



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

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PROGRESS ON CONSTRUCTION OF CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION



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**HYPREP
HERALD**
**NOT
TO BE
SOLD**

THE PC'S DESK



PROF. NENIBARINI ZABBEY
PROJECT COORDINATOR
(HYPREP)

Building and operationalizing the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration (CEER) is one of the recommendations in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on Ogoniland Environment submitted to the Nigerian Government in 2011. The CEER will be a knowledge hub for advanced integrated environmental management and restoration research. It will provide vocational skill training for youths and women. By developing innovative, cost-effective, and sustainable technologies and solutions that reduce the impact of pollutants on the environment, the CEER will serve as a focal point for knowledge management, with the overall goal being the ability to capture new knowledge and standardize scientific processes and deploy best practices from inside and outside of the business area.

The CEER shall run training courses and research in environmental management and restoration, enhance the capacity and skills of Nigerians, primarily Ogoni youths, create job opportunities, and promote integrated learning for innovation. It shall be a regional hub for research and development, as it will attract visiting scholars and

researchers. The CEER houses the Integrated Contaminated Soil Management Centre (ICSMC), which the UNEP report also recommends. The ICSMC shall treat oil-impacted soil and sediments and serve as a scholarly facility for training and research. It will enhance capacity in environmental remediation. The CEER is a legacy center that every Ogoni shall be proud of!

We are pleased to inform stakeholders that barely six months after the construction of the CEER commenced, the center's landscape is already dotted with the blocks of hostels, classrooms, clinics, libraries, canteen, faculty buildings, security quarters, gatehouses, and staff quarters. A couple of them are about to be roofed. The foundation for the two-storey administrative building has been laid, and the building is progressing impressively. The quality and fast pace of work at the CEER site are highly commendable. The CEER occupies twenty-nine (29) hectares of land in Wiiyaakara near Bori, the traditional headquarters of the Ogoni people. It is constructed by the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), a reputable international construction company. One of the low-hanging fruits of constructing the CEER is job creation for skilled and unskilled workers. As of the end of January, 607 Ogoni youths are working at the CEER site. The number of workers keeps increasing as the scope of construction increases. CCECC estimates about 1000 workers will be engaged at the climax stage. We have boosted the workers' income by approving that CCECC pays them 'Ogoni Special Allowance.' We urge Ogoni youths working at the Centre of Excellence to, in addition to the immediate benefit of earning a living, remain focused, develop their skills, and garner lifelong experience to enable them to work elsewhere.

One of the objectives of HYPREP is to build and strengthen local

capacity. Therefore, in addition to the hands-on experience garnered by the workers at the CEER site and other HYPREP sites across Ogoniland, we have granted access to the Ken Saro-Wiwa Polytechnic (KENPOLY) to our construction sites. I personally met with the Management of KENPOLY. I charged them to leverage the numerous HYPREP construction sites in Ogoni (the CEER, water schemes, Ogoni Power Project, Specialist Hospital, etc.) for practical training of Engineering and Environmental Science students.

We are mindful of the need for a robust sustainability plan to run the CEER effectively. Thus, we are working on a Bill for the CEER. When completed, the bill shall be presented as an Executive Bill to the National Assembly. In the coming weeks, I shall inaugurate a Steering Committee comprising reputable academics and private sector actors to brainstorm a sustainable management model for the CEER. They shall propose the center's curricula and make recommendations to the Governing Council (GC) of HYPREP for sustainable financing, collaborations and linkages with local and International Institutions, and staffing and recruitment strategy, among others.

In sum, the pace and quality of construction of the CEER are impressive. With the sustained momentum, I am confident the Centre will be completed within the contract's specified duration. The CEER's exquisite beauty, serenity, and state-of-the-art learning facilities shall be endearing. Ogonis will be proud to host the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration!



In this Issue

The progress report on the construction of the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration takes the lead in the March edition of the HYPREP Herald. The centre has progressed in its leaps and bounds. Most of the blocks have reached roofing stage and the rest at different levels of completion. Is it a centre that promises to revolutionize the study and practice of environmental remediation.

As shoreline clean-up is about to take off, the Project Coordination Office has been scouting for the best remediation approaches and methods to be used in this inter-tidal area owing to its peculiarities. The Honourable of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal in company of the Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey and other management staff embarked on an exploratory visit to sites and companies in Germany, Finland and Belgium in search of fit-for-purpose remediation technologies that would be deployed to clean up high-risk, complex sites in Ogoniland. It was a successful trip, and the report is in this edition of the HYPREP Herald.

