



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

# HYPREP HERALD

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## CONSTRUCTION OF BATCH 2 WATER PROJECTS BEGINS



### Well Drilling at Onne Water Station

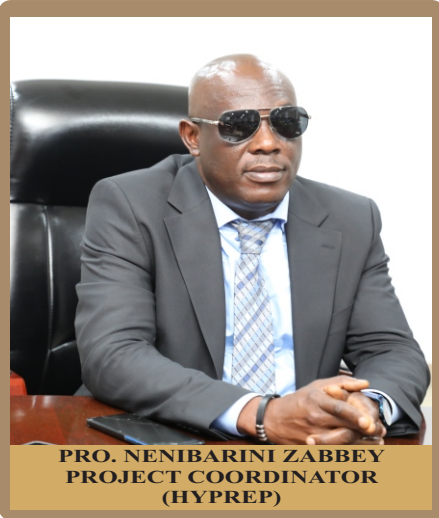
**HYPREP IN TALKS WITH AFRICA  
DEVELOPMENT BANK, OTHER  
INT'L BODIES FOR PARTNERSHIP**

**HYPREP TRAINS 50 IN  
MANGROVE NURSERY  
SET-UP AND RESTORATION**

**HYPREP EMPOWERS  
60 OGO NI ENTREPRENEURS**

**HYPREP  
HERALD  
NOT  
TO BE  
SOLD**

# THE PC'S DESK



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

The Federal Government of Nigeria Gazette Number 176, Volume 103, that established the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) stipulates four objectives for HYPREP. One of these is to "enhance local capacity for better environmental management and promote awareness of sound environmental management as well as ensure livelihoods and sustainable development." This derives from the fact that the protection of man's well-being is at the centre of environmental management. The term "livelihood" refers to all legitimate means by which individuals can make a living, possess, or otherwise come into possession of the necessities of life and the means necessary to meet their needs.

Since the inception of HYPREP in 2017, steps have been taken towards ensuring sustainable livelihoods and development in Ogoni. The inaugural training of fifteen Ogoni youths in the fabrication of cassava processing machines at the Onne Centre of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) resulted in the setting up of a cassava processing factory at Korokoro, Tai Local Government Area. Subsequently, the trainees were empowered with welding machines, while four hundred (400) Ogoni women were trained in agricultural-based skills (cropping, fishing, poultry, and feed formation). HYPREP had moved on with the

implementation of other mega and ambitious livelihood programmes, like the aviation training for one hundred Ogoni youths. So far, thirty youths have been trained at the prestigious Crew Training Institute in Lagos under the supervision and certification of the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA).

The HYPREP's Project Coordination Office has procured consultants that will train over five thousand Ogoni youths in various skill areas of their choice. HYPREP's mandate is also to prevent conflict and promote peace building. With the ownership of the Ogoni cleanup by the local population, efforts are made to migrate from the use of kinetic to non-kinetic security architecture for HYPREP project sites and facilities. Consequently, five hundred (500) youths have been trained and employed as environmental vanguards who provide civil security for HYPREP project sites and facilities. This is a deliberate effort to create a source of livelihood for the civil guards. Last month, we floated a business intervention support fund for sixty (60) small and medium-scale community-based businesses in Ogoniland. Each of the sixty entrepreneurs was given three hundred thousand naira (N300,000) grant to boost their businesses. To select the beneficiaries, a transparent and inclusive needs assessment exercise was conducted across the four Local Government Areas of Ogoni to capture the target number of sixty. The beneficiaries were not only given money to expand their businesses, but they were also earlier trained to equip them with the requisite knowledge to manage and sustain their businesses. At the base of most business collapses in rural areas is a lack of managerial skill, and that is what informed HYPREP's mapping of existing businesses to identify the challenges the owners were facing and draw up the appropriate trainings to empower them to overcome those hurdles.

The means and sources of livelihood will not be limited to the traditional marketplace, where businesses are set

up for the transaction of goods and services. The natural environment that we are remediating will also serve as a domain for sustainable livelihoods. Over one thousand four hundred and fourteen (1414) community workers have been trained and are currently working at our 39 medium-risk remediation sites. Two thousand four hundred and sixty (2460) will work at the 34 shoreline cleanup sites and the nine lots for mangrove rehabilitation. The selected youths and women will be trained and awarded IMO levels 1 and 2. The ongoing construction of the Center of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER) creates numerous jobs for the people. Similarly, the construction of the Ogoni Power Project (132 KVA transmission line and two substations in Bodo and Wiyakara), the Ogoni Specialist Hospital, the construction of the Buan Cottage Hospital, and 14 potable water schemes will not only create jobs but will leave behind a knowledge legacy that will energize the frontiers of sustainable livelihoods and development.

We are currently training 90 youths and women in Bomu on how to establish mangrove nurseries, plant mangroves, and monitor mangroves. The batch 1 training involves 50 trainees from the Bomu community, where HYPREP is piloting mangrove rehabilitation. It will be succeeded by the training of a second batch of 40 mangrove entrepreneurs from other Gokana riparian communities where we are undertaking shoreline cleanup. The initiative will leave with the people a legacy of the science and art of mangrove restoration. It is an enduring economic skill since mangroves provide priceless ecosystem goods and services. However, the immediate livelihood benefit of the mangrove restoration training is that the 90 mangrove entrepreneurs will be provided with grants to establish their private mangrove nurseries and sell the seedlings to the mangrove planting contractors. It must be stressed that this is the first time in Nigeria that training on how to establish a nursery for the black and white mangrove is

conducted. Therefore, upon completion of the mangrove restoration training, the beneficiaries will constitute a unique pool of manpower for the HYPREP Mangrove Restoration Programme and other mangrove restoration initiatives in the Niger Delta. They will become a repository of knowledge in mangrove management and sustainability, and the attendant economic benefits can only be imagined. The vision is to have a replenished evergreen mangrove belt that serves as a source of food, fuel, and carbon sinks to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

We have assembled experts to develop tools for a comprehensive study of the socio-economics of Ogoniland. This is in line with the UNEP (2011) report, which recommends that the Federal Government of Nigeria undertakes a socioeconomic study for the development of a livelihoods strategy for Ogoniland. The development of a Livelihoods Strategy will guide HYPREP's interventions towards promoting sustainable livelihoods for the Ogoni people. The study will map the existing livelihoods structures, assess how the locality has progressed or regressed following local, regional or global economic models since the UNEP survey twelve (12) years ago. This is expected to develop the foundation for designing a comprehensive livelihoods strategy including policy document that would drive a sustainable livelihoods programme to be implemented by HYPREP and its partners for the sustainable development of Ogoniland.

We are determined and undone in our quest to stimulate the livelihoods and sustainable development of Ogoni communities. We will continue to roll out new and innovative livelihood programmes that will impact lives positively and create wealth for the people. It is both our core mandate and duty to humanity, and we solicit the support of all stakeholders to achieve

## POETRY CORNER

### APOLOGY TO THE OCEAN

**BY: Pobari Kpenu**

Treasure house of the earth  
Food store for man.  
For millennia we have scooped from your rich pot  
Daily to feed ourselves and our children.  
Your joy knew no bounds when every day we knocked on your door,  
Both for fish and to be taught how to fish.

