



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

HYPREP HERALD

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HYPREP COMMISSIONS FOUR MORE WATER PROJECTS



Environment Minister, Lawal; HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Turn on the Taps at Terabo Water Station

PRESIDENT TINUBU IS COMMITTED TO OGOINI CLEAN-UP – LAWAL

HYPREP IN TALKS WITH OGOINI YOUTHS, PLEDGES TO UPHOLD THEIR INTEREST

HYPREP BRIEFS REGULATORS, SPONSORS ON PROJECT STATUS

**HYPREP
 HERALD
 NOT TO BE
 SOLD**

THE PC'S DESK



PROF. NENIBARINI ZABBEY
PROJECT COORDINATOR
(HYPREP)

A happy and prosperous New Year to you! I am happy you made it into 2024.

Last year (2023) was eventful for us in HYPREP. We made remarkable achievements and milestones, thanks to the support we received. I am grateful to our team at HYPREP, the critical stakeholders, and most importantly, the Ogoni people for the support we received. Undoubtedly, Ogoni became a beehive of activities as we commenced the remediation of medium-risk complex sites, mobilization for shoreline cleanup, pilot mangrove restoration, and construction of 14 water schemes to reticulate 52 communities in Ogoniland. In addition, we started the construction of the Ogoni Power Project, the Buan Cottage Hospital, the 100-bed specialist hospital, and the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER). We strengthened the Bori, Nchia, and Terabo hospitals and the Kpita Health Centre with state-of-the-art medical equipment and solar power. Apart from the direct positive impact on the environment and the associated improvement in the healthcare system, these programmes (project activities) also had direct socio-economic benefits for the Ogoni people. The construction and remediation activities created direct jobs for over 7000 Ogoni youths. Similarly, we engaged 500 environment vanguards who provided

surveillance of our project sites, and we also started training 5000 Ogoni youth and women in 21 skill areas.

We also empowered 60 small and medium-scale business owners in Ogoniland with motivational training and grants to scale up their businesses and stimulate the local economy. The hands-on skill development we provided 90 women and youths in mangrove restoration and nursery establishment was deliberate, apt, and strategic. Post-training, we gave the beneficiaries catalytic grants to establish mangrove nurseries for the red, white, and black mangroves. Today, the shoreline of Gokana is dotted with viable mangrove nurseries of various sizes. Our consultation with stakeholders in the mangrove value chain (periwinkle pickers, fisher folks, mangrove wood harvesters) was quite insightful. We have integrated their expectations into the objectives, planning, execution, and monitoring framework of the Ogoni mangrove restoration project.

The knowledge legacy of the various training and certification programmes (e.g., International Maritime Organization levels 1 and 2), coupled with our policy of letting the community take the lead while HYPREP provides a scientific guide, is reassuring of the development impact of the Ogoni cleanup. We expanded access to potable water to more communities with the continuous supply from five water schemes, namely Barako, Ebubu, Kpean, Korokoro, and Terabo.

Our policy of gender and social inclusion underlies our affirmative action, which assigns 40% of the workforce to women. I am very delighted that the under-served population, especially People with Disabilities (PWD), are now included in the project. As part of our conscious efforts to embed a fit-for-purpose sustainability framework into the various HYPREP interventions, we started to link the project to notable national and international institutions such as the Lancaster University Environment Centre, the School of Wildlife Conservation in Rwanda, etc. We have also begun to source additional funding, leveraging the

large-scale mangrove restoration in Ogoniland, which significantly contributes to climate change mitigation. Thanks to the Commonwealth Blue Charter for providing us with the first grant to rapidly assess mangrove policies in collaboration with the Mangrove Action Project (MAP) and Portsmouth University.

In this new year (2024), we intend to surpass last year's achievements, especially as we are fortunate to be supervised by a Minister who is well-versed in the Ogoni question, passionate, and committed to the development of Ogoniland. We shall consolidate our environmental remediation and restoration efforts, potable water provisioning, Ogoni power project, public health strengthening, and the development of sustainable alternative livelihood opportunities in Ogoniland. We shall commence a comprehensive modeling of groundwater contamination of the high-risk, complex sites for decision-making on the effective remediation technologies to be deployed. Our livelihood efforts would explore digital skills (e.g., GIS, cyber security) and high-demand water-related skills such as commercial diving and underwater welding. Our community mapping project will geo-reference streets and public facilities (e.g., schools, hospitals, and community treasures) and other geographic layers of interest in Ogoniland to energize the frontiers of sustainable development in the region.

We will pursue our 2023 attempt to establish a Special Agro-industrial Processing Zone in Ogoniland with renewed vigour. The Agro-industrial processing hub will create sustainable green jobs and increase the income of small-holder farmers in Ogoniland. To achieve the expected development results, we shall consult, plan, and co-implement the actions with the Ogoni people in line with the directive of the Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal. We will escalate our linkages and partnerships drive for sustainability and resource mobilization by exploring global carbon credit, the blue economy, and

the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration Initiatives. We will promote peace building, transparency, and accountability with discipline and devotion, which are some of the objectives of HYPREP.

The Ogoni youths are the greatest beneficiaries and critical stakeholders of the Ogoni cleanup. Ogoni youths are intelligent and resilient and are making remarkable exploits in academics, enterprise, and careers in the public and private sectors. A case in point is the recent harvest of Ogoni first-class graduates and best-

graduating students from national and overseas universities and the winning of a UK award in renewable energy by an Ogoni youth. I congratulate them as we are proud of their laudable achievements. I am also appealing to the Ogoni youths to place their skills and education at the service of the community and the Ogoni cleanup. They should resist the lure of "mischief makers" who would want to unnecessarily drag them to the streets to frustrate the clean-up activities. I am optimistic about our collective success, as I know that Ogoni youths

are too intelligent and civilized to be used as pawns. The Project Coordination Office is open to constructive engagement, suggestions, and criticism by all stakeholders to optimize the project's gains. Above all, the President and Commander-in-Chief, His Excellency Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR, is committed to diligently implementing the recommendations of the UNEP Report on Ogoniland. Be assured that my eyes are on the ball! Once again, congratulations, and welcome to the year 2024!

