



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

# HYPREP HERALD

2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Edition

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# THE PC'S DESK



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

The provision of potable water for the Ogoni population especially impacted communities is a key recommendation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on the Ogoni environment that was submitted to the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2011. That recommendation translates into a major deliverable for the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) which has the mandate to implement the UNEP report. The project, that is HYPREP has since inception in 2017 worked to actualize its mandate of remediating the Ogoni environment and restoring the livelihoods of the people as well as deliver on the emergency measures which water is one of them and building legacy projects (infrastructure) for the people of Ogoniland.

As the world marked this year's water day with the theme, 'leveraging water for peace', it is our firm belief that the water projects that HYPREP is constructing will not only bring improved sanitary condition and peace in Ogoniland but an enduring peace as they are built with components of sustainability to serve the present generation and the one after. This is even as we understand

that water is not merely a resource but a lifeline, a source of sustenance, healing, and unity. And it is in this understanding that we find the seeds of opportunity for change. By leveraging water as a catalyst for peace, we have the potential to heal the wounds of the past; to build and sustain a future of resilience and harmony in the Niger Delta using the Ogoni environmental restoration experience as the pilot and springboard.

Moreover, water can transcend the barriers that divide us to foster dialogue, understanding, and cooperation. In Ogoniland, where HYPREP is undertaking the clean-up of hydrocarbon pollution, access to clean water has become a shared goal. This common cause unites communities in their quest for peace and development.

The commitment of the Federal Government through HYPREP to increase access to safe drinking water in Ogoni communities is iron-clad and evident in the six (6) completed and commissioned potable water headworks and three (3) booster stations in Ogoniland. The six headworks are in Alesa, Korokoro, Barako, Terabor, Kpean, and Ebubu. Currently, water is being supplied to eighteen (18) communities in Ogoniland, namely, Kpean, Tenama, Barako, Bera, Biara, Nweol, Giokoo, Lewe and Mogho. The others are Gbe, Kpor, Alesa, Aleto, Agbonchia, Alode, Ebubu, Korokoro and Ueken. Remarkably, when construction of the ongoing additional 18 water schemes is completed, HYPREP should have achieved a 95% potable water supply coverage of the entire Gokana LGA, 70% of Khana LGA, 90% of Eleme LGA, and 95% of Tai LGA. Each water scheme comprises boreholes, ground and overhead water tanks, treatment plants, staff

quarters for resident workers, a generating power set, and a mini laboratory for water quality checks and quality control.

To ensure the sustainability of HYPREP-built water schemes in Ogoniland, we will continue to collaborate with communities and the Rivers State Government in the design and execution of the projects. We will hand over completed water facilities to the respective communities for effective management. HYPREP manages the facilities in the first two years of operation, during which, with the collaboration of the Rivers State Government, we train community workers and set up the Water Consumers Association (WCA) for continuous management and sustainability.

HYPREP is also undertaking shoreline cleanup and mangrove rehabilitation in Ogoni to restore ecosystem goods and services, including water quality maintenance, for the local communities' socio-economic benefits. To restore clean water sources is a matter of ecological necessity and a fundamental human right – a precondition for realizing peace and stability. When communities have access to clean water, they are empowered to reclaim their dignity, rebuild their livelihoods, and envision a future of prosperity for generations.

As we celebrate, let us recommit ourselves to the noble cause of leveraging water for peace. Let us draw inspiration from the transformative power of water – a power that has the potential to heal wounds, bridge divides, and sow the seeds of a more peaceful and sustainable future in Ogoniland, Rivers State, Nigeria and the world at large.

# In this Issue

Hurray! HYPREP Herald is two. It has been two years of consistent and detailed information on the operations, programmes and activities of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project regarding its mandate in Ogoniland – the remediation of oil impacted sites and restoration of livelihoods of the people as well as the delivery of the emergency measures as recommended in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on Ogoni environment and the building of legacy projects such as the Centre of Excellence for Environmental Restoration and the Ogoni Specialist Hospital, among others. We are grateful to the Project Coordination Office for the huge support to keep the newsletter afloat and to you our esteemed reader for always looking forward to the next issue of the publication. Without you our effort will not yield any result, so, we owe you a great debt of gratitude. As we move into the next circle of our publication, we assure you of timely and accurate reporting that will bring you up to speed with happenings on the project. May I appreciate the editorial crew for sparing no effort in ensuring the success we have recorded these past two years. Thank you and more strength to your elbow as we roll the sleeve for the job ahead especially as the HYPREP moves into the remediation of the shorelines and restoration of depleted mangroves. In December last year, the Honourable Minister of Environment, Mallam Balarabe Abbas Lawal had an inaugural meeting with the great youths of Ogoni on how to meaningfully engage with the project and promised to make the meeting a quarterly summit where HYPREP can

properly inform them of the plans and programmes of the project and as an avenue to get their feedback on the performance of the project. That promise was fulfilled at the end of the first quarter of the year with the convocation of the second quarterly meeting with the youths of Ogoni. The outcome of the meeting is the lead story of this edition, which was covered extensively to keep you adequately informed.

The Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey in his quest to bring added value to the Ogoni clean-up project had been prospecting for avenues to increase the performance of the project by of innovation and partnerships that will enhance delivery of corporate goals and mandate. He recently visited the Headquarters of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) to seek collaboration on how to use Information Technology to advance and improve the processes of the Ogoni clean-up project. The Project Coordinator also had another talk with the President of the African Development Bank, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina on the sideline of an event in Lagos on setting up an agro-processing hub in Ogoniland.

To consolidate on whatever gains and achievements recorded on the project, the Project Coordination Office held a retreat on the sustainability of forests and mangroves in Ogoniland to get new information on the conservation of these precious resources and heritage. The retreat was held at the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) Ibadan, Oyo State.

The Project Coordination Office prioritizes safety of personnel and equipment on all HYPREP sites and to ensure that this objective is met, the project met with all its contractors to reiterate the importance of adhering to safety rules and procedures. The

report of that meeting is included in this edition of the Newsletter.