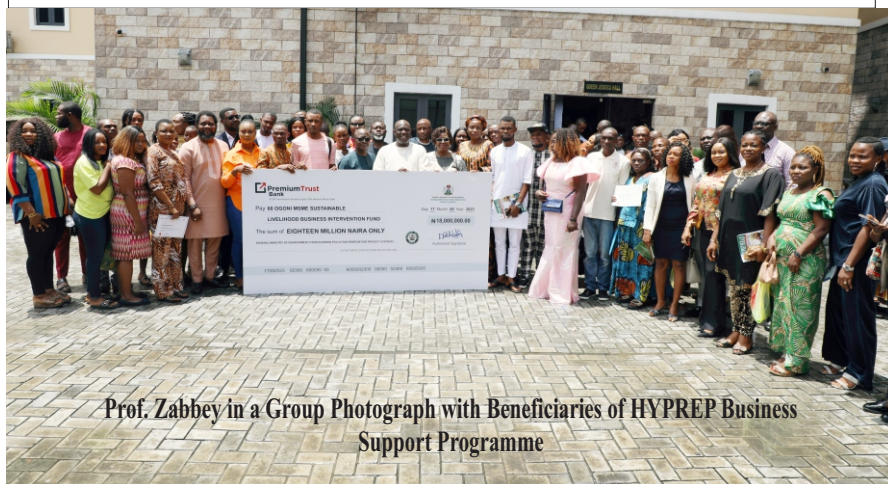
But we have been most ungrateful to you, dear ocean.  
We pee choky effluent on you from our nervy pipes.  
And cough phlegmy crude on your face  
Your scaly shoal we exterminate with toxins.  
And cry later when our children's plates hold no protein.

We have turned your floor to platforms to test missiles,  
And your serene ambience to theatre of war.  
Explosion and implosion in your bowel  
And your bed ruptured from a tsunami of angry waters.

We owe you an appeasement, dear ocean.  
We need to repent of our grievous sins against you,  
Before you visit on us more judgment of climatic cataclysm.  
We need to cleanse this mess we have flushed into your chambers.

### Editorial Crew

Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey	Publisher-in-Chief
Kpoobari Nafu	Editor
Enuorale Mba-Nwigoh	Head Reportorial
Faith Deekor	Reporter
Imeh Ofem	Reporter
Tombari Naadue	Camera
Godwin Norbana	Camera



**Prof. Zabbey in a Group Photograph with Beneficiaries of HYPREP Business Support Programme**

# In this Issue

The August edition of the HYPREP Herald led with the cheering news of the commissioning of the Barako Water Project which is one of the six water contracts in the Batch 1 Provision of Potable Water in Ogoniland. As the remaining four LOTS await commissioning, more fourteen (14) Water Contracts have been awarded being the Batch 2 of Provision of Potable Water in Ogoni which will supply water to more than sixty-four communities across the four Local Government Areas of Eleme, Tai, Gokana and Khana. Most of the water companies (contractors) have commenced work and we visited some of their sites to see the level of work done. The report is the cover story for this edition, highlighting the different sites where work has commenced and the stage where they are. The early commencement of work and the renewed vigour to delivery of one of the key deliverables of the project is an eloquent testimony to the fact that HYPREP is determined to make the Ogoni environment a livable one once again.

The new administration of His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in August sworn-in cabinet members and the Federal Ministry of Environment which is the supervising Ministry for HYPREP was among the Ministries that was assigned a Minister. He is Dr. Ishaq Salako. We featured here the news of his assumption of office at the Ministry's Headquarters in Abuja where he promised to work towards the attainment of corporate goal being the preservation of the environment.

In this issue, we also bring you the report of the visit of the members of the Board of Trustees of HYPREP to project sites to ascertain the level of work done in relation to funds so far released and they were glad to report that the moneys disbursed match work done.

HYPREP is sponsored by the Shell Petroleum Development Company and the other Joint Venture Partners and therefore the company deemed it fit to have its representative in the Project Coordination Office (PCO) of HYPREP. Dr. Vincent Nwabueze the Outgone SPDC Manager, Ogoni Restoration Project had played the oversight role on the operations of HYPREP for the Oil giant until his retirement in August. He was in the PCO to introduce his successor to the Project Coordinator.

With the shoreline clean-up and mangrove revegetation contractors set to commence work, the Management of HYPREP held a kickoff meeting with them on a smooth and streamlined operation in the execution of their contracts. A similar meeting was also held with the contractors handling the legacy projects of Ogoni Power Project, the Ogoni Specialist Hospital, the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, and the Buan Cottage Hospital. The reports on the two separate events are featured in this issue.

In preparation for the take-off of the mangrove revegetation project, HYPREP flagged off a three-month training of fifty persons in Bomu community in mangrove nursery set-up and planting to support the mangrove revegetation project in the community where the pilot will kick-off.

Sixty business owners selected from the four Local Government Areas were empowered with a grant of three hundred thousand naira (N300,000) each to boost their businesses under the HYPREP Business Intervention Support Fund for Small and Medium

Businesses. Details of the cheque presentation ceremony held in Port Harcourt is reported in this edition of the HYPREPHerald.

Following the increase in the pace of project execution by HYPREP, more Civil Society Organizations and interest groups have continued to pay visits to the Project Coordination Office and to project sites to monitor the operations of the project and how they can partner for an inclusive delivery of its mandate. Two of such groups are the Health of Mother Earth Foundation and the Ogoni Peoples Assembly.

On 4th August 2011, the United Nations Environment Programme submitted its report on the assessment of the Ogoni environment polluted by oil spills to the Federal Government of Nigeria. This year is the 12th anniversary of the submission of that historic report on the Ogoni environment and for HYPREP was established to implement its recommendations. To mark the day, the Project Coordination Office made a release detailing the achievements of the project in the last one year. The full statement released on that day is featured for your information.

The regular feature of poetry corner is included for your reading pleasure.

We encourage you to spare some time to go through the pages of this edition to keep yourself abreast of the operations of the project and what opportunities there are for you. We will also appreciate any useful contribution or suggestion that would enable us deliver on our mandate to the Ogoni people and meet the expectations of stakeholders.



Onne Water Station under Construction

# Project News

## CONSTRUCTION OF BATCH 2 WATER PROJECTS BEGINS

The implementation of the batch 2 water projects for Ogoni communities not covered in the first phase of the project being executed by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has begun.

The phase 2 of the project which comprises fourteen LOTS upon completion will supply potable water to over sixty-four communities across the four Local Government Areas of Eleme, Tai, Gokana, and Khana. Some of the communities include Kono, Kwawa, Ewee, Bane, K. Dere, Bodo, Bomu, Deyor, Deken, Nwebiara, Barayira, Sime, Bara-ale, Norkpo, Koroma, Onne, and Eteo.

At the Onne Water Station in Eleme Local Government Area, the contractor is currently working on the perimeter fencing of the facility as well as the drilling of the water wells. Similar work is on-going at the Kporgor Water Station in Tai Local Government Area where the contractor has also put up the perimeter fence, laid the foundation for the tank stand and excavated the waste pit in preparation for the drilling of the water wells. The contractor has also delivered to site the steel for the construction of the water tank stand.

Same level of work is recorded at thirteen other water stations across Ogoni where preliminary works, site clearing, perimeter fencing, office set-up, soil test, geographical survey, and well drilling are on-going.

The Chairman, Governing Council, Uegwere community, Chief Raphael Kponee is pleased that his community is among benefitting communities in the Batch 2 Provision of Potable Water to Ogoniland.

Chief Kponee assured that as a sign of appreciation, the Uegwere community will create a peaceful environment for the contractor to work as well as protect the materials meant for the job.

