



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

HYPREP HERALD

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5,000 OGONIS BEGIN LIVELIHOOD TRAININGS



A SEGMENT OF THE TRAINEES WITH PROF. ZABBEY

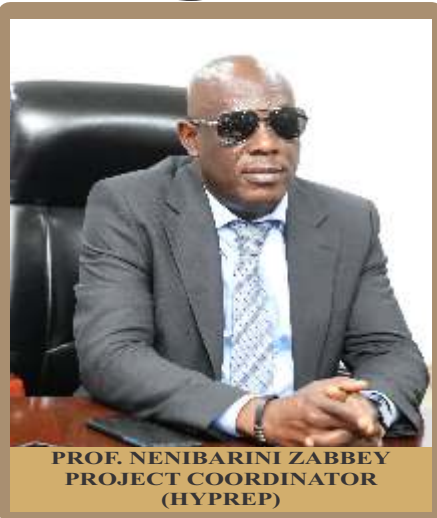
HYPREP PROMISES WELL-COORDINATED MANGROVE RESTORATION IN OGONI

LAWAL PRESIDES OVER JOINT GC/BOT MEETING

HYPREP TRAINS TECHNICIANS FOR OGONI POWER PROJECT

**HYPREP
HERALD
NOT
TO BE
SOLD**

THE PC'S DESK



One of the objectives of HYPREP is to restore livelihoods in Ogoniland. We are committed to creating alternative livelihood opportunities through well-structured capacity building, which will complement the restoration of traditional livelihoods as an outcome of the land and wetland remediation we undertake. The week of 9th October was dedicated to the induction of 5,000 Ogoni youths and women selected to be trained by 38 consultants in different skill sets. The trainees were divided into batches for the pre-training induction for administrative convenience. On Wednesday, 11 October 2023, I personally conducted the induction session. Earlier in the day, I was in Bomu to hand over a certificate of participation to 90 mangrove vanguards, women, and youths that we had trained in mangrove restoration and supported with grants to enable them to set up mangrove nurseries. I was encouraged by the enthusiasm of the mangrove vanguards. I visited a few of their nurseries on the landward tidal flats at Bomu Creek. Caressing the surfaces of the mangrove seedlings with exquisite beauty and viewing the extensive spread of the mangrove nurseries made the creek visit quite fulfilling. It reassures me of achieving sustainable, community-led, and ecologically sound mangrove

rehabilitation in Ogoniland. Thus, I arrived in superlative high spirits at the Khana Local Government Council Hall in Bori, the livelihood skills training induction venue.

We had a robust orientation exercise with the enthused youths, which further amplified my confidence that we shall celebrate Ogoniland's bountiful harvest of skilled service providers. The 38 training skill areas include website designing and development, digital marketing and mobile app development, argon welding/metal fabrication, data analytics, crane operations/loader, industrial firefighting, CCTV/solar installation, photography and video, onshore and offshore skill sets, etc. We have creatively designed a fit-for-purpose supervision plan that we have deployed to monitor the 38 training programmes going on concurrently. All the trainees have a unique identifier code number to manage potential risks in the form of malpractice or swapping of slots. We will continue visiting the training centers to interact with beneficiaries to get feedback on the effectiveness of the training and ensure value for money.

Not long ago, we trained sixty (60) small and medium-scale community-based business owners from Ogoni's four Local Government Areas (Elemo, Tai, Gokana, Khana). Upon completing the training, we empowered the trainees with a grant of three hundred thousand naira (N300,000) each to boost their businesses. The Business Intervention Support Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) is a deliberate initiative of the Project to facilitate the development of SMEs in Ogoniland towards a profitable business culture among the locals, which will alleviate widespread poverty in the area.

Our various remediation sites, construction of potable water facilities, and special projects (namely, the Ogoni Power Project, Ogoni Specialist Hospital, and the Centre of Excellence of Environmental Restoration) provide substantial direct employment in the region. For example, 1,219 community workers have been trained in remediation and currently work at the 39 remediation lots, while over 2000

community members are medically and swim-tested to be trained in IMO 1 and 2 to work at our 34-shoreline clean-up sites and 9 mangrove planting lots.

We have recruited and deployed 500 Environment Vanguards to surveil HYPREP sites and facilities.

Previously, HYPREP had rolled out various sustainable livelihood programmes. These include 400 women trained in 2020 by UNITAR in agribusiness at Songhai farms in aquaculture, poultry, cropping, and food processing. Similarly, fifteen Ogoni youths were trained in the fabrication of cassava processing machines at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Onne.

In conclusion, we want to see a new generation of youths and women who will build enduring businesses and careers that will turn around the economic fortunes of their communities. That is the goal and the passion that drives us on this journey to mainstream sustainable livelihood in Ogoniland.

POETRY CORNER

RIGHT OR WRONG?

By: Hugo-Victor Barine

If I'm wrong and you are right
For taking my rights, you've wronged my rights

You said my rights were wrong
Then why write my wrongs

With your right
And not left?

If you wrong my rights
And left me wronged

Then write my wrongs rightly
And right my wrongs

Is it right or wrong?
To fight for my rights.

The rights of my environment
And her dying species?

In this Issue

In last month's issue of the HYPREP Herald, we continued with the showcasing of the deliverables of the Ogoni clean-up project and thus presented to you the foundation works on the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration which is a key recommendation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on the environmental assessment of Ogoniland submitted to the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2011.

In this November 2023 issue of the Herald, we lead with the progress report of another key recommendation of the UNEP report - the training of Ogoni youths and women in alternative livelihood skills. The big story on our cover page is the call-up and orientation exercise for five thousand Ogoni youths and women who had chosen from the thirty-eight-skill set available for training. The six-day orientation programme which was held at the Khana Local Government Secretariat, Bori was another eloquent testimony of HYPREP that the project is keen on implementing the UNEP report for the good of the Ogoni people.

The orientation programme was preceded by a kick-off meeting of HYPREP and the consultants engaged to train the five thousand persons. It was a desideratum to properly guide the direction and output of the training to give the trainees the best there is for them.

