



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

# HYPREP HERALD

JUNE 2023 VOL.1 No.15

## WE WILL MAKE OGONI CLEAN-UP, MODEL FOR NIGER DELTA - PROF. ZABBEY



### PROF. ZABBEY TAKES OVER FROM DR. GIADOM

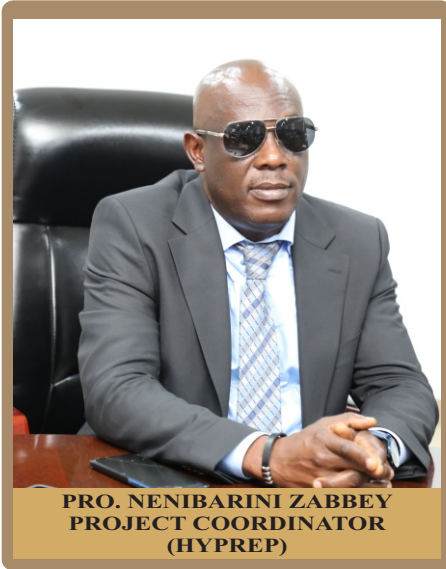
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HYPREP  
HERALD  
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# THE PC'S DESK



**PRO. NENIBARINI ZABBEY**  
**PROJECT COORDINATOR**  
**(HYPREP)**

It is with utmost pleasure that I welcome you to the June edition of the HYPREP Herald, the monthly newsletter of the project. It is my maiden contribution, and it would be proper that I use it to state my vision for the project in line with the overarching mandate of HYPREP. But before I do that, let me express my sincere and profound gratitude to the immediate past President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari (GCFR), who graciously approved my appointment as the new Project Coordinator of HYPREP. Similarly, I thank the past Honourable Minister of Environment, Barr. Mohammed Hassan Abdullahi, for deeming it fit to appoint me to pilot the affairs of the project. To my Ogoni people, who welcomed and received the news of my appointment as a sign of better things to come for the project, I cannot thank you enough for reposing confidence in me to take the project to greater heights.

I congratulate the newly inaugurated President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, Senator Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR), on his swearing-in as the sixteenth President of Nigeria. We assure you of our commitment to the success of your administration as a

project and equally solicit your fatherly assistance in the successful implementation of the Ogoni clean-up project. We will strive to reinforce the foundation and develop a standard model for Ogoni remediation that can be used in other parts of the Niger Delta. This model will make the later remediation work in other oil-producing communities in the Delta, and indeed other wetlands, a seamless process. We are confident that this model will serve as an exemplar for other African regions that share the contextualities of Ogonland.

At the moment, our operations are domiciled in Rivers State, and we will continue to abide by the extant state regulations on the environment as we continue to remediate oil-impacted sites in Ogoni and provide other deliverables of the project, including the provision of potable water. So, it is our earnest desire to collaborate with the state government under the new administration of His Excellency, Sir Siminalayi Joseph Fubara, to achieve set goals and objectives for environmental development and sustainability in the state. We say a big congratulations to him on his swearing-in and wish him the very best as he pilots the affairs of the state.

My position as the Project Coordinator of HYPREP is a privileged but not easy task, but I am confident that I can stand on the shoulders of my predecessors and profit from their pioneering works, which will, to a very large extent, contribute to my success. My vision is to complete the projects that were started earlier and initiate new ones as may be necessary and helpful to the Ogoni people, who are the direct beneficiaries of the project. In doing this, I wish to promote inclusion, create community-level livelihood packages that will benefit women and youths, and raise the bar of monitoring and evaluation to achieve optimal project performance. More so, it is important to look beyond the current funding regime and put in place a framework that will facilitate access to grants through enhanced visibility of

project development results, networking, collaboration, and partnership with related international platforms and institutions.

I met a well-motivated, trained, and enthusiastic work force that is ready and able to deliver on the mandate of the project. My work will be to continue to harness their potential for the utmost benefit and profit of the project. We will give them more training where necessary and more welfare packages to further boost their productivity and capacity. I will expect corresponding cooperation and reciprocation from them both in the office and in the field. The same cooperation I expect to see from the Ogoni people—my people. A united Ogoni will strengthen the project to deliver more on its mandate and thereby speed up the pace and scope of delivery.

It is therefore my pledge to the Federal Government and the International Oil Companies, who are funders of the project, to deliver world-class environmental remediation and restoration of livelihoods in Ogoniland within an acceptable budget and with transparency, and to the Ogoni people that I will remain committed to your common good and aspiration. I welcome all stakeholders on board the HYPREP ship of sustainable development in Ogoniland.

# In this Issue

This June edition of the HYPREP Herald leads with the news of the appointment of Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey as the new Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project and the subsequent handover of the reins of power to him by his predecessor, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom. It is a brand-new administration under a new regime of Government both at the Federal and state levels. On 29th May 2023, His Excellency, Senator Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR) was inaugurated as the new President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal of Nigeria and His Excellency, Sir Siminalayi Joseph Fubara was sworn-in as the Executive Governor of Rivers State. Their coming on board the administration of the country and the state respectively will certainly influence the project, which we believe will improve its operations.

It will require the tacit cooperation of their Excellencies and other stakeholders like the Joint Venture Partners who are the funders of the project to achieve greater results for the remaining part of 2023 and beyond. As with the new administration so is the renewed vigor to achieve more on the project.