Regular engagement with stakeholders to brief them on the progress of the project is an important aspect of the operations of the Project Coordination of HYPREP and accordingly the Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey was on a radio talk show to intimate the Ogoni people and indeed the larger society of the works the project has done so far and what lies ahead.

To deepen information dissemination into the grassroots, the project is planning the establishment of twenty new environment clubs in secondary schools in Ogoni in addition to the existing twelve. It has set up one out of the twenty in Community Secondary School, Bomu where the students were briefed on the mandate and activities of HYPREP.

The Ogoni Power Project is coming on stream and the contractor had continued to train the local manpower that will assist them in the construction and installation of the facilities.

The Project Coordinator was at the 60th birthday celebration of the Chairman, Board of Trustees of HYPREP, Dr. Mike Nwielaghi and the knighthood investiture of the Head of Administration of HYPREP, Sir Roland Ngbor (KSC).

We have safety tips to keep you informed on how to conduct yourself to avoid falling prey to kidnappers and have included a poem for your reading pleasure and action on conservation of the forest.

We do hope, you find this edition as informative as always even as we look forward to useful feedback from you.

## Project News

# OGONI YOUTHS ARE INDISPENSABLE TO CLEAN-UP PROJECT – HYPREP PC, PROF. ZABBEY

“We recognize the indispensable role of Ogoni youths in driving the success of the HYPREP project. Your energy, innovation, and passion are invaluable assets that propel us on this transformation journey. I urge you to continue actively engaging the project and lend your voices, ideas, and talents towards building a brighter future.”

That was the assurance of the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey at the 2024 first quarter interactive session with Ogoni Youths, Women, and People Living with Disabilities (PLWD) held in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State Capital.

The 2024 first quarter interactive meeting is in fulfilment of the promise made at the maiden interactive session with the youths to hold the forum on a quarterly basis. That maiden meeting had the Honourable Minister of Environment, Mallam Balarabe Abbas Lawal in attendance who was on a two-day working visit to Ogoniland and among other engagement commissioned four water projects in the four Local Government Areas of Ogoni and flagged off a free medical outreach by HYPREP.

At this second quarterly interactive session, the Honourable Minister of Environment, Mallam Lawal was represented by the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Prof. Zabbey who stated that the meeting as conceived is to provide updates on the progress of work across thematic areas as well as obtain feedback that would aid in making management decisions.



**HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Addressing Ogoni Youths During the 2024 1st Quarter Interactive Session**

“I am particularly pleased to inform you that since our last engagement significant progress has been made across various fronts of our endeavour. Last year, the Honourable Minister of Environment and Chairman of the Governing Council visited Ogoniland on a two-day visit in December to commission water facilities in Korokoro, Ebubu, Terabor, and Kpean which continue to supply water to households in neighboring communities.

“The Centre of Excellence for Environmental Remediation (CEER) construction in Wiiyakara has advanced. As of today, it is at a 47% completion rate. 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. I am confident that every Ogoni will be proud to host the CEER.”

“The Mangrove restoration project contractors have moved to the site and have started preliminary revegetation activities in their work area. The Ogoni shoreline clean-up contractors are setting up their base camp on-site. While the set-up in Bomu has been completed, similar activities are ongoing in the B-Dere and Kpor-Goi communities. Also, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) training for community workers will be completed and active clean-up is expected to follow suit.”

Professor Zabbey also hinted the gathering on the progress made on the Ogoni Specialist Hospital project and the livelihood training for five thousand Ogoni youths and women.

“I am also excited to share the news that the construction of the Ogoni Specialist Hospital and Buan Cottage Hospital, which are beacons of hope for enhanced healthcare services in Ogoniland, is in progress. When completed, these state-of-the-art

facilities will provide quality medical care to our people.

“The Livelihood training for 5000 Ogoni youths is ongoing, and upon completion, we will provide starter packs to enable them to continue as entrepreneurs. I also want to inform all trainees that the Governing Council has graciously approved additional funds for their transportation, and the monies will be disbursed to them accordingly. In addition to approvals for other training, the Governing Council has also approved the training of People Living with Disabilities, which will be rolled out subsequently.”

“We are expanding our engagements with various community segments, including fresh graduates, students, and underserved populations. The scholarship grants to final-year students, which began last year, will be paid soon. We shall organize a Procurement and Business Strategy workshop for young entrepreneurs in the coming weeks. For additional details, I have asked the Heads of HYPREP's frontline Units to come here and update you on specific details

on the progress of the Ogoni cleanup across various thematic areas of the Project. So, be ready to listen and participate in this interactive session.”

The HYPREP Project Coordinator commended the youths on their unwavering dedication, enthusiasm and commitment in ensuring the success of the HYPREP project. He acknowledged that it is through their active participation that meaningful progress can be achieved.

“Let us remain steadfast in our commitment to leveraging Ogoni youth participation for the success of the HYPREP project. Together, we have the power to effect meaningful change and create a prosperous, sustainable, and inclusive future. As we press forward, let us hold fast to our vision of a revitalized Ogoniland”. Professor Zabbey urged the youths to take advantage of the various opportunities offered by HYPREP to improve their income, academics, career, employability, and entrepreneurial potentials to live more meaningfully. He also urged Ogoni people to take a united stand against oil theft and artisanal oil refining to

safeguard the shorelines from re-pollution and assured that the Project Coordination Office, under his leadership, will continue to listen and support them.

In his keynote address entitled “Shunning violence and adopting peaceful means in making demands during project implementation”, Dr. Gbenemene Kpae opined that in oil producing nations, youth violence is stoked when the proceeds from oil are not used for development purposes. He however noted that development is negatively impacted in the face of youth violence because the implementation of development projects in any city is impacted by the level of violence and advised youths to use peaceful means to seek redress for perceived injustice and underdevelopment which he said is more beneficial and would bring about more positive outcomes than resorting to violence.

The Ogoni youths in attendance utilized the interactive session to air their views as well as ask pertinent questions regarding the activities of the project. They demanded to know



**Ogoni Youths at the HYPREP Interactive Session**

HYPREP's plan for Ogoni professionals in project execution, the issue of engagement of artisanal refiners, the state of the Ogoni power project among other issues.