Every step of the way on the Ogoni clean-up project is novel and so there is the need to document them for future reference, modelling, and application of the information therefrom in the remediation of similar sites around the world. To achieve that, the Project Coordination Office is collaboration with the Shell Petroleum Development Company and some Non-Governmental Organizations is mapping out strategies to put in place a robust documentation of the various aspects of the project. The report of the inauguration of the committee responsible for the coordination of the documentation works is included in this edition.

In January 2024, the Honourable

Minister of State for Environment, Dr. Ishaq Salako embarked on a working visit to some HYPREP sites in Ogoniland and in the process stopped over at the Birabi Memorial Grammar School where he planted some trees to mitigate the effects of climate change. The Honorable Minister of State had at the event promised the students that the Project Coordination Office of HYPREP will provide some garden tools and sanitary wares to the environment clubs in twelve schools across Ogoniland. The promise was redeemed with the purchase and presentation of the items to the respective schools.

The construction of the phase two water facilities for the provision of potable water in sixty-two communities in Ogoni is on-going and the Project Coordinator, Professor Zabbey had paid a visit to those sites to monitor the pace of work on the water projects. His impression and the communities visited are brought to you in this edition.

And still on provision of potable water in Ogoni, HYPREP and a Non-

Governmental Organization, the Society for Women and Youth Affairs (SWAYA) held a town hall in some communities in Eleme Local Government Area to sensitize the locals on the proper use and maintenance of the facilities to serve the communities longer and better.

The Livelihood Unit of HYPREP had invited potential beneficiaries of its education support programme for final year students of Ogoni origin in tertiary institutions to a screening at the Project Coordination Office in Port Harcourt. The well attended screening exercise was conducted transparently to the admiration of applicants and the report is also in this edition of the HYPREP Herald.

We have a featured piece on arbitration as tool for community development and conflict resolution written by His Majesty, King Dr Suanu Baridam, a poem and safety tips on how to avoid being kidnapped.

We hope you will find this edition as interesting and informative as usual, while looking forward to useful suggestions from you.

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Project News

PROGRESS ON CONSTRUCTION OF CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

Following the flag-off of the construction of the Centre of Excellency for Environmental Restoration (CEER) on 28th April 2023 by the then President, His Excellency Muhammadu Buhari (GCFR), the Management of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), in August 2023 performed the handover of site to the contractor signalling the actual commencement of work on the project.

Six months down the line, work has progressed appreciably on the various blocks that make up the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration.

The Centre of Excellence for Environmental Remediation is a recommendation of the United Nations Environment Programme contained in the 2011 report, the world body submitted to the Federal Government of Nigeria on the clean-up of Ogoniland.

In a competitive bidding earlier advertised, the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) won the bids for the construction of the centre and had from that August 2023 when the site was handed over to them worked steadily to beat the September 2025 delivery date of the project.

HYPREP Herald visited the construction site at Wiiyaakara and observed that works on some of the blocks have progressed to as much as eighty per cent while others that work commenced lately have reached between thirty and fifty per cent completion.

The status of each of the buildings is shown in the table below across the twenty-two work fronts and the pace progressing according to timelines.

Before the present state of the work, the following activities were carried



CEER under Construction

S/N	Activity	Status	Remarks
1	Site Clearance	100	Completed
2	Provision of temporary site office	80	Ongoing
3	Faculty of Vocational Studies	75	Ongoing
4	Faculty of Environmental Research and Development	75	Ongoing
5	Classroom Block	60	Ongoing
6	Female Hostel	60	Ongoing
7	Male Hostel	50	Ongoing
8	3 Bedroom Duplex	50	Ongoing
9	2 Bedroom Fats	40	Ongoing
10	1 Bedroom Fats	50	Ongoing
11	Club House	30	Ongoing
12	Clinic	50	Ongoing
13	Canteen	40	Ongoing
14	Admin Building	40	Ongoing
15	Perimeter Fence	60	Ongoing
16	Library	75	Ongoing
17	Security House	75	Ongoing
18	Shopping Plaza	30	Ongoing
19	Gate House	30	Ongoing
20	Auditorium	20	Ongoing
21	External Works (Drains and Internal Roads)	40	Ongoing
22	Integrated Contaminated Soil Management Centre	10	Ongoing

out by the contractor in line with laid down procedures and agreement for the construction of the project.