We also bring you the assurance of the new Project Coordinator, Prof. Zabbey that he intends to make the Ogoniland clean-up, a model to emulate for the clean-up of the rest of the Niger Delta region. It is both an assurance and a vision of the new helmsman in the saddle of the Project's Coordination Office.

There is the report of the approval by the Federal Executive Council for the remediation of newly identified hydrocarbon impacted sites in Ogoniland and the contract for the phase 2 of the provision of potable water to more Ogoni communities.

This edition also has the report of the training of Ogoni youths as environmental vanguards who will be the ear and eye of HYPREP on the various sites of the project across Ogoniland.

We also chronicle the several big-ticket projects that the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari approved in the last five years. These are projects that upon completion will touch directly on the lives of the Ogoni people and improve their fortunes. Projects such as the construction of the Ogoni Specialist Hospital, the Ogoni Power Project and the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration.

This month of June is observed the

world over as the International Day for the Environment. As a critical stakeholder of this all important sector, we developed a message to mark the day which is precisely on the 5th.

We have included in this edition our regular feature on facts about HYPREP and the poem corner. They will give furnish you will additional information about the project and the environment and as well entertain you. Our safety tip segment provides precautions as the rainy season comes in full force to keep you and your loved ones out of murky waters.

We hope that you find this edition interesting and would be glad to receive your feedback.

## POETRY CORNER

### HEALTHY EARTH FOR HEALTHY LIFE

By: Boma Eddie-Amadi

The earth we call home,  
Here we stand and roam  
In a circle that has spanned time,  
A duty we owe to protect.

The trees, the animals, the sea,  
All members of this family.  
Together against extinction we must war  
And secure a future that sparkles.

The ocean calls out daily,  
For a bath to cleanse her of litter,  
Plastics that float all over her  
And in turn suffocate her inhabitants.

This action with dire consequence,  
Afflicts the planet and its residents,  
But in recycle and reuse a cure find  
To restore the health of earth.

And the revolving circle beams  
again with beauty,  
A prettiness we must resolve to keep,  
On the shelf of conservation and wisdom  
And tag, 'healthy earth for healthy life.'

### Editorial Crew

Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey  
Kpoobari Nafo  
Faith Deekor  
Imeh Ofem  
Tombari Naadue

Publisher-in-Chief  
Editor  
Reporter  
Reporter  
Camera

# WE WILL MAKE OGONI CLEAN-UP, MODEL FOR NIGER DELTA - PROF. ZABBEY

The newly appointed Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has said he will strive to implement the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) environmental assessment report on Ogoniland in a way that the remediation of the area would be adopted as a model for the rest of the Niger Delta and anywhere there is oil spill in Nigeria.

Prof. Zabbey stated this at a maiden meeting with the Management and Staff of the Project at the Project Coordination Office (PCO) in Port Harcourt, shortly after the formal handover to him by his predecessor, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom.

The new helmsman of HYPREP said his mission is to ensure that the Clean-up of Ogoni is done to international standards and enjoined staff of the project to work with him to achieve set goals and objectives.

“The whole world is watching; we have the burden of cleaning Ogoni in a manner that will be a template for others to follow. What we will do in HYPREP will become a module for others to follow. We are pioneers and therefore, we need to put in place a sustainable framework.”

He urged staff to work together in harmony, define specific tasks and targets to deliver quality and sustainable results and assured staff that they will be provided with the necessary tools needed to enable them deliver effectively on their responsibilities.

The Project Coordinator promised that he will prioritize staff welfare where everyone will get their due reward at the right time and organize feedback sessions with key stakeholders of the project. He assured that he will adopt a down to earth approach in the administration of the project.

Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey is a renowned

expert in hydrobiology and has extensive experience and background in remediation-related activities with a bias in biomonitoring and restoration ecology. He is the first African recipient of the Association of the Sciences of Limnology and

Oceanography (ASLO) 2022, and the Ruth Patrick Award for research and engagement with a critical impact on the recovery of the Niger Delta ecosystem from oil spills and environmental justice for affected communities.



Prof. Zabbey During His Maiden Meeting With HYPREP Management and Staff



Cross Section of Staff at the Maiden Meeting With Prof. Zabbey

# Project News

## PROF. ZABBEY TAKES OVER FROM DR. GIADOM

Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has officially assumed office as the new Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) - the body responsible for the environmental clean-up of oil impacted sites in Ogoniland.

Prof. Zabbey was appointed the new Coordinator of the Project on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 and the news made public in a letter issued by the Federal Ministry of Environment in Abuja.

The renowned Hydrobiologist who until his appointment was a senior lecturer at the Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Port Harcourt is the third substantive Coordinator of the Project after Dr. Marvin Dekil and Dr. Ferdinand Giadom and an acting Project Coordinator, Professor Philip Shekwolo.

At a brief handover ceremony held at the Project Office in Port Harcourt, Professor Zabbey commended the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the detailed assessment of the Ogoni environment that necessitated the setting up of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project to clean-up polluted sites in Ogoniland.

“I have been appointed to facilitate what is happening here in HYPREP in relation to the Ogoni cleanup. As you are all aware, HYPREP is created by gazette of the federal government of Nigeria to clean up oil spills in Nigeria. But we are starting with Ogoni land because that is where the UNEP Report was done that led to the creation of HYPREP. So today is basically for handover and I will give the former PC Dr. Ferdinand Giadom, the opportunity to present this handover.”