In his response, Prof. Zabbey explained that due to the demands of his office, he wouldn't be available to always hold meetings but however, stated that the requests for audience are granted on need basis and the parties in dispute are invited to the office for dialogue. On artisanal refining he stated that "as you are aware, the mangrove restoration project has started in Bomu and shoreline cleanup is starting along the shorelines in Gokana. So, we cannot allow anybody to re-pollute areas that we are cleaning. We cannot allow artisanal refining to take place along the shorelines in Ogoni. The reason is that, if that is allowed, it will be re-polluting the areas we are cleaning. We will continue to talk to ex-artisanal refiners in Ogoni to talk to our brothers and sisters to stop artisanal refining in Ogoni. We are also urging all of you to embrace the livelihood programmes so that we continue to enhance capacity of our people not just to work in Ogoni alone, but to be able to work elsewhere. That is why we are going to organize a programme for undergraduates and fresh graduates on career enhancement and employability. This is so that they will be able to have a career to gain employment."

In response to the question about jobs, Prof Zabbey stated that it is his wish that they get contracts but getting contracts demands meeting up regulatory and statutory requirements. "It is important for all of us to bear in mind that government contracts are guided by the Public Procurement act of 2007. So, for all HYPREP projects,

you must comply with the procurement act. There are stages of application. You have to submit your bids and then evaluation will be done. I think the best approach is to build the capacity of young Ogoni entrepreneurs in the procurement process. That is why in my address, I mentioned that in the coming weeks we are going to organize a procurement workshop for young Ogoni entrepreneurs so that we build their capacity to be able to submit winning bids and then be able to participate not just in HYPREP jobs but in every government job or even in the private sector."

As regards the power project, Prof. Zabbey gave the assurance that the project is on course.

"It is a process, and this first stage is about transmission and building of substations. If you go to Wiiyaakara you will see that the substations have been fenced and the contractor is about to build the staff quarters and other components of the substation. The same thing applies to the Bodo substation. We have also completed the remuneration of economic crops and assets along the right of way for the four Local Government Areas. As we speak, we are paying compensation for the right of way because nobody builds houses under transmission lines, it is not safe. For that reason, if a building is under the transmission line, that building will give way. We cannot just remove anybody's building without paying compensation. Another important thing we need to know about the power project is that the contract was awarded in Naira, but 69% of all the materials needed for it will be imported. So, there was no way the contractor could have procured those materials with a naira contract. What

happened was that the Federal Ministry of Environment had to step in, and the contract sum was redenominated to 69% USD and 31% Naira to enable the contractors to procure all the equipment overseas. As we speak, we are setting up a letter of credit to enable the contractor to move in all the equipment from overseas. Be rest assured that in the coming months, our estimate is June, about thirty containers of those equipment will come into Ogoni and then we can start to see the transmission towers at different locations. We have also gone further to do the technical survey of the spots where those towers will be. It's a work in progress. Phase one is about transmission, while phase two has to do with distribution to the various communities."

The President of the National Youth Council of Ogoni People (NYCOP), Comrade Barinuazor Emmanuel, commended the Project Coordinator on his leadership which has brought peace among the youths of Ogoni. He requested that professionals be brought in for the next phase of the needs assessment for the livelihood programme and urged Ogoni youths to embrace peace and regard HYPREP as their own because they are also stakeholders in the project.

Ogoni groups represented at the meeting include the Ogoni People's Assembly, the National Youth Council of Ogoni (NYCOP), the National Youth Council of Nigeria, Ogoni Development Drive, Ogoni Youth Federation, community leaders across Ogoni land, National Union of Ogoni Students, Ogoni Association of Persons living with disabilities, Ogoni Women Economic Rebirth, National Association of Nigerian Students, and the Ogoni Environment Watch among others.

# HYPREP SEEKS PARTNERSHIP WITH NITDA FOR ROBUST INFO TECH IN OGOINI CLEAN-UP

Determined to add more value to the clean-up of Ogoniland and by extension the life of the people, the Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has opened discussions with the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) on ways of using information technology to advance the entire process of the clean-up and develop the capacity of the youths.

Professor Zabbey was at the Headquarters of the National Information Technology Development Agency in Abuja where he met with the Director General of the Agency, Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi.

Their discussion at the exploratory meeting centred on collaboration and partnership with the Agency on how NITDA would support the Ogoni cleanup with digital literacy and technology development.

The HYPREP Project Coordinator posited that creating a technology



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey with Dir. Gen. NITDA, Kashifu Abdullahi

ecosystem in Ogoniland will stimulate the digital economy and innovative means of monitoring restored environments, such as artificial intelligence.

Professor Zabbey and his host, Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi both identified potential areas of immediate and long-term collaboration.

## HYPREP PC, PROF. ZABBEY MAKES CASE FOR MANGROVE CONSERVATION IN OGOINI LAND

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has made a case for the preservation of community protected mangroves and sustaining the present effort by HYPREP to restoring damaged mangroves in Ogoniland.

Professor Zabbey made the call at a 3-Day International Mangrove and Forest Sustainability Retreat organized by HYPREP at the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) Ibadan, the Oyo



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Observing a Volunteer (Survivor) Mangrove



## Participants at the 3 day Int'l Mangrove and Forest Sustainability Retreat, Oyo State

State capital.

Preservation of community protected mangroves and restoration of damaged mangroves attract carbon credits that serve as incentive to the community to continue making efforts at mangrove conservation.

Carbon credit is a useful tool to enhance a healthy environment by cutting down on emissions that contribute to global warming.

Professor Zabbey therefore emphasized the need to protect the last standing sacred forests in Ogoniland

which are biodiversity hotspots, adding that HYPREP will support community-level training on sustainable mangrove harvesting in Ogoniland.

The event brought together organizations from both the public and private sectors and experts in related disciplines. Some of the organizations that attended the retreat include the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Rivers State Ministry of Environment, Edo State Forestry Commission, Ekiti State

Forestry Commission and Tree Growers Association (Ekiti). Others are Cross River State Forestry Commission, Roshan Renewables, and Dangote Cement. The rest are Bodo Mediation Initiative (BMI), Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD), Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN), Ngel Nyaki Montane Forest Project, Oxford University, United Kingdom, and the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA).