“The water project has started. We have received some materials and

from the look of things, by tomorrow more of the materials will be coming in. Some of the boreholes have been drilled and we are expecting more jobs to commence from tomorrow.”

“We are going to work with whoever is the contractor to ensure that at the end of the day, we have a good drinking water. We will assist them because we need the water. That is why we will assist them. All hands are on deck to

ensure that the facilities are well protected. We won't have any record of loss of materials in my community. I assure you that.”

Some of the communities where work has started are Buan, Gwara, Kaa, Lueku, Okwale. Others are Taabaa, Beeri, Kpong and Kaani. The contracts are to be executed within 12 months.



Well Drilling at Onne Water Station

## DR. SALAKO ASSUMES OFFICE AS ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

The new Minister of Environment, Dr. Ishaq Salako has assumed office. Dr. Salako is among the forty-five newly inaugurated Ministers into the Federal Executive Council to serve in the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

On assumption at the Headquarters of the Federal Ministry of Environment in Abuja, Dr. Salako assured staff of the Ministry that he will work to ensure Nigeria take its place as the giant of Africa in environmental sustainability and urged them to get ready to work to deliver on set mandate of the Ministry.



Dr. Salako

deliver on set mandate of the Ministry. *“Our responsibility as the Ministry of Environment is to ensure that the environmental sector demonstrates that Nigeria is truly a giant.”*

Dr. Salako assured of his readiness to ensure that the environment is preserved and sustained to serve its primary purpose of being home to man and other life forms.

He enjoined staff of the Ministry to work as a team to ensure the delivery

of the President Bola Tinubu's renewed hope agenda.

The Federal Ministry of Environment is the supervisory Ministry for the Ogoni Clean-up Project being handled by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP).

## **OGONI CLEAN-UP: HYPREP BOT SAYS MONEY RELEASED MATCHES JOB DONE**

In the on-going clean-up of polluted sites in Ogoniland and the provision of potable water, livelihood training and the construction of legacy projects across the four Local Government Areas of Ogoniland, the Board of Trustees of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) that manages the Ogoni Trust Funds, says it is impressed with the level of work done as it matches the amount of money so far released.

Chairman, HYPREP Board of Trustees, Dr. Mike Nwielaghi who led other members of the Board on a four-day visit to HYPREP project sites in the four council areas of Ogoni, stated that they are satisfied with the work accomplished in the filed in the various thematic areas of remediation, provision of potable water, sustainable livelihood trainings, construction of legacy projects among others.

Dr. Nwielaghi who briefed the press at Kpite in Tai Local Government Area on behalf of his colleagues at the end of the four-day tour of projects, said it was done in line with the provisions of the gazette establishing HYPREP that the Board makes periodic visits to project sites. He commended HYPREP on the quality of work done so far in the remediation of impacted sites.

“It has been a four-day intensive visit. We have gone to all the four Local Government Areas. We have come and we have seen. In a way, I can proudly say that we have conquered. As we speak, we have gone to remediated sites. Those sites that have been recovered we could see that grass and trees are growing. We will have to put a signpost on those sites to show



**BoT Members on Inspection to HYPREP Water Station**

that truly those areas have been remediated.

“Remediation work is an intangible activity. If you look at the fact that hundreds of dollars have been put underground, there could be no appreciation, because what we are seeing is the same grass that is growing. I can say without fear of equivocation that there has been value for money spent on the remediation projects.”

The HYPREP BoT Chairman noted that the remediated sites have been certified by the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency, (NOSDRA) which is the body responsible for monitoring, inspecting, and certifying remediated sites, adding that the project was a huge success and warned against re-pollution of the remediated sites by way of illegal oil bunkering and refining and other acts capable of sabotaging the work done by HYPREP.

“We have taken steps to tell the Project Coordination Office (PCO) in respect to sabotage. There must be a lot of community engagements and enlightenment, so we don't come back to what we have done.”

The Board also expressed satisfaction with the water projects that were completed recently and called on the people of Ogoni to exercise patience with HYPREP as the second phase of the water project will provide potable water to more communities.

“A lot of water projects have been completed. These are reticulated water projects; it is not fetching point activity. The water goes around the communities. In Kpean, some people have started drinking water from the project. Barako is drinking, and Terabor is also drinking potable water. The Project Coordination Office has come up with another 14 water projects meaning that the entire Ogoni has been enveloped with potable water.”

The provision of potable water is not the only project HYPREP is working on, it is also carrying out sustainable livelihood training for women and youths and had flagged off the construction of legacy projects that will provide jobs and economic development of Ogoniland which Dr. Nwielaghi urged HYPREP to collaborate with the state government for the sustainability of these projects, even as he assured that funds are available for their execution.

“These are very humongous projects. The power project for example will take so much money, something the project alone cannot handle so I think the Project Coordination Office should partner with the government, particularly our State Government so that the projects will be sustained. I can score what has taken place on the UNEP report within the region of 70% of the work done. The project is not running out of funds as we speak. We have funds that could sustain us.”

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey said the project has not exhausted the amount released by the Board of Trustees as it is still paying contractors. 'I can confirm that the Board of Trustees has released about \$360 million but we have not exhausted the money as we are still paying contractors.'

Speaking on the importance of the

BOT oversight visit, Prof. Zabbey stated that it was the responsibility of the Board to embark on occasional visits to HYPREP project sites to monitor compliance with set guidelines and standards.

“We are delighted to host the BOT of the Ogoni Trust Fund. We have been in the field with them and showed them our remediated and active sites. We have also shown them beneficiaries of our livelihood programmes. It is the responsibility of the BOT to find out if we are spending the money they have given to the PCO prudently, and to also see if we are building a sustainability framework into all our activities.”

“We are happy to report to you that a lot of activities are going on in Ogoniland. The mandate of HYPREP is mainly to restore the Ogoni environment, both land and wetland contaminated. We are also mandated to restore the livelihoods of the people.”

“The much I know is that the Board of Trustees has released about \$360,000,000. We have not exhausted that amount. We are still paying the contractors.”

Prof Zabbey stated that contracts for the clean-up of shorelines and mangrove re-planting have been awarded and contractors mobilized to site.

“When we see that natural attenuation (natural cleaning of the environment) has taken place, as a result of tidal flow, because water comes and goes out every six hours in this area we are talking about, that also leads to decontaminating the environment. When we see that rejuvenated mangroves have started to grow, mangroves that are referred to as volunteers, it tells us that the level of contamination has reduced to a level that mangroves can cope.”

“In Ogoniland, mangroves are key resource because they provide a lot of ecosystems for goods and services to the people. It is in the mangroves that you have commercial fishes. It is in the mangroves that women can go to pick periwinkles. It is in the mangroves that they harvest oysters. It is the mangrove that protects the people's shorelines. And the mangrove is very key for climate change mitigation and adaptation because the mangroves sequester more carbon, five times more than the rain forest.”

The Project Coordinator pointed out that restoring the mangroves in Ogoniland is a significant step that HYPREP is taking to restore the environment, as it is going to restore 3,000 hectares of former mangrove forests and that the re-vegetation will start with an initial 600 hectares in Bomu community. He stated that in addition, there are 39 active remediation sites in Ogoniland being the simple, medium-risk and complex sites.

Professor Zabbey disclosed that several simple remediation sites have been completed while HYPREP is currently dealing with the medium-risk sites before moving to the complex sites where there is high level of groundwater contamination.