The outgoing Project Coordinator, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom appreciated the Federal Government for the



**The Handover Ceremony**

opportunity to serve on the Ogoniland clean-up project and briefed his successor on the modest achievements he recorded for the one year in the saddle as Project Coordinator.

“I stand before you to give an account of my stewardship for the past one year, one month and three weeks. It has been indeed a very gratifying feeling haven't been given the opportunity to serve our mother land. Within the past one year, we have collectively brought to bear, projects beyond remediation that will touch and impact on the lives of Ogoni people. These are stellar projects that will go down in history as legacies to this project. I'm very proud to announce to you, as you all know, the things that we achieved in the past one year.

i. Institutional restructuring of the HYPREP operational structure.

ii. Reviewed and improved remediation contract performance agreements.

iii. the closeout of remediation works of phase one, batches one and two.

iv. the award of contracts for the remediation of works for the phase two remediation process of the semi medium risk site, 39 LOTS comprises of 17 UNEP sites.

v. The over 95% completion of potable water schemes across the 4 Local Government Areas in Ogoni.

vi. The commencement of HYPREP livelihood training activities.

vii. The completion of the construction of three out of four operational offices for HYPREP in the four Local Government Areas.

viii. The commencement of the construction office, 62-kilometer transmission line of the double circuit 132 KVA and the construction of 260 KVA power substations at Wiyakara and Bodo respectively.

ix. The signed agreement for the construction of medical records and laboratory buildings in Buan, Khana Local Government that shall be referred to as the Cottage Hospital in Buan, Khana Local Government Area.

x. Federal Executive Council's approval for the construction of Center of Excellence for Environmental Restoration in Wiyakara, Khana Local Government Area.

xi. Council's approval for the construction of a hundred bed Multi-Specialty Ogoni Hospital in Kpite, Tai.

xii. The commencement of training of 500 Ogoni vanguards at the Police Training College in Nonwa, Tai LGA and these Ogoni youths and Vanguards will carry out the assignment of superintending and being the eyes and ears of HYPREP in the various project sites.

xiii. The renewal of additional 20 contracts that will expire on the 31st of December 2023.

xiv. The ongoing procurement processes for the training of 5,000 Ogoni youths in various skill areas.

xv. The ongoing procurement for the construction of 14 potable water schemes.

xvi. The ongoing procurement process for shoreline inter-tidal remediation.

xvii. The ongoing shoreline clean-up assessment technique start for other shoreline remediation areas.

xviii. The ongoing training of 1,219 community remediation workers for phase two batch one remediation works.

xix. The ongoing government registration of gifted land assets to HYPREP.

xx. The procurement of project vehicles. The breakdown is as follows: 2 sports utility vehicles, 1 Toyota Hiace bus, 1 Toyota coastal bus, 10 diesel engine Toyota hiluxes, 15 petrol engine Toyota hiluxes. Some of these vehicles have been supplied and

the last batch of the supplies shall be delivered to the office in due course.

xxi. The successful training of the batch one of aviation trainees sponsored by HYPREP. Some Ogoni youths that we have trained superintended by the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority. Out of these batch 1 candidates, 10 of them have already secured potential employment with the airline industry. The batch two of these aviation trainees are due to depart for Lagos for their training.

xxii. The assessment of 15 medium risk sites and one complex site.

xxiii. The multiple audited project accounts by the Auditor General and private audit firms.

xxiv. Finally, the Presidential ground-breaking event for the Triad of projects. I call them HYPREP star Projects. Namely the Ogoni Power Project, the Ogoni Specialist Hospital, and the Center of Excellence for Environmental Restoration.”

Dr. Gaidom attributed the success



Group Photograph at the End of the Handover Ceremony

recorded in the last one year to the support of various stakeholders who contributed in no small measure to the attainment of corporate goals.

“I will not have achieved this without the commitment of Management and entire Staff of HYPREP. I like to special thank the following: the HYPREP Civil Security, the Government Security Agencies, particularly the cleaners, maintenance staff, operational and support services staff, the ZRC, the CRAC, the GC members, BOT members, and a wide range of Ogoni stakeholders who worked and contributed unreservedly towards the success of the project. My deepest appreciation goes to Engr. Ekiyokenegha Clark - the SHELL Rep. on the Project. Brother you have been a pillar of support and an advisor at all times, and the UNEP family who consistently added value to all aspects of this project. Thank you all.”

Prof. Zabbey on receiving the handover note thanked his predecessor, Dr. Giadom for his

contribution to the success of the project and urged him to continue to avail his expertise to HYPREP.

“Thank you very much for the report. I am going to study it and if I need clarification, please feel free to grant me audience. You have contributed a lot to the Ogoni Project, and I want to thank you for all your contributions. I also want to appeal that you should not run away. It's about the future of our children and as you are aware we are in the UN decade for ecosystem restoration, so it involves every stakeholder. Our environment is badly polluted and so anybody that has the expertise to contribute to restoring our environment must contribute irrespective of the circumstances. So, I thank you very much and we will always compare notes.”

The Director, Technical Services, HYPREP, Prof. Philip Shekwolo felicitated with the new Project Coordinator and wished him well in his new role.

“I welcome the new PC to HYPREP

and hope that by the grace of God, your tenure will be successful in Jesus' name. What is constant in life is change so when change comes, we have to embrace it with courage.”