## HYPREP HOLDS SAFETY MEETING WITH CONTRACTORS

The Management of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has maintained that it places premium on Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) on all its project sites in line with standard procedures and practices and charged its contractors to adhere strictly to safety protocols to prevent injuries, loss of life and damage to equipment.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey gave the hint at a HSE meeting with HYPREP contractors held at the Project



Cross Section of HYPREP Contractors and their Staff at the Safety Meeting

Coordination Office in Port Harcourt. Professor Zabbey assured that HYPREP was poised to improve safety of personnel and equipment on all HYPREP sites.

“Safety is our top priority; it is everybody's business. Everyone who works for us, or with us, has an important part to play in making HYPREP sites a safe space to work. While you are on site, it is important that you stick to all HSE protocols, for the benefit of the workers, the environment and HYPREP.”

He stated that while HYPREP is committed to a safe working condition on site, every contractor and their workers must comply with safety directives to prevent accident on site.

“We expect everyone working on site to comply with the HSE rules stipulated in the Bill of Quantity (BOQ) as provided in the contracts. Adhere to the instructions of the site HSE officers and nurses. Check their vital signs every day and work in line with international best practices to prevent unsafe conditions.”

Director, Technical Services, HYPREP, Professor Philip Shekwolo



**Cross Section of HYPREP Contractors and their Staff at the Safety Meeting**

in his remarks described the meeting as an opportunity to share experiences and ideas for improving safety on HYPREP sites. He enjoined contractors to always hold pep talks on safety during toolbox meetings, identify unsafe acts and keep daily records of vital signs.

Professor Shekwolo also encouraged contractors to make provisions for sickbays and referral hospitals in the event of emergencies. “It is cheaper to comply with HSE.” He concluded.

Presenting the way forward, the Team Lead, HSE, HYPREP, Dr. Boma

Amadi encouraged contractors to always comply with the HSE plan given to them by HYPREP, employ a certified nurse on site, create constant awareness on High Blood Pressure and how to manage it, train site workers on medical emergency management, and encourage workers to always go for regular medical check-ups.

The meeting had in attendance representatives of the various companies working on all HYPREP project sites.

## **PROF. ZABBEY IN TALKS WITH AFDB ON AGRO PROCESSING IN OGONILAND**

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has deepened talks with the management of the African Development Bank (AFDB) on partnership to set up a Special Agro Industrial Processing Hub in Ogoniland with focus on cassava.

Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey indicated the HYPREP position in a chat with the President of the African Development Bank (AFDB), Dr. Akinwumi Adesina on the sideline of the Obafemi Awolowo Prize for Leadership Award in Lagos.



**President, African Dev. Bank, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina Shakes Hands with Prof. Zabbey at the Obafemi Awolowo Prize for Leadership Award in Lagos while other Officials watch on**

Given the comparative advantage Ogoniland has in the cultivation of cassava, the management of HYPREP had on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 commissioned a cottage Cassava Processing Factory in Korokoro, Tai following the successful completion on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019 of the training of fifteen trainees in the fabrication of cassava processing machines at the International Institute for Tropical

Agriculture (IITA), Onne.

The cassava processing factory is the sustainability package and a post-training set-up to enable the trainees, use the skills they acquired for their benefit and that of your dependents.

The recent talks by Professor Zabbey with the President of the African Development Bank, Dr. Adesina on Agro Processing is a progressive step towards the development of

agriculture and sustainable livelihood in Ogoniland.

The President of the African Development Bank, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina is a recipient of the Awolowo Prize for Leadership Award, and the event was attended by the Vice President, Kasim Shettima, former Heads of State, State Governors, Traditional Rulers and dignitaries from within and outside Nigeria.

## **HYPREP REITERATES COMMITMENT TO MANDATE DELIVERY**

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has assured the Ogoni people and other stakeholders of the project of his commitment to the delivery of the mandate of HYPREP.

Professor Zabbey gave the assurance as a guest on 'Pointblank', a radio talk programme on Super 93.3 FM, Port Harcourt.

He stated that the Ogoni clean-up project is going on as stipulated by the gazette establishing HYPREP in the area of soil and ground water remediation and restoration of sustainable livelihoods for the Ogoni community and other deliverables of the project.

"We are doing public health projects and livelihood projects in line with the objectives of HYPREP. If you look at the gazette that set up HYPREP, the objectives are very clear. The first one is to remediate the contaminated lands and wetlands in Ogoni land including mangrove restoration. The second one is to restore livelihoods of the people and create alternative livelihood opportunities for the Ogoni people. We are responsible for public health study of Ogoniland to strengthen the public health system in Ogoniland. We are also responsible for ensuring security and promoting peacebuilding in the area. Another objective is to



**Treatment of Contaminated Soil in Progress**

strengthen governance, transparency, and accountability in the region."

"HYPREP is a project that is responsible for the cleanup of Ogoniland and this cleanup is borne out of the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on Ogoni environment. Other parts of the Niger Delta are also contaminated with oil pollution so the gazette clearly states that HYPREP will clean up Ogoni and other oil-impacted communities. We are mindful of the fact that we need to accelerate the process. The present administration is very keen on accelerating the Ogoni cleanup."

Speaking on the activities of

HYPREP, Professor Zabbey explained that he has prioritized the provision of potable water to the people of Ogoniland, even going beyond the recommendations of the UNEP report since water is a fundamental human right.

"HYPREP has done phase one project by building water schemes in Ogoni land. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2023, we commissioned four water schemes and in this current phase of our water project, we are building fourteen new schemes and these fourteen schemes will reticulate 52 communities in Ogoniland. So, we are providing potable water and potability is a function of the quality of the water. Is



**Commissioned Water Project at Terabo, Gokana LGA**

it drinkable? Those parameters that we use to measure the potability of the water have been well defined by the World Health Organization, as well as by the European Union and nationally, by the Federal government gazette Number 46, 2011 which is titled National Environmental Surface and Groundwater Quality Evaluation.”

