



RIVERS STATE
ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL
(RSEAC)

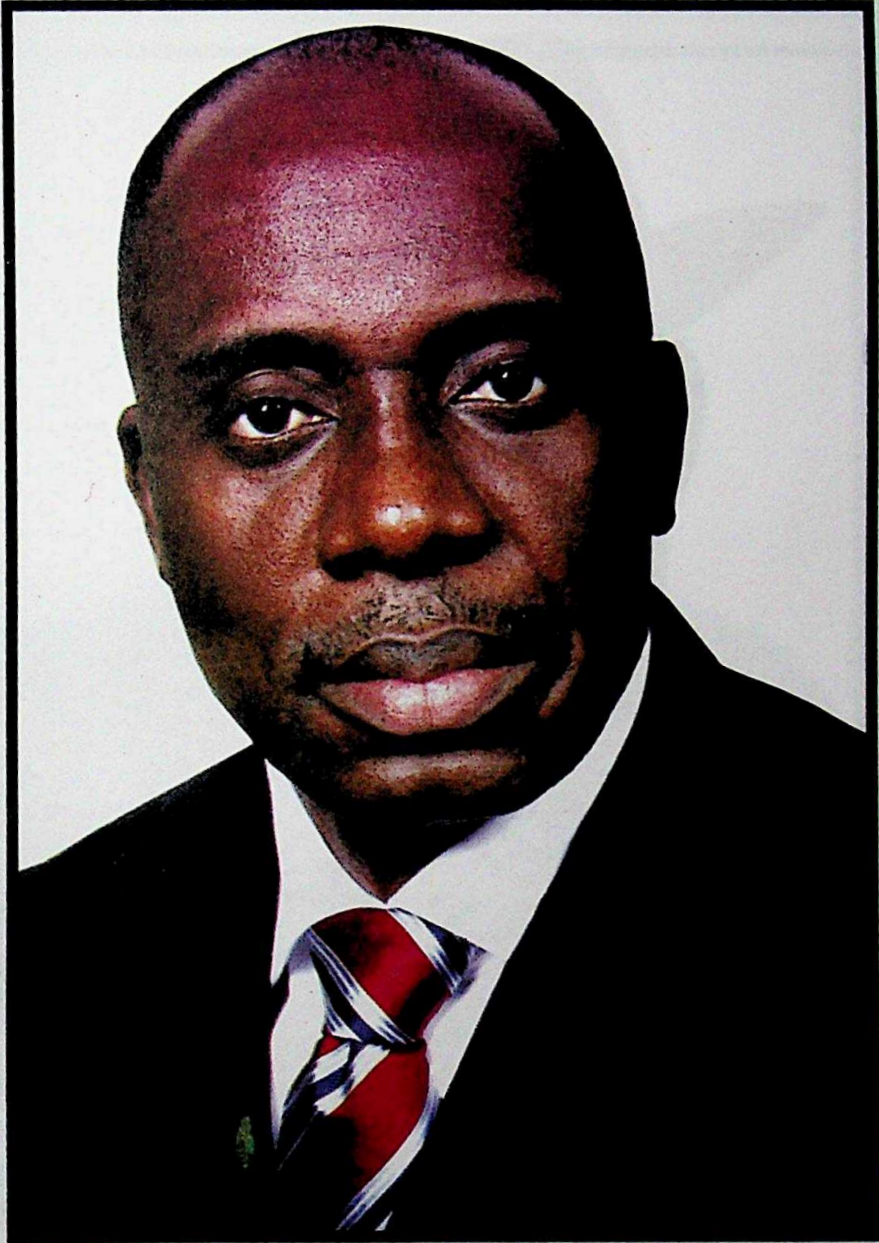


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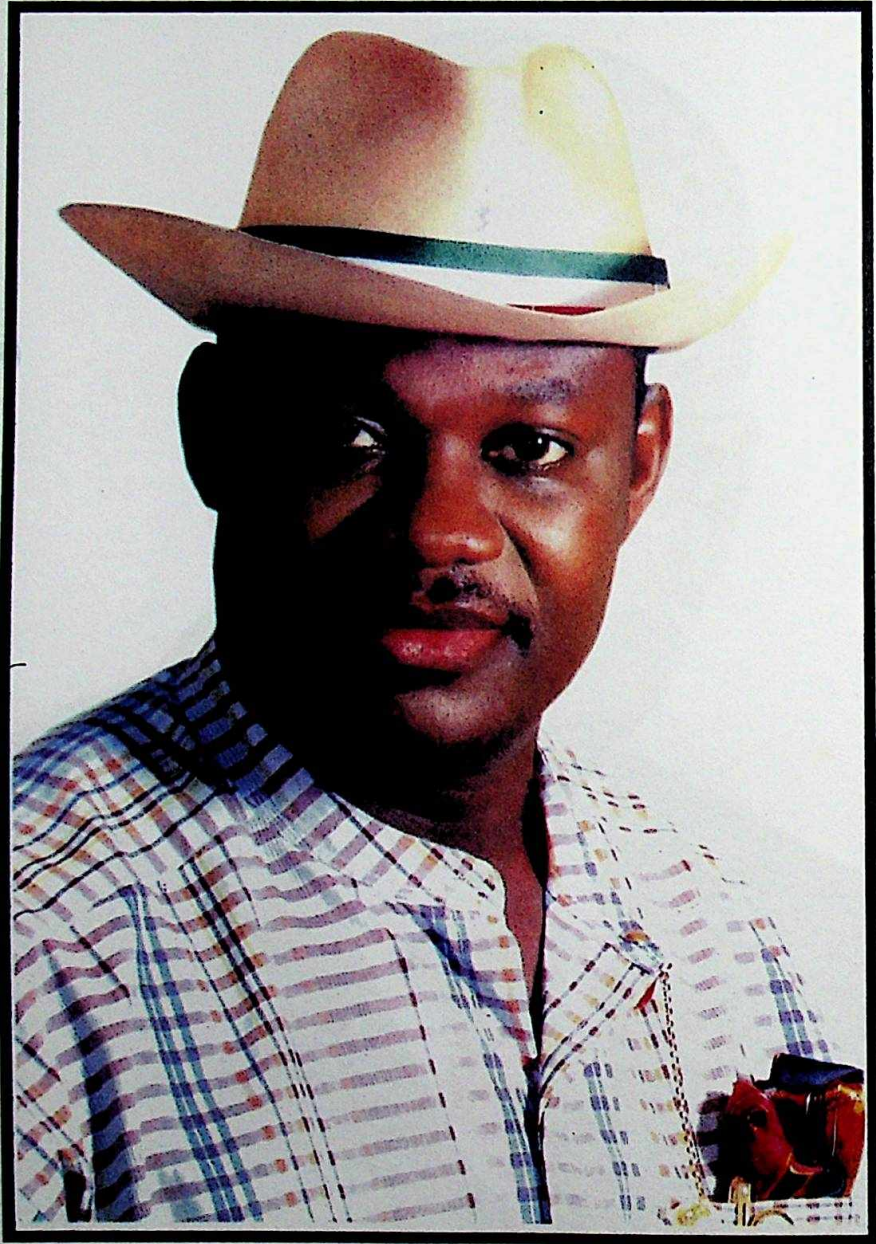
ANNUAL
REPORT

COVERING THE PERIOD

Oct. 2007 - Dec. 2008



His Excellency,
RT. HON. CHIBUIKE ROTIMI AMAECHI
Executive Governor of Rivers State



His Excellency,

ENGR. TELE IKURU

Deputy Governor, Rivers State



HON. MAGNUS NGEI ABE (JP)
Secretary to the State Government



Prof. Nimi D. Briggs, OON
CHAIRMAN

Rivers State Economic Advisory Council

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	General Information	1 - 7
2.0	Memberanda, Reports and Submissions to His Excellency	8 - 9/bA
2.1	Interim Report and Recommendations for immediate action	10 - 13
2.2	Stakeholders' Meeting	14 - 23
2.3	Just and Equitable Revenue sharing formula for Enthroning Peace and Sustainable Development in Nigeria	24 - 42
2.4	Unemployment in Rivers State	43 - 66
2.5	Oil & Gas Sector Reforms and Implementation	67 - 71
2.6	Report on Current FGN Strategy in the Oil and Gas Sector	72 - 76
2.7	The Rivers State Petroleum Strategy	77 - 78
2.8	Peace and Security through Community Management	79 - 85
2.9	Memorandum to Technical Committee on the Niger Delta	86 - 90
2.10	Rivers State Development Policies and Implementation Strategies	91
	Section 1 (Good Governance)	92 - 96
	Section 2 (Education)	97 - 104
	Section 3 (Health)	105 - 109
	Section 4 (Oil & Gas, Energy)	110 - 113
	Section 5 (Commerce and Industry)	114 - 117
	Section 6 (Environmental Protection, Sanitation and Waste Management)	118 - 123
	Section 7 (Water)	124 - 127
	Section 8 (Housing & Urban Development)	128 - 133
	Section 9 (Transport)	134 - 136
	Section 10 (Agriculture)	137 - 139
	Section 11 (Public - Private Partnership)	140 - 147
3.0	Feedback on Economic Advisory Council Recommendations	148 - 155
4.0	Closing Remarks	156

1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

This Annual Report is the first of such reports which the Rivers State Economic Advisory Council (hereafter referred to as 'Council') intends to produce, detailing information on its activities.

It covers the period from its inauguration in October, 2007 to December 2008, and consists of this section on **General Information**, another action on the **Memoranda, Reports and the various Submissions** that were made to His Excellency, a section on **Feedback on Council Recommendations**, and a section on **Closing Remarks**.

Obtaining a suitable environment in which to house Council proved difficult initially, during which time Council operated from hotels and other locations. However, by February, 2008, Council was able to secure an office accommodation in **Fleet House** which is located at **No.105 Olu-Obasanjo Road, Port Harcourt**. This accommodation now serves as the permanent Office of Council where all its meetings and other activities are held.

The Council has a registered website, **www.eacriversstate.org** and a land line telephone number, 084-46447, which unfortunately, hardly functions. The e-mail address of Council is **rseac2009@yahoo.com** and the Secretary to Council can be easily reached on mobile telephone numbers 08037064327 and 08033428485.

1.1 INAUGURATION:

Council was inaugurated on 31st October, 2007, by His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, Governor of Rivers State. Composed of eminent sons and daughters of the State, Council was mandated by Governor to serve as a **Policy Think-Tank of the Administration**.

At the formal inauguration, Governor Amaechi charged members to do the thinking, analyses and recommendations on policies and programmes to assist his administration achieve effective governance. He promised to rely on Council's advice and recommendations, and assured that Council would also have a free hand in its deliberations and would regulate its own activities.

In his response on behalf of members of Council, the Chairman, Prof. Nimi D. Briggs thanked the Governor for ascribing to him and other members of Council, this important responsibility of advising Government on key policy issues especially those that relate to the economic well-being of the State. He assured His Excellency that Council would work assiduously and would advice correctly and honestly at all times. He also thanked members of Council for accepting to undertake this critical assignment.

1.2 COUNCIL COMPOSITION:

The Rivers State Economic Advisory Council is composed of forty(40) eminent sons and daughters of the State, as follows:

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | PROF. NIMI D. BRIGGS | - | CHAIRMAN |
| 2. | DAME ALERUCHI COOKEY-GAM | - | VICE-CHAIRPERSON |
| 3. | HON. MAGNUS NGEIABE | - | SECRETARY |
| 4. | PROF. ABIYE OBUOFORIBO | - | MEMBER |
| 5. | AMBASSADOR I. H. AJURU | | " |
| 6. | MR. SUNNY DIKEH | | " |
| 7. | PROF. NDIMELE, O. M. | | " |
| 8. | PROF. D. M. J. FUBARA | | " |
| 9. | PASTOR A. M. MFIANGH | | " |
| 10. | DR. T. A. T. ALLISON | | " |
| 11. | PROF. BEDFORD FUBARA | | " |
| 12. | HON. KEN CHIKERE ESQ. | | " |
| 13. | MR. FRANCIS ELECHI | | " |
| 14. | MR. EMMANUEL GEORGEWILL | | " |
| 15. | MR. CHARLES HARRY | | " |
| 16. | CHIEF EMMANUEL ONYECHE CHIKE, JP | | " |
| 17. | LEDUM MITEE, ESQ. | | " |
| 18. | MR. PEDRO EGBE | | " |
| 19. | CHIEF EDWARD BRISTOL ALAGBARIYA | | " |
| 20. | MR. CHRISTIAN SARO-SIMEON NWINIA | | " |
| 21. | MR. ATEDON A. PETERSIDE | | " |
| 22. | MR. ABIYE AMACHREE | | " |
| 23. | MR. CHAMBERLIN PETERSIDE | | " |
| 24. | PROF. N. C. EJITUWU | | " |
| 25. | BARR. JOY NUNIEH | | " |
| 26. | DR. EVANS WOHEREM | | " |
| 27. | ENGR. TONYE PRINCEWILL | | " |
| 28. | MR. DUMO LULU BRIGGS | | " |
| 29. | HON. ONARI BROWN | | " |
| 30. | MR. THANKGOD IDEOZU | | " |
| 31. | DR. KALADA HARRY | | " |
| 32. | MISS. ALICE LAWRENCE NIMI | | " |
| 33. | PRINCE (HON.) CHIBUDOM NWUCHE | | " |

34.	ALABO T. O. GRAHAM	-	MEMBER
35.	HON. ANDREW UCHENDU	-	"
36.	CHIEF O. R. LONG-JOHN	-	"
37.	AMBASSASOR INE KURUBO	-	"
38.	PROF. TAM DAVID-WEST	-	"
39.	CHIEF G. U. AKE	-	"
40.	PRINCE UCHE SECONDUS	-	"

1.3 **COUNCIL ORGANISATION:**

Initially Council constituted itself into six broad-based Committees to aid the work of Plenary Meetings. These are:

- (a) Good Governance Committee;
- (b) Peace and Security Committee;
- (c) Commerce, Industry & Agriculture Committee;
- (d) Infrastructural Development Committee;
- (e) Health, Education and Social welfare Committee; and
- (f) Energy, Environmental Protection, Sanitation & Waste Management Committee.