The Director Legal from the Federal Ministry of Environment, Mrs. Salako Oluyemisi who witnessed the ceremony extended the good wishes of the Honourable Minister of Environment, Barr. Mohammed Abdullahi to the incoming and outgoing Project Coordinators.

“The Honorable Minister also sent his best wishes to Dr. Ferdinand Giadom for the work he has done so far, and I hope that same cooperation will also be extended to the new Project Coordinator.”

Also present at the handover ceremony were Management and Staff of HYPREP.

## FEC APPROVES N129.8bn NEW REMEDIATION/WATER CONTRACTS

The Federal Executive Council has approved the sum of one hundred and twenty-nine point eight billion naira (N129.8bn) for various projects in Ogoniland being handled by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP).

A breakdown of the figure shows twenty-two point eight billion naira (N22.8bn) earmarked for the phase 2 of the provision of potable water in Ogoniland while one hundred and seven billion naira (N107bn) is for the remediation of newly identified hydrocarbon impacted sites in Ogoni.

HYPREP started operations in 2017 and by 2019 gave out the first batch of remediation contracts in the phase 1 batch 1 clean-up of polluted sites in Ogoniland. The second batch of remediation contracts followed

thereafter.

In the provision of potable water, HYPREP in 2020 awarded six contracts for the provision of potable water across Ogoniland. The Alesa water contract has been completed and residents of the town and other

adjoining communities now have access to potable water supply. The other five contracts are at different stages of completion with some having done test run of the system in preparation for supply of water to residents.



**HYPREP Staff on Assessment**

# PROF. ZABBEY MEETS CRAC, ZRC; PROMISES PROJECT DELIVERY

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey has assured stakeholders and the Ogoni community that in the coming weeks project activities will pick up across the four Local Government Areas of Ogoni where HYPREP projects are sited.

Prof. Zabbey gave the assurance at his maiden meeting with members of the Central Representative Advisory Committee (CRAC) and the Zonal Representative Committee (ZRC) held at the Project Office in Port Harcourt.

He stated that both remediation and water contractors are in the process of mobilizing to site and that will make Ogoniland a beehive of activities that will bring succour to the environment and the livelihood of the locals.

“In the coming weeks there will be a lot of activities, project activities in Ogoni. As you may be aware, the contract for 39 remediation LOTS have been awarded and the contractors have been mobilized. We are at the stage of paying compensation to crop owners so that the contractors will move to site. Recently the Federal Executive Council also approved contracts for 14 water projects that will give potable water to 52 communities in Ogoni. Again, the Federal Executive Council also approved 34 shoreline clean-up projects in Ogoni and those projects are what we refer to as undocumented sites. Undocumented because the UNEP report did not capture those sites but they are contaminated so since the mandate of HYPREP is to clean oil contaminated sites in Ogoni, HYPREP has done assessment of those sites, and now we have those sites allocated to 34 contractors.”

The new HYPREP boss announced that the shoreline clean-up will come with a lot of training opportunities for Ogoni youths who will be certified by



**Prof. Zabbey Addressing CRAC/ZRC Joint Meeting**

international organizations to have the competence and skills to work in the maritime environment.

“The contract duration for Shoreline Clean is 36 months because it requires agitating the sediment, get the oil out of the sediment and then recover the oil, then take it to treatment facilities. It also requires training the people to be able to respond to oil spill. So, before we hire Ogoni youths to undertake the cleanup, they must be trained and certified with IMO levels 1 and 2. It is those two international certificates that qualify them to work at those sensitive sites. So basically, the projects will create a lot of employment in Ogoni. In addition to the projects I have mentioned, there will also be some planting of mangroves in Bomu area because our shoreline cleanup assessment technique survey had shown that in part of the Bomu area natural cleaning of the environment is taking place because in environmental management, we are always concerned about net environmental benefit. So, what that means is that you don't take certain actions when natural cleaning is taking place, because if

you go further to agitate the sediment, try to remove the remaining oil, then you will cause more harm than providing solution. So, for situations like that, we encourage direct planting of mangroves and that will further enhance the natural recovery of the environment.”

Zabbey promised that revegetation of the remediated mudflats and shorelines will commence once the clean-up of sediments is done.

“After they have done the cleanup, then the next phase will be the planting of mangroves to restore the mangrove community in those areas and the essence of restoring the mangrove community is to enable fishes to come in to breed and to spend some time and that would lead to increase in productivity of the Ogoni aquatic environment. Of course, once there is increase in productivity of the aquatic environment, then the livelihood of the people, which is primarily dependent on fishing will also improve. So basically, it will lead to the return of ecosystem goods and services, but we are not there yet.”

“So, in the Bomu area, 9 contractors will be deployed to plant mangroves to



speedily recover their environment. So, the people of Bomu will also be trained on how to set up mangrove nurseries and sell the mangrove seedlings to the contractors. That will also enhance livelihood in the Bomu community and for other youths in that neighbourhood. So, the reason why I'm taking time to go through all these projects, activities that will take place is to inform all of us that as CRAC and ZRC members, we have a lot of work to do in the coming weeks."

Prof. Zabbey reminded the members of CRAC and ZRC that they are key stakeholders of the project and therefore should work closely with the Project Coordination Office in actualizing the mandate of the project

by promoting peace and stability in Ogoni communities.

