



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

# HYPREP HERALD

OCTOBER 2023 VOL.1 No.19

## THE EMERGING CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION



**FOUNDATION WORK ON CEER**

REMEDATION CONTRACTORS TASKED ON PROMPT REPORTING OF CHALLENGES TO HYPREP

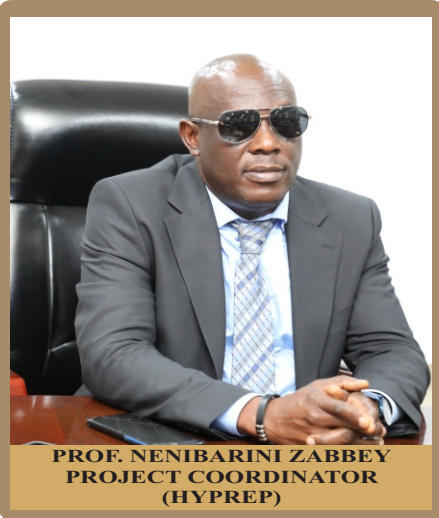
HYPREP TO STRENGTHEN ITS MONITORING AND EVALUATION UNIT FOR IMPROVED DELIVERY

WORKS COMMENCE ON OGOINI POWER PROJECT - PHASE 1

**HYPREP  
HERALD  
NOT  
TO BE  
SOLD**



# THE PC'S DESK



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

As contractors for the thirty-four shoreline clean-up projects commence work in the coastal communities of Ogoni, laying a solid foundation for the next phase of work after the clean-up is of utmost importance and something that requires tact and early planning to achieve success. A remediated shoreline left without mangrove recolonization will amount to work not well done. That is why HYPREP is starting early to prepare for a well-coordinated mangrove rehabilitation programme.

The assisted mangrove planting programme will be community-driven and coordinated by experts. It has two phases, namely, the pilot planting phase and the large-scale planting phase. The pilot phase has nine lots of mangrove revegetation in Bomu, happening concurrently with the cleanup of 34 lots of Gokana shoreline. We have trained fifty women and youths from Bomu in mangrove restoration and setting up of mangrove nurseries. Similarly, at Kpor, we trained at least five people from each of the other Gokana shoreline communities. The training is led by a renowned expert in plant ecology and ecological restoration, Professor Franklin Tanee of the University of Port Harcourt.

The three-month hands-on training in mangrove nursery establishment and restoration involves offsite lectures

and onsite demonstrations, followed by the setting up of mangrove nurseries by the trainees. Each of the trainees is given a hundred thousand naira (N100,000) catalytic grant to establish their nurseries of the black, white, and red mangroves. We are at the follow-up phase, whereby the training consultant continues to engage the trainees in a learning-by-doing supervision of the nurseries. The community nursery owners shall sell their seedlings to the nine mangrove contractors.

The mangrove rehabilitation effort will restore ecosystem goods and services that mangroves provide. It will restore fisheries livelihood and promote environmental sustainability. We want the communities to drive and own the mangrove restoration programme. And we want to leave behind in Ogoni a legacy of the science and art of mangrove restoration. The training has set in motion a knowledge system that will arm the locals with the requisite skills to boost their income-generating capability and the expertise to restore and protect the environment. Prior to planting the mangrove seedlings, the mangrove biodiversity (plants and animals) will be mapped and documented following standard procedures to create a reference database for monitoring the post-planting improvement of the biodiversity.

On the other hand, we shall partner with environment-focused NGOs to sensitize the Ogoni shoreline communities on how to conserve mangroves, particularly through

sustainable harvesting. The HYPREP mangrove management effort will cover the broad spectrum of restoration and conservation. The cardinal aim is to reposition the Ogoniland mangrove ecosystem to becoming a potential RAMSAR site, as recommended in the UNEP report.

Human activities, particularly oil pollution and overharvesting, are the major causes of the degradation and loss of mangroves in Ogoniland, as they are in the rest of the Niger Delta. Thus, there is a high need to conscientize and sensitize the communities about the dangers of oil theft and illegal artisanal oil refining. Sensitizing mangrove wood harvesters to sustainable exploitation is also important to HYPREP. We will continue to carry out community-wide enlightenment campaigns to discourage the locals from oil theft and artisanal oil refining.

We are confident that with the community-driven strategies we are rolling out, the state-of-the-art manual for mangrove restoration, UNEP has produced to guide HYPREP's mangrove restoration effort, the availability of mangrove seedlings at our disposal through the trained community 'mangrove-seed-prenuers', and the sustained support of stakeholders (communities, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), etc.), HYPREP will undertake participatory and ecologically sound mangrove rehabilitation in Ogoniland.

## Editorial Crew

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

# In this Issue

The last two editions of the HYPREP Herald had showcased the effort of the Project in the delivery of a key recommendation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) arising from its environmental assessment of Ogoniland which is the provision of potable water for impacted communities of Ogoniland and for which HYPREP is determined to extend that recommendation to as many communities as possible. The August edition led with the news of the commissioning of the Barako Water Scheme which is the completion of one of the water contracts in phase 1 of the provision of potable water, while the September edition announced the commencement of work on phase 2 water contracts covering sixty-four (64) communities.

