



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

HYPREP HERALD

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**HYPREP
 HERALD
 NOT
 TO BE
 SOLD**

THE PC'S DESK



PROF. NENIBARINI ZABBEY
PROJECT COORDINATOR
(HYPREP)

In the December 2023 edition of the HYPREP Herald, we promised to carry out free medical outreach in the four Local Government Areas of Ogoniland as an interventionist measure for those who could not afford medical care and to mine reliable data for our impending cohort health study as recommended in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on Ogoniland. That promise was kept in the last two weeks of December 2023, as the Project Coordination Office engaged the services of the Association of Ogoni Doctors to carry out general medical consultations and surgeries at designated health facilities across Ogoniland. The centers used are the Terabo General Hospital, Bori General Hospital, Nonwa Primary Health Centre, Nchia General Hospital, and Bodo General Hospital. The rest are the Taabaa Primary Health Centre, Kwawa Primary Health Centre, Kpite Primary Health Centre, and Onne Primary Health Centre. As expected, the health programme drew a large crowd of patients, numbering over five thousand, who were treated within the two weeks that the event lasted, with post-surgical attention for patients who underwent surgical procedures. Precisely five thousand three hundred and twenty (5,320) clinical consultations, one hundred and

seventy-six (176) general surgeries, sixty-eight (68) cataract surgeries, three thousand and fifty-seven (3,057) optometric reviews/glasses, and two hundred dental cases were treated. It was a Christmas gift and end-of-year bonus by the Project Coordination Office to the good people of Ogoni. From feedback, the free medical outreach was well appreciated by the people who thanked HYPREP Management for making their welfare and well-being a priority. What is most satisfying is that the medical outreach beneficiaries did not need to know anybody in authority to be attended to, and indigent persons who had surgical cases were well taken care of by the medical doctors engaged by HYPREP to carry out the exercise.

It is also interesting to note that the surgical procedures carried out during the medical outreach were conducted in the operating theatres of the General Hospitals in Ogoni, which were recently rehabilitated and furnished with state-of-the-art medical equipment by HYPREP. That, too, was a fulfillment of the promise by HYPREP to equip and restock designated public health facilities in the four Local Government Areas of Ogoniland to enrich and make healthcare delivery accessible to the people. All that is required of the Ogoni population is to patronize modern medicine and refrain from visiting homes and centers where unorthodox and quack health services are rendered. It is also incumbent on the people, especially the health officials entrusted with the medical equipment, to protect and make the best use of them in service to humanity. Vandalism and theft should

be avoided, and adequate maintenance should be carried out to elongate the shelf life of the devices. That would be the best way to appreciate HYPREP for donating and installing the medical instruments.

The year is young, and we are making better plans and budgets to serve the Ogoni people better in all the mandate areas of the project. These include land remediation, shoreline clean-up, and mangrove rehabilitation to livelihood training, provision of potable water, public health support, and the construction of legacy projects (Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, Ogoni Specialist Hospital, Ogoni Power Project, Cottage Hospital). We are committed to translating these projects to impact and drive development in Ogoni positively. As always, we will need the continuous cooperation, ownership, and support of the Ogoni people, who are the ultimate beneficiaries of the projects.

The Project Coordination Office under me is blessed to have the abiding love and commitment of the Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal, who is well-versed in the Ogoni question. Most importantly, he has signed a bond with the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR, to accelerate the implementation of the Ogoni clean-up project. Once again, I reassure the good people of Ogoni and other stakeholders that my eyes are on the ball, and together, we will make the Ogoni clean-up project a success!



Medical Personnel attending to Patients
at the HYPREP Free Medical Outreach

In this Issue

The Project Coordination Office of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Office in January played host to high profile visitors and dignitaries who had come to see firsthand the progress being made on the Ogoni clean-up project. Chiefly among them is the British High Commissioner to Nigeria, His Excellency Richard Montgomery who was briefed on the operations and activities of the project by the Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey. Montgomery was impressed with the level of progress made and opined that the Ogoni clean-up model; due to the success recorded so far, could be adopted for the clean-up of the rest of the Niger Delta and indeed other parts of the world where there is oil pollution. The visit and the kind words of His Excellence for the HYPREP team was indeed a motivation for the workforce to continue to give their best to the project. Another dignitary who came around to see the pace of work on the project is the Honourable Minister of State for Environment, Dr. Ishaq Salako. A field visit was scheduled for him and his entourage. He inspected the progress of work on the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration at Wiiyaakara, planted trees at the Birabi Memorial Grammar School, Bori and visited an active soil remediation site in Eleme.

The Federal Ministry of Environment in January organized a retreat for top Management of the Ministry, Agencies and Projects under it. The Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal used the retreat to unveil the Ministry's plans for 2024 and what is expected of each responsible party to do to achieve corporate goals.

The livelihood training programme of HYPREP is one that will leave a lasting impact on the economy of Ogoni. Currently five thousand Ogoni

people are in training for various skills that will empower them to earn a living. The HYPREP Herald team visited two of the centres where beneficiaries are being trained in welding and fabrication, and fashion/designing and catering and put together a report to showcase the success of the programme. The report is as good as you visiting the centres.

A concern was raised by a trainee in one of the training centres for the livelihood programme and HYPREP as a responsible and responsive organization quickly delved into the matter and to ensure no issue was swept under the carpet, the Livelihood Unit of the project went in the company of the National Youth Council of Ogoni People and other youth organizations in Ogoni. The matter was dispassionately investigated, and we have the report in this edition of the HYPREP Herald. The response was so swift, and the issues raised quickly addressed that the complainant had to write thanking HYPREP management and his write up is published for your information.

In December last year, the project carried out a free medical outreach to the four Local Government Areas of Ogoni to intervene in the health conditions of the people and to use the opportunity to mine necessary data for the conduct of the UNEP recommended health study in Ogoniland. The exercise brought so much joy to households especially individuals who have had to live with

their health challenges due to the unavailability of funds for their treatment.

The Project Coordination Office places huge premium on capacity building of staff who are the engine room of the operations of the project. The Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QAQC) Team members of the project were sent to the United Kingdom for a brief course to sharpen their skills in the delivery of the project. We have the detailed report of their training in the UK.

We have a poem depicting the sordid state of earth climate and actions that could be taken to remedy the situation. The editorial crew of the HYPREP Herald is grateful for your steadfastness and loyalty to our brand and we promise to always keep you updated on the operations of HYPREP. Do well to give us your feedback which we consider as a gift that will enable us to serve you better.



Treatment of Ground Water

Editorial Crew

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Project News

BRITISH GOVT. EXTOLS HYPREP ON OGONI CLEAN-UP PROGRESS

– HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Briefs Envoy on Achievements

The British High Commissioner to Nigeria, His Excellency Richard Montgomery has said that he is optimistic that the Ogoniland clean-up project is progressing and a model that would be emulated and replicated in addressing environmental concerns not only in the Niger Delta of Nigeria but around the world.