In this Issue

Happy new year to you from all of us on the Editorial Board of the HYPREP Herald. We appreciate you for your steadfastness and loyalty to our brand all through the outgone year. It is a brand-new year before us and we pledge our commitment to bringing you updates and developments on the Ogoni clean-up project, God helping us. We enjoin you to always get a copy of the HYPREP Herald every month to keep yourself abreast of happenings on the project.

We enter the year with the cheering news of the commissioning of four water projects in Egbu, Korokoro, Terabo and Kpean. The four water schemes are in addition to the previous two that were commissioned in Alesa and Barako communities. The four water projects that now supply potable water to about fifteen communities were inaugurated by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Lawal. The report is the lead story for this first edition of the year, 2024. The Honourable Minister's visit to Ogoniland also provided an avenue to meet with stakeholders from the Ogoni community. Critical issues affecting the speedy implementation of the UNEP report were brought to the fore and suggestions made on how to

overcome those challenges to get the project on track and delivering. The report is contained in this edition.

The Project Coordination Office had before the Honourable Minister's visit met with Ogoni youths from different organizations to discuss the way forward for better engagement with the project. It was a fruitful deliberation and one that restored the confidence of the youths in the project. The highpoint of the forum was the issuance of a communique that passed a vote of confidence in the Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey.

At an earlier forum, Professor Zabbey had promised to engage and involve all segments of the Ogoni population in the clean-up project and that was demonstrated sufficiently when in December the Project Office played host to some physically challenged persons from Ogoni to give them a sense of inclusion in the project. Some slots were allotted to them in the on-going HYPREP livelihood training programme.

HYPREP continues to place premium on accountability and transparency in project execution. This, it does by constantly engaging regulators, sponsors and observers to brief them on the status of the project and methods used in project implementation to satisfy the demands of the law regulating the industry. Similarly, the Project Coordinator,

Professor Nenibarini Zabbey had a last quarter meeting with staff of the project to intimate them of the achievements of last year and the plans for the new year.

In this issue, we bring you the notice of the United Nations Environment Programme to end the day to day support it has given to the project in the last five years. It will henceforth offer such technical assistance remotely and as may be needed.

We have our poetry corner maintained for you and have laced this edition with pictures of the newly commissioned four water stations and the back page with the picture of the Honourable Minister planting a mangrove seedling in the Bomu creeks where the mangrove restoration project will commence from.

Please take time to read through the pages of this edition to get necessary information about the project and we welcome any feedback that will help us to serve you better. We wish you a prosperous 2024!

Project News

HYPREP COMMISSIONS FOUR MORE WATER PROJECTS

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has added another four water schemes to its list of commissioned water projects in Ogoniland in furtherance of its mandate of providing potable water for oil impacted communities in Ogoni.

The water projects are in Ebubu (Eleme LGA), Korokoro (Tai LGA), Terabo (Gokana LGA), and Kpean (Khana LGA). The Ebubu water scheme supplies water to Obolo, Ejamah, Agbeta and Egbalor communities, while the Korokoro water scheme provides water for Korokoro and Ueken communities. The Terabo water scheme covers the communities of Bera, Nweol, Giokoo, Lewe, Mogho, Kpor and Gbe and the Kpean water scheme serves Kpean and the adjoining community of Teera-ue.

The Honourable Minister of Environment Balarabe Abbas Lawal who performed the tape cutting on the four water schemes at a ceremony held in Terabo said the completion and commissioning of the water projects is in keeping with the commitment of the Federal Government to make life more comfortable for the Ogoni people.

“In our pursuit of a sustainable and healthy future, access to clean water and robust healthcare are foundational pillars. The water scheme project we celebrate today is not merely a structure but a symbol of our commitment to providing clean and accessible water to the people of Ogoniland. Clean water is not a luxury but a fundamental human right and this project is a testament to our dedication to ensuring this right for all citizens.”

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is building a one hundred bed Specialist Hospital in Ogoniland and at the same



**Hon. Minister of Environment, Balarabe Lawal
Drinks from the Tap at Terabo Water Station**

time strengthening existing General Hospitals in the area and that according to the Honourable Minister of Environment is a deliberate effort to give the Ogoni people access to quality healthcare.

“The well-being of our citizens is paramount and investing in healthcare infrastructure is an investment in the prosperity and vitality of our communities. As we commission this water scheme and assess our health facilities, let us remember that our collective efforts are building blocks for a healthier environment and a more resilient community. The challenges ahead are significant, but our determination is unwavering and collectively we will overcome all future obstacles. May this initiative serve as a beacon of progress and cooperation, fostering a future where the people of Ogoni can thrive in a clean and healthy environment.”

Lawal reiterated the commitment of the Federal Government under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to the speedy and successful implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report on Ogoniland and called for the support of the people for the Ogoni

clean-up project.

“I would like to use this opportunity to call on our Traditional Rulers to continue to render their support and cooperation to the Government to achieve our collective goal of providing a healthier, cleaner, and safer environment in our communities.”

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey explained that the four water facilities being commissioned are the third in the series of water projects to be inaugurated for the Ogoni people by HYPREP. He said that the Alesa water station which was the first to be commissioned has been supplying water for the community and its neighbouring communities of Alode, Aleto, Agbonchia, and Ogale in the Eleme Local Government Area, while the Barako community water scheme in Gokana continues to provide potable water to the people of that community.

