

Niger Delta Dialogue

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Academic Associates PeaceWorks



Niger Delta Dialogue



15th Niger Delta Dialogue

**Regional Meeting on Insecurity in the Niger Delta
(January 28, 2021)**

Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt

& 6 State Town Hall Meetings (June - September, 2020)



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**Academic Associates PeaceWorks
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Research Questions

1. Introduction and Context Analysis	
a	What is the prevailing political, social and economic situation in the state?
b	What is the demographic situation in the state? What is the place of youth and youth groups in the state? How does youth transition take place?
c	What are the prevailing types of insecurity in the state?
d	What are the drivers of the different identified types of insecurity in the state?
e	Which are the relevant institutions in the state? Traditional and informal actors? Religious or ethnic organisations?
f	What is the situation of gender in the state?
2. Analysis of the Actors	
a	Who are the relevant actors that contribute to insecurity in the state?
b	Who are the relevant actors that contribute to resolving insecurity in the state?
c	Who are the known leaders (traditional, political, community, social and economic leaders) that influence the outcome of political processes in the state?
d	To what extent do the actions of these leaders contribute to insecurity in the state?
e	What is the nature of power dynamics between the different actors in the state? What would be the best way of describing the mutual relationships and power dynamics between these actors? What is their frame of action, and what capabilities and resources do they dispose of?
f	Which type of action, by what actors impacts the situation directly? What motivates these types of action (financial, personal, political, ethnic interests etc.)
3. Interactions between Actors and Context	
a	What are the mutual interactions between context and actors? How can the actors reinforce, change or weaken the security challenges that are observed in the state?
b	What opportunities exist for actors to contribute to enhanced security? Are there opportunities for opposing actors to work together? If yes, what are these opportunities and platforms?
c	How will a change of actor impact on the context of security in the state?

6 State Town Hall Meetings - Presentation and Validation of Report on Insecurity in the South South

Introduction



HRM Obol Ofem-Ubanna,

Paramount ruler of Yakkur with other participants at the Cross River State Town Hall Meeting

The Niger Delta Dialogue started in 2016, at a time when the Niger Delta Avengers were attacking oil facilities and Nigeria experienced a huge decline in its resources occasioned by the resurgence of militancy. Relative peace followed a ceasefire in August 2016. However, insecurity is again posing a threat to the Niger Delta, as highlighted in the September 2019 Niger Delta Dialogue with senior police and other security agents from across the region. This was the impetus behind a 6-state study, **“Insecurity in the South South: Issues, Actors and Solutions”** conducted by the Niger Delta Dialogue in 2020. The research was conducted by 6 state teams in April-June 2020, and the reports verified at 6 state-level town hall meetings held in June-September 2020. A regional meeting with traditional rulers, security agents and civil society representatives was also held on January 28, 2021. The published report came out in January 2021 and has been distributed widely to security agencies, the National Assembly, the 6 South South governors, international partners, universities, civil society, etc.

This glossy report documents the highpoints of the 6 state Town Hall Meetings and the meeting with traditional rulers. Soft copies of the composite report **“Insecurity in the Niger Delta”** are available on the

Academic Associates PeaceWorks website. **Aapw.org**. and hard copies published by Adonis & Abbey in the UK can be purchased on **Amazon.com**. The first Niger Delta Dialogue was held in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State with 50 genuine leaders of the region along with delegations from NDDC, the Presidential Amnesty Programme and the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs. The purpose was to address the issues underlying the violent attacks in the region. At that time, it was decided that the dialogue be continued. To date 14 major dialogues and numerous smaller meetings have been held, all with funding from the European Union. The 14th Dialogue was held in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State in September 2019 with the 2 AIGS, 6 Commissioners of Police and various other senior police officers from the region. This meeting identified the need for current and specific information about the insecurity building across the 6 states.

The European Union kindly allowed the Niger Delta Dialogue to shift financial resources into a large-scale empirical study. In March 2020, 6 teams of 2 researchers each, met in Warri to agree upon the methodology for the study, which focused on key informant interviews and focus group discussions. The research questions included:



**Rear Admiral Nicholas Bakpo (Rtd.) with
HRM Alabo Prof. Dagogo Fubara, HRM King Dr. Amb. Sir Leslie Nyebuchi Eke JP,
Chief Dr. Judith Burdin Asuni, HRM Ba-Idem Suani G.B, Hon. Ken Robinson**

After the completion of the research exercise, a report and policy recommendation emerged in each state. The NDD took each report and policy brief to stakeholders for input and amendment in a state town hall meeting. The town hall meetings were attended by top ranking government functionaries {both the Executive and Legislative arms}, security agencies- Police, DSS, Nigeria Army, NSCDC, the academia, civil society actors, traditional rulers, religious leaders, student union leaders, leaders of ex-agitators, the media, community leaders, women groups, social enthusiasts and the regional socio cultural body, the Pan Niger Delta Forum, PANDEF. Stakeholders at the various state meetings made useful contributions to further enrich the reports.

A follow-on of the town hall meeting in each state, was the formation of the Policy Advocacy Committee whose mandate is to use the report to influence policy for implementation of the recommendation through advocacy engagements with critical stakeholders - government, security agencies, traditional rulers and communities. Traditional rulers in the various states were engaged by the PACs as they are the custodians of peace and stability, and have knowledge of the security issues in their domains as well as the perpetrators.

The engagements with the royal fathers, government and security agencies clearly showed the lack of synergy between these institutions in the fight against insecurity in the region. Consequently, the NDD brought kings, security agencies, government, civil society actors and other stakeholders together to a meeting in Port Harcourt, Rivers State to reflect on best approaches to revamp synergy. This meeting held on 28th January 2021 at the Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt.

The 6 state study on Insecurity in the South South, uncovered new types of insecurity, such as the many street children and IDPs in Cross River State from not only Bakassi but now neighbouring Ambazonia in neighbouring Cameroun. It also showed the role of cult members moving from Edo State to Italy to control the human trafficking trade though Libya. The rising rate of piracy and steady flow of undocumented migrants from the northern part of Nigeria are two other forms of rising insecurity in the Niger Delta region. We hope that the published report and policy briefs will be used by people in various spheres to address the issue of insecurity before it gets out of hand once again.

State Town Hall Meetings Table

S/N	State	Date	Venue	Chairman of the Meeting
1	Akwa Ibom	June 29, 2020	Watbridge Hotel, Uyo	HRH Etinyin Edet Nyong Ekeng, Idua Clan Head, Oron Local Government
2	Cross River	July 1, 2020	Transcorp Hotel, Calabar	Senator Bassey Ewah Henshaw, former member of the National Assembly
3	Bayelsa	July 15, 2020	Lady Daima Memorial Event Centre, Yenagoa	HRM King Alfred Diète Spiff, represented by HRM King Bubrayer Dakolo, Agada (IV). Gbenanaowei of Ekpetiama Kingdom
4	Edo	July 17, 2020	Constantial Hotel, Benin City	Chief Dr. Cletus Owunze, the Adelua of Sobe
5	Rivers	August 14, 2020	Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt	HRM King (Dr) Douglas Dandeson Jaja, the Amayanabo of Opobo Kingdom, represented by HM King (Dr) Amb. Sir Leslie Nyebuchi Eke JP, (the warrant King) Eze Gbakagbaka, Evo Kingdom
6	Delta	September 17, 2020	Orchid Hotel, Asaba	HRM Dr Emma Efizormo (OON), Obi of Owa,



Cross Section of Participants at Delta State Town Hall Meeting

Research Highlights

Delta State

- **Political Violence**
- Leadership Tussle
- Communal Conflict and Boundary Disputes
- Unconstitutional Stay of Tenure

Ethnic and Interest Group Conflict

- Ethnic Clash--the Ogbe-Ijoh (Ijaw) /Aladja (Urhobo) crisis
- Multinational Oil Companies Vs Host Communities Clash
- Militancy
- Herdsmen/Farmers Crisis

Organized Criminal Activities as a Function of Insecurity

- Crude Oil Bunkering and Armed Robbery
- Violent Youth Gangs, Petty Theft and Piracy
- Kidnapping, Cultism and Sale of Illicit Drugs
- Cybercrime and Illegal Sale of Small Arms and Light Weapons
- **Social Violence and Insecurity**
- Cultism and Youth Restiveness
- Domestic Violence, Rape and Abuse of Street Kids
- Consumption of Illicit Drugs and Collection of Illegal Taxes, locally known as (Deve)

Structural Violence

- Abuse of Civilians by Security Officials and Complicity
- Absence of Government Presence in Communities
- State Capture and Corruption



Amb. Nkoyo Toyo, NDD Facilitator

Rivers State

Political Violence

- Case study – Abonnema election crises of 2019

Ethnic and Interest Group Conflict

- International Oil Companies Vs Host Communities: Aminigboko Community vs SPDC; Belema Community vs SPDC

Organized Criminal Activities as a Function of Insecurity

- Oil Bunkering: Cooking and distribution points include Isaka, Bakana, Bille, Okrika, Bodo, Cawthorne Channel, Abuloma, Marine Base, BHS Waterfront, Marcobi Jetty, Ogu etc
- 300 Artisanal Refineries in Cowthone Channel and 56 Ogu
- Kidnapping: State wide phenomenon. Flashpoints include Ndele axis of East-West road, Elele-Alimini road etc.
- Cult Violence: Cultism has been let loose with impunity of violence across the State. Flash points include Khana, Gokana, ONELGA, Port Harcourt, Obio-Akpor, Etche etc
- Sea Piracy: Flashpoints include Andoni, Bonny, Bakana, Bille, Kula, Ke, Kalabari Toru, Boue etc.
- Armed Robbery

Structural Violence

- Police Brutality: SARS brutality, extortion of commercial motorists, E-Crack and Ikoku COVID-19 lockdown implementation.
- New Environmental Conflicts: HYPREP and Ogoni Clean-Up Matters
- Proposed oil resumption in Ogoni

Akwa Ibom State

- **Political Violence in Akwa Ibom**
- Communal and Inter-State Land Dispute
- Leadership Tussle

Ethnic and Interest Group Conflict

- Communal and Inter-State Land Dispute
- Ethnic Minority Marginalization

Organized Criminal Activities as a Function of Insecurity

- Sea Piracy
- Cultism and Armed Violence
- Drug Abuse



ACP Adekimi Ojo, Representative of The Commissioner of Police, Akwa Ibom State

Structural Violence

- Abuse of Civilians by Security Officials and Complicity
- Absence of Government Presence in Communities