In this edition we continue with the showcasing of HYPREP big ticket projects under construction and in this regard the building of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration at Wiiyaakara in Khana Local Government Area. The Centre is a legacy project that will outlive the clean-up and sustain and expand the experiences and knowledge garnered from the remediation process. We talked with the Project Coordinator of the UNEP Assessment Team and Chief Technical Advisor, Resilience to Disasters and Conflicts Global Support Branch of UNEP, Mike Cowing on the importance of the Centre and the benefits it will bequeath to the immediate community of Ogoni and by extension the Niger Delta where pollution arising from oil related activities continue to ravage the environment and sources of livelihood and sanitation.

The Management of HYPREP has institutionalized the culture of project review meetings whether internally on status of projects or externally with contractors to ensure that projects are

delivered on time, on cost and on target so that both the funders (international oil companies) and the beneficiaries (Ogoni communities) have value for money spent. Accordingly, the Project Coordination Office held two meetings, one, with the Units (Quarterly Project Status Review Meeting spearheaded by the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit) and the other with contractors (Performance Review Meeting) to track projects with timelines and specifications.

The Ogoni clean-up is a project with vested stakeholder interest and the implication of that is that from time to time, persons or organizations would want to know the status of the project even to its financial transactions as a way of keeping its managers on the path of probity, accountability, and transparency. To ensure that responsible staff who are saddled with the responsibility of handling such demands and interfacing with members of the public in that regard are well equipped to carry out their functions, the Project Coordination Office organized a 3-day workshop on the operationalization of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2011. The capacity building workshop was facilitated by resource persons from

the academia and the Federal Ministry of Justice.

Stakeholder engagement is a key component of the operations of HYPREP and the Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey visited the palaces of some Monarchs in Ogoniland. We have the report in this edition of the newsletter. We also interviewed the Project Coordinator on his recent visit to the United Kingdom to seek areas of partnership with Lancaster University and other international organizations on ways to improve the curriculum content of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration that HYPREP is building.

We have the regular features of facts about HYPREP, the poetry corner and safety tips for your information and reading pleasure. We appeal that you take time out to go through the pages to get yourself acquainted with the activities of HYPREP and the opportunities there are for you. Your feedback on how to serve you better is appreciated. October 1 is our national day and the editorial crew of the HYPREP Herald join other well-meaning citizens to say happy 63rd independence anniversary to our dear country, Nigeria!

## POETRY CORNER

### DEATH REFINERY

**By: Sadiq Daneji**

In the heart of the delta, where whispers reside,  
An illegal refinery, hidden with pride.  
Through pipes and valves, the crude oil flows,  
A risky endeavor, where danger surely grows.

But let's not forget, the harm it brings,  
Polluting the land, and all living things.  
Let's strive for progress, in a lawful way,  
Preserving nature's beauty, day by day.

In the depths of the night, flames dance and flicker,  
A secret refinery, where shadows grow thicker.  
Black gold flows, a dangerous trade,  
But the price we pay, leaves nature dismayed.

The environment in the process dies,  
And no human for sorrow cries.



## Project News

# THE EMERGING CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

The establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CoEER) is one of the recommendations for the Nigerian Government in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on the assessment of Ogoniland submitted to the Federal Government in 2011. The other recommendations for the Government include the creation of an Ogoniland Environmental Restoration Authority which the Government in its wisdom renamed the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), the creation of an Environmental Restoration Funds for Ogoniland, and the mounting of campaigns against environmental degradation, among others.

The Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration is recommended with the intention to run training courses in environmental

monitoring and restoration; enhance the capacity and skills of the Ogoni community, with opportunity for employment; promote learning, both in the region and more widely, including abroad.

The other objectives are to become a model for environmental restoration, attracting visiting experts, students, and visitors from overseas; assist with business development, offering training on all aspects of setting up and running a successful company (legal, financial, technical, health and safety, etc.); and open its enrolment to people outside Ogoniland and the wider Niger Delta (including from other countries).

For the Centre to achieve its vision it shall focus on providing thought leadership and direction in environmental restoration and socio-economic sustainability through learning and knowledge management processes; establishing and promoting

best practices in sectors of direct interest as well as carrying out continuous research and development, to provide appropriate recommendations, research papers for industry practices.

The contract for the construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration was approved by the Federal Executive Council in March 2023 and the project officially flagged up for construction by President Muhammadu Buhari in April 2023 at Wiiyaakara in Khana Local Government Area of Rivers State.

The construction is being done by China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation Nigeria Limited in the sum of forty-one billion, four hundred and seventy-two million, two hundred and sixty-three thousand, eight hundred and forty-eight naira, sixty kobo (N41,472,263, 848.60), with a completion period of twenty-four





months. The centre will have an administrative block, auditorium, research building as well as male and female dormitories, library, and clinic, among others.

Four months after its flag-off, the once bushy and lonely piece of land is now a construction site teeming with workers of all sorts working determinedly to beat the target completion date of twenty-four months.