“The completion and commissioning of the Terabo, Korokoro, Kpean, and Ebubu water schemes today are a further affirmation of the steadfast commitment of the Federal Government through HYPREP to the

full implementation of the recommendations of the UNEP Report, particularly in the provision of potable water that meets World Health Organization's (WHO) standard to the good people of Ogoniland. The Terabo water facility has a tank capacity of 900,000 litres with a reticulation distance of 80 kilometers across seven (7) communities in Gokana, namely Nweol, Lewe, Mogho, Bera, Kpor, Gbe, and Giokoo. The Korokoro water facility has a 500,000-litre tank capacity with a reticulation distance of over 23 kilometers and would also reticulate the Ueken community. The Ebulu Water Scheme in Eleme Local Government Area has a tank capacity of 650,000 litres with a reticulation distance of 31 kilometers. Similarly, the Kpean facility in Khana Local Government Area has a tank capacity of 500,000 litres and a reticulation distance of over 18 kilometers.”

Professor Zabbey remarked that what has been the bane of most water schemes was the lack of sustainability plan and announced that the water projects of HYPREP come with sustainability pack to keep them running to serve the people.

“The sustainability component of these water facilities has been well thought out. The facilities will be run by HYPREP for three years in active collaboration with the communities, NGOs, Rivers State Ministry of Water Resources and Rural Development, and the Local Government Councils. We shall establish a community-based Water Consumers Association (WCA) to manage the facilities. Plans are underway to provide solar power systems as an alternative to the current diesel power supply system. The Ogoni Power Project will reinforce the water schemes' power sustainability when completed.”

The HYPREP Project Coordinator stated that the construction of the second phase of provision of potable water is on-going and will cover no few than fifty-two communities of Ogoni.

“In the same vein, the Project has commenced Phase II of the water

scheme in Ogoniland with the award of an additional 14 contracts that will reticulate potable water across 52 communities of Ogoniland. Construction of the water schemes is ongoing. When these water projects are completed, they will immensely increase access to clean water and reduce health conditions associated with consuming contaminated water.” The Project Coordinator enumerated some of the projects running concurrently by HYPREP which include the land and shoreline remediation, the Ogoni Specialist Hospital, the Buan Cottage Hospital, the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, and the Ogoni Power Project. Others are the improvement of some critical existing medical facilities, livelihood training, and support to local businesses. According to Zabbey, the economic benefits of these projects are huge.

“The Projects have their attendant economic and social benefits, especially in job creation for our teeming youths and hands-on training in the remediation industry, its value chain, and more. Recently, the Project trained Ninety (90) youths and women from Gokana in mangrove restoration and nursery establishment and provided the trainees with catalytic funds to set up their mangrove nurseries. I am pleased to report that many beneficiaries have set up nurseries to sell seedlings to contractors undertaking the pilot mangrove restoration of 460 hectares of Bomu shoreline. Honourable Minister, sir, we shall proceed from the Terabo Hospital to the Bomu waterfront, where you will plant a symbolic mangrove seedling to kick-start the Ogoni mangrove restoration project. I am sure you and other guests will be delighted at the beauty of the massive mangrove nurseries established by our mangrove vanguards. It underscores the value of our approach of having the communities take the lead in the mangrove restoration effort while HYPREP provides the science from behind.”

Zabbey announced that as part of its commitment to strengthening existing medical facilities in Ogoniland, HYPREP provided hospitals with state-of-the-act medical equipment. He said that the project is carrying out free medical outreach concurrently in the four Local Government Areas of Ogoniland, which would provide medical consultations, diagnostics, treatment, and surgeries.

“Immediately after this event, the Honourable Minister will inspect the ongoing HYPREP Medical Outreach in the Terabo General Hospital and some state-of-the-act medical equipment. HYPREP has provided the facility as part of her strengthening of four health facilities in Ogoniland. It must be stressed that the HYPREP medical outreach is taking place concurrently in the four LGAs of Ogoniland with profound benefit to the people. The outreach would provide medical consultation, diagnostics, and treatment, including surgeries, to those in need to help improve their lives, and it comes at no cost to them. I encourage our people to mobilize to take advantage of this opportunity. The exercise would also gather data for the comprehensive health assessment study.”

Speaking further, Zabbey enumerated the net environmental benefits of the mangrove revegetation project.

“The Ogoni mangrove restoration initiative will enhance biodiversity recovery and the return of ecosystem goods and services. The restoration of mangroves will significantly improve the structure and functions of the shoreline habitat, providing suitable feeding, breeding, and nursery grounds for commercial fish species, protecting the Ogoni shoreline, and contributing to mitigating climate change.”

Professor Zabbey stated that to achieve a robust, mutually beneficial, accountable, and transparent stakeholder interface, HYPREP will continue to be open to valuable interventions and explore areas of collaboration from all stakeholders toward actualizing the collective

yearnings for a cleaner and more prosperous Ogoniland. He said that both genders and segments of the Ogoni population will be included in the programmes of HYPREP and solicited the support of all stakeholders to achieve set goals and objectives.

“We have taken some significant steps along these lines - we have reserved 40% of all jobs for Ogoni women, beginning with the shoreline remediation works. We also ensure that people living with disabilities are integrated into HYPREP's programmes.”

“We will continue to strongly solicit support and ownership of these projects in our communities. We urge the communities to reciprocate the Federal Government's efforts in bridging the development gap in Ogoniland by protecting and securing HYPREP's facilities and sites from vandalization and sabotage and stem the tide of vicious misinformation against the project.”

The Gberemene of Gokana Kingdom, HRM King Festus Babari Paago

Bagia, in his address, expressed sincere thanks and gratitude to the Honourable Minister for the myriad of projects being executed by HYPREP, especially the livelihood programmes. He enjoined the Minister to equip beneficiaries with good starter packs that will dissuade them from returning to illegal oil bunkering activities.