He thanked them for the great work they have done over the years, interfacing with the communities, communicating the progress of the HYPREP projects, as well as resolving grievances among parties and urged them to sustain and even double their efforts towards the successful implementation of the project in a way that the Ogoni community would be satisfied with the work of HYPREP.

The Spokesperson of CRAC, HRM Mene Dr. Suanu Baridam welcomed Prof. Zabbey and pledged their resolve to work with the new Project Coordinator realize the mandate of HYPREP.

"We're going to be here when you want us, we are going to suggest for you, we will criticize you when the time come, we will tell you the right thing when you are not doing right. We will work with you; I want to assure you that. We will also let the Ogoni people know that we have a mandate, and we have to ensure that we will work with you to ensure that you succeed if you don't succeed all of us have failed."

Present at the meeting were representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), the Rivers State Government and Management Staff of HYPREP.



**HYPREP Staff on Assessment**



# BUHARI: THE PRESIDENT WHO STOOD FOR OGONI

The Ogoni people under the banner of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) in the early 90's presented a Bill of Rights to the Federal Government of Nigeria which among other things demanded a clean and livable environment for the present and future generation. Their demand was predicated on the fact that oil exploration and production activities had compromised the quality of their environment being a major source of their livelihood and existence. Ogoniland produces the Bonny Sweet blend of crude oil and most of the oilwells are onshore. At the return of democracy in Nigeria in 1999, the then President Olusegun Obasanjo invited the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the Ogoni environment in line with the demand by the Ogonis for a clean environment.

The report of that assessment was presented to the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2011 but its implementation was not until President Muhammadu Buhari took over the reins of power and flagged off the clean-up on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016. It was the fulfilment of his electioneering campaign promise to the Ogonis that if voted President he was going to implement the recommendations of the UNEP report. A year after his swearing in, President Buhari made good his promise by standing for the Ogoni people on the implementation of the recommendations from the UNEP environmental assessment of Ogoniland. As President Buhari bowed out of office on May 29<sup>th</sup> 2023, it is worthy of note that he remained steadfast to his commitment to restore Ogoni environment to an arable and livable land that supports economic and social activities.

The first signal that the flag off was not



**Muhammadu Buhari**

a flare in the pan came in 2019, when the first batch of remediation contracts was awarded, and contractors mobilized to sites to clean-up the first twenty-one lots in the Phase 1 Batch 1 contracts. An additional twenty-nine remediation contracts were approved by the Federal Executive Council and awarded by 2020. The abiding love of the President for the Ogoni people continued to move him to give approvals after approvals for projects that will fast track the development of Ogoniland. At a cursory glance, President Buhari approved the following big-ticket projects towards the clean-up and development of Ogoniland:

1. The contracts for the remediation of 21 simple lots, phase 1 batch 1,
2. The contracts for the remediation of 29 simple lots, phase 1 batch 2,
3. The contracts for the provision of potable water phase 1,
4. The contracts for the provision of potable water phase 2,
5. The contract for the remediation of medium risk sites, phase 2,

6. The contracts for the remediation of shorelines,
7. The contract for the training of five thousand Ogoni people in livelihood skills,
8. The contract for the engagement of five hundred Ogoni youths as environmental vanguards,
9. The contract for the construction of Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration,
10. The contract for Ogoni Power Project,
11. The contract for the construction of Ogoni Specialist Hospital.
12. The contract for the remediation of undocumented hydrocarbon polluted sites in Ogoni

The editorial crew of the HYPREP Herald, Management and Staff of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project remain grateful to President Muhammadu Buhari for his show of love to the Ogoni people and commitment to the Clean-up Project and wish him sound health and strength as he retires from active national service.

# INTERVIEW

## WE WILL PROMOTE STAKEHOLDER INCLUSIVENESS IN HYPREP OPERATIONS – PROF. ZABBEY

*The newly appointed Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey speaks on his appointment, his vision for HYPREP for the next four years and his previous works in remediation in this interview with the editor of the HYPREPHerald, Kpoobari Nafu.*

*Congratulations Sir, on your appointment as the new Project Coordinator of HYPREP. Can you tell us a little about yourself?*

My name is Nenibarini Zabbey. I'm a professor of hydrobiology with a bias towards biological monitoring and restoration ecology. I have 20 years of experience in environmental assessment and management. My various studies of the Niger Delta environment provide useful information on the region's ecology and insights for managing the ecosystems sustainably.

*Also tell us please about the processes that led to your emergence as the new helmsman of HYPREP.*

Following the approval of the now outgone President, His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari (GCFR), I was appointed by the then Honourable Minister of Environment, Mohammed Hassan Abdullahi on May 2, 2023 as the new Project Coordinator of HYPREP.

*HYPREP has the mandate of remediating oil polluted site in Ogoni land and restoring the livelihood of impacted community. Before today, have you done similar work elsewhere?*

Yes. I have done several works well related to this. For example, since 2013 until my appointment, I served on the Management Committee, the Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique Team (SCAT), and Technical Working Groups of the Bodo Cleanup and Restoration Project, facilitated by the Bodo Mediation Initiative (BMI). Recently,



**Prof. Zabbey**

I consulted for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as a senior national expert on mangrove ecosystems. UNEP provides technical support to HYPREP. In fact, I co-authored the state-of-the-art manual for mangrove restoration that UNEP has produced to guide HYPREP's mangrove restoration effort in Ogoniland.