He announced that HYPREP has gone beyond the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report on the Ogoniland by embarking on capital intensive projects like the Ogoni Power Project and the Specialist Hospital, among others.



**BoT Members on Inspection to HYPREP Remediated Site**

Director, Technical Services, HYPREP, Professor Philip Shekwolo in his presentation identified some challenges faced by the project to include, flooding of sites near swampy terrains, communal land disputes, chieftaincy tussles, theft and vandalism of potable water supply

materials, disruption of works by restive youths, as well as levies and extortion of contractors by community members.

Members of the Board of Trustees on the visit include, HRH Emere Bebe Okpabe, Rt. Hon. Emmanuel Deeyah, Babajide Damazio, and

Adokiye Ikpoki. Places visited are the completed water projects at Alesa, Kpean, Bori, Terabo, Barako and Korokoro. They also visited remediated sites, and the HYPREP Area Office in Eleme where they interacted with HYPREP trained Air Cabin Crew members.

## **DR. NWABUEZE CALLS FOR OGO NI PARTICIPATION IN CLEAN-UP**

*Introduces his Successor to HYPREP*

The outgoing Manager of the Ogoni Restoration Project of the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), Dr. Vincent Nwabueze has advised the Management of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) to ensure that the Ogoni people benefit maximally from the clean-up project since they bear the direct impact of oil exploration activities.

Dr. Nwabueze gave the advice at a brief ceremony held at the Project Coordination Office in Port Harcourt to introduce his successor, John Ide to the Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey and Management of the Project.

Nwabueze who is retiring from the SPDC after a meritorious service to the oil giant, stated that he desires to see the Ogoni people have a fair share in the economic opportunities that come from the clean-up project.

“It will be out of place if most of the gains to be realized go to outsiders who are not directly connected with this impact but those who are really impacted are left out. Let it be that we do our best to improve their livelihood and restore their environment. It is a legacy that we can leave behind and it will be worth leaving behind. So, I want to encourage us to continue to improve our processes, continue to improve our execution, and to be a bit more prudent in spending so that the money we have will be able to go a long way to meeting that objective, even exceeding it.”

He recalled his experience on the project right from establishment and enjoined the managers of the Ogoni



**L - R: Prof. Zabbey, Dr. Nwabueze & John Ide**

clean-up project to work in collaboration to achieve set goals and objectives.

“I have been around this project from the flag off in 2016 till date and I have seen three Project Coordinators. I have seen Dr. Marvin Dekil, Dr. Ferdinand Giadom and I see you, Professor Zabbey and I can also see a better office. I remember when we started from Louis house, but it is important for you to know that I will be stepping aside for John as the Manager of the Ogoni Restoration Project. He will be working with Ekiyokenegha Clark to support you in your office. My parting statement will be that the strategic objective of Ogoni clean-up is something that you can be proud of if you all address your minds to doing it openly, transparently, and also thinking about the generality of the people of Ogoni such that the values that are coming from this project also get to the grassroots, change lives and position them to realizing their gains

of this project. So, I wish you all the best, and thank you again for working with me and welcoming John.”

The incoming Manager of the Ogoni Restoration Project, SPDC, John Ide expressed confidence in Professor Zabbey to deliver on the project even as he is available to offer the needed advice that will enable the project succeed.

“Some of you have been around for a while and we have seen how work has progressed on this project. It's about six years now, can we beat our chest and say, we have done the right thing on this project? It might be difficult to justify it, but we still have opportunity to correct it and get it done rightly. Professor Zabbey, I think you have a good team and usually in any organization, people always look at the top of the house, either your messaging or your body language. People read both. They read both and if they know that you are committed to getting something



done, people will line up, they will line up in that pattern. So, for us, I will need your support. I have been blessed, working with Shell. I have spent most of my time with Shell and part of the reason I have been offered this job was to bring that experience to bare on the Ogoni cleanup. So, I will be asking some questions and please when I ask do not get angry. If I'm asking any question, it is meant to improve the process on what we are doing, and I am also available. If you want me, I

can come and spend days here working with you people.”

Ide suggested that a planner be hired for the project if there was none to strengthen delivery of tasks according to set milestones.

“If we don't have a planner, let's hire one who can cool down and schedule from level 1 to level 5 with milestones. Level 5 will include your resources, including the cost and everything that goes with it, and you can choose to hit it at the level that you want to.”

The Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey who was pleased to receive his guests thanked the Shell Petroleum Development Company for supporting HYPREP operations through the deployment of its staff to the Project Coordination Office. He thanked both the outgoing and incoming Managers of the Ogoni Restoration Project for their time and services to the Ogoni clean-up project.

## BE PROTECTORS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

### *- Prof Zabbey Urges Shoreline Contractors*

As contractors for shoreline clean-up and mangrove revegetation move to sites, the Management of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), has urged them to ensure that their operations do not endanger or further harm the environment and its various biodiversity.

That was one of the key messages of the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey at the kick off and interface meeting with shoreline clean up and mangrove revegetation contractors held at the Project Coordination Office in Port Harcourt.

Prof. Zabbey made it clear to the thirty-four (34) shoreline clean-up contractors and the other nine (9) who will carry out mangrove planting in Bomu community that the remediation of Ogoniland is to add value to the environment and not to further depreciate it through mindless and uncoordinated clean-up operations.

“As we move into the site to clean, we should be as careful as possible and be protective as possible. Any living organism that we come across is a part of the community, a community of plants and animals. So, when we are doing our operations, we are not allowed to kill any organism we find in the environment.”

“This aspect of HYPREP work is very

important because we are going to remove oil from the sediment of the shoreline of Ogoni as much as possible and the gold standard would be keeping to the principle of net environmental benefits. So, we are going to ensure that we protect the integrity of the shoreline. We are going to ensure that the remnants of biodiversity along the shoreline are protected. We are going to ensure that the safety of personnel is taken into very high consideration so that we will work in that area and we are not going to record any form of injury. So, for that reason, it is important for all of us to gather here, compare notes in terms of the implementation plan, compare note in terms of basic policies that will guide our operations.”

He called for teamwork among

contractors since their LOTS are contiguous to one another, reminding them that if team spirit is not upheld, they are bound to cause damage to their neighbour's work and that will slow down the pace of project delivery and increase cost.

“The LOTS share boundaries so what the contractor is doing within a LOT can cause re-pollution of another LOT if it is not taken care of. If the operation is not coordinated in the manner that the flushing of sediments does not cause free phase oil to rise. If we don't do our booming right, if we do not coordinate our operations, it means that when we are cleaning a particular LOT, we are going to re-impact another LOT. So, we don't want that but a coordinated approach and then in terms of deciding whether a LOT or



**Prof. Zabbey Addressing Shoreline Contractors**

grid is properly clean, we are going to use the SCAT approach, (the Shoreline Clean-up Assessment Technique) approach, and SCAT is a multidisciplinary, participatory approach of visual assessment of the level of clean-up. So, it is going to be fair to everybody because we have regulators present in the team. We have civil society, we have HYPREP personnel in the same team, Ministry of Environment, NOSDRA will be in the team. So jointly the SCAT team members will determine if the grid is probably cleaned or not, and they will do their pitting to determine the level of clean-up and will also back it up with chemical analysis to be sure that the level of contamination has reduced tremendously to a level that will support biodiversity recovery.”

