



GLOBAL JOURNAL OF HUMAN SOCIAL SCIENCE
SOCIOLOGY & CULTURE

Volume 13 Issue 2 Version 1.0 Year 2013

Type: Double Blind Peer Reviewed International Research Journal

Publisher: Global Journals Inc. (USA)

Online ISSN: 2249-460X & Print ISSN: 0975-587X

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GJHSS-C Classification : FOR Code : 370199p, 960305



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Oil Exploration and Corporate Social Responsibility - A Case of SPDC Global Memorandum of Understanding (G-Mou)

Dr. Eze Wosu

Abstract - Some scholars have argued that the activities of Oil companies (TNCs) have improved or destroyed the livelihood condition of host communities. In line with this debate, this paper examined the thrust of Corporate Social Responsibility as a core value for community engagement interface on oil exploration activity. We argued that lack of genuine community engagement interface by the TNCs in oil activities is the major problem of Niger Delta crisis. The CSR of SPDC value would be used to examine Oil companies'- community engagement interface. The study deployed the interview methods and secondary data for our analysis. The findings are that lack of genuine and transparent engagement strategy by SPDC in the oil exploration activity has resulted to the destruction of the ecosystem as well as livelihood strategy of the host communities. The host communities therefore, experience oil spill, hardship, famine, drought, unemployment, malnutrition, alienation from their land, inter and intra communal conflict and displacement of persons. This is the major agitation in Niger Delta and the sudden closure and/or disruptions of Shell activities in the region. And until the thrust of SPDC- CSR is realigned on the path of honesty and transparency, oil exploration would continue to have serious challenges.

Keywords : corporate social responsibility, oil exploration, livelihood, ecosystem, big rules.

I. THE PROBLEM

This paper examines SPDC strategy of stakeholder's engagement in oil exploration activity through the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as a value system of the company. The enabling environment pays attention to both corporate and stakeholder responsibility as a strategy to better understand the relationship between CSR and development. Idemudia (2010) advanced two reasons. The first is that the developmental outcome of CSR initiatives is not simply a function of business action or inaction. Rather, it is best understood as a function of stakeholder's relationships, because the action or inaction of other stakeholders directly or indirectly affects the impact of CSR on development. This position is largely consistent with the emerging consensus that if sustainable development (SD) is to be achieved, then there is need for a genuine, transparent engagement strategy of stakeholders. Secondly, CSR is at the heart of managing the socio-environmental costs and benefits

of business activities; setting the boundaries on the way these costs and benefits are managed is partly a question of business policy and partly a question of public governance (Fox et al. 2002; Ward 2004; culled from Idemudia 2010). The implication is that the possibility of CSR largely depends on both oil MNCs addressing their corporate responsibility and stakeholders like host community. Consequently, Eteng (1997) asserted that oil exploration and exploitation activities have over the last four decades impacted disastrously on the socio-physical environment of the Niger Delta oil bearing communities, hitherto, threatening the subsistence peasant economy and the environment and the entire livelihood strategies of the people.

Similarly, MNCs are not in Africa to serve or develop. Their business is seeking quick and high profits in order to maintain the overdevelopment of a very small class of people in their home base. The overwhelming financial power and geographical spread of MNCs are so great that nations individually are unable to oppose them. It is against this background that we consider the CSR tool of MNCs Corporation unclear, deceitful, and destructive to the environment. Farming and fishing are the major means of occupation of Niger Delta communities. The exploration activity of the Oil companies has resulted to oil spillage and other forms of pollution and degradation of the ecosystem, which invariably is the livelihood support system of the inhabitants. The oil companies do not genuinely engage the host community; rather they deceive and hide under the cloak of state government. The people therefore, experience hardship, poor/lack of engagement, kidnapping, poverty, famine, unemployment, malnutrition, which culminate into inter and intra communal conflicts and fervent agitation.

The paper argued that lack of genuine engagement or participation of host communities in oil exploration is the bane of Niger Delta crisis. In other words, the alienation, divide and rule strategy of the oil company becomes a major challenge. Therefore, host communities are resolute to agitate and demand for their rights from Oil companies. These agitations have gradually climaxed into diverse issues, challenges and problems with Oil companies exploration in Niger Delta region. Our contention is that lack of genuine engagement of SPDC through the concept of corporate social

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responsibility as a core value constitutes the major crisis in the Niger Delta. The concept or theory serves as our premise to examine oil exploration and community engagement as part of corporate business responsibility. We would demonstrate whether or not SPDC as TNCs have aligned to their core values in the engagement interface of host communities in oil exploration activities in the region.

