



TRANSPARENCY

in the

GMOU

PROJECT TITLE: CONSTRUCTION OF 90m X 2m WALK WAY AT OKUMOBIRI COMPOUND ROAD A OGBOLUNA COMMUNITY

PROJECT OWNER: GBARAIN/EKPETIAMA CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT BOARD (G/E CDB)

CONTRACTOR: DEPRIP INTEGRATED SERVICES LIMITED

SPONSOR/SUPERVISION: SPDC, G/E CDB

The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited
Operator of the NNPC/Shell/TEPM Joint Venture

SHELL NIGERIA **Steps Up the Game**



More Oil Spills Occuring



Kolo Creek Women Swim in Crude Oil to Fish



Irish Government Visits Bayelsa Again



SACA's Anti-Vandalism Campaigns

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About SACA

SACA is a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria and working to promote international standards and best practice, transparency and accountability, right relations and respect for human rights and environmental justice, among the multinational oil companies operating in the Niger Delta.

Currently, SACA focuses on 4 major community Clusters around Shell's Integrated Oil and Gas Gathering Project (IOGP) in Gbarain, Bayelsa State, to ensure that the environment is protected and that the host communities do not lose their basic human rights and their livelihoods as a result of the operations of the oil majors

In our advocacy, we are transferring insights and knowledge gained from Shell's Gas Project in Ireland (Corrib Gas Project) and from other oil majors' projects in many parts of the world to the Niger Delta, monitoring oil spills, dealing with oil/gas related conflicts in the communities, and fostering corporate social responsibility.

SACA considers the disastrous outcome from the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010, as a most important learning opportunity for oil majors and stakeholders operating in deep seas off the coast of West Africa and in the hinterlands.

o SACA promotes and advocates for international codes and standards with special emphasis on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This Report is significant with regards to extractive industries operating on or near indigenous territories.

o SACA advocates for 'consultation and free, prior and informed consent' standards which are best conceptualized as safeguards against practices that may affect indigenous peoples' rights.

o SACA advocates for the "protect, respect and remedy" framework, which is incorporated into the 'Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights'.

o SACA promotes the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, and most importantly,

o SACA advocates for the use of the UN Precautionary Principle for all the oil majors operating in Africa and the Gulf of Guinea.

SACA sees the extractive industries as highly damaging to our planet and, in the context of the increasing impact of global warming, want to see the world's peoples breaking their dependence on fossil fuels and moving to the use of sustainable forms of energy.

In the meantime, however, SACA, in collaboration with other agencies, is promoting a new model for natural resource extraction. Presently, the model being promoted by corporations and States is one in which the initial plans for exploration and extraction of natural resources are developed by the corporations, with perhaps some involvement by the State, but with little or no involvement of the affected indigenous communities or people. The corporations control the extractive operations and take the resources and profits from it, with the State gaining royalties or taxes, and indigenous peoples at best being offered benefits in the form of employment or community development projects that typically pale in economic value in comparison to the profits gained by the corporations. According to the Special Rapporteur for the United Nations on Indigenous Peoples, this is a model with strong colonial overtones, in which the indigenous peoples see their territories again encroached upon by outsiders who control aspects of their habitats and take from them, even when done with the promise of corporate social responsibility.

SACA is promoting a model that is more conducive to indigenous peoples' self-determination and their rights to pursue their own priorities of development. This model will include genuine and enduring partnership arrangements between indigenous peoples and corporations, in which the indigenous part has a significant and controlling share in the ownership and management of the partnership enterprises.

3-Year Old Oil Spills at Oruma Still Spreading; No Cleanup



One of the impacted community farmers lamenting to SACA and calling for help

Yiba-Ama community in Kolo Creek Cluster, formerly known as Oruma community, have yet to get their environment restored, and have again complained bitterly to SACA over what they described as victimization by Shell Nigeria.

On November 8, 2017, SACA visited Yiba-Ama again, following a report of further spread of the Odau spill which impacted some farmlands in Yiba-Ama. We first went to the palace of the king of the clan, King Wafebiana Amakiri, where we had a meeting with him.

King Amakiri told us that he got the information that Shell was coming for a JIV but he was yet to see them. He wondered why SPDC was carefree about them, attributing the alleged negligence to the peaceful disposition of their community.

SACA team had earlier visited the spill site for the 4th time, on October 24, 2017 (first, second and third being in January 2016, January and in June 2017 respectively), to see if it had been cleaned up as promised by the company. But it was not. On that other occasion, we met the Head of (Community) Administration, Chief Ogidi and Mr. Olodi Chukwuma, in the king's palace.

We however got information that SPDC did come for a Joint Investigation Visit (JIV) at some point in 2016, but only at the first spill point at Odau, and refused to do anything about the other impacted areas including Yiba-Ama community and

their farmlands, for which the agencies, including the State Ministry of Environment, are still protesting.

The community leaders lamented the refusal of Shell to come and clean up the spill, wondering whether the company was expecting the community to take to violence as was the case with some other host communities, before they would respond. They told SACA that they were not the cause of the spill, neither did the spill occur in their land, but that the spill flowed from another community (Odau in Rivers State) into theirs, polluting their waters and their farmlands.

They accused the company staff of colluding with law enforcement agencies to carry out the bunkering activities that resulted in the spills, and urged SACA to mount more pressure on the company to come and cleanup the mess as it had made their rivers, which they depended on for domestic purposes, unusable.

SACA raised this issue with SPDC during a meeting with 7 SPDC managers in Port Harcourt, including the company's General Manager for Community Relations & Sustainable Development, Mr. Igo Weli, on December 13, 2017. The managers replied that they were assessing the spill with regulatory agencies. However, the managers put the blame for the spills on the community youths, arguing that it did not make sense spending the available funds on cleanups when it was likely that the boys would sabotage the pipelines again.

Fr. Kevin O'Hara of SACA, in trying to establish the need to urgently clean up the spills no matter who caused them, showed the managers a report by 2 professors from St. Gallen University in Switzerland, on the double contribution of oil spills to the high infant mortality rate in the Niger Delta. But the managers said they were still investigating that report, asking SACA to suggest ways of stopping the youths from the vandalism. SACA suggested investing more in alternative livelihoods programs, and less on capital-intensive construction projects, many of which end up being abandoned and the funds unaccounted for. But SACA still urged SPDC to clean up the spills as it was causing a lot more

anger in the impacted communities.

SACA has had several meetings with the government regulatory agency, NOSDRA, but were unable to get them to enforce the cleanup of the spills or obtain any meaningful information on why the spills have lingered for so long.

SACA is currently working in collaboration with the Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth in Yenagoa to get the government to compel the company to attend to the spills.



Ukamaka of SACA stirring the dug pit, during SACA's visit, to confirm the spill

NEW OIL SPILL ALONG SHELL'S ADEBAWA FLOWLINE

A fresh oil spill occurred at Ikarama on February 11, 2018. SACA received a call from one of our contacts in the community who told us that the community members were worried that the spill might spread and become another environmental hazard.

We quickly dispatched a team to the site which is located at 05.17541 North and 006.46830 East. It occurred along Shell's Adebawa flow line leading to the Okordia Manifold at Ikarama. The bush where the spill

occurred, known as Akotogba bush, is said to belong to the Akolowari family.

The spill is obviously due to tampering by a third party, as our visit to the site and a look at the spill point clearly showed that the earth was deliberately dug by some persons(s) with the intention of harming the pipeline. The pit measured approx. 6ft x 2.5ft.

Following that spill, SACA decided it was time to embark on our planned campaign against pipeline vandalism within this year's project.

It should be noted that SACA had effectively stopped the sabotage of pipelines in and around Ikarama for at least 2 years, following series of consultations with youths, women and men of all the host communities in Okordia/Zarama area, and through our alternative livelihood program which helped keep some of the youths engaged and their energies diverted to something more productive and positive. We are disturbed that the illicit trend is trying to resume.

AGBOBIRI GAS LEAKAGE:

HAS SHELL REALLY CARRIED OUT ANY JIV?

A major gas leakage occurred along Shell's gas pipeline at Koregbor bush in Agbobiri community in Okordia-Zarama Cluster. SACA was notified of this spill on August 2, 2018, by some community representatives who were scared of the disaster the leakage portended for the community and their neighbours. SACA quickly went to the community to observe the spill and confirm the story. In the community, we first met with the owners of the bush, the Ozokolo family, represented by Mr. Esemo Salani, Godsgift Oruzi, Jerusalem Oruzi and Glory Kenya. Two of the family members, Godsgift Oruzi and Jerusalem Oruzi, brought us to the spill point.

The exact day the spill occurred could not be ascertained. But according to the family members, the spill which was discovered by a farmer in the bush could have occurred several days before that day (August 2, 2018). They also informed us that a Shell team had come and met the family on July 31, 2018, accompanied by the surveillance contractor for the pipeline, Mr. James Kuro, who was also a former member of the Okordia/Zarama Cluster Board. According to them, the Shell team could not get to the spill site because they did not have life vests that day with which to cross the Taylor Creek. Only the contractor and some family members were able to visit the site. They told us that the leakages were observed at three spots on the buried gas pipeline, and that the Shell contractor, when he did not see any dug out soil, said it might be equipment failure.

Interestingly, on our way to Agbobiri earlier that day, we had driven past about five Shell vehicles along Zarama-Agbobiri road who seemed to be held by some youths. Agbobiri community members later confirmed to us that

the Shell vehicles were coming to Agbobiri to attend to the gas leakage but were stopped by some angry youths who insisted that the company must repair the Okordia-Zarama road before they could be allowed to attend to the Agbobiri gas spill. They were turned back.

Three weeks later, nothing was heard from Shell again regarding the leakage, whereas gas was still bubbling out at the spill point. In response to the worries and pressures from the community members, SACA contacted Shell in Yenagoa to inform them of the continued leakage and urged speedy intervention. However, the Shell Manager for Bayelsa & Delta States, Mr. Alaye Dokubo, stated that they had already carried out a JIV for the leakage. In a text message to SACA, the manager claimed that they were always working with the communities and that SACA should not solicit for the communities. SACA was surprised at this claim since the same community members were complaining that nothing had been done.

SACA also reported this incident to other stakeholders, including the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) and the Bayelsa State Ministry of Environment. NOSDRA wrote to Shell demanding urgent action to no avail, while the Ministry of Environment joined SACA back to the spill site on August 28, 2018, to confirm the spill.

The big question is: Did Shell really carry out any JIV for the leakage? If the claims of Shell's Manager that a JIV was carried out is true, did they do the JIV alone? How come neither NOSDRA nor the Ministry of Environment, nor the host community, nor SACA, was part, or even aware, of it? Which other stakeholder did they carry out the JIV with? If, conversely, a JIV has indeed not been carried out, why would the company not carry out a JIV for such a dangerous leakage for over 2 months now?

UPDATE: Due to increased pressure from SACA



A staff of the State Ministry of Environment, brought to the leakage site by SACA, confirming the incident, on August 28, 2018

and NOSDRA, Shell later sent an official, Mr. Christian Chigbu, to come to Agbobiri with SACA and confirm the leakage, on September 21, 2018. Mr. Chigbu confirmed the leakage but Shell is yet to come carry out any JIV.

Fr. O'Hara of SACA Presents a Talk at SITEI Oil/Gas Conference



Fr. Kevin O'Hara

SACA's Board Chairman, Fr. Kevin O'Hara, who is also the District Leader of St. Patrick's Missionary Society for West Africa, presented a speech at the 2018 SITEI Conference on the Extractives Industry in Nigeria. The SITEI (Sustainability in the Extractive Industries) Conference, an annual workshop, was birthed in conjunction with the Deputy High Commission of Canada in October 2012.