1. Site clearance: This involved removal of all grass, shrubs, trees, and stumps to pave way for the construction works.
2. Construction of temporary site office: It was one of the basic requirements before the commencement of construction activities to provide offices and stalls for workers.
3. Recruitment of community workers to support construction activities: Community workers drawn from the different villages in Ogoniland were recruited to support various activities on site.
4. Construction of various facilities: Construction works are ongoing for the various facilities at the centre which are at different stages of completion.
5. External works including road network and drains are on-going.

Though there were pockets of agitations by community workers calling for increase in their



CEER Roofed Site Office

renumeration and equalization of quota among the four Local Government Areas of Khana, Gokana, Tai and Eleme in the recruitment of workers for the project, the Management of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project had promptly responded to them, and normalcy has returned to site.

A total of six hundred and one community workers from Ogoni, particularly artisans have been recruited to support construction on the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration. The increment in their wages was

graciously approved by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Balarabe Abbas Lawal, whose coming to the project has been a blessing to the general administration of HYPREP.

The Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration is to house an Integrated Contaminated Soil Management Centre (ICSMC) which is one of the facilities at the centre and it is to provide training for students as well as treat contaminated sediments ex situ.



CEER under Construction

SUMMARY OF HYPREP EXPLORATORY VISIT TO EUROPE - GERMANY, FINLAND AND BELGIUM

Managers of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) have embarked on a technology-hunt visit to Europe in search of contextually fit-for-purpose remediation technologies that would be deployed to clean up high-risk, complex sites in Ogoniland.

The exploratory visit delegation was led by the Honorable Minister of Environment and Chairman of HYPREP Governing Council, Balarabe Abbas Lawal.

Other delegation members include the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, and the Board of Trustees Chairman, Dr. Mike Nwielaghi.

The team visited active sites, received presentations, and observed cutting-edge technologies used to remediate contaminated groundwater by SENSATEC GMBH in Hamburg, Kiel, and Rinteln in Germany, SUOMEN ERITYISJATE LIMITED (SEJ) in Helsinki, Finland, and HAEMERS TECHNOLOGIES in Brussels, Belgium.



HYPREP Delegation being Briefed by a Remediation Company Official

The visit underscored the Federal Government of Nigeria's commitment to decontaminate groundwater in Ogoniland as recommended in the UNEP Report. The Honorable Minister of Environment expressed satisfaction with the demonstrated technologies and emphasized the efficiency and

cleanliness of the remedial processes. In his words, "Remediation does not have to be messy." He stressed the need to involve the local communities and build the capacity of the youth and women through hands-on training and certification.



Hon. Minister of Environment, Balarabe Lawal (3rd) in a Group Photograph with Members of the HYPREP Delegation

HYPREP SETS UP REMEDIATION DOCUMENTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Chief Technical Advisor, Resilience to Disasters and Conflicts Global Support Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Mike Cowing has applauded the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey on the inauguration of a Remediation Documentation Review Committee, saddled with the responsibility of conducting a thorough review of submitted documents and providing necessary approvals to proceed with the remediation action phase to ensure that remediation processes are carried out efficiently and effectively.

Cowing gave the commendation virtually at the inaugural meeting of the committee held at the HYPREP Project Coordination Office in Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the author of the report on the environmental assessment of Ogoniland impacted by oil that HYPREP is set up to implement and UNEP had from inception of the project been providing technical support for HYPREP on the clean-up of Ogoniland.

In his opening remarks, HYPREP

Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey explained that there was need to carry out a two-tier review process for HYPREP remediation to ensure that contractors' documents meet the required standards and follow international best practices.

He disclosed that there will be two committees, a technical coordination committee and a technical documentation review committee.

“The first phase of our remediation of medium-risk sites is site characterization which involves collecting and analyzing data to determine the extent of pollution and nature of the contamination. The second phase is the remediation action phase which involves the actual cleaning of the contaminated sites using environmentally friendly measures. Those methods will be documented in the remediation action plan that will be shared with the committee for review. To progress from the site characterization phase to the remediation action phase, the contractors are obligated to submit a site characterization report and we modify it to a remedial action plan for review and approval. The site characterization report provides a comprehensive understanding of the

site's physical and chemical characteristics as well as any potential environmental hazards. The modified remedial action plan applies to specific actions that will be employed to mitigate any environmental risk or hazards caused by pollutants as identified in the site characterization reports.”

“To facilitate this process, a new committee has been established. The purpose of this committee is to conduct a thorough review of the submitted documents and provide the necessary approval to proceed with the remediation action phase. Adhering to these guidelines ensures that the remediation process is carried out effectively. The objectives of the committee are to assess the accuracy of the information provided in the site characterization report, assess the appropriateness and feasibility of the proposed remedial actions outlined in the modified remedial action plan, and ensure that the remediation process is carried out safely, efficiently, and effectively.”