*What would be your assessment of HYPREP from March 2017 when the Project Coordination Office was set-up to May 2023 when you were appointed as the PC.*

All the Project Coordinators that have led HYPREP have contributed in different ways. I believe HYPREP will focus more on delivering on the mandate of remediating contaminated land and wetland as well as providing sustainable livelihood opportunities

and potable water to the people of Ogoni.

*Before you, were two substantive Project Coordinators and one acting Coordinator, meaning that several projects and programmes have been running since the inception of the project. Are you continuing with the projects of your predecessors, or you intend to embark on new ones?*

HYPREP has a mandate – it is not a flexible platform where different helmsmen introduce new direction. We will continue all the ongoing projects because they are in accordance with the mandate of HYPREP. Of course, other new projects will be initiated to maximize the benefits for the people of Ogoniland.

*Stakeholder management, litigation, delayed contract delivery, chieftaincy*

*tussle, long procurement processes are some of the issues that have slowed HYPREP's performance. How would you manage these challenges to have a smooth delivery of your mandate to the Ogoni people?*

HYPREP is a multistakeholder project that requires the buy-in of stakeholders, particularly the Ogoni people. We will promote inclusion, listen to all stakeholders, and integrate their useful recommendations to achieve optimal results. While we will press for quick and sustainable results, our operations will be guided by existing laws and regulations. For example, timely initiation of projects could offset the long procurement process, which must be done in line with the provisions of the 2007 Procurement Act. It is not the mandate of HYPREP to resolve chieftaincy issues. However, the Central Representative Advisory Committee (CRAC) will continue to interface with stakeholders, communicate the progress of the HYPREP's projects to Ogoni communities, and address grievances. We appreciate the patience, resilience, and support of the Ogoni people. We will continue to appeal to the Ogoni people to sustain

their support for HYPREP, even as we strive to pay attention to quality and accountable delivery of projects, inclusive benefit sharing, and sustainability.

*Do you see funding for the project as a soon coming problem?*

The Federal Government is highly committed to the HYPREP project in Ogoniland. Other stakeholders, such as the International Oil Companies (IOCs), are also very committed to the project. However, there is a need to look beyond the current funding regime. We need to start exploring sustainable partnerships and collaborations with similar programmes across the globe.

*Where do you intend to lead HYPREP in the next 4 years?*

With collaboration from all stakeholders, we will drive the mandate of HYPREP, and in 4 years, Ogoni communities will have potable water, contaminated land will be remediated, and the polluted mangrove shorelines will be cleaned and revegetated with mangroves, which will gradually return ecosystem goods and services to the people. The livelihood of the Ogoni will be enhanced through several livelihood programmes for women and youths. Of course, the construction of the

Ogoni Power Project, the Specialist Hospital, and the Center of Excellence for Environmental Restoration will be completed.

*What message do you have for the Ogoni people and other stakeholders of the project?*

My key message to Pa Ogoni is to own the project. They should continue to support the Government of Nigeria and the leadership of HYPREP to deliver on the mandate of the Project.

*Thank you so much sir for your time. Thank you.*

**“HYPREP is a multistakeholder project that requires the buy-in of stakeholders, particularly the Ogoni people. We will promote inclusion, listen to all stakeholders, and integrate their useful recommendations to achieve optimal results. While we will press for quick and sustainable results, our operations will be guided by existing laws and regulations. For example, timely initiation of projects could offset the long procurement process, which must be done in line with the provisions of the 2007 Procurement Act.”**



**Prof. Zabbey**

# Facts About HYPREP

## SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE HYPREP GOVERNING COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS OF THE HYPREP GOVERNING COUNCIL

(1) Meetings of the HYPREP Governing Council shall be held at least once every 4 months unless otherwise agreed by the HYPREP Governing Council.

(2) Notice of meeting of the HYPREP Governing Council shall be issued by the Chairperson to the members of the HYPREP Governing Council at least 14 days prior to the meeting of the HYPREP Governing Council.

(3) The notice shall specify the date, time and agenda, in detail, of the meeting and attach any supporting documents.

(4) The HYPREP Governing Council shall meet for the conduct of its business at such places in Nigeria and on such days as the Chairperson may appoint.

(5) Every meeting of the HYPREP Governing Council shall be presided over by the Chairperson and where the Chairperson is unable to attend a particular meeting, the Minister of Budget and National Planning shall preside at the meeting.

(6) Each member of the HYPREP Governing Council shall be entitled to require the Chairperson to include additional items on the agenda by written notice to the Chairperson and the other members of the HYPREP Governing Council not less than 7 days prior to the meeting of the HYPREP Governing Council and attach any supporting documents.

(7) For any meeting of the HYPREP Governing Council, the period of

notices stipulated in this schedule may be waived with the consent in writing of all members of the HYPREP Governing Council.

(8) Each member of the HYPREP Governing Council shall have one vote on all matters for decision.

(9) Where a member is absent at any particular meeting of the HYPREP Governing Council, the member may cast his vote by proxy.

(10) One or more members of the HYPREP Governing Council may participate in and vote at a meeting of the HYPREP Governing Council by means of a video conference which allows all persons participating in the meeting to hear and communicate with each other.

(11) Any member of the HYPREP Governing Council who participates in a meeting of the HYPREP Governing Council under subparagraph (9) of this Schedule shall be deemed to be present in person for all purposes of the meeting and shall count towards the quorum.