The Chief Technical Advisor, Resilience to Disasters and Conflicts Global Support Branch of UNEP, Mike Cowing in an interview with HYPREP Herald explained the reason behind UNEP's recommendation of a Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration in its 2011 report on the environmental assessment of Ogoniland.

“The ongoing remediation of Ogoniland is unique in terms of the scale and complexity of the task. However, similar problems to those in Ogoniland are also affecting many other areas within the Delta – and indeed, across Africa and the developing world. The lessons learned from the Ogoniland project must be documented, learned and applied elsewhere, hence the need for the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration.” Cowing said.

Cowing who led the team of scientists – local and international who studied the Ogoni environment between 2009 and 2011 outlined the benefits the Centre stands to bequeath to Ogoniland and beyond.

“The Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration will provide many benefits, including: Promote learning throughout Ogoniland and more widely; Offering technical training courses; Enhance skills of the Ogoni community – and create job opportunities in the remediation sector; Assist with training on local business development opportunities (legal, financial, technical, etc).”



### Cowing

He stated that partnering with credible international organizations, the academia and training centres to ensure that courses offered are in line with international best practice will enhance the Centre's operations and sustainability upon its completion and operationalization, adding that opportunities for collaboration and research should be promptly identified and acted upon.

Cowing who has galvanized the efforts of other UNEP officials since 2018 to providing technical support to HYPREP in the implementation of the UNEP report on Ogoniland assured of the continuous guidance of the world body in the construction of the Centre to meet standards and specifications.

“UNEP has a role in ensuring that the plan for the CEER is true to the original concept and that, to the extent possible, all stakeholders are engaged with, works comply with international best practice – and are completed within budget and timeline.”

Perimeter fencing of the twenty-nine hectares of land housing the Centre is on-going and the Centre upon completion is expected to have partnerships with institutions, professionals, and individuals who have an influence in the industry to fast track the realization of corporate goals.

The operationalization of the Centre will be based on policies, guidelines, advice, factsheets, industry best practices, organizational best practices, and documented results of past brainstorming, troubleshooting, and post-resolution review sessions.

Construction of key infrastructures for the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration is ongoing under the supervision of HYPREP staff and supervisory consultants, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), and other stakeholders. So far, the project has provided employment to no fewer than three hundred (300) Ogonis with different skill sets.

The documentation of the legal framework for the establishment of the Centre in Ogoniland has commenced and it is jointly carried out by UNEP, HYPREP and the Federal Ministry of Justice. When concluded, it will be forwarded to the National Assembly for deliberations and thereafter transmitted to the President for assent.



**Prof. Zabbey Visits Site of CEER in Company of HYPREP Staff and CCECC Staff**

# REMEDIATION CONTRACTORS TASKED ON PROMPT REPORTING OF CHALLENGES TO HYPREP

The Management of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has urged all its contractors to promptly report challenges they face in the field to the Project Coordination Office to enable the Project proffer timely solutions to them.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey gave the advice at a monthly contractors' project performance review meeting for phase 2 soil and groundwater remediation held at the Project Coordination Office in Port Harcourt. Professor Zabbey made the contractors to understand that their success or failure is the success or failure of HYPREP and thus should work closely with the Project and report any challenge they encounter so that such situations can be addressed as they come.

“In this beginning phase of our remediation work, we will be holding this meeting monthly, but when we progress to the treatment phase it is going to be twice monthly. So, what that means is that we are going to meet more frequently when we get to the

stage of treatment. This meeting is very important because we want fit-for-purpose eco-friendly remediation of the medium risk sites in Ogoniland. It is very important because we want all of us to succeed. It is very important because, we want to share with you your success stories. We want to share with you your challenges so that we deal with them collectively. So, coming together, as a block for each of us, each of the contractors will make presentation on the status of their remediation works. The site plan, site characterization, and then the challenges you are having in the field is pretty important.”

“I want to encourage all of you to participate actively in this very important meeting, by presenting the status of your work. What you have been able to achieve, why are you where you are as of today, so that if you have any specific site related challenges, you share with us and then collectively, we put our heads together to proffer solutions.”

He reminded contractors that payment for work done will be based on milestones and as such they should

endeavour to do a thorough and satisfactory delivery of contractual agreement.

“As I said during the kickoff meeting, HYPREP is going to pay contractors based on milestones that are fully completed. We are not going to pay anybody that will want to leave oil behind in Ogoniland. So as partners it is important, we meet from time to time, compare notes and succeed together.”

The contractors outlined some challenges they face in the field to include additional cost of moving materials and items across major roads that divide some sites, double installation of some facilities as a result of the separation of the site by road, flooding of the office and bio-cell areas.

As a way of mitigating the difficulties caused by the challenges some recovery plans are to be put in place like the introduction of speed breakers and relocation of the bio-cell area or raising the ground level by way of sand-filling.



