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 HYPREP..Remediating the Environment and Restoring Livelihoods

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SHELL PLEDGES SUSTAINED SUPPORT FOR OGONI CLEAN-UP



Rob Sherwin

Dr. Ferdinand Giadom, MFR, FNAEGE

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OGONI POWER PROJECT Sub-Stations Inaugurated in Wiiyaakara, Bodo Communities

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HYPREP HERALD NOT TO BE SOLD

THE PC'S DESK



DR. FERDINAND DUMBARI GIADOM, MFR, FNAEGE
Project Coordinator

This month of March 2023 marks my one year in the saddle as the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocar

bon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP). I came to the Project at a time that there was so much disenchantment with the operations of the Project Coordination Office from stakeholders especially the Ogoni who felt that the deliverables of the project were not visible. They had argued that though the remediation of oil impacted sites in Ogoni was the recommendation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report, but, there was need to leave legacy projects behind during the clean-up of the area to alleviate the sufferings they have faced over the years. Their argument and demand were in every respect valid in the eyes of the UNEP Report as there were a handful of emergency measures recommended for implementation. As one who participated in the UNEP assessment of Ogoniland from 2009 - 2011, it was therefore not a difficult graph for me to plot to arrive at an equilibrium that will balance field and community expectations. So, we developed a number of community projects, prominently among which is the Ogoni Power Project to drive industrialization and socio-economic fortunes of Ogoni people, bring sustainability to the Potable Water Schemes and Livelihood Programmes of the project and ultimately douse the agitations of the people.

In this past one year, we have kept

faith with that dream, sparing no effort to seeing that we move from the field to the community and by the grace of Almighty God, we have flagged off the construction of the Ogoni Power Project, finalized all preparations for the take-off of the construction of the National Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, the Ogoni Specialist Hospital – legacy projects that touch directly on the socio-economic life of the Ogoni people.

One of the determinant factors for the accelerated speed of progress on the project in the last one year is the unwavering commitment and support of the President, His Excellency Muhammadu Buhari and the Honourable Minister of Environment, Barr. Mohammed Abdullahi. The President had at every given opportunity given his assent to any project that will improve the living condition of the Ogoni people and as well cleared every impediment to the smooth running of the project. On his part, the Honourable Minister has demonstrated his abiding love to the Ogoni people and commitment to the Clean-up Project and thus ranks as the Minister under whose supervision the Project recorded the highest number of legacy projects for the Ogoni people.

While we sustain effort to make the project profit the people on the social front, we have not lost focus of its field operations. During the month of February, we held a kick-off meeting with contractors in the phase 2 of the remediation of medium risk sites where soil and ground water are

contaminated. They are in the process of mobilizing to site and this will engender a beehive of economic activities in the communities where they are to work. There are over thirty of these lots where work will start soonest.

We have just concluded the data capture of the Gokana beneficiaries being the last Local Government Area to be captured under our Livelihood Training Programme for the commencement of the training of five thousand Ogoni people in the skill areas of their choice.

One thing is certain, which is my pledge to the Ogoni people and sponsors of the project; that, during my tenure as the Project Coordinator, every kobo will be judiciously used, and work delivered according to specification on time, cost, and target. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) continues to render technical support and coaching to the project, and we are grateful for their assistance in every area of our operations. We are continuously open to newer ideas and ways of doing things in the overall attainment of corporate goals and objectives.

In the coming days, we will commence a massive and intensive sensitization of the communities to keep them informed on our operations. HYPREP is indeed now moving from the field into the communities, and we solicit and expect a positive response to us as we work to restore a cleaner and greener environment for sustainable livelihood to thrive again for the Ogoni people.

Editorial Crew Members

Dr. Ferdinand Giadom	Publisher-in-Chief
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Dr. Giadom Presents Copies of HYPREP Reports to Sherwin

In this Issue

One of the high points as Dr. Ferdinand Giadom clocks one year in office as the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), is the visit of a key official of one of the sponsors of the Ogoni Clean-up Project to the Project Coordination Office, in the person of Shell Vice President, Corporate Relations Europe/Sub-Saharan Africa, Rob Sherwin. His working visit is the first and the highest in hierarchy from the stable of the International Oil Company since the project commenced operations in 2017. Sherwin was pleased with the appreciable progress HYPREP has made on the clean-up project and the additional projects it initiated to secure the social license of the people.

The Ogoni Power Project is among the additions that HYPREP has made to the clean-up, and we bring you the report of its inauguration at Bodo and Wiyaakara communities – hosts to the two Power Sub-stations of the Ogoni Electrification Project. The people not only donated their lands for the project but opened their doors to HYPREP for the 'light' and fortunes that the project will bring to Ogoniland.

With more work on hand to accomplish, there is need for more training to broaden and sharpen the skills of the Project's workforce to deliver. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – authors of the report that HYPREP is implementing in Ogoniland has continued to live up to expectation by organizing training to fill up the technical gap on the project. This latest training is in the area of development of effective work plans for timely tracking of deliverables.

That training was followed by the

workshop for remediation site supervisors where they were taken through a lengthy check list of what to expect from remediation contractors working for HYPREP and then the main one which is the kick-off meeting with the contractors in the Phase 2 remediation of medium risk sites.

The Central Representative Advisory Committee (CRAC) and the Zonal Representative Committee (ZRC) whose key role is to mediate between the communities and the project had a meeting with the Project Coordinator where they were briefed on happenings in the Project Coordination Office and the expectation of the office from them.