“We appreciate the effort so taken on the livelihood programme. The provision of alternative livelihood training for communities whose sources of income were imparted by oil spills is a key mandate of the HYPREP project. We call on your support and constant monitoring of this programme ending the bad days of oil bunkering and destruction of our land for a second time.”

Spokesperson of HYPREP's Central Representative Advisory Committee (CRAC) and Gbenemene Bangha, Mene Dr. Suanu Baridam noted that the commissioning of the water project was a significant milestone for the clean-up project in Ogoniland which has rekindled the hopes of the people in the project. He notes.

“The commissioning of the water project is a significant milestone for us. Access to clean and safe drinking water is a fundamental human right, and for too long, our communities have been deprived of this necessity. The provision of this water project will not only improve the health and well-being of our people but also restore hope and dignity to our community.”

“We are also eager to showcase the progress made in the cleanup activities thus far. The cleanup of contaminated sites and the remediation of our environment are crucial steps towards the revitalization of our community.”

He appreciated HYPREP for the efforts made in ensuring that the cleanup was carried out efficiently and effectively and appealed to the Minister and HYPREP to extend the water projects to other communities in Ogoniland.

Paramount Ruler of the Bera Community, Chief Magnus Adumene applauded HYPREP for its programmes and reiterated the support of the people for the project.



QUALITY ASSURANCE LABORATORY AT TERABO WATER STATION

In his remarks, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of HYPREP, Dr. Mike Nwielaghi assured that the funds for the project are intact and debunked insinuation from some quarters that the projects are not being carried out to specifications. He warned mischief makers who do not have the relevant expertise to monitor HYPREP projects to steer clear of project sites. Similarly, the representative of the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) to HYPREP, Engr. Ekiyokenegha Clark while appreciating the Honourable Minister of Environment for his dedication to the project restated SPDC's commitment to the full implementation of the UNEP Report. "We will continue to fund and provide technical and interface support to HYPREP to ensure that HYPREP delivers this project, in right quality, to international standards. Our

expectation is clear, that HYPREP will continue to push forward to make sure its phases 1 and 2 projects and all other working projects are completed so that the livelihood of the Ogoni people will be restored and the opportunity that this water project provides, will be seen clearly."

A Programme Manager, UN Environment Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch, Hassan Partow recounted the role of UNEP in the Ogoniland clean-up right from the assessment days and stated that UNEP will continue to provide technical support to HYPREP as may be needed to ensure projects are carried out to international standards.

Representative of the Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN), Chris Nku in his intervention noted that SDN has been monitoring the activities of the clean-up for onward of five (5) years and applauded HYPREP

for providing potable water to the people of Ogoni and encouraged the Project Coordination Office to do more.

The Executive Director, Society for Women and Youth Affairs (SWAYA), Mrs. Stella Amanie, in her goodwill message urged HYPREP to expedite action on the remaining water schemes and called for more involvement of women in the programmes of the project.

The Honourable Minister had earlier paid a courtesy call on the Gberemene Gokana, King Festus Babari Paago Bagia JP, Gberesaakoo XIII where he was inducted and decorated as a member of the Gokana Divisional Council of Traditional Rulers.

The Honourable Minister also performed a symbolic mangrove planting in Bomu and inspected the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration and some HYPREP remediation sites.

POETRY CORNER

DISTANT PARADISE

By: Nseobong Etukakpan

Like a swept floor, a clean environment attracts
When of filth and pollutants wrung clean
And the fragrance of beautiful flowers invites
Into the welcoming embrace of nature.

Paradise for birds above and man beneath
Of flowing rivers that know no stop
Swamped with fish species of divers schools
Sustained by multiplied births.

Animals of free roaming across meadows
And in constant watch to escape predators
Whether at the waters or in grazing
Pray for a peaceful meal.

As paradise is in disarray
Beast feeds on beast
And spills on this sacred soil
Blood that cries for consolation

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Terabo Water Station, Gokana LGA

PRESIDENT TINUBU IS COMMITTED TO OGONI CLEAN-UP – *LAWAL*

In his renewed commitment to the speedy implementation of the UNEP report on Ogoniland, the Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal has held an interactive session with stakeholders from the Ogoni community.

At the meeting, which was held in Port Harcourt, the Minister stated that the interaction was imperative because the clean-up project is time-bound with so much yet to be done.

Lawal informed the gathering that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is passionate about the Ogoni clean-up project and has charged him to expedite action on various aspects of the project.

“President Bola Tinubu is very much committed to the issue of cleaning Ogoniland that is why when I was appointed as Minister, I signed a contract to push the Ogoni clean-up project forward, that is why I am here.”

The Minister who described the meeting as a family one, called on Ogoni stakeholders and communities to partner with the Federal Government to achieve the mandate of HYPREP to develop Ogoniland. This he said, can be achieved through cooperation, ownership of the project, enabling environment, and dialogue.

“I need your cooperation. I need your buy-in. Without your co-operation there is no way we can move the Ogoni clean-up forward. I want you to take the clean-up as your own.”

He added that his administration would change approach and ensure that the people of Ogoni are part of the decision-making process of the project from the time of conceptualization.

“We will plan with you, rather than plan for you. By so doing, the people will own and accept the project as theirs.”

The Minister however expressed regrets over the myriad of litigations

by individuals and groups in Ogoni against the clean-up project noting that it is a major challenge being faced by the project, which can delay the exercise if not stopped and urged the people of Ogoni to choose dialogue with the project rather than running to court.

“I want to appeal to all of you to take the opportunity given to you by the Federal Government. We need your cooperation and support. Every day I get litigation from people taking HYPREP to court and agitation. There are cases of vandalism and extortion, and I think this is a time for us to sit down and see that we nip all these obstacles in the bud. If we allow this to continue, some obstacles can destroy the project.”