**Cross Section of Contractors at the Project Review Meeting**



# HYPREP TO STRENGTHEN ITS MONITORING AND EVALUATION UNIT FOR IMPROVED DELIVERY

The Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey has expressed the commitment of the Federal Government and the Management of the Hydrocarbon Pollution and Remediation Project, HYPREP to strengthen the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit of HYPREP for better performance.

Prof. Zabbey said this while declaring open the quarterly Project Status Review meeting of HYPREP at the conference room of the project office in Port Harcourt. He said that the project status review meeting became imperative as it informs HYPREP and its stakeholders about how the project is progressing in comparison to the project plan.

Prof. Zabbey added that the session will also help identify problems and root them out before they escalate, or at the very least, reduce their impact.

“I want to appreciate the M & E Unit for this review session and my objective is for us to have it more frequently, because it tells us where we are and remind us to do certain things we have not done and faster too. It is not about saying somebody is not doing something but that we can do better.”

Zabbey said that his administration is passionate about making M&E robust and has taken practical steps to empower the unit by getting an M&E consultant to enable them to deliver on their mandate of monitoring and evaluating the activities of the project. Meanwhile, the Senior Technical Expert to UNEP on Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, Professor Barineme Fakae in his submission commended the M&E team on convoking the meeting, noting that it will help HYPREP improve on areas of the project that need strengthening.

Also, Mr. Princwill of the Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN), said there was need for implementation strategies to provide



**Cross Section of HYPREP Management at the Project Review Meeting**

mechanisms for constant monitoring and evaluation of policies, to ensure that the mandate of the project is achieved.

The review session which had in attendance the Management Staff of the project, the Shell Petroleum Development Company Joint Venture Representative on the project, Engr. Ekiyokenegha Clark, the UNEP team comprising, Mr. Mike Cowing and

Professor Iyenemi Kakulu, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) featured the Project Status presentation by the M & E Unit.

Discussions centered around setting a routine for project status review meetings, a standardized plan for approving deliverables, a robust communications strategy, a method for quality control, and clearly defined roles and responsibilities.

## WORKS COMMENCE ON OGOINI POWER PROJECT - PHASE 1

Site clearing for the 260MVA power substations at Wiiyaakara in Khana Local Government Area and Bodo in Gokana Local Government Area under the on-going Ogoni Power Project being undertaken by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project has commenced.

Former Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari had in April flagged off the construction of the Power Project alongside the Ogoni Specialist Hospital and the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration at Wiiyaakara.

The flag-off was sequel to the

approval late last year of the sum of twenty-seven billion, five hundred and eighty-five million, five hundred and thirty-nine thousand, four hundred and ten naira, ten kobo (N27,585,539,410.10) for the immediate take-off of the electricity project that will supply power in the six Kingdoms of Eleme, Tai, Gokana, Babbe, Ken-Khana and Nyo-Khana of Ogoni.

The Power Project consists of the construction of 132KV 62 kilometres of transmission lines in the phase one of the Ogoni power project with a completion period of twelve months.



**Ogoni Power Project Substation Site, Wiiyaakara**

It was conceived to bring sustainability to the various projects HYPREP is undertaking in Ogoniland like the Potable Water Schemes, the Livelihood Support Programmes and the stimulation of socio-economic activities in Ogoni for the overall development of the area.

The Wiiyaakara Substation will step down power and distribute to the three

kingdoms of Ken-Khana, Nyo-Khana and Babbe while the Bodo Substation will distribute to the other three kingdoms of Gokana, Tai and Eleme.

HYPREP staff in the company of consultants and officials of the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing are in the field carrying out enumeration and valuation of economic trees, crops, and other assets along the power

transmission lines right of way.

They have so far covered ten out of the twenty-four communities on the transmission lines right of way. The ten communities covered are Wiiyaakara, Betem, Zaakpon, Kor, Uegwere Boue, and Kaani all in Khana Local Government Area. The rest are Nweol, Bomu, Lewe and Yeghe in Gokana Local Government Area.

The six communities covered in Khana Local Government Area signal the completion of the valuation exercise in the area. Gokana Local Government Area will be completed by the second week of October 2023. Tai and Eleme Local Government Areas are to be completed by the end of November 2023.

The transmission line and tower designs have been completed and the coming weeks will witness an upsurge in the execution of the phase 1 of the Power Project that its implementation is to create a large number of employment opportunities for the locals.

## HYPREP PROMISES TRANSPARENT OPERATIONS

The Management of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) says it will always respect the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act by making public, necessary information on the activities of the project either on its own or on demand by members of the public provided such requests are permitted by law.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey stated this at a 3-day capacity building workshop on the Freedom of information (FOI) Act for staff of the project.

Professor Zabbey who was represented by the Head, Procurement, HYPREP, Mr. Paul Ugbaha said the workshop became necessary because HYPREP as a project of public interest would as a matter of responsibility brief its stakeholders and members of the public on its operations and to do so it



**HYPREP Staff at the Workshop on FOI Act**

will require that the staff are conversant with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act to guarantee access to information.

Mr Ugbaha remarked that the enactment of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act by the Federal Government in 2011 was a milestone

in Nigeria as it was seen as a big step in the nation's quest for transparency and accountability in governance.