Later, two additional Committees - Oil & Gas Committee and the Committee on Local Government Reforms (ad-hoc) were also constituted.

1.4 **COUNCIL MEETINGS:**

After inauguration, Council was meeting often, sometimes thrice a week, because of the enormous and urgent challenges before it and the State Government in the first few months of the inauguration of the Governor Amaechi's administration. Later, this was cut down to about one meeting per month.

So far, the Rivers State Economic advisory Council has held thirty-five(35) scheduled, Plenary and Extra-Ordinary meetings, while the various Committees of Council have held several more meetings as the work of Council is carried out essentially at Committee levels. Currently, the State Economic Advisory Council meets in plenary sessions once a month, usually on the first Thursday of every month, though extraordinary sittings of plenary are held when necessary.

1.5 **SPECIAL SESSIONS OF COUNCIL WITH THE GOVERNOR:**

The Rivers State Economic Advisory Council during the past year held three special plenary sessions with His Excellency, the State Governor. The first was right after inauguration of the Council by the Governor on 31st October, 2007.

The Governor, Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi had after the inauguration of the Council, sat through the two and a half hours of the inaugural plenary meeting. During the interactive session, the Governor spoke generally on the challenges before his administration and the State, as well as what he expected from the Council. Council members also spoke freely on various subjects and issues.

The next meeting with His Excellency was held at Hotel Presidential while the other was held on Saturday, 9th August, 2008 at the Council Secretariat, 105 Olu-Obasanjo Road, Port Harcourt.

During the last special session of Council with the Governor on Saturday, 9th August, 2008, Council presented its Report on Youth Unemployment and thereafter had a lengthy interactive session with His Excellency on the contents of the report and other burning issues of State and National importance.

It was at this meeting that His Excellency informed Council of a new challenge facing the State, viz the plan by the Federal Government to construct a gas pipeline linking the East to the West of the Country. The implication of the project, the Governor opined, is to move the gas industry to Lagos and draw business away from Port Harcourt to Lagos, which would result in further under-development of the Niger Delta Region.

His Excellency, Governor Chibuike Amaechi, charged the Council to mobilize all resources to resist this plan and manage the challenge in the best interest of Rivers State. It was this executive charge from the Governor that informed the immediate constitution of the Oil & Gas Committee of Council, and resulted in much of the activities of the Council from August, 2008, being on the Oil & Gas Industry.

In addition to the special plenary sessions, the Chairman of Council along with some members met with His Excellency a number of times, on pressing issues.

1.6 MAJOR ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE PORT HARCOURT:

During the year under review, the Rivers State Economic Advisory Council participated in a number of activities outside Port Harcourt and the State. Some of these activities are:

National Workshop in Abuja

- ❖ From 6th to 8th May, 2008, the Chairman, Prof. Nimi D. Briggs led a delegation of Council members (Dame Aleruchi Cookey-gam and Prof. D. M. J. Fubara) to attend a National Workshop on the Review of Revenue

Sharing Formula towards Constitutional Amendments. The workshop was organized in Abuja by the Senate Committee on State and Local Government administration.

- ❖ At the workshop, the delegation of Council, on behalf of the Government and people of Rivers State presented a position document on a "Just and Equitable Revenue Sharing Formula for Enthroning peace and sustainable development in Niger Delta (The Niger delta Perspective).

Retreat for Top government functionaries:

- ❖ The Rivers State Economic Advisory Council was also invited to the Retreat for Top Government functionaries organized by the Rivers State Government in Calabar, Cross River State. The 10-man delegation of Council led by the Chairman, Prof. Nimi D. Briggs was at the Retreat from 12th to 14th May, 2008, and on 13th May, 2008, presented the Council's Report on Unemployment in Rivers State. Members of the delegation were:

1.	Prof. Nimi. D. Briggs	-	Chairman
2.	Dame Aleruchi Cookey-Gam	-	Deputy Chairperson
3.	Prof. Abiye Obuoforibo	-	Member
4.	Prof. Bedford Fubara	-	"
5.	Mr. Emmanuel Georgewill	-	"
6.	Alabo (Prof.) D. M. J. Fubara	-	"
7.	Mr. Francis Elechi	-	"
8.	Hon. Joy Nunieh	-	"
9.	Mr. Pedro Egbe	-	"
10.	Chief Emmanuel Chike	-	"
11.	Amb. I. H. Ajuru	-	"

Road Map Committee Retreat at Omoku:

- ❖ A 7-man Committee of the Economic advisory Council travelled outside Port Harcourt from 17th to 21st June, 2008 for a 4-day Retreat at Omoku, Ogba/Egbama /Ndoni Local Government Area of the State. The Retreat was to enable the Committee put together an important document "Road Map" for Rivers State Development Policies and Implementation Strategies which Council plans to submit to Government.

Members of the Committee are:

1.	Dame Aleruchi Cookey-Gam	-	Chairperson
2.	Prof. Abiye Obuoforibo	-	Member

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|---|---|
| 3. | Alabo (Prof.) D. M. J. Fubara | - | “ |
| 4. | Mr. Emmanuel Georgewill | - | “ |
| 5. | Prof. O. M. Ndimele | - | “ |
| 6. | Mr. Francis Elechi | - | “ |
| 7. | Mr. Pedro Egbe | - | “ |

Alabo (Prof.) D. M. J. Fubara's Trip to Spain:

- ❖ Alabo (Prof.) D. M. J. Fubara, as a representative of the Rivers State Economic Advisory Council, accompanied His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, the Governor of Rivers State and his delegation on a Mission to Spain in respect of the “**Waste to Wealth**” programme to promote Environmental Sanitation and Waste Management.

Visit to Oba of Ogbaland:

- ❖ Following a special plenary session of Council with His Excellency, the Governor on 9th August, 2008, the need was felt to form two groups of Council members to undertake some special assignments.

One group made up of His Excellency, Amb. I. H. Ajuru, Joy Nnuieh and Pastor Mfiangh visited Omoku, Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of the State on 12th August, 2008 where they met with HRM, Oba Chukwumelam Nnam Obi, II Oba (Eze-Ogba) of Ogbaland, and Chairman, Rivers State Council of Traditional Rulers. The visit was aimed at sensitizing traditional rulers of the State through their Chairman on the new economic challenges that face the State.

Visit of Oil & Gas Committee to Abuja:

- ❖ The second group headed by the Council Chairman, Prof. N. D. Briggs travelled to Abuja on 11th August, 2008, on a fact-finding mission, on on-going and planned activities in the Oil & Gas Industry Sector. Other members of the team were Dame Aleruchi Cookey-Gam, Alabo (Prof.) D. M. J. Fubara, Mr. Emmanuel Georgewill, Hon. Sunny Dike and Dr. T. A. T. Allison.
- ❖ The Committee met and held discussions with prominent sons and daughters of Rivers State, in and out of the Oil & Gas Industry, most with expert knowledge and experience. Amongst them were the Hon. Minister of State (Petroleum), Mr. Odein Ajumogobia, SAN, the Head of Service of the Federation, Ms. Ama Pepple, CFR. The Committee also visited the Federal Character Commission

Headquarters, Abuja, and discussed with the Chairman and the Hon. Commissioner from the State, on how Rivers State was fairing, as well as other interests of the State. The group gathered information, materials and documents which were brought back to Council.

National Seminar on Gas at Abuja:

- ❖ In October, 2008, a three-man delegation of the State Economic Advisory Council made up of Prof. Nimi Briggs, Prof. D. M. J. Fubara and Mr. Sunny Dikeh participated in a three-day National Seminar on Gas. The seminar was organized by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) at Aso Hall International Conference Centre, Abuja from 7th to 9th October, 2008, on the topic:

“Gas - The fuel of the century: Realizing the Potential of Nigeria's Natural Gas (A Nigerian Norwegian Government's MOU activity)”

Roundtable Conference:

- ❖ After the Gas seminar, the same delegation of Council also attended a Roundtable Conference on **“The Role of the H R Profession in Nigerian Content Development”** from 6th to 7th November, 2008 at the Nicon Luxury Hotel, Abuja. Prof. Nimi D. Briggs, Prof. D M. J. Fubara and Mr. Sunny Dikeh participated actively in the conference on the Nigerian Content development HR perspective, which was organized by the Nigerian Economic Summit Group in collaboration with the NNPC Center for Petroleum Studies Kaduna, and Kragha & Associates.

Visit to Anambra State:

- ❖ During the work of the Council on peace and security, an Ad-hoc Committee on Security was constituted and sent to Anambra State on a fact-finding mission. The Committee made up of Sunny Dikeh, Charles Harry and a. M. Mfiangh, spent two days on the assignment and their report greatly influenced the report and recommendations of Council on peace and security.

**MEMORANDA,
REPORTS AND SUBMISSIONS
OF COUNCIL TO
HIS EXCELLENCY**

2.0 MEMORANDA, REPORTS AND SUBMISSIONS TO HIS EXCELLENCY:

From its deliberations, Council produced a number of memoranda and reports, and made submissions to His Excellency, the State Governor. These include:

- (a) "Interim Report and Recommendations for Immediate Action", November, 2007.
- (b) "A Report on the Stakeholders' Meeting with His Excellency, the State Governor on Thursday, 15th November, 2007".
- (c) "A Just and Equitable Revenue Sharing Formula for Enthroning Peace & Sustainable Development in Nigeria (The Niger Delta Perspective)" May 2008.
- (d) "Report on Unemployment in Rivers State", July, 2008.
- (e) "Executive Summary of the Oil & Gas Sector Reforms Implementation Committee Report", August, 2008.
- (f) "Report on Current FGN Strategy in the Oil & Gas Sector", August, 2008.
- (g) "The Rivers State Petroleum Strategy" September 2008.
- (h) "Peace and Security Through Community Management" September, 2008.
- (i) "Memorandum Submitted to the Federal Government's Technical Committee on the Niger Delta", October, 2008.
- (j) "Position Paper on the Niger Delta by Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, Governor of Rivers State", October, 2008.
- (k) "Feedback on Economic Advisory Council Recommendations".

2.1 INTERIM REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

PREAMBLE

Your Excellency will recall that on the 31st of October, 2007, you graciously inaugurated the Rivers State Economic Advisory Council of which Prof. Nimi D. Briggs was privileged to be Chairman together with other members thereof. Council was charged with the responsibility to advise government on policy and programme options that will enhance the economic development of the state in consonance with the avowed commitment of your administration to the ideals of democracy through consultation and emphasis on people oriented programmes and policies.

The First Plenary Session took place immediately after the inauguration and Council members were pleased that Your Excellency and key members of your administration sat through our deliberation, fully participating, which was to us a clear indication of your commitment and your promise to give serious considerations to all advice emanating from the Council.

Council has commenced serious work and that in addition to the plenary sessions, we have established six broad based committees on **Good Governance, Peace And Security, Commerce, Industry And Agriculture, Energy And Environment, Infrastructure Development, and Health, Education And Social Welfare.**

Council also resolved that for it to be able to effectively make recommendations that can be implemented by Government, we should apply a four prong approach in advising namely;

1. Immediate action points to be implemented by December 31st 2007
2. Short term action points to be implemented within six months i.e. by June 30th, 2008
3. Medium term action points to be implemented within four years i.e. during the period of your first term of office.
4. Long term action points to be implemented by 2020 in line with the Federal Government's long term 2020 Vision. We agreed that the long term recommendations will also be accompanied by a well articulated Strategic Plan for the long term sustainable development of the state. As you will well appreciate the points in the four prong approach are not mutually exclusive in that all recommendations dove-tail into one another enabling us to constantly review and make recommendations throughout the duration of your administration.