Professor Zabbey added that the documents that are reviewed will be sent to the contractors for updating and then the updated versions will be sent to the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) which has the statutory powers to approve the remediation action plans for the contractors to commence actions.

The representative of UNEP at the meeting, Michael Cowing enquired why NOSDRA was given the power of approval rather than the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), which has the statutory approving role as contained in the Environmental Guidelines and Standards for Petroleum Industry in Nigeria (EGASPIN), to which a Supervisor in SPDC, Mr. Jahswill Edeh stated



Chris Newsom of SDN (L) and HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey (R) after the Inauguration of the Documentation Review Committee

that most times, responses from NUPRC are delayed and as such, approval from NOSDRA is necessary to expedite the work.

The committee membership comprises two representatives each from the Rivers State Ministry of Environment, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), the Social Democracy Network (SDN), one representative from the Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD) as well as nominated officers from the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP).



Cross Section of Participants at the Documentation Review Meeting

HYPREP PRESENTS GARDEN TOOLS, SANITARY WARES TO SCHOOLS

The Honourable Minister of State for Environment, Dr. Ishaq Salako, through the Livelihood Unit of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), has fulfilled his promise of providing basic garden tools and sanitary wares for HYPREP Environment Clubs in twelve selected secondary schools in Ogoni.

Dr. Salako had made the promise when he visited HYPREP sites and the Birabi Memorial Grammar School (BMGS) Bori, when he embarked on a

working visit to Ogoniland in January 2024.

The Honourable Minister who planted ten trees on the visit at BMGS had promised members of the environment clubs that HYPREP will provide garden tools and sanitary wares to enable them maintain a clean and safe environment in the twelve schools where HYPREP had set up environment clubs.

The Head Sustainable Livelihood Unit of HYPREP, Mrs. Josephine Nzidee,

while presenting the donated items to the schools encouraged the students to put the tools to use to always keep their environment clean, stating that the items provided will aid them in maintaining a clean environment.

The items donated are wheelbarrows, rakes, waste baskets, brooms, parker, mop sticks and buckets. The rest are rainboots, shovels, hoes, hand gloves, hats, bin bags and first aid boxes.



Teachers and Students of CSS Mogho Pose with HYPREP Officials During the Presentation of Garden Tools to Them

HYPREP PC, PROF. ZABBEY INSPECTS PHASE 2 WATER PROJECTS

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has expressed satisfaction with the progress made on the on-going phase 2 water projects in Ogoniland being constructed by HYPREP.

Professor Zabbey made this known when he embarked on an inspection visit to some of the sites in the phase 2 water projects at Bodo, Bomu, Deken and Sogho.

The phase 2 water project comprises fourteen LOTS and upon completion will supply potable water to over sixty-four communities across the four Local Government Areas of Ogoniland. Some of the benefiting communities are Kono, Kwawa, Ewee, Bane, K-Dere, Deeyor, Nwebiara, Sime, Barayira, Bara-ale, Norkpo, Koroma, Eteo and Onne. The other communities where work has started are Buan, Gwara, Kaa, Lueku,

Okwale, Taabaa, Beeri, Kpong and Kaani.

Provision of potable water to oil impacted communities of Ogoniland is a key recommendation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on the environmental

assessment of Ogoniland submitted to the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2011 which the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) is set up to implement among other recommendations.



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Inspects Windmill Powered Water Project at Bodo

HYPREP OUTLINES STEPS TAKEN TOWARDS WETLANDS PRESERVATION

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has said that the project is making consistent effort to restore damaged wetlands in Ogoniland as its contribution to the wellbeing of the environment and humans and the other forms of life that inhabit these areas.

Professor Zabbey who made this known in a release to make the 2024 World Wetlands Day outlined the steps HYPREP has taken in the restoration of oil impacted wetlands in Ogoniland.

“HYPREP has taken on the bold responsibility to restore hectares of shoreline and mangrove ecosystems in the Ogoni area of the

Niger Delta that have been degraded by man-influenced activities. HYPREP has:

- undertaken a Preliminary Shoreline Clean-up Assessment of over 3000 ha of shoreline
- conducted a chemical characterization of oil levels in the sediment
- delineated the 3000 ha of the assessed shoreline into 833 grids
- has started the process of remediating 1,747 ha of the 3000 ha
- piloted mangrove rehabilitation of 460 ha
- providing skill training to 5000 Ogoni youth, including artisanal refiners, to create alternative livelihoods as a means to prevent recontamination of remediated ecosystems

- trained 90 Ogoni youth and women in mangrove restoration and empowered them with grants to set up mangrove nurseries
- created and funded Environment Clubs in secondary schools in Ogoniland to sustain education, awareness, and sensitization of the risks of wetland degradation.”