Professor Zabbey went ahead to explain that the UNEP recommendations on water provision as well as the budget are implemented based on contextual realities. He said that priority has been given to water and the Project is determined to provide potable water to the people of Ogoniland, adding that construction of the water projects is going on very well and some of the projects could be commissioned before the expiration of the contracts.

The HYPREP Project Coordinator stated that “by the time we are done with the current phase of our water project, all the communities in Gokana, for example, will be provided with potable water, except Yeghe. The Yeghe water scheme is going to be part of the 2024 water scheme. The K-Dere water scheme was part of the B-Dere water scheme because initially the B-

Dere water scheme was supposed to have a booster station in K-Dere but now, we have looked at the expanse of K-Dere and it is a large community, so we have decided to convert the booster station to a stand-alone water station. So, that has been advertised and the procurement process is in progress.”

On the issue of sustainability, the HYPREP boss explained that sustainability measures are currently in place for effective management and maintenance of the water project. In his words, “the issue of sustainability is very important. It is something that we consider a top priority because it does not make sense for us to build water schemes that are not sustainable. So, if you look at the sustainability framework that we have in place, first we will talk about the issue of sustainable energy. The cost of powering those water schemes is very high and you don't expect the rural community dwellers to pay huge amounts of money for water supply. What we have done to help remove the high cost of powering this water scheme firstly is to try to provide solar-powered systems that will help in powering those stations. We have advertised that and the procurement

process is currently underway. We are also building the Ogoni power project which is going to reinforce the access to energy in Ogoni at the same time and power the water schemes. HYPREP will manage the supply of water from the various water schemes for three years and then hand it over to the Water Consumers Association. We want it to be owned and managed by the community. From the beginning, we got the community people involved and the Rivers State Ministry of Water Resources because the government must also be involved. After three years, the management of the water projects will be handed over to the Water Consumers Association which will be community driven. Also, we have engaged some Non-Governmental Organizations to help us set up those associations.”

Professor Zabbey went on to talk about the support the project has provided for small-scale businesses in line with its mandate on sustainable livelihood. He noted that “our livelihood programme is very robust, and we are looking at support for small and medium-scale businesses. We piloted with 60 local businesses. We provided them with some palliative funds to help them boost their businesses. We are currently tracking them to see the progress they have been able to make between when we gave them the funds and now, so, that we know that we are doing the correct thing because it is the pilot scheme. If our evaluation process reveals significant progress in their business, it tells us that it is something we should invest more money in.”

On community participation, Professor Zabbey reiterated that the Project under him is human-centric, community-driven, and inclusive as was demonstrated in the communities' participation in the mangrove restoration project as well as engaging those involved in the value chain. He added that community members are

trained in setting up mangrove nurseries and selling the seedlings to contractors. One other area he said that HYPREP has made significant improvement is the involvement of persons with disabilities in the livelihood programmes of the project with the members having special training areas and also that the project has deliberately reserved 40 percent participation to women generally to create gender balance.

To enhance transparency and accountability, Professor Zabbey hinted on plans to begin the publishing of HYPREP activities online. He said, "In the coming weeks, you will see a list of contracts, contractors, and status of the projects and it is going to be very interactive. So, any information you want to get on HYPREP, you will see it online, except for the ones that cannot be made public, going by the public service rules. For those who have been impacted that do not have access to this information, I am going to have a meeting with town criers, so be rest assured that they will be well informed."

In response to a phone-in complaint about the livelihood trainees' transport stipends being inadequate, the Project Coordinator stated that the programme was conceived in 2021, hence, the cost of transportation was calculated based on the economic situation at the time, explaining that it is impossible to pay more than what was approved. He, however, empathized with the trainees for the inadequacy of their stipends, promising that the project has sought approval for a possible upward review and payment to beneficiaries and asked for their understanding and patience.

Professor Zabbey also talked about the Project's health system strengthening that has seen HYPREP intervened in the General Hospitals in Eleme, Khana, Gokana, and the Primary



### **HYPREP Fashion Designing Trainees in Session**

Health Centre, Kpite in Tai Local Government Area. He mentioned that free medical outreaches were carried out in the 4 Local Government Areas of Ogoni with over 5,000 beneficiaries. The intervention, he noted, is a build-up to the comprehensive health study of Ogoni land to determine the relationship between oil contamination and the health issues of indigenes in impacted sites.

The UNEP report recommended a comprehensive health study of the Ogoni population and the Project Coordinator disclosed that the University of Port Harcourt in conjunction with the University of Ibadan as well as the World Health Organization have submitted proposals for the study which is before the Governing Council of HYPREP for consideration.

Fielding questions on the possibility of re-pollution of remediated sites and how the project plans to mitigate a possible recurrence, Professor Zabbey stated that HYPREP is continuing engagement with ex-artisanal refiners

to sensitize those who are still into illegal oil refining and disclosed that some of the people currently being trained are those who have been involved in artisanal refining.

"We are trying our best to deal with it. It is not unique to Ogoniland. It is a Niger Delta-wide issue. However, for our shoreline cleanup, we want to insulate it from artisanal refining re-pollution. We are doing our best to ensure that there are no serious cases of re-pollution by engaging those who are involved in the act, by collaborating with ex-artisanal refiners to continue to sensitize the public about the danger of oil theft and artisanal refining."

The radio talk programme is one of several points of engagement and sensitization of the Ogoni people and other stakeholders on the programmes and activities of HYPREP that the Project Coordination Office has carried out recently.

# WE ARE ORGANIZING CAREER ENHANCEMENT/EMPLOYABILITY WORKSHOP FOR OGO NI STUDENTS – PROF. ZABBEY

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has said that the project will continue to give priority attention to human capital development of the Ogoni people especially the youths.

Professor Zabbey stated this when he played host to the leadership of the National Union of Ogoni Students (NUOS).

He informed the students that HYPREP has made remarkable progress in the livelihood training programme intended to give economic skills to the Ogoni people.