(12) A member of the HYPREP Governing Council who is unable to attend a meeting of the HYPREP

Governing Council may issue a proxy to any other person authorising such person to attend on his behalf and to cast his votes.

(13) Each proxy shall be executed in writing by the member of the HYPREP Governing Council and presented at the relevant meeting of the HYPREP Governing Council.

(14) A properly executed and delivered proxy shall remain valid for the period specified in the proxy and any appearance and voting by proxy shall satisfy the quorum and voting requirements.

(15) Each member shall, within 14 days after receiving drafts of minutes of any meeting, return the minutes with its comments to the Secretary who shall within 14 days thereafter forward the final draft to the members of the HYPREP Governing Council.

(16) The minutes of each meeting shall be approved by the HYPREP Governing Board of Trustees at the next meeting and copies thereof shall be furnished to all members of the HYPREP Governing Council.



**HYPREP Staff on Assessment**



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

**HYPREP**

# **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY**

## **WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATION**

**The 2023 theme for the World Environment Day Celebration is 'Solution to Plastic Pollution.' The problem of plastic pollution is a real menace to our land and water bodies. These non-biodegradable materials can stay in the soil and water for years causing harm to living things in the environment. The sight of them on the water ways and occupation of arable lands is nauseating and disturbing. Whole drains are blocked resulting in flash flooding of our cities - submerging homes, displacing people, and exposing them to water borne diseases.**

**Aware of the health and socio-economic impact of plastic pollution on the environment, we at HYPREP are working tirelessly to rid Ogoni coastlines of oil spill and the intruding plastics that gang up with it to pollute the waterways. We have got approval from the Federal Executive Council for the award of shoreline remediation contracts being the clean-up of undocumented hydrocarbon polluted sites in Ogoniland. It is a joint effort with the rest of the world to finding solution to the pollution caused by plastics which crude oil is a base material for its production.**

**We are not resting on our oars until the coastlines of Ogoni are restored to their natural state, wearing once again the greenery of beautiful flora and healthy fauna distinct to our wetland.**

**Happy World Environment Day!**

**Management, HYPREP**



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT  
**HYDROCARBON POLLUTION REMEDIATION PROJECT**



***Congratulations***

**His Excellency,  
Senator Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR)  
President, Federal Republic of Nigeria**

**T**he Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey, Management and Staff of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) congratulate His Excellency, Senator Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR) on his successful inauguration as President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. May Almighty God grant you the wisdom and health to pilot the affairs of our dear nation to greater heights.

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!

Long live Ogoniland!

Long live HYPREP!

**Signed: Management, HYPREP!**



**PRO. NENIBARINI ZABBEY  
PROJECT COORDINATOR  
(HYPREP)**



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT  
**HYDROCARBON POLLUTION REMEDIATION PROJECT**



***Congratulations***

**His Excellency  
Sir Siminalayi Fubara  
Executive Governor Of Rivers State**

**T**he Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey, Management and Staff of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) congratulate His Excellency, Sir Siminalayi Joseph Fubara on his successful swearing-in as the Executive Governor of Rivers State. We pray God to grant you the grace and strength to accomplish more for our dear state.

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!

Long live Rivers State!

Long live HYPREP!

**Signed: Management, HYPREP!**



**PRO. NENIBARINI ZABBEY  
PROJECT COORDINATOR  
(HYPREP)**



# HEALTH TIPS

## PART 1

### HEALTH AND SAFETY TIPS FOR THE RAINY SEASON

#### 1. DRIVING IN THE RAIN

Though rain is essential for the nourishment of the soil, vegetation, and aquatic animals, it is a fact that cold, flu, fever, malaria, and other illnesses are prevalent during this time of the year.

In addition to its negative effects on health, severe rainy weather can cause a number of problems, such as power outages and traffic accidents, so, drivers must exercise utmost caution while driving. These safety measures will help you and your family stay safe during the rainy season.

Every year, roughly 1.2 million accidents are caused by wet pavement (El Camino, 2023). Given the fact that wet runways can be slippery, it is important to prepare your car in advance for a rainstorm. In a rainstorm, be sure to:

- Turn on your headlights so that your car is visible. Rain impedes visibility.
- Turn off your cruise control. When roadways are slick, cruise control impairs your ability to adjust speed quickly. You should be in full control of your car when the rain falls.
- Avoid speeding and tailgating. Slow down to avoid hydroplaning (car flying off the ground at high speed due to pool of water on the road). At speeds as low as 35 miles per hour, tires can lose contact with the roadway during a rainstorm.
- If you begin to skid, avoid hard braking or turns, which can also contribute to hydroplaning.
- Avoid parking your vehicle under power lines or next to utility poles.
- Ensure windshield wipers are in good working condition.
- Tire treads should also be the proper depth to provide good traction on wet roadways.
- Keep a safe distance from the car in front of you.
- Avoid making any sudden turns and abrupt braking as well.
- While driving into the rain, you also need to stay away from heavy vehicles.
- Remember to check your fuel tank, brakes, tires, and wipers before driving to make sure they are in good condition.
- If approaching a flooded road, turn around. Cars can be swept away by less than two feet of moving water. If you cannot turn around and water is rising around you, get out of the car quickly and move to higher ground.



