

Niger Delta Dialogue

REPORT

**Eemjim Hotel,
Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.**

Date:
Friday June 10, 2016

Time:
09:00am



Academic Associates PeaceWorks

Niger Delta Dialogue

UYO, JUNE 10, 2016



ACADEMIC ASSOCIATES PEACEWORKS
WITH SUPPORT FROM

EUROPEAN UNION

&

NIGERIA STABILITY & RECONCILIATION PROGRAMME



European Union



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NIGERIA STABILITY
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PROGRAMME

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NIGER DELTA DIALOGUE

Programme for One Day Meeting

Opening Session Chair:	HRM Alfred Diete Spiff	9:00
Chairman's Opening Remarks Coordinator's Welcome	HRM Alfred Diete Spiff Chief Dr. Judith Burdin Asuni	
Goodwill Message	HE Michel Arrion, Amb./Head of EU Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS	
Goodwill Message	Mr. Bashiru Olasupo Nigeria Stability & Reconciliation Programme	
Remarks from Chief Host	HE Governor Udom Emmanuel rep. by HRM Owong (Dr.) Effiong Bassey Achanga	
Remarks from Special Guest of Honour	Prof. Yemi Osinbajo Vice President, represented by Brig. Gen. Paul T. Boroh Rtd. Special Adviser to Pres. on Niger Delta & Mrs Ibim Semenitari MD. NDDC	
Think Piece Presentation Group photograph	Prof. Henry Alapiki	10:30
Tea Break		
Morning Session	Chair: Amb. Nkoyo Toyo Issues of the Niger Delta Oil and Gas issues Governance issues Environmental issues Herds/farmer issues	11:00
Lunch		1:00
Afternoon Session	Chair: Mr. Tony Uranta Security of people and property Militancy	2:00
Tea Break		4:00
Adoption of Resolutions	Prof. Des Wilson	4:30
Closure Vote of thanks	Chief Anabs Sara Igbe	5:30

INTRODUCTION



As attacks on oil facilities are on the rise, with the attendant negative impact on the economy, it is now more important than ever that genuine leaders of the Niger Delta are given the opportunity to meet with top federal government officials to chart a way out of the quagmire into which the region is quickly sinking. In response to the deteriorating situation and clear need for all parties to work together to ameliorate the situation, AA PeaceWorks, a nongovernmental organization working in the Niger Delta region for over two decades, organized a one day closed door meeting in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

Fifty respected leaders from across the six states of the South South region met in the presence of senior government officials on Friday June 10, 2016. In order to ensure neutrality, funding was sought and received from the Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme and other international partners.

The event brought together key leaders from the federal government level with citizens

from across the Niger Delta. His Royal Majesty, King Alfred Diete Spiff was the chairman of the occasion. The Federal Government was represented by General Paul Boroh, Special Adviser to the President on the Niger Delta; Mrs. Ibim Semenitari, Acting Managing Director of the NDDC; and a representative of the Honourable Minister of Niger Delta. The UK, US and the European Union were invited and were present as observers.

The participants included respected Traditional Rulers, elders, academics, activists, retired ambassadors, and former members of the National Assembly. The participants were individually chosen on the basis of their expertise and also to reflect the diversity of opinions across the Niger Delta.

At the end of the dialogue, a number of issues were identified and resolutions agreed upon. These are contained in this report.

CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS



HRM ALFRED DIÈTE SPIFF

The Chairman-HRM Alfred Diète Spiff noted that Nigeria is resource rich with a lot of wealth but it has been alleged that there are certain persons who amass and hijack the collective wealth of the Nation. The unending agitation for inclusion is typified by the recent destruction of oil facilities and installations in the region. The elders are perceived to have failed in their responsibilities and the youths have resorted to doing what in their own way, what their leaders could not do. He advised delegates to discuss with open minds and not anchor opinions on preconceived notions. HRM thanked AAPeaceWorks, NSRP and the EU for organizing the meeting aimed at finding practicable

solutions to the problems. He urged that the meeting should not be yet another talkshow but a platform for engaging the Government on the way forward.