He added that in line with the provisions of the Act, certain categories of Federal Government Information needed to be published while others require members of the



public to request for it from any Government establishment, which has a caveat that says that the person(s) requesting such information must pay for its reproduction.

Ugbaha noted that the training will expose participants to different ways of using the law to map out workable strategies for transparency and systemic accountability in the discharge of their duties.

'We hope that at the end of this capacity building, all our activities especially with the Ogoni people and the public will be highly enhanced.'

The 3-day training which was held in Port Harcourt was facilitated by Nexi Plus Integrated Services Limited and had in attendance Management and Staff of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP).

Barr. Nafisat Ibrahim of the Federal Ministry of Justice Abuja, while presenting her paper 'Proactive Disclosure as a Veritable tool for the implementation of the FOI ACT, 2011', said that information adds social, economic, and political value to any nation and advised HYPREP to

apply the FOI Act to reduce the conflict that had built up between the project and those who were not properly informed about its activities.

Also, Barr. Mariah Obafemi of the Federal Ministry of Justice Abuja, speaking on 'Records Creation, Keeping, Management and Classification of Documents under the FOI Act 2011,' took participants through various ways to properly safeguard records, and increase their skills at properly releasing records to the public. She also highlighted the exemptions under the FOI Act, of 2011.

Some of the exemptions include, information which if disclosed will be injurious to the conduct of Nigeria's international affairs and defence; information which may interfere with law enforcement investigations or be injurious to the security of penal institutions; information which may undermine a person's right to fair trial or fair hearing in actual or reasonably contemplated proceedings before a court; personal information; information pertaining to test

questions, scoring keys and other examination data used to administer an academic examination; trade secrets and commercial information obtained from a person or business that are proprietary, privileged or confidential; information that is subject to Solicitor-Client privilege; Doctor-Patient privilege; Journalism confidentiality privileges; and other professional privileges conferred by any Law, among others.

A Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, Rivers State University, Dr. Bariyima Kokpan educated participants on the 'Role of the Courts in the Enforcement of the FOI Act in Nigeria.' He also gave an overview of the implementation of the FOI Act, 2011, and a comparative analysis of some selected jurisdictions.

Similarly, Dr. Abiodun Adebajo, a subject matter expert highlighted the FOI Act and Public Service Ethics and charged participants to develop an anti-corruption mind set.

Participants were issued with certificates of attendance at the end of the training.

## INTERVIEW

### HYPREP PARTNERS LANCASTER UNIVERSITY IN CONTENT DEVELOPMENT FOR CEER

*Recently the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey was in the United Kingdom to seek partnership with the Lancaster University and other reputable international organizations in the areas of collaborative research for development and technology transfer for the sustainable delivery of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration that HYPREP is building, co-development and co-delivery of remediation research projects, remediation of groundwater, eco-innovation, and community development programmes. Professor Zabbey speaks on these and other issues out of the UK trip in this interview with the editor of the HYPREP Herald, Kpoobari Nafo.*

**Welcome back Prof. How was your trip to Lancaster University, United Kingdom?**

It was an awesome opportunity to provide visibility to the great work HYPREP is doing in Ogoniland. It provided a platform for partnering with international stakeholders towards achieving our overall goal of restoring livelihoods and the degraded environment in Ogoniland and, indeed, the Niger Delta region. It was a great trip, as we fully explored the opportunities to work with internationally reputable organizations and institutions for the benefit of the Ogoni people. This is because we believe that to achieve the ultimate benefit of sustainable cleanup, strategic partnership with

relevant international institutions is crucial to fulfilling our core objective, and this is also in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 17.

**Please tell us what your mission was to the United Kingdom (UK).**

We were in the United Kingdom to consolidate a trilateral partnership between HYPREP, Lancaster Environment University, through Lancaster Environment Centre (LEC) United Kingdom, Soilutions Limited Scotland, and CRC CARE Australia. The Lancaster Environment Centre of Lancaster University represents one of the largest centers of its type in Europe and has world-leading capability in pollution management, climate

science, soil and water sciences, food, and energy security, all of which are relevant to the challenges faced in the Niger Delta and indeed align with the mandate of HYPREP. Within LEC, the Centre for Global Eco-Innovation (CGE) supports collaborative international research and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) innovation for climate adaptation. This distinctive expertise ensures that business-driven research and innovation opportunities are a strong and central focus and underpin the development of new products, processes, and services for the global marketplace. In the same vein, the Cooperative Research Centre for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment (CRC CARE) is an independent organization and one of the world's most reputable organizations that performs research, develops technologies, and provides policy guidance for assessing, cleaning up, and preventing contamination of soil, water, and air.

Developing partnerships with these bodies offers a huge opportunity for the Center of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER) that HYPREP is currently constructing. It will foster collaborative research for development and technology transfer for the sustainable delivery of the HYPREP Project. The UK visit offered opportunities to interact with the works and programmes of the LEC and to explore potential avenues for co-development and co-delivery of remediation research projects, remediation of groundwater, eco-innovation, and community development. A visit to the Soilutions Limited groundwater remediation site in Newcastle enhanced our confidence in the sustainable remediation of groundwater contamination, especially for the complex high-risk sites in Ogoniland.