“We have also trained 39 youths for cabin crew. Nineteen (19) of them have been licensed and in the coming months we expect one of the airlines to come and conduct interviews for some of them. We are expectant that after the interview, some of them will be gainfully employed. As part of HYPREP support to all of you and other graduates from Ogoni, we are organizing a career enhancement and employability workshop for Ogoni students. This workshop is going to have a lot of modules that will enhance your career and your chances of being employed. Of course, for every undergraduate, there are three E's. You have employment, enterprise or further education. These are the three pathways that every graduate must choose from.”

Professor Zabbey assured the graduates that the trainer for the workshop is an excellent teacher, and he is coming in from the United Kingdom. He promised that they will learn a lot of new things that will enhance their careers and their



**HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey with First Class Graduates from Ogoni**

potential to be employed anywhere in the world. He went further to outline HYPREP's programme of support for young entrepreneurs in Ogoniland.

“In order to support young budding entrepreneurs, we are also planning to organize a procurement and business strategy workshop for young entrepreneurs. We are also providing scholarships and education support to Ogoni youths. We expect you to take advantage of these opportunities to improve your academic and entrepreneurial potentials and live more meaningfully. I also want to reassure you that the Project Coordination Office under my leadership will continue to support you and other Ogonis in this quest.”

On that note, I want to specially thank you for being good ambassadors and once again, on behalf of the Management and Staff of HYPREP, I want to say a big congratulations on your feat”.

Professor Zabbey used the occasion to honoured eleven indigenes of Ogoniland who recently graduated with first class honours from the Rivers State University. He showered them with accolades as well as presented them with awards.

The HYPREP Project Coordinator congratulated the graduates on their outstanding academic performances which he said brought pride to Ogoniland and its people and reiterated his commitment to upholding the well-being of Ogoniland as well as implementing the recommendations of the UNEP assessment report on the Ogoni environment which includes remediating oil impacted communities, restoring livelihoods, and building peace and capacity and sustainable environmental management.

“At HYPREP, we recognize talent and support excellence. A key aspect of our livelihood restoration strategy is supporting education and acquisition of relevant skills by Ogoni youths. Of course, you're aware we are building the Center of Excellence for Environmental Restoration at Wiyakara in Ogoniland. That center has two facilities. Faculty of Research and Development and then there's a Faculty for Skills Acquisition. There we will continue to train Ogoni youths and youths from other areas in the Niger Delta in different vocational skills. The Faculty for Research and

Development will encourage students from all over the world because it's going to be a regional hub for innovative and integrated research in environmental management. That center will support some of your careers and the careers of other youths from Ogoni and even from outside Ogoni."

Speaking on behalf of the awardees, the President of the National Union of Ogoni Students (NUOS), Nukpugi

Daniel Karabari, commended the project coordinator on his commitment to the welfare of Ogoni students, stating that since the inception of HYPREP, Ogoni students have not had it as good as they currently do under the leadership of Professor Zabbey.

Also, the Secretary of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), David Bariereka, further thanked Prof. Zabbey for fostering

youth inclusiveness through the various HYPREP programmes, stating that the various empowerment programmes brought about by the Project Coordinator were a demonstration of his love for the youths and pledged that the students will continue to support him. He also assured the Project Coordinator that they will reciprocate his good works by making Ogoni proud and being worthy ambassadors of Ogoni.

## **HYPREP TO ESTABLISH 20 NEW ENVIRONMENTAL CLUBS, BEGINS WITH CSS BOMU**

The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has established a new environment club in Community Secondary School, Bomu in Gokana Local Government Area.

Speaking at the ceremony which was held at the school's assembly hall, the Head of the Livelihood and Sustainable Development Unit, Mrs. Josephine Nzidee stated that the club is the first out of twenty new clubs that will be established in secondary schools in Ogoniland in 2024 in addition to the already existing 12 environment clubs already established in secondary schools in Ogoniland.

Mrs. Nzidee, on behalf of the Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey, expressed gratitude to the Principal and Staff of CSS, Bomu for supporting the programme and for allowing the school to be a part of the HYPREP agenda of environmental sustainability.

"You will be having staff from the thematic working areas in HYPREP coming to speak to you on what HYPREP is doing in Ogoniland. A very key project is about to start in your community, we call it shoreline cleanup. If you've been to your waterfronts, you'll notice that some work has already started. We've also



**HYPREP Officials with the Principal and Students of CSS Bomu**

trained 50 youths in Bomu on how to plant mangroves. We know that they've been planting mangroves, but we taught them a better way to establish their mangrove nurseries. We will be linking you up with those we trained in mangrove establishment because we expect that when HYPREP staff come to speak with you, you will be able to communicate what you have learnt in those sessions to the people in this community. What this means is that invariably, you are ambassadors of the environment."

She went further to encourage them to ensure that their environment is always kept clean because as

ambassadors of the environment, it is their duty to lead so that other people can learn from them and enjoined them to make out days when they will keep the school premises clean because that is one of the expectations of them as club members.

Mrs. Nzidee further announced that HYPREP organizes quiz competition for all the environment clubs across the four Local Governments Areas of Ogoniland and informed the students to always take notes whenever a HYPREP official comes to talk to them because the quiz competition will consist of questions pertaining to HYPREP activities in Ogoniland.

preparation and informed them that the previous quiz competition was won by Birabi Memorial Grammar School, Bori and that they went home with the prize money of one million naira, followed by Community Secondary School, Ogale, Eleme, who won six hundred thousand naira, while Community Secondary School, Mogho got four hundred thousand naira. The rest schools that participated in the competition were given consolation prizes. She advised them to be committed, dedicated and studious to ensure that they win the next quiz competition.

Mrs Nzidee educated the students of Community Secondary School, Bomu on what HYPREP is about.

“HYPREP has two mandates. The first one is to remediate impacted sites and the second one is to provide alternative sources of livelihood to the people of Ogoni land. We also have other areas where HYPREP is working, we are providing potable water. We are building a Centre of Excellence at Wiyaakara in Khana Local Government Area. We are building a Specialist Hospital at Kpiti in Tai Local Government Area. We are also building a Cottage Hospital at Buan in Khana Local Government Area. We are also trying to provide power to some communities across the four Local Government Areas of Ogoniland.

