, such as bullying, intimidation and excessive job-related stress. And that goes for their own behaviour, as well as that of employees.

Your managers should also learn about common issues that may lead to violence, such as poor performance reviews, firings, unwelcome changes in role and personal stress outside the workplace.

## **If the unthinkable happens**

Being proactive about workplace violence prevention is definitely a smart move and hopefully, one that will minimize your risks. However, if it does occur, your first priority should always be the safety of your employees and your facilities.

# PICTURES OF THE MONTH



L - R: Dr. Giadom & Hon. Minister of Environment, Barr. Mohammed Abdullahi at COP 27



L - R: Hachikaru Anyakwee, Suka Nwibubasa, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom, Kpoobari Nafu at COP 27



L - R: Nnimmo Bassey, Dr. Ferdinand at COP 27, Egypt



L - R: Dr. Giadom Makes Presentation to the Hon. Minister of Environment, Barr. Abdullahi at COP 27



Top Officials of Nigerian Delegation to COP 27, Egypt



Editor, HYPREP Herald, Kpoobari Nafu, Presents a Copy of Newsletter to Participants at COP 27, Egypt



Community Leaders at SPDC, Bomu/Kpor Peace Meeting



Community Leaders at SPDC, Bomu/Kpor Peace Meeting



# Shun Illegal Oil Refining It Destroys the Environment

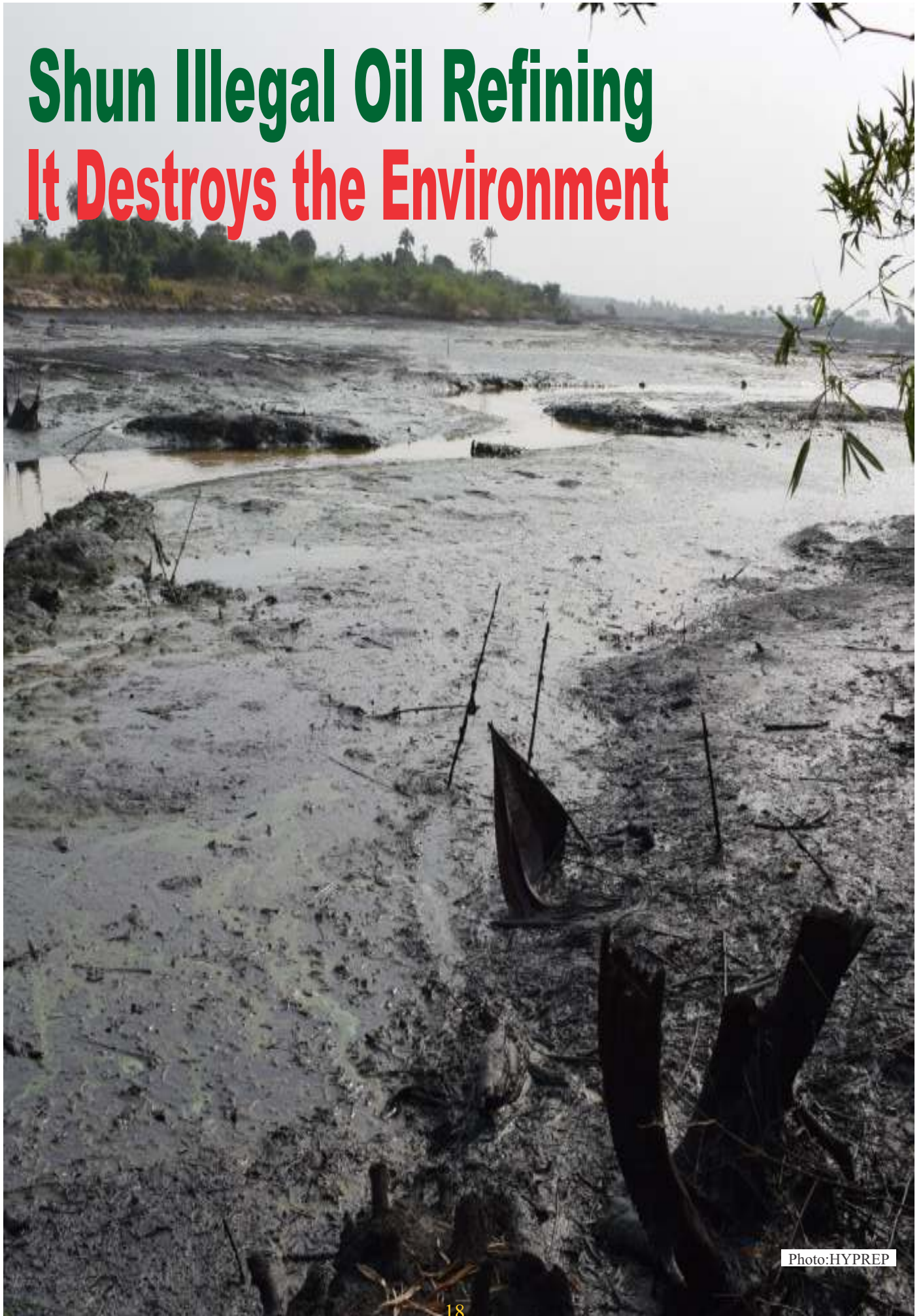


Photo:HYPREP



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## THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE

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**We have forgotten how to be good guests, how to walk lightly on the Earth as its other creatures do. - Barbara Ward**

**Remediated Land**

Photo:HYPREP

**... for a cleaner and greener Ogoniland**

A Publication of the Communications Unit of HYPREP

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