Council appreciates where we are today as a state and the enormous challenges that you face to win the confidence of the people and boost the economy of the state which has suffered tremendous setback.

We have therefore resolved to present to you the First Interim Report and Recommendations for IMMEDIATE ACTION. This Report deals with issues such as Good Governance, Public Discipline, Cleanliness, and creating an enabling environment for Economic Development of the state.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF FIRST INTERIM REPORT

I. PUBLIC DISCIPLINE

1. Council notes that His Excellency; the Governor of Rivers state has exhibited exemplary leadership by his visits to the various government establishments as early as 8.00am. This will no doubt encourage punctuality to work and enhance productivity. Council therefore recommends the enforcement of all relevant regulations dealing with lateness, absenteeism and indiscipline in the work place.
2. Council also recommends that steps should be taken to ensure that Government property be used strictly for official duties. This should also apply to Universities and all Government Parastatals.

II TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

3. Council commends the Governor for His initiative in sending an Executive Bill on due Process and Financial Responsibility to the State House of Assembly and hopes that the bill will be promptly passed into law and assented to thereafter.
4. Council recommends the urgent reconstitution of the state Tenders, Board and Departmental Tenders Boards to facilitate due process in the award of contracts in the state.

III TRAFFIC

5. Government should direct Traffic Law Enforcement Agencies to collaborate and ensure full compliance by all road users with Road Traffic Regulations.
6. Government should reconstitute mobile courts, and also appoint and train Road Traffic Superintendents to ensure the effective enforcement of traffic laws.
7. Traffic lights should be reprogrammed in consonance with the volume of traffic at intersections to enable a more efficient flow of traffic.
8. Government should, through its relevant agencies, convene a meeting of stake holders in the public transportation sector such as officials of all Road Transport workers/owners unions, including Okada riders/owners to check indiscipline on our roads and ensure compliance with all existing Road safety laws and regulations.

IV. ROAD REHABILITATION

9. Council notes that His Excellency has inaugurated a Task Force on Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation, and recommends the immediate rehabilitation of very bad spots on our city roads, some of which we have indicated in the attached schedule.

10. Government is also to pay urgent attention to flooding along Aba Road particularly at the vicinity of St John's, and Artillery Junction; Woji Road, G.R.A; and Tombia Road extension, G.R.A.

V. ENVIRONMENT & WASTE DISPOSAL

11. Government should direct that garbage disposal in the city takes place between 5.00pm. and 9.00pm and collection is done between 5.00am and 8.00am, daily, under the strict supervision of garbage site monitors to be engaged and posted to all approved sites by Environmental Sanitation Contractors.
12. Government should halt the on-going felling of trees in the city, particularly along Forces Avenue.
13. Government should direct the relevant Agencies to remove traders and other unauthorized users from all lay-bys and bus stops on highways.

VI. MULTIPLE TAXATION

14. Government should disband all existing task forces on revenue collection and review existing Tax laws with a view to curbing multiple taxation and streamlining taxes payable to the various tiers of government.
15. Government should direct law enforcement agencies to locate, arrest and sanction all unauthorized tax collectors (Touts).

VII. PROCESSING OF CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY AND GRANT OF CONSENT FOR LAND TRANSACTIONS

16. Government should put in place a machinery to enhance the speedy processing of Certificates of Occupancy and consent documents for all land transactions to enhance economic activities in the state.

VIII. REOPENING OF PORT HARCOURT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

17. Government should take urgent steps to ensure the immediate reopening of the Port Harcourt International Airport.

IX. POWER SUPPLY

18. Government should carry out an immediate appraisal of the state of electricity generation and supply by the state owned Gas Turbines with a view to enlightening the public on the current status.

X. BRAITHWAITE MEMORIAL SPECIALIST HOSPITAL (BMSH)

19. Council commends the Governor on his effort at ensuring that the new B.M.S.H. is taken over and becomes functional in the next few weeks. This will make available to residents of the state better medical facilities.

XI. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE

20. Council is informed that an Oil and Gas conference Centre is under construction along Olu Obasanjo Airport Link Road, opposite the Aero contractors offices. If

this is true, Council is of the view that the Centre is not appropriately located. It would generate traffic that will congest the Link Road that was constructed to decongest traffic in the state. Council appreciates the need for an International Conference centre and will recommend that such a Centre should be located along the Igwuruta/Omagwa axis, to enhance activities at the International Airport and the Airport Hotel and develop Satellite Settlements outside the main city.

XII RIVERS STATE INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

21. Government should take inventory of all state owned Investments and Assets, including all acquisitions made on behalf of the state, preparatory to the establishment of a State Investment Promotion Commission or such other body.

2.2 STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING

PREAMBLE

On Thursday, 15 November, 2007, His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, Governor of Rivers State of Nigeria, held his first Stakeholders' Meeting at the Banquet Hall of Government House Port Harcourt. There was a large turnout of people (possibly numbering about a thousand) from all walks of life, including, Chief Rufus Ada George, one time Governor of the State; serving and former Deputy Governors, including Engr. Tele Ikuru, Sir Gabriel Toby, Dr. Anucha, Eze Dr. Frank Eke; traditional rulers, including Sir Chukumela Nnam Obi II, the Chairman of the Rivers State Council of Traditional Rulers; serving and former top Government functionaries including the Speaker of the Rivers State House of Assembly, serving and former Secretaries to State Government, Head of Service, Chiefs, Senior Citizens, Elders, the Clergy, the Press, Market Women and Youths. The meeting which was at the instance of the Governor commenced at about 11.45 a.m and closed at about 2 p.m, understandably, most of the speaking was done by the Governor.

Believing that the deliberations at the meeting would be relevant to the activities of the *State Economic Advisory Council (EAC)*, the Chairman of EAC decided to make some notes which are now being presented here in the sequence in which the Governor spoke. They have been set into compartments as viewed by our Chairman, for ease of reference and information retrieval from his original hand-written scripts which were put together as people spoke.

The Governor's address which covered a wide range of issues was punctuated by applause from the floor on several occasions. In particular, the announcement, at the beginning, that Chief Rufus Ada George was accompanying the Governor, drew a prolonged clap.

ADDRESS BY THE GOVERNOR:

1. SOME ANTECEDENTS

The Governor recounted the tremendous hardship he and members of his family went through when he was pursuing his case on the Rivers State Governorship Election matter in the country's law courts, especially as finances with which to pay for the services of his lawyers ran out. In the United States of America where he stayed for sometime, he and his wife and children lived in a single room where sanitary condition was poor. At the time he left for Ghana, he was virtually in penury; at some point, he shed tears.

The Governor indicated that although the children found the experience very hard to take, he was glad they had such an exposure. For one thing, it situated, in an appropriate context, the background of their father, the son of a poor *Dispensing Pharmacist* and secondly, it brought home to them, the vagaries of human existence. He paid glowing tribute to those who stood by him during those difficult days especially those who assisted him with funds; an unnamed gentleman who gave him two hundred million naira; Onwa Odili who gave him two hundred and fifty thousand US dollars; his former colleagues at the Rivers State House of Assembly who raised forty-six million naira, and many others.

Nevertheless, he assured everybody that he had forgiven all who put him in that perilous situation and called on all Rivers People to do likewise and forgive one another. He said he was convinced that his becoming the Governor of the State was divinely ordained as he had personally seen and received that assurance from God during the period of his travail. He however appealed to his many friends and well-wishers to reduce their calls on him so that he could concentrate on the serious business of governance.

In an oblique reference to his relationship with the immediate past Governor of the State, Dr. Peter Odili, he assured the house that he obtained Dr. Odili's approval before he went to court on the Rivers State Governorship matter and that there was never a time that Dr. Odili called on him to withdraw the case from the law courts as was widely speculated. He confirmed that Dr. Odili was one of those who made him and that they were together until 2007 when they disagreed. He is of the opinion that Dr. Odili had done some good in the State. For instance, it was during his tenure as Governor of the State that the magnificent hall in which the stakeholders meeting was taking place was constructed. That explained his anger when he noticed that some person had taken down photographs of Dr. Odili in a number of the halls and he requested their immediate replacement.

He expressed surprise that some of those who are now casting aspersions at Dr. Odili for non-performance, were those who were always lurking around Government House for contracts and he had drawn a lesson for himself that he would be so vilified by them when he left office.

2. GENERAL COMMENTS

The Governor lamented the **backwardness of the State** and in particular, the **city of Port Harcourt**, the State Capital, which he described as a **big village**.

He said that in his governance of the State, he would strive to do the right thing at all times and that he would always hold himself accountable to the people. He requested people of the State to come together in order to fight corruption at all levels and that they must have the courage to confront those in government to curb their excesses. He assured all present that he would change any policy of his which people indicated was not in their interest. As a Governor, he said, he was bound to make mistakes and people must draw his attention to such errors which would be corrected at once. He indicated that he would embark on only people-oriented projects which he is expecting the EAC to advise him on.

The Governor recognized the traditional rulers and elders of the State and promised that he would visit them eventually in their homes in order to plead the case of reconciliation among all and sundry.

He made a fervent appeal to the youths of the State who were still in the bush and swamps and were causing disruption of normality to come out and be integrated into the society. The Governor observed that they would be unable to fight and win a war against the Federal Government of Nigeria. In the same vein, he called on the multinational companies who had left the State to reverse their policy of operating from outside the State. He announced that even on that morning he had held a meeting with AGIP on the matter at which he had told the company that the fear of the kidnapping of its workers which is given as a reason is no longer tenable as this could happen anywhere.

3. PORT HARCOURT AND ITS ENVIRONS

The Governor indicated that he had formed a **Port Harcourt Master Planning Committee** which has the responsibility of formulating a proper city status of international standard out of the city's present deficiencies of water, electricity and the lot.

An ambitious plan of a **Port Harcourt Ring Road** is to be embarked upon, funding for which is expected to come from the private sector. The State Government, he indicated would only fund the project if its search for willing funding partners proved unsuccessful.

An **International Conference Centre** with big **Shopping Malls** is to be constructed at the present site of the Obi Wali Cultural Centre right up to the mile one junction. The Governor indicated that Silverbird organization was already showing interest to provide the funds for this project.

He stated that a large **Housing Project** was to be initiated and for this First Bank Plc had indicated its preparedness to provide the funds. The State's equity participation would come from the land that it would provide and the properties that would arise from the project would be sold mainly to Rivers State indigenes. It is envisaged that the parcel of land at Rainbow town, would serve as the site for the initial project. The Governor further stated that Houses would also be provided for low income earners which they too could purchase and own.

A **New Town** would be created **opposite the Omagwa International Airport** and it would have all the facilities as in any other modern city. The Governor indicated that he had taken a decision to **relocate the Rivers State University of Science and Technology (RSUST) from its present location** to that new area in order to give the institution a more appropriate environment from which to function.

The Governor made it clear that he did not intend to borrow any money for any of the projects he had mentioned as several banks, such as Zenith, Skye, and others as well as organization like SHELL and AGIP had indicated their willingness to fund the projects in a **Public-Private-Partnership Arrangement (PPPA)**.

In the area of **Transportation**, the Governor stated that:

A **New City Bus Transportation System** would be established. A Bank had already accepted to fund and operate this project.

Buses would only pick up and discharge passengers from designated parks.

The State Government was looking for persons or organizations which would partner with it to **build big parks at the major entry points into Port Harcourt metropolis**, like Choba, Trans-Amadi, Eleme Junction, where passengers coming into the city could alight and then use other means of transportation like intra city bus services to move around the city.

In order to make land transportation easy and to reduce the current bad traffic jams that frequently occur in Port Harcourt, Government would embark on a **Massive Internal Road Construction** after the release of next year's budget. The roads, the Governor indicated, would be accompanied **with appropriate drainages**. The current repair work that was on going on a number of roads in the metropolis was to improve on their usability.

Some major roads would be declared **One Way** and policed strongly to ensure compliance.

He would implement forthwith, the **law on Motor Bikes (popularly known as Okada)** to the effect that only a **single passenger** should be carried and that the bike rider as well as the passenger must put on **protective helmets**.