#### 2. PREPARING YOUR HOUSE FOR RAIN

Here are some tips to keep your home safe and dry:

- Get your roof and gutters inspected to ensure good condition before the rain falls. Remove leaves or debris from gutters throughout the year.
- Check the inside of the house to be sure there are no signs of water leaks—mold, water rings, or paint discoloration. Make any necessary repairs.
- Prune dead branches from trees in your yard, which can fall on or around your house during a storm.
- Have sandbags on hand for low areas of your house to keep water at bay during a flood.
- In a flood, move furniture to higher floors to prevent water damage.
- Unplug electronic appliances during heavy rainfall.
- Shut down your windows and doors properly. This helps prevent water from entering your home.

# PICTURES OF THE MONTH



**Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey Addressing Staff of HYPREP**



**Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey in a Chat with His Predecessor, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom**



**Director, Technical Services, Prof. Philip Shekwolo Addressing Staff of HYPREP**



**Prof. Zabbey Poses With Outgone Minister of State, Environment, Hon. Udi Odum During His Mother's Burial**



**HYPREP Management Staff, Others Pose With Outgone Minister of State, Environment, Hon. Udi Odum During His Mother's Burial**



**Cross Section of HYPREP Staff During Maiden Meeting With New Project Coordinator**



**Prof. Zabbey Poses With Participants at the End of CRAC/ZRC Joint Meeting**

# Shun Illegal Oil Refining It Destroys the Environment

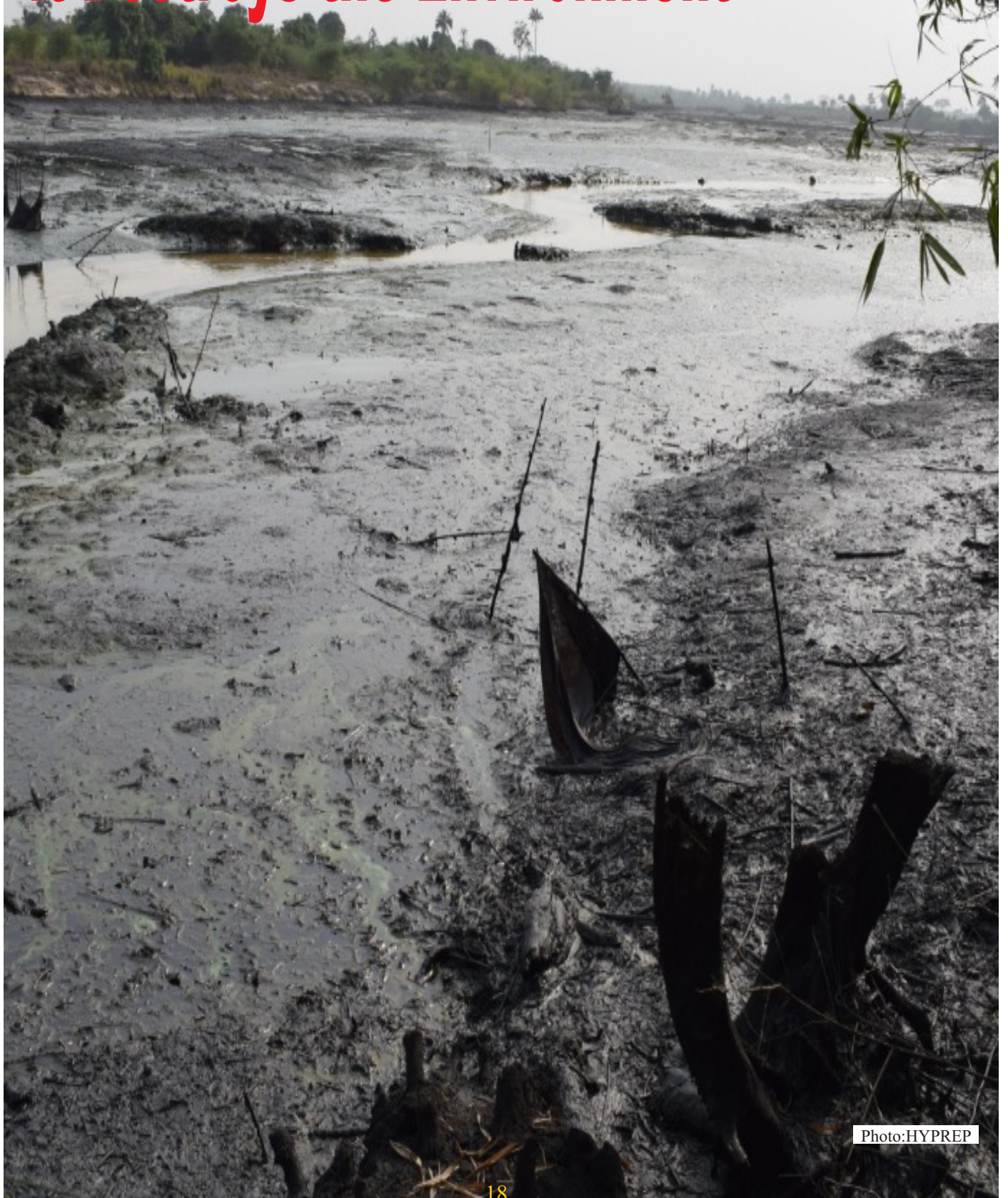


Photo:HYPREP



**THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE**

**“The Earth should not be a worse place after my life than it was when I was born here.”**

***- Rob Stewart***

**Remediated Land**

**Photo:HYPREP**

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

**A Publication of the Communications Unit of HYPREP**

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