The 7th (2018) conference which held at the Shehu Musa Yar'adua Conference Center, Abuja, on May 21 and 22, 2018, was organised by CSR-in-Action with the theme "Managing Conflict and Security in the Extractive Industries." Other host partners of the conference include the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC), the Nigerian Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative (NEITI), the Federal Government of Nigeria, Ford Foundation, Zenera Consulting and Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN). The conference was attended by top managements of the major operators in the oil/gas and mines industries in Africa and beyond, and top government representatives in the industry, including the Minister of State for Petroleum and immediate past Managing Director of NNPC, Dr. Ibe Kachikwu. The key objective of the Conference was to proffer actionable solutions on how best the challenges of conflict and security in the industries could be managed.

Fr. O'Hara was a panelist on Day 1 (Oil/Gas Day) of the workshop with Dr. Kachikwu who opened the discussions. Other participants at the workshop include the Minister of Mines and Steel Development, Dr. Kayode Fayemi, the Executive Secretary of NEITI, Waziri Adio, the Executive Secretary of the Nigeria Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), Simbi Wabote, the Managing Director of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Nsima Ekere, the CEO of Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), and a host of others. The workshop attracted over 1,000 participants from the industries.

OVER 30 YOUTHS AND WOMEN INCINERATED AT AN ILLEGAL REFINERY NEAR SHELL'S FACILITY



One of the Ibelebiri fire victims, visited in the hospital by SACA, before he died.

Residents of Yenagoa in Bayelsa State woke up on December 6, 2017, to the shocking news of a regrettable incident in one of its neighbouring villages, specifically at an illegal refinery in a bush at Ibelebiri/Agba, close to two of Shell's biggest facilities in the State. The illegal refinery caught fire at about midnight on Tuesday, December 5, 2017. Ibelebiri and Agba communities are located between Yiba-ama (Oruma) in Ogbia Local Government Area in Bayelsa State and Okarki community in Ahoada West Local Government of Rivers State, both communities are on the bank of Kolo Creek. Ibelebiri is to the North of Oruma while Agba is to the South of Okarki. The refinery which is located around 4°55'58.45"N, 6°25'0.26"E, is hidden inside the bush and unknown to the general public hitherto, though some community members believe that some Shell and security officials were aware of it. It was alleged that the fire was caused by a woman in the camp who lighted a fire and was cooking an Indomie noodle meal.

The refinery, located less than 5 minutes away from Shell's Kolo Creek flowstation and manifold (which are heavily guarded by soldiers and police), according to community residents, consists of dozens of refining camps and is operated by highly placed officials in the security agencies, allegedly with the collusion of some SPDC staff, and these employ the youths to carry out the acts for them. Over 15 youths lost

their lives in the inferno. Some of the victims' relations insist that the death toll is more than double that figure.

SACA team went with a Community Contact and saw one TrustGod Sunday, one of the victims of the fire incident, at Landmark Medical Centre Imiringi. The victim could not speak to us because of the severe burns which affected all parts of his body. But we took photographs of him.

Another victim we visited at Otusegha General Hospital, one Richard Idoghotu from Imiringi Community, who was not severely burnt like TrustGod Sunday told us that they had 38 camps in the bush and over 100 workers. Two other victims were seen at the Hospital - one Meshack James from Overe in Isoko in Delta State and another who was sleeping.

Our community source, who spoke to us on condition of anonymity, told us that in the morning of Wednesday December 6, 2017, when he went to the camps he saw an ambulance carrying away the burnt bodies of victims to an unknown destination. He added that he was warned not to take photos, that two weeks earlier two white men who came around the area and took photos had their cameras smashed.

SACA team did not stop at Ibelebiri and Agba communities to interview people because of the tensions and security concerns by victim relatives and loved ones.

Our community source later informed us that when the State Government in Yenagoa heard of the fire incident at the illegal refinery, it ordered the closure of the camp for clean up of the mess, but that it would be reopened on Monday December 11, 2017. One of the victims we visited at Landmark Health Centre Imiringi, TrustGod Sunday, later died, on December 9, 2017, from the burns received. SACA could not confirm the eventual total death toll, but according relatives of the deceased, they were more than 30, including the woman from Delta State who was cooking the Indomie meal that led to the fire. It could not be ruled out that there might be some unaccounted persons missing or death.

Shell's Doors always Open to Community Youths for Dialogue - Manager



Shell Nigeria's Government and Community Relations Manager for Bayelsa and Delta States, Mr. Alaye Dokubo, has assured Okordia-Zarama youths of the company's readiness to dialogue with them on any issues bothering them, instead of they attacking Shell or its facilities. He made this assurance during a one-day anti-pipeline vandalism sensitisation workshop organised by SACA at Zarama-Epie town hall on February 28, 2018, which is the climax of SACA's campaigns against pipeline vandalism in Okordia-Zarama Cluster this year.

Mr. Dokubo, who identified himself as a *bona-fide* member of every community hosting Shell's pipelines and other assets, assured the youths of his efforts to ensure that all provisions Shell had for the communities were indeed delivered to the them. With personal stories of how he made it in life by his own efforts, he encouraged the youths to embark on innovative self-employment efforts rather than expect jobs from Shell as the company had very limited and highly competitive employment opportunities.

He reiterated the position of the workshop moderator, Mr. Austin Onuoha, that it behoved the government primarily, not the IOCs, to provide the craved infrastructural development to the communities.

Kolo Creek Fisherwomen

Swim in Crude Oil to Harvest their Fish

10/12/2017

Mrs. Martina Isoun, an impacted Imiringi fisherwoman, struggling in the polluted water to harvest as much fish as possible before they all die

As they were setting their traps for the Christmas fishing season in December 2017, little did the poor fishing women and youths of Imiringi community in Kolo Creek know that they were in for one of the biggest shocks to their livelihoods. Their fishing rivers were to be polluted with an unprecedented volume of crude oil, no thanks to the unchecked illegal bunkering activities going on in various bushes around the Kolo Creek. From Odau bush in Rivers State to Ibelebiri bush near Agba by a tributary of the Okarki River, oil spills have been observed by the local community members for years without any meaningful response from the owner of the facilities, Shell Nigeria.

In early December 2017, the spill was particularly heavy, with almost all the rivers and creeks in Kolo Creek area seriously polluted. Seeing that all the fishes in the rivers and fishing grounds were already dying, the fishing women and youths of Imiringi, on December 10,

2017, tramped out into their rivers to harvest what still remained alive of the fishes. All efforts by SACA's community volunteers to dissuade the women from entering the heavily

polluted waters and from fishing there fell on deaf ears. The women insisted that they had no other means of surviving the current economic hardship in the country than through fishing in



More Imiringi women fishing in the polluted water

10/12/2017

those rivers and would not stand and watch the fishes in their fishing grounds all die. They did not mind the suffocating odour of the hydrocarbon on the water. The women, youths and even children dived into the rivers and got themselves bathed with crude oil in their struggle to catch as much fish as possible. Most of the fish were already weakened by the crude oil and could not swim away, and so were very easy to catch.

When asked, some of the women argued that they could easily wash clean their bodies, now very slimy with thick films of hydrocarbon, after the fishing exercise with hot water and soap, than lose all the fishes. But SACA

knows very well that the long-term effects of this direct physical exposure to hydrocarbon, coupled with its fumes which they inhaled daily in their communities, may well be another uphill task for medical doctors.

SACA met one of the women, Mrs. Martina Isuon, from Imiringi community. Mrs. Osuon lamented that she and her family depended on the Imiringi river for their livelihoods and were shocked by the spill. She narrated to SACA staff who later visited her in Imiringi to ascertain their condition after consuming the polluted fish, how almost all her children suffered severe diarrhea for several days after

consuming the fish. According to her, they did not feel any immediate effect on their skins or organs but they wondered what it might portend for their future. She and some of her children pleaded with SACA and the international community to come to their aid.

The owner of the facilities, Shell Nigeria, has been accused by the host communities of gross insensitivity to their plights. The government regulatory agencies and other civil society organisations are unhappy with the company for not doing much to cleanup the spills or stop the activities leading to them. Curiously, Shell's Kolo Creek flowstation and manifold are located within the vicinity of the illegal bunkering sites and especially the illegal refinery at Ibelebiri. The flowstation and manifold which houses many Shell workers, as facilities considered a critical asset of the Federal Government, are guarded 24 hours a day, all year round by heavily armed military personnel. Yet so much illegal bunkering activities and even an illegal refinery, are running only about 5 minutes from it. It will be interesting to see how those Shell workers, their managers in Bayelsa and the security forces protecting the facilities would claim ignorance of the brazen bunkering activities going on around those facilities.



Some of the harvested fish - obviously contaminated

SACA, NOSDRA, ETC., CONCERNED ABOUT FRESH SPILLS AT OYA LAKE

While advocacies have been strong with Shell on how to make Oya Lake good for fishing again and restock it, more spills are still taking place in the area. In March 2017, SACA and NOSDRA went back to the lake to investigate new pockets of spills reported there. Yet in October to December 2017, the owners of the lake complained to SACA and NOSDRA again that new spills from Oburon lake had flowed back into parts of Oya Lake that had been cleaned up in 2013. Now, in September 2018, all the crude oil in Oya Lake that was buried by the excavators during the 2013 cleanup have been exhumed and brought back to the surface by the huge flood that visited Bayelsa this year. SACA and NOSDRA are still calling for a thorough cleanup of Oya Lake and are hopeful that Shell will do a better job there this time.



SACA staff, NOSDRA officials and lab. scientists collecting samples at Oya Lake for testing

GMOU IMPLEMENTATION

Shell Improves on Transparency & Accountability

After nearly 2 years of struggle with SACA on the question of lack of transparency and impropriety in the management and implementation of the GMOU in Gbarain/Ekpetiama Cluster, Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) has started addressing some of the problems observed by SACA as debilitating the GMOU in the Cluster. Recently, the company commenced the renewal process of their GMOU with the Cluster, an activity which is long overdue, with the participation of the true representatives of the various communities. This followed a bout of expedited GMOU project executions, mostly infrastructures. SACA and many of the host communities witnessed increased activities on GMOU projects in recent times. Examples include the resumption of work on the Gbarain Mega Water project, concrete walkways, school laboratories, etc. More work was observed, and community stakeholders satisfaction recorded, in other Clusters around the IOGP, especially in the Kolo Creek Cluster.

FRAUD IN THE GMOU

Unfortunately, the Gbarain/Ekpetiama GMOU suffered a setback due to issues around accountability. The Cluster's GMOU expired in November 2017 and was supposed to be renewed immediately. However, the company was unwilling to do so despite requests to that effect from the communities that make up the Cluster for that, and a barrage of other complaints against those managing the GMOU.

One of the laudable critical steps the company has taken to solve the problem of transparency and accountability in the implementation is getting rid of 2 of the suspected corrupt persons on its GMOU management chain, the Community Relations Officer (CRO) and one of the Supervisory Engineers (names withheld). These persons were working with the leaders of the Cluster Development Board (CDB), Community Trusts and other persons in the communities, to defraud the company and the communities of their development funds. They allegedly constituted a closed ring, awarding the GMOU contracts to themselves and their cronies. And where they awarded the contracts to parties outside their ring, they compelled such parties to pay 10% or more of the contract sum into a

fraudulent bank account (First Bank PLC, Account No. 2023160183) operated by the clique, as a precondition to winning the contract. Upon deep investigation, it was discovered that this bank account, which was deviously called a Gbarain/Ekpetiama CDB account, and which is aside from the genuine Shell JV/Gbarain-Ekpetiama MOU account, has nothing to do with the CDB, SPDC or the community, but was opened for the purpose of underhanded fees collections for personal purposes. Following police investigation, both the legitimate GMOU account and the illicit account were frozen in July 2018, and the suspects, including members of the CDB and some leaders in the community who were on the clique, arrested. They were granted bail later while the investigations went on. The Shell officials involved were also invited by the police for questioning.

