



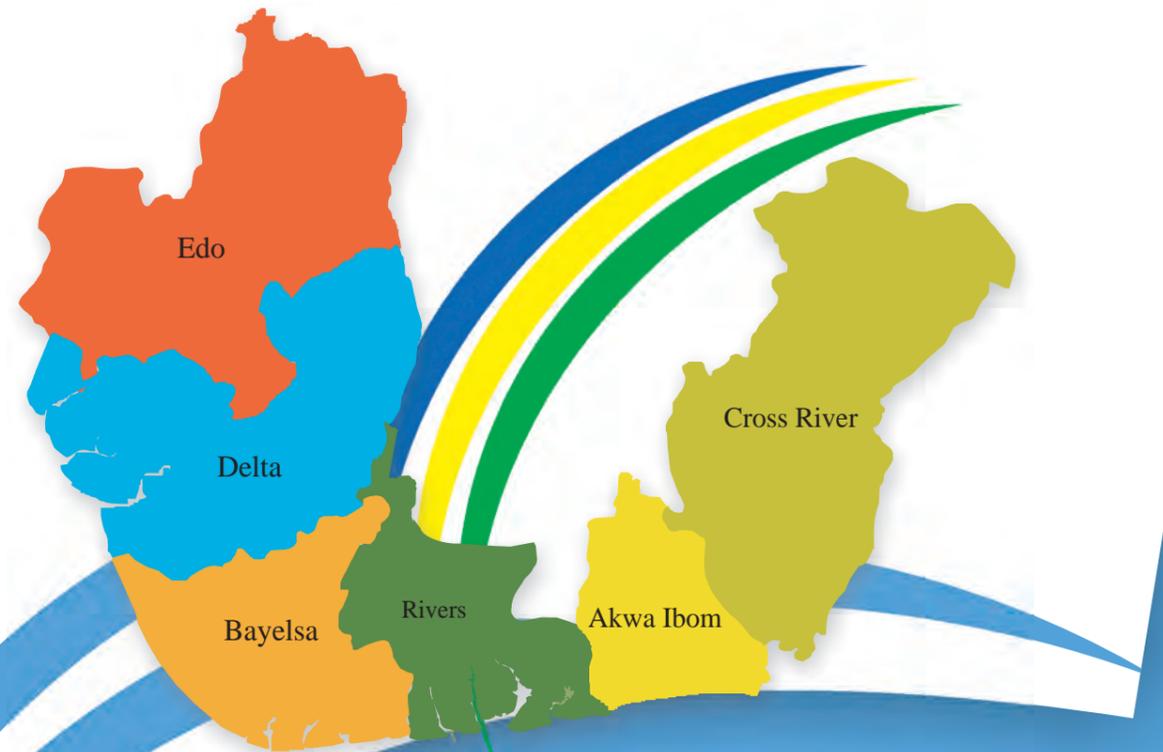
Niger Delta Dialogue

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Academic Associates PeaceWorks



Niger Delta Dialogue



14th Niger Delta Dialogue:

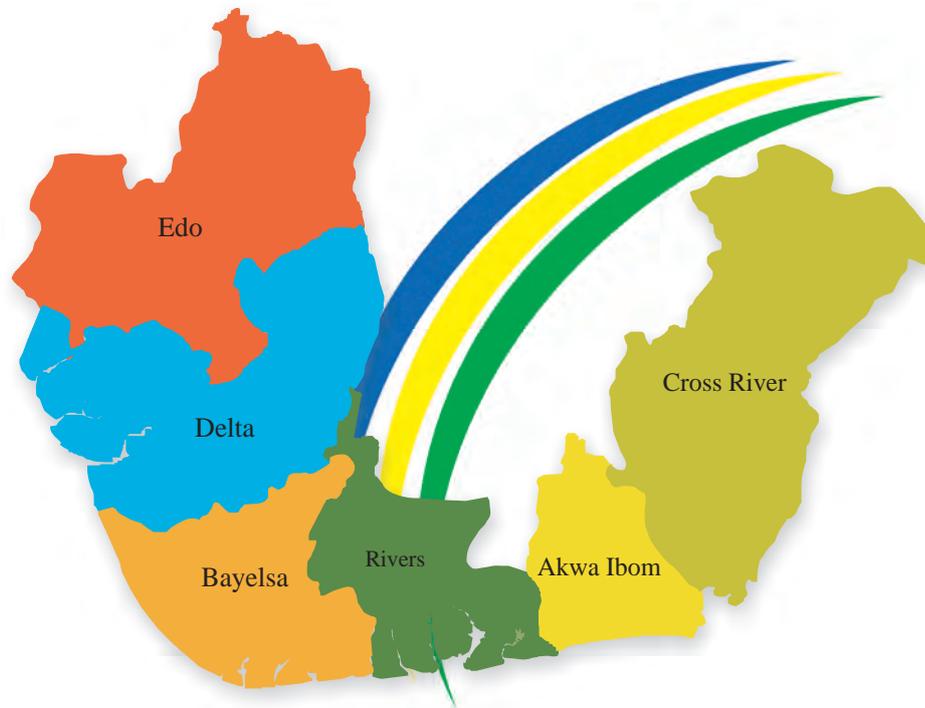
The Niger Delta Security Pathway: Where from? Where to?

September 25 -26, 2019

Lady Daima Memorial Event Place, Yenagoa



Academic Associates PeaceWorks



14th Niger Delta Dialogue:
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In Collaboration with the Nigeria Police Force



Academic Associates PeaceWorks

Background/Introduction



Cross Section of Participants at the 14th NDD

In the Niger Delta, the security agencies have blamed the lack of technical and financial resources for poor implementation of their strategies and also inadequate information sharing linked to violent cult groups. The weak cooperation on the prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of reformed militants is another reason for concern as they return to their old ways and increasingly are thwarting traditional, largely military focused, state responses to violence and insecurity. As calls mount for new approaches, including engaging with cultism (including recruitment), a better understanding of the networks of crime is needed, as well as the remote external influences. Understanding how these layered criminal and violent operations are organized, will make national and regional strategies more effective.