Corroborating the point of the Project Coordinator, the Director Technical Services, Professor Philip Shekwolo reminded the contractors that the environment they are called to work in is a delicate type that requires a different approach from that of remediation of soil and groundwater so that its fragile nature is not disrupted.

“The clean-up of the shorelines along the Ogoni coastal area is very, very important to the biodiversity and our key goal is to restore the mangrove vegetation so that before diversity can flourish. The approach is not the same as remediation of soil and groundwater, where you go there with your heavy equipment and dig out the soil to depth of five, six meters and remove whatever and take it back. No, you can't use heavy equipment on this area because the fragile root zone of the mangrove vegetation is very significant for the survival or the re-emergence of dead mangroves.”

Prof. Shekwolo reeled out the scope of work and requirements in terms of personnel safety and fitness so as to do a proper work devoid of injury to human and equipment.

“The contract covers the coastal areas along B-Dere, K-Dere, Bomu, Kpor

and Goi communities and it is extending to about 2000 hectares. In Bodo where we started this work in 2015, it is about a thousand hectares that is being worked on and they are almost done. The method and the template of Bodo will be applied here. That is why the PC said the SCAT approach will be adopted. In other words, as you are working, the SCAT is following up and as you are working, you are working in grids and each grid is about 4 hectares to 200 square meters. Some of you have 14 grids, some 20 grids. So, depending on your size, it is a work that needs to be planned very well. It is high risk area because it is a marine environment, intertidal streams from the branch water into the area of work. So, safety is key. We don't want anyone to drown, and as such, we want to ensure that every worker that will be engaged from the communities is swim certified, even though they will be given life vests, which we will provide. We also want to make sure that they can also swim for survival so there will be a swim test. Before the swim test, there must be medical fitness.”

“Also, SPDC will be providing services for the swimming tests because they have standard swimming pool, and they have been doing this for years. We want to make sure that the field test is standard and for survival. For those who make it to the end, will be qualified for a training called International Maritime and Cognition Training. We also have certified trainers for all of them.”

The Representative of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) in HYPREP, Engineer Ekiyokenegha Clark urged the Management of HYPREP to always involve all relevant stakeholders in its meetings to get the best result and pledged the continuous support of SPDC for the Ogoni project.

“SPDC will be supporting and helping in the area of swimming certification because of the standard that SPDC

has, and we are happy to do that. We just want to continue to share our goodwill to HYPREP and to the contractors who we are happy to be partners with. Our expectation is clear, that you do this work to the best of your ability, but more so, to ensure that you deliver the project on time, at the right quality and within the cost that has been agreed in your contract. It is important because this project has to be delivered as promised. We are already in delay; we missed a lot of timing. To HYPREP we want to say, please continue to work with your key stakeholders.”

The Zonal Director of the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), Ime Ekanem pledged the support of the agency for the Ogoni clean-up project and called on the contractors to ensure they get the necessary statutory and regulatory certifications so that their work is not stalled.

“I wanted to inform and remind us that there is a requirement. You cannot just move to site. You must have NOSDRA certification for restoration. That is mangrove restoration. You must have clean-up permits. You must have a remediation permit. That is just what I want to add. So, assess yourself, if you don't have those permits, our office is not far away from here. Come and get those documentation because we will not allow you to work without those certificates.”

The kick off and interface meeting was well attended by representatives of the thirty-four shoreline clean up contractors and the nine mangrove revegetation companies and other stakeholders of the project.



A Cross Section Shoreline Contractors

# HYPREP EMPOWERS 60 OGO NI ENTREPRENEURS

No fewer than sixty (60) small and medium-scale community-based business owners from the four Local Government Areas of Ogoni (Eleme, Tai, Gokana, Khana) have been trained by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) in how to grow and sustain their businesses.

The sixty beneficiaries of the livelihood programme upon the completion of their one-month training were empowered with a grant of three hundred thousand naira each to boost their businesses.

At a brief ceremony held in Port Harcourt where the business owners were presented with the cheques, the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey described the programme as an initiative that will promote the growth of small businesses in the local communities and kick start the process of renewed economic growth.

“The Business Intervention Support Fund for Small and Medium Businesses is designed to help promote the growth of SMEs in local

communities in Ogoni and kick-start the process of renewed economic growth. It is our expectation that beneficiaries of this support fund will grow to be dependable entrepreneurs who will be the economic heart and soul of their communities, providing not just goods and services but also creating jobs, fostering innovation, and contributing to the unique character of Ogoniland.”

“You are invited to note that small and medium businesses are the backbone of the local economy, often owned and operated by individuals who have poured their passion, hard work, and savings into making their dreams a reality. They bring diversity to our marketplaces, offering quality products and experiences.”

Prof. Zabbey appealed to the Ogoni community to patronize their own as that will help to sustain local entrepreneurs stay in business and thereby create wealth with multiplier effect on the local economy.

“By supporting these enterprises, we are not only helping them thrive but also boosting the overall economic

health of the communities. For every kobo spent at a local business, a larger share stays within the local economy, circulating among other small businesses and benefitting the entire community.

Let us remember that behind every small business is a family, an entrepreneur, a dedicated team, and a unique story. When we choose to shop locally, dine at neighbourhood restaurants, or utilize local products and services, we are not only receiving quality but also investing in the dreams and aspirations of community members who have resolved to say no to failure.”

Prof. Zabbey affirmed the project's commitment to supporting local businesses as well as promoting local content which according to him, is evident in the selection process for the beneficiaries.

“For the purposes of transparency and inclusiveness, these businesses were identified through a Needs Assessment exercise. Needs Assessment forms for different Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) were administered across over one hundred (100) communities, which were earlier mapped by our Geographical Information System (GIS) team. Accordingly, the businesses were verified and assessed to determine their challenges and areas where support was needed. At the end of the exercise, selected business owners were trained in collaboration with the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center to strengthen their capacity to run and sustain their businesses.”

He reiterated the commitment of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, to the implementation of the recommendations of the UNEP Report, in collaboration with the



Prof. Zabbey Presenting Cheque to a Beneficiary of HYPREP Business Support Programme

Rivers State Government, the Ogoni Community, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), Vendors, the media, Civil Society Organizations, Niger Delta Stakeholders and other individuals working to support the implementation of the UNEP Report. Spokesperson of the Central Representatives Advisory Committee (CRAC) of HYPREP, HRM Mene Dr. Suanu Baridam who presented certificates to the beneficiaries said the training and funds would enhance the livelihoods of the beneficiaries as well as make them employers of labour. He enjoined them to be good ambassadors of HYPREP in their communities and separate their finances from their business capital, stressing that doing so would help their businesses to grow. "You have been given everything needed for you to work. Improve your lives and that of others" he added. Engr. Ekiyokengha Clark, SPDC's representative to HYPREP while congratulating the beneficiaries charged them to justify HYPREP's efforts by putting in their best to succeed so that others can also benefit from them. He restated SPDC's commitment to providing technical

and financial support to HYPREP in ensuring that the clean-up is done on time, within cost, and at the right quality.

Senior National Project Advisor to UNEP and Team Lead UNEP National Office, Professor Iyenemi Kakulu - who gives technical support to the Livelihood Unit of HYPREP congratulated the beneficiaries and disclosed that the selection process was fair and thorough. She urged them to see the gesture by HYPREP as a rare opportunity that should not be misused.

Professor Joseph Oshi a lecturer at the University of Port Harcourt with specialty in Entrepreneurship who took the beneficiaries through "Strategies for Sustaining Small Business in the Rural Area", admonished them to know their market, monitor trends, identify the target audience, build a good customer relationship, have an online presence and a crisis management policy, amongst others.