He regretted that though wetlands are sources of valuable resources and wealth, they are being polluted and destroyed on daily basis due to mindless and careless actions and activities of humans that leave in their trail poverty and diseases.

“However, despite their invaluable contributions, wetlands face numerous threats, including urbanization, reclamation for social projects, plastic and crude oil



CEER under Construction



CEER under Construction



CEER under Construction



Aerial View of CEER under Construction

(contd. from page 8)

pollution, deforestation, dredging, and the impact of climate change. For instance, over 4000 hectares of mangroves have been destroyed by decades of oil spills in the Ogoni area of the Niger Delta alone. This has exacerbated poverty, as traditional livelihoods dependent on healthy mangroves are destroyed. The degradation of these crucial ecosystems poses risks to biodiversity and compromises the well-being of communities that depend on wetlands for survival.”

The HYPREP helmsman explained that wetlands especially in the Niger Delta serve as veritable tools for the preservation of cultures and provide the ground for the cultivation of crops and fishes and other traditional and spiritual practices.

“A range of these ecosystems exists in Nigeria, particularly in the Niger Delta region, where they contribute to the sustenance of various local cultures, offering valuable resources for fishing, agriculture, and traditional and spiritual practices. Mangroves, for example, typically serve as natural buffers against floods, store and purify water, and provide food and habitat for various plant and animal species.”

Zabbe therefore called for a change in the way we use the resources in our

environment as that goes a long way in the sustainable management of the environment for the overall wellness of present and future generations.

“Change in attitude towards the environment, sustainable use of ecosystems, and co-management of ecological infrastructure by communities are essential components of a sustainable wetland's restoration regime.

All stakeholders must work together to implement sustainable practices that protect and restore these vital ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations. HYPREP is committed to raising awareness about the significance of wetlands and advocating for their protection. We call upon the government at all levels, civil society, businesses, communities, and the public to join hands in preserving these critical ecosystems. Our collective efforts can contribute to achieving sustainable development goals, particularly those related to clean water and life on land and underwater, as well as climate action.”

The Project Coordinator revealed that HYPREP is carrying out mass campaigns to communities, schools and other institutions to sensitize them on the importance of environmental

management and actions they need to take to preserve the environment.

“This World Wetlands Day, HYPREP encourages individuals and communities to engage in activities that promote wetland conservation, such as clean-up drives, educational programmes, and tree-planting initiatives. By working together, we can ensure that wetlands continue to thrive for the benefit of current and future generations. We therefore urge you to appreciate the beauty and importance of wetlands and pledge to be stewards of these vital ecosystems. We can create a sustainable future by prioritizing our environment's well-being and our communities' prosperity.”

He stated that this year's theme resonates deeply with Nigeria, a nation blessed with abundant wetlands that play a vital role in supporting biodiversity and the livelihoods of communities and that wetlands, including mangroves, lagoons, creeks, ponds, rivers, and associated seasonal water bodies, sustain life, foster biodiversity, and ensure the health and prosperity of communities through their regulatory, provisioning, protecting, replenishing, and sustaining functions.



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbe (L) Shows Restored Mangroves to Prof. Olof Linden (R) of World Maritime University while HYPREP Herald Editor, Kpoobari Nafu watches from the foreground

HYPREP, SWAYA HOLD TOWN HALLS ON WATER SUSTAINABILITY

The Paramount Ruler of Njuru Community in Agbonchia, Eleme, Chief Ejii Anyaogu has expressed the gratitude of his community to the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) for reticulating its potable water supply to Agbonchia.

Chief Anyaogu stated this at a townhall meeting organized by the Society for Women and Youths Affairs (SWAYA), in collaboration with the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) to educate the locals on the need for the sustainability of the water facilities in the community.

He expressed the hopes that both HYPREP and the Ministry of works will fulfill the promises they made to the people of Agbonchia soon by liaising with the road construction company working in the community to avoid causing damage to public utilities along the road.

Executive Director of SWAYA, Mrs. Stella Amanie, in her address emphasized the need to sustain the water that the government, through HYPREP has provided for the community.