Premised on the above background, the 14th edition of the Niger Delta Dialogue held on 25th – 26th September 2019, at the Lady Daima Memorial Event Place, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State with the theme “The Niger Delta's Security PathWay: Where from? Where to?.” The 2 day event highlighted security challenges in the region (police and citizens 'perspectives), the triggers of insecurity in the region among other issues. Emphasis was on the need to strengthen synergy between the police and citizens in tackling security issues in the region, as both groups have critical roles to play. The uniqueness of the 14th

Dialogue cannot be over emphasized because of the rare combination of top brass police officers from the Niger Delta states, as well as representation from the Inspector General (IG) of Police. The Dialogue was also enriched by the presence of top echelon of civil society practitioners and top government functionaries who brought their best contributions to the dialogue. The traditional institution, religious institution, INEC, youth and women organizations were also represented.

The 14th NDD also looked at what citizens, INEC and security agencies can do to stop election violence before, during and after the Bayelsa Elections scheduled to hold in November, 2019. Over the past three and a half year, the Niger Delta Dialogue has become the region's mainframe platform for the synthesis of issues relating to insecurity and development, as well as the negotiating hub for matters of regional peaceful coexistence and economic sustainability with the federal government and development partners.

Opening Remarks



**HRM King Douglas Dandyson Jaja with
AIG D.P. Yakadi and AIG Musa Kimo**

The Monarch welcomed participants to the Dialogue and showed appreciation to the NDD Secretariat for pulling the rank and file of the police in the region to Yenagoa. He also acknowledged the top-ranking Police officers and civil society actors, for agreeing to move the Niger Delta forward. He appreciated the chief facilitator of the Dialogue, Chief Dr Judith Asuni for never getting tired of working for peace and development in the region.

He told participants that there can't be peace without development, stating that anywhere development is, there was an effort in maintaining peace. He advised the development practitioners in the region and those who protect it to shelve any form of sentiment and talk with objectivity to make the Dialogue a worthwhile gathering for the sake of posterity. He wished everyone great and fruitful deliberations.

Remarks by Chief Nengi James

Chief James warmly welcomed everyone for attending the 14th edition of the prestigious Niger Delta Dialogue. He expressed his gratitude to the Secretariat of the NDD for the quality of organization and for gathering together the highest delegation of very senior police officers and civil society practitioners from within the Niger Delta.

In his very words, Chief James said that “the session was important in this time of Bayelsa elections because of the life of the people of the Niger Delta, and not just for the economic values it is known for”.

He further said that due to the coming elections in Bayelsa and Kogi states, the Dialogue had become very imperative in order for everyone to be counselled on the spate of preparedness, which mainly concerns the police and INEC.

He reminded participants that with less than 53 days to the polls, people are endeared to give in their best recommendations for the upward development of the Niger Delta. He wished everyone great deliberations and wonderful stay in Bayelsa State.



Chief Nengi James

Introduction to the Niger Delta Dialogue



Ambassador Nkoyo Toyo

The support for the Niger Delta Dialogue, NDD came from the European Union [EU] when it started in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State in 2016. It was called the Dialogue then because they didn't know where to start from due to the traumatised nature of the region, and there was the need to be honest about the state of things.

While introducing the NDD to the participants, Ambassador Nkoyo Toyo told them that although the Niger Delta region used to be pampered a bit, they suddenly woke up to the realization that things had changed from the Jonathan era. It became very important that the region needed to move forward, hence, the need for people to start talking to themselves on the issues that would advance it. Although there have been smaller meetings, the NDD can boast of 14 of this kind of high-powered meetings with great impacts. The Dialogue had opened up spaces for discussions that border on the development of the region. Among other things, Ambassador Nkoyo Toyo outlined some of the past discussions of the dialogue which included:

- In November 2017 in Yenagoa, Bayelsa state, the issue of the presidential Amnesty Programme was looked into on its relevance to the region.
- There was also a conversation on the Niger Delta Development Commission if it was actually serving the region or creating more problem and what could be done about it.
- There was another meeting on the issue of the regional planning and the role of the Niger Delta Ministry
- The Ogoni clean up and the issues of the environment of this region
- There was another follow up dialogue on the environment and the integrity of the region as a whole.

- Issues of conflicts, election related violence, de-escalation of violence, issues of credible and acceptable elections constituted a major part of what was done last year and into the beginning of this year.

She outlined that the experiences of 3 elections and postelection had informed on quite a number of issues of concern, that the number of casualties in terms of the number of people who died and were maimed during elections, the Niger Delta had the highest number! Continuing, she affirmed that during those days, there was a large movement of people from one state to the other, like the time when it was alleged that some people moved from Edo state to Akwa-Ibom state to ensure that elections were won, is it something that is worth looking into, especially as it concerns the coming elections in Bayelsa state.

The other point she considered was the absence of the police during the militarization of the last election in Rivers State. Were there really lessons that had been learnt? Were they something to reflect upon or where are such occurrences taking us to?

The 13th NDD held here in Yenagoa, some people raised their voices against drug and substance abuse and peddling, cultism and gangsterism, light weapons and small arms proliferation, an indication that the people of Bayelsa want something new. Another challenging issue was the legitimization of criminality in that the more criminal one tended to, the more legitimate they become in the region. What does that mean for conventional policing? Can conventional policing still solve the problem of such level of insecurity? What is it about the region that needed attention as the future beckons?

The Ambassador also raised the concern for the lack or minimal use of technology by the Nigerian Police, which was raised by the Permanent Secretary of the Niger Delta Ministry. She mentioned that the ministry is very concerned about the spate of security in the region, hence, their presence in the 14th NDD.