ACP Wale Lawal, Representative of The Commissioner of Police, Edo State with Chief Dr. Cletus Owunze, Chief Judith Burdin Asuni and Hon. Ken Robinson

Social Violence and Insecurity

- Protest and Restiveness
- Child Trafficking
- Consumption of Illicit Drugs
- Rape

Structural Violence

- Abuse of Civilians by Security Officials and Complicity
- Absence of Government Presence in Communities
- State Capture and Corruption

Edo State

Political violence

- Chieftaincy tussles
- Communal Conflict and Boundary Disputes
- Ethnic and Interest Group Conflict
- Inter-communal land boundary disputes and land grabbing phenomenon
- Herdsmen attacks

Organized Criminal Activities

- Kidnapping for ransom
- Armed robbery-Attacking of banks with dynamite
- Cultism
- Cybercrime
- Human trafficking
- Social Violence and Insecurity
- Human trafficking
- Cultism
- Rape
- Domestic violence
- Consumption of illegal drugs

Bayelsa State

Political Violence

- Electoral violence
- Land / boundary disputes
- Tenureship tussles
- Ethnic and Interest Group Conflict
- Ethnic Minority Marginalization
- Inter - Communal Environmental Conflict
- Leadership tussle

Organized Criminal Activities

- Illegal Bunkering and Artisanal Refining
- Drugs
- Kidnapping for ransom
- Cultism and gang violence

Inter-gang killings over contestation of supremacy and control over territorial waterways

- Militancy
- Sea Piracy and Sea Robbery

Social Violence and Insecurity

- Rape of market women on sea.
- Cultism and cult violence
- Drugs
- **Structural Violence**
- Military Invasion of Communities
- Lack of government presence in communities
- Citizen abuse by security officials

Cross River State

Political Violence

- Communal Conflict and Boundary Disputes
- Conflict over control of palm oil estates
- Low Ekpe superiority contestation

Ethnic and Interest Group Conflict

- Farmers/herders conflict
- Militancy and sea piracy
- Cross border attacks
- Influx of migrants from Ambazonia conflicts

Organized Criminal Activities as a Function of Insecurity

- Kidnapping and armed robbery
- Cultism and gang wars
- Murders

Social Violence and Insecurity

- Violent protests
- Rape
- Cultism
- Internal displacement of refugees
- Drug abuse
- Street children menace

Summaries of Comments by Participants at the State Town Hall Meetings

Bayelsa

• **The Director General of the Directorate of State Security (DSS), Mr. Michael Ogbaje**, concurred with the researchers on all the areas of study except the area where they identified the military as part of the insecurity challenge. He regretted that lots of people have lost confidence in the security agencies saying that the military should not be perceived as part of the insecurity problem. He noted that though in his one year of working in the state, there had been military invasions in some communities due to criminals hiding in those communities, adding that the invasions of Bilabiri and Azagbene communities due to the killing of 4 naval personnel on the high sea and the perpetrators hiding in those communities. **Wing Commander Abner Abubakar**, staff officer grade 1 intelligence, representing **Operation Delta Safe**, also agreed with the DSS Director that the military should not be considered a security threat but part of the solution.

• **Assistant Commandant Frederick Ogbole** called on communities to provide credible information that will help support security agencies in their work. He also encouraged community people to adopt whistle blowing approach, stressing that their identities will be protected.

• **Rt. Hon Tonye Emmanuel Isenah**, former Speaker, Bayelsa State House of Assembly, speaking on behalf of the State Assembly pleaded with the military to understand that the research work was a finding based on verifiable statistics and therefore shouldn't be taken personally. He noted that the boys running into communities for succor terrify the community people with death if they expose them. He pleaded that the military should work with communities without destroying those communities. He pointed out that drug lords have devised new strategies of moving their products by the use of sirens and police at security posts, never bothered to verify, especially when they see uniform cladden persons in such vehicles. He called on security

operatives to be more sensitive in the discharge of their duties. He cautioned that there is constitutionally approved category of people to use siren and not for everybody. He also pointed out that the security architecture should be reviewed in the country because a situation where the National Assembly can summon the Inspector General of Police but not the State Assembles doing same is not the best way to handle security issues in the country. He brought to notice that drugs are openly sold in drinking bars by drug peddlers and this needs to be checked.

• **King Joshua Igbagara**, king of Tarakiri clan, Sagbama LGA, Bayelsa State, speaking for the traditional rulers in the state, berated the security



HRM Bubraye Dakolo, Agada (IV)

agencies for their inability to track the numerous weapons in circulation in the state. More so, he blamed the political ruling class for furnishing the boys with weapons and ammunitions to help them procure electoral mandate, hinting that even Local Government elections are bloody

• Speaking for the Academia, **Professor Benjamin Okaba**, called for professionalism in the nation's security system. He accused the security that strict and stiff methodologies only thrive in the Niger

Delta but up North, there are several instances of Boko Haram insurgency and other groups killing soldiers and destroying military facilities and nothing is heard of bombardment except only in the Niger Delta region where the lives of poor, old and young people are wasted

- **Robinson Kurohogboha**, the Chairman of the Bayelsa Non-Governmental Forum (BANGOF), noted that issue of environmental degradation should be captured in the report as one of the conflict drivers of insecurity in the Niger Delta. On the analysis of sea piracy, he stated that the extent to which the International Oil Companies (IOCs) have contributed to insecurity in the region should be highlighted in the report, stating that it will broaden the horizon of discussion of the report.

- **Vivian Ere**, a PANDEF member who spoke for the women expressed hope that at the end of the presentation of the research report, it would come out as a viable document that would be used to address the security challenges in the state. She called on women in the state to actively resist the incessant razing down of communities by the military in the state, adding that intelligence should be able to lead them to the exact places where the hoodlums reside in the communities rather than randomly burning people, homes and livelihoods.

- **General Weris Tekeh**, ex-militant and former Chairman of Bayelsa water ways security noted that managers of the Amnesty program contribute majorly of insecurity in the state and region. This is because the Amnesty leaders shortchange real people's struggle for the region by giving their slots to people from other ethnic groups. He made it known that the issues of insecurity can be eradicated because every area has those brewing trouble and they are well known.

- **Hon. Ken Robinson**, the National Publicity Secretary of PANDEF made it clear that PANDEF frowns at the spate of exclusion and injustice by government against the people. He noted that when the people are not listened to, they will employ instruments that will make government listen to them. He informed that the leadership of PANDEF endorsed the demands and consequential actions of the people of Gbaramatu kingdom because the Nigerian Government had failed the region, particularly the present government, noting that only about one and a half of 16 points agenda of the region had been met which are the Maritime University, Okerenkoko and the supposed Ogoni clean up.

- **HRM King Mosy Agara, JP**, the Ebenanowei of Kolokuma Kingdom and chairman of the traditional ruler's council of Kolokuma/ Opokuma Local Government Area, Bayelsa State regretted that all the accolades on traditional rulers amount to nothing because they are so poor, without respect, protection

- and care from the people and government. He pointed out that every Bayelsa traditional ruler knows



Rt. Hon. Tonye Emmanuel Isenah

the criminals and their hideouts in the various communities but fear of being kidnapped, death and molestations, prevents them from speaking.

- The representative of the Chairman of the occasion and the Ibenanaowei of Ekpetiama kingdom in Yenagoa Local Government, **HRM Bubraye Dakolo, Agada (IV)** stated that it would be unfulfilling of him for the meeting to end with the notion and lie that the youths are the cause of the insecurity in the region.. He stated that the problem started with the edict promulgated during the era of Yakubu Gowon, claiming the oil in the region for the Centre. The Monarch made corrections to the report on the latitude and longitude and positioning of Nigeria. He also wanted to see major recommendations about the Federal Government of Nigeria repealing the land use law so that the European Union and other International Organizations will see that, that has been the problem of Nigeria. He wanted the research to recommend that oil blocs in Bayelsa are owned by people who are neither from Bayelsa nor are they any better than people of Bayelsa, noting that, it had been the main instigator and driver of insecurity in the Niger Delta region. He added that illegal refining of oil is nothing compared to the billions of barrels of crude oil stolen and taken to the high sea with ocean liners waiting on the Gulf of Guinea to ship it across the globe. He advised the law enforcement agencies to tackle the Nigerian Customs for allowing the proliferation of arms into the country. He said that the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) should be held liable for abuse of illicit drugs in the region due to their lack of efficiency in the discharge of their duties. He also called out the Nigeria Police for their unprofessional ways in dealing with the illegal arms deals in the region, advising that and all these issues should be highlighted in the recommendation section. In conclusion, he noted that the oil monies and resources had not been used judiciously but

rather, been stolen by every government that had trodden the Nigerian space.

- **Alabo Nengi James**, representing the Association of Rural Chiefs stated that to move forward, the research document should be amended and adopted and handed over to the state Government for implementation, especially as government top functionaries were present. He also noted that Government should call a security summit and declare a state of emergency on security in the state, while calling legislative action on the issues raised for immediate implementation.

- **Comrade GMD Akunama**, representing the police community noted that engaging counsellors for reorientation and sensitization of youths and women in rural and urban communities will provide a meaningful solution to insecurity issues in the state.

Akwa Ibom

- **Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Adekimi Ojo**, Acting Commander Operations, who

- represented the Akwa Ibom State Commissioner of Police, stated that poor parenting is the fundamental reason the state is faced with such terrible magnitude of insecurity, adding that the norms and values of society have been eroded and dignity in labour, is lacking.

- **Hon. Dr. (Mrs) Charity Ido**, member representing Ukanafun state constituency, Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly, identified unequal distribution of resources as a major cause of insecurity, especially as one who is from one of the red flag areas of the state, Ukanafun Local Government Area. **HRM (Engr) Akuku Amos Daniel Akpan**, Paramount ruler of Ukanafun, corroborated this claim.



Dr. Emmanuel Ekuwem, SSG, Akwa Ibom State.

- **Professor Des Wilson** added that there is a high degree of herdsmen attacking inhabitants in Ukanafun and should be captured in the research findings. Political conflicts and desires from politicians to have their way by all means have to be

looked into, because it is a major insecurity indicator,

- adding that political thugs, human traffickers and armed robberies are bedeviling the state.