Lawal added that the Ministry would review the operations of HYPREP, emphasizing that 40% participation would be given to the youths and women in all programmes of the project.

Earlier, the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey described the interactive session as a direct interface with the

Honourable Minister to get feedback and explore ways to enhance the strategies of HYPREP for effective service delivery.

He noted that the project is at a critical juncture with multiple projects running concurrently and sought the commitment and support of community leaders, decision-makers, and the Ogoni community at large towards the successful implementation of the clean-up project.

Professor Zabbey said that HYPREP has witnessed tremendous growth under the leadership of the present Minister of Environment which is evident in the myriad of projects being commissioned and executed concurrently.

“The Honourable Minister is well versed in the Ogoni question and consistently demonstrates his profound understanding of prevailing issues and unwavering support for the Ogoni people. Under his leadership at the Federal Ministry of Environment, HYPREP has witnessed remarkable growth, which is evident in numerous



Lawal

commissioning of ongoing projects.” He reiterated the commitment of the Project Coordination office to ensuring that the mandate of HYPREP is implemented, in line with the UNEP report with quality, inclusion, and restoration as cardinal principles. He enjoined the people of Ogoni to support the project to achieve set objectives.

Discussions at the session focused on local content in project execution, livelihood, fund management, procurement, expansion of the water project, as well as community engagement.

The Honourable Minister made a quick stop at the Project Coordination Office where he met with staff of the project.

The meeting with staff of HYPREP which took place in the conference room of the Project Office was the first since the assumption of office by the Honourable Minister.

The Minister charged project officers

to step up their delivery of tasks within the stipulated schedule and enjoined staff to cooperate and work as a team for maximum output, maintain international standards, serve the people of Ogoni, and ensure follow-up on assigned projects to see to their

completion.

Lawal was accompanied to the Project Coordination Office by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of HYPREP, Dr. Mike Nwielaghi and some members of the Governing Council of HYPREP.



Participants at the Stakeholders Meeting with Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Lawal

HYPREP IN TALKS WITH OGOINI YOUTHS, PLEDGES TO UPHOLD THEIR INTEREST

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has reiterated the resolve of the project to continually initiate programmes that will serve the interest and capacity building of Ogoni youths.

Professor Zabbey who made this position known in Port Harcourt at an interactive session with Ogoni youths maintained that the Project Coordination Office is focused on creating job opportunities and trainings for them as the project works determinedly to implement the recommendations of the United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP) Report on Ogoniland.

“As we speak, we are training 5,000 youths and women in 20 different skill areas and that training is going on well, and the feedback we are getting from the field is very encouraging. We are committed to ensuring that the



Ogoni Youths at an Interactive Session with HYPREP

cleanup benefits the youths of Ogoni as much as possible and by the end of the training, a critical mass of the youths will have the requisite skills not just to work in Ogoni but to be able to work elsewhere. We have also discovered key skills to support oil

and gas industry including commercial diving and underwater welding; all that has been articulated and we are going to present them to the Governing Council for consideration and approval, so we are serious about

Cont'd on Pg.11



TERABO WATER STATION, GOKANA LGA



KOROKORO WATER STATION, TAILGA



EBUBU WATER STATION, ELEME LGA



KPEAN WATER STATION, KHANA LGA





HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Addressing Ogoni Youths

Cont'd from Pg.8

the issue of livelihood.”

The HYPREP Project Coordinator further informed the youths that apart from the on-going training of five thousand youths in different skill sets, the project has also trained Ogoni people in similar programmes in the past.

“Apart from restoring the environment, HYPREP is also in Ogoni to restore livelihoods and create alternative livelihoods opportunities. We are also building capacity, apart from the 5,000 youths that are undergoing various training, we are also building the capacity of Ogoni youths in different skill areas, we have trained 90 youths and women in mangrove restoration and we have empowered them with catalytic funds to set up their mangrove nurseries, which they are growing along Bomu shoreline.”

“For our remediation works, on the 39 medium risks remediation sites, we trained over 2000 Ogoni youths who are supporting the remediation process, so all these trainings are useful because they are hands-on training. For the Centre of Excellence, the contractor, CCECC has told us that in the course of constructing that centre, about 800 Ogoni youths would

be engaged. In Tai, we are building a 100-bed Specialist Hospital in Kpite and the construction is going to provide jobs for many persons, so despite where our projects are located, every part of Ogoni is included in our selection of workers and in all opportunities that are available in the project.”

He pledged the continuous commitment of the Federal Government under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, and the Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal to the empowerment and engagement of Ogoni youths in the clean-up and restoration of the Ogoni environment.

“The Honourable Minister of Environment, Mallam Balarabe Abbas Lawal has asked me to relate the commitment of Mr. President to the continuous implementation of the Ogoni clean-up project. The project is community-based, human-centric, and inclusive and the Ogoni youths are key stakeholders. An overwhelming percentage of workers on project sites are youths.”

Professor Zabbey disclosed that the essence of the youth forum was to have a proper and comprehensive diagnosis of the challenges that the youths face and to come up with ways

and methods to actively engage them in the decision-making process of the project.

He said: “The engagement is a continuous process, and we will continue to meet with you. We will scale the frequency in 2024 and beyond to ensure we are constantly abreast of your concerns and suggestions for subsequent management decisions. We will ensure that we meet every quarter, beginning from next year.”

He assured that the project will always act in line with the Honourable Minister's policy direction which focuses on planning with the Ogoni people and not for them. On the ongoing livelihood training of five thousand (5000) youths, the Project Coordinator informed the gathering that HYPREP is getting positive feedback from the trainers and trainees and reiterated the project's commitment to ensuring that the clean-up project benefits the youths of Ogoni.

Addressing the issue of participation of the physically challenged members from Ogoni in the clean-up project, Professor Zabbey stated that their concerns are being factored into the 2024 budget of the project to facilitate their involvement in the clean-up.