As remediation contractors prepare to move to site, an important requirement for certification of work done are good

laboratories where samples can be tested for compliance with regulatory standards. To this end the Project opened bids for the procurement of such services.

In this issue we also bring you the report on the data capture for beneficiaries of our Livelihood training from Gokana. It was the last Local Government Area to be captured before the commencement of the livelihood training of the five thousand Ogoni people.

Our Poem Corner and Safety Tip Segment are sustained for your reading pleasure and well being. It is our desire that you are properly and adequately updated on our operations and activities. Please do reach us for any enquiries and feedback that you think will enable us to serve you better.

POETRY CORNER

NEW AGAIN

By: Kpoobari Nafu

Out of the shell of pollution
Cracks a pile of new mount of soil
Soaked in the pool of bioremediation
And exposed to a new life of vegetation.

It was same land that her nudity was left open
With no phytogarment atop.
A shame that lasted for decades
Until the will to clothe her bare body.

A land that once grew healthy trees
Was left to decay to her roots and soil,
But the time is changing.
The soil is beginning to resurrect
And the trees return,
Like refugees from faraway land.
Not long and the land shall be green again!

Project News

SHELL PLEDGES SUSTAINED SUPPORT FOR OGOINI CLEAN-UP

Oil giant, Shell has reiterated its commitment and support towards the successful implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report on Ogoniland.

Shell Vice President, Corporate Relations Europe/Sub-Saharan Africa, Rob Sherwin stated this during a working visit to the Project Coordination Office of HYPREP in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

Sherwin said although it was his first visit to HYPREP, he has been following up on the progress of the Project for the past two years and he was impressed with the progress the Project has made thus far.

“This is my first visit to HYPREP but it's not the first time I have heard about it. For the last two years, I have been following your progress closely. I have been to Geneva to meet with Mike Cowing and UNEP to hear from them and their progress assessment, and of course the SPDC Country Chair who sits on your Governing Council keeps me up to date as well. I haven't visited your Clean-up operations, but I can only imagine the logistical challenges, the operational challenges, and the scientific challenges involved, and I hope you are confident that you will always have Shell's full support.”

While congratulating HYPREP on the progress made in the remediation of simple sites, Sherwin encouraged Managers of the Project to brace up for the challenges ahead in the complex sites. He noted that Livelihood, Public Health, and Provision of Water are important

deliverables of the Project, but the fundamental aspect is the removal of hydrocarbon contaminants of concern from the environment in a way that will restore the land to its natural state. Representative of the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) on the Project, Engr. Ekiyokenegha Clark, appreciated the Vice President of Shell for always being at the forefront of activities. He stated that the Ogoni Clean-Up Project is ongoing contrary to insinuations that nothing is happening in the communities. In his words, 'HYPREP has improved in leaps and bounds and continues to improve. We are here to drive the train as speedily as possible and to make sure it is done to expectation and standard.' He appealed to Shell to continuously support the Project to deliver on its mandate.

The Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom while thanking the Vice President of Shell and his team for the visit to the Project

Coordination Office intimated the visitors of the progress of the Project since his assumption of duty on 8th March 2022. He said that the Project has remediated 49 lots of the simple sites, while it is currently issuing award letters to contractors for the remediation of 39 lots in the semi-medium risk sites which were approved by the Federal Executive Council (FEC) in December 2022. Dr. Giadom stated further that HYPREP has assessed fifteen (15) undocumented sites in Eleme, Gokana, and Tai LGA, and announced that there is an overlap between documented and undocumented sites. Dr. Giadom said that the Project has assessed over 2000 mangrove hectares in Gokana LGA in preparation for shoreline remediation works which are expected to start by the second quarter of 2023. He said that the Project has received close-out certificates for 36 lots, while others are currently awaiting certification by the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA).



Group Photograph with Rob Sherwin and SPDC/HYPREP Staff During His Visit to the PCO

OGONI POWER PROJECT

Sub-Stations Inaugurated in Wiiyaakara, Bodo Communities

Following the approval of the Ogoni Power Project late last year by the Federal Executive Council (FEC), the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has formally inaugurated the construction of the power facility with the flag-off of the two sub-stations sited in Bodo and Wiiyaakara communities.

The Wiiyaakara community in Khana Local Government Area, led by the Paramount Ruler, HRH Mene Leyira Lazarus Nwanam and his Council of Chiefs had donated a four hectare of land for the Power Project that will link Ogoniland to the National Grid. Similar donation of about three hectares of land was made by the Bodo community to support the Ogoni Electrification Project.

At the inauguration of the Power Project in Wiiyaakara community, the Chairman Council of Chiefs, Mene Goddy Benson Nwikpo assured the Management of HYPREP of the safety of its staff and contractors working in the community.

“Wiiyaakara community is a safe haven for all our guests and visitors, and we assure you of the safety of your workforce, your contractors (indigenous and foreign). We also pledge our unalloyed loyalty, unflinching support, and maximum cooperation in ensuring that the Ogoni clean-up is successfully implemented, completed, and commissioned. I therefore use this very rare privilege to welcome you and your team to the Wiiyaakara community and look forward to a productive and fruitful relationship with our community.”

An elder in the community and former

Director, Finance and Administration of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Chief Derek Mene expressed joy at the siting of the Sub-station in his community and pledged the community's support for the success of the project. He also urged the Management of HYPREP to ensure that the social cost being the vast expanse of land donated by the community is equal to the social benefit of constant power supply in the community.