The Project, that is, HYPREP, now has a supervisory Minister in the person of Mallam Balarabe Lawal who is the substantive Minister of Environment. Lawal had promptly held a meeting with members of the Governing Council and the Board of Trustees of HYPREP. The Minister had hit the ground running when on assumption of office he immediately met with managers of the project to get the status report to make him well

oriented with the Ogoni clean-up project.

One of the challenges of the project is the barrage of petitions and litigations that come to the Project Coordination Office daily. It is with the view of addressing the grievances of stakeholders especially the Ogoni community so that they do not get in the way of the success of the project, that the Management of the project had to organize a training in Alternative Dispute Resolution for the Zonal Representative Committee (ZRC) the arm of HYPREP that is saddled with the responsibility of resolving disputes between HYPREP and aggrieved parties at the community level. The training was followed by a retreat for both the ZRC and the Central Representative Advisory Committee (CRAC) of HYPREP. CRAC plays similar role as ZRC at a higher level.

The programmes and activities of HYPREP continue to gain momentum by the day. It recently opened bids for consultancy and non-consultancy goods and services to strengthen its operations. The bids were for twelve goods and services that will ultimately culminate in the awards of contracts to the successful bidders.

The Ogoni Power Project is on course and the consultant has commenced the training of technicians who will assist in the construction and installation of components of the project. It is a deliberate effort to empower the locals financially and skill wise.

The mangrove restoration programme of the project has advanced to the point

where the local drivers are trained ready to start up their nurseries and the stage set for the contractors to commence work. The locals who were trained in the skills of nursing and planting have completed their trainings and commissioned to nurse mangrove seedlings that will feed the restoration project. The pilot is starting in Bomu creeks – a community in Gokana Local Government Area and thereafter extend to other shoreline communities of Ogoni.

The Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey was a keynote speaker at this year's United Nations International Peace Day, held at the University of Port Harcourt. His presentation was on "Action for Peace, Gender and Sustainable Clean Environment." He emphasized that HYPREP as a project was already living in consonance with the doctrine of gender balance in participation in the Ogoni clean-up project.

We have sourced a poem that will engage your thought on the rights of the environment, composed by an upcoming writer, Hugo-Victor Barine. The other segment of safety tips is maintained for your protection from hazards at home and in the office.

We recommend that you find time to read through this issue to get relevant information on the Ogoni clean-up project and would be glad to get your feedback on ways to serve you better. The implementation of the UNEP Report on Ogoniland keeps advancing by the day and we enjoin you to lend a hand!

Editorial Crew

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Project News

5,000 OGONIS BEGIN LIVELIHOOD TRAININGS

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has commenced the training of five thousand Ogoni people under its alternative livelihood programme whose sources of income were impacted by oil pollution.

The training of the five thousand youths took off with an orientation programme which was held in batches at the Khana Local Government Secretariat, Bori and lasted for six days.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey who addressed the trainees commended the youths on their patience with HYPREP while the processes and arrangements were being made for the programme to take off and urged them to see their selection for the training as an opportunity to better their lots.

“Great Ogoni youths, I am very happy this afternoon for coming here to

conduct this skill acquisition induction. As you are quite aware, this is a process that started months ago so I salute your resilience, your patience, your interest. I believe that with your determination, you are on this project. Apart from environmental restoration, one key mandate of HYPREP is to restore livelihoods in Ogoni. So, this particular set of livelihood training is going to empower a critical mass of the Ogoni youth. Of course, the current estimate is that the population of Ogoni is about 1.5 million and we know that youths constitute the greatest majority so if you look at that 1.5 million, the youth will constitute almost two-third of the population, if not half so for you to have been selected to be part of this programme is a thing of luck. It's also a thing of providence. Providence because there are others like you that would have liked to participate in the training, but they were not selected.”

Professor Zabbey however enjoined the other youths who applied but did not get the chance not to be discouraged as there are opportunities in remediation, shoreline clean-up and mangrove revegetation and the other mega projects where civil constructions are going on and they stand the chance of being engaged in these areas.

“However, there are other programmes going on concurrently in Ogoni. We are building the Center of Excellence, we are building the Ogoni Specialist Hospital, we are also building the Buan Cottage Hospital. There are also other projects on remediation going on. We have the remediation, and shoreline cleanup, these are projects that engage youths and women in Ogoniland. So, everybody will not do the same thing at the same time. The essence of training you in different skill sets is to empower you to become



Cross Section of Trainees at the Orientation Exercise

entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs are those that say no to failure. Those that say no to failures are entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs create jobs.”

He advised them to be serious with their trainings as it is an opportunity of a lifetime that is capable of transforming them into entrepreneurs and agents of positive change in their respective communities, adding that HYPREP will constantly track their performance to see that they are not derailing.

“You need to take this opportunity seriously, participate actively in the training process. Pay keen attention to the training, ask questions, and participate in practicals because some of the trainings require hands-on. You have to do it and you learn how to do it as you are doing it so you need to take it seriously, learn it and become master of that skill area so that apart from those of you that will be gainfully employed after the training, some of you will be able to set up enterprises, businesses around what you have been trained in to create jobs for members of various communities in Ogoniland. Of course, we are not just sending out the training, we will track the training, and we will also ensure that quality training is provided by the contractors. We have held kickoff meeting with the consultants that will train you so we will follow up because we want value for money. We will ensure that you are given quality training and at the end of the training. We will also follow up with what you are able to do with the training because this training, we want to receive testimony from you about what you were able to do with the training. We are sowing the seed of economic rejuvenation in Ogoni, and you have been selected to be the champion, to be the advocate, to be the practitioners so on that note I want to congratulate you and urge you to take this training seriously.”

The Head, Sustainable Livelihood Unit of HYPREP, Mrs. Josephine Nzidee in her remarks clarified that the livelihood programme is not a scam as some had presumed and enjoined the

trainees to always conduct themselves peacefully to get the best out of their trainings.