**And in your assessment would you say it was mission accomplished?**

Yes, it was. The Permanent Secretary



**Prof. Zabbey**

of the Federal Ministry of Environment, who was on the trip, was excited about it. He assured the partners during one of the meetings that the ministry was effectively positioned to provide the support needed for the partnership with the external stakeholders to succeed.

**HYPREP is building the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER). In what specific way is the Lancaster University to engage with the facility?**

The CEER is poised to become a repository of knowledge and data on all activities of HYPREP and a citadel of learning and advanced research in contaminated land management. To achieve this, it's crucial to facilitate knowledge transfer, and that's where Lancaster University plays a pivotal role as a strategic partner.

Notably, research and data management are fundamental components of HYPREP's remediation programme. Lancaster University is already at the forefront of supporting the CEER in this regard. Some of the schemes we are currently exploring with Lancaster University include linking postgraduate student research with HYPREP remediation efforts (i.e., contracts awarded to various companies for specific project tasks). This will facilitate practical knowledge development and innovation. The CEER has a

vocational training arm that will engage in skill development and training. Overall, we are exploring several strategic collaboration schemes to cover the spectrum of HYPREP's mandate.

Therefore, the partnership effort presents a significant opportunity to create a wide range of master's and Ph.D. student projects to strengthen contextual remediation practice. Additionally, there is the potential for joint applications for international research funding in the areas of energy and environmental development projects, which hold significant relevance and potential benefits for the Niger Delta region. It will bolster the sustainability of the project.

Furthermore, there is an opportunity to establish new internationally certified programmes delivered in partnership with Lancaster University. These schemes, among others, will contribute significantly to the internationalization of the CEER, solidifying its reputation as the premier hub for environmental remediation and management in the West African region.

**There are several and similar universities in Nigeria and elsewhere in the world, why the choice of Lancaster University?**

Lancaster University is widely recognized for its expertise in environmental management and groundwater remediation, earning a prominent place in the field of research and innovation. Notably, there are Nigerian universities actively conducting research in environmental remediation as well. HYPREP, in its pursuit of knowledge exchange and an opportunity for developing capacity in cutting-edge research, intends to utilize the CEER as an integrative research platform. For instance, HYPREP has identified the World Bank Center for Excellence at the University of Port Harcourt as a potential partner to collaborate with Lancaster University to develop research themes for the CEER. It's



important to note that while CEER isn't a licensed university, it is designed as a Center of Excellence. In sum, we are poised to mobilize the pool of human resources in the local institutions, coupled with international partners, for the integrative research at the CEER.

Furthermore, Lancaster University is in the top 1% of world universities with a distinctive focus on partnership-driven research, co-creation, and societal impact generation that is globally significant. The Lancaster Environment Centre stands as one of Europe's largest centres of its kind, boasting world-leading expertise in climate and pollution science, soil and water sciences, and agri-tech, particularly relevant to Sub-Saharan Africa.

Lancaster University has a well-established international strategy and is actively expanding its engagement in Africa through extensive partnerships across various African nations, including Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. These partnerships aim to provide research opportunities, support, and capacity building for African governments, academic institutions, and industry. It was recognized as the International University of the Year in the UK in 2020. Consequently, developing a strategic research partnership with a top UK university is a significant foundational booster for the CEER.

**Does the Lancaster University have a rich history of mutually beneficial partnerships in the past or present with organizations that you know?**

Lancaster University has strategic partnerships with the African Union Scientific Research and Innovation Council (ASRIC), the African Union Scientific Technical Research Commission (AU-STRC), the African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS), and a host of other top Pan-African institutions. Lancaster University has won two projects for Africa: RECIRCULATE (a 7-million-

pound capacity building project) and ACTUATE (an 800,000-pound waste-to-energy demonstrator plant development project). Key components of these projects, which were delivered in partnership with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Ghana, the University of Benin, Nigeria, the Malawian Government National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST), and two top international universities in Botswana and Zambia, revolve around capacity building for knowledge transfer, entrepreneurship, and innovation with over 500 young African professionals trained.

Recently, Lancaster University launched the Africa Research and Innovation Partnerships (ARIP) Initiative at the residence of the British High Commissioner to Ghana, in Accra, to enhance its strategic engagements in Africa, which it has been exploring for more than 15 years, resulting in collaborations with several Sub-Saharan African universities, research organizations, NGOs, and policy stakeholders. There are very few universities that beat Lancaster University in terms of its passion to work with African organizations and institutions for sustainable development.

**This new partnership, does it have the blessing of the Nigerian Government?** Yes, this has the blessing of the Nigerian government, as was shown by the enthusiasm of the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Environment, who led the delegation to Lancaster.

**Are there other related benefits that this partnership can bring to Ogoni in the future?**

The other related benefit, which for us is very critical besides the remediation of contaminated sites in Ogoniland and the empowerment of the CEER, is the direct benefit to young people. The CEER shall roll out a series of youth development and capacity-building programmes that are targeted at career

enhancement and employability. This will contribute to bridging social gaps by reducing unemployment and unemployability across Nigeria.