In her own words, Ambassador Nkoyo said that “Dialogue is not a prescription, you will not see too many papers or too many lectures. What we try to do is to talk to ourselves and hear ourselves and understand by listening to each other on what the problems and challenges are and proffering possible solutions”

When all this information is gathered, it would be used to advise the government and advise people of the region on possible pathways into the future. She advised the participants to talk as much as possible and share experiences and ideas on the way forward. She also extolled the civil society representatives who had been invited because of their wealth of experiences in handling issues in the region to

challenge the Police with their expectations by letting them know what their challenges, problems and issues are, especially in terms of securing the region. In reaction, the police were expected to tell the people how to go forward in terms of the future.

In conclusion, she very warmly thanked the Technical Adviser to the Inspector General (IG) of Police, Prof. Olu Ogunsakin and his team for working assiduously for bringing the highest echelon of the Police in the Niger Delta and beyond to the NDD. She appreciated everyone, especially the European Union, Dr Dara Akala of PIND, Prof. Sofiri Peterside, Ken Robinson, Elder T.K.Ogoriba, Chief Nengi James, King Dandison Jaja and everyone who had made it to the 14th edition of the NDD.

Objective of the Dialogue



Chief Dr. Judith Burdin Asuni

Chief Dr. Judith Burdin Asuni, the Executive Director of Academic Associates PeaceWorks (AAPW) and the Convener & Facilitator of the Niger Delta Dialogue, expressed appreciation to the police officers, civil society executives, traditional rulers and government representatives who made it to the Dialogue, stressing that their desire to rewrite the history of the region has brought them together. She told the participants that though she is American by birth and a Nigerian by naturalization, she had lived and worked in the region for 47 years in the field of peace building and conflict management.

In her words, “in June 2016 when the region was on fire and the Avengers were attacking oil facilities across the region, we thought about who was talking to the people and the government, who is bringing them together? And that was the beginning of the Niger Delta Dialogue in June 2016 at Uyo, Akwa Ibom State”.

She said that over time, the NDD had brought together

citizens and government officials into a neutral dialogue space to discuss a number of critical development and security issues and come up with ideas to better the fate of the region. She further stated that the Niger Delta Dialogue played a key role in the processes that led to a cease fire in 2016. The NDD has since its inception, worked closely with the Pan Niger Delta Forum (PANDEF) as its “think tank”. She informed the participants that all reports produced from the dialogues had gone into circulation to government, citizens and even the armed groups in order to find solutions and the way forward to the problems.

She stated that in 2018-2019, there were series of dialogues focused on violence free elections building up to the 2019 general elections. These meetings were attended by INEC, security agencies, youths from across the nine states of the Niger Delta, women, government agencies, civil society actors, faith based organizations, political parties, academia, among other critical stakeholders.

Also, in ensuring that the Bayelsa elections are peaceful come November, a dialogue meeting held July, 2019 with gubernatorial aspirants, INEC, security agencies, youths, women, including the famous women of Ogu/Bolo and Okrika in attendance. She noted that it was the time to meet with security forces because the security situation in the Niger Delta calls for urgent attention. That is why, according to her, the NDD is looking for ways for a more effective security pathway and working with the Nigerian Police was the appropriate way to begin.

According to her, this is a most welcomed initiative when there is a need to chart a new security pathway for the nation as the elections come up in Kogi and Bayelsa states.

In addition to the speech by Dr. Judith Burdin Asuni, Ambassador Nkoyo Toyo mentioned that the reports of the previous elections in 2019 showed lots of casualties in the Niger Delta region, stating that the coming Bayelsa elections shouldn't tow the same line and the mistakes of the past shouldn't be repeated.

There are other security matters that challenged the people of the region like the incessant killing of young women in Port Harcourt, the endemic levels of cultism, kidnapping, the evolving challenge of movement of people from south-west Cameroon into Nigeria, the movement of arms on maritime and the role of NIMASA, the growing concern for discontentment in the region and others, necessitated this Dialogue.

According to her, one other reason they involved the police in this election is the fact that although the electoral Acts says that the police is the security organ

for electoral matters, yet during the last elections, there were lots of militarization activities in the Niger Delta.

In September 2017, the NDD inherited the Strategic Implementation Workplan (SIWP) developed by the Federal Government for the Niger Delta, which was rejected by the PANDEF during a PANDEF/NDD stakeholder meeting in Benin, Edo state. She concluded that part of the takeaway from the 14th NDD is for everyone to come up with ideas that will be used to develop a template that would have come from the people of the region.

According to her, it is expected that the federal government continue from there to develop a workable plan of action for the police and other relevant institutions. This NDD was to catalyse and stimulate ideas for the Federal Government to work with. The involvement of the royal fathers and PANDEF had given impetus to the work of the secretariat of the NDD. Every outcome of the Dialogue was to be handed over to PANDEF, MNDA and other constituencies which partnered with the NDD.

State of Security in the Niger Delta – Citizens Perspective

Dr. Sofiri Peterside, of the Department of Political Science, University of Port Harcourt: began by profoundly thanking the Police personalities for attending the Dialogue. He noted that the Police is critical to discussions on security issues, adding that their participation in creating a security pathway cannot be over emphasized. When people talk about security, some of the people to talk to are the politicians. He opined that often times, the police are blamed for issues of insecurity but fundamentally, the politicians are the problems. He stated that politicians have attributed state treasuries

as their private properties to the detriment of the people they govern.

Dr Peterside asserted that though he has gentlemen security operatives as friends, part of the security challenge is the command structure of the security system. This is because order flows downwards and compliance flows upwards.

Again, he noted that the state of the economy is a challenge. According to him, the state has an obligation to take care of the officers and men who risk their lives to protect it. He pointed out that even insurance for the police is neglected, noting that if an officer knew that his family would be protected should he die in the course of discharging his duties, he would put in his very best for the state. He believes that one way out of those challenges is to continue to dialogue.

Another problem he has researched on are non-state actors in possession of arms. This issue he said, raises concern whether they have the resources to acquire such arms. And if they do not have the means to acquire such weapons, then who are those buying the weapons? How come those weapons are in circulation with little or no efforts to mop them up? These are crucial issues confronting the region and cries for attention.