MAJOR ROADS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE STATE

The Governor touched on two major roads which are being constructed in other parts of the State; The **Opobo-Nkoro Road via Andoni** and the **Trans Kalabari**

road. He indicated that he had held meetings with the contractors handling these projects in order to register his displeasure at the slow pace of work especially as Government was not in default in payment for work done. He appealed to the traditional rulers in the affected areas, especially the Amayanabo of Kalabari, who was present, to plead with their subjects, not to place undue impediment on the way of the contractors. Government intends to construct a road from the Trans-Kalabari road to Kula which would then open up the entire Kalabari kingdom.

5. **FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE**

The Governor indicated that financial discipline in the expenditure of public funds would be taken very seriously by his administration. Accordingly, all contracts would go through **Appropriate Tender Processes**.

In addition, a **Due Process and Public Procurement Commission** is to be established. He indicated that he had identified a suitable candidate, who is currently working for an organization in Lagos, to head the Commission. He was certain he would succeed in persuading the gentleman to come over to the State to head the Commission.

6. **SCHOOLS**

The Governor observed that several persons had illegally constructed private buildings in the premises of many schools and were living there. He indicated that Government would confiscate these illegal accommodations wherever they may be and fence them in as staff quarters for the particular school where they may be located.

He observed that many of the schools lacked adequate staffing and facilities for learning and living. He therefore **intends to merge schools** and then staff and equip them better with infrastructure, including boarding and staff houses as well as materials to enable them function better.

Furthermore, the Governor indicated that his government **would build Model Secondary Schools in each LGA** which would have state-of-the-art facilities in equipment and infrastructure and to which brilliant students would aspire to gain admission on competitive basis unless the EAC would advise to the contrary.

7. **APPOINTMENTS**

The Governor indicated that he had appointed:

- **Atedo Peterside**, the former CEO of IBTC as his **Chief Economic Adviser** and that happily, Mr. Peterside had accepted the appointment.

- **Professor B. B. Fakaye**, the former Rector of Rivers State Polytechnic, Bori, as the new **Acting Vice Chancellor** of RSUST. That appointment, the Governor indicated became necessary following the dissolution of the Governing Council of the University as there was frequent acrimony between it and the former Acting Vice Chancellor. He however thanked the former Governing Council of the University which was led by Professor Godwin Tasia for the good work it did for the institution. The Governor further indicated that he had directed that **one billion naira be released** to the new Acting Vice Chancellor with which to fix RSUST.

8. **WASTE MANAGEMENT**

The Governor lamented the current system of waste management in the State whereby waste was simply transferred from one section of the State to the other and in the process, littered all along the roads in the State. He indicated that his Government would institute a **Waste to Wealth Project** whereby the waste and scrapes (old and abandoned vehicles) that are generated in the State would be converted into useful commodities such as energy. A proper waste collection system would be established for which people would pay and it was his expectation that this would be in position by May 2008.

The governor reminded the Stateholders that his mandate was for four years and that some of the projects he had mentioned, would take that long to materialize.

9. **SECRET CULT**

The Governor identified secret cult activities as one of the major factors that had virtually brought the State to its knees. **He made it clear that he had never, either as a student in the University or at any time thereafter, been a member of any secret cult organization.**

On account of the serious damage that cult activities; kidnapping, killing, gun firing, arson, looting, rubbery, violence and lawlessness have inflicted on the State, it was his intention, to **set up, as a matter of utter urgency, a Judicial Commission of Enquiry** on the matter. The objective was to identify, unearth and expose secret cult groups, their financiers as well as their supporters and then take appropriate actions against such persons through the nation's law courts.

However, in his interactions with people, the Governor stated, it had been suggested that a **Truth and Reconciliation Commission**, after the South African example, may be more appropriate. He indicated that he was expecting the Stakeholders' meeting to advise him on this important matter as it deems fit, especially as the meeting included several elders.

A. **RESPONSE FROM THE FLOOR:**

1. **CHIEF EBENEZER ISOKARIARI**

Congratulated the Governor for the speech and made the following comments/recommendations/observations:

- Drew attention to the importance of reports that are sent home by various embassies in the country regarding the present situation in which many international communities regard the Rivers State as a pariah State which is very unsafe. He then made the case for a **well-articulated plan of action with which to approach the embassies** in order to convince them of the current efforts to change things for the better in the State.
- Advocated the **establishment of a Property/housing Development Authority** to control the sale of the proposed houses.

- Advised that **another look** be taken at the issue of **merger of schools** but encouraged the establishment of Model Schools. He pleaded that children should be provided with transportation to school.
- He **supported** the proposed **relocation of RSUST** and also the **creation of new towns**.
- He pleaded for the **empowerment** of Chiefs, Women, Men and Youths through a well-defined strategic system. A **Youth Council** should be set up at the State and LGA levels.
- The Governor's wife, should she be interested in assisting the less privileged in the State, should direct her attention to helping the old and disabled among us.

2. **DR. ELECHI AMADI**

Thanked Governor for the spirit of reconciliation and descried some of the planned actions as breathtaking. He requested Government to **keep a communication channel open** for people to contact Government.

3. **PROFESSOR SIMEON ACHINEWHU**

Thanked the Governor for the release of one billion naira **to RSUST** and observed that that would make **three billion naira** that had been released to the University since 1999. He supported the merging of schools but that emphasis should be placed on **boarding facilities** for the children and government should also be liberal with **scholarships**.

He pleaded that programmes should be evolved that would utilize the raw materials from the rural areas to **create employment** and he cited a number of examples from Bayelsa State.

4. **HRM DR. FRANK EKE**

Requested the Governor not to be too harsh on the people and pleaded that when knocking down buildings in order to make way for road constructions, alternative accommodation should be provided.

He made a preference for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission rather than a judicial one as a means of healing the wounds of the past.

Finally he requested the Governor to use the people to bring out the boys that are in the bushes and swamps.

5. **DR. DORIS FISHER**

Observed that in the past 10 years or so, merit had not been rewarded in the State and that Rivers people had to go to Abuja in order to seek support on issues that had to do exclusively with the State. She pleaded with the Governor to **bring back the dignity of the Rivers man**. The Governor, she requested, should stop outsiders from unduly influencing events in Rivers State. She finally pleaded with the Governor **not to mortgage the State for any future political ambition**.

Ø **GOVERNOR'S RESPONSE**

At this point, the Governor took the liberty to respond to some of the issues that had been raised.

Pleaded that **Dr. Odili's stories should be left out** of the day's deliberations so that the State could make progress.

Harped once again on the **value of reconciliation** among all Rivers people.

Indicated that he would set up an **Education Summit** to address the many issues in the area of education.

6. **DR. OMBO ISOKARIARI**

Observed that forgiveness does not go along with the setting up of a judicial Commission. He drew a parallel with his own experience when the previous Federal Government conducted a Judicial Enquiry on him. The exercise was very expensive and traumatic to him and in the end, yielded no results. He therefore pleaded that the State should **set up a Truth and Reconciliation Commission as opposed to the Judicial Commission.**

He observed further that the issue of **Unemployment had not been addressed** and that the situation is so bad that graduates of ten years, including medical Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers are unemployed.

He advised that Government should **partner with the private sector** in order to create wealth and employment for Rivers people.

7. **DR. SAM SAM JAJA**

Lamented that Sports had been relegated to the background. He observed that there was no playing field for Dolphin anywhere and advised the Governor to establish a **Sports Commission.**

8. **HRM SIR CHUKUMELANNAM OBI II**

Strongly advocated reconciliation, stating that that was the course of action for all true leaders. He observed that **Agriculture and Commerce were not addressed** and pleaded with Government to establish small scale businesses for the very poor people in the rural areas.

Government, he further pleaded should **take advantage of the abundance of natural gas** in the State and should ensure that a big industry, such as Gas Bottling, arises therefrom to benefit the poor.

Above all else he had said, he thanked the Governor for **bringing everybody together.**

9. **GLORIA FIOFORI**

Also congratulated the Governor for bringing everybody together and thanked him for his spirit of reconciliation. She advised Government to **do**

something for the so-called militants and extend programmes to them that would offer them employment.

10. **HIS EXCELLENCY CHIEF RUFUS ADA GEORGE**

Indicated that he would speak briefly on three issues;

- Security;
- Corporate-Private partnership; and
- Judicial/Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

But before he went further, he rendered an apology on behalf of Onwa Odili who could not make the meeting on account of a prior commitment.

He reiterated and called attention to the categorical and unambiguous statement that was made by the Governor that he, the Governor, had never belonged to any secret cult group. In his (Ada George) opinion that statement was a major boost to security in the State.

Accordingly, the Security agents should be given a free hand to operate and to enforce the law.

He preferred a Truth and Reconciliation Commission to a Judicial Commission. In his words: "Accuse no one; Judge no one and condemn no one".

The houses to be constructed through the partnership arrangements must include those for the poor.

He commended the Governor for his humility and his sense of forgiveness and defined **Stakeholders as those with interest in the welfare of the Rivers people.**

He pleaded with Government house job seekers to give the Governor time to reflect on what to do for the State.

In the same vein, he addressed the traditional rulers to have the courage to tell the Governor when he had gone wrong and not to be always sycophantic as a number of them tended to be.

He ended his well-received contribution by making a plea that we as a people are very few and so **we must learn to forgive one another.**

B. GOVERNOR'S CONCLUDING REMARKS

The Governor indicated that he had been convinced by the side that argued for a **Truth and Reconciliation Commission as opposed to a Judicial Commission and that he would set up one next week.**

He reminded the house of his earlier statement that he **did not intend to borrow** money for the projects he had placed before the house. It was his intention to **execute them through PPPA.**

He discussed the difficulties associated with poverty reduction and employment generation and indicated that that was one of the many tasks he would place before his Chief Economic Adviser once he assumed office.

He indicated that he took the issue of Sports seriously and that he **would appoint a Commissioner for Sports in the next one week.** In addition he would see to reactivation of the various stadia.

He stated his understanding that the companies coming back would depend on the presence of peace in the State and so pleaded with everyone to talk to our boys in the bush to give up their weapons and come out to be rehabilitated. He once again touched on the Trans Kalabari Road and pleaded for its speedy completion.

Finally, while thanking everyone for their contribution, he announced that no First Class Chief should book appointment to see him. They should just walk in and even if he was at a meeting, he would make time to see them.

2.3 JUST AND EQUITABLE REVENUE SHARING FORMULA FOR ENTHRONING PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

(A) INTRODUCTION

The Principle of Derivation as an integral part of the Revenue Sharing Formula has been consciously, systematically and unjustly manipulated by successive regimes of the Federal government from 100% (1951) to 50% (1960) shortly after crude oil production and exportation began in 1958, to 45% (1970), 25% (1977), 0% (1979-81), 1.5% (1982), 3% (1992 to 1999) to the present not less than 13% since 2000. **This is unfair, unjust and has not led and cannot lead to peace, and is one of the basic causes of the Niger Delta Youth violent agitation threatening the peace, progress and stability of the nation.**

In 1951, the area of resource derivation was paid 100% Derivation and Rents/Royalties. This was reduced to 50% in 1960. By 1964, shortly after Nigeria started exporting oil, the other Regions started arguing about factors like population and land mass but Binn, of the Colonial Government's Office, in his report on revenue sharing observed that the overall environmental devastation and health hazard caused by petroleum exploration and exploitation activities demanded that the regions of resource origin should have nothing less than 50%. **Furthermore, Binn's Commission (1964) queried the 20% Federal share suggested by Raisman, another British Colonial Officer, (Raisman Commission of 1958) and proposed a return to the 15% Federal Share as suggested in 1951 in Hicks-Phillipson Committee Report to the British Colonial Government on Revenue Sharing. This formula remained in force till 1970 and was practiced as a workable formula by the Regions and later the 12 States. It can still be made workable today in the Federal Republic of Nigeria if we practise TRUE FEDERALISM.**

We wish to observe that the Niger Delta is the only sustainable oil and gas producing environment in the world that is currently **boiling** due to wide spread discontentment and attendant sustained violence which is so disruptive of socio-economic activities that even the security of the nation is threatened. **The causes are deep rooted in historical, natural environmental, political, lack of goodwill and unjust and inequitable Revenue Allocation Formula and Industry-Induced problems which are discussed below, as a result of which peace and sustainable development in the Rivers State, as well as other parts of Nigeria, have remained illusive and need to be enthroned. This document presents various aspects of these causes and the inequitable Revenue Sharing Formula, and recommends necessary remedial Constitutional amendments that will restore peace not only in Rivers State but also other parts of the Niger Delta.**

(B) HISTORICAL ANTECEDENTS

(i) Lt. Gen. Ogomudia Report

In 2001, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria set up "The Special Security Committee on Oil Producing Areas" under the Chairmanship of Lt. Gen. A.O. Ogomudia (then Chief of Army Staff) with membership that included the Chief of Naval Staff, Chief of Air Staff, Inspector General of Police, Director of SSS, National Security Adviser, Group Managing Director of NNPC, Managing Directors of SPDC, Exxon Mobil, Chevron Texaco, NOAC, TotalFinaElf, etc. This Committee submitted its report to Federal Government in February, 2002. The far reaching **findings** and **conclusions**, quoting from various parts of that Report, included:

- i. "While the Primary assignment of the Committee is to look at the ways and means of instituting effective security of oil operations and installations, it became quite obvious during its deliberations that the root causes of insecurity in Niger Delta are due to the neglect, frustration and the sense of abandonment shared by the people.
- ii. Enduring peace anywhere, particularly in the oil producing areas, cannot be achieved by militarization or the security approach while one cannot deny the obvious criminal elements, which have to be firmly dealt with by the application of the Law, the Committee is convinced that the problems of the oil producing areas can be best solved through two broad approaches, which must be implemented simultaneously. The first approach is the development of infrastructure such as roads, housing, electricity, water, employment generation and economic empowerment of the people of the area. This approach once initiated and recognized by all the stakeholders, would make it easy for the implementation of the second one, which is effective enforcement of law and order.
- iii. Under immediate or Short-Term Measures: Upward review of the minimum 13% derivation to not less than 50%, and under long Term Measures: Repeal of Land Use Act Petroleum Act, Gas Re-injection Act, and other Laws which dispossess oil producing areas of their Land and Rights to revenue.
- iv. The members of the Special Security Committee on Oil Producing Areas wish to thank the President and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces for the opportunity to serve on such a sensitive Committee given the crucial role of oil to the national economy, and the complexity of the problem in the oil producing areas, especially the Niger Delta region. (This

Report clearly made the distinction between the Oil Producing Areas (NDDC area) and the actual natural Niger Delta Region of Akwa Ibom, Rivers, Bayelsa, Delta and Ondo State).