We believe that the young people of Ogoni are the future of the region, and so being strategic in their development would have a perennial impact on the prosperity of the region. We wish to use the HYPREP CEER to set a legacy for sustained growth and economic development drive through SME development and enhancement, with a focus on youth and women.

**When is this partnership expected to take effect?**

The partnerships are already in motion, and we have established a committee actively working on developing a strategic engagement framework and work plan. These plans and the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will undergo approval processes at various levels. We are fully committed and ready to take swift action to initiate the positive changes we aim to bring about in Ogoniland and the Niger Delta.

**Are there similar partnerships in the offing for HYPREP?**

Indeed, yes. Apart from our primary focus on the systematic clean-up of Ogoniland, HYPREP is also deeply committed to creating a lasting knowledge and capacity enhancement legacy. While we are actively engaged in ongoing discussions to drive positive change in the Niger Delta region, we are mindful of our role as a catalyst for broader transformation in West Africa and across the continent. Consequently, we are currently in the process of exploring strategic partnerships with other centers of excellence in Africa and beyond. This strategic alignment enhances our global visibility. This global perspective is especially crucial in today's interconnected world.

**Thank you, Prof for your time.**

Thank you, Kpoobari.

# TRADITIONAL INSTITUTION, KEY TO THE SUCCESSFUL EXECUTION OF HYPREP PROJECTS – Prof. Zabbey

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has identified the traditional institution as critical stakeholders in the successful execution of the environmental clean-up of Ogoniland and other emergency measures recommended by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on Ogoniland.

Professor Zabbey stated this during a visit to Kings of Eleme and Bangha Kingdoms, Their Majesties King (Dr.) Philip Obele and King (Dr.) Suanu T.Y. Baridam respectively at their palaces as part of his familiarization visit to Ogoni Monarchs. While commending the Ogoni monarchs for creating a congenial atmosphere for HYPREP activities in their domain, Professor Zabbey noted that such gestures demonstrate their commitment to helping the Project succeed in its mandate to the Ogoni people.

“This visit is to thank you for keeping the peace and creating the enabling environment for the Project to operate seamlessly in Ogoniland. The Project is a community project that must be driven and sustained by the communities. This is why we are seeking your supports. We will continue to welcome interventions from you to ensure that the Project is participatory and beneficial to our people.”

He briefed the monarchs on the various projects HYPREP is currently carrying out across Ogoniland, among which is the training of 50 youths and women in Bomu and other shoreline communities in Ogoniland. He stressed that with the training, HYPREP will leave behind a legacy of science and art of mangrove nursery, adding that the training will enhance direct economic benefits for communities where the shoreline remediation works are ongoing. He noted that with the shoreline cleanup and mangrove restoration, HYPREP



**Prof. Zabbey at the Palace of Eleme King, HRM Obele**

will be contributing significantly to mitigating climate change, considering the contributions of mangrove to air quality and the ecosystem.

Prof. Zabbey also mentioned that HYPREP is strengthening Health facilities in the General Hospitals in Gokana, Khana and Eleme Local Government Areas in the areas of laboratory equipment, theatre and radiology equipment, and ward furnishings.

In their separate responses, the monarchs assured the Project Coordinator of their continuous support for HYPREP. HRM King (Dr.) Suanu T.Y. Baridam, noted that, that traditional rulers' support for the Project is the 'only way it can achieve its aim' adding that HYPREP has done well with the conceptualization and execution of the Ogoni Power Project and the Ogoni Specialist Hospital. King Baridam, while stating that the Ogoni people have high expectations that the Project Coordinator will deliver on the Project's mandate, appealed that the HYPREP Water Scheme be extended to Nyo-Khana in Khana Local Government Area.

He further reminded the Project Coordinator that the Bangha Community has donated land to

HYPREP for agricultural purposes. Dr Baridam, while urging traditional rulers of communities playing host to HYPREP projects to foster a congenial atmosphere for a smooth project execution, cautioned that communities that mount unnecessary pressure and demands on contractors may risk losing the project to other accommodating communities.

On his part, HRM King Philip Obele charged the Project Coordinator to seize the opportunities provided by the cleanup programme to do what is best for Ogoniland and offered prayers and blessings for him to succeed in the implementation of the mandate of HYPREP.

Responding to the land donated to HYPREP, Professor Zabbey stated that progress is being made to improve on agriculture as talks are on with the African Development Bank to set up an agro-processing Zone in Ogoniland.

The Project Coordinator's visit is part of his deliberate effort to continue to bring critical stakeholders up to speed with HYPREP's activities and constantly seek their buy-in and support, having identified the critical role they play towards creating a conducive atmosphere for the Project.



# Facts About HYPREP

## SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. Proceeding of meetings of the board of trustees

(1) The Board of Trustees shall have the power to regulate their proceedings and make standing orders with respect to the holding of their meetings, notices to be given, the keeping of minutes of their proceedings, the custody and production for inspection of such minutes and such other matters as the Board of Trustees may, From time to time, determine.