“I heard one of the youths say yesterday, " if I had known I would have taken offshore and onshore, I thought this thing was a scam." Today we have seen that HYPREP does not engage in scamming any Ogoni persons. We are here to support Ogoni to grow economically and otherwise. So please when you get to your different training facilities, abide by the rules and regulations of that facility. If you have any challenge with your trainer, don't engage the trainer, don't trouble them, don't destroy things in the facility, please get back to HYPREP. I will engage the trainer and ensure that we sort out whatever concerns that you are having. I also want us to note that, every training does not have the same duration. We have different duration for the different trainings that we will be undertaking, please note that. Don't say, 'my friend, my sister or my village person is going for 6 months so why is my own 4 months.' It depends on the

...HYPREP IN KICK-OFF MEETING WITH TRAINERS

And before the orientation exercise for the five thousand beneficiaries of the HYPREP Sustainable Livelihood Programme, the Management of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), has held a kickoff meeting with the consultants engaged to carry out the training.

The screening of beneficiaries of the training was concluded in the first quarter of 2023 awaiting mobilization of contractors.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey who declared the kick-off meeting open, urged the contractors to deliver quality trainings that will enhance the economic fortunes of beneficiaries as well as transform Ogoni into an economic hub.

“There are 38 consultants that have been awarded contracts to train Ogoni youths and women in different skill areas and of course, we have

skills that you will be engaging in.”

Secretary to the Khana Local Government Council, Pastor Israel Yeekpa who represented the Chairman of the Council, Dr. Bariere Thomas thanked the Management of HYPREP for making the training a reality and assured participants that the Council was working to ensure their safety and security all through the duration of the orientation programme. He however urged the consultants handling the training to address all grey areas observed and advised the trainees to give the training their best shot.

Earlier the Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey had visited Bomu where he presented certificates to the trainees in mangrove nursing and vegetation and later embarked on a field trip to the Bomu water fronts to monitor the mangrove seedlings that the locals had nursed.

The locals appealed to the Project Coordinator to prevail on mangrove revegetation contractors to consider buying their seedlings first before looking outside the community after their stock is exhausted.

mobilized too and so this meeting is to ask you to start the trainings. So, all the trainings will empower a critical mass of Ogoni youth and women to acquire sellable skills that will transform Ogoni to a skill hub and an economic hub in this region. We expect you to provide fit for purpose training and not just training them and leaving them, but embedding the system of tracking to see if your training has created a leader impact in the region. Of course, this is not a stand-alone training scheme so in addition to the 5000 youth and women, that the 38 consultants will train, we have also done other trainings in Ogoni.”

“So, we expect you to deliver quality training. We expect you to deliver your training on time. We expect you to ensure that your training is fit for purpose so that in no distant time, all the people you have trained, the youths and women, will begin to

stimulate the economy of Ogoni.” Professor Zabbey appealed to the contractors to do all within their powers and the terms of the contract to impact the local economy in the course of the training.

“There are some of these trainings that can take place in Ogoni, not all the trainings will be done in Port Harcourt or elsewhere. Most of the trainings will take place in Ogoni and the essence is, we want to reduce the risk of traveling on the bad road to Port Harcourt. That's one. Number two, we also want to use the trainings to achieve multiple benefit for the people. So apart from the skills we are helping them to acquire, the trainings will also help to stimulate the local economy. So, we encourage some of the trainings to take place in Ogoniland and we wish you a very successful training in the process and of course, our staff will also follow up. We will not just leave you out there in the field, we will be with you to check if you are providing the necessary training that will enable us to achieve our desired objective.”

Director, Technical Services, HYPREP, Professor Philip Shekwolo in his remarks expressed the hope that apart from the economic benefits the training will bring to Ogoni, it will also reduce crime and consequently create a safe and peaceful environment for residents which is one of the objectives for setting up HYPREP.

“This is a very important part of the HYPREP project in Ogoniland to improve livelihood for the youths so that we can reduce criminality and reduce issues and problems in society. This is a good start, and it is going to continue and if we can look at how we started in 2017, there have been increasing number of youths that are being trained in our



Contractors at the kickoff Meeting

various project execution and this is adding up. I believe that we can begin to measure the success, and to see the impact it has on the society.”

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - the body that conducted the environmental assessment of Ogoniland between 2009 and 2011 and recommended a sustainable livelihood training for Ogoni youths, is pleased that one of its key recommendations is being implemented.

Senior Technical Advisor to UNEP, Professor Barineme Fakaie who represented the UN body at the event urged the trainees and their trainers to go about the training with the goal of making Ogoni better.

“UNEP is particularly happy to be involved in what is going on now. UNEP made recommendations and we are like those who were waiting for the birth of Jesus Christ and remember the lady that said, 'today, our dreams are fulfilled.' I congratulate the Management of HYPREP for moving to this point. For those taking part in the training, accepting to be part of this process is accepting to be part of the restoration process in Ogoni land and I

think it's very serious. The things that HYPREP was set up to do, are being put into your hands, so that by tomorrow when you finish, we will say we have accomplished something. The Project Coordinator said something very important, and he said it is not only to train but to track and so it's all about success. We are expecting that when you finish, we are going to have a better Ogoni tomorrow, and, the United Nations will be very, very fulfilled. The recommendations were made, they are being implemented, and there is success.”

The livelihood training programme is one project of HYPREP that the funders are keen on seeing it succeed to create a sustainable alternative means of income for individuals that their sources of livelihood have been impacted by oil exploration activities.

The representative of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) in HYPREP, Engr. Ekiyokenegha Clark gave an insight into the expectation of the international oil company as regards the operations of HYPREP.

“For us, as the SPDC JV, our expectations are very simple, I would expect that you will mobilize for this

training activity as quickly as possible. So, early mobilization is key, and the Project Coordinator talked about location where your training facility should be. I know you went through a very vigorous process of selection, in which HYPREP inspected your facilities and all. Yes, there's allowance for changes and the rest, but it's important that wherever you locate your training facilities, it should be accessible. It should not be hidden. It should be where it can be easily located. At least these days, we use Google Map. If we use Google Map to trace where your location is, we should be able to pinpoint it very easily and that facility should be safe, should be secured at all times and please, it is not good style to start a training in one facility and finish it in another.”

Clark advised the trainers to tailor their content to the delivery of skills that are relevant to the human capital development of the beneficiaries and the larger society.