In his address, the Project Coordinator, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom recalled the day the memo for the Ogoni Power Project was read by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Barr. Mohammed Hassan Abdullahi

in the Federal Executive Council Meeting and how the President, Muhammadu Buhari and Council gave the nod to the proposal.

“I was in council chambers that day and after my principal, the Honourable Minister of Environment, Barr. Mohammed Abdullahi read the memo about the power project, very wonderful memo and the President said, 'members of council, any comments?' You could hear a pin drop and then when there were no comments, the President asked again, Minister of Power, any comments?' My heart nearly jumped out from my mouth because at that point, if the Minister of Power had said there was an issue. It is either they would have



Dr. Giadom and HYPREP Staff at the Wiiyaakara Sub-Station Site

referred it for a second look at the proposal, but then the Minister of Power made a statement I will never forget as long as I live. He said, 'Mr. President, the memo that has just been read and the matter under consideration is an Ogoni matter and therefore, no comment.' And so, at that point, Mr. President then said, 'from this moment onward I hereby approve the Ogoni power project.'"

Dr. Giadom gave a brief description of the Power Project, the transmission routes, and the various components of it. "The phase one of the Ogoni Power Project which entails the construction of the transmission line of about 62km starting from Onne where the sub-station is, down to Wiyakara, where we have the first sub-station, then from Wiyakara down to Bodo where we have the second sub-station. From Wiyakara here, we will step down the power and distribute to the three kingdoms of Khana - Ken-Khana, Nyo-Khana and Babbe. Then from Bodo Sub-station we will distribute to the other three kingdoms of Gokana, Tai and Eleme."

The Project Coordinator expressed optimism that the Power Project will boost economic activities in Ogoniland and urged the business community to latch on the opportunity it will create to enhance their productivity.

"We should begin to think of small businesses, small cottage industries that we can establish in our communities. I am particularly interested in agriculture, to process and preserve agricultural products. If you know the amount of corn that is wasted every year, because we have no preservation and no processing, there's a lot of things that will happen. So, I use this occasion and this

opportunity to thank the Wiyakara people for all the support that they have given to HYPREP all these years even before I came. You know, you donated vast expanse of land to the Project before for the Centre of Excellence in Environmental Restoration. As soon as my elder brother, Chief Derek Mene heard that we plan to connect Ogoni to the National Grid, he said, I will facilitate for you where you will site the Sub-station and quickly this vast expanse of land was donated. We are very, very grateful."

He said the multiplier effect of the Ogoni Power Project is enormous on national development. "You know, Bonny host to the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas is just few kilometres from here. So, a lot of companies will settle here to produce products that will eventually be taken to Bonny and in the future, we are hearing about the Bonny Deep Sea Port. So, a lot of goods will be coming from abroad and we can make this place very comfortable for them. So, the only

thing that would make industries to grow is when we as a community accept and welcome development, welcome our visitors and create enabling environment for industrialization."

Dr. Giadom commended the Wiyakara community on the huge support given to HYPREP in terms of hosting its facilities and projects.

"The Center of Excellence is one of the legacy projects that will project the benefits of the Federal Government's intervention to us today and for the future. So it's going to be an institution to train people to have different kinds of skills in environmental restoration and also to be a regional hub of research in the whole of Sub-Saharan Africa where environmental matters will be studied and then from the research that will be conducted at the center, we will have policies that will guide not only Nigeria, but sub-Saharan Africa on environmental matters. So, we are trying to build that Center of Excellence to be truly a



Dr. Giadom and HYPREP Staff at the Bodo Sub-Station Site

center of excellence of international repute that will be capable of attracting scholars from all over the world. The Center of Excellence is also going to be affiliated to other Centers of Excellence in Environmental Studies and Engineering around the world. Wiiyaakara soon will be a hub of activities where you will have scholars

coming from all over Africa and the world who will come here to make research.”

High point of the event was the leadership of the Wiiyaakara giving its blessing to the Ogoni Power Project to succeed. Same was the case at the Bodo Sub-Station where the Regent of the community, Chief Joseph Epken

Kpai and his Council gave their blessings to the Power Project and thanked the Management of HYPREP siting the project in their community and charged the youths to create a peaceful environment for the contractors as well as safeguard the facilities being installed.

UNEP TRAINS HYPREP STAFF IN PROJECT TRACKING

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – author of the Environmental Assessment Report on Ogoniland continues its provision of technical support for the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) with a capacity-building training in Project Tracking for HYPREP staff who are involved in field operations.

The human capacity building workshop which was held in Port Harcourt is in keeping with UNEP's commitment to build and enhance the capacity of HYPREP staff to deliver the Ogoniland clean-up project.

Senior Technical Expert and Head of Nigerian Office of UNEP, Professor Iyenemi Kakulu, said the training was aimed at equipping the various Units of HYPREP with the requisite skills to plan, organize and set well-defined goals for their teams to improve their effectiveness. She enjoined the staff of the Project to make it a Standard Operating Procedure to have their work plans in place before the start of each week to enable them keep track of their activities and set goals that are achievable.

In his remarks, the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom commended UNEP on its support thus far, noting

that the training will help HYPREP identify its areas of weakness and improve on them, and assured that the capacity building of HYPREP staff will be a continuous one. 'HYPREP will continue to train more personnel to equip them for the job ahead, in line with international best practices,' he stated.