II. INTRODUCTION

Scholars of modernisation and dependency theory have argued the nature of relationship between the Transnational or Multinational Corporation (TNCs) and development in the third World, especially Niger Delta. According to Idemudia (2010) asserts that some scholars believe that the debate is now moot, given that in a globalising world, no Third World country would consider de-linking from TNCs. But with the new face of globalisation which is dominate in TNCs and transformation of information technology, others like Bury (2001) opine that although the debate might have been moribund by the realities of globalisation, the concerns therefore are for the impact of TNCs on developing countries are yet to be fully exterminated. Heinecke (1986) posed a fundamental question, TNCs have they come as a blessing or cause. These scholars suggested that the debate and/or activities have moved on to new intellectual and conceptual level. Hence, the debate has re-emerged in the discourse of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and development, and therefore, reaffirms the argument that the field of development theory is characterised by evolutionary rather than revolutionary change (Idemudia 2008).

Global community engagement or relations as a plan strategy has taken a centre stage in corporate business organizations. The paradigm shift of development focus from economic growth to include social and environmental aspects manifested in such concepts as human development (HD) and sustainable development (SD). Fundamental to this shift in discourse is the idea that business was not just part of the problem, but was also now part and parcel of the solution to the problem. For instance, Visser et al (2006) noted that despite the polarising nature of the TNCs development nexus debate, there is now a general consensus that business is well placed to make significant positive contributions in Africa. In sharp reaction, MNCs have hinged on the concept of CSR as a framework for business and development enterprise. Most corporate bodies or institutions have realised the key importance of community engagement or relations interface with their various stakeholders as a method to explore the resources of the host communities.

It is for this reason, that most corporate bodies now establish community affairs department, sustainable community development, public affairs unit. The objective is to interface with relevant stakeholders to

manage company's corporate identity, core values with their stakeholders (stakeholder's engagement) for smooth operations. Otherwise, oil companies would have serious challenges or impediments without the buy-in of host communities. However, while there is consensus that government have an important role to play in CSR, effort have been directed towards exploring how the TNCs execute or foster corporate social development (CSD). Against this background, this paper critically attempts to examine the thrust of genuine community interface by MNCs in oil exploration activities. How, when and why they engage their stakeholders become a fundamental question of this paper.

Community engagement interface can be described as a deliberate plan and sustained effort to establish and maintain mutual understanding between organization and its community, (social coherence and geographical area). Any activity that establishes and maintains understanding between a business firm and its community falls within the orbit of community engagement or interface. A company has the following major stakeholders to deal with-immediate or host communities, suppliers, customers, government, labour unions, skilled and unskilled persons, Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) etc. Each of these individual bodies or groups has common interest and channel of demands to the organisation. The ultimate goal of oil companies depends on profit motive. Achieving this driving motive vis-à-vis the interest of host communities snowballed into a serious challenge. By way of analysis, we shall examine the CSR as a tool of engagement situating it within the company policy of *G-MOU* for community engagement and the socio-economic impact of this practice.

III. CSR A TOOL OF ENGAGEMENT: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE

According to Okodudu (2008), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is the requirement placed on organisation to be accountable for its impact on all stakeholders. The concept of CSR reflects a broader shift in the re-conceptualisation of business-society relationship from business and society to business in society. Fundamental to this change therefore emphasis the understanding of business enterprises as sources of social improvement and a means to promote specific issues of social welfare. In other words, the concept represents a firm commitment by organisations to contribute to local economic development. Theoretically, how CSR can contribute to development in developing countries and Niger Delta in particular.

As an ethical strategy, Okodudu (2008) argued that CSR can be practised or can appear in various forms. The purest form is when CSR is practiced for its own sake. In this regard, the firms expect nothing back

from their CSR activities and they become socially responsible because that is the noble way for corporations to behave. While as a business strategy, firms engage in CSR with the aim of reaping benefits from those actions. CSR is solely with the intention of consolidating the business of the organisation – (see Lantos, 2001, Schwartz and Carrol 2003; Lewis, 2003; culled from Okodudu, 2008).