“Nigeria is resource rich with a lot of wealth and it is alleged there are certain persons who amass and hijack the collective wealth of the Nation”.



Coordinator's Welcome



Chief (Dr.) Judith Burdin Asuni
Executive Director, AA PeaceWorks

Chief Dr. Judith Burdin Asuni, Executive Director, Academic Associates PeaceWorks, heartily welcomed participants to the Niger Delta Dialogue. She noted that the process of the Niger Delta dialogue started from a discussion on the problems in the region and possible ways of addressing them among development partners. Today, it has become a reality. She explained that each participant had been carefully chosen to reflect a variety of backgrounds and philosophies and that each has something to share with others. She urged delegates to dwell less on the problems and focus more on the solutions to the issues.

GOODWILL MESSAGE



MR. BASHIRU OLASUPO
Nig. Stability and Recon. Programme (NSRP)

Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme (NSRP) was represented by Mr. Bashiru Olasupo (Manager, Security and Governance) who noted that NSRP intervenes in 8 states in the country of which three of them are in the Niger Delta namely, Bayelsa, Rivers and Delta.

He acknowledged that the context in the different states varies. For the Niger Delta, discussions on “what went wrong, what is still going wrong and best ways of addressing the issues” is urgently required at this point. The dialogue should be seen and treated as one among equal partners so that it becomes conflict sensitive. He encouraged openness and sincerity in the efforts at finding lasting solutions.

The collaboration by international partners is geared towards helping to address the issues causing violence in the region

GOODWILL MESSAGE



HE Michel Arrion,
Head of the EU Delegation to Nigeria

HE Michel Arrion noted that in his three years as Head of the EU Delegation in Nigeria he has been particularly interested in understanding the issues in the Niger Delta. He thanked everybody for attending the meeting, and emphasised his interest in listening and learning from everyone, but advised that Chatham House rules should apply to the dialogue. He highlighted certain focus areas that could be explored around what has gone wrong and what can be done to address the challenges.

The EU position is that violence is not the right way to address the concerns and those committing atrocities should be brought to book. But a military option on its own cannot resolve the issues – especially with the risk of rights violations. Addressing security issues needs to be combined with political dialogue and economic and social development, as well

as service delivery. We also need to recognise that the issues in the Niger Delta have a lot to do with the local leadership whether political, social, traditional, or civil society. The Ambassador noted that the Federal Government was ready to discuss and has set up a dialogue committee – but with whom will they discuss? The dialogue should begin with creating a platform for positive engagement and discussion between all parties.

He thanked the Akwa Ibom State Government for their warm welcome and wished everyone the very best in conducting fruitful discussions.

“The EU position is that violence is not the right way to address the concerns and those committing atrocities should be brought to book. But a military option on its own cannot resolve the issues – especially with the risk of rights violations.”





**HRM OWONG (Dr.)
EFFIONG BASSEY ACHANGA**

Representative of the Akwa Ibom State Governor

The Governor of Akwa Ibom State represented by the Chairman of the Akwa Ibom State Council of Chiefs, HRM Owong (Dr) Effiong Bassey Achianga welcomed participants to Uyo. He noted that the dialogue should focus on the solutions. He explained that the Royal Fathers are concerned because they are also affected negatively by the activities of the youths and past Governments have not done enough to address the problems. The oil spill and gas flares have created a number of problems to the environment.

The Government promised years back that gas flares will be a thing of the past but the oil companies continue to pollute the environment. The companies responsible only provide palliatives while the issues continue to linger. He emphasized that the problems have to be addressed holistically and ended his remark with a plea that the youths be open to dialogue and requested the Government to address the critical issues urgently.

“The problems have to be addressed holistically and ended his remark with a plea that the youths be open to dialogue and requested the Government to address the critical issues urgently”





Brig. Gen. Paul T. Boroh Rtd.