Similarly, the Senior Technical Expert to UNEP on Centre of Excellence in

Environmental Restoration, Professor Barineme Beke Fakae said the training will help HYPREP evaluate its progress and improve on what it is already doing.

The human capacity building workshop which was facilitated by Camille Rahier of UNEP had in attendance Management and select staff of HYPREP.



UNEP Training of HYPREP Staff in Session

HYPREP TRAINS SITE SUPERVISORS FOR BATCH 2 REMEDIATION WORKS

In readiness for the kick-off of the clean-up of the medium risk sites being the Phase 2 Batch 1 of Remediation of contaminated sites in Ogoniland, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has trained its site supervisors to monitor contractors engaged for the job.

The Project Coordinator, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom said the training was aimed at equipping scientific officers of the Project with the right skills and tools to monitor remediation contractors working for the project.

He said, 'We are here for a training course for Bio-remediation project supervision. You need to be grounded in the scientific principle that governs the operation of Bioremediation. You must know the key elements to look

out for in project supervision. We are stepping into the complex sites which have groundwater contamination. You must have an idea about the pace and transport of contaminants.

“Today's workshop is to train the scientific officers, to sharpen their skills. They are the site supervisors, to give them a basic grounding, a refresher of the scientific underpinning that drives the Bioremediation process and then the key things that form the responsibilities of scientific officers in terms of enhancing their supervisory skills and documentation of their everyday experience. How to manage sites. How to manage data and how to provide their reports in a form that is readable scientifically.”

Dr. Giadom urged them to daily document their observations in the

field using the standard templates of reporting that will be presented to them and admonished them to always recourse to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that will be handed over to contractors when they meet with unforeseen circumstances.

“The essence of this refresher programme is for you to know what you ought to know as site supervisors. You need to know how to manage the volume of soil that will pass through your Biocell. Your responsibility is to make your lot a success. Oversee and ensure that the SOPs are always followed.”

He added that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is on the Project to support and enable HYPREP deliver better on its mandate and appreciated the facilitators of the training Professor Shekwolo - Director, Technical Services,



Cross Section of Participants at the Workshop for Site Supervisors

HYPREP, Professor Chidi Ibe, Professor Tamunoene Abam, and Professor John Onwuteaka for their invaluable contributions to HYPREP and urged trainees to take advantage of the opportunity and tap from their wealth of knowledge. In his words, 'it is a rare privilege to have this number of Professors in one room and at the same time. Take advantage of this opportunity and learn as much as you can.'

Dr Giadom stated that the training will facilitate the development of strategic framework that will enhance the performance of HYPREP and also serve as a referral document for similar work anywhere in the world.

“The outcome of this workshop will be the development of a strategic framework for the remediation process that will be documented as quality assurance project plan that contains SOPs in the various areas that we are going to carry out works from sample analysis, the remediation processes to bio-cell engineering and management and the full gamut of all the facets, involved in this project. So, we are developing that global framework. We are developing standard procedures that will enable us to interrogate the performance of every facet of the project and that's the only way we can validate our progress. That's the way we can document our progress and that is the way we can communicate our process. It's going to be a total departure from the past because everything will be backed by science. We will be transparent; we will be honest.”

Collaborating the stance of the Project Coordinator, the Director Technical Services, Professor Philip Shekwolo warned contractors against cutting corners as the site supervisors would be empowered to do their oversight function diligently.



L - R: 1. Prof. Chidi Ibe, 2. Prof. Philip Shekwolo, 3. Prof. John Onwuteaka & 4. Prof. Tamunoene Abam

“Supervision is the key. So, if somebody fails, the supervisors will catch up with him and there will be punishment. There will be carrot and stick approach. Those who do well will be rewarded. Those who do not do well will be sanctioned and punished and that's why you can see that even in the arrangement of the sites, the work plans will be better arranged by accessing supervisors who will be guiding the contractors to do the right thing, by enforcing our protocols on site.”

Another guest speaker at the workshop, Professor Chidi Ibe is optimistic that HYPREP's performance in this second phase of remediation will surpass that of the first phase judging from the deliberate re-engineering of the process. “I think we need to situate today's workshop within the context of lessons learned and against the background of those lessons learned from the first phase. We're now projecting, you know, having integrated new experiences and new technologies, new orientations for a better outcome of this second phase.”

He commended the Project Coordinator, Dr Ferdinand Giadom on knowing what he wants and going all out for it in the overall good of the project.

“The Project Coordinator, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom (MFR) and I go back a long way to 2013 when I returned to the country. He was the first to introduce HYPREP to me. At that point he had very clear notions of the orientations of this particular project and as I said in my introductory remarks, his coming to the leadership of this project has taken it far beyond projected objectives and targets, to something of the caliber of dreams that dreams are made of. You know, when you talk about the Environmental Marshals, you talk about the injection of the Power Project, you talk about the accentuation of the Center of Excellence and the Specialist hospital and other things. This project has 'gone nuclear' to use a banal term. And I think everybody, all of us who are associated with this project, should be proud, mightily proud of Dr. Ferdinand Giadom.”

Participants were taken through different aspects of Remediation works including, Remediation Principles and Strategies; Proposed Bioremediation Monitoring Protocol and Improved Standard Operating Procedures (I-SOP) for the

Implementation of HYPREP Phase 2 Environmental Remediation Works; Engineered Biocell Models and Specifications, Characterization, and Management of Contaminated Land and Groundwater; Quality Assurance and Quality Control Supervisor,

General Site Issues and Challenges and Review of Standards, Models, and Protocols. Among speakers at the workshop were the Head, Environmental Remediation Unit, Raphael Friday Saue and an Officer of the Unit, Sornaatah Nke-ee.