Also, the Rivers State experience had shown that when police officers take orders from politicians outside the ones from their superior, then there is a problem.

In conclusion, Dr Peterside affirmed that there must be inter agency collaborations even among the security agencies. When rancour and fighting exist among sister security agencies, it shows there is a gap in communication. He maintained that the Nigerian state had given the security of the electoral process to the Nigerian police, therefore, the army (or military) has no business in that matter unless the police feels overwhelmed; only then can they lend a helping hand.

State of Security in the Niger Delta – Police Perspective



Dr. Sofiri Peterside



AIG Musa Kimo

AIG Musa Kimo, Zone 6 command (Akwa-Ibom, Cross River, Ebonyi and Rivers States)

He told participants that most of the problems of election arise from the unprofessional conduct of all players, especially INEC.

He expressed satisfaction that the whole gamut of the gathering was well conceived and timely, adding that it was not enough to only talk but that everyone should walk the talk.

Comments by Representatives



His Highness Chief Anabs Sara-Igbe

PANDEF – His Highness, Chief Anabs Sara-Igbe, thanked the organizers of the event, while saying that the meeting between the Nigerian police and citizens of the region is timely and crucial too. He told everyone that PANDEF believes in peaceful coexistence of people, noting that justice is needed for peace to reign. He pointed out that the Federal Government needed to respect the views of the people of the Niger Delta. He reminded participants that one of the roles of citizens of the region was to entrench peace and ensure that the zone is free from militancy and not allow militants to take centre stage.

Chief Sara Igbe warned that leaders making promises of largesse to militants is one of the reasons for most security challenges and electoral violence experienced in the region. He also added that political parties are deceitful and not fair because they are the major riggers of elections, which ultimately brings bad blood into the region. He pleaded that Niger Delta people do not need to kill each other.

He advised the police that their roles should include the three prongs of policing which are monitoring, surveillance and operations. He said it was time to get into digital policing instead of remaining in the analogue phase.

On the case of stopping the Amnesty programme, the High Chief unequivocally stated that the program must go on because it was one of the programmes that brought benefits to the region.

Honourable Ken Robinson, Deputy National Secretary of PANDEF, commended the efforts of the NDD Secretariat and the Nigerian Police for organising the discourse to forge a security path for the Niger Delta. He believed that the security state of the Niger Delta is overblown by certain political interests and the social media. Even at that, he agreed that the situation in the Niger Delta had not been too impressive. He noted that whenever there is an attack on oil infrastructure in the region, the federal government goes extra mile to restore order but when other social issues arise, such spontaneous responses are lacking. According to him, a typical case is that of Ogoni in Rivers state where killings, maiming, arson and other vices occur and nobody has been arrested.



Honourable Ken Robinson

Young women had been killed severally in Port Harcourt and it took women demonstrating in the streets before someone was arrested. This same serial killing had been going on somewhere in Delta state. There is fear and anxiety in the Niger Delta.

He challenged the security agencies and military to use the same tenacity by which some communities were invaded when oil production went down to ensure security of lives and properties in cult related violent activities in the Niger Delta. He asked them to ensure that they are interested in the people and not just in their oil. He agreed that security is both the responsibility of citizens and police, however, security agencies have major roles to play.

Concerning the forth coming election in Bayelsa state, Honourable Ken agreed with the INEC boss on the expectations for the people and Police. He advised that the name “Nigerian Police Force” should be changed to “Nigerian Police Service”. This

according to him, was because the police are a civil organization that concerns itself with the safety and security of the people, therefore they are a service and not a force.

He called on the youths of the Niger Delta and community leaders to also take up the role of ensuring the safety and security of community people. He expressed concerns that young people of the region have been influenced by things that are alien to the people. He affirmed that what should be of immense concern to leaders of the region is to change what influences the people and direct those to positive purposes

Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs (MNDA)

Dr Sam Eno, Director of Planning, Research and Statistics in the Ministry represented the Honourable Minister of the Niger Delta, Senator Godswill Akpabio who was unavoidably absent. According to Dr Sam, the Niger Delta Action Plan (NDAP) has been set aside for some time and bringing it to full functionality was one of the cardinal objectives of the Minister. He further stated that the Action Plan has several components:



Dr. Sam Eno

1. The Resource Framework which is the expected resource resident in the region.
2. The Multi Stakeholder Trust Fund which would help raise additional funding for projects in the Niger Delta. Organizations working in the region would be contributing to a donor basket for short impact projects in the region. He revealed that although the budget of the region seems enormous but it is used to complete the east-west road which requires over ₦500B to complete, stating that the actual release is different from the budgetary provision

3. Peace Security Stabilization – how to stabilize peace in the region through the peace and security consultative forum. He didn't mention the fourth component.

Amazingly, the director stated that there are 12000 abandoned jobs in the NDDC, owing over ₦6 trillion as a result of past poor management of the Ministry. In conclusion, he said that the Ministry is putting together a platform where there will be regular consultation and funding for security agencies.

INEC Expectations of Citizens and the Security Agencies – Pastor Monday Udom, Bayelsa State REC



Pastor Monday Udom

The INEC boss began by saying that “ordinarily, INEC has no business with security but for the security challenges in the region, and because conducting elections require an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity, security becomes imperative. And because INEC does not have that capacity alone, we have to partner with security agencies”. Due to the aforementioned, the police are the main agency for securing during elections and every other agency falls behind them.

He appreciated the organizers of the Dialogue for such excellent and well-organized Dialogue, affirming that it was good people talked to themselves because “the more we talk, the less apprehensive we become; therefore, this day is another opportunity to talk”.

In explaining INEC's expectation of citizens, he stated that citizens should be law abiding, saying that INEC is guided by the constitution of Nigeria, and complies with the electoral acts 2010 as amended and INEC guidelines and regulations governing elections.