Thus, the theoretical framework that informs CSR practice by oil companies in Nigeria is the business strategy theory, which seeks to consolidate business interest and not those of the communities through CSR. Based on this, CSR practices by SPDC in Niger Delta are mere public relations gimmicks. According to Fox et al (2002), an enabling environment implies an environment that encourages and provides incentives for business activities that minimize environmental and social cost while at the same time maximising economic gains. Consequently, the presence or absence of an enabling environment significantly influences the chances that a CSR initiative will achieve its desired impact. Jones (2003), opined that if being socially responsible means giving back to society, then as soon as organisation starts to calculate the returns for being socially responsible, that firm is actually not committing the act of giving. This is because maximising profit is the sole aim of organisation.

Against this background, given the business motive of CSR practice by MNCs in Niger Delta, it raises questions on the credibility of their engagement strategy with stakeholders; and how it can contribute in dousing the tense hostile environment in the region. For instance, what implication has SPDCs corporate social responsibility as a core value engagement interface in contributing to contain the current conflict in Niger Delta? Can this CSR policy lead to sustainable development and improvement of company-community relationship in SPDC stake holder's forum? These questions constitute the hub of this paper. We shall try to provide answers to the above questions by looking at SPDC CSR relation tool of engagement by examining the G-MOU strategy of community engagement; and its oil exploration activities in Niger Delta.

a) *Global Memorandum of Understanding G-MOU) - A tool of community interface*

The failure or contradiction of the above model of engagement gave birth to another paradigm shift of SPDC community interface christened – G-MOU. The World Bank reviewed this concept, took many steps further and renamed it the Global Memorandum of Understanding (G-MOU). In this new engagement model, the G-MOU is no longer a mere agreement between two or more parties spelling out mutual objectives, obligations, time frame for accomplishing them; and an arbitration clause in the event of breach, but a practical working tool of clustering communities

together to foster development. To what extent did this tool foster development?

The G-MOU claimed principally to be driven by the need for objectivity, transparency, trust, vision and commitment towards a partnership between groups bound by mutual interests. This assumption is synonymous with the prepositions of the Modernization scholars on Third World underdevelopment debate. Under the G-MOU, one of the parties to the agreement must be spatially defined; sometimes, occurring in clusters due to sociological similarities. The partnership they seek must be operated within a given period in a manner that is acceptable to the parties involved.

According to Okodudu (2008), SPDC, has committed itself to the development of host communities on a sustainable basis by incorporating the issue of accountability in its community interface programmes. The question is how possible will this be using the G-MOU principle. An examination of this question is the SPDC corporate social responsibility agenda designed in such a manner to realise these goals of authentic self-reliant development. In particular, what potential has the current SPDC G-MOU policy as practice to make communities self reliant and less prone to incessant conflicts?

Conceptualising it, therefore, the G-MOU is a relation's document or tool of community engagement that stipulates agreement between parties with one of the parties (usually the benefiting communities) clustered in a geographically located area operating at a given period. It is assumed that G-MOU has a vision and mission to create sustainable development partnership that enhances development needs, creating conducive environment and atmosphere for industrial harmony. Also, its objective is towards empowering the primary stakeholders to effectively and efficiently drive the development process. This is a cardinal principle of capitalist economy. The arrangement is that communities are clustered together. Clusters are identified based on community's homogeneity and heterogeneity, common identity of culture and tradition, boundary location or local government basis as approved by the state government. Formations of Community Trust (CT), Community Development Board (CDB) are groups of community representatives. Appointment of representatives to form the CDBs and CTs are made at the cluster levels. These representatives run the day-to-day activities of the community in the clusters.

From the above brief explanation, we infer that the objective of G-MOU is for the communities to participate and drive their destiny of development in their hands. Interesting as it is, it reminds me of the then development debate in the 60s and 70s. The Nigerian government fashioned some rural development programmes like OFN, River Basin Authority, DFRRI, WAI, FEM, SFEM, OMAPADEC etc. The thrust of the

above development programmes were to develop the rural people and alleviate their suffering or standard of living. The dependency scholars perceived it as an external programme, foisted on the people and devoid of the rural people's participation and ingenuity. The indices are poor consultation and lack of inputs from stakeholders; another way of *cosmetic stake holder's* engagement in the urban city. The impediments of this relatively new concept are enormous. Yes, it is obvious that every new idea have its peculiar challenges. Shell G-MOU model was not properly conceived, analysed and communicated to the people for their inputs as co-stakeholders. Instead, it was quickly deployed into action without looking at the pros and cons and our peculiar socio-cultural background. Looking at its origin and conception, it is more of imperialist tendency of fostering underdevelopment in the Niger Delta.