Beneficiaries of the programme thanked the Management of HYPREP for coming to their aid and promised to make good use of the grants.

Samuel Nipinne from Tai: "I initially felt the HYPREP programme was a

scam but when I went for the lucky dip exercise, the process was transparent, and I was selected. After the selection, we went for the training where I learned so many things including time-consciousness, bookkeeping, and other things. I am going to inculcate all I have learned into my business and preach the message of HYPREP to my community."

Another beneficiary, Faith Furubel thanked HYPREP for the gesture, stressing that the support came in handy and will help boost her business.

Highpoint of the event was the presentation of the Business Intervention Fund cheques to the beneficiaries. HYPREP had similarly in the past given out welding machines to its trainees in fabrication of cassava processing machines and most recently completed the training of the second batch of aviation trainees still under its livelihood training programme. The aviation training is among the four mega skill areas of seafaring, mechatronics, and creative arts conceived by HYPREP for Ogoni youths. There is also the general skill training for Ogoni women and youths coming up.



A Cross Section of Beneficiaries of HYPREP Business Support Programme

# HYPREP TRAINS 50 IN MANGROVE NURSERY SET-UP AND RESTORATION

In preparation for the takeoff of the contract for mangrove planting in Bomu community in Gokana Local Government Area being undertaken by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), in the on-going clean-up and restoration of the Ogoni environment, the Project Coordination Office has commenced a three-month training programme for the locals in nursery set-up and mangrove restoration for youths and women of the community.

The training which is holding in the community has fifty (50) participants and targets sustainable restoration of the environment and provision of livelihoods for the people.

The Project Coordination Office had engaged the services of a Consultant in Plant Ecology and Ecological Restoration, at the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Franklin Tanee to carry out the training.

At the opening ceremony for the programme tagged, 'Mangrove Nursery Establishment and Restoration', Professor Tanee explained that the training consists of three parts, and it is designed to arm beneficiaries with the necessary knowledge that will make them succeed in their new role of restoring the environment. The project was funded by the Hydrocarbon Pollution and Remediation Project (HYPREP). He noted that the trainees were the first batch of the programme.

“The training will span for three months. It is going to be a three-faced training: theoretical, practical, and the monitoring stage. We are going to have one week of intensive theoretical aspect, one-week practical demonstration and we will go into monitoring to ensure that the trainees are doing the right thing at every point in time.”

Prof. Tanee noted that the scheme would greatly improve the livelihoods of the people of Ogoni who have been affected adversely by oil pollution and that at the end of the training,

beneficiaries would have acquired skills needed to successfully plant and establish mangrove nurseries that will supply seedlings for re-planting on remediated mudflats and coastlines of Ogoni.

His words: “If the trainees can plant and nurse mangrove seedlings, it will impact positively on their livelihoods because they will sell these seedlings to HYPREP contractors which is a very lucrative business. HYPREP remediation activities will take about 25-30 years so having a 30-year business plan is something huge. The 30 years growth of mangrove will also improve the aquatic lives of the people.”

Imploring the trainees to utilize the opportunity to make a living through mangrove nursing, Head, Livelihood Unit of HYPREP, Mrs. Josephine Nzidee in her remarks said the objective of the training is to position the youths and women of Bomu community for success in mangrove nursery establishment.

“The purpose of doing this is to ensure that aside from making a living on your own, you should also become employers of labour.”

The pilot mangrove revegetation in Ogoniland will commence in Bomu community.



**HYPREP Mangrove Replanting Trainees**



**HYPREP Mangrove Replanting Trainees**

# NNIMMO BASSEY THUMPS UP FOR HYPREP ON BARAKO WATER DELIVERY

The Director, Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF), Nnimmo Bassey has commended the Management of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) on delivering on the contentious issue of potable water to Ogoni communities affected by oil spill which was a key recommendation by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in its report on the Ogoni environment submitted to the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2011.

Bassey gave the commendation when he embarked on a field visit to some HYPREP remediation and water project sites to ascertain the level of success recorded by the Project.

He stated that the visit will serve as a tool for monitoring and evaluation of the performance of HYPREP since it will give the true position of work now and when they will return in the future to check what has been done after they left.

“Well, I think the time of this visit is very important. It gives us a kind of baseline for us to come back after some months because from the new LOTs that have been awarded by HYPREP, they are at the stage of preparation for the work to start like the building of the bio-cell, further analysis and mapping of the locations and we have seen the preparatory/preliminary stage. So, after some months we will come back and see, what has happened and what has changed. From what we have seen, I will say that the preparations appear adequate and HYPREP is focused, and we can only hope that the contractors should respond with due diligence



**Rev. Nnimmo Bassey at HYPREP Remediated Site**

to all the stipulations by HYPREP. So that will be the key issue - the supervision, to ensure that what is expected is done.”

The renown environment rights activist was particularly impressed with the recent completion and commissioning of the Barako Water Scheme which now supplies water to the entire community.

“HYPREP has some things to show. For example, the water supply scheme. They should ensure that people know about it. Apart from the community living here, they should make the whole world know that the preliminary thing that was recommended by UNEP has been done because it is always a difficult point to cross. So that will put that issue to rest and for the plans to expand the scope, I think that is something we should applaud. HYPREP should make sure they expand the scope to include communities that may not have been directly impacted by oil

spill or oil incidents and the idea of bringing in renewable energy sources to run the water supply scheme is highly commendable because crude oil brought all the problems and crude oil will never solve a problem.”

Last month Nnimmo Bassey led a group of Civil Society Organizations to HYPREP to congratulate Professor Nenibarini Zabbey on his appointment as the new Project Coordinator and to encourage him to deliver on the mandate of the project to the Ogoni people since the rest of the Niger Delta was waiting for the success of the Ogoni clean-up project to be replicated in other parts of the region.

Bassey had on that visit expressed confidence in the capability of Professor Zabbey to rewrite the story of the Ogoni environment. Nnimmo Bassey was a former member of the first Board of Trustees of HYPREP.

# HYPREP IN KICK-OFF MEETING WITH POWER PROJECT CONTRACTOR, OTHERS

The Management of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has charged the contractors handling the construction of the Ogoni Project, the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, the Ogoni Specialist Hospital, and the Buan Cottage Hospital to adhere strictly to the Community Entry and HSE Guidelines set out by HYPREP to ensure safe and timely completion of the projects.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey who was represented by the Director, Technical Services, HYPREP, Prof. Philip Shekwolo gave the charge at a kickoff/interface meeting held at the Project Coordination Office in Port Harcourt with consultants and contractors of the four projects.

Professor Shekwolo explained that maintaining cordial relations with the host communities was a necessity to forestall disruption of work and ensure smooth implementation of their contracts.

“Safety is our top priority. We expect

our contractors to comply with safety rules and guidelines relevant to their work, to prevent unsafe conditions; and to respect fellow workers and the communities in which they work. Take the key HSE steps you need to take to ensure safety in delivering projects of this magnitude.”

He stated that the forum provided an opportunity to share knowledge and ensure alignment and understanding of roles of key parties involved in the execution of the projects, adding that there was need for contractors, consultants, and HYPREP site supervisors to understand the unique roles of each party to avoid unnecessary conflicts.