There were several other monumental frauds alleged to have been committed by them. One of them is the issuance of Work Completion Certificates (WCCs) to crony contractors for uncompleted and shoddily executed projects. Another is the phony community market project which the CDB claimed to be executing. However, the land which they claimed to have acquired for the purpose was, upon investigation, found out to belong to the State Government. Yet another is the alleged case of the vandalism of the communities' existing high quality electrical infrastructure (with 100mm² aluminum bare conductors worth millions of Naira carted away and allegedly sold) and the installation of a refurbished, apparently low capacity transformer, poor quality cables, insulators, feeder pillars, only 70mm² aluminum bare conductor

cables, etc., in their place. The transformer, which was allegedly surreptitiously brought at night fell short of the specification. 500kva 11HT ABB or Siemens was stipulated, but what was supplied was unbranded and capacity unspecified. The contractor that supplied the transformer is Benmarina Ventures, a firm allegedly owned by a member of the ring, who also allegedly single-handedly nominated most of the members of the CT representing the community on the CDB.

The installations presaged catastrophe to the communities. According to King Bubaraye Dakolo of Ekpetiama Clan, several cases have already been reported of people being electrocuted in his kingdom, including himself, and at least a family's house burnt, as a result of this bad engineering. Yet the Shell technical supervisory team certified the job done to Shell's high standard. These are COREN-registered engineers from Shell. A lot of shady deals would have gone into their certification of this project. Gbarantoru community youths protested against the forced handover of the faulty electrification project on March 8, 2018 while the women of Ayakoroama Gbarantoru protested against it on April 16, 2018.

For these and other issues with the GMOU, the people of Gbarantoru, especially the youths and the women, have been agitating for Shell to obey the terms of the GMOU and dissolve the expired CDB/CTs and constitute a new, transparent, one. Some of the community leaders approached SACA to complain that they had sent letters after letters to SPDC, to the Government and to the Cluster Development Board (CDB), all



Allegedly used transformer, installed for Ekpetiama Clan

to no avail. Most notable among these complainants is the King, Bubaraye Dakolo himself. Another complainant is the CT Chairman of Kumbo-Ama Community, who narrated to SACA how Shell's CRO tried to hoodwink his community into cooperating with their illicit schemes of inflating project costs and compelling contractors to pay 10% of the projects costs to the fraudulent bank account. According to the CT Chairman, when the community refused to fall for the ring's gameplan, they denied the community's chosen contractor the job and awarded it to themselves through oblique means.

As the overall leader of the Ekpetiama Clan which includes Gbarantoru, King Dakolo left no stone unturned in his efforts to protect his people from people who "... see this Cluster not only as their cash cows but also as carcass good for only savage scavengers." King Dakolo wrote several letters to SPDC, first to the Community Interface Coordinator in Bayelsa on December 18, 2017, second to the General Manager, Community Relations, on February 26, 2018, March 20, 2018 and June 14, 2018, third to the Vice President, Sub-Saharan Operations (Nigeria and Gabon) on May 18, 2018. He also handed some of their complaints to the Ambassador of Ireland to Nigeria, Mr. Sean Hoy, during the latter's visit to Bayelsa from July 26 to 28, 2018. Finally, he forwarded their complaints to the shareholders of the Royal Dutch Shell (RDS) in London through SACA which was to meet with the shareholders in London in August 2018.

WAS SHELL READY TO CHANGE?

The lack of meaningful response from SPDC might not be unconnected with the belief of some of its staff and directors that

the company is already a perfect entity that does not need improvement. It will be recalled that what challenged SACA to come and monitor the GMoU around Shell's Integrated Oil/Gas Gathering Project (IOGP) in Gbarain was the insistence of RDS' directors to the shareholders, during their AGM in London in 2006, that the company did not need improvement. This was when SACA staff and the shareholders group, Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR) in the UK, proposed a shareholders resolution for the company to improve on Stakeholders Consultation, Risk Assessment and the Environment Impacts Assessments (EIA) in their operations in Nigeria, Ireland and Russia. According to the directors, Shell was already operating with the highest standards everywhere they operated in the world and had no need to improve in their practice. Back here in Nigeria, some of the company's managers have always maintained to SACA that the GMoU has little or no room for reviews or amendments, nor any room for third parties' opinions such as SACA's; that anything with the GMoU is between the company, the communities and the government. NGO participation is only for Shell's (monitoring) NGOs. They insist that the communities are happy with the GMoU, understand it well, know the grievance handling mechanisms and relate well with the company, and therefore have no need for SACA's assistance. On April 19, 2018, the response of Shell's General Manager for Community Relations to a mail from SACA urging action on the complaints of Gbarain/Ekpetiama Cluster communities on the GMoU implementation was that "GMOU grievance process is known to the community stakeholders. They need to route their feedback / complains properly."

But most of the community leaders have not read the GMoU or know what is inside it. This is one of the shocking realities revealed at some of SACA's stakeholders gatherings, and which some of the corrupt coteries that manage the GMoUs take advantage of. The 'proper' routing of their complaints was via the same CDB that they have complained to severally, who are often, as in this case, the perpetrators of the plights.

Even in some environmental issues, SACA, being closer to the people and the source, sometimes alerts the companies (Shell and Agip) of oil spill/gas leakages and urges immediate attention, even before their own field teams and CDBs do. However, while the impacted communities/families pressed SACA to push for the company's response to their calls to attend to such spills, the SPDC's managers asked SACA to stay away as they were already relating well with the impacted community/families, a statement the people always repudiated. Some of the community leaders insist on SACA mediating between them and SPDC because, "if Shell was relating well with us, we won't be coming to SACA. They know they are deceiving us, so they don't want a serious neutral party, not manipulated by them, to intervene."

CR/CDB's RESPONSIBILITY OF BRIEFING STAKEHOLDERS

In the words of the leaders of Ekpetiama Kingdom, "it is becoming clearer why the Community Relations did not bother about the CDB and the CT's continuous opacity – excluding some members, not meeting with communities but rather helping them concoct papers/reports and accepting same as representing the position of unsuspecting Cluster communities' aspirations because of gratification." The Gbarain/Ekpetiama Cluster communities, who have been complaining that the CDB never held any of the agreed periodic briefings/meetings stated in the GMoU with them, had an opportunity, for the first time since it was signed, to meet and discuss the progress of the GMoU with the CDB and Shell representatives on June 13, 2017. This meeting which was tagged "All Oil & Gas Stakeholders Gathering: The Gbarain/Ekpetiama GMoU and Issues Arising", was organized by SACA, and took place in the main hall of Matho Crystal Hotels in Yenagoa. Shell managers were invited to that gathering, as were the 2 Kings of the Cluster, the CDB, all communities' CTs, all communities' paramount rulers, all communities' youth leaders, all communities' women leaders, Bayelsa State Government (Ministries of Environment and Mineral Resources),



HRM, King Dakolo of Ekpetiama, lamenting to stakeholders the level of corruption in the GMoU implementation

NGOs, members of the academia from the Cluster, etc. None of the SPDC managers attended, but all these others did. SPDC only sent a junior staff, the CRO who brought with him his assistant, to represent the company; the same CRO who has now been sacked.

During that gathering, the CRO fell out with King Gabriel Akah of Gbarain because of a comment the former made when he stated that they (Shell) always consulted with the Kings of the Cluster whenever they wanted to execute development projects in the communities. King Akah was infuriated at the CRO's statement and threatened to walk out of the hall, accusing the CRO of telling a lie against him in his presence. According to King Akah, Shell never contacted him for any project, and he was only called upon when there was crisis resulting from their activities. The same complaint came from the government representative, the Permanent Secretary, Bayelsa State Ministry of Mineral Resources, Mrs. Kenisuomen Walson. The CRO apologized to the King immediately for the false statement.

The CRO and his assistant later sneaked out of the gathering mid-meeting, without telling anyone, an act that shocked all the participants when he was expected to answer a question asked by a participant and it was noticed that he had disappeared from the hall.

SHELL'S REACTION

Days after the workshop, SACA sent a copy of its report on the gathering to Shell Nigeria only to receive an unfriendly email from Shell's General Manager in Port Harcourt, accusing SACA of handpicking only anti-community elements and enemies of Shell and gathering them at Matho Crystal Hotel to attack Shell. The General Manager in the same email also accused SACA, among several other false allegations, of lobbying community members to nominate SACA as their GMoU negotiator. This was a gross misrepresentation of facts or misinterpretation of what SACA told the communities: to select from amongst themselves their best brains as their negotiators for the upcoming GMoU agreement and SACA would link these negotiators directly with the shareholders (ECCR and CIG) in the UK for a more equitable negotiation of the GMoU. No other person might have fed the General Manager, or any other manager in the company, with this false information, than the CRO who represented the company at the gathering, albeit only halfway.

In the email, the General Manager also took exceptions to what he described as unsubstantiated allegations of impropriety against their staff by SACA. Though SACA did not make any such allegations against any SPDC staff, the community leaders and government representatives did indeed

complain at the meeting about perceived impropriety and opacity on the part of SPDC's GMoU staff and the CDB. The prima facie denial of these facts by SPDC's Community Relations Manager instead of investigating them or debriefing the suspects, led to further efforts by SACA and some of the community leaders to unravel more evidences of the level of corruption going on among some of SPDC's GMoU supervisors and its implementers.

SPDC's relationship with SACA became so strained that the managers were unwilling to see or talk to SACA again, refused SACA some of the earlier requested and promised documentations for the GMoU review, etc.

INTERVENTION OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL & THE HAGUE

However, in October 2017, SACA and Amnesty International in the UK and Nigeria, in a new strategic twist, reached out to Shell's headquarters in The Hague and, after a conference call, dispatched a quick letter to the Managing Director of Shell in Nigeria, to urgently arrange a meeting with SACA to address, among other things, the concerns of the Gbarain/Ekpetiama communities. This was granted. SPDC called SACA and requested a meeting in December 2017.

The meeting, which took place on December 13, 2017, at SPDC's headquarters in Port Harcourt, was attended by 7 managers in SPDC including the General Manager for Community Relations and the Oil Spill Manager, and 4 SACA staff. The General Manager who led the SPDC team at the meeting, introduced SACA to the rest as one of the most credible NGOs they worked with. The managers, now very friendly, were now open and willing to discuss the GMoU issues and some of them made very important observations. For instance, the General Manager discouraged the construction of concrete roads everywhere by the CDBs and encouraged human capital development instead. He gave an instance of a boy from one of their host communities who was sponsored by his Cluster's CDB to go and study animation in Malaysia. The boy, according to the General Manager, came back with a First Class degree in animation and was being empowered to train other youths in his community. They also encouraged SACA to, at any time, bring up any issues observed in the GMoU, promising to look into it and make any amendments where necessary, and keep SACA posted on their decisions if SACA was interested. He however warned that the GMoU renewal had a procedure which must be followed and that it involved the government which must be respected. Other issues that were discussed at the meeting include the final cleanup and restocking of Oya lake with fish, the cleanup of Odau oil

spill with flowed to Oruma (Yiba Ama) community, and alternative livelihoods for host communities' women and youths.