Special Adviser to the President on the Niger Delta and Coordinator of the Presidential Amnesty Programme

Brigadier-General P. T. Boroh, expressed delight in the initiation of the process of dialogue and recognized that the calibers of people present at the Niger Delta Dialogue are capable of leading the process. The sincerity of the Government will facilitate the resolution of the issues. He further stated that many white papers have been written to assuage inequities among minority groups but **'collaboration is required to implement the policies of Government'**.

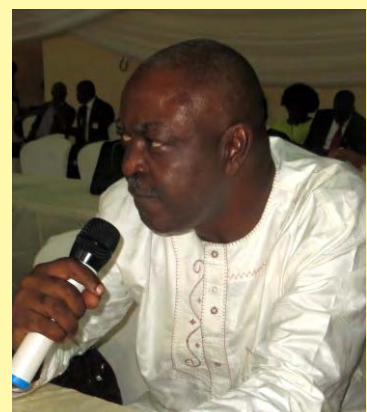
According to David Olua, the representative of the Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, "the Ministry (MNDA) was created with a mandate to initiate, implement and coordinate policies and programmes that will bring peace to the Niger Delta region. The Ministry is willing to partner with initiatives that will engender peace and development in the Niger Delta. The Minister also emphasized the necessity of synergy among the interventionist agencies working in the region."



MRS IBIM SEMENITARI

Acting Managing Director, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)

Mrs Ibim Semenitari expressed satisfaction for being a part of the process of finding solutions to the issues in the Niger Delta. She recommended the need to understand, engage and see what can be done to solve the problems in the region. Mrs. Semenitari noted that **'continuous engagement is important and the Federal Government is open to discussions'**. She emphasized that the Niger Delta region is endowed with rich resources, but it is the responsibility of the people to make it a blessing rather than a curse by consciously protecting the environment, livelihoods and future generations in the Niger Delta. The **'NDDC is interested in supporting what needs to be done in the short, medium and long term to address the issues in the region'**.



Mr David Olua



PROF. HENRY ALAPIKI

THINK PIECE

Prof. Henry Alapiki focused the discussion of the forum with a Think Piece titled 'Building Dialogue between Niger Delta leaders and Government'. He began by identifying the manifestations of the

problems in the Niger Delta such as guerilla warfare, kidnapping, vandalization of oil facilities and leadership deficit. He emphasized that focus should be on finding solutions to the problems by engaging local governance systems such as Community Development Committees (CDCs), community leaders/leaders of key associations and more fundamentally, the Royal Fathers. The crises are more sophisticated at this time and the causes of the violence have not been addressed because the old approach did not comprehensively focus on the fundamental development problems of the region. The International Community needs to be involved because the problems of Nigeria also affect them..

Any meaningful dialogue on the problems of development in the Niger Delta should focus on the following fundamental issues:

- A. Oil and Gas issues and related problems of environmental degradation and public health. Issue and environmental remediation.
- B. Governance issues and related marginalization, corruption, infrastructure provision and social service delivery.
- C. Security of people and property and attendant issues of criminality, cultism, kidnapping and armed robbery
- D. Militancy and related problems of sea piracy, pipeline vandalism, hostage taking, oil bunkering, insecurity and investor confidence.
- E. Emerging herders and farmers conflict and potential inter-ethnic violence, social dislocation and political instability nationwide.
- F. Community Leadership and the need for an alternative framework for development that gives more active roles to chiefs, CDCs and community leaders, and direct involvement of impacted communities in development, reintegration and remediation processes.

MORNING SESSION

- Oil and Gas Issues
- Governance issues

- Environmental issues
- Herdsmen/farmer issues



AMB. NKOYO TOYO
Chair, Morning Session

The following **issues** were identified by the Niger Delta Dialogue participants as germane to the current crisis in the region :

- Closure of the Maritime University was without due process.
- Pipeline surveillance contracts are awarded to non Niger Deltans.
- Past Governments have not done enough to address the issues in the Niger Delta.
- Oil spills and gas flares have caused much destruction of the environment.
- Oil mineral exploration is the only field where artisanal mining is not allowed in Nigeria and only

exclusive to Multi National Companies.