Mongomery spoke during a visit to the HYPREP Project Coordination Office in Port Harcourt where the Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey briefed him on the activities and achievements of the Project and stated that the visit was to avail him the opportunity to follow-up on the clean-up project.

He stated that the British Government would continue to monitor progress on the Ogoni clean-up project and commended the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey and his team on the sustained effort that has led to the present achievements of the project.

“This is a really impressive project, a

complex one. Professor Zabbey has given me an impressive briefing and I am so impressed with what has been done. I think what is being done here is a model that we can all learn from and it will have significance beyond Ogoniland and the rest of the Niger Delta, but also potentially in other areas of the world.”

“I have come here not only to listen and learn and understand the way this programme is being implemented and the commitment made both to Ogoni people but also from other institutions including the Federal Government and the oil companies; and my understanding is, there is a system of monitoring in place and that is something which is the responsibility of the Nigerian government and also its relationship with communities.”

“We will be following and looking to understand how the project is progressing in the coming months and in the coming years. Again, I want to pay tribute to Professor Zabbey's team, they are doing a hard work. It is a

complicated work. I come away with a good deal of positive optimism that real progress is being made and more is possible.”

The Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey who was pleased to receive the British High Commissioner, assured the diplomatic community that the Project was in safe hands, as he was working diligently to deliver on the mandate of the project be it in remediation, sustainable livelihood, legacy projects, or the emergency measures.

Professor Zabbey informed his guest that the projects and programmes of HYPREP were geared towards fostering peace and security in Ogoniland, noting that the engagement of five hundred (500) environment vanguards to provide civil security and intelligence was a deliberate measure to adopt a non-kinetic approach to protecting project facilities and engendering community participation.

He listed ongoing projects to include the provision of potable water in Ogoniland, 39 land remediation and 34 shorelines remediation, nine mangrove restoration contracts, 5,000 livelihoods training for Ogoni youths, construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, construction of a 100 Bed Specialist Hospital, construction of the Buan Cottage Hospital, the Ogoni Power Project, among others.

The Project Coordinator stated that HYPREP was playing a major role in climate change mitigation through its mangrove revegetation programme, covering an area of over 3,000 hectares of damaged mangrove platforms is one of the largest mangrove replanting project around the world, adding that HYPREP was partnering with the Rivers State Government to ensure the



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Briefs British High Commissioner, Montgomery and His Entourage

sustainability of its projects especially the potable water schemes and the 100-bed specialist hospital. “The visit of the High Commissioner is important to us, and we are grateful that they (British government) have sustained their goodwill. While we solicit their support, I want to reassure the diplomatic community that my eyes are on the ball, and we will deliver a sustainable remediation and

restoration of Ogoniland.” The HYPREP boss further affirmed the Federal Government’s commitment to the Ogoni clean-up project and clarified that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - the technical partners on the Project will be around for another six months following the extension of their engagement which elapsed in 2023.

He explained that the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) will be providing support for the Project especially in procurement and disclosed that HYPREP is proposing a hybrid technical support that will allow UNEP to still provide technical support given their institutional knowledge of the Ogoni clean-up project.

DR. SALAKO INSPECTS CEER, OTHER HYPREP PROJECTS *-Pledges President Tinubu's Commitment to Environmental Sustainability*

The Honourable Minister of State for Environment, Dr. Ishaq Salako has expressed admiration at the impressive pace the construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration is going. Dr. Salako came out with this in an exclusive interview with the HYPREP Herald after inspecting the progress of work at the Centre at Wiyaakara and a remediation site in Eleme and planted trees at the Birabi Memorial Grammar School, Bori.

The construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration is one of the recommendations contained in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report on the environmental assessment of Ogoniland which the Federal Government of Nigeria is now implementing through the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP).

The Honourable Minister of State for Environment described the Centre of Excellence as a gigantic project that its completion in due time will draw the attention of the world to the facility.

“The Center of Excellence for Environmental Restoration is without any question the biggest project the Federal Ministry of Environment is carrying out anywhere in Nigeria today and can also be qualified as probably the second biggest project of the Federal Government in the South-South region of Nigeria after the East-West Road. So, the Center of



Hon. Minister of State for Environment, Dr. Salako Inspects work on Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration, Wiyaakara

Excellence is significant, very important and it is going to be an impactful project in the Niger Delta. I have been taken round the Center of Excellence and I can see the vision of those who conceived it. I hope that upon completion, because I have been assured that by September 2025 the whole of Niger Delta, the entire global community will come around and celebrate the edifice.”

From the Centre of Excellence, Dr. Salako moved to the famous Birabi Memorial Grammar School, Bori where he planted some trees in synergy with global efforts to reverse the adverse effects of climate change on the environment.

“We also visited a very historical secondary where the Chairman of our Board of Trustees graduated from as a

Senior Prefect and at that school, I planted ten trees. The planting of those trees is symbolic and very significant to me. At the beginning of 2024, I made some resolutions that I call 'Green Resolutions' and one of those resolutions is to plant at least 50 trees this year personally and I also decided that those trees are going to be planted in each of the geopolitical zones of Nigeria. So, my visit to Port Harcourt, Rivers State has given me the opportunity to plant the ten trees meant for the South-South region of Nigeria. I have met with the students who are members of HYPREP Green Frontier Club, the tutors and Principal of that school and from the interaction that I had with them, I have also persuaded them to help me take care of those trees, to make sure that they

nurture them till they grow.”

He expressed his admiration for the environment club and reiterated his commitment and that of HYPREP to contributing to the overall development of the club.

“I have also made some personal commitment to the green frontier club to ensure that they do what needs to be done. As part of corporate social responsibility, HYPREP will also respond positively to the request of the principal, because water is very important, and our students deserve clean water to drink and work with.”

He is pleased that Nigeria is a formidable player who by natural endowments is well placed to provide nature-based solutions to climate change.

“When it comes to the issue of climate change, one important resource Nigeria and indeed Africa have to offer is nature-based solution and talking about nature-based solution, the mangrove forest is a very important element of that. Nigeria I am told has the largest mangrove forest in Africa and about the third in the entire world which means that our mangrove is very important in the

fight against climate change. So, you must support HYPREP to ensure that the mangrove restoration project is done. During the last Conference of Parties in Dubai, one of the key events Nigeria took part in was the mangrove alliance for climate which was an alliance for several parties across the world that are dedicated to restoring mangroves across the world and Nigeria is part of that alliance to show that our mangroves in Nigeria are restored. We believe that the mangrove has an important role to play.”