- **Barrister Imoh Williams**, Executive Chairman of Abak Local Government Area, who represented the ALGON Chairman added that unemployment is a major scare that is triggering insecurity because the region producing the gold does not take part in its proceeds, stressing that there should be a liberalization of the management of the resources to richly include the people of the region at all strata. Human capital by way of skill acquisition should be encouraged.



Hon. Ken Robinson, PANDEF National Publicity Secretary

- From the religious angle, **Reverend Father Donatus Udoette**, the Vicar and General Admin of Uyo Catholic Diocese enriched the research by stressing that greed among leaders and laziness among youths is a cause for concern, saying that cultism should

be looked into very deeply because it is destroying the educational institutions.

- An amnesty leader **General Prince James Ukpog**, pointed out that all the empowerment on Niger Delta youths are spent on drugs, emphasizing that some negative behaviours are as a result of abusing drugs. He also observed that most people identified as cultists are really not cultists but those hiding under the guise, because they believe the law will respect and not punish them. He urged the security agencies to be thorough because very soon, drugs will be sold on the streets of the state and will be legalized if events continue as they are.

- **Dr Nsekpog Udoh**, a civil society practitioner noted that a critical unit of the society was left out of the entire report and it is those People Living With Disabilities (PLWDs). She noticed that they were neither interviewed nor captured in any way in the report, and security studies can never be complete without them. She said that she would like the NDD to include CSO actors in their work because the CSOs in Akwa Ibom have lots of information with which to enrich the work of the NDD, especially as it relates to data and proper information.

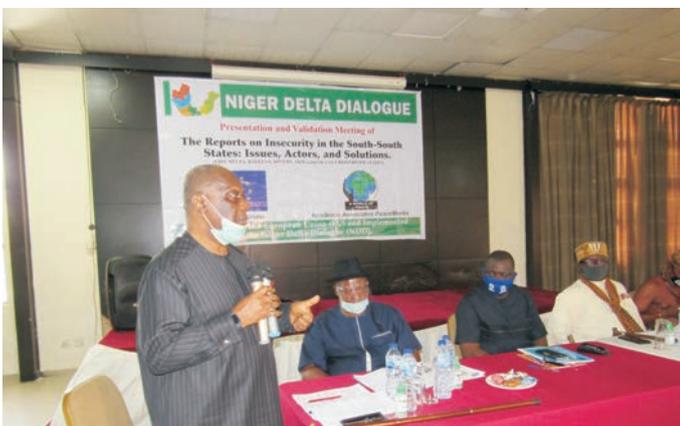
- **Barrister Inibehe Effiong**, Principal Counsel, Inibehe Effiong Chambers was categorical when he

stated that 'those shouting cultism should understand that in government, being a cultist is now a criteria to gaining power, hence politicians do not criminalize cultism and until those politicians are brought to book, those youths involved in it will not know that cultism is not attractive". He suggested that he would like the researchers to include how impunity on the parts of politicians and government officials contributes to insecurity in Akwa Ibom State, citing a case where the Chief of Staff of the Governor supervised the demolition of a church on account of Covid-19, leaving the church with the rights to resort to self-help.

- **Architect Toyo** stressed that sacrifice to the Niger Delta cause is the responsibility of everyone from the region because heroes past had fought and now this generation must continue in the same vein. He thanked the traditional rulers for holding the fort in the struggle for a greater Niger Delta.

Cross River

The Chairman of PANDEF in the state, the Distinguished **Senator Bassey Ewa Henshaw**, who chaired the meeting, used the opportunity to remind the government functionaries present to enforce the law on cultism, stating that the idea of cultists manning the different revenue points of the state is only a means of empowering them.



**Sen. Bassey Ewah Henshaw,
PANDEF Chairman, Cross River State**

- The paramount ruler of Bakassi and Chairman, Cross River State Traditional Rulers Council, **HRM Etiyin Etim Edet Okon**, stated that for a richer and more robust report, the real definition of cult and cultism must be well understood. The monarch expressed his fear whether the good research conducted will go beyond just presentation at the level it was, pleading that there should be a strong implementation mechanism to make it more active. He said that he wants to see that this process helped in addressing issues of injustice in Nigeria, especially economic and political injustices.

- **Professor Enang Ebingha**, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Calabar, (Expert in Population and Refugees Studies) reiterated that the Bakassi issue has become a national embarrassment, saying that for several years the people have been displaced, and not reinstated in their own homes for a decision that was not theirs to make. He urged the NDD through the research, to advocate to the federal government to reach out to the suffering people of Bakassi. **Maurice Inok**, the general Manager, Cross River Broadcasting Corporation corroborated Prof. Enang's view.

- The Former Military Administrator of Kwara State and Chairman of Cross River State Elders Forum, **His Excellency, Col. P.A.M Ogar**, stated that the relevant government agencies in the state should begin a mapping of the identity and bio of the street children in order to have a better welfare plan and package for them. He cautioned that if the children are not taken care of, the next few years will be dangerous to handle, because the younger ones among those children would have grown to continue in armed robbery, cultism and kidnapping.

- **Chief Mathias Ake**, Senior Special Assistant to the governor on Renewable and Alternative energy and traditional ruler from Obudu, stated that government should develop and implement a new security architecture that would monitor Nigerians so that anyone who commits a crime in another state could be followed up when he relocates to another state.

- The Director of Public Prosecution in Cross River State, **Barr F.I Ititim** advised the government to deliberate on creating a working justice system that will help the state in prosecuting matters in time.

- **Frank Ifop**, Editor of Paradise News, noted that the major reason for the sustenance of the street child phenomenon in Cross River State is the inability of the state government to implement the Child Rights Law 2009. He urged the Government to ensure that the law is implemented to the letter, adding that the insecurity emanating from the Skolobo boys will drastically reduce.

- **HRM, Elder Solomon Osim Edward**, paramount ruler of Abi and chief of Nsimotong, recounted that community people experience very challenging times with militants that extort community people and travelers on the Sea. The toll, according to him was more on traders who sometimes are molested and their resources extorted. This action is killing the socio -economic life of the area.

- **High Chief Bassey Okon Asuquo**, the village head of Ikot Eton Oku village, said boundary conflicts like that of the Tsar community in Vandikya LGA of Benue State and Abonkib and Igwo Villages in Obudu LGA of Cross River State, are causing the illegal entrance of people from other communities into Cross River State, raping women and girls and destroying the communities. This is a high conflict



**Cross Section of Participants
at Cross River State Town Hall Meeting**

issue that is raising insecurity in the state. He pleaded with government to seriously look into it and provide solution.

- **Thomas Tawo**, S.A on forest security to the Executive governor, contributed that when Ateke Tom and Tompolo were compensated as ex-agitators, those who fought for Bakassi were left out. This goes to say that even people of the region marginalise one another, and due to lack of unity, other people will keep doing same to the region, he said.

- **Hon. Peter Odinga Odey**, Majority Leader, Cross River State House of Assembly, informed participants that the Assembly is reviewing the law on cultism due to the reoccurring decimal of cult related activities. He added that anybody found in possession of a dangerous weapon unlawfully should be classified as a cultist and the same punishment for the kidnapper should be given to that person as well.

Delta State

- **Ambassador Joe Keshi of the BRACED Commission**, thanked the facilitators of the NDD for the great work of building peace in the Niger Delta region; he also commended the researchers, while noting that the report is one of the best and comprehensive reports so far on issues of insecurity in the Niger Delta region due to its thoroughness and depth and the fact that some of the issues may not be seen in other reports. He expressed worries whether the people in government will look into the report critically in order to make informed decisions on it, especially since everything done to foster peace and development has not yielded any progress in the region and particularly in Delta State.

- **The Commissioner of Police in Delta State** was represented by **Deputy Commissioner (DC) Faleye Olaleye**, who asserted that security challenges are surmountable and the government is doing a lot to counter it in the Niger Delta Region because a lot of people are witnesses to what the security operatives are putting in place daily with what the government

was doing to bring insecurity to a halt in the region. He assured that the Nigeria Police is providing security for every citizen of the state and Nigeria in general. He hinted that if government functionaries support the police, they will improve in their delivery of security services to the people.

- **The Speaker of the Delta State House of Assembly** who was represented by his **Deputy, Rt. Hon. Christopher Ochor Ochor** who spoke on



**Amb. Joe Keshi, BRACED Commission with
HRM Dr. E.O. Efeizomor OON, Obi of Owa,
HRM Pere Kalanama, Pere of Akugbenemein Kingdom,
HRM Onajite, Ovie of Ogor Kingdom**

behalf of the state house of assembly commended the organizers and researchers, stating that the State Assembly is willing to work with the Niger Delta Dialogue in any way possible to stem the insecurity issue in the state. He promised to present copies of the report to the House for appropriate action. In his own words, the lawmaker stated that “the Delta State House of Assembly (DSHA) shall examine, deliberate, discuss and possibly come out with a position, especially as it concerns the state and the Niger Delta

Edo State

- **Comrade Austin Osakue**, the Executive Director, Foundation for Good Governance and Social Change, stated that having gone through the report, he found out that it had touched on every area imaginable. He also commended the team for the policy brief, stating “that is what has been absent in our advocacy”. He added that the policy brief was concise enough for the targeted leaders and policy makers who do not read lengthy documents. In his own words, the Comrade said that “the research document is one that will testify against the political class if they refuse to act”, adding that whether they are present or not, it will certainly get to them through the efforts of advocacy to be conducted.