The Project Coordinator also announced that specialized training for graduates in the oil and gas sector will also commence as from next year as the proposal is before the Governing Council of the project for consideration and approval.

Delivering a keynote paper on “YOUTH ROLE IN HYPREP PROJECT”, Dr. Sorbarikor Lebura, a Stakeholder Relationship Expert/Senior Lecturer at the Department of Management, Rivers State University, emphasized the importance of information sharing between the project and members of the public. He said that information sharing is considered an important approach to increasing organizational efficiency and performance.

He further enjoined HYPREP to

always provide feedback channels that clarify expectations and give HYPREP the leverage to understand and meet the needs of the Ogoni people. Dr. Lebura also advised the youths to monitor the activities of the project, send feedback through the provided channels, and collaborate with HYPREP.

In his intervention, the Director, Technical Services, HYPREP, Professor Philip Shekwolo described the Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey as a professional, and a listener who will deliver on the mandate of the project and encouraged the youths of Ogoni to support the project.

“Be supportive of the process. This project is starting from Ogoni, it is not stopping in Ogoni. It is going to move, let it move at the right time. Don't hurry its movement. Let's disagree, to agree and arrive at a logical way of solving our problems, we need your support.”

The President of the National Youth Council of Ogoni people (NYCOP), Comrade Barinuazor Emmanuel in his submission noted that there has been significant improvement at project sites and called on the youths of Ogoni to support the project. He encouraged HYPREP management to increase the stake of youths in the livelihood programmes of the project and allow for independent monitoring of projects.

In the same vein, the leader of the Ogoni Peoples Assembly (OPA), Reverend Williams Probel enjoined the youths of Ogoni to shun violence and give the Project Coordinator a chance to deliver on the mandate of the project.

Interventions were also made by several youth bodies and individuals pledging their unflinching and unconditional support for the project.

Highpoint of the event was the reading of a communique passing a vote of confidence in Professor Nenibarini Zabbey as the Project Coordinator of HYPREP.

HYPREP CELEBRATES DAY WITH PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

In commemoration of the International Day of Persons Living with Disabilities, the Project Coordination Office of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), has organized an event to mark the day with members of the Ogoni Association of Persons Living with Disabilities.

The meeting which was held at the HYPREP Conference Hall in Port Harcourt had in attendance representatives of the association from Eleme, Tai, Gokana and Khana Local Government Areas.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey who was represented by the Head of Procurement, HYPREP, Mr. Paul Ugbaha in his opening remarks, assured the guests that the Project is pleased to assist them in whatever way possible.

“The Project Coordinator believes that you may have one or two areas that you may need intervention and so, he asked for this meeting to be arranged to mark the International Day of People Living with Disabilities. That being said, we are with you, and we hope to have more interactions with you.” He stated.

He encouraged them to contact the relevant offices in HYPREP if they have any problems because whatever issue is brought to their notice will be related directly to the Project Coordinator.

The Head of Livelihoods in HYPREP, Mrs. Nzidee, in her address, reiterated that HYPREP had always recognized people living with disabilities in all of the activities of the project.

“The President will attest that we have always interfaced with your group through him. We have been discussing more skill areas in which you would be comfortable in being trained. As the Project Coordinator directed, we would be looking at two to three special skill areas next year that you want to be trained in. In designing livelihood programmes, we tend to take a bottom-to-top approach. HYPREP does not sit in the office to plan programmes for the Ogoni people. We always interface with them and agree on programmes that will be relevant and appropriate to them. We are having this programme today to figure out areas where you want to be trained and also to figure out how you



Members of Ogoni Association of Persons Living with Disabilities Celebrate their Day in HYPREP

can perfectly fit into other areas where HYPREP is working". She urged them to feel free and open up on matters concerning them to ensure the success of the meeting.

The President General of the Ogoni Association of Persons Living with disabilities, Mr. Ngo Baridapdoo, expressed his gratitude to HYPREP for the opportunity the meeting afforded the Ogoni people living with disabilities to air their views and expectations of HYPREP.

"This is the fourth year we have been engaging with HYPREP. In these four years, no single one of us has been employed to work in HYPREP. We see this as a part of discrimination and marginalization. We want HYPREP to look into it. We have people that can be gatemen and receptionists. Most of us are educated but none of us have been appointed. We want HYPREP to look into our matter. Secondly, on the issue of empowerment. We can confidently say that we have partaken in the empowerment that is going on. However, if you look into it, HYPREP has trained many people but nobody with disabilities has been certifiably trained. It is difficult for us to join the empowerment queues because only few of us know how to manage ourselves. We are happy that the Head of Livelihood is already working on that because she knows that this present empowerment is not easy on us."

"We can also talk about HYPREP contracts. There are things we can do. It is not enough that when there is an empowerment scheme, we are called to bring five persons from each Local Government Area. We are grateful because we know you have been trying but it is not enough for us. If we are awarded some contracts like printing for those of us who are in the printing business, we can care for the association. We can also do some projects on our own without waiting for HYPREP to do things for us all the time."

He appealed to the project for special grants to enable some of them who

have interest in business or education pursue their dreams as a way of empowering them for life.

"We are not working, so, how can we be able to help others? We are capable of doing a lot of work if only we are given the opportunity. We are appealing to HYPREP to also look into this. Additionally, we also need grants. Some of us have missed opportunities because of lack of funds. This would help those of us who need medical, academic, and other kinds of help. Some people will not be able to take part in the empowerment schemes that the Head of Livelihood is working hard to make sure we are a part. At least these people can benefit from the grants."

Baridapdoo however expressed appreciation for the efforts of HYPREP towards making life better for them and urged the Project to look into the issues he has raised as that would reduce their ordeals to a manageable level. Several other members of the association made similar remarks and appealed to the Management of HYPREP to come to their aid.