Meanwhile, the Principal of BMGS, Barr. Bob Agbozi Goteh appreciated the Honourable Minister of State and HYPREP for taking time out to plant some trees in their school as well as the promise to revamp the moribund neighbourhood water scheme in the school and assured the Minister that the school authorities will nurture the trees he planted.

The Head boy and President of the Green Frontier Club BMGS, Master Koalebari Nathaniel, applauded the Minister and his entourage for the initiative which according to him, signifies the Minister's effort in

supporting afforestation in the country and expressed joy that the school was chosen for the tree planting exercise. He notes:

“The trees that you have planted signify that our future and climate is safe. We are expecting more from you as well as the sustainability of those trees. We are very grateful for this magnanimity of yours.”

Dr. Salako who also inspected an active soil remediation site in Eleme appreciated oil producing communities who have over the years contributed to the economic wellbeing of the country and expressed the hope that the knowledge gained in the remediation of oil polluted sites in Ogoni will constitute the body of resources needed to conserve the environment, making it a better place to live.

“We are here at one of the remediation sites in Eleme and I have been taken round to the very important work that is been done here. It is my hope that from here, Nigeria is learning a lot in terms of how to tackle the challenges of oil pollution which is very common in the Niger Delta as a result of oil exploration activities. What we are



Hon. Minister of State for Environment, Dr. Salako visits an Active Remediation Site in Eleme

doing here is to also appreciate and recognize the very impactful contribution of the Niger Delta, the oil producing communities of Nigeria to the economy of Nigeria. So, the Government of Nigeria has therefore taken it as an important responsibility to ensure that those areas that have contributed so well to grow the economy of the country are also supported to ensure that there is an improved livelihood, that there is better standard of living, the health of the people is protected, and the environment is conserved. The

environment has become a very important issue in global discourse these days, because of the realization that unless we sustainably handle the environment, we will not have anywhere else to go. We are taking this issue very seriously and I can assure you that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has prioritized the issue of the environment. Look at his Renewed Hope Agenda, look at his eight priority areas, look at some of the things he is doing, you will see the very impactful position that he has placed the environment sector in which

HYPREP is a key player there. So, I am happy to be here, and I hope that when I come back, I will see improvement in the situation here.” The Honourable Minister of State for Environment was accompanied on the visit by the Chairman, Board of Trustees of HYPREP, Dr. Mike Nwielaghi, the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey, the Director, Technical Services, HYPREP, Professor Philip Shekwolo, Management Staff of HYPREP and other officials of the Federal Ministry of Environment.

PROGRESS ON LIVELIHOOD TRAININGS FOR 5000 Ogonis

In October, 2023, the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) launched the livelihood training for five thousand Ogoni persons. It was in keeping with a key mandate of the project to restore the livelihood of impacted communities in Ogoniland whose sources of income were affected by oil spills. It was also the fulfillment of a promise that took quite a long time to plan for and thus many had thought it was never going to come through but with the completion of the last stage of the programme, the training was finally flagged off for the capacity building and economic empowerment of five thousand Ogoni persons.

The skill areas include Crane Operation, Computer Basics, Fashion and Designing, Fish Farming, Catering, Argon Welding/Metal Fabrication and Web Development/Digital Marketing, Data Analytics. Others are Hair Dressing/Make-up/Skin Care, Photography and Video Editing, Solar Power/CCTV Installation, Industrial Fire Fighting, Paint Production, Driving and Industrial Process and Instrumentation. The rest are Onshore/Offshore Skill Set, Auto Mobile Mechanic, Poultry, Tiling/POP/Plumbing and Scaffolding.

Three months into the training,

HYPREP Herald went round some of the centres to bring you update on the training and how the trainees are faring on the programme. We spoke with some trainees and their trainers in Argon Welding/Metal Fabrication and Catering and below are some of their comments and expectations:

DODOBARI NGULUBE – Trainee in Fashion and Designing

First and foremost, I want to say a big thank you to HYPREP for giving me this opportunity to be trained in a fashion school. I want to say thank you to them, most especially A+ fashion agency, they are good. What I have learnt so far? When I came in here I never had any basic knowledge of fashion. When I came in here, they taught us how to measure, normal measurement on a human body.

I have passion for fashion, a deep one. The way I dress, I have passion for it and with the basic information I have got here and the knowledge I am acquiring here, I want to own a fashion school and also use that opportunity to raise others.

It is not scam. Initially when I picked the form, it was about two years back. I was waiting for it and saying when will it come and finally it came and they had to segment us. They brought me to A+ Fashion Agency, when I climbed up, I said wow someone owns this kind



Trainees in Fashion and Designing

of place? I won't have had that money; my dad won't have had that amount of money to give to me to come for a fashion school. My dad is not that buoyant that would have given me over a million naira to come to a fashion school. On my own if I had the money, I would have come but HYPREP gave me the opportunity for me to come to a school that is of this quality. If I am exceptional in it, I am going to be issued an international certificate, so it is a plus to HYPREP and I am very grateful I have this opportunity.

ANGELA OGOSU– Trainee in Wig Making

My training is for six months. We're running this session for about three months, then we're going to go for industrial training for one month, then we will come back to practise what we've learnt so our instructors can monitor us more on what we've done.

Before now, I thought it was something you'd just do, or go to a random saloon, fix your thread, or just put the attachment on the cap, but no. It is beyond that. So far so good, our teacher has been good. She taught us how to wig and now we know different types of wigs which include fringe, closure wig and frontal wig. Now we can differentiate between the different types of wig. She has taught us how to ventilate, and we have different ways of ventilating hair like single knotting, double knotting, single double knotting, and double single knotting. She has taught us how to revamp hair which is hair washing. This is important because, with the dust and the harmattan, you have to wash and treat your hair. She has taught us how to treat and take care of hair. You don't need to be spending so much on your wigs if you know how to treat your hair. She has taught us about styling, which helps me because even if I am broke, I can come out and tell someone I can style hair and make some money. If in two months, I have started collecting hair and made little money from it, six months from now, I should be a boss lady. I should have students



Trainees in Pastries

and people looking up to me. I should be travelling round the country for jobs. There is money in wiggging, there is money in hair and any woman without hair is nobody.

AGNES OSARO – Trainee in Pastries

I am training in culinary art, pastries to be precise. Pastries is all about baking and making sweet foods. In pastries we bake cookies, different kinds of cookies, different kinds of cake and we make things like meat pie, chicken pie, sausage rolls, doughnuts, puff-puff, buns and we can also make biscuits. So far these are things we have done. We have baked cakes, we have also made meat pie, we have done chicken pie, we have done sausage rolls, we have done puff-puff, we have done buns and we have also done bread and cookies.