**Cross Section of Participants
at the Edo State Town Hall Meeting**

- **Professor Faith Osadolor**, professor of Law, University of Benin, who spoke on behalf of the academia, commented on possible changes and corrections he would love to see on the report. He also noted that the security agencies should also be highlighted as corrupt. He noted that the recommendations in the research were not strong enough to hold defaulters accountable and achieve the required results.
- **Erasmus Ikhide**, former Senior Special Assistant (SSA) to former Edo and Osun State Governors who spoke on behalf of the youths was of the opinion that family union had been eroded and the values disappeared from society. He also pointed out that the church that ought to be the bastion of hope is the same institution that encourages violence by focusing on tithe and offering collection. He also blamed government for refusing to build the capacity of youths thereby making the country to be the breeding ground for violence.
- A woman leader from Ugbowe, Benin City, Mrs **Joy Airhihenbuwa**, stated that insecurity affects girls, mothers and women the most, especially due to their businesses of petty trading and farming. She noted that in some communities, women had been killed and raped by killer herdsmen and some in their own homes. She also identified women as the most trafficked to Europe and some African countries, where they had been labelled prostitutes which is termed modern day slavery. According to her, what is most disheartening is that women are the ones involved mostly in trafficking other women and engaging them in various heinous crimes..
- **Pastor Desmond Uwumarongie** of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), speaking on behalf of the Christian community, noted that page 15 of the report had indicted religious leaders as perpetrators of insecurity because of their rhetoric on tithe and offering. He asked that the report should include that those government agencies saddled with the responsibility of regulating religious agencies to be intentional with their works. Quoting

from the Bible passage of Psalm 11:3, he explained that if the regulators don't do the initial work of regulating the activities of religious bodies, quacks will keep taking advantage of the lacklustre attitude of government.

- Another religious leader, **Mallam Habeeb Isah**, the Deputy Chief Imam of Iyerehu Community Central Mosque, South Ibie in Edo state clarified that the justice system in the country must be revamped in order to take care of security challenges. According to him, Q'uran 5 verse 32 is clear that justice be meted out to any perpetrator of evil in the same measure. He argued that any one caught stealing should publicly be amputated to serve as deterrent to others, as stated in the holy book. He clarified that unless such actions are taken, the evil will continue. He advised everyone that good neighbourliness should be practiced to foster security and peace.
- **Chief Don Ben**, an ex-agitator from the creeks of the Niger Delta, an ex-militant General, former member of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND); the Strike Force of the Niger Delta Avengers and also a member of the Pan Niger Delta Forum (PANDEF); recognized and thanked Chief Dr Judith Burdin Asuni for being a part of those who intervened when the Niger Delta Avengers were to ground the economy of Nigeria due to the maligning of the Niger Delta region by the North. He cautioned that there is still a ticking time bomb waiting to explode because of the injustice against the region. One of the front burners unattended to was the relocation of the International Oil Companies (IOCs) to the region which, according to him will help reduce the incidences of insecurity because the youths will be gainfully employed and insecurity gone.
- **The Adelua of Sobe, Chief Dr Cletus Owunze** observed a gap in the research report which was the inability of the report to include traditional insecurity caused by chieftaincy tussle. He said that such insecurities in parts of the state would have escalated but for the interference of the police. He stated that both inherited and contested chieftaincy stools have their own challenges in the state.



**Cross Section of Participants
at the Rivers State Town Hall Meeting**

Rivers State

• **The Chairman of the meeting, HM King (Dr) Amb. Sir Leslie Nyebuchu Eke JP, (the warrant King) Eze Gbakagbaka**, Nyerisi Eli Woji (Eze Woji X11) Nyerisi Mbam Oro-Evo, Eze Oha III of Evo Kingdom in Obio/Akpor Local Government area of Rivers state., the paramount ruler of Woji Community and Evo Kingdom stated that most importantly, the research findings must have a destination where it can be applied for policy to solve problems. He said that the international oil companies (IOCs) should have been part of the meeting because they subtly have a way of causing insecurity and involving in chieftaincy tussles in local communities. He demanded that the researchers should ensure that they have inputs from the IOCs like Shell and others because 15% of oil spills and pollution is caused by SPDC Shell and they are not captured in the report. He categorized hate speech as an equally dangerous issue that triggers insecurity as well. Very critically, he

that a key factor was left out of the research without thorough attention and he called it “the background support staff of insecurity, which is drug abuse and trafficking”. The NDLEA had been ignored in a lot of support system because the issue of drug and substance abuse had been ignored over a long period of time.

• **Professor Dagogo Fubara** thanked the researchers for their efforts and pointed out five areas of solution he would love to highlight. He called on the federal Government to borrow leaf from what he called the Mississippi Delta Energy Corridor to take care of the Artisanal refining challenges. According to him, that was the recommendation made to the Federal Government over 12 years ago which was not taken into cognizance. He advised that Nigeria should also create a Niger Delta Energy Corridor from Calabar in Cross River state to Ondo state. According to him five million jobs will be created if this is implemented because unemployment and poverty constitute a major cause of insecurity.



Hilda Dokubo, Activist

mentioned disenfranchised politicians make communities ungovernable as major instrument for the incitement of insecurities in the state and needed to be brought to the fore.

• The representative of the Commissioner of Police in Rivers state, **ACP Bassey Ewah** agreed that the report was good and covered a wide range of issues in the Niger Delta. He said that until the political class was ready to help the police to work and take responsibility for effective security matters, it would be same old story. According to him, it is the politicians that own and arm the thugs and release them whenever they are arrested by the police.

• The Rivers State Commandant of the **National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA)**, **Ambassador Rachael Shelleng, JP**, who was represented by **Emmanuel Ogbumbada**, the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the agency, stated that if the report can be implemented, it will go a long way to reducing the insecurity issues in the region. He said

States Policy Brief Recommendations

Rivers State

Government

- Sustainable Community Development
- Implementation of State Anti-Cultism Laws and Criminalize use of violence by political actors
- Employment Generation

Communities

- Halt bunkering and cultism in their domain
- Eschew violence in leadership selection process
- Entrench transparency and accountability in governance.
- Inclusive governance- mainstream gender & PLWDs

International Oil Companies (IOCs)

- Address environmental pollution and adequate compensation
- Implement MOUs and GMOUs and ensure



**Cross Section of Participants
at the Akwa Ibom State Town Hall Meeting**

community consultations
Eschew military repression of communities

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

- Develop specific engagements with communities to address insecurity through Advocacy

Akwa Ibom State

Federal Government

- Interconnected nature of the Niger Delta Region by water to remain a source of attention for the Federal Government
- Give attention to the role of the state, action to be taken to set up a committee to look into the demands of the region under the 16 Point Agenda of PANDEF 2016

State Government

- Akwa Ibom rests on an ethnic tripod and there are growing strains on the peace and harmony of the state as the third arm, the Oro people feel aggrieved and marginalized. The State Government to set up a panel of enquiry to look into the grievances of the Oro people which include political and infrastructural marginalization
- Increased dialogue between the State Government, security agencies and traditional rulers on issues of insecurity in the state.
- State Government to establish a platform for community security relations that will involve both State and non-State actors in the promotion of security in the State
- State amnesty programme of October 2018, a major point of departure. Expert group need to be empanelled to revisit its structure, strategy and mandate.
- Proper disarmament and deradicalization program to be implemented to stem further proliferation of militants and cults

Efficient Justice System

- Criminal justice law to be reformed, inclusion of equity, equality and justice.
 - People Living With Disabilities (PLWDs) to be captured in the report and policy brief.
- Government to help the Police in the State with working infrastructure
- Government to know that the people are dissatisfied with their level of governance

Bayelsa State

Government

- State Government to work with the State House of Assembly to review the laws against cultism, sea piracy, kidnapping to reflect current global and local realities and such laws should be enforced to the latter
- State Government to remove all incentives for violence in the political process to mitigate the rise of violent actors across the state

Communities

- Communities to develop rural security networks such as vigilante or community policing agencies that will act as information gathering and sharing networks with key security agencies such as the police, military and DSS.
- Communities to desist from rewarding known conflict actors such as cultists and militants with chieftaincy titles and positions of nobility

IOCs

- IOCs to avoid community development efforts that are short term and driven by the ideology of freedom to operate and focus on long term interventions that will genuinely reduce insecurity in their area of operation
- Liable as key conflict actors in the State, IOCs to desist from stroking communal crisis through the divide and rule tactics. Rather, they should be a source of social capital for communities to bridge the underdevelopment deficits faced by host communities

Civil Society Actors

- Organizations like PeaceWorks to collaborate with the local government and communities to build local capacity on conflict tracking, early warning systems, conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

Edo State

- To Empower the vigilante groups through training and remuneration as well as providing them with functional operational equipment
- Police/communities interaction through adoption of a bottom-up and citizens driven approach
- Government to revamp the ailing industries to create employment opportunities for youths
- Government to provide functional infrastructure such as regular electricity power supply
- Discourage ostentatious lifestyle by families, and religious groups and emphasize economic nationalism.

Delta State

To State and Local Government:

- State Government to work with communities to standardise the laws governing elections into community governance body such as CDC and CDA
- State Government to establish programmes that aim to provide nonviolent means for youths to engage in politics and governance
- Local Government Authorities to organize frequent town hall meetings to facilitate the involvement of community leaders and ordinary citizens in governance
- LG authority to investigate land disputes and liaise with State Government to legally establish clear communal land boundaries.



**Chief Dr. Judith Burdin Asuni
presenting the state report to Chief Edwin Uzor
at the Delta State Town Hall Meeting**

To Security Agencies

- Orientation and constant training of security officers on engagement with civilians.
- Constant rotation of security officers on patrol operations.
- Swift and public prosecution of complicit officers in human rights violations.

To Citizens

- Consistent demand for transparency and accountability.
- Sensitisation on civic responsibility, citizens' rights and expectations from leaders

To OICs

- Adopt environmentally friendly production policies and create partnership with the locals in terms of conception of projects, awards of contracts and monitoring the execution of such contracts or projects

Cross River State

Institutional Capacity of the Security Agencies

- Institutional reforms and capacity building to enable security agencies perform their role at different levels of society

Communal and Border Conflict

- Government to work with relevant partners to create a Peacebuilding Commission which will operate as a Conflict Early Warning and Early Response (CEWE) and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism at all levels
- State Government in partnership with the National Boundary Commission to ensure mapping and delineation of contested boundaries
- Take steps to create clear boundaries between contesting groups in the State.

State and Federal Government to ensure the enforcement of court decisions on boundary delineation, such as between Cross River and Akwa Ibom States.

Militancy and Piracy

- The State and Federal Government to revisit the Greentree Agreement and other commitments to the protection, resettlement and rehabilitation of the people of Bakassi
- Federal Government to be decisive about charting a course for the ongoing Ambazonia crisis in Cameroon.
- Nigeria to protect its territorial integrity and Nigerians living in border communities

Drugs, Street Children, Cultism, Kidnapping and General Criminality

- Strengthen operations of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency to enforce the ban on illegal drugs and narcotics.
- Enable NDLEA and the Social Welfare Ministry of the State Government to develop programmes for rehabilitating drug addicts.
- The Cross River State Ministry of Social Welfare to immediately commence a process of documenting street children in the state and ensure that they are returned to homes fully rehabilitated,

Farmers/Herders Conflict and Refugees Influx

- Examine clashes between host communities/refugees /IDPs and farmers /herders conflicts and their implications for the state
- Establish a system for documenting and identifying migrants into Cross River State, which does not infringe on the rights of refugees, Nigerians and host communities.