“The facility we are talking about is the Alesa water facility. It is that facility that is serving five communities, including Agbonchia. Water is life and about 75% of the fluids in our body is water. If that be the case, we must conserve this water for sustainability. That is why we have come to talk to both women, men, and the youth because this matter concerns everybody. This is so that if you see somebody vandalizing the pipes or being careless with what has been provided, you will know that your life depends on it and call attention to the act. We are here to appeal to the conscience of everybody involved, we need to

conserve this water.”

Mrs. Amanie argued that since HYPREP was a project and will eventually hand over the water facility to the community there was need for the people to be well grounded in the economics and governance of the water facility.

“Eventually, HYPREP will take their leave from this town, and it will be up to us to maintain this facility. We will also know if there is need for us to do a little contribution, maybe if stakeholders will support, just for us to make sure this water continues to run. This is everybody's business, not just HYPREP's. We will continue to appreciate what they have done, and we are not going to let their efforts go to waste while we go back to drinking water that is laced with benzene. We want to see their efforts last so that generations to come will still enjoy the good water they have provided. It is important that we all work together to achieve the conservation of the water we have been provided.”

A staff of HYPREP in the Potable Water Unit, Mr. Kabari Deeu reiterated the need for

sustainability of the water scheme within Agbonchia community. He also mentioned that the water project has been facing some challenges.

“We have the facility at Alesa which is supposed to be supplying potable water to five communities- Alesa, Aletto, Alode, Agbonchia and partly Ogale. I want to also mention that we've had some challenges with the road constructions and that is why, for some time, you may not have seen water flowing in some of the taps that we have around Agbonchia. We've met with some of the community leaders as well as His Highness of Okerewa to talk about these challenges. We've had a problem with road construction contractors removing utility lines without following due process. Ordinarily, the first thing they're supposed to do is to look at the utilities, that is, the power lines and water lines and then call the asset owners to see how they can relocate those facilities. This is so that they don't completely disrupt the provision of water and electricity in the area but that hasn't been the case. We've had that



Community Leaders in a Group Photograph with HYPREP/SWAYA Officials at the End of the Town Hall Meeting

challenge and we've also informed the Rivers State Ministry of Water resources because they are the primary asset owners and they've taken it up. They're working with the Ministry of works to see that the mistakes are corrected. It is also important that we talk about sustaining the water and that is why SWAYA is here to educate us.”

He disclosed that HYPREP is to operate and maintain the water facility for a specific period of time and then hand it over to the community and the Ministry to run it and therefore called for the cooperation of the community in the sustenance for the water scheme.

“The agreement we have with the contractors is that HYPREP is going to operate and maintain these facilities for a period of three years after construction. So, what happens when HYPREP leaves? As we know, following the UNEP report of 2011, it was discovered that benzene was 900 times above the standard limit in some of the wells around Eleme. It is important that we take this potable water scheme seriously because the water we are providing meets W.H.O standards. It has different processes and treatments to ensure that the people have potable water. It is nothing compared to our regular boreholes. This water can be presented anywhere, and it will meet the regulatory standards. We want to admonish you to support us and to own these assets. Remember also, that water cannot be free forever. Even in civilized climes, water is never free. Eleme is blessed and we have a lot of companies around and prominent people in this local government that can support this scheme and see that it survives even after HYPREP has gone. What you will pay collectively may not even be anything significant as it were. It's just for people to appreciate what has been given to them and take

ownership and protect the facilities that we are providing.”

In his presentation which centred on water uses, management and sustainability, an official of the Rivers State Ministry of Water Resources, Engineer Bealo Deebari Brownson admitted the past failure of government in providing clean drinking water for the people, which resulted in many individuals sinking boreholes in their homes and expressed the hope that partnering HYPREP in providing potable water is a progressive step taken by government to ameliorate the situation. He reiterated the importance of sustainability and exhorted all present to take part in the long-term preservation of the water scheme.

Brownson emphasized why water sustainability should be a component of community projects and suggested that in order to sustain steady water supply in the community, water supply must be community managed, and demand driven, requiring water supply sanitation, capacity building and community participation and not a

situation where the maintenance of the project is left in the hands of the government alone.

Participants at the town hall meeting called on HYPREP to extend reticulation to the newly built area of the community, sustain steady supply of water, and allow for fuller community participation in the management of the water scheme.