I can remember when I was growing up, my mum used to bake a kind of cake but when I came here, I saw something entirely different. This is not what we used to see in our locality. This is not how we used to do it. This is not what we have seen people do. So far so good, I think or let me say I am convinced it is the best.

After now I intend to use it commercially like using it for business in the aspect that I should be able to

make cake for birthday parties, do small chops for events and to use it to establish myself. I dream of owning a pastry shop.

I want to say a very big thank you to HYPREP because most of us, ordinarily, we might not have been able to afford it or let me say I couldn't have been able to afford it but with HYPREP it has been possible. So, I want to say a very big thank you to HYPREP.

IREOLUWA SOETAN

–Trainer/Founder and CEO of A+Agency.

We are a trivet organization situated in Port Harcourt. We have done so many skill acquisition capacity development trainings for localities around Port Harcourt and across Nigeria. Basically, our organization is geared towards solving problems around unemployment or under employment.

For the HYPREP training, we're offering what HYPREP would call catering, but we call it here culinary arts. We have them sectioned into three places, we have the cuisines and those focused on pastries and then we also have the fashion and the beauty categories. Those are the three categories we've been working on in the last three months



Trainees in Wig Making

that we started the HYPREP project.

We were initially afraid because our standards are high, and we were concerned about their ability to assimilate what they're being taught. It is interesting to know that we didn't drop the standards and these guys are shocking us. They're even doing way beyond what we thought. There are some of them who are a bit laid back and not as pushful, but I like to focus on my wins. We have a handful of them doing well. The ones that blew my mind the most are the ones on the cuisines and the ones in wig making. It's been phenomenal because they caught it so quick and at the end of the day, we didn't need to drop the standards. We're teaching them world class standard and they're meeting up with our expectations. Sometimes, I'd be having conversations with some of them, and I see that they have big dreams. There are some of them who are looking to work in big companies like Marriot and Transcorp Hilton for those of them who are in cuisines and there are some of them who want to own their own businesses. Some also want to get jobs and they have very high expectations of the kind of jobs they want to get. I think I'm excited and I'm grateful to HYPREP for giving me the opportunity to meet a whole lot of them because it's like seeing dreams birthed and unfolding before our very eyes. I cannot wait to see where some of them will go. We're happy to recommend as many of them to hotels

like Transcorp and Marriot.

We have a part of our training where they need to do a bit of industrial training and we'd be happy to recommend the best out of the class to those organizations. To me, it's worth the investment of our time.

The funny thing is, whilst we were undergoing the training, my birthday fell two months into the training. It is interesting to note that my team decided to organize a surprise party for me, and the students cooked. So, I can say to you that we are happy to recommend any of them in any of our training categories in this facility. I can personally use them to make my clothes, I can get them to make my hair. Severally, they've come to get my wigs for revamping. Yes, I can recommend them for anything I need to do, and I can recommend them to anybody.

LEKIEN ZORVUE – Trainee in Argon Welding/Metal Fabrication

I've learned a whole lot. To summarize it all, I've learned that welding is not all about joining two metals which is what we thought from the beginning. Now, I understand that welding is about joining materials, and bonding metals together by hitting, pressuring, and compressing the two materials. We have something like fission welding where the two surfaces of the welding are rubbed until a molten pool has been formed, then you leave it for some time to cool down. Then we have

another kind of welding where heat is applied to plastic, when they are joined together, welding has taken place. Then we also have the normal welding that everybody knows which is the electrode running of welding. That process is the one everybody knows. That is also the one we knew before we learned about all these other ones.

We are to be here for six months. Two months for the theory and two months for the practical. Then we have two months for the examination studies before the examination takes place.

As for now, we have not gone into practical. We are still on the theoretical aspect. From the theory, I have come to understand many things about welding. But, doing it is a different thing. When we start the practical, we will start doing all that we have been taught. I have a passion for welding, and I want to take it up as a career. That is why I am here.

I will say Kudos to HYPREP, the facility is ok. Everything we need to be trained as professional welders is here. We are ok with everything that is here. The person lecturing us is one of the best in the industry. From what I have come to know from lecturers who have been teaching in other schools, they don't break things down the way our lecturer does here.

QUEEN GBARAZEGHE– Trainee in Argon Welding/Metal Fabrication

I want to be a welder because in Nigeria many women are not involved. It's mostly hair dressing, sewing that are available for ladies. Welding is very hard for ladies to do. So, I want to become the best, I want to be a lady welder in Nigeria because it is only men that are doing it and I want to be one. I have the physical and mental capabilities to be.

After I am done with the training, I would like to open my own shop so that I will put into practice what I have learned. The company is okay, the teacher is good. He teaches to my understanding.

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT HOLDS TOP MANAGEMENT RETREAT

- Deliberates on Improved Delivery of Ogoni Clean-up

The Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal has pledged the Federal Government's sustained support towards the successful implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report on the clean-up of Ogoniland.

Lawal made the pledge at the 2024 Top Management Retreat organized for officials of the Federal Ministry of Environment and Agencies and Projects under the Ministry.

The Honourable Minister stated that plans are on to build the capacity of the officials of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) deliver on the project and the need to increase monitoring and evaluation of on-going projects as well as seek international partnerships for effective project implementation.

“We are also looking to accelerate implementation of the Ogoni Clean-up by increasing government commitment and support to improve capacity building, enhance monitoring and evaluation, create public awareness as well as explore various conflict resolution mechanisms and international collaboration in Ogoni Land.”

Lawal further stated that deliberations were made on making swift response



Hon. Minister of Environment, Balarabe Lawal

to oil spills and strengthening regulatory frameworks to guide industry players and operations.

“I also implored the gathering to focus on effective reviews that would strengthen regulatory frameworks, improve response mechanisms, and promote sustainable practices that would address the environmental and economic consequences of oil spills.” He disclosed that the retreat with the theme “Policy Embedment and Prioritization of Key Action for a Renewed Hope in Environmental Management” was designed to share

experience among management on how better to implement the Renewed Hope Vision of the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu’s administration.

“The retreat is aimed at sharing insights, learning from each other, and collectively brainstorming on strategies to address pressing issues with regards to the operations of our Ministry now and in the coming years. The Ministry has signed a performance bond with Mr. President on 18-point deliverables in the priority areas that relate to our mandates, and our deliberations are centered around the 18-point deliverables which is also in line with the 8-points Agenda of this Administration. Part of the 18-points deliverables include supporting the implementation of National Climate Change Policy, developing and implementing a Capacity Building Programme on Climate Finance with Allied Institutions or Agencies.” The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) was represented at the retreat which was held in Kaduna by the Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey and the Director, Technical Services, Professor Philip Shekwolo.