Gender Based Violence and Trafficking in Young Persons

- Cross River State Government to ensure the implementation of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act(VAPPA)2015 to protect women against cult groups who rape, exploit them sexually and force prostitution on them

State Policy Advocacy Committee

S/N	Name	Organization	Position
	Akwa Ibom		
1	Hon. Dr. (Mrs) Charity Ido	AISHA	Chairman
2	Nkereuwem Etifit	PANDEF	Secretatey
3	Dr. Etido Ibekwe	PANDEF	Logistics
4	Dr (Mrs) Nsekpong Udoh	Civil Society	
5	Dr. Etim Frank	Academia	
6	Dr. Akpanabo Emmanuel	PANDEF	
7	Barr Inibehe Effiong	Activist	
8	Comrade Edidiong Uko	Student Union	
	Cross River		
9	Hon. (Dr.) Mrs Itam Abang	CRSHA	Chairman
10	Dominic Kidzu	PANDEF	Secretary
11	Basseyy Ekefre	PANDEF	Logistics
12	Jonathan Ogba	Media Practitioner	
13	Col. Tony Nyam	PANDEF	
14	Monday Ugbuji,	Youth Leader	
15	Richard Friday Inoyo	Civil Society	
16	Ani Esin	PANDEF	
	Delta State		
17	Chief Edwin Uzor	Delta State Govt	Chairman
18	Edewor Egedegbe	CIVIL Society	Secretary
19	Chief Mercy Awhana	Woman Leader	Treasurer
20	Comrd Agbass Weyimi	Youth Leader	Logistics
21	Chief Godspower Gbenekama	Ggbaranmatu Kingdom	
22	Emma Amaize	Media	
23	Smart Edoge	Legal Director DSHA	
24	Prince Maikpobi Okareme	PANDEF	
25	Comrd Peter Sane	PANDEF	
26	Chief Anigbo Alfred	Secretary Traditional Rulers Council	
27	Chief Mrs. Ann Orumade	Delta State Govt	
	Edo State		
28	Comrade Austin Osakue	Governor's Office	Chairman
29	Justin Uwadia	Media	Secretary
30	Dr Nosa Aladeselu	Civil Society	Treasurer
31	Mrs Buchi Akhigbe	Social Media Influencer	Logistics
32	Engr. Efosa Aguebor	PANDEF	
33	Chief Don Ben Donyegha	PANDEF	
34	Mr. Erasmus Ikhide	Civil Society	

State Policy Advocacy Committee

35	Pastor Desmond Uwumanrogie	Faith Based Org	
36	Mrs Joy Airhihenbuwa	Woman Leader	
37	Hon. Anthony Osazuwa	Youth Leader	
38	Mr Ilavbare Bashir	Grassroots	
39	ACP Lawal Adebawale	Police	
40	Chief Dr. Cletus Owunze	Traditional Ruler	
	Rivers State		
41	Rear Admiral Nicholas Bakpo	Rtd Military	Chairman
42	Dr Uche Mike Chukwuma	Rtd ACP	Vice Chairman
43	Livingatone Membere	P4P	Secretary
44	Barr. Christy Tamuno	Ogu/Bolo LGA Vice Chairman	Treasurer
44	Marvin Lezor Kpea-ue		
46	Fyneface Dumnamene	Civil Society	
47	Deekor Zorte	Youth representative	
48	HRH Christy Iwezor	PANDEF	
	Bayelsa State		
49	Rt. Hon Dr. Tonye Isenah	BSHA	PAC Chairman
50	Robinson Kuroghobogha	BANGOF	Secretary
51	Hon Vivian Ere	PANDEF Woman Leader	Treasurer
52	Jokori James	Governor's Office	
53	Chief TK Okorotie	PANDEF	
54	Bishop Monty Abraham	Faith Based Org	
55	Comr. Napuru D Bassuo	Ogbia Youth	
56	Prof. Benjamin Okaba	Academia	
57	Fortune Alfred	Media	

**Rethinking Synergy between Traditional Rulers,
Security Agencies, Government Officials and Civil Society
in Returning Security to the Niger Delta.**

Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Opening Remarks



Cross Section of Participants

His Majesty, King Amb. Leslie Nyebuchi Eke JP, Eze Woji XII, Nyerisi Mbam Oro-Evo, Eze Oha Evo 111, Eze Gbakagbaka the chairman of the occasion thanked and welcomed the participants for coming to discuss the issues of insecurity in the region. He urged participants to be ready to listen and offer the best solutions possible for correct synergy amongst the various stakeholders. He informed them that over the years, traditional rulers have had to assist in the governance structure of the region and therefore are integral part of the solution to the issues confronting the region.

Overview of the Niger Delta Dialogue – Chief Dr Judith Burdin Asuni and Dr Tarila Marclint Ebiede

Dr Tarila Marclint Ebiede is a researcher for the NDD project, giving support in the data collection and

The co-facilitator of the Niger Delta Dialogue (NDD) and Executive Director of the Academic Associate PeaceWorks (AAPeaceWorks) **Dr Judith Burdin Asuni** affirmed that this meeting was the first NDD that focused primarily on Traditional rulers, stressing that the dialogue started in June of 2016 and different kinds of people have been part of the process. She pointed out that influential traditional rulers had been part of the Dialogue like His Royal Majesty (HRM) King Alfred Diete Spiff who has been the chairman of the Niger Delta Dialogue, HRM King Dandeson Jaja who also had been a very important part of the Dialogue, King Dakolo who had been a strong ally in Bayelsa and Eze Gbakagbaka who had also been a frequent part of the process. She reminded participants that the focus of this Dialogue was primarily on traditional rulers and how they can strategize with other stakeholders to promote peace and reduce insecurity in the Niger Delta. Other stakeholders of focus had been security agencies, PANDEF, civil society, the Niger Delta Dialogue media team led by Igho Akeregha and others.

Dr Judith said that this meeting was the last in the current funding grant of the European Union (EU) to the NDD which had lasted over 4 and half years, since



Dr Tarila Marclint Ebiede

analyses of issues of insecurity in the Niger Delta. He emphasized the importance of traditional institutions in the governance of communities and the provision of security in the region. He stated that historically, traditional institutions are the key and closest forms of governance to the people. This had changed over time, caused by oil production and politics; none the less, they remain very relevant to the landscape of their communities.

He stated that currently, the region has been faced with insecurity as an existential crisis identified by the study, and that these insecurities, previously in the form of militancy, have metamorphosed into other forms like the farmer-herder crises which used to be alien to the region, street gangs, cultism, political and electoral violence, communal conflict and other forms of violence that threaten the existence of the people and undermine the legacy of the ancestors. The research report and indeed the meeting were designed to highlight the logic of violence and insecurity in the region and present to the leaders of different traditional units or security institutions, recommendations that can be acted upon. This meeting was organized to help traditional institutions return back to becoming key actors in peace building, community governance, stability and security and livelihood of the peoples of the region.



Chief Dr. Judith Burdin Asuni with Hon. Ken Robinson, HM King Dr. Leslie Nyebuchi Eke JP, CP Sikiru Akande and HRM Etinowin Dr. Etim Okon Edet

June of 2016. She thanked every participant for strictly following the Covid-19 protocol and agreeing to be tested because she was tempted to cancel the meeting due to the second wave of the Pandemic. She also reminded participants of the demise of the PANDEF National Chairman, Air Commodore Idongesit Ikanga, OFR (Rtd), former Governor of Akwa Ibom State to Covid-19 on Christmas eve, among other members of the Dialogue.

The research work was undertaken under lockdown during the Covid-19 period in the months of April to June 2020, and many of the traditional rulers present were interviewed by the researchers. The state reports were peer reviewed and then presented at state level Town Hall Meeting where further feedback was given, in the months of July-September 2020. Thus, the final report is the product of extensive fieldwork and

Overview of the NDD study on insecurity in the South-South – Dr Ndifon Neji and Dr Tokpo Coronation Edward

The two researchers were part of the team that studied the insecurity in the Niger Delta for NDD last year. They gave a summary of the 6 state reports:

Cross-Cutting Insecurity Issues Across the 6 Core Niger Delta States

Cultism, inter/ intra communal conflicts, proliferation of arms, militancy, oil bunkering, political violence, street children (Skolombo & Lacasera babes), herdsmen attack, armed robbery, kidnapping, sea piracy, drug abuse and refugee influx (Ambasonia crises in Cameroon).



Dr. Tokpo Coronation with Dr. Ndifon Neji Researchers

The Context

- Traditional rulers as Chief Security Officers of their domains
- Traditional rulers as legislators, executors and adjudicators
- Interfacing with government
- Interfacing with security agencies

Constitutional Roles for Traditional Rulers

- Traditional Rulers as Peace Builders via ADR
- Traditional Rulers as mediators, negotiators, arbitrators and conciliators
- Formation of Vigilantes or Action groups

Factors militating against the performance of Traditional Rulers

- Undue politicization of chieftaincy matters
- Constitutional constraints
- Lack of security cover

What to do: The Community Policing model

1. Traditional rulers gather information
2. Reports to S.A security matters (Governor)
3. The Governor escalates to the Commissioner of Police, Director of DSS, etc

Building Synergy

- The Traditional Rulers to give information to security agencies
- Security Agencies to maintain confidentiality
- State Government to provide legal framework and funding
- Media to sensitize and enlighten the public
- Civil Society Organizations to provide early warning systems

Highlights of the Africa Independent Television (AIT) series by Igho Akeregha

Igho Akeregha, the NDD media team lead, described how the recommendations of the 6 states report were used to produce a 7-episode series that was aired on Africa Independent Television (AIT) between November to December 2020. He said that the program brought clearer perspective to people both at home and in diaspora on the state of insecurity in the region. They had reactions from those quarters including the National Assembly. He went on to say that the most prominent feedback elicited was the role of the traditional rulers in the Niger Delta, challenging them to use their wealth of influence to return peace to the region. According to him, the responses alluded to the fact that there was some form of peace in the region because the traditional rulers had become more active in appealing and appeasing the communities.