Thanks to the efforts of Amnesty International and Shell in The Hague, SPDC's managers have demonstrated that they are also genuinely desirous of right relations and best practice in their operations in Bayelsa State. Now that, following police investigations, there is substantial evidence of corruption and impropriety among their GMoU staff, the managers have taken the path of honour by showing the culprits the way out and saving the image of the company, at least in this instance. SACA hails the management of SPDC for this action and urges them to continue to listen to the voices of true community representatives so as to take decisions that favour the entire communities and not just a few persons who want to enrich themselves at the expense of the people. They should also continue to listen, not only to their paid field staff and NGOs, but also to other, neutral, unpaid and disinterested bodies close to their host communities, in monitoring their field staff's practices. This will go a long way in forestalling the embezzlement of GMoU funds by any greedy junior staff frustrating the company's otherwise genuine efforts at sustainable community development / right relations and bringing the managers to undeserved disrepute.

SACA also praises King Bubaraye Dakolo of Ekpetiama clan for his tenacity in the protection of his people. Despite all the efforts made by the GMoU's ring of corruption to frustrate the investigations, including alleged threats of kidnapping him, he was unflinching and resolute. The allegation of kidnaping was however refuted by the Secretary of Gbarain traditional rulers council when SACA contacted him for his comments for a balanced reportage.

There are counter allegations against King Dakolo from the camp of the accused, accusing the King of defamation of character and of crying wolf on the GMoU implementation in which he should have no stake. The two parties are now in court.

King Dakolo resisted all pleas and inducements to compromise. Despite all the alleged intrigues and conspiracies by some other top traditional rulers of the Cluster who have suddenly started receiving new splashes of donations and projects by 'Shell' and the CDB, to remove his clan from the GMoU as a way to weaken his powers and strip him of any stake or say in the GMoU funds, he stood firm and, working with the Nigeria Police, pursued the case to this end. A highly educated and already comfortable man but ready to put his life on the line for his people, he is the type of leader needed in the Niger Delta.

SACA CARRIES OUT AN EVALUATION OF SHELL'S GMOU IN 2 CLUSTERS

Shell Nigeria's Global Memorandum of Understanding (GMOU) has been described at various times by the company and other operators in the industry as the best solution to the problems of sustainable development of their host communities. SACA also sees it as a good model for a streamlined engagement of the host communities, and can attest to its effectiveness in other parts of the country, especially because it is, in principle, participatory. However, most of the communities around Shell's Integrated Oil & Gas Gathering Project (IOGP) in Bayelsa State express dissatisfaction with the design and implementation of their own GMOUs with the company. SACA, in its just-concluded project titled "Promoting Environmental, Economic and Human Rights", proposed, as one of its activities for the year, a collaborative evaluation of Shell's GMOU in Okordia/Zarama and Gbarain/Ekpetiama

Clusters. This followed an agreement with Shell's managers in Port Harcourt in February 2017 on the need to carry out the evaluation with a view to improving the process and addressing some of the complaints of the communities.

Recall that SACA had carried out a similar evaluation in its 2012-2014 projects, as agreed by Shell in London with its shareholders, SACA and Stakeholders Democracy Network (SDN). It will be recalled, however, that Shell Nigeria and SDN later failed to participate in the review but SACA went ahead and carried out the review, with only the communities and government regulatory agencies. During the evaluation, SACA made several efforts to get inputs from the company, to no avail. When SACA finished the evaluation, it sent a copy of the report to Shell's managers in Port Harcourt for

their input but they rejected it, alleging that it was full of technical faults. SACA demanded to know what the faults were but were never responded to. SACA proceeded and sent the report over to the shareholders in the UK. Instructions came from the shareholders and the company invited SACA again, on February 15, 2017, proposing a collaborative review of the GMOU again and declaring their readiness to cooperate with SACA this time. It was agreed later that, due to the security concerns for Shell's staff, the company would be represented in the collaborative GMOU review exercise by the Cluster Development Boards, with the assurance that the company would supply all the necessary documentations, etc. It was this assurance by the company that made SACA to include the collaborative review as an activity in its 2017/2018 project proposal to its donors.

Unfortunately, the company reneged again. They kept referring SACA to the CDBs. But the CDBs were also unwilling to work with SACA. Apart from writing several letters to both the CDB and the company, SACA also met physically with the 2 CDBs (outgoing and incumbent) of Okordia/Zarama Cluster, on June 9, 2017 and August 8, 2017, to request for the necessary documentations for the evaluation and to press for their participation in the GMOU review exercise as agreed. All the efforts hit the brick wall.

Nevertheless, SACA went ahead and carried out the evaluation, again with only the communities and some government functionaries. The evaluation of Okordia/Zarama Cluster's GMOU took place from August to September 2017 while that of Gbarain/Ekpetiama Cluster took place in July and August 2018.



Willem & Ukamaka of SACA (left), with some community members during the GMOU Evaluation at Nedugo community

WILLEM OF SACA GETS MARRIED

Willem Schade of SACA has tied the nuptial knot with his wife, Tega. The wedding took place in the ancestral home of Tega at Sapele in Delta State, on May 6, 2018. They were joined in the marriage by Fr. Kevin O'Hara of SACA. All SACA staff attended the wedding which was full of glamour. SACA wishes Tega and Willem a happy married life.





Ireland's Ambassador to Nigeria

Visits Bayelsa Communities Again

- Meets with State Government
- Attends SACA's Stakeholders Gathering
- Visits Traditional Rulers

Photo: Ireland's Ambassador (left) with King Gabriel Aka of Gbarain

Without any particular investments or business interests in the Niger Delta, the Republic of Ireland is arguably one of the countries that has demonstrated the most concern for the safety and livelihoods of the host communities in this area. This is evident, not only in the passion with which the founder and Board Chairman of SACA, Fr. Kevin O'Hara, an Irish priest, has worked for human rights, environmental, economic and social justice in the Niger Delta for over 2 decades. But it is not only him; the government of Ireland, since the pre-colonial times, has supported the region in development, agriculture, healthcare and education. More

recently, the country's embassy in Abuja has shown particular interest in the plights of the host communities in the hands of the multinationals.

Barely 2 years after his first visit in August 2016, the ambassador of Ireland to Nigeria, Mr. Sean Hoy, has visited Bayelsa State again, from July 26 to 28, 2018. Recall that the embassy under Mr. Hoy had, in 2015, sponsored the building and stocking of 4 fishponds for Ikarama women and youths in Okordia/Zarama Cluster. During his first visit in 2016, Mr. Hoy had visited Ikarama community in

Okordia/Zarama Cluster, Imiringi in Kolo Creek Cluster, Koroama in Gbarain/Ekpetiama Cluster and Shell's Central Processing Facility (CPF) at Gbarain, where he met with some top Shell officials regarding best practice in the area. This time, he met with representatives of all the Gbarain/Ekpetiama host communities and their nominated negotiators for the new GMoU, in Obunagha townhall.

The ambassador, who came on the invitation of SACA, was first received at the State Government House by the State Deputy Governor, Rear Admiral John Jonah (rtd.) and some of the State commissioners.

In the company of the ambassador were St. Patrick's Society's Mission Development Officer, Mr. Kelvin Carroll, who came from Ireland, and the Chairman of SACA Board of Trustees, Rev. Fr. Kevin O'Hara. At the government house, the deputy governor promised to ensure the setup of a Shareholders Relation desk to interface between the State Government and the Ecumenical Committee for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR) and other shareholders in the UK. Several other top government officials including the elder statesman and former governor of the old Rivers State, King



The ambassador and his entourage, SACA, Bayelsa Deputy Governor and some top government officials, including King Diette-Spiff, at the Government House in Yenagha

Alfred Diette-Spiff, who were at the reception, also expressed enthusiasm in relating with SACA and the shareholders.

The ambassador and his entourage accompanied by some of the top government officials and security personnel, including the State Commissioner for Environment, Hon. Ebi Apaingolo, the State Commissioner for Mineral Resources, Hon. Markson Fefegha, and the Director for Petroleum under the State Ministry of Mineral Resources, Hon. Suku Ogbari, left the government house to Gbarain for the meeting with SACA and the communities.

MEETING WITH THE NEGOTIATORS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The meeting at Gbarain which was facilitated by a conflict resolution and peacebuilding expert, Mr. Austin Onuoha, started at 12: 18pm with a keynote address by Fr. Kevin O'Hara. In his address, Fr. O'Hara emphasized the interest of Shell's investors in the rightful and fair dividends for their host communities. He added that the dividends were

documented in the GMoU and invited the participants to relate their experience in the past ones. He advised the participants to contribute to the discussions in a mature way and not abuse or accuse anyone. He revealed that SPDC was invited by SACA for the exercise, expressing optimism that they might send some of their managers who might be on their way at that moment. The facilitator, Mr. Onuoha also encouraged the contributors to shun personal attacks and go straight to the points. The contributors were mostly the communities' nominated negotiators for the new GMoU. No SPDC representative eventually attended the gathering.

Even though the event was intended for the negotiators, some other community members present, including women, were also given the opportunity to make contributions and they came up with some points they needed addressed in the upcoming GMoU. The points include:

CHALLENGES WITH THE GMOU

- Exclusion of women in the negotiation and signing of the GMoU;
- Exclusion of the environment in the GMoU;
- Poor handling of the interregnum between GMoU phases, generating conflicts;
- No evaluation of the past GMoU before going into a new one;
- The paramount rulers selecting the CDB members alone instead of doing it with the entire community as stated in the GMoU document;
- No employment opportunity to the community youths;
- Not allowing the community members to decide the location of the CDB office – the CDB office is located



The facilitator of the gathering, Mr. Austin Onuoha

in Yenagoa, paying rents to foreigners instead of community landlords;

- Exclusion of the community youths in the percentage sharing of the GMoU funds and contracts;
- Using the signing of Freedom to Operate (FTO) with the landlords to circumvent the GMoU so that the oil/gas operations would continue unhindered whilst delaying the GMoU process thereby causing divide and rule in the communities (friction between the landowners and the communities) and weakening the GMoU;
- Exclusion of the paramount rulers in the signing of the GMoU, only to be consulted when problems arise later;
- Imposition of the GMoU on the communities;
- The GMoU document unreachable to community members – only a few persons in the hall had copies of the GMoU.

GENDER EXCLUSION

SACA staff on their own had made several efforts to observe the GMoU negotiation but SPDC refused insisting that the guidelines for the process did not give any room for another NGO but only Shell's own NGO, the community members, the government and SPDC. According to SPDC, the GMoU had established guidelines for the process which had to be strictly followed. However, some of the community leaders complained to SACA



A Cross-section of the gathering - a participant addressing the audience that SPDC's NGO handling the negotiation process was not following standards and was manipulating the selection process. Fearing that they might be shortchanged again, they requested SACA to not only observe the process but also organize a negotiation training for their proposed negotiators to build their capacity to negotiate equitably with the company. SACA organized that capacity building workshop on June 25, 2018, two days prior to the ambassador's visit.

In wading into the impasse in the renewal process and the complaints of the community leaders, SACA had observed some serious flaws in the renewal process, e.g., the total exclusion of women in the list of selected negotiators. When SACA enquired, the community leaders said the Shell NGO instructed them to

select only 3 men, and no woman, from each community. SACA saw this as an absurd contradiction of the spirit and letters of the GMoU and advised the community leaders to go back and redo the selection, including at least 1 woman from each community.

Convincing the community leaders to make this change took a long time and efforts from SACA, as SPDC was unwilling to cooperate with SACA's intervention to improve the process. Nevertheless, with SACA's continued persuasion, 2 of the communities revisited their nominees list and included women among their own negotiators. Consequently, Only 2 women showed up and participated in the training that SACA organized on June 25.

On the occasion of the ambassador's visit and interaction with the negotiators, it was revealed that not even one woman was among the signatories to the GMoU.