The vision that G-MOU is part of the sustainable community development effort that specifies how Shell shall interact with communities to achieve the vision of a safe, healthy and self-reliant Niger Delta has failed; despite the cosmetic packaging of more than 80% G-MOU teams. A cross section of interviews of some community leaders revealed that communities were the G-MOU have fully been deployed are characterised with crisis. How and who authoritatively allocate and benefits from the pot of money to be provided snowballed into communal conflict. More so, the activities of the company have destroyed the people's means of livelihood. Average farmer and fishermen no longer eke out living from their natural means of livelihood. Oil spills have destroyed the ecosystem. Companies have acquired vast portion of community land without adequate compensation, nor employment of the local people in the company work force, except as drivers, cleaners, and tea girls respectively. The dispossession or alienation of the key stakeholders from their means of production gave rise to untold hardship, poverty,

malnutrition, communal conflicts etc. Therefore, G-MOU as a new tool of community interface may not stand the test of time given the peculiar contradiction underlining it.

IV. FINDINGS

a) *Socio-economic impact of oil activities on the Livelihood of the Niger Delta*

Sustainable development cannot be devoid of environmental protection. The environmental degradation resulting from oil and gas production in the Niger Delta has attracted the attention of environmentalists and other experts who examine the region within the context of globalisation. The implication or consequences of livelihoods in the region have been a major issue with great consequence. Many arguments revolve around who is responsible for most of the ills of oil exploration – the government, oil companies, youths who vandalize pipelines, or the global community? The world today recognizes the importance of environmental sustainability to development of nations. Goal seven of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – aka Maximum Distraction Gimmicks “Ensure environmental sustainability” Seek to reduce environmental degradation arising from natural and man-made causes as well as inefficient use of resources, and to improve environmental management through private sector participation and environmentally friendly technologies. The study focused on the lack of genuine community engagement interface of oil exploration and socio-economic impact by Shell Company. The Niger Delta has experienced among others two major oil spills- the Funiwa oil well blow-out in 1980 and the Jones Creek oil spillage in 1998. These resulted in the greatest mangrove forest devastation, depletion of aquatic fauna, ground water pollution etc. The table below shows the impacts on the livelihoods of the people.

Subject	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Oil & Gas Production	57.72	48.00	61.56	66.67	62.44
Emissions Gas flaring	7,909	5,222	6,385	6,611	5,247-6,260
Total emissions of carbon dioxide (Co2)	22,487	15,467	18,821	19,798	17,122
Total emissions of Methane (CH4)	111.6	72.8	87.0	90.7	77.5
Total hydro carbon emissions (VOC)3	183.3	100.4	117.2	156.6	137
Total emissions of Sulphur Oxides (SOx)4	1.8	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.0
Total emissions of Nitrogen Oxide (NOx)4	27.3	22.3	23.1	21.9	26.2
Oil Spills Total number of spills	302	262	221	236	224
Produced water- oil in effluent to surface environment	291	226	242.9	321	481.4
Total volume of produced water discharged	39,195	26,424	33,147	39,922	42,994
Average oil in produced water (to surface environment)	7.4	8.6	7.3	8.1	11.2

2005 HSE Performance Summary (People and the Environment annual Report-2005)

The consequences are enormous; land paucity, water pollutions, oil spillage, poverty, malnutrition, disease, hunger, untimely death, lack of amenities, unemployment; in other words the destruction of natural economy. The synthesis is

vehement agitation and revolt of diverse magnitude by the host communities in the Niger Delta. Companies, servicing firms face serious attack, hostage taking, vandalization of oil and gas pipelines, bunkering, destruction of companies properties – (burning of flow

stations, rigs, oil well heads), (unemployment in terms of youths without livelihood and severance of employed persons). This contradiction is not out of place. We will argue in another paper that the recent attack on oil facilities and hostage takings of multinational personnel in the Niger Delta would be traced to the subjugation and dehumanization of our black brothers during the colonial era (slave mode of production). History serves as a vehicle to predict the future.