“All these things I've mentioned are called the thematic working areas of HYPREP. So when you are making your request as a school or as a community from HYPREP and it doesn't fall within any of these things I've mentioned, HYPREP may likely not oblige you. HYPREP is a project, not an agency and a project attend to specific things which has been listed by the Federal Government to the Project Coordination Office.”

Mrs. Nzidee gave a rundown of livelihood activities from 2019 to date.

“We started by training 15 Ogoni youths in the fabrication and use of cassava processing machines and that project was a collaboration between the Stakeholders Democracy Network (SDN), HYPREP, and the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture, Onne. Then, we set up a cassava processing factory in Korokoro, in Tai LGA. We also supported them with starter packs which included welding machines, rollers and benders to start their own businesses. In 2020, we trained 400 Ogoni women in Agric business and entrepreneurial skills. They were trained in fish farming, poultry, crops and we also taught them how to make feeds for their poultry and their fish. We formed them into cooperatives and supported them with various items to help them set themselves up.”

“From October last year, we started the training of 5000 Ogoni youths and women in twenty different skill areas. These skill areas include fashion and designing, catering and hospitality, welding, scaffolding, crane operation, firefighting to mention but a few. For that programme, we did a lucky dip process in all the villages in Ogoniland. So, every community in Ogoniland has at least one person in the programme. We are expecting that after this programme, the youth restiveness in Ogoniland will reduce. We also expect that artisanal refining, which we call illegal bunkering, will also reduce across Ogoniland because they have other skills to earn a living. We are also planning to carry out more trainings on the livelihood programme this year, subject to the approval of the Governing Council of HYPREP.”

“Last year we also supported 60 small businesses spread evenly across the four Local Government Areas of Ogoniland with a grant of three hundred thousand naira each. We are going to support more small businesses this year all in a bid to

improve the livelihood of the people of Ogoniland. We are also going to support final year students to be able to write their projects from the schools in Rivers State which includes Rivers State University, University of Port Harcourt, and Ken Saro-Wiwa Polytechnic. We selected 200 final year students to support with a grant to complete their project. As we commence new projects this year, the livelihood team will also come to update you on what we are doing.”

The membership of the newly formed environment club consists of 10 students each from JSS3, SS1 and SS2, bringing the total number to 30. The club members were so selected to ensure the longevity of the club in the school with the junior members advancing in class and recruiting more junior students as they go. The club members were gifted with some support materials from the livelihood team. These items include school bags, t-shirts, notebooks and faze caps all branded with the HYPREP and environment club logos.

The final phase of the event was the election of club officials. This was done through a transparent process where the students made two nominations each for the positions of Club President, Secretary and Public Relations Officer. The nominees for club president were chosen from SS2, nominees for secretary from SS1 and the nominees for PRO were chosen from JSS3. The nominees were voted for and winners emerged through a simple majority.

The Principal of the school, Chief Viura Godwin Kpobari, expressed his gratitude to HYPREP for the opportunity given to the students and assured the officials that the students will compete favourably with their mates in any competition. He congratulated the selected club members and urged them work hard to actualize the objectives of the club.

# OGONI POWER PROJECT: CONTRACTOR TRAINS BATCH 2 ASSISTANTS

Another Batch of one hundred and twenty-three (123) Ogonis has been trained to work on the Ogoni Power Project being undertaken by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP).

The training was held at the Skills Development Center of the Ken Saro-Wiwa Polytechnic Bori following the successful completion of the first batch of training for Ogoni youths in October last year to assist the contractor working on the Ogoni Power Project.

The Managing Director of Petro Extra Energy Services, Engineer John Yowika said his company had been engaged by HYPREP to localize

training of Ogonis with such skills that would enable them to participate in the Ogoni Power Project.

Engineer Yowika stated that beneficiaries of the training include electricians, artisans from Ogoni including those with Bachelors, Masters, and PhD in the field of Electrical Engineering and related disciplines.

The training focused on aspects of Transmission Line, Distribution Line, Earthing System, Transformer installation handling, Sub-Station Construction, as well as Handling of Electrical Equipment, and Electrical Health Safety.

Beneficiaries of the training stated that

it gave them fit-for-purpose practicals in Electrical works and thanked the Management of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project for giving them the opportunity to be so trained, promising that they will be of good conduct and commit to the realization of the Ogoni Power Project.

The beneficiaries of the training Programme were drawn from Eleme, Tai, Gokana and Khana to give even opportunities to the four Local Government Areas that make up Ogoniland.

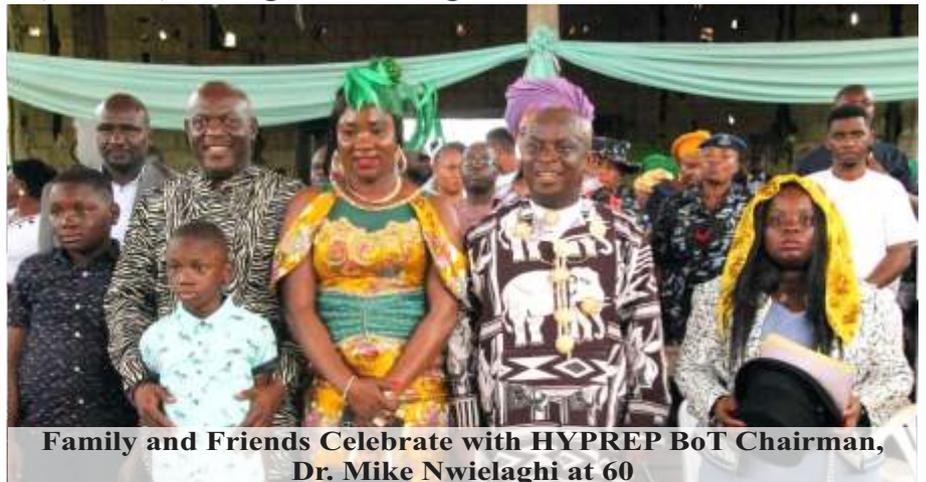
## PROF. ZABBEY EXTOLLS HYPREP BOT CHAIRMAN, DR. NWIELAGHI AT 60 - Celebrates with HYPREP Head, Admin, Sir Nabor on Knighthood Investiture

The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Professor Nenibarini Zabbey has extolled the sterling qualities of the Chairman of the Ogoni Trust Fund, Chief Dr. Mike Nwielaghi at a reception to mark his 60th birthday anniversary celebrations in Port Harcourt.