Igho Akeregha, Editor

Igho retorted that the media engagement was also geared towards government being responsive to supporting the efforts of the traditional rulers. Another issue that was at the fore during the series was that of land and who owned it, especially since the right of owning it was now the sole authority of the government.

Igho continued that from the media engagement, a new type of insecurity was emerging which is the

herders-farmers clash. He told the traditional rulers to resist the temptation of selling their land due to economic hardship. He concluded that they will help in stemming the looming anarchy rising from the north through the middle belt and the south-west, warning that it is upon the people of the south to stop it from entering this region. He called on the police to work with the traditional rulers to entrench peace in the region.

Team B – Elder T. K. Ogoriba

In the wake of the bombings of oil facilities in the Niger Delta, a meeting of senior elders and stakeholders was called to help ameliorate and assuage the anger of the young people in the creeks. In the cause of doing that, 2 units were formed called

Team A and Team B. The first unit was called Team A, led by a traditional ruler whose duty was to interface with highly placed individuals in the country, while Team B was led by **Elder T. K Ogoriba** and others whose function was to interface with the young men in the creeks to down arms. Elder Ogoriba narrated how they achieved cease fire on the 21st of August 2016. He continued that on the 7th of October 2016, a meeting of both Teams was held at the Abuja resident of **Chief E. K. Clark** where the PAN NIGER DELTA FORUM (PANDEF) was formed.



Elder T. K. Ogoriba

According to him, on the 1st of November 2016, elders of the region through PANDEF met with the President of Nigeria and a 16-point agenda was presented to him, and ever since then till date, those issues have not been attended to which have been some of the insecurity issues in the region. He lamented that the anger of the youths is caused by the blatant neglect and exploitation of the region by the ruling class. He pleaded with participants to be sincere with each other in deliberating about the issues affecting the region. He urged the security operatives to pass on the information to their superiors for possible implementations so that peace might truly reign in the country. He announced that the buck of implementing the actions of the struggle had been passed onto the younger generations. He

called on people of the region to be just, fair and equitable in issues concerning the region. He reminded everyone that in the NNPC, the first top 20 ranking officers are people from the north of Nigeria who do not produce oil and those could trigger agitations from the young people down south, he concluded.

**Feedback from the
Policy Advocates Committee (PAC)
meeting with Traditional Rulers in
Delta and Akwa Ibom States**

Delta State – Chief Edwin Uzor

The Delta State chairman of the Policy Advocacy Committee (Delta PAC) and Special Adviser to Delta State Governor on Peace Building and Conflict Resolution, Chief Edwin Uzor was represented by the PAC Secretary, **Pastor Edewor Egedegbe** who presented the report of the activities with the traditional rulers council in the state. He said that they had a very useful deliberation with the monarchs precisely on the 14 of January 2020 where they presented the NDD research report of Insecurity in the state by **Professor Sam Ogege and Dr Ebimboere** Seiyefa. According to him, the report was presented to over 60 traditional rulers at the unity hall of the Government House in Asaba, Delta State and they were received by the chairman of the traditional ruler's council in the state, His Royal Majesty (HRM) **Dr Emmanuel Efezomor 11 (OON), Obi of Owa**. He recognized the monarchs in giving their support to the Delta PAC in restoring security to the state. According to him, they commended the research work and urged the Delta PAC to build synergy among all relevant stakeholders. He went on to state that the traditional rulers detailed their challenges which ranged from not being given a major role to play by government, exclusion of their rights from the constitution, arbitrary dethronement/change of kings among others. They pleaded with the Delta PAC to lend their voice in advocating to the state government to ameliorate those challenges. They promised to go through the report to buttress the findings in order to make their inputs.

Akwa Ibom State – Hon. Dr. Charity Ido

The Akwa Ibom State Policy Advisory Committee Chairperson, Hon. Charity Ido, made a presentation on their activities in outlining the various issues of insecurity and the solutions in solving them. According to her, the issues around insecurity in the state include sea piracy, cultism and armed violence,

communal crises, protests and restiveness, drug and child trafficking.

In addressing insecurity, she stated that the missing gap is the non-inclusion of traditional rulers in the security architecture of the state. She pointed out the need to integrate traditional rulers in security and peace building:

- They reside within communities and best understand the peculiar issues and trends since most insecurity vices are localized
- They know their subjects and can trace criminal elements to their roots
- They are the custodians of customs and traditions in their communities and can invoke traditional injunctions to curb violence and crime
- They are the closest to the people and act as intermediaries with external actors such as government, NGOs, security agencies etc.

- Sensitizing Subjects on Peace Building & Nonviolence
- Synergizing with security agencies - Community Policing

She also pointed out the factors limiting the roles of traditional rulers in the discharge of their cultural and traditional functions to include:

- **Legitimacy:** Some traditional injunctions banned by law
- **Political Interference:** Politicians interfere in community policing as well as frustrate prosecution of criminals in communities.
- **Confidentiality Crises:** Police accused of revealing identity of community leaders who report criminals to them
- **Constitutional Limitations:** Traditional leaders wield little or no constitutional powers to fight insecurity in their domain as they themselves are victims of (non) - state violence.
- **Poor Financial Capital:** Poor funding of the traditional institutions impedes on their capacity to curb insecurity
- **Poor Human Capacity:** Traditional rulers possess poor technical know-how and capacity on conflict de-escalation and peace building.



Hon. Dr. Charity Ido

Speaking on the action points and the roles traditional rulers can play in tackling insecurity, the chairman stated that following:

Activation of Traditional Injunctions

- Intelligence Gathering for Security Agencies
- Establishment of Local Security Outfits eg. Vigilantes
- Profiling Tenants and Strangers in Village Registers

She suggested the following points as way forward towards achieving success by the traditional rulers in their domains:

- Regular interface with Government, Security Agencies
- Constitutional Roles for Traditional Rulers
- Proper Funding of Traditional Institutions by Government
- Periodic Training and Capacity Building for Traditional Rulers
- Minimizing Political Interference
- Amendment of Law Governing Traditional Rulers Council
- A Percentage share of Security Votes for Traditional Rulers
- Traditional Rulers must maintain non-partisanship

Comments from Traditional Rulers

His Majesty, King Amb. Leslie Nyebuchi Eke JP, Eze Woji XII, Nyerisi Mbam Oro-Evo, Eze Oha Evo 111, Eze Gbakagbaka the chairman of the occasion stated that the role of the traditional rulers should be entrenched in the constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria because, according to him, traditional rulers are significantly important and have existed before the emergence of modern Nigeria with considerable influence and respect. Therefore, the need to have formal powers in the current democratic structure. He stated that the roles played by traditional rulers are illegal, not backed by power of the constitution, hence the reason they are toyed with. He stated that Traditional Institutions – Modernity Nexus (How can traditional institution engender modernization and development?). This has to do with What the goals of modernization are. How do traditional institutions fit in? He also noted that income inequality is major driver of insecurity and poor governance generates inequality in the region. In conclusion, he advocated for capacity building of traditional rulers and police on creating synergy.

His Royal Majesty (HRM) Etinoyin Dr Etim Okon Edet, Paramount ruler, Bakassi LGA and Chairman, Cross River State Traditional Rulers Council was of the opinion that Constitutional roles for traditional rulers would further undermine their powers. Traditional roles are oral and based on aged long traditions, and constitutional roles would subject actions of traditional rulers to undue litigations. He continued that the government usurped the powers of traditional rulers which have existed for centuries before the creation of the country. Appointment and

sacking of traditional rulers by government limit their powers. He continued that the traditional institution has been infiltrated and bastardized by modernity, Christianity etc, adding that traditional path (injunctions) can be invoked to curb insecurity. Also, traditional rulers need proper funding and this should be legitimized as some form of fiscal legislation, adding that government took away sources of funding in markets, motor parks, cemeteries and others from the monarchs. He concluded that government should allow the people elect and choose their traditional rulers.

His Royal Majesty (HRM) King Bubaraye Dakolo the Ibemanaowei of Ekpetiama kingdom stated that the Niger Delta is highly militarized and the political economy of oil fuels insecurity in the region, hinting that the military and police presence only protects oil and gas installations and not the locals. In his own words, the monarch quipped that 'the military do police jobs and the police is emasculated. The military perceives the people of the region as enemies of the state and hence part of the issues'. Continuing, he mentioned that 'the criminals are created by the failure of the Nigerian government'. In conclusion, he reminded participants that law enforcement is about crime prevention and not crime fighting.

His Royal Majesty (HRM) king Felix E. Otumarikpo, Eze Upata the regent of Ekpeye kingdom stated that people have lost confidence in police and topmost on that is the fact that traditional rulers are also victims of insecurity. He claimed International Oil Companies (IOCs) also encourage and are directly involved in pipeline vandalism and artisanal refining. According to him, artisanal refining fuels proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the region. Economic benefits from artisanal refining fuel militarization of the region as military men are key actors in the illicit business, stressing that they take bribe at check points and undermine security of the region. He advised that heads of security agencies should occasionally visit the hinterlands to ascertain the deplorable depth of the region.



HRM Etinoyin Dr Etim Okon Edet

Another monarch from Cross River state, **His Royal Majesty Ofom Ubana Eteng, Obol Lopon of Ugep, Paramount ruler of Yakurr**, stated that if the traditional institution is well funded, the rulers and bearers of the tradition will not take sides with issues happening in their domain. They will not meddle with politics because some traditional rulers have turned to politicians and this negates the integrity of the

institution. He believed that real power resides with the traditional institution and their words when disobeyed will attract consequences. He also enjoined traditional rulers to be sincere for the sake of the stool they represent. He was of the opinion that people making legitimate demands for their rights should not be called militants, rather, their rights should be met, like the 16-point agenda of PANDEF to the Federal Government that is still pending.

A traditional ruler from Edo state, **His Royal Highness Otamene the Enogie of Umoghun-Nokhua** presented a paper on the state of insecurity in the Niger Delta in general and Edo state in particular. According to his tradition and culture, he does not speak in public, hence the reason for his presentation.