Oil Spills: With the expansion of oil production, the incidence of oil spills has tremendously increased in

the area. However some spills occur accidentally and through the deliberate actions of the local people, who sabotage pipelines in protest against the operations of the oil companies. Records show that a total of 6,817 oil spills occurred between 1976 and 2001, with a loss of approximately three million barrels of oil. More than 70% was not recovered. Hence, about six percent spilled on land, 25% in swamps and 69% in offshore environments. Nowadays, oil spills appear to be caused more by wilful sabotage or damage to facilities than by accidents.

Date`	Episode	State	Quantity in Barrels
July, 1979	Forcados terminal oil spillage	Rivers	570,000
Jan 1980	Funiwa No. 5 well blowout	Rivers	400,00
May, 1980	Oyakama oil spill	Rivers	10,000
Nov 1982	System 2c pipeline rupture	Warri-Kaduna	18,000
August 1983	Oshika oil spill	Rivers	10,000
Jan 1998	Idoho oil spill	Akwa Ibom	40,000
Jan 1998	Jones Creek	Delta	21,548
Oct 1998	Jesse oil spill	Delta	10,000
May 2000	Etiama oil spill	Bayelsa	11,000
Dec 2003	Aghada oil spill	Rivers	Unknown
August 2005	Ughelli oil spill	Delta	10,000
August 2004	Ewan oil spill	Ondo	Unknown

Source : Nwankwo & Ifeadi (1988) *Eka and Udoyong (2003) Culled Niger Delta Human Report – 2005*

The implication of these findings is frightening, given that human health is tied to the web of food. Some scholars reported that ingestion of hydrocarbon directly or indirectly through contaminated food leads to poisoning. Some researchers such as Kanoh et al, (1990 culled NDHDR-2006) and Snyder and Hedlim (1996 culled Aaron et al 2010), have reported the toxic and carcinogenic effects of exposure to high concentrations of hydrocarbons. For instance, from our table above, the spill at Ewan oil field affected the livelihood system of some communities, including the Igo, Awoye, Odun-Oyinbo, Ubale Kerere, Ogungbeje and Yoren were badly affected. Fishing grounds were devastated. Fishing is the main source of income, and the people were compelled to demonstrate in Akure, the state capital, to draw the attention of the public over their plight. The incessant oil spills and other negative impact with oil industry continue to be a source of public concern and agitation. This is due to poor engagement interface. Other grievances arise from the negative social and economic impacts of oil and industrial activities.

Rapid Uncontrolled Urbanisation: A major dramatic effects of oil exploration activities in the Niger Delta was the sudden upsurge to prominence of certain towns that became centres of oil production. Port Harcourt and Warri are the two most important examples. However, smaller but equally important towns include Ughelli, Bonny, Eket etc. The urban growth has significant social and environmental impacts.

The pace of construction activities in the oil and industrial cities created huge and unprecedented demands for land and construction materials such as sand, clay and wood. Local peoples were easily seduced by the lure of easy money in the growing urban centres. The large rubber plantations for which present day delta and Edo states were once noted were abandoned and cleared by local people. They sold the land to speculators in the urban city and to contractors for quarrying sand, clay and other materials for construction. Some local landowners turned into contractors themselves.

Loss of Fishing Grounds: activities of the Oil companies were not limited on land alone. The demand for high quality fine sand, booming the canals and swamps for pipe laying led to the mining of river channels. These activities destroy the aquatic habitat and disrupt the hydraulic capacity and relationships in the river channels. Communities whose source of income is fishing and other related activities suffer as a result on top of the destruction caused by the oil spill. Now fishing has become less productive and profitable in many areas, with reduced catches and lower incomes. The efforts of local fishermen to maintain or improve upon their income levels result in over fishing. Many swamps, rivers and creeks where fish spawn have been destroyed or polluted. The oil personnel do not unfold clearly in detail their activities to the communities during engagement. They hide the consequences of their activities; and where the communities discover and/or understand the implication of their activities

would resist the operation. For the communities crying out loud over the destruction of their livelihood would attract force by the oil company.

Land losses and Paucity: Access to land is a major issue in the Niger Delta region. Local people complain bitterly about having lost so much land to oil operations without adequate compensation. Oil facilities and installations directly took huge land and waterways away from the people and indirectly, alienating the people from land, (Wosu and Okodudu 2010). Also, people have lost land through pollution, erosion and land despoliation by quarrying activities. The paucity is compounded by the lack of dry land in the delta.