He alluded that for the first time in the history of the state, the last Federal and state House of Assembly Elections were very peaceful and less violent, which had not been the case before now and that feat was not achieved without the collaboration of the security agencies, INEC staff and the people of Bayelsa State. He used the opportunity to thank and appreciate them all very sincerely.

INEC also expects every registered individual to have a Permanent Voter Card {PVC}, which accords that individual the eligibility to vote. According to him, INEC carried out voter collection process which started on the 2nd of September 2019 and ended on the 30th of the same month in Bayelsa State. The number of cards available for collection during the time in review was 49,000 but as at the time of his speech, 11,402 of those cards had been picked up by owners. Registered voters should come out with their PVC on election day which is the 16th of November to cast their votes for candidates of their choice. Voters are advised to guard their votes jealously and not sell it. Vote buying and vote selling will certainly reduce the integrity of the election, therefore, INEC clamours that no one should sell their vote. He admonished citizens to love and be patriotic, while saying that they can chose their leaders without killing and maiming fellow citizens who is either a brother, husband or sister. He further reminded that the person who is killed, maimed or whose house is burnt is a brother, sister, husband, wife and children of somebody.

On INEC's expectations of security agencies, Pastor Udom stated that the highest form of professional conduct is expected from the police. According to him, a training was recently conducted for men and officers of security agencies in preparation for the elections for them to go back to retrain others in their formations. The training was a necessary reminder to them that election duties were different from normal security functions. INEC expects the Police to know that they are not to carry arms to voting centres because they are dealing with their brothers and sisters.

He told the police that because elections are matters of the constitution, INEC expects the police to know that the constitution mandates citizens to go out and vote, therefore they (the police) are not to join forces with any group of persons or support any political party but to be neutral so that the environment would be conducive for voting.

INEC completely discourages intimidation, highhandedness and any action by Police or anyone that discourages people from coming out to vote, except in the incidences of miscreant brewing troubles.

INEC expected that political parties be present in this Dialogue because they are the ones playing the ball. Their conducts are of great concern to INEC and the security agencies. Political parties and their

supporters should do what is right by campaigning with ideologies, issues and by telling Bayelsans what they will do to better their lots instead of name calling and witch-hunting. If all parties play by the rules according to their manifestos, and informing their followers to do what is right, by respecting the rules and regulations guiding elections, then, the 2019 governorship elections in Bayelsa would be better for it.

The INEC chief wanted all the political parties to know that as concerned as he was, he is asking the 52 political parties taking part in the election to note that the security agencies shall be on ground with an increased intensity to ensure that no trouble maker gains access to disrupt the election process. He urged that it would be better for them to call their followers to order that 16th November is one man, one vote; no violence but peaceful elections. In his words, the INEC boss declared that “every political gladiator in Bayelsa state should know that 16th November 2019 is for PVC, and not for blood, not for bullet, not for machetes, not for clubs, not for dynamites but only PVC is required”.

In conclusion, Pastor Monday Udom quoted the former President of Nigeria, Dr Goodluck Jonathan as saying that “his political ambition is not worth the blood of any Nigerian”. He buttressed that quote by admonishing that no two parties can win an election, therefore everyone going into an election should go with the mindset to win or lose. He expressed optimism that with the calibre of support and collaboration from security agencies, he was sure that the next election would be the best the state had ever had.

Simultaneous Retreat- Nigerian Police and Citizens

The Officers of the Nigerian Police, the citizens and government officials present, retreated into their different syndicate groups to address issues and come up with resolutions to be discussed during the next day meeting.

Below are the highlights from their discourses.

A: Nigerian Police Context and Triggers of Insecurity in the Niger Delta Region

Overarching theme that resonated throughout the conversation by the police is the role of other critical stakeholders and key agencies, as paramount to addressing security issues in the region. The Police was of the view that if other stakeholders deliver on their responsibilities, policing Nigeria will be more effective.



**Ruth Olofin giving feedback from Police
Syndicate group**

Factors that Promote Insecurity in the Niger Delta Region (where from?)

1. The police are under-funded. A police division receives an allocation of thirty-three thousand (N33,000) to run a police unit for a quarter. This leads to low logistical capacity to effectively carry operations to tackle crime and other insecurities. (Response to distress calls from citizens are low, as there are either no police vans or funds to fuel the vehicles).
2. Proliferation of arms and weapons in the region (no longer small arms and light weapons)
3. Lack of man power. Manpower for the NPF currently stands at less than 400,000. For a volatile region like the Niger Delta, adequately trained personnel need to be deployed to effectively police the region. United Nations (UN) ratio of police to citizens 1:400.
4. Terrain and geographical challenges in the Niger Delta aid insecurities - deplorable state of the roads in the region aids kidnapping and harassment of citizens, creeks and waterways that serve as gateways for criminals, bushes along the roads that serve as hideout. Sense of entitlement by people in the region that lead to violent agitations which results in destruction of oil facilities.
5. Lack of accountability by the leaders of the region - vast funding that comes into the region has not translated to the development of the region (Misappropriation of resources).
6. Lack of synergy between the police and citizens due to distrust - Some citizens prefer to work with

other security actors i.e. the Army doing policing duties. Citizens do not also have the numbers of the Police in their communities.

Infrastructure

7. The deplorable state of roads in the region is a major issue as travellers are harassed at such points by hoodlums. The bushes along the roads need to be cleared so bandits have no place to lay ambush against travellers. There is also need for lights on the roads. Poor road naming and address system and under - policing of riverine areas.

8. Proliferation of security and policing agencies in the region/Military action in internal security. Section 214 (1) Primacy of the Nigeria Police as established by the 1999 Constitution - There shall be a Police Force for Nigeria, which shall be known as the Nigeria Police Force, and subject to the provisions of this section, no other police force shall be established for the Federation or any part thereof.

9. High rate of unemployed youths in the region.
10. Glorified cultism keenly promoted by politicians.
11. For elections, INEC unpreparedness (late arrivals and absence of SNSEMs).
12. Vandalization of oil facilities, oil spillage and destruction of flora and fauna leading people to take to crime as alternatives.