- Ancestral domain title to land is recognized internationally and Nigeria should not be an exception.
- Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and other intervention agencies have not helped to tackle the problem effectively.
- The Niger Delta produces the wealth of the Nation yet the region is highly underdeveloped and livelihoods have been destroyed.
- Allocation of oil blocs mostly to non-Niger Deltans is unfair.
- Deliberate targeting of Niger Delta people in the anti corruption campaign of the present regime undermines the rule of law.
- Herdsmen/Farmer crisis is further escalating the insecurity in the Niger Delta region.

In essence, the underlying issues that led to armed struggle in the region are yet to be addressed. These issues are summarized below:

I. Lack of Political will to address the Problems in the Niger Delta



The emergence of conflicts in the Niger Delta relates to Governance deficit and lack of political will by successive Governments to address the core factors that fuel conflict in the region. Government has given scant attention towards addressing the issues that heighten tensions in the region. The operations of Multinational Oil Companies and the attendant degradation of the environment have eroded livelihoods and increased the level of poverty in the region. The Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and other interventionist agencies have not performed well in addressing the development deficits in the Niger Delta over the years. In the 2016 budget, Federal allocation to the NDDC has significantly reduced from two hundred and fifty billion

(250,000,000,000) to Forty-one billion (41,000,000,000) making it even more difficult for related agencies in the region to be effective.

2. Economic Inequities and Exclusion of Niger Delta People in the Oil and Gas Industry



The access of Niger Delta people to investment opportunities in the oil and gas industry is relatively restricted therefore the participation of the people in the industry is weak. Private individuals are licensed to mine solid minerals in other regions of the country and unlicensed miners are rarely considered illegal, but in the Niger Delta, individuals are prohibited from exploiting oil resources and the licenses to explore oil are exclusively granted to International and Nigerian oil companies. Furthermore, oil blocs are

mostly allocated to non-Niger Delta people and this is unfair to the region. Ancestral domain title to land is recognized internationally and Nigeria need not be an exception. These marked inequities in the National Economy and injustice against the Niger Delta are at the heart of the grievance and agitations in the region. The issues that led to the armed struggle in the region are yet to be holistically addressed, hence the potential of a proliferation of militant groups such as Niger Delta Avengers (NDA).

3. Perceived victimization of certain personalities in the Niger Delta

The growing concern about the perceived targeting of certain persons in the Niger Delta in the recent anti-corruption campaign of the Government is increasing tensions and discontent in the region. It questions the sincerity of the campaign that undermines the application of the rule of law in the execution of the policy. Another variant identified during the meeting is a conspiracy theory that the recent attacks and cries of victimization are tactics aimed at stalling anti-corruption processes against certain persons in the region.

4. The Emergence of Farmer/Herder Crisis in the Niger Delta

The herder/farmer crisis initially predominant in the North has become a reality that requires urgent attention in the Niger Delta. Several violent incidents have occurred in some communities. The region needs to be proactive in identifying early warning signs and mitigating the factors fueling this emerging threat.

5. Closure of the Nigerian Maritime University, Okerenkoko, Gbaramatu Kingdom, Warri SouthWest Local Government Area, Delta State.



There is an outcry for the re-opening of the Nigerian Maritime University, as it is part of a post amnesty development plan for the region. The reasons given for

scrapping the university are not tenable, as huge investments have been made in the establishment of the University. The role of the planned university in enhancing the capacity of Niger Delta people in key technical and managerial areas in the maritime sector cannot be overemphasized. The closure of the University deprives the region the opportunity to be active players in the maritime industry.

6. Niger Delta community leadership has been marginalised by political leaders. The restructuring of Nigeria's federalism must involve repositioning community leaders to play more prominent role in governance.

7. If government is really interested in dialogue with the Niger Delta people, she must look for the real leaders of the people and they are at the grassroots.

8. Giving pipelines surveillance contracts to ex-militants is affecting community cohesion and it is a challenge to Niger Delta community leadership structure. Thus, henceforth pipelines surveillance contracts should not be given to ex-militants. An alternative framework that will benefit communities must be adopted.