- v. The oil producing areas particularly the Niger Delta region, are the main source of Nigeria's wealth, but they are much undeveloped compared to similar regions of the emerging democracy.
- vi. The Niger Delta was recognized as a region for special development initiative and attention in the Independence Constitution of 1960. The Pre-Independence Constitution also recognized this requirement for the region; as much as 50% revenue derived from oil resources was paid to the Oil producing Regions.
- vii. Before the civil war, the regions received more revenue as a result of the derivation principle thereby facilitating some development in infrastructure, education and social services. However, these funds were at that time being preferentially applied to larger administrative units and urban centres at the expense of rural areas and the riverine parts of the Niger Delta which, by the nature of their terrain, require capital intensive projects.
- viii. In reality, State are being paid only 7.8% under the revenue allocation principle of derivation as opposed to 13% stipulated as the minimum in the Constitution.
- ix. Arguments on onshore-offshore dichotomy are not tenable; if the territories on which the oil States are located were not part of Nigeria, then the country could not have had access to the offshore, sea or coastal areas.
- x. There is a scandalous neglect of Oil Producing Communities by successive governments in Nigeria. There is generalized abject poverty endemic in the Niger Delta region.
- xi. The economic activities of oil producing communities have been destroyed by oil prospecting operations without provision of alternatives. There is very high unemployment, and low level of economic development in the Niger Delta.
- xii. There is general lack of infrastructural development in the Niger delta.
- xiii. By setting up of the Special security Committee, the Federal Government appears more concerned with the security of oil pipelines and installations than human lives.
- xiv. The Federal Government should abrogate the Oil Pipelines Act of 1959, Oil terminal Dues Act of 1965, Petroleum Act of 1969, Land use act of 1978 and Associated Gas Re-injection Act, 1979.

- xv. The Oil companies pay penalty for gas flaring and none of this revenue is paid to the communities that suffered the impact of gas flaring.
- xvi. Oil companies including refineries and oil marketing companies should be encouraged by Government to supply electricity and water to contiguous communities (within a radius of 5km) from their major facilities. In spite of over 40 years of oil exploration and exploitation and with so much wealth taken out of the area the following basic amenities and infrastructure are largely and conspicuously absent:
- Health care facilities;
 - Potable water;
 - Electricity;
 - Roads;
 - Schools and Communication.
- Inaccessibility of the oil producing areas (by road, train or water) has added to the economic and social problems of the areas.
- xvii. The "Abacha Two Million-Man March of 1998" which exposed the wealth transfer from oil producing areas to non-oil producing areas of the country.
- xviii. Lack of credible demonstration of political will by government (Federal and States) to solve the problems of the area.
- xix. Careless and inflammatory pronouncements by not so knowledgeable public officials or other highly placed members of the society which tend to incite and encourage lawlessness.
- xx. In view of the magnitude of the problems observed during the field tour, and the pivotal importance of the areas to the national economy, it is our informed impression that the 13% resort derivation is inadequate. Consequently, the current revenue allocation formula should be reviewed and the derivation principle increased to at least 50%.
- xxi. The dichotomy between the onshore/offshore oil exploration activities should quickly be resolved once and for all for sustained peace in oil producing States.
- xxii. The Federal Government should ensure that funds meant for the NDDC are released on time and that there is transparency and sincerity in all transactions by the NDDC and other organs involved in the development of the oil producing areas".

(C) **BRITISH COLONIAL GOVERNMENT AND PRE-INDEPENDENCE REPORTS**
Before Independence in 1960, the British Colonial Government appreciating the need for peace and sustainable development of the Niger Delta, as an integral

component of Nigeria, set up the Willink's Commission of Inquiry for the protection of minority rights and interest in Nigeria. This protection through the compliance with the report for just and equitable governance is yet to be achieved. The Willink's Commission Report observed as follows in 1957 even before the discovery of oil in commercial quantity in the Niger Delta Region, that:

"We were impressed by the arguments indicating that the needs of those who lived in the creeks and swamp of the Niger Delta are very different from those of the interior. We agree that it is not easy for a Government or a Legislature operating from far inland to concern itself, or even fully understand the problems of a territory where communications are so difficult, building so expenses and education so scanty. That, however, is not to say that a separate State is the best means of achieving the ends desired by the people of the creeks".

Before granting Independence to Nigeria, the British Government therefore proposed that **the Niger Delta be declared 'A Special Territory' for Focused Sustainable Development.** However, due to the strong opposition of Nigeria's leaders, the Niger Delta was not made a Federal Territory but a special development area for which the Niger Delta Development Board was created. This board failed to achieve any desired results due to structural defects and lack of political goodwill, fairness and justice in revenue allocation and lack of independence and executive power. After Nigeria created ten(10) more River Basin Development Authorities as a veritable means of sustainable development, the original and first River Basin Development Authority, the Niger Delta Basin Development Authority (NDBDA), was relegated to the 10th out of 11 positions in Revenue Allocation!!!

By 1958, the area defined as the natural swampy Niger Delta now consists of, from West to East, the States of Ondo, Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers and Akwa-Ibom. At that time the Niger Delta basic development problems arose from natural adverse environmental characteristics only as described in the Willink's Commission Report which demanded unusual injection of funds to achieve normal socio-economic and infrastructural development. Since then, these have been further compounded by man-made industrial hazards, particularly from the Petroleum and Gas industry.

a. Other Unjust Actions of the Federal Government

i. **Payment of Rents and Royalty in Revenue Sharing.**

Nigeria is the only oil/gas producing nation in the world which does not pay Rents and Royalties to the producing communities. Instead, Nigeria pays rents and Royalties into the Federation Account which is shared using unjust and inequitable formula to all the tiers of government in all States of the Federation and Abuja.

ii. **Unjust and Inequitable treatment of OMPADEC**

The Oil Mineral Producing Areas Development Commission (OMPADEC), was set up by the Federal Government to pursue goals of economic, social intervention and infrastructural developments of the Oil Producing areas. Despite all the Federal Government's lofty ideals, OMPADEC became, another proof of Federal Government lack of political goodwill, lack of fair play, lack of justice and lack of equitable revenue allocation.

OIL REVENUE AND ITS DISTRIBUTION FOR 7 YEARS
(IN N' Million Revises on 13/01/99)

YEAR	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	TOTAL
Oil Revenue	164,078	162,102	160,192	324,548	369,190	416,811	544,000	2,140,921
3% For OMPADEC	4,922	4,863	4,806	9,736	11,076	12,504	16,320	64,227
Less Actual (OMPADEC)	3,350	2,619	2,522	3,153	3,042	3,522	4,995	23,203
Balance of 3%	1,572	2,244	2,284	6,583	8,034	8,982	11,325	41,024
Balance of 13%	-	-	-	8,114	36,919	41,681	54,400	141,114
Total Balance	1,572	2,244	2,284	14,697	44,953	50,668	65,725	182,138
Interest (21%)	330	471	480	3,086	9,440	10,639	-	-
Number of Years	6	5	4	3	2	1	-	-
Total Interest	1,981	2,356	1,919	9,259	18,880	10,639	-	45,034
Total	3,553	4,600	4,203	23,956	63,833	61,307	65,725	227,172

***For 3 Months**

Compiled by: OMPADEC Stakeholders Forum (OMPSTAFOR)

Sources: CBN Annual Reports and OMPADEC Bulletins, 1999.

Since 1992 and for each succeeding year till 1998, OMPADEC was never paid the full 3% of the Federation Account as provided for by the Law of the land. The illegally withheld payments for each year, from 1992 to 1998, amounted to over N41 billion, part of which is said to be deposited in the Stabilization Account. For instance, in 1997, while the Ecological Fund which is 2% of the Federation Account received N4.188 billion,

OMPADEC fund which is 3% of the Federation Account was credited with only N3.522 billion!! When two(2) becomes greater than three(3) in the same system, the system must be unfair, unjust and inequitable, arising from neglect and lack of goodwill as shown in the table below and which confirms that **till OMPADEC ceased to exist, the Federal Government did not implement the payment of 13% of the Federation Account to OMPADEC as it decided in 1995, thereby owing OMPADEC over N227 billion needed to develop the Niger Delta.** Even the 3% publicly touted was never paid in full each year.

iii. Unjust and Inequitable operation of Petroleum (Special) Trust Fund (PTF)

This lack of political goodwill, fair play and justice is further confirmed by the activities of the Petroleum (Special) Trust Fund) (PTF). PTF "claimed" to have completed in the 9 States of oil mineral producing communities projects worth only N2.679 billion out of the over N100 billion spent in the Federation. The claimed completed projects were said to be:

- a. N835 million for Waterways in Ondo State.
- b. N1.507.6 million in eight(8) of the nine(9) States (excluding Rivers State) for health.
- c. N50.4 million for food supply in four(4) State (Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta and Edo State out of nine(9) oil mineral and gas producing States.ii.

iv Misguided High Level Advice

Past myopic philosophy and lack of political goodwill, fairness, justice, equity and sensitivity in governance are exemplified by a former Federal Permanent Secretary, later Director of Chevron Oil Company and eventually Secretary for Petroleum Resource in general Babangida's Transition Government, who in a public lecture in 1980 said.

"... there is a long way to go to meet the claims of the oil producing areas which see themselves as losing non-replaceable resources while replaceable and permanent resources of agriculture and industry are being developed elsewhere largely with oil revenue. Given, however, the small size and population of the oil producing areas, it is cynical to observe that even if the resentments of the oil producing areas continue, they cannot threaten the stability of the country nor affect its economic development"

Current events and their impacts have proved him wrong. Such insensitivity and wrong leadership vision created the problems of the Niger Delta that must now be

redressed not only to be fair and just to the Niger Delta dwellers but to prevent further threat to the stability of our country and our economic activities. **Unfortunately, he, like most Nigerians who are not from the Swampy Niger Delta, RESENT, with great sense of injustice and unfair play, any effort to redress the natural Niger delta developmental problems.** Also, they are unwilling to recognize and/or understand the linkage and interplay between the swampy Niger Delta, oil mineral and gas exploitation and ecological degradation which necessitate large injection of fund for rehabilitation and redress management for sustainable development of the endangered Niger Delta to enthrone peace.

iii. **Unjust and Inequitable Operations of PTDF**

The operations of the PTDF have made no impact on the development of the Niger Delta to guarantee peace and security. PTDF should be operated by a Board controlled by the Oil/Gas producing States with board membership number which should be proportional to the resources derived from the States.

iv. **Discrepancy between Government Pronouncements and Achievements**

The answers to these issues for peace and sustainable development in Nigeria, in general, and the Niger Delta, in particular, was aptly enunciated by Ex-President Olusegun Obasanjo, who, in his various addresses, prescribed in 1999, the philosophy for his governance objectives at the inception of his administration, as follows:

The return to true federalism, where the various strata: Federal, State and Local Governments relate to each other according to the spirit of the constitution.