“I know in the contract you have agreed a duration, but please don't take more time than you should. Whatever has been agreed with HYPREP in your

contract, please stick to it and do your training within that time. I know one of the things expressed is about fit for purpose training and impactful training that will change the story because you are going to be ambassadors of HYPREP. You are going to change Ogoniland for good and you know, once you can teach and change the perspective of somebody by bringing in useful knowledge, you know, definitely the whole community will change. So, our expectation is that your content should be delivered in a simple manner. It should be very easy to understand. It should be relevant, it should be enriching so that at the end of it, even the people you have trained, they can teach other people simple skills from what they have learned from you.”

He further charged them to be patient and professional in dealing with the trainees all through the period of the training so as to achieve the purpose of the livelihood programme in Ogoniland.

“My expectation in terms of your approach is that your facilitators will be professional, they will be empathetic, they will be helpful, they

should provide very good insights, and in giving that insight, they should be fair because you are going to meet people. Yes, there were selection criteria, minimum requirement, and all that. But you are going to meet people from different background, different origins, so please be fair as you try to teach them. A lot of times they say, it is difficult to teach an old dog new tricks, but please, if you are patient, if you are engaging, if you are collaborative, you will do well. So please help us to help everybody and bring peace, knowledge to Ogoniland so that at least at the end of this whole exercise, all HYPREP stakeholders will have a new footing into Ogoniland.”

Some areas of interest indicated by the beneficiaries are, Data Analytics, Crane Operations/Loader, Website Designing and Development, Digital Marketing and Mobile App Development, Argon Welding/Metal Fabrication, etc. The training for the five thousand Ogoni people is besides the four hundred youths being screened for training in the four skill areas of seafaring, mechatronics, aviation, and creative arts.



Cross Section of Trainees at the Orientation Exercise

LAWAL PRESIDES OVER JOINT GC/BOT MEETING

The newly sworn-in Honourable Minister of Environment, Mallam Balarabe Lawal has expressed his delight to work with members of the Governing Council and the Board of Trustees of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) to achieving the mandate of the Project which is the remediation of oil impacted sites in Ogoniland and the restoration of livelihoods of affected communities.

Lawal gave the indication at the joint meeting of the Governing Council and Board of Trustees of HYPREP held in Abuja to brief the Honourable Minister and the Honourable Minister of State, Environment, Dr Ishaq Salako on the status of the Ogoni clean-up project under the Federal Ministry of Environment.

He noted the various comments and suggestions put forward by members of Council and the Board and promised to study them and revert to Council on the way forward for the project probably at a retreat for both arms to be convened on a later date.

The Federal Ministry of Environment plays supervisory role over the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP).

Balarabe Lawal is from Kaduna State



Lawal

and took oath of office recently as a member of the Federal Executive Council alongside two other Ministers, Jamila Bio Ibrahim and Ayodele Olawande. Ibrahim is the Minister of Youth Development while Olawande is the Minister of State for Youth Development.

Lawal had served as Secretary to the Government of Kaduna State under former Governor Nasir El-Rufai who was earlier nominated by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for the position of Minister, but his nomination was

turned down by the Senate.

With his appointment and subsequent swearing-in, Lawal now serves as the Chairman of the Governing Council of HYPREP – the arm that is saddled with the responsibility of policy formulation for the project.

His presiding over the joint meeting of the Governing Council and the Board of Trustees of HYPREP was the first official function after his swearing-in as the Honourable Minister of Environment.

EXPLORE DIALOGUE WITH HYPREP OVER LITIGATION, PROF. ZABBEY TELLS OGONI PEOPLE

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has called on the people of Ogoni to embrace the clean-up project, shun violence and litigations to enjoy the economic benefits that come with the project.

Professor Zabbey made the call in Port Harcourt at an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) training organized for members of the Zonal Representative Committee (ZRC) of HYPREP.

The Project Coordinator in his

remarks enjoined members of the ZRC to foster peaceful co-existence and increase community awareness of HYPREP's programmes and activities through mass sensitization. He said apart from remediating the environment and restoring the livelihoods of the people, HYPREP will also support and create a conducive environment for businesses to thrive which will ensure that opportunities for economic prosperity in Ogoni communities triple at the end of the clean-up programme.

Professor Zabbey said that the

mandate of HYPREP will be achieved if the people are well informed of its programmes and the onus of ensuring that interface between the community and HYPREP lies on members of the ZRC to educate the people about the programmes of HYPREP.

“A lot has happened in our communities. Some responses we get from community members is about mischief, but there are genuine persons that might not be aware of what we are doing and our procedures. It is important that we leverage the opportunity. We must inform our



ZRC Members with Prof. Zabbey at the End of the ADR Training

people adequately, sensitize them about the work of HYPREP. Our people are losing a whole lot of money through litigation.”

Speaking on the importance of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) training for members of the ZRC, he said that it will help them resolve dispute(s) that may arise from the activities of HYPREP in the communities, uncover and resolve the underlying issues, and thereby achieving a positive change. He added that as critical organ of the project, it became imperative to re-enforce their

conventional knowledge of mediation because some knowledge that has been useful in the past may not be useful today.

“The training is not just going to enhance your capacity to resolve issues in the community for HYPREP project alone, it is going to transcend beyond HYPREP and help in stabilizing the Ogoni communities. It is also going to help us achieve one of the mandates of HYPREP which is to promote peace and ensure there is security.”

Speaking on behalf of members of the

ZRC, the Gbenemene Ken Khana Kingdom, HRM Barile Deebom, appreciated the Management of HYPREP for organizing the training noting that it has impacted positively on their lives and aided their understanding of their functions as pertaining to HYPREP and reiterated the support of members of the ZRC and the Ogoni people for the project.

The three-day training in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) was facilitated by Dr. Gbenemene Kpae of the Centre for Peace and Security Studies, University of Port Harcourt.

HYPREP BOOSTS CRAC/ZRC CAPACITY IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION

In making sure that its conflict resolution arms, that is, the Central Representative Advisory Committee (CRAC) and the Zonal Representative Committee (ZRC) are in good shape to carry out their duties, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has organized a retreat for them to enhance their capacity to perform and serve as an intermediary between HYPREP and the Ogoni community.

The three-day retreat which was held in Port Harcourt had in attendance the Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of HYPREP, Dr. Mike Nwielaghi, representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), and members of the CRAC and ZRC.