AFTERNOON SESSION

- SECURITY OF PEOPLE AND PROPERTY
- MILITANCY



MR. TONY URANTA
Chair, Afternoon Session

The afternoon session commenced with Gen. P.T. Boroh welcoming everybody and assuring the delegates that the '**federal government led by President Buhari has prioritized the Niger Delta region in his agenda with a view to finding lasting solution to the problems in the region**'. He also assured the delegates that federal government is determined to address the issue of the Niger Delta region in short term, medium term and long term basis. He also assured that government is determined to ensure the implementation of proffered solutions in this dialogue.



NIGERIAN ARMY

It was a general consensus that the rising insecurity in most regions of the country is indicative of the need for total restructuring of the federal system. The agitation for self-determination by the Biafran movement, the Boko Haram insurgency and recent attacks by the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA), point to the rising grievances among certain groups and the peoples that make up Nigeria. The country as currently constituted will not enable harmony and peaceful co-existence among the constituent units, hence the need to review the current Federal structure to reflect fiscal federalism.



MILITANTS

SUMMARY OF SOLUTIONS PROFFERED BY NIGER DELTA DIALOGUE

It was generally agreed that Military-only option is not the solution to the issues considering the fact that there may be cases of rights violation by security forces. It was highlighted that the problems of the Niger Delta Region have a lot to do with the social, political and traditional leadership at the local level. General discourse focused on the Federal Government's readiness to dialogue and has set up a dialogue committee, the challenge has been with whom they will discuss. It was however highlighted that the dialogue provides the right platform for further engagement. Highlighted below are key solutions from delegates.

1. Addressing Interventionist approaches to grievances

To reduce grievance in the Niger Delta, interventionist approaches to development that do not address the real issues need to be eliminated. There is a strong need for bottom top approach that takes into consideration the priority needs of the target communities. The problems in the Niger Delta are local and require local solutions through local leadership and people in the region.

2. Reopening of Maritime University in Okerenkoko

The maritime University will provide a multifaceted solution that addresses employment, skills building and sustainable development.

3. Review of Multinational Operations

Headquarters of Multi National Oil Companies should be relocated to the Niger Delta - participants highlighted this as a core foundation for crises.

4. Proactively Address Herdsmen/Farmers Crises

Herdsmen/Farmer crisis has become prevalent in the Niger Delta and government need to be proactive in addressing the early warning signs. There is need to ensure that criminals are not masked as herdsmen.

5. The Need for Political Will

There is the need for increased political will by the government in the resolution of the Niger Delta issues and the President of Nigeria needs to take the lead. A delegation should be sent to the President to discuss the resolutions from the Niger Delta Dialogue. Continuous dialogue and further

engagements between stakeholders are key. The issuance of ultimatum by the Federal Government is ill applied and does not demonstrate sincerity so needs to be revisited. Pipeline vandalization and other forms of violence are a consequence of injustice and Government must begin a genuine process of trust and confidence building.

6. Mainstreaming sustainability into programmes and projects

All development initiatives in the Niger Delta should be done within the framework of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris agreement. The launch of the SDGs is a clarion call for replanning. The outcome of baseline in the Niger Delta region needs to be mainstreamed into the 17 goals, for local action in line with global standard.

7. Demilitarization of the Niger Delta Region

It was agreed that the security of the people should be prioritized over protection of oil facilities. The Niger Delta region should be demilitarized to give way for continuous dialogue and further engagement. There is no clear agenda for dialogue and there is need to set up a

mediation team to interface with violent groups, communities and Government. It is worthy of note that some contractors who are substantially elite rarely complete projects to the detriment of local people who suffer and resort to militancy. We need to focus on addressing the priority needs of the suffering people. Peace, justice, equity and rule of law need to be promoted in the region. The (Military) invasion of communities in the Niger Delta or anywhere else needs to stop.