L- R: Director Technical Services, HYPREP, Prof. Philip Shekwolo; HYPREP PC Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey

NYCOP, OTHERS GIVE HYPREP LIVELIHOOD TRAINING CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH

Recently, a trainee of the HYPREP Livelihood Skill Acquisition Programme, Nwibakpo Golden Nwinua had raised the alarm that the contractor training them in fish farming did not provide the needed conducive environment for learning and also that the facilities being used were not up to standards, thus prompting the leadership of the National Youth Council of Ogoni People (NYCOP) and other youth organizations in Ogoniland to embark on a fact finding visit to the said facilities.

President of the National Youth Council of Ogoni People (NYCOP), Comrade Barinuazor Emmanuel led the executive of the body and other youth organizations in Ogoniland in company of officials of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) on the facility inspection to determine the situation at the different training centers engaged by HYPREP for the training of the 5,000 Ogoni youths in different skill sets.

The first port of call for the group was the Annaire Arts and Fashion Agency, located in Port Harcourt. The facility is currently training two hundred (200) students in pastries, fashion and designing, makeup, wig making and hairdressing. Comrade Barinuazor Emmanuel interacted with the students and was informed by the class representative for the catering unit, Ms. Margaret Gbute Kattey that their training has been going on smoothly but however requested for more time to perfect their knowledge of continental and intercontinental meals preparation.

“We have been here for three months, and this is our fourth month. We have learned a lot these three months but we wish the government would add more time to our training so we can go into more advanced cuisines.”

She also appealed for an increase in the transport allowance owing to the



Head Livelihood, Mrs. Nzidee Briefs NYCOP President, Barinuazor Emmanuel and His Team

hike in fares to enable them meet up with the attendance requirements of their trainings.

In response to the appeal by the students, the business developer, Annaire Agency, Mrs. Miebi Odoki stated that the agency has provided everything HYPREP has paid for.

“We have gone out of our way to make sure that their starter packs have been provided for them. We provided these materials based on what has been paid to us. I'm glad you mentioned the variation from when we quoted for this job and when it was finally approved. In the meantime, we have given them what was made available to us. We are hoping for a possibility where the variation in the payment will be updated. This will allow us to do what we are supposed to do.”

Head, Livelihood Unit of HYPREP, Mrs. Josephine Nzidee informed the NYCOP President that the project has a dedicated line which they have made available to all the trainees to call or text if they have any issues and explained that the project has devised a means to ensure that the trainees are paid their stipends.

“To monitor the payment of the trainees, we have designed what we

call a payment tracking sheet for every scheme and every center. We have given all 5000 of the youths we are training a unique ID because we have had cases of impersonation. With this unique ID and with the list we already have of the people who won the lucky dip that are supposed to be on this training, we can detect the people who are not supposed to be here, especially the non-Ogoni individuals. With this tracking sheet, we will require the trainees to put down their names and their phone numbers. Then, they will sign according to how they have received payment. That is, if you have received payment once or twice, you sign against the months you have received and leave the months you have not received, blank. That will help us to know who has or has not received payment and then we will know where the error is coming from. This payment tracking sheet will enable us to know who has been paid and who has not been paid. We have also informed the trainees to only sign once they have received their payment alert to prevent any incidence of misunderstanding. The trainers have been asked to attach their bank statements when they are submitting

their report so we can use them to confirm whether or not they have paid their trainees. We came up with this method because we have had many complaints about unpaid stipends in many of the centers. This will help us to confirm that every trainee gets paid for the stipulated time their training lasts”.

In response to why the trainees are being paid by the trainers instead of directly from HYPREP, Mrs. Nzidee responded that a contract already exists to that effect which would be cumbersome to change. However, she noted the feedback and assured them that future training would build on the recommendations from the youth groups. She also said that the increment of their stipends has been suggested in HYPREP's 2024 budget which is pending approval by the Governing Council of HYPREP.

Comrade Emmanuel commended the trainees on what they have been able to achieve so far and went ahead to encourage them to ensure that they utilize the opportunity they have been given to the maximum. He assured them that he would urge the management of HYPREP to look into the disbursement and possible increment of their stipends and advised them to eschew every form of indiscipline that could bring their training to an unceremonious end.

The group proceeded to the facilities of Buafa Agro Resources where majority of the complaints originated from. The facility is being used to train four hundred and fifty-five (455) Ogoni indigenes in fish farming. Speaking to the trainees at the center, Comrade Emmanuel explained the rationale behind their visit and encouraged them to voice their complaints without fear of victimization.

“We came here today because of complaints from this very center. Although we have also gotten complaints from other centers, yours in particular prompted this visit. We want you to view this training as an opportunity because you were picked out of millions of Ogoni youths who

would have also liked to have the same opportunity. We are not here to victimize any vendor but to find out what is going on. If we find out that the information, we got about this center is correct, I will ask the government to remove the contract from this vendor. I want you to also remember that if you get this training right, you have your fish tanks in your various communities, and it will help to put food on your table.” That being said, he threw the floor open for the trainees to air their views.

Mr. Nadubon Wilfred, started by saying that their major complaint was the lack of ventilation in the auditorium at the center, stating that before they raised the alarm, the tent they were using became so hot that they couldn't comfortably sit in it for thirty minutes. He acknowledged that following their complaint, the contractor had promptly opened the tent for better ventilation and installed fans to cool the facility.

He also raised the issue of increase in transportation costs, stating that most of them were coming from far and multiple times a week which was taking a toll on their stipends. He said that they have been calling for an increment in their allowance and implored HYPREP to keep to its promise at the end of the training by empowering the trainees with fish tanks so that they can make use of the skills they have acquired.

Another trainee, Mr. Mene Baridakara complained about the time allocated for the training, saying it is too short.

A trainee however admitted that the major reason for the delay in the payment of their stipends is the attitude of some of their colleagues who are not consistent with attendance at trainings.

The representative of Ogoni Environment Watch, Comrade Torkpa Korlue, encouraged HYPREP to pay the trainees' stipends as at when due to ensure that they are not stranded and also implored the trainer to give the trainees the full package he was contracted to deliver. He advised the trainees to be focused on their training

to get the best out of it and not allow themselves to be distracted by trivialities.

Managing Director, Agro Facility, Famaa Bariledum while responding to the concerns raised by the trainees reminded them that Buafa Agro Limited is one of the best facilities in Port Harcourt and stated that in empathy with their transportation plight, he reduced their lesson days but increased the hours so that they do not miss out on their curriculum.

Comrade Emmanuel also pleaded with the trainees not to victimize their colleagues who bared their minds on issues raised and assured them that the outcry is for their good to draw the attention of government and management of HYPREP to their situation.

The NYCOP President after the visit categorically stated that the only challenge they observed was the late payment of their allowances and the duration of the training.