At the opening of the retreat, the

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey acknowledged the efforts CRAC and ZRC have put in over the period in ensuring that HYPREP has smooth entry and operations in Ogoniland.

“Over the years, the CRAC and ZRC have worked tirelessly to enhance community collaborations and connections on the project. You have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to peacebuilding and community



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey; BoT Chairman, Dr. Nwielaghi; CRAC/ZRC Members and Other Stakeholders at the 3 Day Retreat

participation in our areas of operation. May I use this opportunity and platform to thank you immensely and encourage you to remain focused on getting these favorable outcomes.”

Professor Zabbey however regretted that the challenges keep mounting but expressed the hope that HYPREP will surmount them and have a hitch free operation in Ogoniland.

“It is sobering, indeed, that despite the intervention of the committees, the project continues to face various challenges, including community expectations, insecurity, artisanal refining, community boundary disputes, land ownership, chieftaincy tussles, court cases, and many more, which have led, in some cases, to delays in project execution. Nevertheless, the PCO has ensured, through the efforts of CRAC, ZRC, and our partners, that matters are resolved for project activities to proceed. We continue to reach out to communities through sensitization programmes, town hall meetings, interactive sessions, and dispute resolution engagements. Here, we have amongst us people who have

deployed their expertise, social capital, goodwill, and reach in the interest of the project.”

The retreat with the theme, 'Ogoni Oil Spill Clean-up Project: Enhancing Community Collaborations and Connections for the Common Good' is set out to refresh participants in the art of alternative dispute resolution and further acquaint them with new trends in peace building which is one of the cardinal goals of HYPREP for Ogoniland.

“The issue that is central to this retreat is: how do we establish mechanisms for alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in order to address current challenges? While at this retreat, we shall be required to evaluate our strategy of performance delivery and review our process mechanisms in order to accelerate the impacts of our work in Ogoni communities. We will draw on your experience so far as members of CRAC and ZRC. We may not be able to address this issue exhaustively in one session, but we can make a start as we share experiences and lessons learned from participants. One of the biggest

lessons we have learned is that there is no magic formula or one-size-fits-all solution when it comes to addressing disputes and community-related challenges in our areas of operations. Indeed, our efforts are still work in progress, and we should continue to learn from both our successes and mistakes and improve upon our strategies. In sharing your experiences, be mindful that this is only a modest contribution to the collective goal of turning the tide and redeeming lost time for optimal delivery of targets. That target is primarily to ensure that there is peace, cooperation, and ownership of the project at the community level. Therefore, I enjoin you, while at this retreat, to reflect, realign, and reposition yourselves for the greater task ahead.”

“I would like to add that peacebuilding is an important part of HYPREP mandate, and we are committed to it. Our experience has taught us that no challenge is insurmountable when people have the right attitude and commitment and are focused on the common good. We want to see



L-R: Engr. Ekiyokenegha Clark, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, Prof. Barineme Faka at CRAC/ZRC Retreat

increased collaboration between CRAC and ZRC in the discharge of their duties. Let us seize the opportunity of the CRAC and ZRC Special Retreat 2023 to continue to work as we seek appropriate and effective solutions.”

Chairman, Board of Trustees of HYPREP, Dr. Mike Nwielaghi encouraged Ogoni Communities to establish good relationship with the contractors by creating a conducive environment for them to operate for timely delivery of their contracts, adding that anything that would cause a breakdown of law and order should be avoided.

Dr. Nwielaghi called on the Ogoni people to close ranks and work together as a team to achieve desired goal which he said is the surest way to attract more developmental projects to the area.

The Spokesperson of CRAC, HRM King Dr. Suanu Baridam stressed the need for unity and cooperation with HYPREP Management and pledged the continuous support of CRAC for the Ogoni clean-up project.

“We are aware that this is an Ogoni project, and it is the duty of the Ogoni

people that are in this hall representing each of the various units to cooperate with the management of HYPREP, to ensure the reasons why HYPREP was formed is actualized but this can only be done through the cooperation of all of us. As traditional rulers and also as spokesperson of CRAC we have been trained in how to deal with the issue of conflicts, but we can only do this if we are properly informed when the conflict arises.”

Similarly, a member of the Zonal Representative Advisory Committee, HRH Benjamin Kii explained that beyond collaboration, the various arms of HYPREP and the Ogoni people need to pull their resources together to secure a brighter and better future.

“Collaboration is not just about working together; it is about leveraging our collective strengths to address common challenges and achieve shared goals. When we collaborate, we pool our resources, knowledge, and creativity to make positive impact. Thinking about this incredible project which HYPREP and the Federal Government have initiated for the Ogoni people, the

initiative that has been born from our collective efforts. These achievements are the result of collaboration in action, but collaboration goes beyond projects. It builds connection, trust, and a sense of belonging. It fosters empathy and understanding, helping us appreciate the diverse perspective within our community. So let us continue to come together just like HYPREP has done in the course of this retreat, share our ideas and work together for a brighter future. Together we can address the challenges that lie ahead and create a stronger, more resilient community.”

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) which was represented at the retreat by its Senior Technical Expert, Professor Barineme Faka recalled the rigorous task UNEP undertook in Ogoniland that gave birth to the report that HYPREP is now implementing and assured of UNEP sustained support for the success of the clean-up and other projects emanating from it.

“The contribution of UNEP to the restoration of Ogoni land is well known. UNEP conducted an independent assessment of the

environment and public health impacts of the oil contamination in Ogoniland in the Niger Delta and even gave options for remediation. This was after studies of collecting more than 4,000 samples from different sites up to 200 sites. The report is embodied in the well celebrated UNEP environmental assessment of Ogoniland report. The branch that actually came to do this, is the type of thing CRAC is doing, the Conflict and Disaster Branch and what CRAC was supposed to do is to be in the field to be managing conflict. UNEP is currently here now in the role to build the capacity and to mentor HYPREP to deliver on its mandate to implement the environmental restoration of Ogoniland with improved livelihoods. UNEP will appreciate anything including this particular training of CRAC and ZRC as provided in the Gazette, anything that will allow for a cleaner Ogoni tomorrow. So, I want to encourage all of us in CRAC and ZRC knowing that you are actually the Ogoni that anybody will see, because it is you who will ascertain whether the jobs that have been done have been done well. So, training like this that build your capacity will speak well for the whole programme of environmental restoration of Ogoniland.”