8. Implementation of the UNEP Report

The UNEP report should be fully implemented with processes in place for monitoring of performance.

9. Human Capital Development, Job Creation and Economic Diversification

Effective reorientation of youths to adopt nonviolent approaches to addressing grievances is very important because violence affects the region negatively. Enabling environment for job creation and employment has to be enhanced to create more opportunities for youths. The diversification of the oil economy in the Niger Delta requires urgent attention.

10. Resource Control

Historically, there has been an increased demand for resource control and the outcome of this has not been satisfactory. An outcome of the dialogue session highlighted a strong demand for 100 percent ownership of resources and not the current thirteen percent (13%) derivation and this to a huge extent demonstrate the extent of the current agitation.

11. Effectiveness of Related MDAs in the Niger Delta

The Ministry of Niger Delta as an umbrella agency for policy making and implementation in the Niger Delta should be more engaged in programmes aimed at finding solutions to the challenges plaguing the MDAs.

12. Establishment of Modular Refineries

Appropriate regulatory frameworks should be developed for the promotion of modular refineries in the region to enhance local participation.

13. Devolution of Local Governance Structures

Devolution of local Governance structures

should be adopted to enhance development in the region. This decentralization will enable more impactful development in the region. A local development plan that could be peer reviewed is key to the achievement of short, medium and long term development.

14. Enhanced Engagement in Legislative Processes

The citizens of the region should engage the National Assembly much more so as to influence appropriate laws and regulations around oil and gas in the region that would further enhance sustainable development and reduce violent conflicts.



PROF. DES WILSON

RESOLUTIONS REACHED AT THE END OF THE DIALOGUE

At the end of the dialogue, the following **resolutions** were reached:

- The forum condemned destruction of oil facilities in the Niger Delta by agitators.
- The forum is committed to the anti corruption war but it should be carried out in line with the rule of law.
- Any invasion of Niger Delta communities by Military is hereby condemned - Military option is not a solution.
- The Federal Government should be committed to equity, justice and rule of law.
- The country should be restructured on the basis of fiscal federalism. This has been reinforced by leaders from other parts of Nigeria as well.
- Synergy between the Ministry of Niger Delta, NDDC, the Amnesty Office and intervention agencies should be increased in responding to Niger Delta issues.
- Government should strengthen NDDC, Ministry of Niger Delta and other interventionist agencies by increasing allocation to them.
- Those who received contracts and have abandoned them should be named, shamed and prosecuted.
- Government should create employment for the youth in the Niger Delta.
- The Amnesty programme must be reviewed.
- The Nigerian Maritime University at Okerenkoko should take off immediately.
- Pipeline surveillance contract should neither be awarded to non Niger Deltans nor to ex Militants but rather to communities.
- Government should embark on full implementation of the UNEP report.
- Headquarters of oil companies should be relocated to the Niger Delta region.



CHIEF ANABS SARA IGBE

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION:

- A committee should be setup to mediate between the Niger Delta agitators, communities and the Federal Government with the involvement of the International community.
- The President of Nigeria should lead the negotiation process, as did his predecessors Presidents Yar'Adua and Obasanjo. This will demonstrate the genuine will and commitment of the Federal Government.

The dialogue is not a solution in itself to the impasse in the Niger Delta but can give direction to a meaningful action plan for Government and interventionist agencies.

We the participants at the Niger Delta Dialogue call upon the Nigerian government to demonstrate political will to restoring peace and security in the Niger Delta by implementing the above resolutions.

LAST WORDS

A number of participants emphasized the need for the people of the Niger Delta to take responsibility for solving the problems of the region.

- To ask, “What went wrong?”
- To ask “What are the solutions?”
- To ask “What do WE have to do?”
- People of the Niger Delta region should always respect institutions set up by government to address grievances.
- The greatest problem of the region is caused by the elites - when they are given contracts that will better the life of the people in the region, they often do not implement the contracts. They eat up the money and so leave the communities without access to social amenities.
- It is time for citizens of the region to start asking questions of their elites and hold them accountable.