“This meeting is important because the interface between the key parties is important. We have contractors executing the job, supervising consultants of the projects, and HYPREP site supervisors. There is a need to understand the roles and coordinating roles each person plays to avoid friction between HYPREP site supervisors and contractors. It is not a competition; it is an

enablement.”

Shekwolo enjoined HYPREP supervisors to see the consultants as part of them who have a good understanding of the engineering aspect of the job and work closely with them to achieve set goals. “There is no ground for competition between the site supervisors and the consultants” he stated.

The representative of the Shell Petroleum Development Company in HYPREP, Engr. Ekiyokenegha Clark while congratulating the contractors and consultants, said that as major stakeholders and financiers of the Ogoni clean-up project, SPDC's expectations are high on project delivery.

Engr. Clark therefore called on contractors to work in line with the scope of work given to them, understand the requirements, follow them through, and deliver the project as prescribed in the scope of work. He added that contractors should adhere strictly to set project timelines, to avoid issues of variations in contracts.

“The eye of the world is upon HYPREP, and every contractor that is working for HYPREP is expected to live up to this. This project is an International Project, people across the globe are interested in the performance of the work, so bring the best, and let your work speak for you. HYPREP has selected the best available contractor to execute this work, so we expect you to come with the best skills, technologies, and techniques to execute this job.”

In his submission, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Chief Technical Advisor, Disasters and Conflicts Branch, Mike Cowing said UNEP will continue to monitor and guide HYPREP technically, ensuring that HYPREP does the right thing in compliance with International best practices.

Cowing added that UNEP will



**A Cross Section of Contractors**

undertake regular site visits with international experts to ensure that HYPREP contractors are doing the right thing. He advised them to get relevant documentation and the UNEP's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on how to manage

topsoil on site.

The review session which had in attendance top management personnel of companies featured presentations from relevant Units of HYPREP on Contract Management, Contract Documentation, Community Interface

Management, and Identification and Dealing with Security Threats on site.

The contractors at the session pledged that they would ensure that the projects are executed in line with specifications and within the agreed time.

## **HYPREP IN TALKS WITH AFRICA DEVELOPMENT BANK, OTHER INT'L BODIES FOR PARTNERSHIP**

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has disclosed that the Project is in talks with organizations like the Africa Development Bank, University of Portsmouth Mangrove Project, Lancaster University, and others for partnership that will enhance the implementation and sustainability of its projects in the areas of mangrove revegetation, collaborative research and sustainable livelihoods through exchange programmes and setting up of industrial hubs in Ogoniland.

Professor Zabbey disclosed this when the leader of the Ogoni Peoples Assembly (OPA), Reverend Williams Probel led other executive members of the body on a visit to the Project Coordination Office in Port Harcourt for a project status briefing and observations.

He noted that his civil society background and track record in environmental advocacy place on him a moral burden and an understanding of the expectations of the people towards a cleaner Ogoni environment. The HYPREP Helmsman stated that the Project has created a Desk for Linkages and Partnerships as part of effort for project sustainability and partnership collaboration and revealed that HYPREP is in talks with the University of Portsmouth Mangrove Project and the Commonwealth Blue Carbon that is willing to partner the Project in its mangrove restoration programme.

In the same vein, he noted that the Project is also following up partnership agreements with the

Lancaster University for collaborative research and exchange programmes which is intended to build a solid foundation for the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER) as well as being in talks with the Africa Development Bank (ADB) for the creation of an Agro Processing Zone in Ogoniland, while hinting that the Manual for Mangrove Restoration developed by himself and Professor Olof Linden - a Professor of Marine Environmental Science from the World Maritime University outlines techniques for the planting of different species of mangrove to boost biodiversity and encourage sustainable harvesting in Ogoniland.

“In terms of funding, we have created partnership with the University of Portsmouth Mangrove Action Project. We have written a proposal and it is at the verge of being approved. The Commonwealth Blue Carbon in the United Kingdom is super happy to fund the project. In fact, they have approved the project but there is one policy issue that they raised that Nigeria should respond to which is a breach in the Abuja Guidelines. So, I went to the Federal Ministry of Environment and asked, and nobody seems to know of what the breach is all about. In the first week of September hopefully I will be travelling to the Lancaster University because I have been discussing partnership with them on exchange programmes and it is at no cost to HYPREP. They have sent us the MOU and our Head of Legal has vetted it and we have sent to the Director of Legal in the Ministry, and it is ok. So, we are going there to look

at their facilities before we sign for the exchange programme. The partnership is for collaborative research, and we will domesticate the studies here. These are very sustainable foundations that we are laying for the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration.”

“The Africa Development Bank is creating what they called agro processing zones and I was in Abuja last week and was talking with them and I have written to the Regional Head asking that they should come and create that in Ogoniland because it a counterpart funding project and by next year I hope to push that into the budget.”

The Project Coordinator noted that he places premium on the sustainable livelihood component of the Project, noting that programmes being rolled out will benefit Ogoni people and stated that the Project is keen on gender inclusivity in all its programmes and has requested communities to ensure the nomination of beneficiaries on a ratio of 60 males to 40 females, adding that attention will also be given to persons with disabilities.

Prof. Zabbey stressed that achieving the mandate of HYPREP will require the collaboration of all stakeholders including the Ogoni People Assembly (OPA). According to him, 'recovering the Ogoni environment is achievable. It will require every stakeholder's commitment'. He maintained that the Project's target is to achieve sustainable environmental management that combines conservation and restoration, while focusing on carbon credit that will



encourage local communities to support biodiversity and create sustainable livelihood for them. He enjoined the OPA to step up sensitization in Ogoni communities against re-pollution, noting that it would be futile if the Project is cleaning impacted communities and artisanal refining activities persist. He particularly charged them to intervene in the litigations against HYPREP, a development he stated is causing the Project huge sums of money. The Project Coordinator requested that the group holds strategic meetings with the Project for a robust brainstorming session on areas of improvement as well as evaluation of progress made. He informed his guests that steps have been taken to improve on approaches to project delivery by reviewing its Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) especially in the management of topsoil, so that remediated areas are returned to their arable state for farming in addition to the strategic interrogation of all the ongoing

projects through deep-dive sessions with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Prof. Zabbey further mentioned that the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit of the Project is being revamped with the engagement of more experts, while noting that a Milestone Payment Committee, which will be chaired by him has been set up to ensure that payments to contractors match work done.

The leadership of the Ogoni Peoples Assembly made a presentation in which it stated that it has shown clear interest in the clean-up project, requesting to partner with HYPREP in the aspect of monitoring and evaluation of its activities for efficient project delivery. The presentation addressed issues bordering on local content, sub-contracting, waivers and concession, mangrove restoration and expected deliverables, and the need to

establish an Ogoni Content Development Board.

At a separate forum with members of the Ogoni 20, Prof. Zabbey assured that the Ogoni people will benefit from the various activities and programmes of HYPREP, stating that, "you will not have to know somebody to benefit from the programmes of HYPREP as the economic benefits will trickle down to everybody."

The Ogoni-20 are those who escaped the gallows in 1995 when Ken Saro-Wiwa and the other eight were executed by the Abacha junta. Prof. Zabbey encouraged them to know that their struggle is what has brought HYPREP to be which is responsible for the clean-up of Ogoniland. The group congratulated the Prof. Zabbey on his appointment as the Project Coordinator of HYPREP and sought for inclusiveness and partnership as a way of giving them a sense of belonging in the clean-up project.