In the same vein the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), is committed to the attainment of the HYPREP mandate in Ogoniland through robust engagement and technical support. The company gave the assurance through its representative to HYPREP, Engr. Ekiyokenegha Clark who was at the retreat.

“As you know, Shell and SPDC have vested interest in Ogoni Cleanup, and SPDC continues to support the cleanup materially, intellectually, technically. So, it is our privilege to be a part of this retreat and also join everyone in sharing our expectation that at the end of this retreat we will have really competent, charged up CRAC and ZRC that will be able to resolve all the challenges in terms of



High Chief Nengi James Addressing Participants at the Retreat

conflicts and indeed bring a common good to Ogoniland.”

Resource persons at the event include Engr. Vincent Nnadi a retired Executive General Manager, Corporate Social Responsibility, Total E&P Nigeria Limited who was the key note speaker; Professor Sofri Joab-Peterside of the Department of Sociology, University of Port Harcourt who made presentation on 'Conflict Transformation and Relationship Management in the Communities; Professor Barigbon Nsereka of the Faculty of Mass Communications and Media Studies, Rivers State University who took participants through 'Communications and Expectations Management: A Critical Success Factor for Sustainable Peace-building on the Ogoni Clean-up Project'; and Professor Philip Shekwolo, Director Technical Services, HYPREP on 'HYPREP Project Execution and Community Engagement Strategy:

Philosophy, Process and Feedback for Sustainable Peace in Ogoniland.'

The retreat which was facilitated by Afrisource Innovation and Development Centre featured group discussions, question and answer sessions and fitness exercises.



HRM Samuel Nnee Addressing Participants at the Retreat

HYPREP OPENS BID FOR ADDITIONAL 12 PROJECTS

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has opened bids for the Pre-qualification of Contractors/Invitation for Tenders for Works, Goods and Expression of Interest (EoI) for Consultancy and Non-consultancy Services.

The bid opening took place at the Project Coordination Office in Port

Harcourt, the Rivers State capital. Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey, explained that the exercise was in line with the provisions of the Public Procurement Act, 2007 that projects of this nature must necessarily go through competitive bidding to get the best hands to handle such projects.

HYPREP TRAINS TECHNICIANS FOR Ogoni Power Project

Some of the projects include Pre-qualification for Construction of Windmill Powered Water Schemes, Pre-qualification for Construction of Water Scheme at K-Dere, Pre-qualification for Procurement and Installation of Solar Powered Systems at Phase 1 Water Project Schemes in Ogoniland, Pre-qualification for Procurement of Environmental Surveillance and Monitoring Equipment.

Others are Engagement of External Auditors, Engagement of Consultant for Accounting and Tax Matters, Socio-Economic Study of Ogoniland, Training for Specialized Skill (Seafaring), Training for Specialized Skill (Mechatronics), Training for Specialized Skill (Creative Arts), Training for skills on sustainable electricity distribution for the Ogoni Power Project and Provision of Cleaning Services for the Project Coordination Office.

Professor Zabbey while addressing the prospective contractors at the conference hall of the Project Coordination Office in Port Harcourt, said the public bid opening is in furtherance of HYPREP's commitment to transparency and due process.

“Thank you for expressing your interest. We assure you that HYPREP will conduct the necessary due diligence and the selection process will be fair and transparent. We urge you to keep faith in what we are doing.”

Professor Zabbey said the contracts would be awarded to the best qualified contractors at the end of the evaluation process.

The bid opening ceremony was witnessed by a senior technical advisor to UNEP, Prof. Barineme Fakae; a representative of the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), Engr. Ekiyokenegha Clark; members of Civil Society Organizations including the Environmental Rights Action (ERA), Salvage Africa Advancement Initiative and the Cornerstone Liberty and Love Foundation.

The first batch of one hundred technicians to provide support services on the Ogoni Power Project has completed their capacity training programme in preparation for deployment to the project.

The trainees who are mostly graduates of Ogoni origin who studied Electrical/Electronic Engineering or related field were trained in such areas as Transmission and Distribution Lines, Earthing System, Transformer Installation and Handling, Sub-station Construction, as well as Handling of Electrical Equipment, and Electrical Safety.

The weeklong training for the one hundred technicians was held at Sakpenwa the Headquarters of Tai Local Government Council and was conducted by Petro Extra Energy Services.

At the commencement of the training, the Managing Director, Petro Extra Energy Services, Engr. John Yorwika said his company had been engaged by HYPREP to carry out training of technicians with electrical skills that would enable them to participate in aspects of the Ogoni Power Project.

Petro Extra Energy Services is a certified member of the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN). Beneficiaries of the training are electricians, artisans, and graduates with Bachelors, Masters, and Ph.Ds in Electrical Engineering and related disciplines from Ogoni.

Engr. Yorwika urged the trainees to be serious with the training so as not to give anyone excuse to hire skilled and unskilled workers outside Ogoniland for the Ogoni Power Project. 'Make this training your own. Make this work your own, and we all will be happier for this project', Engr. Yorwika said, adding, that after the lectures, the practical field exercises would follow. Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey who graced the

closing ceremony explained that the Ogoni Power Project is a necessity if the other programmes of the project like provision of potable water and livelihood training were to succeed.

Professor Zabbey was represented at the event by the Head of Livelihoods, HYPREP, Mrs. Josephine Nzidee.

“HYPREP decided that if we are implementing and providing power to Ogoniland, we need the youths of Ogoniland to be part of that programme. So, we need to train them to have the skills, capacity and knowledge to be able to support the contractors that will be coming to the different Local Government Areas to set up power for the people of Ogoniland. Hence, you were selected for this training.”

She commended the trainees on their steadfastness throughout the training and for giving it their best shot which was reflected in the results of the examination that was set for them.

“When I came into this hall, I loved the energy because the way you were responding to the questions you were asked has shown HYPREP that the fund from the Federal Government of Nigeria that was used to train you was well utilized. I want to appreciate all of you for starting and completing the programme. This shows that we still have viable and good youths that are ready to learn. We needed to be sure that the youths we are sending into the fields to work and support the contractors that will be implementing this power project are in clear standing.”