REACTIONS

The Commissioner for Mineral Resources, Hon. Markson Fefegha, expressed gratitude for the coming of the ambassador and thanked SACA for organizing the meeting. He pointed out that the signing of the FTO was necessary because families were important stakeholders and should not be sidelined. He urged them not to take laws into their hands but rather report to him any issue, promising to address them fairly.

The Commissioner for Environment, Hon. Ebi Apaingolo, in his speech regarded Shell as a responsible company with workers who had attitude problems. He also commended SACA for organizing this kind of forum. He remarked that if they had been having this kind of high-powered forum to discuss their issues before, things would not have been this bad in the relationship with the company. He lamented the devastation of the environments with oil spills and gas flare thereby depriving them of their main occupation of farming and fishing. He stressed that the benefits they got from Shell were nothing to compare with the pollution and health hazards caused by oil exploration. However, he commended Shell for sometimes reporting oil spills and encouraged them to do more.

The former Mayor of Yenagoa, Dr. Michael Ogbolosingha, in his own remarks, thanked the ambassador for coming and SACA for organizing the event, advising his people to be meeting more often, be more organized and united so as maximize this type of opportunity if it came again.

In his reaction, Ambassador Hoy recalled that he had visited Bayelsa State, some of the communities and Shell, back in August 2015. He said he came now to check on the progress of SACA's work and observed that they had been much improvements between 2015 and now. According to him, the government of Ireland has been supporting SACA in their projects and would continue to do so. He told the participants that he had discussed with the Deputy Governor and was glad to meet with the people, promising to bring the people's complaints to Shell and the Federal Government in Abuja. He also promised to organize meetings in Abuja with his colleagues and present the reported challenges to them, and to pass the baton to his prospective successor, as his service in Nigeria was coming to an end.

The Director of SACA, Abba Ayemi, made the closing remark, thanking everybody for honoring the invitation and advising on the next steps. He advised the negotiators to make copies of the signed GMoU available to SACA for onward transmission to the Ambassador, who would use it to engage the company at the Federal and international levels.

COURTESY VISIT TO THE GBARAIN KING

After the meeting in Obunagha town hall, the ambassador and his



Ambassador Sean Hoy addressing the gathering

entourage, including SACA staff, some government officials, security personnel and the media team, left for the Palace of the Ibenanaowei of Gbarain Clan, King Gabriel Akah. The King welcomed the entourage, describing the clan as a peaceful one. According to him, Shell started work there 50 years ago but has little impact there in terms of development, e.g., lack of electricity, employment and education. He admitted that the company was trying to some extent but said that they were not reliable. He praised SACA for good work it is doing in his kingdom.

COURTESY VISIT TO THE EKPETIAMA KING

From Gbarain, the convoy moved to Ekpetiama clan where they met with the Ibenanaowei of Ekpetiama, King Bubaraye Dakolo, and his Queen, in his Palace. The ambassador recounted to the King the history of the involvement of the Irish people in Nigeria and in the Niger Delta predating the colonial era. According to him, he was here now to establish linkages between the communities and independent groups in order to better the lots of the communities in the face of exploitation by oil/gas activities. He remarked that while some of his predecessors were avoiding the Delta, he himself dared to visit the communities because without taking risks, one could not learn. He promised to communicate the problems of the communities to the relevant stakeholders in Abuja.

In his response, King Dakolo detailed to the ambassador the key problems they had with Shell, emphatically condemning the depth of corruption in the company. He started by describing the

company as making efforts at the surface to be equitable and responsible by giving the Federal and State government and NDDC their dues, and keeping some for themselves. According to him, it is perhaps out of the one they keep for themselves that the company give to the communities as GMoU funds. This he said is because the company would "... give you the money in the morning, before the lenses of cameras, and then send their agents in the night to come and collect 70% to 80% of it back from you."

Going further, he explained how the company's COREN-registered engineers and professionals used low quality materials and inferior products that fell short of the specifications stipulated in the contracts to do shoddy jobs for them and went ahead to issue to themselves Work Completion Certificates (WCC), even when the jobs were obviously far from being completed. He gave an instance of a case where the contractors installed for them a second-hand and refurbished low capacity transformer instead of a brand new 500kva transformer stated in the awarded contract document and where a transformer procurement that should take just a few days ended up taking almost a whole year.

Explaining how helpless the communities were in the face of wanton environmental degradation, abuse of their little girls and induction of their youths into drugs by Shell workers and guards at the CPF, the King stated that SACA was the only NGO around that keeps the company on its toes and could escalate the communities' voices. The King then vowed to personally take the company up to the altar of the world of conscience.

Concluding, the King handed a number of documents to the ambassador containing details of his allegations. He also presented the ambassador with a gift of a carved artifact.

After a lunch with the King, the ambassador and his entourage left the Palace at about 4pm.

CONCLUSION

SACA considers this outing a very important development in its efforts to promote transparency and accountability in the GMoU process.



King Dakolo handing an envelope containing their petitions to the ambassador

It is clear that the use of Shell's NGOs is not enough to promote real transparency and accountability. The process needs to be opened up to all relevant stakeholders – neutral NGOs, Government agencies, and most especially investor groups who have stakes in the company.

IOCs' OPERATIONS:

BAYELSA GOVERNMENT TO SETUP A SHAREHOLDERS RELATIONS DESK



The ambassador, his entourage and SACA discussing shareholders relations with State commissioners and other top government officials in the Government House, Yenagoa

The government of Bayelsa State has indicated its interest in working more closely with SACA and, through SACA, the shareholders of the multinational oil companies operating in the State. The State Deputy Governor, Rear Admiral John Jonah (Rtd.), made this known at a meeting between the Bayelsa State Government officials and the Ambassador of Ireland, Mr. Sean Hoy, during the latter's second visit to the State, on July 26, 2018.

At the meeting, the Deputy Governor lamented that the people of the Niger Delta were not given the opportunity to participate in or benefit adequately from the oil/gas industry's activities that have been going on in their lands. He blamed the colossal environmental damages going in the Niger Delta on the oil/gas activities, stating that a professional study of the environment was currently underway to ascertain the extent of the damages. He praised the people of Ireland for their interest in the State and especially for the ambassador's efforts to bring about true corporate social responsibility among the multinationals

and economic justice for the people of the State.

The Deputy Governor disclosed that the government would set up a shareholders liaison office in the government house to relate with the shareholders of the international oil companies. He directed the Government's Deputy Chief of Staff to liaise with SACA to effect that. Finally, he solicited the support of the Republic of Ireland in developing some of their seaports, especially Agge Seaport, for more sustainable economic activities, and implored the international community to help Nigeria's democracy by monitoring the forth-coming elections.

In response, the Ambassador recalled having visited Bayelsa back in 2016, reiterating the interest of the Irish people to see that the local host communities have fair benefits from the industry. He stated his personal desire to visit the region and interact with the grassroots people despite the security warnings, recalling that even his own direct predecessor was scared of

visiting the area because of security concerns. He added that "... if we are afraid of insecurity, we will never learn." He praised the government of the State and other stakeholders for the enduring peace and security in the State, to which he attributed the surge in the volume of oil/gas production in recent years.

Fr. Kevin O'Hara of SACA, who was among the ambassador's entourage, informed the Deputy Governor and his officials of the on-going GMoU negotiation between Shell and the Gbarain/Ekpetiama Cluster communities and their preparations to sign a new GMoU. He told them that the ambassador was going to participate in a stakeholders gathering being organised by SACA to prepare the Cluster for a more equitable negotiation of the GMoU terms. He stressed on the need for the IOCs to follow international standards in their operations and effective community relations that can guarantee the participation of the local communities and ensure sustainable peace and security in the area.



PROTESTS, SHOOTING

As NSCDC Raids Ikarama Community Again

Ikarama women and youths protesting the abduction of one of their women by NSCDC

On February 20, 2018, SACA received information that there was a protest in Ikarama by the community women. The women were protesting the alleged assault and arrest of one of the community women by armed men of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) in the dead of the night - around 3 a.m. SACA team were dispatched to the community. On arrival, we observed that the protest was peaceful. However, minutes after our arrival, 2 vans full of NSCDC men, armed to the teeth, arrived into the community again, this time with a reinforcement from their headquarters in Yenagoa, and started shooting sporadically and rampaging to different parts of the community. Community members scampered in various directions for safety. Many ran into the bush to avoid being shot. We (SACA team) took cover in Mr. Raphael Warder's house until the shooting calmed down and the NSCDC vans gone. The entire community, now in tremor, was almost completely deserted.

After the shooting, We came out of our hiding to see if there were damages while many community members were still hiding inside the bushes. Some of the community youths around wanted to attack us, accusing us of having brought the NSCDC men to raid the community. We escaped their attack, thanks to the intervention of 2 of the youth leaders, Benjamin Warder and Washington Odoyibo, who vouched for us. The youths complained to us that some of them had been shot by the NSCDC men in their first raid that morning. One youth, Perekeme Couple, was allegedly shot on the left arm and on the feet, while Washington Odoyibo said he only narrowly escaped the bullet shot which merely brushed a side of his belly. He showed us the bullet burn on his side. The youths vowed to resist any attempt by Shell to enter their community for any operation again since, according to them, it was Shell who sent the NSCDC to them.

later released us with a warning to always obtain their permission before entering the community. Their stagger and the alcoholic reek from their mouths confirmed the allegation by the community youths that the men were heavily drunk and out of control as they carried out the operation.

Back in the office in Yenagoa, the rest of



One of the protest placards



An Ikarama youth, allegedly gunned down by NSCDC during the operation. More such pictures were also taken but might be too graphic to display here.



Ukamaka of SACA examining and taking the details of one of the shot victims, amidst distressed women, minutes after the operation. They stand on the link bridge which NSCDC's official in Yenagoa alleged was broken by the women and youths.

SACA staff were notified, including the Board Chairman, Fr. Kevin O'Hara. The Director of SACA, Mr. Abba Ayemi, called the Operations Commander (OC) at Okordia, and pleaded with him to cease the firing. After much argument on the phone, the OC, who also sounded drunk, promised Mr. Ayemi not to shoot again, but insisted they were still heading back into the community to continue their show of force.

Quickly, two of SACA staff drove to the NSCDC headquarters inside Yenagoa to appeal to the State Commandant to call his men at Okordia to order. The SACA team ended up meeting with the Head of the Legal Department, Mr. Kingsley Nwachukwu, who denied all the allegations against the men. The State Commander was busy in another meeting. Mr. Nwachukwu said they embarked on the operation because of the hacking of Shell's Adebawa-Okordia trunkline which occurred on February 11, 2018, describing it as a Federal Government asset which the NSCDC had a gazetted mandate to protect at all costs including human lives. He alleged that some of the community youths were responsible for the vandalism. SACA urged the NSCDC to use investigative intelligence to fish out and punish the culprit(s) instead of traumatizing the entire community and shooting innocent community members, and to caution some overzealous and trigger-happy elements among their men in the field. Mr. Nwachukwu argued that the community members were more armed than the NSCDC men, so the NSCDC men had to defend themselves. According to him, the women had weapons and wanted to attack

their men, and the youths were so armed that they broke the bridge linking to the other side of the community in order to stop the NSCDC men. SACA could not find any broken bridge in Ikarama.

We argued with Mr. Nwachukwu that the women of Ikarama could not bear arms. He, however, promised that their men would not shoot again. SACA put a call across to one of the community leaders, Chief Franco, who had been hiding inside the bush all day as the operations lasted, and put the phone on loudspeaker, to enable Mr. Nwachukwu hear him. Chief Franco told us he had just returned from the bush because the shooting had stopped.

The woman who was arrested in the early hours of the morning was eventually released that evening, soon after we left the NSCDC headquarters.