- i. A society governed by laws and the observance of universally accepted standard of moral and ethnical behavior by public servants and the citizenry.
- ii. A country where things work-no fuel scarcity, there should be regular power supply, reliable communications, efficient public transportation and functional infrastructural capacity which is continually upgraded to anticipate the growing requirements of a virile economy.
- iii. A buoyant economy, full employment and full security for all and a proper balance of public and private sector activities.
- iv. The integrated development of rural areas such that everywhere in Nigeria will have basic amenities light, water, schools, good roads and good health facilities, etc.
- v. A safe and secure environment for persons and property.

- vi. Efficient and service-oriented social services.
 - vii. The sustainable development of human resources through sound education.
 - viii. The development of the Niger Delta, other oil producing areas and segments of the country affected by ecological and/or environmental degradation.
- These are undoubtedly the required fundamentals for excellent, just, fair and equitable governance for national reconstruction to make Nigeria rise again. They are the indices for enthroning peace and sustainable development you be the judge as to whether and how any of these has been achieved.

(B) CHALLENGES IN THE REGION

a. Natural Environmental Problems

The Niger Delta is mostly a flat swampy basin criss-crossed by a myriad of rivers and creeks. Its topography, geology and soil properties, hydrodynamics and heavy rainfalls (5 to 10 times more than in other parts of Nigeria) that last for about nine(9) months every year subject the area to severe annual flooding and erosion. The land area available for human use without costly reclamation and flood and erosion control is only about 30% of the entire region, and so the inhabitants are confined to heavily and densely populated small and scattered settlements.

The Niger Delta wetlands described in the Willink's Commission of Inquiry Report constitute one of the most fragile ecosystems of the world. Because of their rich natural resources, including over 95% of Nigeria's Petroleum and gas, and the major parts of the nation, the Niger Delta is also exposed to the most intensely hazardous concentration of industrial activities. This combination of unusual fragility and physical environment characteristics that are hostile to easy sustainable development together with the numerous impacts hazardous industrialization render the Niger Delta States and their indigenous people an endangered environmental issue. These situations demand unusual interventions because up till date Nigeria has shown lack of political goodwill to commit the resources required for the protection and sustainable development of the Niger Delta to enthrone peace.

3.1.1 The Threat of Annihilation of the Niger Delta

To compound all this, there is global warming due to greenhouse effect arising from global industrial pollution, destruction of tropical rain forest ecosystems such as the Niger Delta mangrove forests, Gas Flaring which is very rampant in the Niger Delta much more than in other parts of the World, some of which has zero flaring, and other human

activities. This is expected to cause "Accelerated Sea Level Rise" of 30cm in the next three decades and about 110cm within the next century. Meanwhile, the Niger Delta is subsiding rapidly as a result of oil and gas extraction amongst other factors. Preliminary available data on the rate of subsidence at Bonny in the Niger Delta is about 7cm to 9cm in the past 10 years.

It is well known fact that young sedimentary basins of the Niger Delta type and where oil and gas are extracted, experience rapid subsidence. The classical example is Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela, where oil platforms have subsided by 500cm in 50 years, ie 10cm/yr.

If we superimpose the predicted accelerated sea level rise on the gradually subsiding Niger Delta, the net effect is that within the next two decades, about a 40km wide strip of the Niger Delta and their people would be submerged and rendered extinct. Thus the very existence of the indigenous people of the Niger Delta is seriously threatened by environmental degradation and perennial flood and erosion, land subsidence and accelerated sea level rise. Meanwhile as a perpetually neglected minority, the natural Niger Delta indigenes have been unable to secure the attention of all the successive governments necessary to protect Niger Delta environment and undertake sustainable development, just as the Willink's Commission of inquiry reported in 1957.

b. Industry-Induced Problem

The above natural calamities are compounded by industry-induced environmental and ecological degradation and resultant hazards. In this regard, it is pertinent to recall the following remarks which Gen. Kontagora, who, in 1989, as Nigeria's Federal Minister of Works and Housing and who was also responsible for Environmental matters, said

"The oil industry has undoubtedly brought economic benefits to many of our people but it has left in its trail, a complex mix of environmental, political and socio-economic problems".

The Nigerian National Report to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) 1992, summarized the detailed of these environmental and socio-economic problems as follows: "Coastal Marine Pollution: The coastal and marine environment have been impaired by continuous input of domestic sewage, industrial effluents, petroleum hydrocarbons, dredged material and garbage. These have reduced the value of the aquatic resources for recreation (swimming, bathing, etc), fisheries (artisanal and industrial) and transportation. The decline in quality of near shore waters is expressed by oily sheen

discoloration due to heavy suspended matter. These effects are aggravated by rapid urbanization and exploration in the Niger Delta area. The coastal belt is especially vulnerable to frequent oil spills which have adverse effects on fish stock, wildlife, and the fragile mangrove ecosystems. Other potential problems arising from our low lying geosynclines are saltwater intrusion and land subsidence both of which are accelerated by development in the oil and gas industry”.

c. Abnormal Cost of Infrastructure Development

Arising from the natural environmental problems of Rivers State, the geologic Niger Delta, infrastructural development in the Rivers State of the geologic Niger Delta cost up to 10 times more than in the rest of the country. For instance the Trans Kalabari Road of only 18km with numerous bridges costs over n26 Billion (i.e N1.45 Billion per km) while the Ogoni-Opobo Andoni Unity Road of only 38km costs N18.5 Billion, (i.e No.49 Billion per km. This is because about 1/3 of this road is on strong mainland part of Ogoni). Elsewher in the nation, N1.45 Billion Naira can construct over 20km long road and not 1km as in the swampy Niger delta.

d. Niger Delta Conflict Background

The remote and immediate causes of the on going conflict in the Niger Delta are multifarious;

- (i) In recent times, the Niger Delta has become the focus of national and international attention due to continual youth-led violent agitations against constituted authorities and the oil mineral and gas company operatives. The resultant loss of lives and property, rampant extortionist campaign through the taking of hostages and seizure of oil company production facilities have considerably reduced crude oil production and other oil company activities in the Niger Delta. The resultant loss is estimated at US \$ 1.8 billion annually. All these amount to unacceptable threats to our national security and national economy with further denting of the nation's international image. It is necessary to quickly and immediately respond to this destabilizing emergency as well as plan for the medium and long term sustainable development of the Niger Delta.
- (ii) The visible causes of these violent agitations include widespread abject poverty, massive unemployment of even educated youths and bewildering absence of socio-economic infrastructure and amenities to meet the basic

needs of men. These are aggravated and made more unbearable by visible and taunting affluent life style of the oil companies and their staff utilizing the enormous resources and wealth extracted from the Niger Delta land and creeks which are left so degraded that they can no longer sustain even subsistence farming and fishing. It is glaringly obvious to the communities that, by injection of adequate funds, their neighboring erstwhile undeveloped swampy terrain have been made admirable living quarters by the oil companies using oil mineral resources on their land. The Abacha 2 million youth march to Abuja 1998 is said to be the last straw that broke the camel's back. The youth from the Niger Delta who participated in the march saw that "their oil money" has been used to transform Abuja from an undeveloped land to a modern metropolis while they and their territory without socio-economic infrastructure, wallow in abject poverty with no hope for further development. The Bonny/LNG residential estate is an erstwhile typical uninhabitable Niger Delta swamp which money derived from Niger Delta Gas has transformed into a enviable habitable haven like in the developed world. Out of Brass swamp, AGIP developed Brass residential terminal that has every index of the developed world. The swamps by the side of these estates remain an eye sore that evoke discontentment and hostility in the impoverished youths and breed the spirit of violence.

- (iii) Oloibiri, the mother of Nigeria's crude oil production which is no longer producing crude oil is now barren, with destroyed ecosystem so impoverished and without any life supporting infrastructure that nobody can associate it with Nigeria's first crude oil export in 1958. It is now over twenty five (25) years since the Federal Government widely publicized but has failed to build an oil museum at Oloibiri.

(e) CURRENT REVENUE SHARING FORMULA AND ITS DEFECTS

The current Revenue Sharing Formula of the Federation Account provides as follows: 13% of gross for derivation but through Federal Government unjust and inequitable manipulations, only about 7.8% is actually paid. From the balance allocations are:

Federal Government	-	52.68%
State Governments	-	26.72%
Local Government Councils	-	20.60%

There is no justice or equity in paying the revenue from Value Added Tax (VAT) into the Federation Account, and then sharing it in the ration of:

Federal Government	-	15%
State Governments	-	50%
Local Government Councils	-	35%

Instead, 100% of VAT should be retained by each State, the source of generation of the VAT.

(f) NIGER DELTA PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

The strategic keys for enthroning peace and sustainable development in the Niger Delta as part of the Federal Republic of Nigeria include:

5.1 Recognition of the eternal TRUTH of the 1957 Willink's Minority Rights Protection Commission Report for the Niger Delta and adopting it as an invaluable governance guiding philosophy in Nigeria. The conditions described in that report still persist and developmental projects in the natural Niger Delta still cost up to 10 times more than the national average cost.

5.2 Compliance with the recommendation of Willink's Commission Report that makes the real natural Niger Delta (NOT the artificial NDDC, Niger Delta of hybrid oil producing States) a Special Development Area with the zeal, focus and commitment of funds that were used to develop Lagos and Abuja. 75% of the over N440 Billion Naira proposed in 2008 Federal Budget for Security in the Niger Delta should be committed to and judiciously used for the sustainable development of the natural Niger Delta as a special development area. The real natural Niger Delta which has different developmental problems and needs as described in the Willink's Commission Report is coincidentally the zone of greatest militancy that is destabilizing the Nigerian oil and gas industry. That zone stretches from the State of Ondo to Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers and Akwa-Ibom States. If this Nation can accommodate the loss of \$1.8 Billion annually due to Niger Delta militancy disruption of oil production, why can Nigeria not commit US \$1.8 billion (about N255 billion) annually for sustainable development to enthrone peace in the Niger Delta through increasing the Derivation Principle to Not Less than 50% as it was at Independence in 1960.

In contrast, the 2008 budget provision for the "NDDC Niger Delta" is only about N90 billion, while over N245 billion due NDDC in 2007 was withheld and not paid to NDDC till date, under the unjust, unfair and inequitable guise the the said sum has expired.

5.9 A return to the pre-1960 payment of 50% Derivation Principle.

These do and the nation shall achieve the enthronement of peace and sustainable development in the Niger Delta for peace in Nigeria and stability of oil price in the international market.

(e) THE CASE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT OF REVENUE SHARING FORMULA

From the historical antecedents stated above, successive Federal Governments have woefully failed to discharge the burdens of executing previous reports' recommendations for just, equitable, transparent and good governance for peace and sustainable development of Rivers State and other parts of the natural Niger Delta.

The 2002 Lt. Gen. Ogomudia Report, excerpts of which have been reproduced above, emphasized that the "... root causes of insecurity in the Niger Delta are due to the neglect, frustration and sense of abandonment shared by the people... that the problems of the Niger Delta can best be solved through... The development of infrastructure; such as road, housing, health care facilities, schools, electricity, water, employment generation and economic empowerment of the people of the area... and effective enforcement of law and order". Successive Federal Governments have shown gross inability to accomplish these fundamental and basic tasks. This calls for constitutional amendment of the Revenue Sharing Formula to reduce the Federal Government's share to 20% as in the 1950 era in order to release more money to the States who are better able to provide those basic infrastructural needs of the people to ensure peace and security in the Niger Delta and all parts of the nation.

Furthermore, the Lt. Gen. Ogomudia Report recommended an immediate review of the current Revenue Allocation Formula and the Derivation principle increased to not less than 50% as recognized by the pre-independence Constitution era; while pointing out the fraudulent Federal Government practice of paying the States only 7.8% instead of the 13% derivation stipulated as minimum in the Constitution. That report also recommended that "The Federal Government should abrogate the Oil Pipelines Act of 1959, Oil Terminal Dues Act of 1965 Petroleum Act of 1969, Land Use Act of 1978, and Associated Gas re-injection Act of 1979" and also pay gas flaring penalty to the affected communities and thereby release the money needed to meet the peculiar developmental needs of the Niger Delta.

Since 1957, the ineptitude and unwillingness of the Federal Government to develop the Niger Delta has confirmed the Willink's Commission report that "... The needs of those who live in the creeks and swamp of the Niger Delta are very different from those of the interior... It is not easy for a Government or a Legislature operating from far inland to concern itself, or even fully understand the problems of a territory (The Niger Delta) where communications are so difficult, building so expensive and education so scanty". We have shown that the construction cost of 1km of road in the swampy Niger Delta can build over 20km of road elsewhere in the nation.