Some of the trainees who spoke to the HYPREP Herald expressed their appreciation to the Management of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project for considering them for the training and stated that they are ready to put into practice the training they have been given as their way of contributing to the growth and development of Ogoniland.

Certificates were presented to participants who were drawn from

Eleme, Tai, Gokana and Khana Local Government Areas that make up Ogoniland.

Former President Muhammadu Buhari had in April 2023 flagged off the construction of the Ogoni Power Project which is to serve as a sustainability pack for the potable Water Schemes that HYPREP is constructing in Ogoniland and the other livelihood programmes of the Project. The Power Project is to also stimulate socio-economic development of Ogoniland. The other two mega projects flagged off on the same day by the former President were the Ogoni Specialist Hospital and the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration – a recommendation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in its 2011 report on the environmental assessment of Ogoniland.



Trained Technicians for the Ogoni Power Project

HYPREP INCREASES WOMEN'S STAKE IN PROJECT EXECUTION

In a renewed effort to engender equity and gender equality on its project sites, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has increased the stake of female community workers on its shoreline site to 40%. HYPREP is also developing guidelines and policies that will aid in addressing key gender issues on the project.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey made this known while delivering a keynote address on the “Action for Peace, Gender and Sustainable Clean Environment” in commemoration of the 2023 United Nations International Peace Day, held at the University of Port Harcourt.

According to Professor Zabbey, gender equality plays a crucial role in fostering sustainable peace in society and should therefore be prioritized in decision making. He said the Federal Government under the current administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR) through the Federal Ministry of Environment, and

HYPREP is at the forefront of efforts to ensure gender balance, peace building, and a clean environment for sustainable development in Ogoniland.

“Gender equality is not merely a matter of fairness; it is a fundamental prerequisite for a just and peaceful world. Women are powerful agents of change and pillars of strength in our communities. Hence, when women and girls are empowered and given equal opportunities, societies flourish. They play a critical role in conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping, and post-conflict reconstruction. Their involvement in decision-making processes leads to more sustainable and inclusive outcomes”, he stated.

He announced that recently, the stake of female community workers notably on the HYPREP shoreline remediation project in Ogoniland was increased to 40%, which means that Ogoni women are being given their true place as this significant

percentage of job opportunities is reserved for them.

Professor Zabbey said that women are often disproportionately affected by environmental degradation and climate change, yet they also hold valuable knowledge and skills that can contribute to sustainable solutions. He noted that in promoting gender equality, a more inclusive and diverse force to address environmental challenges which will result in more innovative and effective strategies would be put in motion.

Speaking on the importance of a clean environment, Professor Zabbey stated that a clean environment is not a luxury, but a fundamental human right, a cornerstone for healthy lives, thriving economies, and peaceful societies. He reiterated the primary mandate of HYPREP, which is to remediate hydrocarbon-impacted sites as well as restore livelihood in Ogoniland and enjoined everyone to prioritize environmental protection as a foundational pillar for sustainable

development.

He said that the Federal Government through HYPREP is determined to galvanize stakeholders, especially students, towards developing sustainable approaches for lasting peace, gender equality, and sustainable development in Ogoniland and added that without a clean and sustainable environment, aspirations for gender equality and peaceful co-existence would be elusive.

Professor Zabbey further stated that HYPREP as a project of the Federal Ministry of Environment has undertaken cross-cutting actions to engender peace, facilitate gender equality, and mainstream a clean and sustainable environment in its project area.

“HYPREP has in place structures to facilitate peace building at its operational level. At the basic level, we are actively involved in promoting dialogue and conflict resolution through local governance platforms in communities. We encourage peaceful dialogue and negotiation to resolve conflicts at the local levels. We are dedicated to supporting peace organizations and volunteers to raise awareness, and sensitize others on the consequences of conflict, and dedicated to peace building, conflict resolution, and reconciliation.”

He further stated that the project is providing support for women's empowerment, providing different forms of advocacy and programme towards enhancing women and other disadvantaged groups economically, socially, and politically.

On the issue of illegal refining, which is a major threat to the environment, Zabbey said: “HYPREP is leading a heightened campaign to reduce and where possible eliminate actions that exacerbate the already-damaged ecosystem. Firstly, we are particularly keen to end illegal crude oil refining, for the primary benefit of our public health, ecosystem, and social systems. We are aware of the social vices and attendant social misfits involved in the

illegal refining value chain. We are keen on remediating all oil polluted lands and returning same to communities, for a flourishing agricultural practice.”

“HYPREP is dedicated to supporting and promoting clean and sustainable environmental programmes that seek to raise awareness of plastic pollution, waste segregation, improved waste management policy, renewable energy, and community-led conservation. Currently, we are supporting Environment Clubs in Secondary schools within our project areas as part of efforts to engender sustainable environmental management in our communities.”

He stated the willingness of the Federal Government through the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) to partner institutions to take further actions that can make a significant difference when multiplied by the efforts of individuals and communities. He said that these joint efforts can contribute to a more peaceful, equitable, and environmentally sustainable Nigeria.

“We are also expanding linkages and partnerships with various institutions such as the University of Port Harcourt, the Rivers State University, and the Lancaster University in the United Kingdom. We are committed to ensuring that the experiences gathered, thus far, in the project

implementation process would be carefully preserved for future use.”

Professor Zabbey appreciated the Honourable Minister of State for Environment, Dr. Ishaq Salako for believing in the HYPREP project and enjoined the university community, stakeholders, and the communities to get involved and protect the environment for themselves, their families, communities, and for Nigeria. 'It is our collective responsibility', he averred.

Additionally, Zabbey noted that the pursuit of peace and environmental sustainability is intertwined with the pursuit of gender equality, and therefore called on everyone to take meaningful actions towards actualizing them.

“Let us empower women and girls, promote diversity, and harness their potential as change-makers. Let us leave behind a world where gender equality thrives, where clean air, water, and land are the norm, and where peace is not a distant dream but a living reality.”

The event had in attendance the Vice Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, Professor Owunari Georgewill, who was represented by a former Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof Joseph Ajenka, officials of the Rivers State Government, and members of civil societies.