“We have seen things for ourselves at the fish farm where the alarm was raised from. The few challenges they had have been addressed. The first one was staying in a tent without ventilation but as we came here, the vendor has opened up the place. The issue of their stipend will also be taken care of. So far, in the two facilities, there aren't too many challenges. We're going to visit other facilities and if we notice any challenges, we'll let the world know. We will do our report and send it to HYPREP as well as the Federal Government.”

The Project Coordination Office under the leadership of Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has consistently assured stakeholders of its determination to put the interest of the Ogoni people first in all operations and programmes of the project.

HYPREP QUICK RESPONSE TO MY ORDEAL, A PROACTIVE APPROACH FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT IN OGO NILAND

Let me draw the attention of the public to the quick response of HYPREP to my ordeal which was reported few days ago.

The Management of HYPREP through the Livelihood Unit headed by Mrs. Josephine Nzidee accepted the intervention of respected youth leaders and some stakeholders on the matter. A visit to the training centres to inspect and verify the challenges faced by the trainees was conducted. This was to ensure the adherence to best practice, in terms of facilities and conducive environment.

The team of Ogoni Youths was led by the NYCOP President; Comrade Emmanuel Barinuazor together with some Pan Ogoni Youth leaders which include the acting OYF President, Comrade Emmanuel Goteh Bie.

On the facility training inspection tour, it was confirmed that HYPREP contractors used conducive learning environment in carrying out the training and the few observations I raised and complained of in my earlier publications on my training centre

have been addressed.

Let me use this opportunity to thank the Minister of Environment for his swift response to my plea which is an assurance that he has the project and Ogoni people at heart.

I won't also fail to commend the visionary leadership quality of the Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey who is working tirelessly to deliver on the project for the benefit of Ogoni people. We cannot over-emphasize the need to support Prof. Zabbey in the quest to stabilize enduring peace needed to implement the UNEP report in Ogoniland.

On this note, I want to personally appreciate a stabilizer, in the person of Amabu Ledogo, the leader of Ogoni Comrades and Patriots Forum for his timely intervention and his effort in bringing the parties together to further reduce distraction to HYPREP's programmes and projects.

In view of the above, I wish to inform the public that I am now satisfied with the condition of the training facility

(Fishing Practical) which has been promptly changed to also suit the expectations of other trainees. We are glad by the quick response of HYPREP to the issue raised. Most importantly, the conceptualization of the Livelihood Unit of the project. I, therefore, call on stakeholders of the project to strengthen and sustain the Livelihood Unit of the project.

Finally, I wish to state that the programme is going on smoothly but, our people must be rest assured that anytime we, the trainees and youth leaders in Ogoni observe any deviation from the concept and policies of the programme, we shall always voice out for change.

Thank you all for your support.

Nwibakpo Golden Nwinua

A student on the HYPREP 5000 Livelihood Training Programme and the NYCOP Coordinator, Babbe Kingdom. Email: nwibakpogolden360@gmail.com

SUMMARY OF MEDICAL OUTREACH CARRIED OUT BY HYPREP TO PROVIDE BASELINE DATA FOR OGO NIL PUBLIC HEALTH STUDIES

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) in keeping with the recommendation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report on Health Study in Ogoniland has embarked on free medical outreach to the four Local Government Areas (Eleme, Tai, Gokana and Khana) of Ogoniland to collect baseline data using Health Situation Analysis and also to directly intervene in the health of the people. The Project Coordination Office (PCO) carried out the Health Situation Analysis study using medical outreach as a Special Purpose Vehicle across the four LGAs of Ogoniland for the following reasons:

i. Collect Ogoni Population Health Access Patterns and Practices Related Data as part of The



Beneficiaries of HYPREP Medical Outreach

Ogoniland Health Situation Analysis.

ii. Collaborate to create large scale awareness on the harmful effects of hydrocarbon exposure and carry out Behavior Change Communication (BCC) to change attitudes and practices in Ogoni

that increase the risk of exposure.

iii. Use this mechanism as part of HYPREP's efforts to encourage greater community buy-in for HYPREP's projects and activities especially in areas where no remediation activities are earmarked.

iv. Provision of General Medical Services; This includes provision of surgical, ophthalmological, and dental services.

To achieve the above goals, the PCO invited and received a detailed proposal from Association of Ogoni Doctors (AOD) which have been in core partnership with HYPREP to conduct the medical outreach programme. The proposal covered the cost of deployment of personnel and expenditure on medical consultation, drugs, surgery, logistics and medical consumables.

The Health Situation Analysis was carried out in stages. The stages are described in detail below.

After the beneficiaries arrived the venue of the medical outreach, they were registered and sent to the Ad-Hoc personnel who were recruited from the four Local Government Areas of Ogoniland to administer questionnaires carefully designed to provide information on environmental determinants, social economic factors, behavioural and health system – related determinants, disease prevalence and medical care needed.

Secondly, after administering the questionnaires on them, they were sent to the nurses who checked their vital signs and carried out some basic tests on them before sending them to the doctors for consultation and treatment. Thereafter, those that needed other specialized care like, surgery (general or cataract surgeries), optometric and dental care were attended to.

The medical outreach programme took place at Terabo and Bodo (Gokana LGA), Ogale and Onne (Eleme LGA), Bori, Kwawa and Taabaa (Khana LGA) and Kpite and Nonwa (Tai LGA) from December 18 – 30, 2023. A total of five thousand three hundred and twenty (5,320) medical consultations were done. The break down on Local Government bases are as follows: Gokana - 1,130 beneficiaries, Khana - 1,515 beneficiaries, Tai - 1,004 beneficiaries and Eleme - 1,871 beneficiaries.



Table 1: Clinical Consultations

S/N	LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA	NUMBER OF CONSULTATIONS
1.	Gokana	1,130
2.	Khana	1,515
3.	Tai	1,004
4.	Eleme	1,871
	TOTAL	5,320

A total of one and seventy-six (176) general surgeries were carried out, comprising 46 beneficiaries from Gokana, 42 beneficiaries from Khana, 28 beneficiaries from Tai and 60 beneficiaries from Eleme Local Government Areas as presented in Table 2. Also, a total of 60 cataract surgeries were carried out which comprises 14 beneficiaries from Gokana, 15 beneficiaries from Khana, 10 beneficiaries from Tai and 21 beneficiaries from Eleme Local Government Areas as presented in Table 3.