NIGER DELTA DIALOGUE PHOTO GALLERY



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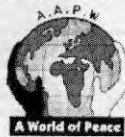
Table: Comprehensive List of Participants at the Niger Delta Dialogue

S/N	Name	Sex	Designation	E-mail	Phone Number
Delegates					
1	King Alfred Diete Spiff	Male	Chairman Traditional Council, Bayelsa State	bzbgroup@yahoo.com	08086562825
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3	Udengs Eradiri	Male	IYC President	udengs@iycworldwide.org	08038767861
4	Senator Nimi B. Amange	Male	Senator of the Fed. Rep. of Nig.	c_nimiamange@yahoo.com	08033131354
5	Chief Lawal Africas	Male	P4P Network Coordinator PIND	sdbafricas@yahoo.com	08033123830
6	Eric T. Aworabhi	Male	Ambassador	eric_aworabhi@yahoo.com	08033155258
7	Morris Alagoa	Male	Head of ERA Office in Yenagoa	alagsmorris@gmail.com	08064471717
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10	Barrister Agatha Osieke	Female	P4P Edo State	wocap1@yahoo.com	07033931313
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14	Shaaban Abdullahi	Male	Hausa/Fulani/Muslim community in Cross Rivers State	shaabanabdullahi50@yahoo.com	08063920114
15	Chief Anabs Sara Igbe	Male	Traditional Ruler	hisscolimited@yahoo.com	08033396838
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18	Tony Uranta	Male	Activist	tonyiuranta@yahoo.com	08075407801
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21	Professor Henry Alapiki	Male	Univ Port Harcourt	henryalapiki@gmail.com	08033094909
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25	Chief Alfred M. Bubor	Male	Traditional Ruler	lurdhenryhope2015@gmail.com	0803 949 2006
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30	Chief Amache Iduh	Male	President-General of Isoko Dev. Union (IDU)	isokodevunion@gmail.com	0803 740 5812
31	Mrs. Caroline Asari-Dokubo	Female	Activist	info.ecorem@gmail.com	
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35	Professor Des Wilson	Male	University of Uyo	ephraimuso@gmail.com	08064455559
36	HRM Owong (Dr.) Effiong Bassey Archianga	Male	Chairman of Akwa Ibom State Council of Chiefs	Barchesmarine@yahoo.com	09021100000
37	Senator H. Esuene	Female	Senator of the Fed. Rep. of Nig.	senhelenesuene@yahoo.com	08035047478
Government Officials					
1	Dr. Kenneth Ehigie	Male	Senior official in the Office of SSA to President on ND Affairs	kennyehi@yahoo.com	07052422599
2	Ibim Semenitari	Female	Acting MD, NDDC	Ibim.semenitari@nddc.gov.ng	-
3	Florence Kalio	Female	NDDC	renzykal@yahoo.co.uk	08038777291
4	Seiglia Glasgow	Male	Director, EHSS, NDDC	seiglaglasgow@yahoo.com	08034534598
5	Prince W. Alazigha	Male	Director of Youths, Sports, Culture and Women Affairs	messesse@yahoo.co.uk	08034733741
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Niger Delta Dialogue

Fifty respected leaders from across the six states of the South South region met in the presence of senior government officials on Friday June 10, 2016 in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State for a one day closed door dialogue. The meeting was organized by AA PeaceWorks, a Non Governmental organisation working in the Niger Delta region for over two decades, with funding from the Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme and other international partners.

The event brought together key leaders from the federal and state government levels with citizens from across the Niger Delta. His Royal Majesty, King Alfred Diete Spiff was the chairman of the occasion. The Federal Government was represented by General Paul Boroh, Special Adviser to the President on the Niger Delta; Mrs. Ibim Semenitari, Acting Managing Director of the NDDC; and a representative of the Honourable Minister of Niger Delta. The UK, US and the European Union were invited and were present as observers.