HYPREP DOES NOT RUN ON PROPAGANDA - DR. GIADOM

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) Dr. Ferdinand Dumbari Giadom says HYPREP has recorded concrete achievements which are there for all to see, contrary to insinuation in some quarters that the Project is running on propaganda.

Dr. Giadom stated this during a joint meeting of members of the Central Representative Advisory Committee (CRAC), and the Zonal Representative Committee (ZRC) held in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State Capital.

In his words, 'the achievements and milestones of the Project are there for all to see. We are delivering on our mandate. The monthly newsletter contains information and activities of the Project for each month. HYPREP projects the truth to the outside world. We will not tell the people what we are not doing. We will be frank and fair and let the people judge us.'

Providing facts and figures, the PC said that the award letters for the Phase 2 Batch 1 Remediation Project which consists of 39 lots spread across the four (4) Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Ogoni have been issued to contractors. He further stated that the community entry and hand over of site to contractors will begin in the coming weeks.

Dr. Giadom said that this phase of the remediation project which is more challenging than the Phase 1 is the semi-medium risk site having both



Dr. Ferdinand Giadom

soil and groundwater contamination and announced that HYPREP will engage the services of experts and go for the best available technologies it can afford with the help of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the implementation of this phase of the remediation project.

The Project Coordinator said the remediation companies will train community workers before the commencement of work and carry out Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) in their host communities. He therefore called on members of CRAC and the ZRC to welcome the contractors and provide a conducive environment for them to work.

Dr. Giadom also announced to members of CRAC/ZRC that HYPREP has designed another six (6) water schemes spread across the four (4) LGAs of Ogoni, that will supply

water to communities not covered in the phase 1 Batch 1 and 2 Water Schemes. He also disclosed that the six new water projects would be powered by an alternative source of energy (windmills) and that HYPREP is currently carrying out a survey to determine suitable locations for the windmills.

The Spokesperson of CRAC, HRH Mene Dr. Baridam Suanu in his goodwill message, appreciated the Project Coordinator and Chairman of CRAC for the joint session and stated that 2023 will be one of the busiest years for HYPREP and urged members of CRAC and ZRC to work together towards the actualization of the mandate of HYPREP.

Similarly, HRH King Samuel Nnee appreciated God for the year 2023 and thanked the Management of HYPREP for building the capacity of members

of CRAC in their training at the Nigerian Institute of Chartered Arbitrators in Lagos and enjoined Management to extend the training to members of ZRC who were not enlisted in the first batch.

Representative of the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) on the Project, Engineer Ekiyokenegha Clark appreciated the Management of

HYPREP for their achievements in 2022 and stated that the SPDC Joint Venture is happy to be associated with the HYPREP experience and will continue to support the Project in its activities. He stated that a lot is expected from members of CRAC and the ZRC in the year 2023 and enjoined them to be up and doing in resolving any conflict between HYPREP and the communities.

Intervention speeches were delivered by Professor Barineme Beke Fakae of the UNEP team, Pastor Emmanuel Fienemika - Acting Permanent Secretary, Rivers State Ministry of Environment and Member of CRAC, HRH Mene Benjamin Kii, and Mr. Loveday Nwafor of the ZRC.

HYPREP OPENS FRESH BIDS FOR PROVISION OF LABORATORY SERVICES

The Hydrocarbon Pollution and Remediation Project (HYPREP) has opened a fresh bid to select contractors that will provide laboratory services for the remediation works of the Project.

Mr. Paul Uwoicho Ugbaha of the Procurement Unit who represented the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Dr Ferdinand Giadom at the event held at the Project Coordination Office in Port Harcourt, said a similar exercise took place in 2021 where seven (7) select laboratories were engaged for two years to provide laboratory services for the Project.

He assured that in selecting laboratories for the job, care would be taken to consider technically competent contractors. "We are going to be fair to everybody because we



Cross Section of Contractors at the Bid Opening

want the best for the Project. We are going to conduct an objective analysis of your submission, if we find you qualified, we will come and inspect your facilities. Fairness, openness, and accountability will be ensured because we need you more than you need us."

Mr. Ugbaha explained that the laboratories will be used to test samples taken from HYPREP sites, noting that it is an important phase in the implementation of the UNEP Report, and advised contractors bidding for contracts to ensure that their laboratories are up to standard. The bidding process was observed and monitored by some Non-Governmental Organizations like, Salvage Africa Initiative, Cornerstone Liberty and Love Foundation, and Media Awareness and Justice Initiative. Over nineteen (19) contractors participated in the bid opening.

5000 OGONI PEOPLE SET FOR LIVELIHOOD TRAINING

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has concluded the last phase of the screening and data capture of beneficiaries for the training of five thousand Ogoni people in various skill areas of their choice.

The data capture for beneficiaries from Gokana Local Government Area who were the last to be attended to drew youths from the different villages that make up the area.



Officials of Livelihood Unit Capturing Data of Beneficiaries

The youths who were well coordinated all through the exercise commended the Management of HYPREP on keeping to its promise of kick starting the livelihood training in the first quarter of 2023 and pledged their commitment and dedication to the training programme which they said will greatly enhance their economic fortunes and bring peace and development to Ogoniland.

Provision of alternative livelihood trainings for communities whose sources of income were impacted by oil spills is a key mandate of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP).