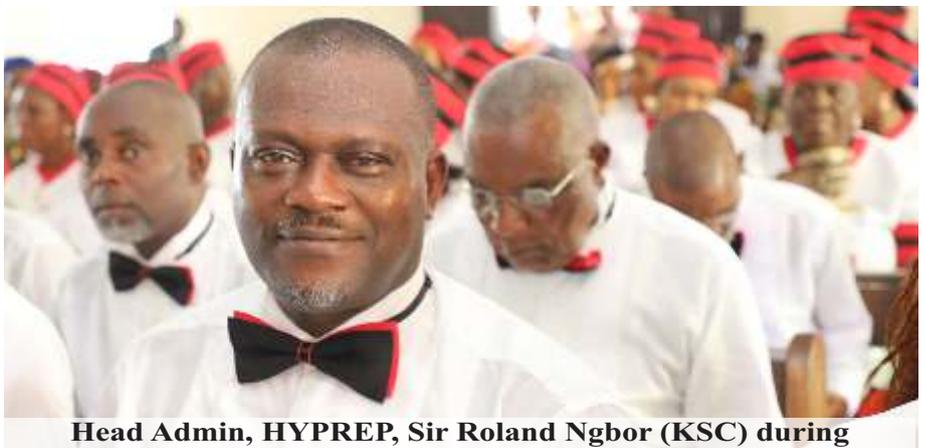
Professor Zabbey described the Chairman of the BOT of HYPREP as a 'diligent, dogged, highly dependable, forthright and disciplined personality.' The HYPREP Project Coordinator also seized the occasion to reassure stakeholders that the Ogoni Clean-up being implemented by HYPREP is in safe hands and that the Project which is both human-centric and community based will continue to ensure value for money and sustainability.

Professor Zabbey had earlier attended the thanksgiving service of the birthday celebrant held at the St. Pius Quasi Parish Church, Buan in Khana Local Government Area.

The HYPREP Project Coordinator also attended the Knighthood Investiture of the Head of Administration, HYPREP and his



Family and Friends Celebrate with HYPREP BoT Chairman, Dr. Mike Nwielaghi at 60



Head Admin, HYPREP, Sir Roland Nabor (KSC) during his Investiture as a Knight in the Anglican Church

wife, Sir and Lady Roland Nabor Cathedral, Bori in Khana Local Government Area.

# SAFETY TIPS

## STAYING SAFE FROM KIDNAPPING PART 2

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 Let Your Phone Always Have Airtime

Keeping your phone with you at all times is very important as it can be a source of help when there is a threat of kidnap.

Don't just keep your phone with you but make sure you have airtime, no matter how little it could be.

### 3 Let Someone Know Your Whereabouts

If you must meet a new acquaintance, make sure someone knows where you're going and who you're meeting.

Leave a message with a family member or friend where you're headed and if possible, give the name of the person you're about to meet and other details you might know.

### 6 Stop Making Predictable Movements

Using the same route will make it easier for abductors to target and strike you. Use alternate streets or highways when driving to work and back.

### 2 In Case of Threat, Shoutout

Whenever you notice any threat of kidnap around you, attract the attention of people around to yourself by screaming or shouting.

Keep doing this until you notice that people have gathered around you and can come to your rescue.

### 4 Do Not Accept Rides From Strangers

Kidnappers pose as good citizens by offering free ride to stranded passengers. So, do not accept ride from those you do not know.

### 5 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  
(HYPREP)



## Happy EID UL FITR

The Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibarini Zabbey, Management and Staff of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) rejoice with our Muslim brothers and sisters on the occasion of the Eid Ul Fitr celebration and pray that the peace and blessings of this sallah day be upon you all and the supplications you engaged in be accepted, as you successfully went through the Ramadan fast.

Eid Mubarak!

Signed: Management

# PICTURES OF THE MONTH



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey Addressing a Gathering during the 2024 World Water Day



HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey with Director General NITDA, Kashifu Abdullahi



Director Technical Services, Prof. Philip Shekwolo and HYPREP Staff at the NMGS Conference, Jos



L-R: Dr. Mike Nwielaghi, Chief Victor Giadom, HYPREP PC, Prof. Zabbey during Dr. Nwielaghi's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration



Participants at the Interactive Session



Physically Challenged Persons Making Presentation at the Interactive Session



Participants at the Interactive Session



Head Admin, HYPREP, Sir Roland Ngor (KSC) during his Investiture as Knight in the Anglican Church

# Shun Illegal Oil Bunkering/Refining It Destroys The Environment

## Editorial Crew

Prof. Nenibarini Zabbey	Publisher-in-Chief
Kpoobari Nafu	Editor
Enuorale Mba-Nwigoh	Head Reportorial
Faith Deekor	Reporter
Imeh Ofem	Reporter
Chiamaka Ikea	Reporter (NYSC)
Tombari Naadue	Camera
Godwin Norbana	Camera

## POETRY CORNER

### FOREST OF NO TREES

By: Faith Deekor

I walked the road of childhood today  
Through the farms of familiar neighbours  
And came to the spot that the sacred forest once stood  
Itself, the trees and the animals that were reserved  
Have been relocated and some ended up as fire woods and roof rafters  
That fertile plain that housed networks of burrows  
Of ruminants parading their spoors at night  
Is now a smoking black refinery  
That constantly spits phlegm on the ground  
Artwork of crooked fingers and charred faces  
Stamped with indelible scars.  
But how was the immovable forest dispatched,  
So that no tree is seen on the assembly ground?  
It was at the meeting when momentary gain  
Signed a pact with greed to spoil a people's heritage  
Can we ask for a return of our green reserve?  
Yes, but it will take effort and time to regrow our iroko  
And it is a must, if, our children will know  
That a forest is not, if, it has no trees.

## THE ENVIRONMENT ON MARBLE

“Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.”

- Martin Luther



Photo:HYPREP

# ... for a cleaner and greener Ogoniland

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