Responding to the issues raised, Mr. Kabari Deeu explained that the essence of the town hall was to hear from the people to get their inputs on how to better manage the water facilities, and apologized for the temporal cut in water supply which he said was due to the breakage of the main pipe supplying water to the booster station due to the on-going road construction works by the Rivers State Government but promised that the situation will soon be fixed as HYPREP has engaged the Ministry of Water Resources which has in turn engaged the Ministry of Works and the issue was currently being rectified so that water supply can resume to Agbonchia as soon as possible.

HYPREP SCREENS APPLICANTS FOR ITS EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has commenced a verification exercise for two hundred (200) indigent final-year students drawn from the four Local Government Areas of Ogoniland in tertiary institutions, in the first phase of its education support programme.

The Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey, who was represented by the Head of livelihood, Mrs. Josephine Nzidee at the screening exercise, said that the programme is in furtherance of the commitment of the project to support research projects of the prospective beneficiaries without status considerations.

Professor Zabbey emphasized the

transparency of the selection process, noting that applicants had no prior connections to HYPREP and applied independently on the portal that was designed for the selection and added that the portal was opened for final-year students in tertiary institutions within the state, and the guiding principles for the selection were equity, fairness, and transparency.

“In this pilot phase of the education support programme, we put up the portal for transparency because HYPREP in implementing all its livelihood programmes, ensures that the programmes are transparent, and the beneficiaries of these programmes are transparently selected. Everyone sighted here today applied on the

portal and were shortlisted based on the criteria we put up.”

The Project Coordinator urged the would-be beneficiaries to use the funds judiciously for the purpose they were given and not for frivolities.

Some of the beneficiaries who spoke at the end of the exercise appreciated HYPREP for showing interest in their career development through the launch of the education support programme and promised to continue to work harder academically.

The verification exercise was carried out at the Project Coordination Office of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), in Port Harcourt in conjunction with the executives of the National Union of Ogoni Students (NUOS) in select tertiary institutions in Rivers State.



Applicants for the HYPREP Education Support Programme

AIWMEST HONOURS HYPREP PC, PROF. ZABBEY

The African Institute of Waste Management and Environmental Studies (AIWMES) has conferred on the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey the Distinguished Eco-Management Fellow of the Institute for his outstanding contributions to the protection and wellness of the environment.

Professor Zabbey assumed office in May 2023 as the Project Coordinator of HYPREP and had since made significant effort towards the clean up of the polluted environment of Ogoni.

The latest award is besides Prof. Zabbey's several academic and social awards in recognition of his outstanding research and contribution to knowledge. He is the recipient of the ASLO 2022 Ruth Patrick Award “for research and engagement with a critical impact on the recovery of the Niger Delta ecosystem from oil spills and environmental justice for affected communities. He is the only African who has won the Ruth



Patrick Award since it was instituted 24 years ago.

Professor Zabbey is also a fellow of the Fisheries Society of Nigeria (Ffs) and fellow of the West Africa Society of Toxicology (FWASOT). He is a member of several other national and international bodies among which are the British Ecological Society, Society for Ecological Restoration (SER),

International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), Nigerian Environmental Society (NES), UK Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (AIEMA), and other professional bodies.

ARBITRATION AS TOOL FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

BY: HRM KING DR BARIDAM SUANU TIMOTHY YORMAADAM JP, ACA'RB, FCIS, MNIN, FINS. AMB.P. GBENEMEME ANCIENT OF BANGHA KINGDOM NYOKHANA DISTRICT. KASIMENE BANGHA VIII. ACTING CHAIRMAN, OGONI SUPREME COUNCIL OF TRADITIONAL RULERS

Arbitration is a powerful tool for impact and conflict resolution in community development. It offers an alternative to traditional legal proceedings, allowing parties to resolve disputes in a more efficient, cost-effective, and collaborative manner. Here are some reasons why arbitration is a great tool for community development:

1. **Efficiency:** Arbitration offers a streamlined process for resolving disputes. Unlike traditional litigation, which can be time-consuming and costly, arbitration allows parties to resolve their conflicts more quickly. This efficiency is crucial for community development, as it ensures that disputes are addressed promptly, allowing projects and initiatives to move forward without unnecessary delays.

2. **Cost-effectiveness:** Arbitration is generally less expensive than litigation. The parties involved in a dispute can save significant costs by avoiding lengthy court proceedings, attorney fees, and

other associated expenses. This cost-effectiveness is particularly beneficial for community development initiatives, as it allows limited resources to be allocated more efficiently towards the actual development projects.

3. **Flexibility:** Arbitration offers greater flexibility compared to traditional court proceedings. The parties involved can choose their arbitrators, set the time and place for hearings, and even determine the rules and procedures to be followed. This flexibility allows for a more tailored and customized approach to resolving disputes, taking into consideration the unique needs and circumstances of the community.