The present crises of insecurity in the Niger Delta, was traced by the Lt. Gen. Ogomudia Report to "... scandalous neglect by successive governments of Nigeria leading to generalized abject poverty endemic in the Niger Delta region", and yet "...the Federal Government appears more concerned with the security of oil pipeline and installations than human lives". Thus, the 2008 Federal Government budget proposed over N440 billion Naira for security in the Niger Delta and only about N90 billion Naira for the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC). It should be recalled that although Ex-President Olusegun Obasanjo proposed the NDDC Bill, after the National Assembly amended his Bill to make it more responsive to addressing the Niger Delta developmental problems, Ex-President Obasanjo refused to sign the NDDC Act as Legislated by the National Assembly. Ex-President Obasanjo's veto of the NDDC Act had to be overridden by the National Assembly to establish the NDDC.

Meanwhile, over N245 billion Naira due NDDC in 2007 remain unpaid under the unjust and inequitable guise of "expired fund" of the Federal Government. What other evidence do we require to convince the National Assembly and the nation that Nigeria needs and must make a constitutional amendment of the Revenue Sharing Formula in favour of returning the derivation principle to not less than 50%, and Federal Government share to 20% so that the States can use 60% and the Local Government Councils 20% to develop their territories which the Federal Government has not been able to do to ensure peace and security in the Niger Delta and stability of Nigeria.

Constitutional amendment of the Revenue Sharing Formula is required to abrogate the injustice and lack of equity of paying the proceeds of the Value Added Tax (VAT) into the Federal Account instead of giving each State and Abuja 100% of the VAT it generates.

(h) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE REVIEW OF THE REVENUE SHARING FORMULA

We, therefore, recommend as follows:

1. As was stated before, recognition of the eternal TRUTH of the 1957 Willink's Minority Rights Protection Commission Report for the Niger Delta and adopting it as an invaluable good governance guiding philosophy for equity and justice to ensure the sustainable development of the Niger Delta, peace and stability in Nigeria. The conditions described in that report still persist and developmental projects in the natural Niger Delta still cost up to 10 times more than the national average.
2. Payment on the Principle of Derivation of the revenue accruing to the Federation Account directly or indirectly from the exploitation, production and processing of any natural resources, including but not limited to Solid Minerals, Oil and Gas, etc. should not be less than 50% as practiced in 1960 and as recommended in 2002 in the LT. GEN. OGOMUDIA REPORT, for reasons canvassed above. The real natural Niger Delta which has different developmental problems and needs as described in the Willink's Commission Report is coincidentally the zone of greatest militancy that is destabilizing the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry. That zone stretches from the State of Ondo to Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers and Akwa-Ibom States. If this Nation can accommodate the loss of \$1.8 billion annually due to Niger Delta militancy disruption of oil production, is it not more cost effective to commit US \$1.8 billion (about N255 billion) annually for sustainable development to enthrone peace in the Niger Delta and through increasing the Derivation Principle to Not Less than 50% as it was at Independence in 1960.
3. Government should ensure that revenue derived from mining Solid Minerals, including but not limited to Diamond, Gold, Silver, Tin, Marbles, Coal, Zinc, Columbite, Bauxite, Quarrying, Crushed Rocks, and exploitation of all natural resources shall be paid into the Federation Account. All Revenues generated from the sale and export of gas, particularly since the NLG and similar natural gas projects came into operation, must be paid into the Federation Account.
4. The factors to be adopted as special factors for influencing the Revenue Sharing Formula shall include:
 - i. Peculiar Geographical Terrain;
 - ii. Population density; and
 - iii. The 200 nautical miles wide Exclusive Economic Zone area which is the offshore zone contiguous and adjoining each Coastal State shall be included in computing the Principle of Derivation and Land mass or Terrain of that State.

Arguments on onshore-offshore dichotomy are not tenable; if the territories on which the oil State are located were not part of Nigeria, then the country could not have had access to the offshore, sea or coastal areas and the 200 nautical miles Exclusive Economic Zone granted by the United Nations Convention signed by Nigeria.

5. The Revenue Sharing Formula should be in the ratio of Federal Government... 20% (as it was up till 1970). State Governments... 60% Local Government Councils... 20%.
6. 100% of the Value Added Tax (VAT) shall be paid in its full value to the State of production and NOT into the Federation Account. That is, each State and Abuja should retain all the VAT that it collects without having to pay it into the Federation Account. But only pay taxes to the Federal Government on the VAT collected.
7. All Rents and Royalties accruing from the exploration, exploitation, production and processing of any natural resources shall be paid to the State where the natural resources occur, as it was done up to 1970.
8. The penalty payable for Gas Flaring shall be paid to the State of the gas flare site.
9. The existence and application of certain Federal Laws which have directly or indirectly contributed to the long neglect and the deprivation of the Niger Delta by successive Federal Governments should be abrogated or revised to reflect True Federalism where the various strata: Federal, State and Local Governments, relate to each other according the spirit of the nation's Constitution. These unjust and inequitable Laws include:
 - i. Petroleum Decree 1969 (now Act of 1990) as Amended, CAP 350;
 - ii. Oil Terminal Dues Act of 1965;
 - iii. Oil Pipelines Act of 1959;
 - iv. Land Use Act of 1978;
 - v. Exclusive Economic Zone Act of 1978;
 - vi. Associated Gas Re-injection Act of 1979;
 - vii. Oil Pipelines and Lands (Title Vesting etc) Act of 1993; and
 - viii. National Inland Waterways Authority Decree No.13 of 1997.

The theme of "Enthroning" implies that, that which is to be enthroned Peace and Sustainable Development in the country-currently do not exist. There can be NO PEACE without JUSTICE AND EQUITY; NO JUSTICE and EQUITY without TRUTH, GOODWILL and FAIR PLAY, which should have been the guiding philosophy of successive Federal Governments in dealing with the Niger Delta as a composite part of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to enthrone peace and sustainable development of Nigeria.

Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!!!

- ❖ Submitted to the National Workshop on the Review of Revenue Sharing Formula towards Constitutional Amendments by the Senate Committee on State and Local Government Administration)

2.4 UNEMPLOYMENT IN RIVERS STATE

1. INTRODUCTION

Youth employment has emerged as a major development challenge globally. Young people worldwide accounts for 18% of the economically active population but constitute more than 40% of those unemployed. The fact that the youth enter the workforce 'at the end of the queue', and naturally have relatively lower skill levels and experience than older groups, tends to place them at a structural disadvantage in the labour market. On the other hand, social and emotional integration of youths is essential for sustaining the very fabric of society. Therefore, it is imperative to design and implement strategies for youth employment.

Employment links economic growth to poverty reduction; it provides a direct channel for distributing the benefits of economic growth broadly throughout the population. Evidence from around the world suggests that the greater the employment focus, the more effective economic growth becomes in fighting poverty. Most developing countries that have dramatically reduced their poverty levels have done so by improving employment opportunities.

Since development progress depends on productive output from the population, the inability to provide gainful employment for the large youth segment could translate into significant losses in national productivity and human capital.

Long-term unemployment of youth has long-term social costs. Losses of capabilities, morale and self-esteem; long periods of unemployment or under-employment could lead to vicious cycles of human deprivation. This also seriously delays the healthy integration of youth in society, with the likelihood of increasing risk behaviours among frustrated, alienated youth that could negatively affect social harmony.

LABOUR MARKET INDICES

1.1. DEMOGRAPHICS

Based on the 2.8% population growth rate, the population of Rivers State as at 2004 as projected from the 1991 census is 4,654,624 of which 54% are in the age range 15 - 59 i.e. the labour force.

FIG 1 Population Distribution of Rivers State, 2004

Age Group	Population		
	Male	Female	Total
0-14	1,025,502	928,143	1,953,645
15-29	674,939	613,321	1,288,260
30-59	630,678	581,291	1,211,969
60+	91,130	109,620	200,750
Total	2,422,249	2,232,375	4,654,624

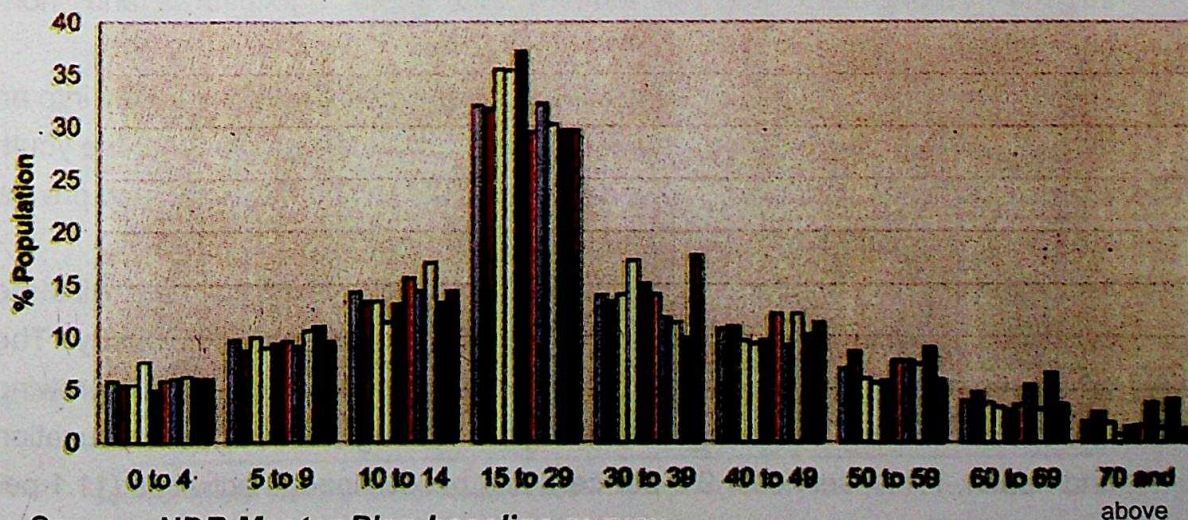
Source: National Population Commission

Rivers State possesses a youthful population. It is estimated that 42% of the State's population is below the age of 15 years, with a high child-dependency ratio of 75%. About 1,288,260 or 28% are within the ages of 15-29 years; those between 30-59 years of age constitute about 26% of the population.

Throughout the Niger Delta Region, a dominant feature of the structure of the population is its significant level of young people with over 62% of the population below the age of 30 years. Figure 1 shows the percentage distribution of household members according to age composition, the age group between 15 - 29 years constitutes about 33% of the population of the region.

Fig 2 Distribution of Population by Age

■ Regional Average ■ ABIA □ AKWAIBOM □ BAYELSA ■ CROSS RIVER ■ DELTA ■ EDO □ IMO ■ ONDO ■ RIVERS



Source: NDR Master Plan baseline survey

1.2. HUMAN RESOURCES

The most important factor in social and economic development is the human resources otherwise called Human Capital. The formation and availability of human capital is a function of the population, education, training and sound human and religious values. Estimates of the population, according to the 1991 population census, put the population of Rivers State at 4.7 million. The size of the labour force (15-59) which constitutes of the actual manpower stock numbers 2,500,229 persons representing 54% of the entire population.

The government is the single largest employer of labour and engages about 31,173 persons in its employment, which represents a negligible 1.3% of the available manpower stock.¹

The youth group (18-34) constitutes the greater part of the manpower stock with a population of 1,285,393 or 51.4% of the labour force. This group is educated and skilled, but largely unemployed.

¹RIVSEEDS, August 2004

The immediate feeder group of the existing stock of manpower (12-17) comprises 15.2% of the population, whereas the age group exiting the manpower stock into retirement (54-59) constitutes 8.3% of the population. This implies that the manpower stock of the State will be significantly enlarged in the next 5 years, as there would be more new entrants to those exiting.

However, according to the most recent Nigeria Living Standards Survey (NLSS 2006), approximately 6.7 per cent of the population 15-64 years old was openly unemployed and 82.1 per cent was employed. 80% of all employed persons are engaged in the private sector with the greater proportion working in the informal sector. Formal employment accounted for a relatively small fraction of total employment only 13.7 per cent. Total informal employment includes private informal employment and self-employment (both agricultural and non-agricultural).

Thus far, the growth of the economy has not translated commensurately into an expansion of employment opportunities. The employment scenario for the youth appears grimmer, given the limited absorption capacity in the public and private sectors, traditionally the largest formal sector employers.

Agriculture, fishing and forestry account for about 44% of employment. All three economic activities have declined since the ascendancy of the oil industry. The urban sector, with its concentration of informal sector activities, plays a growing role in the economy of the Niger Delta region. Trading, 17.4 per cent, education and health, 7.1%; services, 9.8 per cent and miscellaneous activities (11.1 per

cent) are the most important areas of employment, after agriculture, fishing and forestry overall.