Way Forward (Where to) Sustainable Police Reforms is key!

1. Adequate funding of the police.
2. Increased man power and more capacity building for the police.
3. Synergize/merge all agencies doing traditional policing duties to the NPF.
4. Improve police image and sensitize citizens on the role of the police and their role in effective policing of the region (trust building, synergy, community policing-whole-of-society approach).
5. Accountability at all levels - political leaders in the ND should be accountable to citizen both in conduct and resources allocated to the region and ensure that this trickles down.
6. Build vocational centres for skill acquisition for youths as well as deliberate investment in education.

7. Improve on infrastructure like roads and electricity. The Ministry of Works should build roads while PHCN and TCN should all ensure adequate lightning of the region especially flashpoints.

8. On elections, INEC is advised to ensure the timely delivery of materials to the various wards and units in time as this will bolster citizens' confidence in the electoral process and reduce violence. INEC should also ensure that riverine communities are not left out in the electoral process.

**B: Citizens and Government Officials
Security and the State of the Niger Delta Region:
Context**

1. Unique (pervasiveness and penetration of crime and violence –primary schools)



Rear Admiral Nicholas Bakpo (Rtd) giving feedback from government/citizens syndicate group

- 2. Reward for Crime and the Sense of Violence as right
- 3. Increasing Militarisation Engendering the need for de-escalation of Militarization of Region (16-point agenda of PANDEF)
- 4. The Police as antidote for the Militarization of the Region
- 5. Breakdown of trust between Communities and the Police and other Security Agencies
- 6. Break down of Communities – impacting negatively on Socialisation Processes.
- 7. Rivalry /Competition amongst the Security bodies; and between security bodies and non-state security actors [vigilantism]
- 8. Proliferation of Armed Gangs and vigilantism, Competition and rivalries between and among them
- 9. The Political Economy of Violence and the Politicization of Violence (Militarization of politics) – it is lucrative and rewarding
- 10. Inadequate investment in social and development issues in the region leading to endemic poverty making crime and criminality attractive to the young.

11. [Ex-] Militancy, cultism [gangsterism] and amnesty programmes

12. Weakness of community governance mechanisms and weakness of citizen's oversight.

What needs to be done: - Recommendations

1. Urgent necessity for comprehensive audit, review and overhaul all security and development policies in place and being implemented to tackle the Niger Delta situation: more focus on investing in social and economic infrastructure of the region.

2. Mechanisms should be put in place to implement comprehensive community policing approach ensuring primacy of residency.



CP Kenneth Ebrimson responding to comments by participants

- 3. Mechanisms should be put in place to ensure effective community and citizen's oversight of policing – reinvigorated police and community relations forums with effective mandates – this will help to build trust and confidence, and help to improve synergy and coordination among security actors.
- 4. Need to put in place measures to overhaul and strengthen community governance mechanisms.
- 5. Measures must be put in place to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of policing such that the police can become in reality the lead agency for internal security; these include improving personnel, operational, coordination and communications capacities; quality and quantity of equipment and infrastructure for policing; and improved investment in and funding of policing.
- 6. A mixture of voluntary and enforceable measure is required to be put in place to discourage political patronage and sponsorship of youth gangsterism, cultism and organised criminality.
- 7. Reform and overhaul of education curricula to ensure positive socialisation of the young, such that the products are economically productive

A Key Note Address Delivered By:-
AIG D.P. YAKADI, *mni*
 Asst. Insp. General Of Police, Zone 5 Headquarters Benin City
**On State Of Security In Niger Delta Being A Retreat/workshop
 Organized By The Nigeria Police Force For Senior Police Officers
 And Participants In Niger Delta On
 25th September, 2019**

Introduction



AIG D.P. Yakadi, *mni*

- The increasing prevalence of violence in our society today is a cause for security concern.
- Crime and violence in Nigeria undermines the social fabric of our societies by eroding the sense of safety and insecurity.
- Niger Delta Region like other regions in Nigeria is particularly prone to crime and criminality because of the realities of economic challenges characterized by massive poverty and high level of unemployment.
- This meeting today is centered on the need to create a peaceful environment for all law abiding citizens in Niger Delta.
- It is always a tradition for all Police at the Zonal and Command levels across the country to call stakeholders for such important meeting and discuss how to control crime.
- Criminal challenges in Niger Delta include kidnapping, armed robbery, cultism, militancy, human trafficking, bunkering, pipeline vandalisation, rape, murder etc.

AIM

The aim of this meeting therefore, is to create a peaceful environment for all law abiding citizens in the Region to carry out their lawful businesses

**The Outline of My Discussion
Today Will Focus on:-**

Crimes commonly committed in Niger Delta Region.
 Factors responsible for involvement of people especially youths in crimes.
 State of security in Niger Delta Region.
 Recommendations and implementation strategies:
 Crimes That Are Commonly
 Committed In Niger Delta Region:

- Kidnaping
- Armed Robbery
- Cultism
- Rape
- Murder
- House Breaking and Stealing
- Attacks on Police Formations
- Cyber Crime
- Militancy
- Human Trafficking
- Pipeline Vandalism

**Factors That Are Responsible For The
Involvement Of People In Crime**

Unemployment and poverty
 Youth unemployment is one of the major reasons why many individuals involve themselves in criminal activities. To solve this problem therefore, job creation must be in the frontline of government policies and programmes as some of the unemployed youths are university graduates and able-bodied individuals who are virtually frustrated due to lack of job opportunities.