(2) There shall be 2 ordinary meetings of the Board of Trustees in every calendar year and subject thereto, if the Chairperson is requested to do so by notice given to the Chairperson by not less than 6 other members, the Chairman shall convene a meeting of the Board of Trustees to be held within 14 days from the date on which the notice was given.

(3) Every meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be presided over by the Chairperson.

(4) The quorum of any meeting of the Board of Trustees shall consist of the Chairperson and six members representing different interests in the Trust Fund.

(5) The Board of Trustees shall meet for the conduct of its business at such places in Nigeria and on such days as the Chairperson may appoint.

(6) A question put before the Board of Trustees at a meeting shall be decided by consensus and where this is not possible, by majority of the votes of

the members

Present and voting provided such majority include at least 2 Trustees (including NNPC) representation a Participating entity. The Chairman shall not have a casting vote except in the case of a tie vote.

(7) Where the Board of Trustees seeks the advice of any person on a particular matter, the Board of Trustees may invite that person to attend its meetings for such period as it thinks fit, but a person who is invited by virtue of this paragraph 27 shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Board of Trustees and shall not count towards the quorum.

(8) The Board of Trustees shall bear the cost of any person invited to its meeting

Pursuant to sub-paragraph (7) of this paragraph.

(9) The validity of any proceedings of

the Board of Trustees shall not be affected by—

- a. any vacancy in the membership of the Board of Trustees; or
- b. reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings; or
- c. any defect in the appointment of a member.

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

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



**CEER Building under Construction**



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

# HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Management and Staff of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) heartily felicitate with the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR), and the Nigerian people on the auspicious occasion of the celebration of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Independence Anniversary of Nigeria.

We join well-meaning individuals and organizations to wish Nigeria a prosperous national life under the renewed hope agenda of the present administration.

Happy 63<sup>rd</sup> Independence Anniversary, Nigeria!

Signed, Management



# SAFETY TIPS

## STAYING SAFE DURING

# THUNDERSTORM



### 1. UNPLUG YOUR COMPUTER

You will do yourself and your appliances good if you unplug them from source of power. There is the possibility of electrical surge during thunderstorms and that can cause damage to your gadgets.



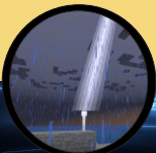
### 2. KEEP OFF DOING THE DISHES/LAUNDRY

The faucets and pipes in your kitchen are good conductors of electricity and lightning can travel through them to electrocute you. It is wise to put off doing the dishes until the storm is over. Avoid using your washing machine during thunderstorm to prevent the risk of electrocution. The power source can ignite fire as a result of thunder strike.



### 3. AVOID USE OF LANDLINE TELEPHONE

Lightning can travel through phone lines and possibly electrocute you. It is therefore advisable not to make calls using landlines during a thunderstorm.



### 4. AVOID AN OPEN SPACE

Standing in the open during a thunderstorm could be dangerous as you are overtly exposed to thunder strike. The proper thing to do in the event you are caught in an open space during thunderstorm is to stoop low until the storm is over.

# SAFETY TIPS

## STAYING SAFE DURING

# THUNDERSTORM



### 5. DO NOT STAY UNDER A TREE

Standing under a tree especially the palm in a thunderstorm is extremely dangerous. Trees are likely to attract lightning as it makes its way to the ground. A human being conducts electricity better than trees do and there is the likelihood of the lightning veering off the tree to strike you.



### 6. KEEP A DISTANCE FROM WINDOWS

Most window frames are made of metals that conduct electricity and so capable of attracting lightning. It would be safer to keep away from windows that have metals in them during a thunderstorm to avoid being hurt.



### 7. SITTING OR LEANING ON RAILS

Some houses have their porches protected by rails and that can pose real danger to inhabitants during thunderstorm. Lightning can electrocute anyone sitting or leaning on them during thunder strikes. The best thing to do is to go indoors at such times to avoid been struck by thunder.



### 8. AVOID A BATH UNDER SHOWERS

Do not take a bath or shower during a thunderstorm. Lightning can transmit electrical currents through the pipes in your home and thus putting you at risk of electrocution.



# PICTURES OF THE MONTH





# PICTURES OF THE MONTH



L-R: HRM Suanu Baridam, Prof. Nenibari Zabbey



HRM Baridam and Prof. Zabbey with Staff of HYPREP



Prof. Zabbey Inspects Work at CEER Site



Prof. Zabbey at the Palace of HRM Philip Obele



Cross Section of Staff at Workshop on FOI Act



Cross Section of Staff at Workshop on FOI Act



Staff Pose in a Group Photograph at the End of FOI Act Workshop



Cross Section of Contractors at a Project Review Meeting



# **Shun Illegal Oil Refining**

**It Destroys Your Life And That of Others**



Photo:HYPREP



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## THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE

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**“You wouldn't think you could kill an ocean, would you? But we'll do it one day. That's how negligent we are.” -**

**- Ian Rankin**

**Remediated Land**

**Photo:HYPREP**

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

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