Among areas of interest indicated by the youths for training are, Data Analytics, Crane Operations/Loader, Website Designing and Development, Digital Marketing and Mobile App Development, Argon Welding/Metal Fabrication, etc. The training for the five thousand Ogoni people is besides the four hundred youths being

screened for training in the four skill areas of seafaring, mechatronics, aviation, and creative arts.

The beneficiaries of the livelihood training for the five thousand Ogoni people drawn from the four Local Government Areas of Eleme, Tai, Gokana and Khana that make

Ogoniland will now be organized under their skill areas and sent to their respective training institutes and upon completion of their programmes be empowered with starter packs to practise their trades.



Cross Section of Beneficiaries of HYPREP Livelihood Programme During their Data Capture Exercise

REMEDICATION OF MEDIUM RISK SITES BEGINS

With the completion of the remediation of Phase 1 Batches 1 and 2 of contaminated sites in Ogoniland, the Hydrocarbon Pollution and Remediation Project (HYPREP) is set to move to the Phase 2 remediation of medium risk complex sites where soil and ground water are contaminated.

Having awarded contracts to the successful companies that bided for the work, the Project Coordination Office had organized a kick-off meeting with top Management of the thirty-nine (39) companies that won the contracts to brief them on the scope of work to be done and the



Cross Section of Contractors During the Kickoff Meeting

expectation of the project from them as they prepare to mobilize to sites.

Addressing the contractors, the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom said the meeting signals the commencement of Phase 2 of HYPREP's remediation works of contaminated sites, which is a very important National assignment and as such must be carried out according to the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and guidelines laid down by the different regulatory agencies.

Dr. Giadom said the remediation of the simple sites offered the Project a lot of social and technical lessons that will be carried on to the Phase 2 remediation of semi-medium risk and complex sites. He stated that in preparation for this phase of the remediation works, HYPREP at the instance of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) undertook a study tour of contaminated sites in Europe to gain better understanding of how remediation is done in other countries. The Project Coordinator noted that expectations are high from both government and stakeholders of the Project, hence the contract will be fully monitored by the scientific officers of HYPREP as well as other regulatory agencies, and therefore enjoined the contractors to deliver the remediation project to international standards.

He notes, “the scientific officers have been robustly trained in the science of bioremediation and they know what they are going to look out for in the field. They will be equipped with tools that will aid them in carrying out their activities and will send their reports to the office at the outset, mid-work, and at the end of the day to enable us have good monitoring of the process. For you to come to this stage, then you are technically qualified to

carry out this task to the levels that have been prescribed by our regulating expatriate, so you will carry out your duties and we will carry out ours. Go by the terms of the contract, commit to what you have signed, and carry out the job to the best of your abilities.”

The Project Coordinator said that the scientific officers are empowered to stop work on site when there is a breach of the Standard Operating Protocols (SOPs) as specified by HYPREP.

He further charged the contractors on the need to maintain high safety standards on site and added that compliance with safety processes and standards will not be wavered. 'We will constantly inspect your sites to ensure that you do not remove problems and multiply them elsewhere'. He requested the contractors to forward to the Project their remedial action plans and other documents that will be required of

them to avoid sanctions by the regulatory agencies of the project.

Dr. Giadom said that the Bio-cell which will have retractable roofs over them will be a closed-engineered bio-cell to enable the project to have controlled conditions for optimal microbial levels and monitor the pH and temperature of the soil. He said that the contractors must fulfill the stipulated task of each milestone before payment will be made. He charged the scientific officers to always adhere to the SOPs and carry out their tasks diligently, and without bias. In his word 'You are not contractors or consultants to contractors. You are there to do the job of a referee. Your friendship or familiarity should not stand in your way of doing the right thing. Always follow the SOPs.'

He announced that sensitization of the communities and training of community workers will begin in the



Cross Section of Participants During the Kickoff Meeting

coming weeks to enable contractors to mobilize to site and stated that HYPREP has engaged the services of high-level resource persons to train the community workers and issue them certificates that will enable them to work anywhere in the world.

Representative of the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), Dr. Kenneth Aroh who represented the Director General, Mr. Idris Musa said the agency is passionate about the remediation process and it is committed to ensuring that the contractors do the right thing to achieve set goals and objectives. 'Whatever is necessary to ensure that the remediation is successful, the agency will do.' He assured.

Dr. Ogechi Opaté representing the Chief Executive, and the Port Harcourt Regional Coordinator of the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), in her speech said that the commission recognizes the interventionist role of HYPREP in Ogoniland and appreciates the synergy between HYPREP and the NUPRC. She advised HYPREP to build on the lessons learned during the Phase 1 remediation activities and called on the contractors to get every necessary permit required to carry out the remediation work and reiterated the support of the NUPRC to the Ogoni clean-up project. 'We will continue to support you to restore Ogoniland to its natural state, she promised.'

Similarly, Pastor Emmanuel Fienimika, the Acting Permanent Secretary in the Rivers State Ministry of Environment, who also doubles as a member of the Central Representative Advisory Committee (CRAC) of HYPREP, speaking on behalf of the Commissioner of Environment, Barr. Emenike Eke congratulated the contractors on their engagement and

stressed the need for them to deliver the remediation to international standards. 'We believe you are competent and able to restore our environment to its natural state.' He also advised contractors to obey the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria by getting all the necessary certifications and permits needed from all the regulatory agencies and the government.