Professor Henry Alapiki of the University of Port Harcourt started the discussion with a Think Piece entitled "Building Dialogue between Niger Delta Leaders and Government". Issues of discourse included Oil and Gas; Governance; Environment; Herder/Farmer; Security of People and Properties; and Militancy.

The following issues were identified by the Niger Delta Dialogue participants as germane to the current crisis in the region:

- Closure of the Maritime University was without due process.
- Pipeline surveillance contracts are awarded to non Niger Deltans.
- Past Governments have not done enough to address the issues in the Niger Delta.
- Oil spills and gas flares have caused much destruction of the environment.
- Oil mineral exploration is the only field where artisanal mining is not allowed in Nigeria and only exclusive to Multi National Companies.
- Ancestral domain title to land is recognized internationally and Nigeria should not be an exception.
- Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and other intervention agencies have not helped to tackle the problem effectively.
- The Niger Delta produces the wealth of the Nation yet the region is highly underdeveloped and livelihoods have been destroyed.
- Allocation of oil blocs mostly to non-Niger Deltans is unfair.
- Deliberate targeting of Niger Delta people in the anti corruption campaign of the present regime undermines the rule of law.
- Herdsmen/Farmer crisis is further escalating the insecurity in the Niger Delta region.

In essence, the underlying issues that led to armed struggle in the region are yet to be addressed.

At the end of the dialogue, the following **resolutions** were reached:

- The forum condemned destruction of oil facilities in the Niger Delta by agitators.
- The forum is committed to the anti corruption war but it should be carried out in line with the rule of law.
- Any invasion of Niger Delta communities by Military is hereby condemned - Military option is not a solution.
- The Federal Government should be committed to equity, justice and rule of law.
- The country should be restructured on the basis of fiscal federalism. This has been reinforced by leaders from other parts of Nigeria as well.
- Synergy between the Ministry of Niger Delta, NDDC, the Amnesty Office and intervention agencies should be increased in responding to Niger Delta issues.
- Government should strengthen NDDC, Ministry of Niger Delta and other interventionist agencies by increasing allocation to them.
- Those who received contracts and have abandoned them should be named, shamed and prosecuted.
- Government should create employment for the youth in the Niger Delta.
- The Amnesty programme must be reviewed.
- The Nigerian Maritime University at Okerenkoko should take off immediately.
- Pipeline surveillance contract should neither be awarded to non Niger Deltans nor to ex Militants but rather to communities.
- Government should embark on full implementation of the UNEP report.
- Headquarters of Oil companies should be relocated to the Niger Delta region.

And for **immediate action**:

- A committee should be setup to mediate between the Niger Delta agitators, communities and the Federal Government with the involvement of the International community as observers.
- The President of Nigeria should lead the negotiation process, as did his predecessors Presidents Yar'Adua and Obasanjo. This will demonstrate the genuine will and commitment of the Federal Government.

The dialogue is not a solution in itself to the impasse in the Niger Delta but can give direction to a meaningful action plan for Government and interventionist agencies.

We the participants at the Niger Delta Dialogue call upon the Nigerian government to demonstrate political will to restoring peace and security in the Niger Delta by implementing the above resolutions.

HRM Alfred Diete Spiff
Chair, Niger Delta Dialogue

Chief Dr. Judith Burdin Asuni
Convener, AA PeaceWorks

Prof. Henry Alapiki
Consultant

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Osinbajo, 50 N-Delta leaders meet over security

region.

By Jimitota Onoyume

PORT HARCOURT—VICE President Yemi Osinbajo is to meet with 50 leaders of the Niger Delta in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State on Thursday over the escalating violence in the region.

Executive Director, Associates Peaceworks, Dr. Judy Asuni, who disclosed this to *Vanguard* said, that the European Union and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development are providing support for the close-door security summit. She said that the international community was deeply disturbed by the escalating violence in the region, adding that the meeting is to discuss how to achieve enduring peace in the area.

She expressed hope that the summit will find a way out of the ugly situation in the region.



Niger Delta Dialogue

A World of Peace

The Contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of
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views of the European Union or the Nigerian Stability and Reconciliation Programme

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