It will be recalled that a similar raid was carried out in the same community by the same NSCDC on August 31, 2015, in which a number of community youths and the community's traditional ruler, Chief James Kalaku, were arrested and taken away for days. On that occasion, the women of Ikarama also came out and protested all day against the molestation by the NSCDC. That raid was based on the suspected involvement of some aggrieved community youths who had been relieved of their pipeline surveillance contract jobs by Shell, in the vandalism of Shell's pipeline in the community. Like the current one, SACA's intervention helped in the resolution of that conflict.

ACCR

EMPOWERS 150 WOMEN & YOUTHS THROUGH SACA



Mr. Austin Onuoha, Executive Director, ACCR, Abuja

One of SACA's foremost local partners, African Center for Corporate Responsibility (ACCR) which is based in Abuja with offices in Warri in Delta State and Owerri in Imo State, has embarked on an alternative livelihoods programme for some communities in Gbarain-Ekpetiama Cluster. They picked three persons (two women and one youth) from each of the 11 communities making up the Cluster, with some of the community leaders, making a total of 150 persons, and took them to their training center in Owerri, where they trained them in various skills especially in agro-allied businesses. ACCR engaged SACA to help them identify the appropriate beneficiary communities for the programmes.

All the trainees were empowered with starter kits in the form of non-interest yielding loans, a repayment and reinvestment scheme. According to the Director of ACCR, Mr. Austin Onuoha, this is for the sustainability of the programme; in order to make the funds go round to benefit more persons in the communities over time.



Photo: A cross-section of participants at the Anti-Vandalism Workshop

SACA HOLDS AN ANTI-VANDALISM WORKSHOP FOR OKORDIA-ZARAMA CLUSTER

On 28th February, 2018, Stakeholders Alliance for Corporate Accountability organized a Town hall sensitization/campaign against pipeline vandalism in Epie-Zarama town hall. The program started around 11:10am with about 76 participants in attendance. Some of the participants included 2 SPDC staff led by the Manager Community and Government Relations, Mr. Alaye Dokubo; 3 NOAC staff led by the Manager of Agip's Green River Project (GRP), Mrs. Ine Tamuno; Member of House

of the State Assembly, Hon. Gentle Emela, represented by the CDB Chairman Okordia Zarama, Hon. Jerusalem Adikbue, 3 NOSDRA staff led by Mr. Nwabueze Ohaji; ASCO team led by Hon. Pst. Ranking Alfred; the clan head of Okordia/Zarama Cluster, H.R.M., King Richard Seiba; the Head of Operation, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), Bayelsa State, Mr. Frederick Ogbole. Community Leaders of Okordia/Zarama were also in attendance, including paramount rulers.

The Director of SACA, Mr. Abba Ayemi, warmly received the crowd and narrated SACA's origin and its mission in Niger Delta, adding that SACA's focus on that day was on pipeline vandalism and its effect in an ecosystem.

The Chairman of SACA's Board of Trustees, Rev. Fr. Kevin O'Hara, expressed happiness on seeing all the stakeholders present. He briefed the gathering on the effort he made to reach out to the General Managers of both NOAC and SPDC and how they promised to send their managers to represent them. He lamented on the high rate of pipeline sabotage, adding that people were unfortunately slow in learning the effects of oil spill on the environment. He discouraged fighting and advised everyone to listen respectfully to the facilitator and to one another.

The event, which came on the heels of a raid in Ikarama community by men of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), was moderated by a conflict



Some Shell and Agip managers, and NOSDRA officials, at the anti-vandalism workshop

resolution expert, Mr. Austin Onuoha, from the African Center for Corporate Responsibility (ACCR), Abuja. Talks were presented by the former Petroleum and Pollutions Director in the Bayelsa State Ministry of Environment, Engr. Jephtha Bank, and Dr. Wolo-wolo Tariladei of the Federal Medical Center (FMC), Yenagoa. The talks exposed the dangers of pipeline vandalism to the environment, to the communities' livelihoods, to human health and life.

Mr. Onuoha, in his speech said that the gathering was to discuss the possible solution to the sabotage problem which affected everyone and not to engage in a blame game, adding that people should address the general house and not individuals. He asked everyone to write one thing he would like to go home with in a sheet of paper. He read some of the write ups and summed up the consensus - that nobody wanted the oil spill to continue. He displayed on a projector a picture of a little child who was dying and a vulture waiting for the child to die to eat her remains. According to him, the British journalist who shot the picture won an award but later committed suicide and did not live to enjoy the money he won. The journalist, he said, could not stand the blame from people who accused him of gross insensitivity; that instead of saving the child, he

watched her die just to snap a picture for the sake of an award. He added that whenever there was an issue of oil spill, he would remember that picture, concluding that if one keeps quiet when the issue of pipeline vandalism was going on, one was like that journalist. He lamented on the amount of money Nigeria lost on oil spills, regretting that when pipelines were being sabotaged, some of the crude oil would be refined illegally and the rest of the crude would go into our environment and we would inhale it. He defined vandalism as act involving deliberate destruction of public or private property, adding that it was not usually carried out by innocent people nor by one person, and that it was usually for selfish interests. He ended by blaming the government and the society for not doing much to prevent pipeline vandalism.

The first invited speaker, Engr. Jephtha Bank, described pipeline vandalism as an act of frustrated individuals who felt that because oil was found in their lands and they were not getting enough from it, they could go ahead and destroy the facilities and in the process destroy their own health and lives. He went on to say that toxins and hydrocarbons were being released into the environment when a pipeline was ruptured and it could not be easily locked back, adding that it would continue to flow until the

oil company noticed a pressure drop in that pipeline or a farmer saw it and raised an alarm. "Otherwise it would flow into the river and kill the fishes in the river including the farm produce which is the only source of livelihood in Bayelsa," he said. He encouraged the initiative of modular refineries, saying that idle youths could be employed in such industry. He suggested the possible solutions to vandalism of pipelines to be: the improvement in the area of infrastructures and development, electricity supply, the oil companies not neglecting the community Chiefs and inclusion of the community members in surveillance contracts. He assured that these would bring peace between the communities and the companies.

The second invited speaker, Dr. Tariladei, listed some of the diseases caused by hydrocarbon-related toxins; dangerous elements and poisonous substances which were not ordinarily supposed to be in the human system. Some of the ailments he mentioned are liver cancer, respiratory track infections such as cough, etc., high rate of infertility, high rate of miscarriages and attendant complications. According to him, the accumulation of the poisonous substances in crude oil in the human system leads to terminal diseases and could claim one's life in no distant time. He advised the youths to shun pipeline vandalism and find other means to address their grievances or to make ends meet.

The NSCDC Head of Operations and leader of the agency's delegation to the gathering, Mr. Frederick Ogbole, expressed happiness for SACA's efforts



Dr. Wolo-wolo of FMC Yenagoa, addressing the gathering



Ikarama women leader, Mrs. A. Warder, addressing the gathering

in the communities and for organizing such a program. He acknowledged that it was their first time of attending such a peaceful gathering to discuss this subject matter. He condemned the indolence amongst Nigerian youths waiting on proceeds from oil alone. He accused the vandals of imitating the hardened militants, kidnappers and sea pirates. He however suggested possible solutions as peaceful dialogue such as this one, educating/orienting the youths, involvement of the youths in surveillance jobs because they would take responsibility for the pipelines. He advised them to hold their representatives in the government responsible, to find out why their road was that way. Finally, he appealed to the communities for understanding in the midst of allegations of rights abuse against them, promising that his men would not misbehave again.

Mr. Ohaji of NOSDRA explained oil spill as an uncontrolled release of hydrocarbon in the environment. According to him, 80% of oil spills they recorded were due to sabotage. He attributed the spills to the restiveness of youths who needed one thing or the other and some contractors who sometimes send the boys to vandalize the pipelines in order to attract cleanup contracts. He added that there was someone in the system who informed the youths when 'the lights were off'. He mentioned some laws which governed oil spillage, compensation and contracting. He advised the youths to embrace dialogue and other measures like reporting to SACA instead of pipeline vandalism.

One of SACA's Board members, Sir.

Peter Berezi, was of the opinion that the government should partner with the smaller refineries where crudes were being refined instead of spending much money in modular refineries. He encouraged the oil companies to set up a network or technology that could detect in their system when a pipeline was tampered with. To the youths, he urged restraint, advising them not burst pipeline just because they are angry, as they were introducing carcinogens into their own environment.

The communities, including youths, women and the elders, had the opportunity to table their grievances against the two oil companies, in a calm, non-violent way, without threatening anyone, and were listened to. The communities particularly lamented the allegedly reckless invasion of their communities by members of the NSCDC, the non-employment of any member of the clans in both SPDC and NAOC, lack of projects from government in their communities, outstanding debts to the chiefs and poor communication between the oil companies and communities. A Bayelsa State House of Assembly member, Hon. Gentle Emela, particularly took a swipe at the security agencies, for not going to the bush where the pipelines were to secure them but hanging around in the communities molesting innocent women and school children. He

recommended that SPDC and Agip build outposts around their pipelines and station the security operatives and surveillance contractors there, instead of using an unequipped skills acquisition center in the middle of the community as a barracks for security forces to trouble the residents. The paramount ruler of Epie-Zarama, Chief Foundation Omekwe, threatened to shut down the manifold if their plights were not addressed by the companies, saying that they were tired of being gathered and addressed by NGOs and at end nothing would change. He further said that they would never advise their youths again because they were tired of doing so. The Okordia Clan Head, H.R.M. King Seiba, recalled how he singlehandedly pushed for the dualization of the Okordia-Zarama road by SPDC, promising more spills if the road was not dualized. "If Shell does not come and dualize this road, then I can tell you that you have not seen oil spills yet," he said. He blamed the sabotage on security, alleging that the Civil Defense men were not discharging their duties.

The CDB Chairman, Hon. Jerusalem Adikabue, emphasized the issue of employment. According to him, there was a need for the oil companies to employ community members as CROs who could calm down his people with their local dialect. He accused some oil company staff of inducing the untrained



Fr. Kevin O'Hara of SACA addressing the gathering

the local community youths to vandalize the pipelines for personal gratifications through the award of cleanup contracts. He advised the youths to shun sabotage and stop running such unwholesome errands for greedy officials.

SPDC's Manager for Government and Community Relations, Mr. Alaye Dokubo, in his speech, charged the youths to seek alternative livelihoods, and to hold the government accountable since they have the statutory responsibility of developing the communities, instead of relying on SPDC. Narrating some personal experience as a young graduate hawking buns in the early 80's, he said that there were other opportunities and avenues through which youths could establish themselves in profitable businesses, instead of waiting on SPDC every time. He promised to be available for youths to dialog because he was also a youth even at his age, challenging the youths to talk to him.

Agip's Green River Project Manager, Mrs. Ine Tamuno, praised SACA for organizing this forum, as an effective means of dialog to prevent or minimize pipeline sabotage in the area, and requested for more of such events to be organized in the future.

It was resolved that SPDC should open their doors to the communities youth leaders whenever they have issues and call on them, and to educate the NSCDC, as guards of their facilities, on the provisions of the Voluntary Principles on Security & Human Rights which the international oil companies signed up to. Fr. O'Hara commended SPDC for the promise of opening their doors to the youth leaders, challenging them not to renege on that promise.