## **Facts About HYPREP**

### **COMMEMORATION OF THE 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUBMISSION OF THE UNEP REPORT ON Ogoniland TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA**

As we mark the twelfth anniversary of the submission of the UNEP report on Ogoniland, we wish to sincerely appreciate the Federal Government, especially the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, for his unwavering commitment to the implementation of the recommendations of the report. We are grateful to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for undertaking a thorough assessment of the Ogoni environment and producing a world-class report. The UNEP has also stood by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), the body set up by the Federal Government to implement the recommendations of the report by providing technical support to the project and has continued to do so

from 2018 to date. The Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) and its Joint Venture Partners remain committed to making remittances to fund the Project. The Ogoni community, which is the ultimate beneficiary of the clean-up project, has been very receptive and supportive of the project.

The 2023 commemoration of the submission of the UNEP Report on the Assessment of the Ogoni Environment to the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2011 is a watershed, as it marks a smooth transition from one administration of government to the other in its implementation. The administration of President Muhammadu Buhari who had officially flagged off the Ogoni clean project on June 2, 2016 formally wound down on May 29, 2023 handing over power as well as the continuation of the Ogoni clean-up

project to the new administration of His Excellency, Bola Ahmed Tinubu. On the occasion of the eleventh anniversary of the submission of the report last year, we announced the modest achievements made in the key operational areas of the project, including remediation, livelihood, the provision of potable water, public health, and the like.

As we celebrate the 2023 anniversary of the UNEP report, we are pleased to state that more milestones have been covered in the last one year. The provision of sustainable livelihoods through training for Ogoni women and youths is a key recommendation of the UNEP report. Within this one year, we started the training of one hundred (100) youths in the mega-skill area of aviation. So far, we have successfully trained thirty of them, with more batches coming on stream. Aviation was not the only mega skill we

introduced to the general livelihood trainings for Ogoni women and youths; there are the other three, namely, mechatronics, seafaring, and creative arts. We considered that the world is going digital and that these four skill areas provide pathways to economic prosperity and human capital development. Other livelihood packages are in the process of being unveiled to the Ogoni people. We have carried out a survey of medium-scale businesses in Ogoni, and in the coming weeks, cheques will be presented to deserving entrepreneurs to boost their businesses. This is with the intention of bringing sustainability and expansion to existing local businesses. We are currently mobilizing 28 consultants to train about 5,000 Ogoni youths in various life skillsets.

On July 26, 2023, the Barako community in Gokana Local Government Area, Ogoniland, Rivers State, was thrown into a celebration mood as HYPREP turned on the taps to supply potable water to households in the community. The commissioning ceremony was performed by the Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Environment, Ibrahim Yusufu. The Barako water scheme is one of the six contracts awarded in phase 1 of the provision of potable water in Ogoni. The Alesa waterworks were the first to be completed and supply water to the area and other adjoining communities. The contractors for the remaining four LOTS are finalizing work on their projects, and not long from now they will be commissioned. To cover more communities, the Project has gone ahead to award additional fourteen (14) water contracts that will supply potable water to fifty-two (52) communities across the four Local Government Areas of Ogoniland. A week ago, the contractors were handed the sites for construction works to begin. It goes without saying that the construction of the fourteen water schemes will create job opportunities for the youths in these communities

and thus reduce the burden of unemployment. In the course of the construction works, plumbing and other relevant skills would be passed on to the locals, who stand the chance of learning lifelong economic skills for their survival.

In remediation, we have made great progress. From the first contracts of twenty-one (21) lots in Phase 1 Batch 1 to twenty-nine (29) lots in Phase 1 Batch 2, we have closed out thirty-six (36) lots, while fourteen (14) lots are at different stages of completion.

The phase 2 remediation of 39 medium-risk sites has commenced. In Phase 2 remediation, the scope of work includes site characterization and remediation of both soil and groundwater. We have also mobilized 34 contractors for shoreline cleanup and 9 contractors to undertake mangrove planting on about 600 ha of shorelines where oil content in the sediment has been reduced by natural attenuation to levels that mangroves can tolerate. Consequently, we have engaged an expert to commence hands-on training for 90 women and youths on how to establish a mangrove nursery. This will reinforce livelihood opportunities and mainstream knowledge of mangrove restoration for sustainability. The trainees will further be empowered with small grants to establish their individual nurseries and sell the mangrove seedlings to the mangrove planting contractors. In addition, the community workers that will work at the shoreline cleanup and mangrove planting sites will be trained and awarded with IMO level 1 and 2 certificates, which will brighten their chances to be engaged in similar works in and outside Ogoniland. We plan to restore three thousand (3,000) hectares of oil-degraded mangrove in Ogoniland. This will involve the planting of about 10 million mangrove seedlings, which will be the world's largest restoration of oil-degraded mangroves.

We appeal to all stakeholders to drive efforts toward preventing oil spills in the region. Specifically, we urge the youths to desist from artisanal oil refining. As the UNEP report stressed, further oil pollution resulting from oil

theft and artisanal oil refining will compromise the effectiveness of the shoreline cleanup and mangrove rehabilitation initiatives.

In April 2023, the Project flagged off the triad of legacy projects: the construction of the Ogoni Power Project to connect Ogoni to the national grid, the Ogoni Specialist Hospital, and the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER). On July 26, 2023, sites for the above projects were among the over sixty project sites that we handed over to contractors to commence work. We are building a cottage hospital in Buan and have procured medical equipment to strengthen four hospitals in Ogoniland. These human-impacting and legacy projects will address some of the core concerns of health, sustainable livelihood, human capital development, and environmental restoration knowledge development. It must be stressed that all these projects going on concurrently will build or strengthen the capacity of the Ogonis, create local jobs, and boost household income.

As we mark the anniversary of the submission of the UNEP report, we look ahead to more people-centred projects that will revive and restore the environment and livelihoods of Ogoniland. We want to reassure all stakeholders that the Ogoni cleanup project is now in the fast lane of execution and reinforced with frameworks of inclusion, sustainability, and value addition. We have started networking and building linkages and partnerships with notable global environmental management institutions to lay a solid foundation for the CEER, which is envisioned as a regional hub for vocational training and advanced research in environmental restoration.

We are committed to the sustainable restoration of oil degraded lands and wetlands and the creation and promotion of opportunities for sustainable livelihoods in Ogoniland.

Happy UNEP Report Day celebration to all stakeholders!

**Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey**  
**Project Coordinator, HYPREP**

# PICTURES OF THE MONTH



Prof. Philip Shekwolo Addressing Contractors at a Kick off Meeting



HRM Mene Dr. Suanu Baridam Addressing Beneficiaries of HYPREP Business Support Programme



Senior National Project Advisor, UNEP, Prof. Iyeni Kakulu Addressing Beneficiaries of HYPREP Business Support Programme



Engr. Ekiyokenegha Clark Addressing Beneficiaries of HYPREP Business Support Programme



Prof. Zabbey Presenting Cheque to a Beneficiary of HYPREP Business Support Programme



L - R: Rev. Williams Probel Presenting OPA Position Paper to Prof. Zabbey



Prof. Zabbey in a Group Photograph with OPA Exco During Their Visit to HYPREP



Prof. Zabbey Poses with Out going SPDC Manager, Ogoni Restoration Project, Dr. Vincent Nwabueze & his Successor, John Ide & HYPREP Staff



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## THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE

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**“Even viewed conservatively, trees are worth far more than they cost to plant and maintain.”**

**- Jim Robbins**

**Remediated Land**

**Photo:HYPREP**

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

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