Table 2: General Surgeries

S/N	Local Government Area	Number of Cases
1.	Gokana	46
2.	Khana	42
3.	Tai	28
4.	Eleme	60
	TOTAL	176

Table 3: Cataract Surgeries

S/N	Local Government Area	Number of Cases
1.	Gokana	14
2.	Khana	15
3.	Tai	10
4.	Eleme	21
	TOTAL	60

Moreover, a total of 3,057 optometric reviews were done and glasses given to beneficiaries. This comprises 725 beneficiaries from Gokana, 802 beneficiaries from Khana, 518 beneficiaries from Tai and 1,012 beneficiaries from Eleme Local Government Areas as presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Optometric Reviews and Glasses

S/N	Local Government Area	Number of Reviews and Glasses
1.	Gokana	725
2.	Khana	802
3.	Tai	518
4.	Eleme	1,012
	TOTAL	3,057

Furthermore, a total of 160 teeth scaling and polishing were carried on beneficiaries. This comprises 40 beneficiaries from Gokana, 20 beneficiaries from Khana, 20 beneficiaries from Tai and 80 beneficiaries from Eleme Local Government Areas. Also, a total of 47 tooth extractions were done which includes 11 beneficiaries from Gokana, 9 beneficiaries from Khana, 2 beneficiaries from Tai and 25 beneficiaries from Eleme as presented in

Table 5.**Table 5: Dental Cases**

S/N	Local Government Area	Scaling and Polishing	Tooth Extraction
1.	Gokana	40	11
2.	Khana	20	9
3.	Tai	20	2
4.	Eleme	80	25
	TOTAL	160	47

QAQC CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING/STUDY TOUR FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS

The Project Coordination Office of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) recently sponsored the Quality Assurance/Quality Control Team of the Project on a capacity building Training in the United Kingdom. The Capacity Building Programme/Study Tour facilitated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) involved visits to various large scale remediation sites in the United Kingdom (UK) and hands-on training and tour of an international laboratory. The training was designed for staff strengthening and capacity building in best practices on quality assurance, quality control and improvement of job performance of the team.

In the first week of the study tour, the team was conducted round various remediation sites across the UK. The

sites visited include the Dunsfold Aerodrome which is one of the largest remediation projects in the UK. The site is a 650-acre site, and it is currently owned by Trinity College, Cambridge, a major landowner in England. Trinity College set up Dunsfold Airport Limited (DAL) - a wholly owned subsidiary to manage the site. DAL appointed AA Environmental Limited, the remediation contractor who hosted the visit to the site. HYPREP QAQC team participants had an opportunity to see specialized groundwater remediation and management of hydrocarbons, chlorinated solvents and Perand Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). One of the main treatment technologies at Dunsfold is Surface Active Foam Fractionation (SAFF). The SAFF unit treats all the

groundwater of PFAS leaving the site before being discharged into the Way and Arun canal. The canal, which borders Dunsfold, has been subject to extensive engineering and remediation works. Large sections have been dredged and sediments cleaned up. The sediments are temporarily stored in the purpose-built concrete bund. The drainage from the site to the canal has been surveyed and upgraded. This has included the installation of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filter packs for each large outfall.

There are numerous key learning points from this site that HYPREP can apply to its future remediation contracts. Full and detailed information is required at tenders stage.

The team also visited the Englobe managed Bioremediation site at the Petteson Landfill in Redhill where the latest international approaches to bioremediation were being deployed. Redhill is a large, fixed soil treatment facility which takes in waste soil and other materials for treatment using bioremediation. The soils, once treated, can be re-used for beneficial purposes. On-site treatment of soil typically takes between 12-16 weeks.

At this site we learned that sustainable remediation approaches should always be favoured and two or more contractors can work together for mutual benefits. A detailed understanding is required of the level of contaminants in soils being brought on to site. This is done through an assessment of the site history, a thorough review of existing site investigation information and available laboratory results, as well as thorough verification (additional sampling and analysis). Water content within the soil to be treated and flooding of remediation cells can be managed using large tarpaulins.

The third site visited was the Buncefield Oil Depot, officially known as the Hertfordshire Oil Storage Terminal, is in Hemel Hempstead to the north of London.

This historical oil explosion site provided another opportunity to see first-hand, a process of groundwater treatment in operation with sand and granular activated carbon. The learning points from this site, are that time and effort should be spent in site investigation before handing them over to remediation contractors and the development of intelligent conceptual site models based on good quality data must be given priority.

In the second week of the study tour, the team visited Stockport Groundwater Monitoring Site in the Northwest of England. The visit was hosted by Envirosolution, a medium-sized environmental consultant with offices in the UK. The team had an opportunity to see modern groundwater monitoring wells designs and installation. The learning points from this include the importance attached to established clear standard operating procedures and that all HYPREP QA/QC and field staff, and their contractors, should be suitably trained and experienced in all groundwater monitoring methodologies, be proficient in the operation, calibration, and maintenance of water quality meters and familiar with the use of flow-through cells. All monitoring wells should be appropriately designed and constructed. Materials used to construct monitoring wells should not chemically interact with groundwater in the well, changing the sample chemistry. When joining lengths of casing, the use of glues and welds should be avoided because of the risk of introducing additional chemicals into the groundwater. Screw threads should be used instead. Well development is necessary to remove fine particulate materials that have entered the well screen, stabilize the filter pack adjacent to the well screen and improve the hydraulic connection between the well screen and adjacent formation.

On the day second day of the second week, the QA/QC team was conducted round the ALS Laboratories in



QA/QC Team Shown Borehole Measurement using Oil Water Interface Meter

Hawarden Business Park, Chester. ALS is one of the largest laboratories in the world. HYPREP's visit focused on quality, accreditation, analysis of petroleum hydrocarbons, reporting and interpretation of data. The lesson learned is that laboratory analysis is critical to decisions made by HYPREP about oil-impacted sites, therefore, analytical results must be reliable and fit for purpose. Communication with both international and local laboratories is crucial and an understanding of holding times is important for time-critical contaminants like BTEX and MTBE. All laboratories should report the carbon range of their TPH analysis. This will ensure consistency in both risk assessment and remediation processes. Improvement in standardization will also allow for better comparison between laboratories. The chromatograms which accompany the main certificate of analysis provide a lot of useful information. As a minimum, the date of calibration should be checked. This provides a simple and straightforward check on whether the data are valid or not. Nigerian laboratories need to establish collaborative relationships with international laboratories with the aim of improving current quality management systems. This will be beneficial for their path towards ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation.

A session was held with sales

operatives from AQUA TROLL who came for a demonstration of some field equipment. The AQUA TROLL 500 is a fully customizable five-port multiparameter meter with capacity for four interchangeable sensors and an antifouling wiper. A smartphone interface delivers accurate data and enables simplified calibration, data view and report creation. This could be used by HYPREP for spot-checking and profiling in combination with a Wireless TROLL Com or long-term monitoring with Vulin (telemetry system used in-situ). The AQUA TROLL can be fitted for the following sensors: temperature, conductivity, pH/ORP, Rugged Dissolved Oxygen (RDO), turbidity, chlorophyll a, phycocyanin (BGA-PC), phycoerythrin (BGA-PE), fluorescence dissolved organic matter (FDOM), crude oil, Rhodamine WT, Fluorescein WT, ammonium, chloride, and nitrate. It was agreed that pH, EC, DO, ORP and temperature were of most relevance. It was advised that HYPREP should own an oil-water interface meter to allow for the measurement of groundwater levels and to confirm the presence and depth of well. This issue is urgent as Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid (NAPL) is more likely to be encountered on the medium-risk sites.