Get-Rich-Quick Syndrome

In Nigerian society today, many people are concerned just about getting rich quick. Others do not care about asking questions how such individuals got their wealth. In this contemporary society, many youths seem to be businessmen or women and nobody questions the nature of the business or how some people acquire their wealth

Loss of Societal Values

Looking at Nigeria today, many citizens of this country have mortgaged their culture of respect, love for human lives, hard work, friendliness and receptiveness to strangers due to criminal tendencies. Some scholars attributed the rising crimes in Nigeria today to the celebration of fraudsters by some leaders. The practice in the country, where people who embezzled or misappropriate public funds are celebrated by some religious and traditional rulers should be condemned by all and sundry

Proliferation of Firearms

It is estimated that 3 billion dollars worth of small arms and light weapons are transported across national borders illegally every year with the figure increasing in geometric progression.

The availability of small arms and light weapons has contributed in youths involvement in crime in Niger Delta

Information available through the recovery of arms by the Nigeria Police and from other security agencies indicate that the sources of the small arms in Nigeria are mainly through smuggling from war-torn countries in the West African sub-region and from local manufacturers.

Other Factors That Fuel Commission Of Crimes In Niger Delta

- Easy access and consumption of illicit drugs
- Illiteracy and lack of access to education
- Lack of manpower by law enforcement agencies
- Election insecurity
- Broken homes/lack of parental care for children
- Poor handling of criminal cases by security agencies and perceived failure of the justice system
- Corruption at all levels of government
- Weak penalties for criminal offenders

State Of Security In Niger Delta Region

A lot of sad incidents had occurred not only in Niger Delta but also in other Regions of the Federation since our resumption in office

There have been attacks on policemen on duty where firearms were dispossessed from them
There were some occasions where
Policemen were killed by hoodlums

Indeed there has been increase in kidnapping, cultism, murder and other heinous crime across Niger Delta Region in particular and the country in general after the general election 2019.

I wish to inform this audience that the Commissioners of Police in the Region especially Zone 5 are doing their best in crime control
The crime situation in the Region has improved tremendously
Let me commend all the CPs here for their dedication to duty for the past two months.

Implications of Crime On National Security

Threatening cooperate existence of the nation
Driving away investors from the country thereby reducing the prospects of the nation

Giving birth to failed state where violent crimes such as kidnapping, prostitution, armed robbery, child trafficking and other heinous crimes as being the order of the day
Economic sabotage

Educational backwardness
Moral decadence
Bad image of the nation in the eyes of international communities

Lack of confidence on Security Agencies both at home and abroad
Paves way for deeper regional divisions

Conclusion

Security of a nation is a serous business and this is why all of us who are stakeholders are invited for such workshop for us to work as a team in reducing insecurity in the region.

We cannot achieve this without the active participation of all of us seated here in this hall

I therefore, want us to use the forum, marshall out what we intend to do when we get back to our commands or formations and ensure that we control crimes in our respective areas of responsibilities

It is hoped that a communique from the workshop will be developed and presented to the Inspector General of Police to further strengthen the capacity of

the Nigeria Police Force to bring down drastically the crime and criminality in Niger Delta.

Recommendations and Implementation Strategies

1. Recommendation

The State Governments in the Niger Delta Region should create employment opportunities alongside policies that are youth friendly where opportunities for vocational training are provided

Implementation Strategies

The State Ministries of Youths and Sports in all the States in the Niger Delta Region should collaborate with State Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Niger Delta and the National Directorate of Employment to come up with policies that would help engage the teaming jobless youths in the state

The State Ministries of Youths, Sports and Labour to embark on social welfare programmes in engaging youths in various fields of discipline by empowering them

2. Recommendation

The Governments of all the States in Niger Delta Region should assist the Nigeria Police and other security agencies for the purpose of acquiring modern equipment and other logistic support required to combat crime

Implementation Strategies

- The State Ministries of Finance, Budget and Planning in the Niger Delta Region as well as the Nigeria Police Force to work in synergy to increase funding to the Police State Commands in the procurement of modern gadgets and equipment that would help the force contend with the emerging new dimensions of crime in our rural communities.

- The Nigeria Police Force to look inwards and collaborate with multinational companies and other stakeholders in the region to assist in acquiring modern gadgets and equipment for the State Police Commands in the Region

3. Recommendation

- The Nigeria Police Force should strengthen intelligence gathering and community policing in various communities in the Region

Implementation strategies

The Nigeria Police Force in conjunction with critical stakeholders to train more police personnel in intelligence gathering to complement the current effort of the police in managing the incidents of heinous crimes in the Region

The State Governments and the Police Commands in the Region to encourage community policing in the Local Government Areas to enable citizens give useful information to the police.

4. Recommendation

- The Federal Government and the Police Service Commission should mandate the Nigeria Police Force in the area of training in the use of modern technology

Implementation Strategy

- The Federal Government to provide adequate funds for the training of the Nigeria Police personnel

5. Recommendation

- The Attorney General and Commissioners for Justice in the States of Niger Delta Region should set up special courts for speedy trial of cases

Implementation Strategy

- The Permanent Secretaries and Chief Judges of Ministry of Justice in the states to set up special courts in all the senatorial districts in the Niger Delta Region for speedy trial and proper conviction of criminals in the states

Address by the Special Adviser (SA) to the President on the Mandate of Office and the Vision for the Region Dialogue, Not Arms Will Sustain Nigeria & Niger Delta Beyond Oil- Senator Ita Enang

Let me appreciate the facilitating Team on Niger Delta Dialogue and the Development Partners who have supported this gathering on Niger Delta Security, and indeed for holding same in the heartland of the Niger Delta, Bayelsa State.

And again, to appreciate the security institutions for this high-powered presence here.

His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, in furtherance of his resolve to give greater attention to the region has empaneled a resolute team of Niger Delta sons as Minister of State, Senior Special



Senator Ita Enang

Assistant in addition Ministers and to statutory institution as NDDC and indeed the Amnesty office.

Our office is working on Nigeria And Niger Delta Beyond Oil, designed to prepare the Nigerian and Niger Delta economy for alternative revenue and employment sources while oil is flowing and relevant, and to be sustained when alternative energy may dwarf oil economy in the predicted future.