In response to the various suggestions

HYPREP BRIEFS REGULATORS, SPONSORS ON PROJECT STATUS

In its determination to ensure that the implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report conforms to standards and specifications stipulated by industry guidelines and regulations, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has held its Project Review meeting with regulators, sponsors and observers of the Ogoni clean-up project.

At the meeting held in Port Harcourt, the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey thanked participants for honouring the invitation despite their tight schedules and solicited useful suggestions that will enhance the attainment of corporate goals of the project.

"From the list I have here, we have the

and opinions shared by members of the Ogoni Association of Persons Living with Disabilities, the Head of Sustainable Livelihood, Mrs. Josephine Nzidee assured them that HYPREP is in fact, working hard to make sure that the physically challenged members of Ogoni benefit from the projects of HYPREP.

"As your President is aware, we have some of your members who are beneficiaries of our current livelihood programmes. Although some of you could not participate in the skills, none of your slots were lost. We still got from your organization people who could participate in the different skill areas we worked on this year. Like I earlier said, I have also been interfacing with your President for skills for next year. As a special target group of the livelihood programme, we will be looking at skills you can participate in. We have noted the special people, the visually impaired, and all other sets of people living with disabilities and every concern that you have raised."

Mrs. Nzidee promised to forward their demands to the Project Coordinator.

representative of NUPRC, SPDC, NOSDRA, NPSC, civil society organizations, represented by CEHRD, SDN, SWAYA then we have the Federal Ministry of Environment and the Rivers State Ministry of Environment. I want to thank you all for your interest for always participating in our activities. As we know HYPREP is doing a lot of projects in Ogoniland. We are doing livelihood project, we are doing land remediation, shoreline cleanup, water project. All of these projects are going on concurrently and it is important that from time to time we meet as critical stakeholders of the project to provide us the opportunity to give you technical update on what we are doing so that you can evaluate the process

with us. I will welcome very active participation from all of you so that by the end of the meeting, we will all be happy with the quality of interaction, the feedback we have gotten which we will integrate into planning and execution process going forward.”

Dr. Kenneth Aroh who represented the National Oil Spills Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) reiterated the commitment of his agency to the successful implementation of the Ogoni clean-up project.

“NOSDRA as we all know is a very critical stakeholder in this Ogoni project especially in respect to the Ogoni aspect of it and just like the Project Coordinator has already said, the project is actually committed towards rendering very vital service towards ensuring that the implementation of the UNEP report on Ogoniland is a successful one and the agency being at the helm of affairs in terms of providing regulatory framework for the actualization of that same process is actually committed.”

On his part, the representative of the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) to HYPREP, Engr. Ekiyokenegha Clark commended the Management of HYPREP on sustaining the project review meeting which he said provides a fertile ground for exchange of ideas to better run the project.

“I want to appreciate HYPREP for scheduling this meeting once again and for inviting all of us to partake in it and share our own views on what is going on. I want to first of all apologize on behalf of the Manager, Ogoni Restoration Project, who was also invited to be here. He is not able to make it because of some clashes. He's currently in a meeting with the Country Chair of SPDC and he has asked me to apologize to the meeting and also to share once more that SPDC is very much committed to the HYPREP project, to the Ogoni cleanup and also to remind everyone that we stand firmly to support HYPREP.”



Participants at the Project Review Meeting

The meeting had representative from the Federal Ministry of Environment in the person of Adenigba Olabode who pledged the continuous support of the Ministry for the Ogoni clean-up project.

“The Ministry is committed to ensuring the remediation of Ogoni is being carried out. We have always supported the project office and we will continue to support the project office in achieving its mandate especially the water project and the livelihood project. The ministry is willing and will always cooperate with HYPREP to achieve its mandate and we also will like to say categorically here that all the projects that have been scheduled by the UNEP report, all areas that they are supposed to remediate that the ministry will do all its possible best to make sure that everything is being carried out.”

The Rivers State Ministry of Environment also sent a participant, Dr. Moses Bereiwerise who promised that the Ministry will not renege in providing the needed expertise for the actualization of the goals of the project.

“The Ministry is ready to give HYPREP all the needed support. Such support may not just be technical, it could be advice and we have gone to site, we have seen what they are doing and right now that they are ready to go into the ground water remediation, in fact we are happy and also into the SCAT area. We are ready to give the necessary support. All we need is just the needed information.”

Civil society organizations present at the meeting assured of their impartial monitoring of the various projects of HYPREP to ensure that the people get the best out of the project.

HYPREP PC, PROF. ZABBEY URGES STAFF TO BE DEDICATED TO DUTY

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has charged staff of the Project Coordination Office (PCO) to always give their best in the quest for a cleaner Ogoni environment

that sustains livelihoods.

Professor Zabbey gave the charge at the 2023 last quarter general staff meeting of the Project Coordination Office held in Port Harcourt.

He assured staff that they are invaluable asset of the project and

therefore he prioritizes their welfare to enable them deliver on their duties to the project.

“I consider this meeting the most important meeting of this project because it is this meeting that brings all of us together. For me, I will want this meeting to be more frequent from next year. This is the second meeting that I am having with all of you since I took over the headship of this project. Anytime I come to work, I always think of a gathering like this but you know better than I do how demanding my office is, but I will promise you that from next year, we would hold this meeting at least once every quarter because it is through meeting like this that I can feel your pulse. It is through meetings like this that everybody will have an opportunity to say something and one policy I have been promoting since I took over is that of gender and social inclusion so what that means is that everybody must have a voice.”

“So today we are here holding our last staff general meeting of the year and I will give you the opportunity to give me feedback so that I can collate it and integrate it into next year's planning implementation of not just staff welfare but those things you think we should do better.”

The Project Coordinator enumerated the things that Management has done to boost the morale of staff to include staff training, enhanced welfare package and enjoined staff to reciprocate the kind gesture of Management by way of dedication to duties.