His Royal Highness (HRH) Eghianruwa Idahosa Igidigbi, the Enogie of Utese, Ovia North East, Edo state made his submission that on the issue of traditional rulers in synergy with security agencies, their roles, responsibilities and powers should emanate from the constitution of the nation. He stated that his community in Edo state provides its own security needs and that is a sign of the failure on the part of government to protect the people. He opined that the sincerity of the government would be visible if they employ and deploy more police to the affected areas to curb the menace. He also lent his voice for traditional governance to get back to the pre-colonial era when the traditional rulers were the custodians of the security and protection of the communities. He enjoined the political class to regard the traditional institution and carry them along.

His Royal Majesty (HRM) Anthony U. Ogbogbo Ibuka 1, the Ovie of Ozoro Kingdom, Delta State was of the opinion that traditional rulers were at the beck and call of the politicians who hire and fire them at will due to economic powers. He agreed that traditional rulers should resort to the traditional practice of dispute resolution. He continued that constitutionally, the residual list clearly stated that minor things like cemetery, markets, motor parks are placed directly under the control of Local Government Chairmen, therefore, traditional rulers cannot carry out judgements because they don't have jurisdiction. He suggested that constitutional roles be given to them and it will not restrict their functions in any way.

His Royal Majesty (HRM) Pere S. P. Luke Kalanama V111 JP, Pere of Akugbene-Mein Kingdom and 2nd Vice Chairman, Delta State Council of Traditional Rulers disagreed with the

monarch from Cross River who was of the view that constitutional roles should not be given to traditional rulers. He stated in clear terms that the biggest threat to the traditional institution, particularly in the Niger



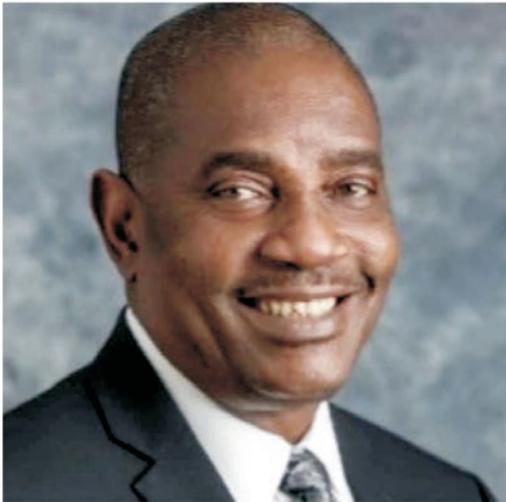
HRM Pere S. P. Luke Kalanama V111 JP

Delta region are the politicians. According to him, the politicians see the traditional rulers as competitors and therefore had devised means of whittling down the powers of the traditional institution, particularly in the region. He therefore called on necessary parties to ensure that the constitutional roles be allotted to the stools just like it was in the 1979 constitution.

He queried that the lopsided nature of distribution of resources and amenities by the federal government had become one major cause of insecurity in the region because equity, justice and fairness had been lacking. As an example, he stated the anomaly of setting up an interim management committee in the NDDC as a divide and rule tactic in the region by the federal government. He called on the federal government to compliment the good works of the Niger Delta Dialogue in order to return lasting peace to the region.

Comments by Partners in Returning Security to the Niger Delta:

Police – Dr Solomon Arase – Former Inspector General of Police (IGP) who joined the Dialogue via zoom virtual platform informed the audience that no law enforcement can securely police an environment without the consent of the people, especially the traditional rulers, hinting that Policing culture is key to securing the community, especially because the communities were properly secured and policed before the introduction of formal policing. In his own words, he stated that “the missing link is that by the introduction of modern policing, and by the 1976 Local Government report, we took away all the rights from the traditional rulers and you cannot do that, and I want to add that we need to encourage and empower our traditional rulers to be able to assist us in policing



**Dr. Solomon Arase,
Former IGP**

our security environment”. He further stated that the original blueprint for community policing had been abandoned and there was the need to get back to how it was, which involved the non-state actors that comprised the traditional rulers, National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Market Women Association, the Youths, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), the church, etc because without these people, there can't really be a community policing. He also advised that even the vigilante system being operated now has to be incorporated into the neighbourhood watch, perspective policing, community policing. The former police boss hinted that in terms of restorative justice, there is no institution that's as robust as the traditional institution. He cautioned that “when you have a security apparatus that is allergic to criticisms, you will continue to have problems. Our police and security officers should please open up because the Nigerian people are not a conquered people, this is not a colonial rule”. He continued that when the human right of the governed is breached, the information and intelligence to be gathered cannot be gathered. He dismissed the idea of barracks because it is colonial in

our security environment”. He further stated that the original blueprint for community policing had been abandoned and there was the need to get back to how it was, which involved

nature, rather, the new security architecture should be such that the police can live together amidst the members of the civil society and that would have taken care of the issue of 'police versus civilians'.

He agreed that the Niger Delta Dialogue has become relevant over the past few years in addressing the issues of militancy, cultism, insecurities, kidnapping



**Sikiru K. Akande
Commissioner of Police**

and others. He advised the governors of the region to subsume their interests in the interests of the larger Niger Delta region in order to resolve the insecurity issues under review; citing that although the South-Western Nigerian Governors belong to different political parties but when their sovereign security was threatened, they came together and formed the Amotekun security outfit. He admonished the governors to form a strong security architecture that synergises the entire region instead of just one state.

Sikiru K. Akande, the Commissioner of Police in Cross River State said that the traditional rulers are owners of the land and therefore paid homage to them, urging every officer who wished to succeed in the discharge of their duties to respect the traditional institution. He stated that community policing is simply 'the man taking decisions knowing those who should contribute to the security of his environment'. He pledged that in his tenure, Cross River State would be peaceful. He warned that one of the biggest problems of insecurity world over is insincerity.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Nnamdi Omoni, Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Rivers State Police Command who represented the Commissioner of Police assured that the advice and caution to the police will be taken back to superior officers for necessary action and corrections. He

informed participants that the Rivers state police command have high regards for the traditional institution, especially under the new Commissioner who paid a courtesy call to the council of traditional rulers. He encouraged the traditional rulers to intervene in their drastically eroding powers and authorities. He enjoined the monarchs to take advantage of the community policing initiative created by the Inspector General (IG) of Police which was geared towards reconnecting the people with the police and in turn helping the traditional rulers to police the environment in conjunction with the police. He concluded that the police force is willing to partner with the traditional rulers to increase the value of the institution and willing to shift grounds to accommodate.

ACP Sylvester A. Edegbanya, Area Commander, Itu/Ibiano area Command, Akwa Ibom state charged every participant to speak up to advance the security of the Niger Delta because the issue of security is a serious business. He expressed shock that 5 years down the line after the presentation of the 16-point agenda, nothing has been done. He urged the leaders of the region in the federal cadre to use their capacity and influence to solve the Niger Delta problem. He reminded all that everyone owes the greater accountability to Almighty God, therefore, should be just in their actions. He agreed that sincerity would make everyone in the region to be responsible. While concluding, he reminded all that the police force is guided by a constitution and are not allowed by the provisions of that constitution to work outside of it. He also called the attention of participants that the police have not abandoned its role which has been hijacked by the military, instead of assisting the police. He admonished the traditional rulers and every citizen to divulge sensitive information to the right personnel or authority and not to every officer of the force.

ACP Cletus Nwadugbu, Area Commander Operations, Cross River state added his voice that the current policy action and directive of the current hierarchy of the police points at making the traditional rulers an integral part of the vibrant mainstream of the security architecture in the states, which is being complied with at all levels. This, according to him is because as the custodians of the various traditions and cultures of the villages and communities, they know everyone and therefore their presence cannot be over looked. Mr Nwadugba reminded all that empowerment of the traditional institution is what is left for the full functionality of the monarchs and that cannot be left to the Government alone. He called on them to also partner with other segments of their communities like the youths in order to have full control of the security framework of the communities. He encouraged them to prevail on their subjects to

always have confidence in coming up to give testimonies in court for the prosecution of criminals and offenders. He asked the various security agencies to synergise with each other and shun the interagency rivalry that exists among them. He said that the major solution to the issue of interagency rivalry was for the federal government to come up with an agency that will act as the melting pot among the security agencies, where all the information on security intelligence will be pooled together for appropriate actions, like the Homeland security in the United States of America which came up after the Tuesday September 11th 2001 terrorists attack by Al-Qaeda.

Rear Admiral Nicholas Bakpo, chairman of Rivers PAC, who spoke on behalf of serving military officials stated that contemporary self-security needed to be observed like taking appropriate measures to prevent the Covid-19 pandemic by wearing face masks and observing basic hygiene. He used the opportunity to clear the misinformation when the Rivers PAC visited the Commissioner of Police. He stated that the press misrepresented the information about withdrawal of security from traditional rulers. In his own words, “ what we said was that the traditional rulers are the primary chief security officers and most of them have abandoned their kingdoms and relocated their palaces to Port Harcourt, because most of them said they don't have enough security to perform their functions but that if they have enough security, they will be able to perform their functions, and it was on that note during the discussions that a suggestion was made that the best thing was to withdraw security from those who have abandoned their subjects and relocate those security to those who are with their subjects so that we can have adequate security within their domain”. He maintained that he respects traditional rulers and never said their securities should be withdrawn. He asked that agitation should be differentiated from criminality because they were being mixed. He said that agitations for a better Niger Delta should never lead to criminality because it leads to insecurity. According to him, from the report put together so far, the security agencies lack recent and relevant information to enable them perform their functions. He continued that they also lack credible community-based security system. He stated that the youths are very important in tackling insecurity because 80% of criminals in the communities connive with or are known by the youth leaders, CDC chairmen and they need to be held accountable. He urged the traditional leaders to take the lead in the formation of credible security framework for their communities in order to have a grip on the security formation therein. He noted that there is the need for synchronization between security agencies, which is what Rivers PAC has been doing over time by meeting with heads of security agencies to establish communication cells.

Communication cells with credible intelligence from the communities makes the work of policing the areas very easy and achievable, he concluded.

PANDEF

Prince Maikpobi Okareme, Deputy Chairman of PANDEF stated that since the National Assembly is



Prince Maikpobi Okareme

making a review of the constitution, it has become imperative to bring in the chairmen of the various state traditional rulers council to be incorporated into the National Security Council (NSC). This according to him is because the NSC plays significant role in the appointment and administration of the police system in the country. In strong terms, he stated that the call to scrap NDCC

should be stopped because it was not the collective agreement of the oil producing host communities to scrap the commission.