Others include:

- Monitoring revenue generation challenges in the Niger Delta, report to the appropriate authorities and work with the relevant MDA's to ensure resolution of any issue, assuring that Revenue derived from Oil and the Niger Delta does not fall below the budgeted figure, working with other development Agencies

Engaging with the communities, youths, the academia and technologists in building local capacity in the refining of petroleum products in a manner consistent with best practices of modular refining to protect the environment and ensure locals participation.

- Create programmes and projects, seek funding and implement engagement system for youths of the Niger Delta to pre-empt, prevent and front-load solution to unrest of the nature that Presidential Amnesty programme was set up to address, and address same holistically, working with the oil companies, Ministries, Departments & Agencies and development partners.

And in all these to work with, liaise, engage, partner and howsoever relate with national, international, voluntary/donor agencies and indeed the organized corporate institutions to sustain investment in the Delta, and attract new alternatives for the future.

All the above can only be achieved when there is peace in the Region ensuring peaceful co-existence of

the constituents, which may then encourage investors to the stake their funds and projects.

Insecurity as at date has caused oil companies, service companies, downstream investors, including maritime ancillaries to port to other parts of the country. Even some of the oil companies now operate off-shore with attendant losses to the community as well as cost of production.

This Dialogue by the conveners is highly appreciated by the Federal Government and so, I have come to add our voice and take the Resolutions that may be arrived at here to the Presidency for appropriate action.

Thank you for inviting me and for your attention.

At the end of his presentation, the Senator asked for the permission of the Dialogue secretariat to have an executive session with the conveners of the NDD, the development and traditional leaders of the region.

Current Security Situation in Bayelsa state

Elder T. K Ogoriba, worried about the security situation in the region said that it was dicey, unpredictable and worrisome, adding that there are two major political parties, even though there are 64 others with governorship and deputy governorship candidates, Bayelsa state is a PDP state with a very strong opposition, the APC. He said that winning an election depends on how violent, how well connected or how much money one is able to produce to buy votes and sell votes. He pointed out that there is a group of people that have been identified to carry out violence and those are the young men in Bayelsa state, he said. He counselled young men that the politicians who want to win the elections don't have their children and relations around, therefore, it was good the message was preach to avoid perpetuating violence.

Analysing further, he recalled that Nembe and Brass LGAs had been taken as the strongholds of APC, stating that just recently, the chairman of Nembe LGA who is PDP was barred from entering the City because, according to them, Nembe is for APC. In the same vein, he said that because of David Lyon of the APC in southern Ijaw, the LGA had been taken as an APC stronghold as well, so no other party be able to have access and if they do, serious fight will ensue.

He mentioned that during the last presidential elections, Kolokuma /Opokuma LGA was adjudged the best LGA in the state and that that effort can be replicated elsewhere in the state for violence free elections.

He appealed to the security agencies not to take sides with any party because their duty is to provide a level playing ground. He dismissed the comment of low logistical support of the INEC boss as untenable, urging that early preparation was key to a successful

election.

He advised all Bayelsans to resist any one with intentions of causing violence and ensure it is one man, one vote and no vote buying or selling. He concluded that no amount will be enough when people sold their votes.

Other comments include:

- Regional and elder Statesman in the person of E.K Clark should take it upon himself to intervene in matters of insecurity and violence in the region, since he has the respect of a lot of people.

- The election will be marred by violence because the early warning signs are everywhere; for example, an incumbent chairman was harassed few weeks back due to election related matters. Boys are regrouping and arms are being stockpiled in Bayelsa state, it would be bloody

- The women should engage in preaching peace and advocate for free and fair election.

- **Chief Nengi James** who is the spokesperson for Nembe council of traditional rulers, and chairman of civil liberties organization, working with INEC for peaceful elections, promised to lead a delegation of peaceful campaign for the coming elections to the 8 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of the state. He commended the efforts of the traditional institution, led by King Alfred Diете spiff.

- **Tokpo Coronation Edward** made his comments on behalf of the Peaceful Youths Forum. He stated that violence will remain due to exclusion of those who have chosen peace rather than violence, stating that Government at all levels wilfully neglected peace loving youths, noting that such action can lure them to join the trade of violence. In his own words, “rewarding cultism through amnesty is a motivation for the peaceful ones to carry arms”. He urged the governments to initiate programmes and projects for peace loving youths.

- Police should pay advocacy visits to critical stakeholders – youth, traditional rulers ahead of the elections – NDLEA, NSCDC, JTF, etc should be part of the advocacy visits
- Police should have a clear message ahead of the elections to all members of the state.
- Political parties should ensure their agents and other youths should not be involved in violent political activities before, during and after the Bayelsa polls.
- There should be proactive engagements of youth
- Synergy between security agencies joint platforms to secure the elections
- Police should make conscious efforts to demand more manpower and funding for the police
- Creation of more policing units especially in flashpoints/ hotspots
- Neutrality of INEC and security agencies in the Bayelsa elections
- Engage with the 'Generals' to get their supports towards peaceful elections
- There is a need to clarify the line of command with regards to the police (INEC or Abuja instruction of the police)
- Key security agencies as mandated by the electoral Act should be on ground.
- Election related engagements needs to happen in October 2019.
- The federal government should ensure the 16-point agenda of PANDEF are addressed; if not all, some of them to restore trust.
- Security agencies should be non-partisan. Personnel should stand by their code of conduct
- A forum like this Niger Delta Dialogue (NDD) should be organised to bring together all key stakeholders – NYSC, security, community members, traditional rulers, etc to have more conversation before the elections (Stakeholders forum)
- Name and shame people responsible for possible violence in the elections.

Way forward: Action points/Next steps

The action points to be implemented as an outcome of the dialogue include the following:

- Bayelsa Elections: Enlightenment campaigns for non-violent and peaceful elections in the state. Encourages development and investment
- Police needs to engage in civic engagements with the citizens – improving public perception
- Traditional rulers should be non-partisan and promote peaceful elections – peace messaging.



Tessy Okon.
Discussant

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