Now, the intense protest in Niger Delta is the paucity of land Use Act, which provides compensation for the appropriation of land – often for oil facilities. Most local participant or communities at one of the focus group discussions were vehemently opposed to the Act, saying it “has no redeeming feature or value.” The Act does not take into account the impacts and negative externalities that transferring land – say for oil purposes- may have on adjoining areas. Hence, people are now clamouring for restitution for all the damage that has been done by oil operations and associated activities. Even in cases where compensation is paid is little or nothing. In most cases it ends in court.

Case	Amount Claimed	Amount Paid	Percentage	Remarks
Chief Tuaghaye and others vs. SPDC - 1977	N61,126,500	N30,000,00	49.0	Case in favour of the company
Shell vs. Farah and others - 1995	N26,490,000	N4,621,307	17.5	Same
SPDC vs. Tiebo VII and others - 1996	N64,146,000	N6,000,000	9.4	Same
SPDC vs. Joel Amaro and others - 2000	N15,392,889	N30,288,861	196.8	Same
SPDC & NPDC vs. Stephanie Sele and Others - 2004	N20,000,000	N18,329,350	91.6	Same
ELF (Nig) Ltd. Vs. Sillo and others - 1994	N1,348,000	N288,000	21.4	Same

Source : Niger Delta Human Development Report - 2006

The above table shows that more often than not, the awards made by the courts are generally lower than the claims made by the victims. Some experts have argued that the absence of standards of liability for oil pollution and of rules for determining compensation to victims could have contributed to the way cases are delayed and/or decided in favour of the oil companies (Adewale 1998; Fajemirokun, 1999; Worika 2002; culled from Niger Delta Human Deve. Report-2006)

Even the compensation that is offered tends to bring only short-lived satisfaction. Those who sell their land, more often than not, quickly spend the money and then are left high and dry. Many in the face of these abandon their traditional occupations and move to other pursuits, usually in the urban cities, which swells the ranks of the urban poor and informal sector operators.

V. CONCLUSION

Contrary to what many people believe, the community engagement for oil companies' strategies has become more complex with the G-MOU strategy as a tool of partnership. We are not ruling out the fact that their may be some benefits, but how sustainable will it be. The communities are cut in the web of modernity or by extension globalisation. For which they do not understand the underlining logic behind the new advocacy for community engagement. Therefore, SPDC CSR rule of engagement is clouded with force, deceit, dishonesty, repression etc. **Until we say away with**

deceit, dishonesty, oppression, killing and welcome transparency, honesty, truth, genuine respect for people and participation, Shell - Community engagement interface will continue to be in shambles. The State cannot be exonerated from this problem. As a matter of fact, the company in deploying the new tool would claim engaging or partnering with the State government. However, the state as an apparatus of domination hardly violates the principles of the multinational corporation for their interest.

Finally, we cannot fold our hands and allow the giant Shell in the Niger Delta to harass, oppress, molest and deceive us the more. Destroy and alienate us from our natural means of livelihood said by one of the community Paramount Ruler. Thus, the multinational corporations should genuinely abide with the principle of CSR that must respect the rights or moral space of individuals; the boundaries which are set by the principle of its non – initiation of physical force. Though, no police monitoring the implementation of CSR, but it should be a thing of internal ideology for Oil firms to exhibit. Proper and transparent engagement strategy will serve as a synergy between the companies and host communities. Alienated from their natural resources, either by oil companies or governments or migrants, the people of the delta see total resource control as the only solution. Different ethnic nationalities have different strategies for achieving this. For instance, the Ogoni people see the right to control ownership and control of

their lives and resources as the only way to protect their environment from further degradation and promote decent livelihoods on Ogoni land.

The oil companies initially thought they could “buy off” people from complaining too loudly about the environmental and socio-economic challenges they face. The companies adopted the practice of paying aggrieved local people whenever complaints arose. But this simply encouraged more and more people to come forward and make claims. This practice undermined community spirit and cohesion, and some factions and divisions emerged within the different communities. Youths and other pressure groups formed with the sole purpose of seeking their own share of the oil money. Traditional rulers and elders lost face because of lack of transparency and accountability in the collection and disbursement of compensation for the loss of or damage to land, fishing grounds and other property. Today, the deplorable human development situation in the Niger Delta is further aggravated by growing violence and increasingly acute insecurity.

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