“When we return early January, we should return with renewed vigour so what that means is that there are certain things we are not going to tolerate. For example, we are not going to condole lateness to work, lackadaisical attitude towards work. So, on that note I want to thank all of you.”

Staff appreciated Management for the several training programmes and bonuses put in place for capacity building and their wellbeing.

CLOSURE OF UNEP'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT TO SUPPORT HYPREP ON THE REMEDIATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION OF Ogoniland

JOINT STATEMENT ON THE CLOSURE OF UNEP'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT TO SUPPORT HYPREP ON THE REMEDIATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION OF Ogoniland

ATTRIBUTABLE TO: The Federal Government of Nigeria and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

The Federal Government of Nigeria and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) today announced the end of UNEP's formal engagement with the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) under the Ministry of Environment, which comes to a close with the completion of the organization's five-year technical assistance project. The HYPREP project will continue under the leadership of the Nigerian Ministry of Environment.

The Federal Government of Nigeria and UNEP have partnered to improve the environmental situation in Ogoniland since 2008. At the time, UNEP was requested to support the Federal Government of Nigeria in assessing the heavily oil-polluted environment of Ogoniland and provide recommendations on its clean-up. UNEP completed its comprehensive scientific study with an assessment report published in 2011 and recommended a major clean-up initiative that may last up to 25 years and cost up to US\$ 1 billion for the first five years.

UNEP's report and recommendations were accepted by stakeholders, including the Ogoni community – through translation of the key findings and recommendations into the four Ogoniland languages and sharing these through public forums – the Federal Government of Nigeria, and Shell Petroleum Development Corporation, which pioneered oil development in the Niger Delta. As evidence of national ownership of

UNEP's report, in 2017 the Federal Government of Nigeria established a newly dedicated institution, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) under the Ministry of Environment, to implement its recommendations. Concurrently, UNEP was requested to provide technical assistance and capacity building to help establish the nascent HYPREP in undertaking the clean-up. In its technical advisory capacity, UNEP has, since 2018, been providing advice and technical support in addition to helping keep all stakeholders engaged and informed of the progress and challenges facing HYPREP. While the focus of UNEP's assistance has been on the assessment and remediation of oil-contaminated sites, it has also closely engaged and advised key HYPREP interventions on livelihoods, drinking water supply, the design and construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, mangrove restoration, geographic information management, and monitoring and evaluation of HYPREP activities.

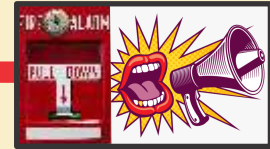
As UNEP's formal engagement with HYPREP ends, UNEP will continue supporting Nigeria in addressing its environmental challenges, from land degradation to plastic pollution. Furthermore, UNEP will maintain a remote standing capacity to help HYPREP with any technical questions that may arise over the next six months until June 2024 and share the lessons learned from HYPREP with other countries of the region. Other UN agencies may join the Government of Nigeria to provide additional support to HYPREP.

SAFETY TIPS

Fire Safety



IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE, NEVER ASSUME SOMEONE HAS CALLED THE FIRE SERVICE. **CALL 112**



IF YOU NOTICE A FIRE, **ACTIVATE YOUR FIRE ALARM** AND **SHOUT, 'FIRE'** AT THE TOP OF YOUR VOICE TO ALERT OTHERS. YOU SHOULD BE SPECIFIC TO **SHOUT, 'FIRE'** TO TELL THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION AND TO GET PROMPT RESPONSE FROM NEIGHBOURS.



DO NOT USE THE LIFT OR ELEVATOR IN CASE OF FIRE OUTBREAK. **INSTEAD USE THE STAIRS.**



COVER YOUR **MOUTH AND NOSE** WITH A **WET CLOTH** IF CAUGHT UP IN SMOKE



ENSURE YOU MASTER THE USE OF A **FIRE EXTINGUISHER.**



IF YOU ARE STRANDED IN A ROOM WITH SMOKE AND CAN'T FIND A WAY OUT, CLOSE THE DOOR AND SEAL ALL CRACKS WITH WET TOWELS OR SHEETS. THIS WILL PREVENT SMOKE FROM COMING IN



INSTALL A **SMOKE ALARM** IN YOUR HOME OR OFFICE. PREVENTING A FIRE IS BETTER THAN FIGHTING IT.



MAKE SURE THAT EVERYTHING FROM **SMOKE ALARMS, FIRE ALARMS AND THE PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM, TO WATER HYDRANTS AND FIRE EXTINGUISHERS** IN YOUR BUILDING ARE IN WORKING CONDITION.

PICTURES OF THE MONTH



Hon. Minister of Environment, Balarabe Lawal at the Commissioning of Terabo Water Station



Chairman, HYPREP BoT, Dr. Mike Nwielaghi at the Commissioning of Terabo Water Station



Hon. Minister of Environment, Balarabe Lawal Cuts the Tape on Terabo Water Station While HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabby Watches on



HRM, Mene (Dr.) Suanu Baridam, Spokesperson, CRAC at the Commissioning of Terabo Water Station



Hassan Partow of UNEP at the Commissioning of Terabo Water Station



Engr. Ekiyokenegha Clark of SPDC at the Commissioning of Terabo Water Station



L-R HRH Emperor J.D. Nkpe, Chief Michael Tekuru, Chief Stephen Kobani at the Commissioning of Terabo Water Station



L-R Dr. Moses Bakpo, Celestine Akpobari, George Feyii at the Commissioning of Terabo Water Station

Shun Illegal Oil Bunkering/Refining It Destroys The Environment



THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE

“He that plants trees loves others beside himself.”
-Thomas Fuller



Photo:HYPREP

... for a cleaner and greener Ogoniland

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