The National Publicity Secretary and Public Relations Secretary of the Pan Niger Delta Forum (PANDEF), **Ken Robinson** stated that insecurity affects every sector of the human life – social, economic, political and others, therefore, it is a threat to development. He told participants that it was becoming very difficult for people of the region to go about their lawful businesses and activities without fear of apprehension of being attacked either by pirates on the waterways, herdsmen and criminality on the farmlands, who perpetrates all forms of kidnappings. He continued that the role of the traditional rulers is not just about what they can do but what they have been doing before, stating that without their interventions, the situation would have been worse than it has been. He also cautioned that the collapse of values at all levels is one of the major causes of insecurity in the region. He reminded that if a traditional ruler in the region gets as little as 1% of proceeds of an oil block, it will go a long way to help him fight insecurity in his domain. He added that if any traditional ruler aspires for resources, his subject would rattle to burn down his house which can never be the case in the north. He reminded that while the discussions are centred around synergy among stakeholders, it was also very imperative to look inwards for correctional measures. He concluded by thanking the Niger Delta Dialogue (NDD) for the



Godspower Gbenekama

symbiotic relationship with PANDEF. He used the opportunity to eulogise the PANDEF National Chairman, Air Commodore Idongesit Ikanga, OFR (Rtd), former Governor of Akwa Ibom State who just passed on and called for a one-minute silence in honour of the late leader.

Civil Society

A leader of the Gbaramatu ethnic nation, **Godspower Gbenekama** spoke unequivocally that Militarization of the region promotes human rights abuse of citizens and sacrilegious acts against the traditional institutions such as coercion and unnecessary harassment of traditional rulers. He opined that demilitarization of the region is long overdue and therefore of essence because according to him, the extortion by the military has created another array of insecurity among businesses. Police presence must be felt, police stations should be established in communities especially in Gbaramatu kingdom which does not have even one police post. Police should do their jobs effectively in the region, he concluded.

AnnKio Briggs

The Niger Delta activist narrated that traditional rulers became disempowered during the civil war and immediately after the war, they are emasculated and most of their powers reduced, stating that traditional rulers were rich and wealthy hitherto; however, the oil economy and kleptocracy in governance have disempowered them. She reminded participants that traditional means of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) adjudication have been jettisoned and replaced with modern judicial system that is



AnnKio Briggs

expensive and time consuming and does not help in the justice system.

In strengthening the police-civil relations, she quipped that the posting of security/police officers from other regions further brings a gap

improve police-public relations. She also hinted that the corruption in the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs (MINDA), the office of the Presidential Amnesty Programme etc has become a conduit pipe for politicians and national technocrats, which has deprived the people of the region from the necessary development. In conclusion, she reminded participants that the problem of alienation of oil resources remains the primary problem of insecurity in the region. Traditional rulers, retired military officers and others from the North and other parts of the country own oil wells while none could boast of any from the Niger Delta.

between the police and the people. Locals should be recruited to police their areas, and this will help

State Syndicate Groups

Topic: Strategies for Collaboration among Stakeholders to return Peace and Security to the Niger Delta:

The entire participants, comprising of Traditional rulers, security officers, government officials and civil society were broken into syndicate groups according to their different states to come up with action points for their different states in particular and the Niger Delta region in general.

Each state syndicate group was facilitated by one of the researchers who conducted the study on insecurity in that particular state.

Plenary: Development of Action Points at the States and Regional Levels

The states presented the outcome of their syndicate group meetings:

1. Delta State Syndicate Group Focus

What roles can traditional rulers play (Action points for traditional Rulers)

What pathways can be best utilized in achieving sustainable synergy between traditional rulers and other stakeholders?

How do we address the inter-agency cooperation/conflicts amongst the security agencies? Security cover for traditional rulers, how is it to be done?

Most pressing Issue: Herdsmen Conflicts - (justification – pervasive and highly localized)

What roles can traditional rulers play?

- Traditional rulers refrain from giving land to Fulani herdsmen
- Traditional rulers should go back to head count approach to identify who lives in the community and to identify infiltrators
- Utilize traditional ways of addressing security

e.g., traditional warriors e.g., Igbun in Udokwa and Urhobo.

- Registration and legitimization of herders to know who to hold responsible
- Know your neighbour program
- Use of bottom-top approaches of intelligence gathering.

Strategy for Synergy

Security council committee (SCC)

- To be made up of (Peace and security committee (LG Chair); traditional rulers committee (Traditional ruler head), security operatives.
- There should be a legislature for a certain percentage of the LG security vote to be given to the SCC on a monthly basis.
- The council to have enforceable powers to enforce decision rather than sole decisions and execution by LG chairmen

Restructuring of security architecture

- Traditional rulers should be members of the national council of state, state security council, and local government security council committee (Structural Reformation)
- Traditional rulers should be part of the selection process for community policing project
- Powers to be given to traditional rulers to handle inter-communal conflicts

Security for Traditional Rulers

- Traditional means of security to be restored
- Security details should be attached to traditional rulers
- Constitutional roles for traditional rulers should be guaranteed.

2. Rivers State Syndicate Group Focus

The Rivers State group developed a 4-point action that should enable synergy between traditional rulers, government and security agencies:



Syndicate Group, Rivers State

- The creation of credible local security and intelligence network that will be owned by the traditional rulers and the police. This will be in the form of cells, where information will be channelled to the appropriate authority for action.
- Traditional rulers should exercise influence on the state government to implement all anti-cult laws, and more importantly, the Neighbourhood Watch Agency, so as to integrate all the Policy Advisory Committees (PACs) for local intelligence gathering and effective security in the local communities. To this end, traditional rulers should play active role in the selection process of the Neighbourhood Agency.
- Appointment of Traditional rulers must strictly comply with the 2015 Rivers State Law on the appointment of chiefs.
- Sustained sensitization of youths on the dangers of oil bunkering by traditional rulers.

3. Edo State Syndicate Group Focus

The state group came out with key action points on the roles of traditional rulers in the Security of the state at large:

- Hold weekly meetings at village level
- Monthly meeting at Local Government level
 - Involvement of youth leaders in the communities
 - Resolve disputes in the communities
 - Address security issues in their domain
 - Constitute daily vigilante watch

- Quarterly meeting of Edo State Council of traditional rulers and chiefs

Best ways to Build Synergy between Traditional Rulers and other Stakeholders

- Regular meetings with stakeholders – DPOs, security agents, religious leaders, heads of vigilantes, NGOs, youth leaders, others
- Monthly meetings with traditional rulers and local government functionaries
- Inclusion of women leaders in local government and community meetings

Security Cover for Traditional Rulers – how it can be best handled

- Respect and confidentiality on information sharing on security by traditional rulers
- Provision of security orderly to traditional rulers because they are judges in their communities
- The traditional institution should be empowered
- They should be digitalized – have internet in their communities
- Provide security aids in the communities (bushes, forests and roads), i.e., hidden cameras, electric shockers, pepper spray, etc.



Syndicate Group, Edo State

Traditional rulers should be members of state security councils.

4. Bayelsa State Syndicate Group Focus

Bayelsa state targeted their efforts towards building the needed synergy between the community being represented by the traditional rulers and their security counterparts:

- Collaboration/Information sharing
- Security agents posted to a community should work with existing community structures

- Traditional rulers should identify information clusters
- Traditional rulers should relate with CSOs for early warning systems
- CSOs should enlighten traditional rulers on issues of security and implications of certain actions
- Rethinking policing to reflect local realities
- Funding for traditional rulers' councils should be guaranteed in the constitution or state laws
- A community vigilante system be adopted across all communities and clans

5. Cross River State Syndicate Group Focus

In their presentation, Cross River outlined their method for engaging the critical stakeholders who are responsible for ensuring safe and secured communities:

Stakeholder Synergy and Engagement

- Traditional Rulers
- Security Agents



Syndicate Group, Cross River State

- Media
- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)
- Religious/ Traditional Priests
- Strategies
- Town hall meetings
- Police Community Relations Committee
- Regular courtesy calls
- Local Government Security Committee

Constitutional Roles for Traditional Rulers

Constitutional roles for Traditional Rulers should be highlighted, spelling out responsibilities and sources of funding, especially in the area of security.

Security cover for Traditional Rulers

Mandatory constitutional provision of security to paramount rulers and kings

6. Akwa Ibom State Syndicate Group Focus

The Akwa Ibom state group focused their presentation on basic information sharing between the traditional institution and heads of formal security under 3 main points:

1. Stakeholder synergy/engagement
 - The Security Personnel posted to the LGAs ought to familiarise and collaborate with the Traditional Rulers
 - The Traditional Rulers should supply credible information to the security agencies and major stakeholders
 - The Traditional Rulers should identify and know those who live in their villages/communities
 - The Traditional Rulers should always support the investigation procedures
 - The Traditional Rulers ought to be part of the decision-making process in matters of security. Particularly, the Local Government Chairmen are encouraged to often engage with the Traditional Rulers on issues of security sector reforms
 - Major security operatives should avail their contacts (phone numbers) to the Traditional Rulers
 - Frictions between security agencies and other stakeholders should be eliminated
2. Constitutional Roles for the Traditional Rulers
 - Empower the Traditional Rulers to pursue security sector issues even through traditional means and symbols in their communities
 - Adequate funding process should be legally enshrined for the Traditional Rulers
 - The roles of the Traditional Rulers in the constitution should be well defined
 - The Traditional Rulers should be equipped with conflict resolution skills through adequate training and re-trainings
3. Security cover for Traditional Rulers
 - Security details ought to be attached to those due, especially The Traditional Rulers

Closing

The co-facilitator of the Niger Delta Dialogue (NDD) and Executive Director of the Academic Associates PeaceWorks (AAPeaceWorks) Dr Judith Burdin Asuni expressed gratitude for the interaction and mutual respect amongst participants in agreeing to cooperate and work together. She thanked the Rivers State PAC for the great work and efforts in putting the conference together. She mentioned that a glossy report of the conference along with that of the 6 state town hall meetings will be written and distributed to everyone. She also said that the NDD is publishing a book with the title “Insecurity in the South South”, which will be out soon and copies will be given to the state PACS and the traditional rulers councils. She reiterated that the whole idea of the report was not to publish and put it on a shelf but to implement it.

Attendance

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