Mr. Michael Cowing of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) congratulated Dr. Ferdinand Giadom on the improvement he has recorded in HYPREP since his assumption of office as the Project Coordinator. He said that during the study tour to the United Kingdom, the Honourable Minister of Environment assured that every aspect of the clean-up programme will be done in compliance with international best practices. He said that UNEP will continue to work with HYPREP to ensure that the best possible results are achieved.

Representative of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), Mrs. Oke Oguns applauded HYPREP for the laudable projects it has planned to carry out in Ogoni communities in the year 2023. She advised the contractors to get to site early and work efficiently. 'Let us see that you deserve a place at the table. Get to the site early and deliver the project. Let us change the narrative of the negative press and deliver the project on time, cost, and according to specification.'

She appreciated UNEP for their continuous support to the project and reiterated the commitment of SPDC to the Ogoni Clean-up Project. 'It is our collective responsibility to clean the environment,' she added.

Representative of the Nigerian Pipeline and Storage Company (NPSC), Mr. Henry Tipping conveyed the assurances of the company's Management towards the success of the Ogoni clean-up project. In the

same vein, a representative of the Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN), Jude Samauelson said that having monitored HYPREP independently for several years, the Non-Governmental Organization is glad that the Project is now headed in the right direction. 'We are happy that HYPREP is improving. We want the clean-up to be in line with international best practices and according to the recommendations of UNEP. We will continue to monitor and collaborate with HYPREP.'

Mr. Raphael Saue, Head, Remediation delivered the expectation of HYPREP to the contractors. He read out the expected deliverables to the contractors and the need to ensure that the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are always adhered to.

Director, Technical Services of HYPREP, Prof. Philip Shekwolo, advised the contractors to plan their work well as HYPREP is going into the stage of both soil and groundwater remediation.

On his part, Dr. Enuolare Mbanwigoh, Head, Stakeholders Engagement advised contractors to work with the communities and to regularly pay the community workers to reduce community issues to the minimum. He assured the contractors that HYPREP will sensitize the communities to ensure a congenial atmosphere for smooth operation.

Speaking on behalf of the contractors, Prof. Babatunde Bolaji appreciated HYPREP for the opportunity to be part of the clean-up of Ogoni land and assured that the work will be completed on schedule.

The kick-off meeting which was held at the HYPREP Project Coordination Office in Port Harcourt is part of activities for the mobilization of the phase 2 contractors to site for the remediation of the semi-medium risk sites.

Facts About HYPREP

ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRAL REPRESENTATIVES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. There is established a Central Representatives Advisory Committee (CRAC) to be approved by the Governing Council of HYPREP.
2. The CRAC shall consist of the
 - a. the Project Coordinator as chairperson.
 - b. one representative each of –
 - I. the state government of the impacted area where the HYPREP is operational,
 - II. the IOCs,
 - III. Civil Society Organization,
 - IV. Traditional Rulers, and
 - V. UNEP;
 - c. 6 representatives from Ogoni Communities and any other impacted community for which other trust fund

is established pursuant to paragraph 14(5) of this Notice.

FUNCTIONS OF CENTRAL REPRESENTATIVES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Central Representatives Advisory Committee shall perform the following functions -

- a. establish and maintain a primary contact between the HYPREP and the communities referred to in paragraph 24 of this Notice;
- b. interface with all the stakeholders;
- c. communicate progress of the

project, including employment and business opportunities to the community;

(d) prepare its communication or engagement budget under supervision of the PCO;

(e) address grievances from the Communities;

(f) meet on a monthly basis; and

(g) convene sub-committees as may be required and approved by the PCO.



Joint Meeting of CRAC/ZRC in Session

SAFETY TIPS

Fatigue at work

Fatigue is the state of feeling very tired, weary, or sleepy resulting from insufficient sleep, prolonged mental or physical work, shift work, or extended periods of stress or anxiety.

Boring or repetitive tasks can intensify feelings of fatigue.

SIGNS OF FATIGUE:

Increased vulnerability to illness, Loss of appetite, Sleepiness or drowsiness, Depression feelings, Giddiness, Having Digestive problems, Irritability, difficulty concentrating, and so on.

Fatigue is mostly increased or caused by;

Dim lighting systems, Limited visual Acuity, High noise in an environment, carrying out a task over long periods of time, doing long repetitive tasks, working in an uncomfortable workstation, etc.

SOME IMPACTS OF FATIGUE ARE:

Decreased;

- Decision making ability,
- Reaction time,
- Communication skills,
- Productivity/performance,
- Memory/ability to recall details,
- Ability to do complex planning,
- Attention and vigilance ability to handle job stress.

Increased;

- Tendency for risk taking,
- Forgetfulness,
- Accident rates,
- Errors in judgement,
- Medical cases,
- Sick time and absenteeism.



SAFETY TIPS

How To Reduce Fatigue

EAT

Eat a healthy diet that promotes a longer and lasting energy.

Stay positive, by making a conscious effort to not get overwhelmed by negative circumstances.

STAY

STAY

Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water

Adopt a steady exercise routine that includes cardiovascular, muscle strengthening and flexibility workouts. negative circumstances.

ADOPT

TRY

Try getting adequate rest and hours of sleep every night.

Avoid excessive noise where you are working or living.

AVOID

TIPS FOR EMPLOYERS:

ENSURE the work environment does not promote fatigue, try to avoid dim lighting, extreme temperatures, and excessive noise.

TRAIN workers on the importance of getting enough rest and how to achieve work-life balance.

INCORPORATE and encourage taking breaks during work.