Resolutions

At the end of the meeting, participants resolved as follows:

1. That pipeline vandalism does no



Agip Nigeria's Green River Project (GRP) Manager, Mrs. Ine Tamuno, addressing the gathering

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. That dialogue should be used to resolve all issues involving companies and communities; 3. That oil company operators should open their doors to community youths and respond to their issues; 4. That more should be done in the area of providing infrastructure to host communities; 5. That all stakeholders must work together to address the issue of unemployment especially among | <p>one any good in the short, intermediate and long term;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. That more of this kind of forum should be organized to feel the pulse of stakeholders; 7. That there was need for training of Civil Defense Corps on Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights; 8. That there was need for improved communication among all stakeholders; 9. That there was need for CLO from communities to be employed by oil companies, etc. |
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SACA's T-Shirts/Caps Spark Increased Interests in Other Communities

Soon after the anti-vandalism campaign held by SACA at Okordia-Zarama in February 2018, calls started coming from various other parts of Bayelsa, including communities outside of our projects' target localities, such as Southern Ijaw and Kolokuma-Opokuma, requesting SACA to come and carry out similar workshops in their own communities to help reduce the incessant spills in those areas. Most of the callers, who said they saw people wearing SACA's Anti-Vandalism T-shirts and caps, are farmers whose farms were destroyed by oil spills. Even though the production/distribution of T-shirts or caps was not part of our original budget for this project, it did go a long way in broader dissemination of our message of dialogue rather than vandalism as the best way of seeking redress for perceived neglect by the IOCs.

ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS

IDENTIFIED AS PANACEA TO PIPELINE SABOTAGE

The training and empowerment of Niger Delta youths and women in alternative livelihoods skills have been identified by various groups and individuals as the best means of addressing the problems of pipeline sabotage in the area. The officers of the Nigerian Security Civil Defense Corps in Yenagoa, particularly called on SACA to focus its attention more on this area as a way to bring a lasting solution to the menace. They made this call during a courtesy visit by SACA to the command in their State headquarters in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, on April 11, 2018.

The SACA team were warmly received by the agency's State Commander, Mr. Godwin A. Nwachukwu, and his management, at about 11:17am. Mr. Nwachukwu introduced all the members of his management to SACA and the leader of SACA's delegation, Mr. Abba Ayemi, introduced all on the SACA team to them.

Mr. Ayemi told them what SACA stood for, its origin, what it does especially in the area of environment and oil spills. He emphasized the need for SACA and NSCDC to work together since there was a relationship between the works of both bodies. He mentioned to them SACA's plan to organize a training workshop for

his field officers on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights as well as the oil companies' Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights.

Mr. Nwachukwu warmly welcomed us, expressing delight with our visit, our plans and the area of interest in our work. He said that the bone of contention was the security of national assets which he acknowledged was coincidentally also our interest. "You would be of a great value to us if you really represent what you claimed," he added. He also promised to give us their cooperation in working together to bring sanity to, and preserve, the environment for future generations. However, he complained of not hearing our voices on any media. He encouraged us to go on air in our advocacy, e.g., with radio jingles.

Mr. Ayemi replied that at the moment our engagement with stakeholders was direct and not on the media, promising to nevertheless act on the Mr. Nwachukwu's advice. He informed them that SACA would soon organize a stakeholders gathering where some ambassadors would come from Abuja, asking them to honor the invitation when the time comes. Mr. Nwachukwu replied



SACA staff inspecting Agip's Alternative Livelihoods facility

that they would be part of it.

One of the officers said that idleness was the reason for pipeline vandalism and that the world had advanced beyond mere talks in advocacy, appealing for us to engage the youths with meaningful alternative entrepreneurial skills. He emphasized the need of getting the youths busy and the extent to which that would distract them from pipeline vandalism.

Mr. Ayemi confirmed that alternative livelihood was the way to go in distracting the youths because SACA had tried that 2 years back and it worked out. According to him, pipeline vandalism reduced in Ikarama that year we engaged them in fish farming. He informed them that there was a group called Catholic Relief Service (CRS) who were interested in alternative livelihood in the Niger Delta and who were presently talking with SACA's Board Chairman, Fr. Kevin O'Hara, on partnering with SACA to implement such programmes in Bayelsa State. "Once they come we would do more, because we talk and do," Mr. Ayemi added.

BLOCKAGE OF WATERWAYS GENERATING TENSIONS IN HOST COMMUNITIES

Barely a year after the resolution of the Ogboloma electricity crisis during which the entire Ogboloma community came out on the road protesting for weeks against Shell, another issue has arisen between the community and the company. The community youths, led by the community's former youth president, Mr. Josiah Inebaraton, called Chidi of SACA on December 6, 2017, to inform him that they were going to cut and remove some parts of Shell's oil pipelines in their community because of several blockages they cause to the flow of their fishing waters. Chidi stopped the youths and dispatched a team from the office to meet with the youths in the bush to

dissuade them from carrying out the act.

Our team, Willem, Ukamaka and Dennis, arrived the community and were taken by some of the youth leaders, Mr. Inebaraton and Mr. Felix Ebitei, to 3 of the blockage sites to observe things for themselves. They were first brought to Etelebou bush and shown some blocked streams there (Geo-coordinates: 05.01971N and 006.36227E). They were then taken to another side of the Etelebou-Kolo Creek delivery line and shown 2 blockages of the streams there. Finally, they were brought to the delivery line to the Central Processing Facility (CPF) and shown another blocked creek there.



Ogboloma youths lamenting to SACA the blockage of their waterways and fishing grounds by Shell's pipelines

The pipelines were laid across the waterways which were sand-filled to bury the pipes. The first sand-filling, the youths said, was done in 2007 with 6 pipes running together across the Ute lake belonging to the Akeruwari and Igbinbiri families. The second was done in 2011.

According to them, they had written several times to the company as well as to the government to complain about this problem and got no response whatsoever from the company. The two families most affected, Akeruwari and Igbinbiri, wrote to Shell in 2009 and 2010, but received no reply. But the government did come, they admitted. According to them, the State Ministry of Environment visited the place, assessed the blockages and asked the company to come and correct the laying of the pipes, all to no avail.

For days, SACA persuaded the youths to hold their peace and not attempt bursting any pipeline, but to give it a chance to talk to the company. When the youths insisted, SACA requested the youth leaders to come and see its Board Chairman, Fr. Kevin O'Hara, who happened to be coming to town in the next 2 weeks, on December 15, 2017.

On December 15, two of SACA staff, Abba and Chidi, together with the Board Chairman, met with the youth leaders at Matho Crystal Hotel in Yenagoa on December 16, 2017, to discuss their grievances and seek alternative solutions to them instead of pipeline vandalism. When, even after his advice, the youths insisted on their plans of attacking Shell's pipelines, Fr. O'Hara, who was visibly annoyed at their obstinacy,

threatened that SACA would never listen to them again if they tampered with the subject pipelines and the security forces descended on them. Reluctantly, the youths then agreed to dialogue.

A report on the blockages was then brought out by Abba of SACA. The publication, which is a documentation of the blockages and recommendations by Scientific Ideas Limited, a company contracted by Shell to assess the blockages, was brought out by SACA. The report is titled "Special Environmental Assessment of Gbarain-Ubie 1 Pipeline Alleged Blockage of Natural Waterways in Opolo and Environs, Yenagoa Local Government, Bayelsa State, Nigeria." The youths partially repudiated the report, stating that it did not contain all the data pertaining to their own community and so was not acceptable to them.

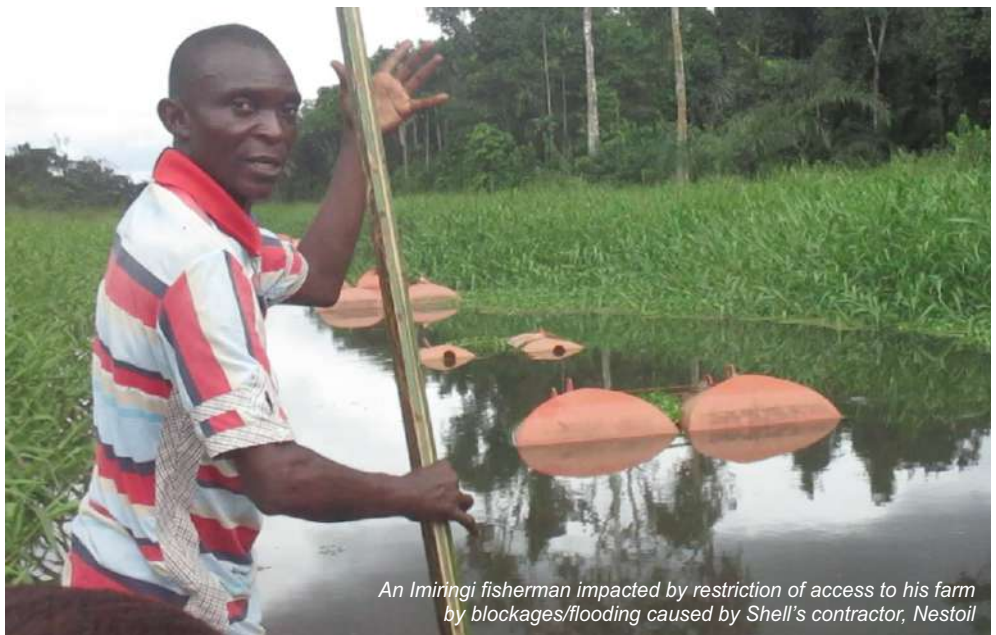
SACA promised them to bring up this issue with Shell in our next meeting with them.

It will be recalled that SACA has been on this same issue of blockage of waterways by Shell's pipelines with the company. We have investigated and confirmed several allegations of blockages. One of the major ones is the one done by Daewoo, and later, Nestoil, at Imiringi in Kolo Creek. Daewoo and Nestoil are contractor companies for Shell. In the case of Imiringi, about 13

creeks lying across a distance of about 300 meters (North 04° 52' .096', East 006° 25' .225') were blocked by huge pipelines, causing a lot of flooding which adversely impacted farmlands and fishing grounds in the area.

SACA had received a report back in 2013 of how some of these creeks were blocked by SPDC's contractor then, Daewoo E & C Nig. Ltd., during the laying of pipelines for the Soku-Ubie-Gbarain Gas Pipeline Project in 2009/2010. The affected creeks, according to a letter written to SPDC dated 03/01/2012, were Obotam, Kolo and Okikiotata, all in Imiringi in Ogbia L. G. A., with survey pillars 20 (Surv. Pill GSGL 352, GSGL 350), 21 (Surv. Pill GSGL 320A, GSGL 320), 22 (GSGL 290, GSGL 288), and 23 (Surv. Pill GSGL 286, GSGL 284) respectively. SACA had visited the area during the dry season in 2013 but the area was overgrown with tall grasses. In 2015, the new contractor, Nestoil, started working on another set of pipelines in the same route, blocking more creeks in the area and Mr. Sample, again representing the Ologbo family, reported it to SACA. SACA staff again visited the place but were denied access to the site by the military men stationed there by SPDC.

SACA staff, Chidi and Willem, still visited the place again in September 2016, and noticed that more damages had been done to the ecosystem, with



An Imiringi fisherman impacted by restriction of access to his farm by blockages/flooding caused by Shell's contractor, Nestoil

more pipes laid and suspended with dozens of huge buoys, making movements around that place by farmers very dangerous. SACA intensified pressure with the company to bury the pipes deeper and clear the blocked natural waterways. We were informed by one of the community residents recently that the company has finally shifted the pipes, but have not yet cleared the waterways.

Another one is the Opolo creeks blockage which also impacted the community's properties and livelihoods. SACA had several meetings with the

traditional ruler of the community, Chief Frederick Akintola, with other impacted members of the community and with Shell on their behalf. Our constant pressure on Shell to address the community's concerns and to sign a GMoU with not only Opolo but also all other communities in Epie-Atissa has finally yielded some results in the case of Opolo, as the company has agreed to sign an MoU with them for a special development programme. Curiously, the company want to go into MoU with, and compensate, only Opolo community instead of the entire Cluster.