4. **Confidentiality:** Arbitration proceedings are generally confidential, ensuring that sensitive information and details of the dispute are not made public. This confidentiality encourages parties to be more open and candid in their discussions, facilitating a more productive and honest

dialogue. In community development, confidentiality is crucial as it allows parties to address sensitive issues without fear of reputational damage or negative publicity.

5. **Collaborative approach:** Unlike adversarial court proceedings, arbitration encourages a more collaborative approach to dispute resolution. The parties involved have the opportunity to actively participate in the process, present their case, and work towards finding a mutually acceptable solution. This collaborative approach is particularly beneficial for community development, as it promotes dialogue, understanding, and the building of relationships, leading to more sustainable and inclusive outcomes.

6. **Expertise:** Arbitration allows parties to select arbitrators with specialized knowledge and expertise in the relevant field. This ensures that the dispute is resolved by individuals who understand the unique challenges and dynamics of community development. The expertise of the arbitrators can contribute to more informed decisions and outcomes that are better aligned with the goals and objectives of the community.

In conclusion, arbitration is a great tool for impact and conflict resolution in community development. Its efficiency, cost-effectiveness, flexibility, confidentiality, collaborative approach, and expertise make it an ideal mechanism for resolving disputes and promoting positive outcomes. By utilizing arbitration, communities can address conflicts in a manner that is fair, efficient, and conducive to sustainable development.



HRM King Baridam

SAFETY TIPS

STAYING SAFE FROM KIDNAPPING

Personal security is of utmost importance especially now that kidnapers are on the prowl in most of our cities and villages. Below are some useful tips to keep you safe as much as possible:



1 Be Aware of Your Environment

Be vigilant and know the on-goings in your environment.

2 Do Security Checks Before Employing Workers

Employ house keepers, drivers, and other employees that you have done proper background and security checks on them to avoid persons of questionable character.

If possible, know them to their families.

3 Have Emergency Numbers

Have Police telephone numbers you can call whenever you sense you are being monitored by kidnapers or you notice anything strange in your environment.

4 Know Your Neighbours

To avoid living close to a potential kidnapper, get to know that person living close to you well. Find out if the person is living alone or not and the kind of job that person does for a living.

5 Don't Divulge Family Secrets to Strangers

Whenever you are with strangers, do not go details on information about your family. You may be unknowingly disclosing valuable information to kidnapers.

6 Avoid Revealing Family Information on Social Media

Be careful not to reveal too much about yourself or your family members via social media. No need to flaunt new cars, houses, or other possessions. Never reveal addresses and be sure to turn off the GPS function on your smart phones. Don't post on social media the places you frequent.



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
HYDROCARBON POLLUTION REMEDIATION PROJECT

The Project Coordinator, Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey, The Management and Staff of Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) rejoice with Christians on the auspicious occasion of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. May the peace and salvation that the Master lived and died for be evident in our dear country, Nigeria.

Happy Easter Celebration!
Signed: Management



PICTURES OF THE MONTH



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Presents Portrait to Hon. Minister of Environment, Balarabe Lawal



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey (L) with Manager Ogoni Restoration Project (SPDC) John Ide (R)



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Poses with Perm Sec. Ministry of Environment, Mahmud Kambari and others at the Ministry



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Inspects Facilities in Phase II Water Projects



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Inspects Facilities in Phase II Water Projects



Teachers and Students of BMGS, Bori Pose with HYPREP Officials



Community Leaders During the Town Hall Meeting on Water Sustainability



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey with some Ogoni Leaders at a Marriage Ceremony

Shun Illegal Oil Bunkering/Refining It Destroys The Environment

POETRY CORNER

NIGHT OF HEAT

By: Imeh Ofem

The sun has many visitors these days
So, it cooks night and day unending.
To serve earth men who look up to her
They have come as before to bask in her warmth

But the solar star has been long in her kitchen
And her chimney lets out scourging heat,
So, her earth neighbours run berserk
Heat wave is on her menu tonight

All must feast and call for more water
That's all she can afford for now
The drought has robbed her of food
As the climate changes more

Before today, genuflecting before her brought cure
To many a bony deficiency and ailment
But now her ray strikes with stroke
Unless we appease her quickly.

Photo:HYPREP

THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE

“Plant trees. They give us two of the most crucial elements for our survival: oxygen and books.”

— Whitney Brown



Photo:HYPREP

... for a cleaner and greener Ogoniland

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