VARY job tasks to eliminate repetition or long periods of boring and monotonous works.

INTRODUCE shorter shifts, and rotate shifts where necessary.

Kindly note that fatigue has a significant impact on work performance. Most accidents occur when people are more likely to want sleep or get tired from their work (12am – 6am and afternoons between 1pm – 3pm). Safety is a 24/7 affair. If you are ever in doubt, always stop and ask for help. Remember to report any issues to your team lead/supervisor immediately.

Let's have a work-life balance as we strive to achieve maximum productivity.

PICTURES OF THE MONTH



Dr Ferdinand Giadom Addressing Contractors During the Kickoff Meeting



Dr. Kenneth Aroh Addressing Contractors During the Kickoff Meeting



Dr. Ogechi Oplate Addressing Contractors During the Kickoff Meeting



Mrs Oke Oguns Addressing Contractors During the Kickoff Meeting



Jude Samaulson Addressing Contractors During the Kickoff Meeting



Mr. Henry Tipping Addressing Contractors During the Kickoff Meeting



Prof. Chidi Ibe Addressing Participants During the Training of Site Supervisors



Pastor Emmanuel Fienimika Addressing Contractors During the Kickoff Meeting

Shun Illegal Oil Refining It Destroys the Environment

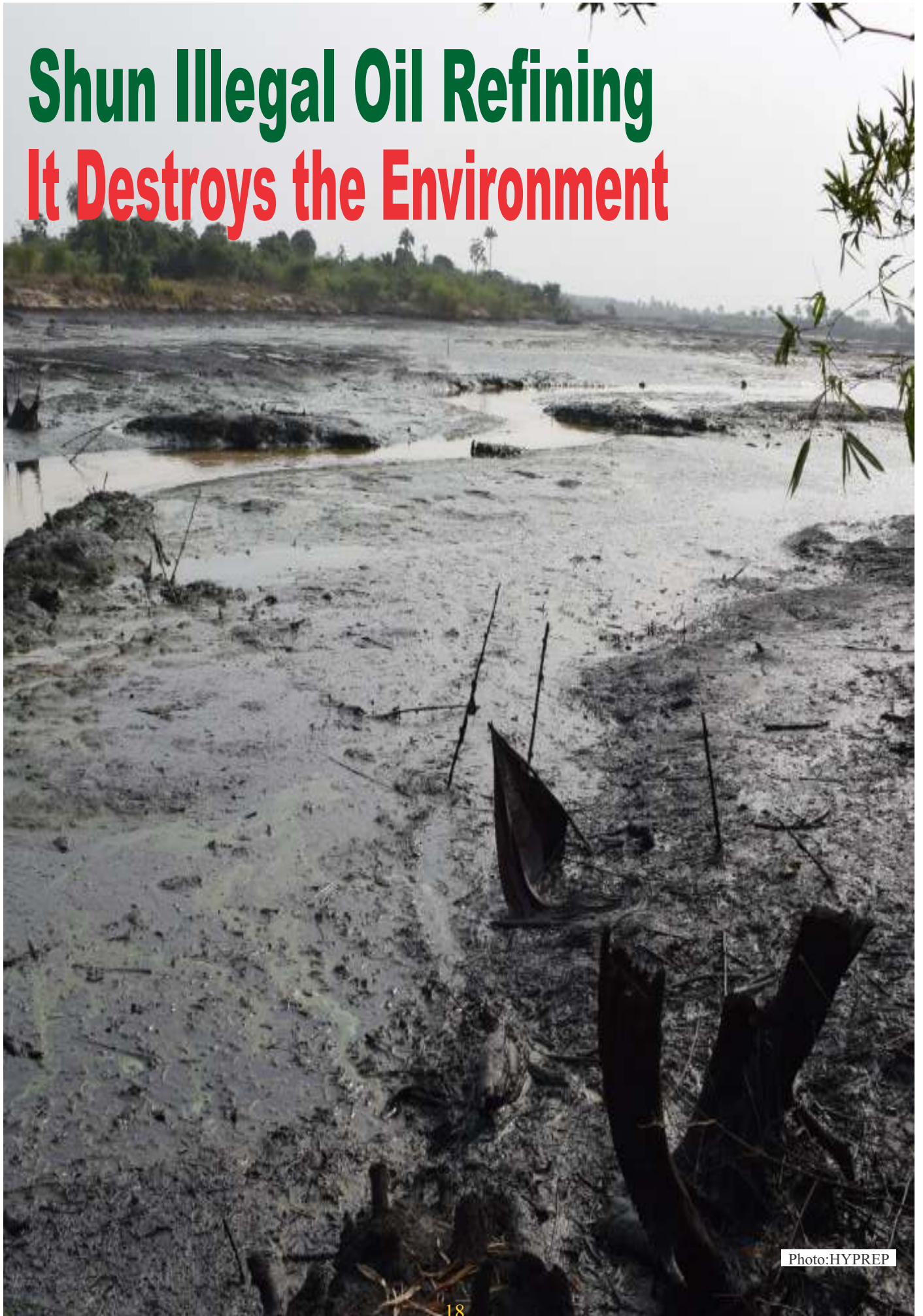


Photo:HYPREP



THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE

We shall never understand the natural environment until we see it as a living organism. Today you can murder land for private profit. You can leave the corpse for all to see, and nobody calls the cops.”

Paul Brooks

Remediated Land

Photo:HYPREP

... for a cleaner and greener Ogoniland

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