Geoffrey, the PRO, Pst. Joel Ebi John, the Women's Chief, Chief (Mrs.) Yawoh Ismael, a member of the Council of Chiefs, Chief Abile Idoukumo, the Youth President, Mr. Benjamin Warder, the Youth Vice President, Mr. Freeborn Idonboye (JP) and the Women's Secretary, Mr. Shadrach Ovie.

The Paramount Ruler, who said he personally came in contact with SACA in May 2018, shortly after he became the Paramount Ruler of the community, stated that SACA had been working in the community for a long time, "...advocating for peace and telling oil companies to do the right things. We consulted SACA for an oil spill in which SACA intervened and talked with SPDC and AGIP. We had some issues in Ikarama community which SACA tried to resolve for us." The other Chiefs, including the women's Chief, took turns to explain to the auditor how SACA had helped them with challenges they had in the community, mostly bordering on the environment, health and livelihoods. The PRO, Pastor Joel John, particularly praised SACA for its performance in the area. According to him, "SACA stands as an interface between the oil companies and Ikarama community and government. Everyone in Ikarama community knows about SACA, Fr. Kevin, Willem and Abba. They have helped the community so much through advocacy. Because of SACA the health center was made functional and through SACA's effort, a private doctor was brought to assist the community. SACA brought fish farm to Ikarama community though it has been hijacked. We plead with SACA to come and revive the fish farm to help reduce the restiveness in the community."

SACA'S PROJECT ASSESSED BY AN EXTERNAL EVALUATOR

From 23rd to 26th October, 2018, an external assessor, Bekebi Consulting, carried out an evaluation of SACA's 2017-2018 project titled "Promoting Environmental, Economic and Human Rights". The first part of the evaluation took place in 3 communities, namely Ikarama in Okordia-Zarama Cluster, Polaku in Gbarain-Ekpetiama Cluster and Ogboloma, also in Gbarain-Ekpetiama Cluster. The Second part was with the Kolo Creek Cluster Cluster Development Board,

the State Ministry of Environment and the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA).

At Ikarama, the evaluation took place on 23rd October at the residence of the community's Paramount Ruler, Chief Habartsons Lamie. Participants at the evaluation on the community side include Chief Lamie himself, the community's Deputy Paramount Ruler, Chief Beli



SACA's evaluator, Mr. Ben Abidde, drawing the Venn diagram and gathering data from Polaku community leaders during the evaluation

On the same 23rd October, the evaluators went to Ogboloma community in Gbarain-Ekpetiama for the evaluation, where they met with about 20 youth leaders, led by the community's former youth leader, Mr. Josiah Inebaraton. Most of the youths leaders are new and did not know much about SACA. However, some of them identified some of SACA staff and acknowledged having seen them working in the community. They acknowledged SACA's intervention in some

of the issues they had with the oil companies, particularly SPDC, in the past, and SACA's attempts to resolve the issues. They, however, are not pleased with what they described as slow response by SACA to their complaints. Some did not even know SACA at all.

The evaluators went to Polaku community on 24th October for the exercise. At Polaku, they met with the outgoing Paramount Ruler, Chief Barnabas Tarila, and his Council of Chiefs, women leader and youth leader. They described SACA as a well-known NGO in the communities who had been advocating for right relations and who had tried a lot. According to Chief Tarila, SACA intervened in the community's cases with SPDC, especially in securing compensation for the community following damages by MOPOL Nig. Ltd., a contractor to SPDC, during their River Crossing job which impacted the community's source of drinking water and their fishing rights. According to Chief Tarila, "SACA helped the community and five hundred thousand naira (N500,000) was paid to Polaku as compensation though MOPOL earlier denied that any damage was done to Polaku's environment.

Also on 24th October, the evaluator met with the Kolo Creek Cluster Development Board (CDB) in Yenagoa. The CDB, represented by the Secretary, Mr. Sunday Sample,

acknowledged having worked with SACA and attended its capacity building training at Elebele community and the stakeholders gathering, also organized by SACA for the Cluster at Nembe City Town Hall in Yenagoa with 10 representatives from each community in the Cluster. Mr. Sample commended SACA for its efforts in protecting the environment which is being damaged by oil exploration and production activities through gas flaring and oil spills. He called on SACA to organize more of such workshops for communities in the Cluster and to involve the CDB more, especially as the persistent problems of gas flaring and oil spills are escalating the environmental dangers in the area. He also requested SACA to advocate for hospitals and schools that are of international standards to be sited and made functional in Kolo Creek Cluster.

On 25th October, the team went to the Ministry of Environment where they interviewed the Ministry's Director for Petroleum and Pollution and Acting Permanent Secretary, Mr. Awuduma Adike. Mr. Adike told the evaluators that his Ministry had attended a number of workshops organized by SACA in the past. He added that he currently had 3 reports from SACA because he participated in SACA's programs. According to him, one of their most recent engagements with SACA is the SPDC's gas leakage at Agbobiri

community in Okordia-Zarama Cluster. Admitting that the government seemed sometimes a bit slow in responding, he stated that "one important issue is that if the process is not driven by NGOs like SACA, it could not have been possible." He acknowledged that NGOs have easier access to the communities than the IOCs and the government and recommended that SACA should try and work more closely with the IOCs.

From the Ministry of Environment in the Government Secretariat, the team went to office of the National Oil Spills Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) at INEC Road and met with Mr. Emeka Iheanachor, an assistant to the State Director of the agency, Mr. Francis Umeh. Mr. Umeh who had been relating more closely with SACA than Mr. Iheanachor, was unavoidably absent and was unable to speak with SACA's evaluator, but had delegated his assistant to speak with the evaluators. Mr. Iheanachor praised SACA as an organization that was not biased in the discharge of its mandate, but was committed to the course of environmental justice. He acknowledged having worked with SACA on some occasions, especially on the investigation of spills in Oya Lake.

At the end of the field trips/visits and having gathered all the external data for writing their reports, the evaluation team lead, Mr. Ben Abidde, had an interactive session with the staff of SACA to assess the internal operations of the organization, on October 26, 2018. He made a number of observations and recommendations mostly bordering on the processes of internal monitoring of SACA's projects. According to him, SACA needs to have a dedicated desk for monitoring and evaluation, with its own committed personnel and funding, even if a staff with an existing role has to take it specifically as an additional role. M/E documentation, he reiterated, should be somebody's responsibility. He also emphasized on role delineation and job descriptions for staff. He offered to provide training for the staff on monitoring and evaluation if SACA was interested in that.



SACA's evaluator, Mr. Ben Abidde, in a one-on-one interview with the Acting Permanent Secretary during the evaluation

The Year in Photos



Ambassador of Ireland, Sean Hoy (right) Bayelsa State Commissioners for Environment & Mineral Resources



Ambassador Sean Hoy paying a courtesy call to the King of Ekpetiama, HRM Bubaraye Dakolo, in his palace



One of the participants at the Stakeholders Gathering, Dr. Dickson Achimota, addressing the Ambassador



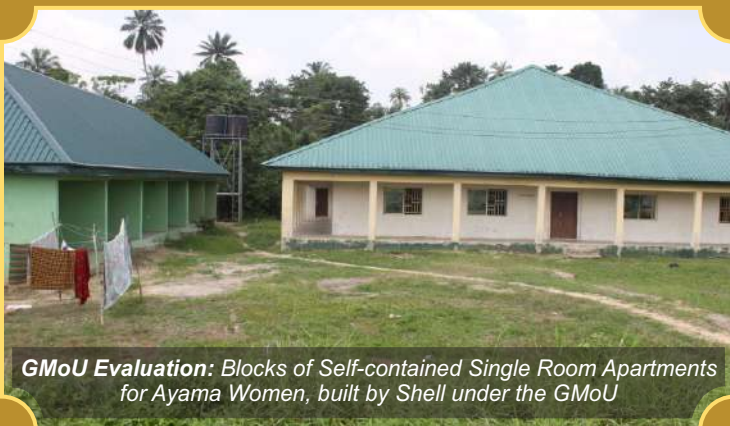
SACA staff with Shell & Agip managers, NOSDRA, NSCDC & Govt. representatives, after the anti-vandalism workshop at Zarama



GMoU Evaluation: Okotima townhall, one of the numerous projects completed by Shell under the GMoU



GMoU Evaluation: Concrete Walkway in Ogboloma, one of the numerous projects completed by Shell under the GMoU



GMoU Evaluation: Blocks of Self-contained Single Room Apartments for Ayama Women, built by Shell under the GMoU



GMoU Evaluation: Work resumes on Okolobiri Auditorium, a Shell project which was abandoned for years.

The Fear in Photos



Tanks of recovered crude oil from Ikarama Manifold Spill of 2018 which flooded over 30% of the entire community



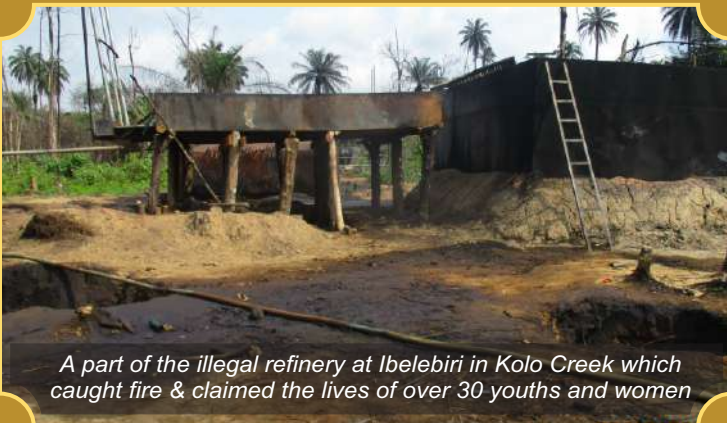
Ikarama Manifold Spill 2018: Homes engulfed and condemned by the spill. Residents in that area became homeless.



A Kolo Creek woman swimming and fishing inside a polluted tributary of Kolo Creek in Imiringi



A Kolo Creek youth displaying an easy catch of crude-contaminated fish from polluted Imiringi River



A part of the illegal refinery at Ibelebiri in Kolo Creek which caught fire & claimed the lives of over 30 youths and women



Some newly dug distillation pits in the Ibelebiri illegal oil refinery



An ambulance evacuating corpses and victims from the inferno at the Ibelebiri illegal refinery



Aggrieved families/relations of deceased victims of Ibelebiri fire mourning the loss of their loved ones in the incident

The United Nations Declaration of HUMAN RIGHTS

Article 1: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2: Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4: No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5: No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6: Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7: All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article 8: Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9: No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10: Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Article 11:

1. Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defense.
2. No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a

penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

Article 12: No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13:

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.
2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 14:

1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.
2. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 15:

1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 16:

1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.
2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Article 17:

1. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18: Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom,

either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 20:

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article 21:

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

2. Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.

3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22: Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article 23:

1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

4. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article 24: Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25:

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well being of himself and of

his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article 26:

1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Article 27:

1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Article 28: Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29:

1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

2. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

3. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 30: Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.



Dennis and Ukamaka of SACA inspecting a section of the Oruma oil spill. Photo by SACA

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Although the head offices of the corporate giants in London, The Hague, Houston, Milan and other distant capitals of the world espoused transparencies and the highest ideals in corporate responsibility, operations in Nigeria like other remote parts of the world were conducted behind a cloak of secrecy.... Simply put, the ills of corrupt government and an increasingly corrupt society pervaded the Nigerian operations of the major international oil companies.

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- Dr. Stephen Davis, "The Potential for Peace and Reconciliation in the Niger Delta, p. 207"

With Gratitude to Our Partners