Prof. Zabbey

HYPREP PROMISES WELL-COORDINATED MANGROVE RESTORATION IN OGONI

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has promised that the project will carry out a well-coordinated mangrove restoration project in Ogoniland that will respect the original species and natural patterns of the mangrove forests that were in place before the devastation of the once thriving mangroves by oil pollution.

Professor Zabbey made the promise in Port Harcourt at a technical interface with mangrove restoration contractors.

He stated that the HYPREP Mangrove Restoration Project is novel in the country and will develop a template that will serve the rest of the Niger Delta in terms of remediation and restoration.

“This meeting is very important because we are about to start mangrove restoration in Ogoniland and what we are going to do in the Bomu Creek is going to develop a template for mangrove restoration for the entire shoreline of Ogoni and also for the rest of the Niger Delta and this is because, for the first time in this country, we are going to plant mangroves based on zonation pattern of the natural mangrove formations. We are going to mimic pattern of the different mangroves where they are located. So, we are not going to create new mangrove forest, we are going to copy exactly what is there in the locality. That is one. Number two, we are going to plant representative species within that locality, and we are going to adapt the ratio proportion. Number three, we are going to engage the community people as much as possible in driving this whole process of restoration.”

Professor Zabbey maintained that all through the restoration project which will start from the Bomu creeks, the locals will be involved in driving the process from nursing to planting and management of the mangrove



Prof. Zabbey Inspecting Young Mangroves at Bomu Creek

population.

“Apart from the fact that the local people have been trained and deployed to be part of the workforce, that will plant the mangroves, we have taken steps to facilitate active community participation in the environmental restoration process by training 90 youths and women in Gokana in mangrove restoration and how to establish mangrove nursery. So, it is expected that 70% of the seedlings will come from the local communities. It will come from the 90 trainees that we have trained and provided grants to set up their nurseries. So, we expect that this meeting will provide a necessary guidance for all of you so that we work seamlessly as we proceed to kick start the mangrove restoration components of HYPREP project. We want a unified template, so what contractor A is doing, should be the same thing as contractor B is doing because we take this project very seriously.”

Zabbey highlighted the benefits that mangrove restoration will have on the local economy and wellbeing of the people.

“It's going to drive biodiversity

recovery in the area. It is also going to enhance fishery livelihoods in the area. So, this meeting is to enable us understand the procedure that we are going to follow and for everybody to have that core understanding so that if there is need for clarification, you put it on the table and we discuss it before we move to the creeks. We have done kick off meeting, we have trained the youths, we have empowered them to set up nurseries, we have visited the creeks to inspect their nurseries and we have given them certificates. So, we expect that if there is anything we don't understand in the course of this meeting, you seek clarification so that we can be on common page and move to kick start patterned mangrove restoration in Ogoniland that will serve as a template for the rest of the Niger Delta.”

In September, HYPREP embarked on the training of some Ogoni youths and women in the nursing and planting of mangrove seedlings to meet the supply needs of the contractors engaged to carry out mangrove revegetation along the Ogoni shorelines. The trainees have since completed their programme and issued certificates of participation.

SAFETY TIPS

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

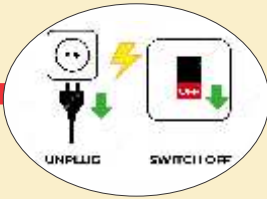
TIPS:



DO NOT RUN CORDS UNDER RUGS OR MATS. IT CAN CAUSE THE WIRE TO HEAT UP AND IGNITE A FIRE.



BE CAREFUL WHEN PLUGGING IN AND UNPLUGGING DEVICES. GRAB THE PLUG NOT THE CORD WHEN UNPLUGGING AN APPLIANCE.



TURN OFF APPLIANCES THAT ARE NOT IN USE TO PREVENT OVERHEATING AND LIKELIHOOD OF FIRE OUTBREAK.



DO NOT LOAD SOCKET. IT CAN CAUSE FIRE AS A RESULT OF OVERHEATING. PLUG ONLY ONE APPLIANCE INTO A SOCKET PER TIME.



A DAMAGED CORD CAN LEAD TO ELECTRIC SHOCK OR FIRE. ALWAYS INSPECT CORDS FOR SIGNS OF DAMAGE BEFORE USING.



HEAT FROM STOVES, AND OTHER HEAT SOURCES CAN MELT EXPOSED WIRES. SO KEEP CORDS AWAY FROM INTENSE SOURCE OF HEAT TO AVOID DAMAGE AND FIRE OUTBREAK.



REPLACE DAMAGED WIRES AND SOCKETS TO FORESTALL AN ACCIDENT.



IN THE EVENT YOU DO NOT KNOW HOW TO OPERATE AN APPLIANCE, PLEASE CALL A PROFESSIONAL TO GUIDE YOU. DO NOT ATTEMPT AN OPERATION THAT YOU ARE NOT KNOWLEDGEABLE OF THE PROCEDURES FOR YOUR SAFETY AND THAT OF OTHERS.

PICTURES OF THE MONTH



L-R: Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, Balarabe Lawal, Dr. Ishaq Salako



L-R: John Ide, Balarabe Lawal, Prof. Zabbey, Dr. Mike Nwielaghi



L-R: Prof. Zabbey, Rt. Hon. Emma Deeyah, Prof. Philip Shekwolo



L-R: Celestine Akpobari, Rear Admiral Yaminu Musa (Rtd), Prof. Zabbey at the Background



L-R: HRH Bebe Okpabi, Dr. Fred Kpakol



Members of GC/BOT of HYPREP



Cross Section of CRAC/ZRC Members



Cross Section of CRAC/ZRC Members

Shun Illegal Oil Refining

It Destroys Your Life And That of Others



Photo:HYPREP



THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE

“To damage the earth is to damage your children”

- Wendell Berry

Remediated Land

Photo:HYPREP

... for a cleaner and greener Ogoniland

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All Correspondence to the Editor: #8 Ken Saro-Wiwa Road, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.
Email: info@hyprep.gov.ng website: www.hyprep.gov.ng twitter: [@HYPREPNigeria](https://twitter.com/HYPREPNigeria)