Dissolved oxygen, pH, Oxidation Reduction Potential sensors also have specific maintenance needs. When

performing calibrations on water quality sensors, an important tip is to bracket the conditions the site will experience with standards. The pH of ocean waters is often around 8.5 pH units, so monitors here may only need to be calibrated in 7 and 10 pH.

Attention must therefore be given to careful planning, the engagement of properly equipped contractors utilizing trained and qualified operatives and the supervision of the field and laboratory work by experienced personnel. Where there are data gaps, these can be addressed by carrying out additional site investigation rather than moving immediately to remediation phase. There is also the need for the use of site-specific assessment criteria and detailed quantitative risk assessment to derive realistic remediation requirements. For the most complex sites, there should be cooperation between HYPREP and the regulators – the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) and the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) to finding the best way forward. Large-scale complex sites will produce large volumes of data. The way data are handled needs to be considered, such as sophisticated data management system with full traceability. Complex sites require a technical client organization that has qualified in-house personnel who can act knowledgeably on the advice provided. Early contractor involvement, the allocation of risk between the client, the consultant and contractor are a delicate balance.

The capacity building programme for the QA/QC Team no doubt equipped the members to better deliver on their roles as remediation supervisors and the oversight of HYPREP retainer laboratories.

IN SUMMARY:

Liners should be used to cover the treated soil and sediment to control moisture content. They should also be used in the storage area. Compost of plants, grass roots and stem are good bioremediation materials. Organic

fertilizers (fowl droppings, cow dung, plant compost) and inorganic fertilizers are also used for bioremediation. Contaminated materials from shoreline artisanal areas should be sent to landfill where they would be disposed of and not to be remediated. Clean topsoil can be imported from clean environment that mimics the original environment to replace polluted topsoil.

The height of contaminated material management centre (Biocell) should be increased to 3 meters to contain more soil for treatment. During excavation, the soil must be properly broken down to avoid lumps and the soil should be tilled and land-farmed several times for aeration. Air-sparging should also be adopted. Water from the sump should not be recycled for treatment but all effluent in the sump should be taken off site and treated to avoid eutrophication (excess nutrients leading to algal bloom) and also, to avoid recontamination of the soil that was supposed to be treated in the biocell. Sump should be emptied out and all effluent treated offsite and disposed to avoid runoff into clean vegetation and aquatic environment. The size of the sump should also be increased if the height of the biocell is increased. All nutrients must be measured and used adequately. Ratio of nutrient to soil must be accurate and documented. All nutrients to be used by contractors must be tested and proven to be ecofriendly. HYPREP should always collaborate with the regulators (NUPRC) to review site characterization report before bioremediation. Documentation should also be taken seriously. We must enforce that workers are PPE compliant, follow HSSE rules and have valid work permit for each activity they carry out.

For groundwater quality check, HYPREP should buy AQUA TROLL 500 and 600 because they can measure up to 6 physicochemical parameters onsite. This will boost productivity onsite. All physiochemistry should be done onsite, hence the need for multiparameter insitu-meter (AQUA TROLL). We should also check the

environment for PFAS (Per and Polyfluorinated Substances) because some of the nutrients used onsite for remediation might have them. We must also test contractors' nutrients to be sure that they are eco-friendly before using them on the environment for bioremediation and protect the storage area and cover treated soil to avoid erosion during rain.

Groundwater monitoring boreholes that contain free phase oil should not be purged to avoid cross contamination into the aquifer. New boreholes should be installed to replace and delineate contaminated boreholes with free phase oil. One bailer must be used per borehole, no decontamination and reuse of bailers. The bailers should be kept in the boreholes.

In high level elevated areas such as Okuluebu (Phase 1, Lots 47-55) flat capped boreholes can be installed to avoid vandalization by third party interference. All effluent purged from the boreholes should never be re-injected into the boreholes but taken offsite and treated. Samples collected should be sent to the laboratory immediately after collection. Standard turnaround time and sample holding time for each parameter for the various laboratory should be known and samples sent immediately after collection. We must ensure that the laboratories use new sampling containers. Appropriate containers must be used for sampling.

For samples exported to international laboratories, the individual laboratories should send preserved containers for volatile organic carbons (VOCs). For analysis of BTEX in water samples, the vials should be two. For soil samples, samples should be taken in two small amber bottles. For TPH, amber bottles should be used. All sample bottles are to be filled to the brim, and for water, the bottle should be overfilled to avoid air bubbles.

PICTURES OF THE MONTH



Hon. Minister of State for Environment, Dr. Salako Plants Tree at BMGS, Bori



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Plants Tree at BMGS, Bori



Chairman, BoT, HYPREP, Dr. Mike Nwielaghi Plants Tree at BMGS, Bori



Senior Prefect BMGS, Bori, Koalebari Nathaniel Welcomes Dr. Salako and His Entourage



Members of the Green Frontiers in Group Photograph with Dr. Salako and His Entourage



British High Commissioner, Montgomery Poses with Prof. Zabbey and HYPREP Team



Livelihood Trainees with HYPREP Team



Members of Association of Ogoni Doctors During the HYPREP Medical Outreach

Shun Illegal Oil Bunkering/Refining It Destroys The Environment

POETRY CORNER

CRYING CLIMATE

By: Kpoobari Nafu

Dear climate, what pain I see in your face,
That you look gloomy and not bright this morning?
Is it not same people I shelter who throw dirt in my face,
And fill my rivers with poisonous wastes,
My air with fumes that cause cardiac arrest?

And now I pine in pain for no fault of mine.
Were I not merciful I would send more tsunamis,
Were I not considerate I would unleash more floods,
Quake more cities into abyss,
And burn more houses with wildfires.

In my anger I would have melted more icebergs
And plague humans with intense heat waves.
But I remember the innocent children,
Who had no hand in my despoliation.
So, I braked on the rains and hurricanes.

But I should not be provoked any further!
Call more conferences to discuss my cure,
And more remedial measures to treat my wounds.
So, I will again spread my ozone over you,
And make earth a comfortable home for you.

Photo:HYPREP

THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE

“He who plants a tree, plants a hope.”

- Lucy Larcom



Photo:HYPREP

... for a cleaner and greener Ogoniland

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