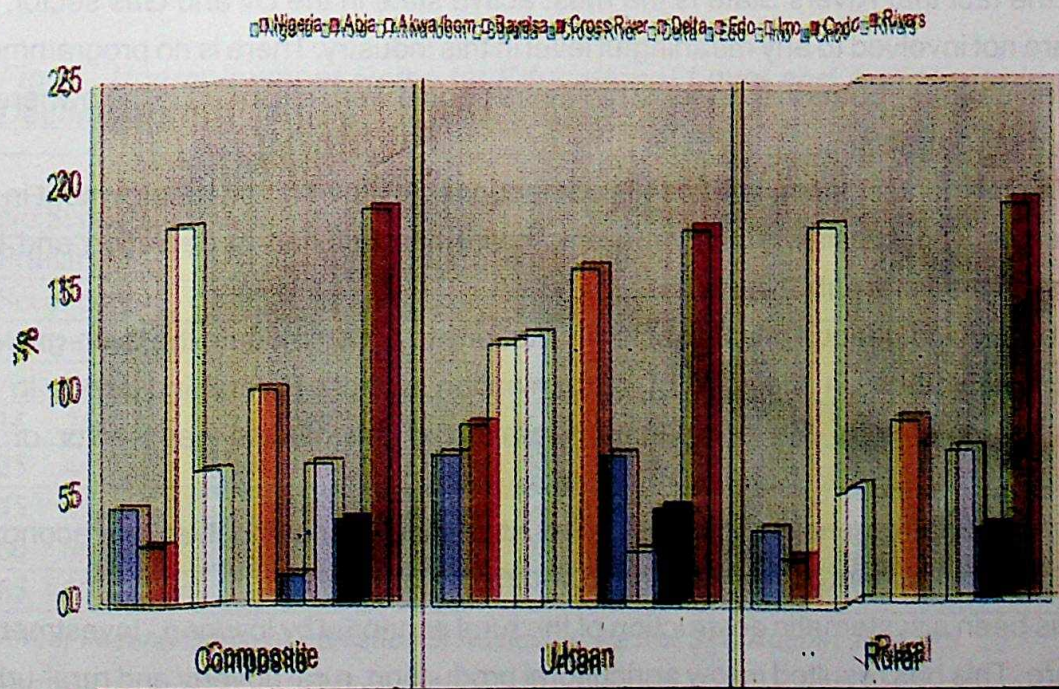
1.2. UNEMPLOYMENT

The rates of employment and unemployment are important indicators of the state of the labour force; however, they present a limited view of the overall employment situation. Measurements of the type of work available and the extent of underemployment, not simply open unemployment, are needed to fill out the picture.

In recent years, slowing employment growth, and increasing unemployment, underemployment and disillusionment have hit young people the hardest. As a result, Nigeria's youth are faced with a growing deficit of decent work opportunities and high levels of economic and social uncertainty.

The situation in the Niger Delta Region, particularly Rivers State, is further compounded by massive and reckless environmental degradation and often times the lack of sensitivity by the multinational companies operating in the region in their employment policies.

Unemployment in the Niger Delta
Fig 3 Unemployment Rate



Source: Social Welfare Sector Report 2004

State	Composite unemployment Levels, 2000(%)	Urban unemployment 2000(%)	Rural unemployment levels, 2000(%)	"Core Poor", 1996
Abia	2.9	8.7	2.4	24.3
Akwa Ibom	18.2	12.6	18.3	33.4
Bayelsa	6.5	13.0	5.5	No data
Cross River	16.6	7.3	18.3	25.2
Delta	10.3	16.2	8.8	26.3
Edo	1.5	7.3	N.A.	15.7
	6.8	2.7	7.2	20.6
Ondo	4.1	4.7	3.6	34.1 (Inclusive Ekiti State)
Rivers	19.1	18.2	19.3	19.1
National Average	4.7	7.2	3.7	34.4

Source Social Welfare SC Report C:2

CAUSES OF YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Despite the fact that Rivers State is the most active state in the Oil and Gas sector, the people are not involved to any meaningful level in this industry. There is no programme to employ indigenous youths in this industry. Rivers people were excluded in the ownership and award of contracts.

The unemployment situation in Rivers is compounded by the ban on employment in the public sector. The subsisting ban on employment has resulted in depletion and lopsidedness of the State public service manpower.

The State lacks indigenous private sector Institutions to accommodate the ever-growing population of youths, in the face of discrimination against Rivers' indigenes in the employment policies of the companies operating in the oil and gas sector of the economy.

The practice of entrepreneurship therefore must be made central to the State economic growth and development policy to enhance youth employment.

There has been a systematic destruction of the rural economy by low/non - investment in agriculture. This has resulted in low agricultural production, rural poverty and rural-urban migration fueling greater demand for non-existent jobs in the cities.

In summary, causes of unemployment include;

- Human resources supply is greater than market demand
- Education output and labour mismatch
- Economic growth is lower than population growth
- Bad infrastructural management
- Ban on employment into the public by Rivers State Government
- Lack of indigenous private sector institutions to accommodate the ever growing population of youths in the state.

Fig 5 Unemployment Rates by State in the Niger Delta

	Composite	Urban	Rural
Abia	10.6	8.7	10.8
Akwa Ibom	36.9	29.8	37.1
Bayelsa	23.6	20.7	24.1
Cross River	16.6	7.3	18.3
Delta	23.3	23.5	19.0
Edo	14.3	24.0	11.8
Imo	22.3	23.8	32.8
Ondo	17.0	14.0	19.8
Rivers	34.2	27.5	35.2
All Nigeria	18.1	14.2	19.8

Source: Federal Office of Statistics Statistical News No. 327, August 2001, P.5

Fig. 6 Unemployment Rates by Educational Level and Age Group in Nigeria, December 2000

	Composite	Urban	Rural
No Schooling	16.5	12.9	18.0
Primary	17.8	13.8	19.5
Secondary	21.9	17.6	23.8
Above Secondary	15.8	10.1	18.3
Age Group			
15 24	39.7	42.1	38.7
25 44	15.6	10.4	17.8
45 59	10.9	8.1	12.1
60 64	13.6	9.0	15.6
65 70	17.6	21.3	16.0

Source: Federal Office of Statistics Statistical News No. 327, August 2001, P.5

APPROACHES TO IMPROVE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Since the early 1990s, public sector employment has declined, both in relative and absolute terms, particularly as a result of structural adjustment programmes and the need to provide a more result oriented - and cost effective civil service.

However, the private formal sector did not at the same time succeed in creating enough new jobs to absorb the fallout from a contracted public labour force. In Rivers State, the situation is compounded by relocation out of the State of private investment due to adverse security situation occasioned by militancy.

In considering, employment opportunities for indigenes of Rivers State, government efforts must be directed to creating a business friendly and secure environment for investment. Sectoral interventions and agricultural and industrial policies are needed to ensure that growth is employment intensive.

In this regard, efforts to improve agricultural production, develop agro-industries, support small-and medium-scale enterprises, expand labour-intensive manufacturing, and provide public services and infrastructure are to be supported.

4.1 PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYMENT

All over the world, even in the developed countries of England, France, and Germany as members of European Union, each country ensures that its citizens are placed in employment before citizens of other countries.

Rivers State should not shy away of enforcing the State's Employment Law which seeks to encourage private sector operators to give preference in employment to qualified citizens of the areas of their operations particularly levels 01 - 06.

The Law is not observed. In this regard, we wish to draw the attention of the State Government to the Employment of Junior Workers (Enforcement) Law, 2000.

Enforcement of this law will assist in opening up some job placements for our youths.

It is recommended that an aggressive job hunt for the youths be mounted in the following areas:

4.1.1 Public and Private Companies

All Companies operating in the State must be made to comply with employment Laws of the country as it affects the State. Special interest should be focused on Banks and Insurance Companies and other Financial Institutions operating in the State with the aim of influencing them to hire our youths. If these institutions are making huge profits from our State, they should show some level of social-responsibility by the recruitment of qualified Rivers indigenes. Ordinarily, this may not happen unless we insist and we have every reason to insist.

4.1.2 Local Content

The State should include in its Memoranda of Understanding, need for local content in terms of employment of our Youths. Other levels of employment can also be part of the agreement such as direct supply of necessary consumables. This is likely to keep most of our people employed. Also, as already presented in the committee, companies with major technical contracts should be encouraged to locate their major fabrications in the State with the aim of hiring our youths, thus passing on to them the required technical and useful skills.

4.1.3 Implementation of Federal Character Commission Act

The provision of the Federal Character Commission (FCC) Act No.34 of 1996 as it relates to Rivers State have been observed mostly in the breach. Vigorous effort must be made to ensure that the *status quo* at all levels of employment within the Federation are filled.

4.1.4 Big Business Policy

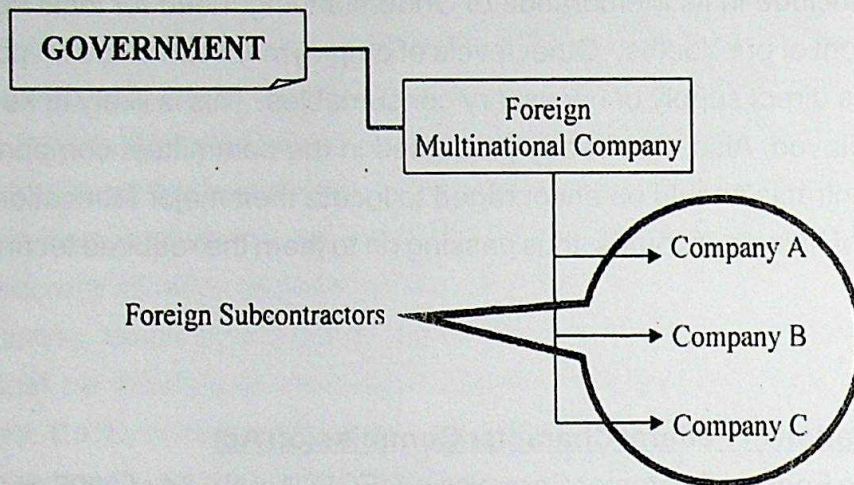
It is true that entrepreneurship, at least, the much we have seen in the State, has not been a source of employment generation for the youths. The practice of entrepreneurship therefore must be made central to the State economic growth in order to enhance youth employment.

The state must have a deliberate policy to grow big businesses in critical areas of the economy. The growth of big business will then energize small businesses to spread the wealth in the State. Suggested areas for government intervention include Infrastructure, Industry, Agriculture, Hotel and Tourism, Transportation, Engineering Consultancy, and Research and Development

Government Policies at the moment revolve around Small and Medium Enterprises as the bedrock of Industrialization. However, Small and Medium Enterprises will only survive if there are big businesses that require their inputs continuously for survival.

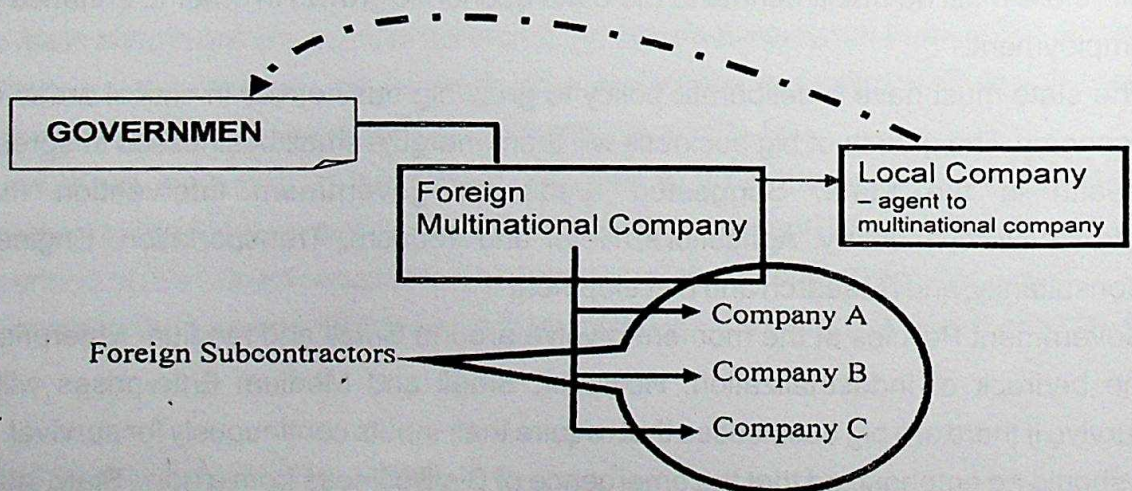
It should be emphasized that the emergence of Big Business from a non - State indigene does not guarantee economic transformation of the State. Evidence abounds from experience of Multinational Corporations whose entrepreneurial obligations have been towards their host countries. Other State indigenes also have entrepreneurial obligations to their home states.

Fig 7 Current Contracting Policy 1 Turnkey Construction Projects



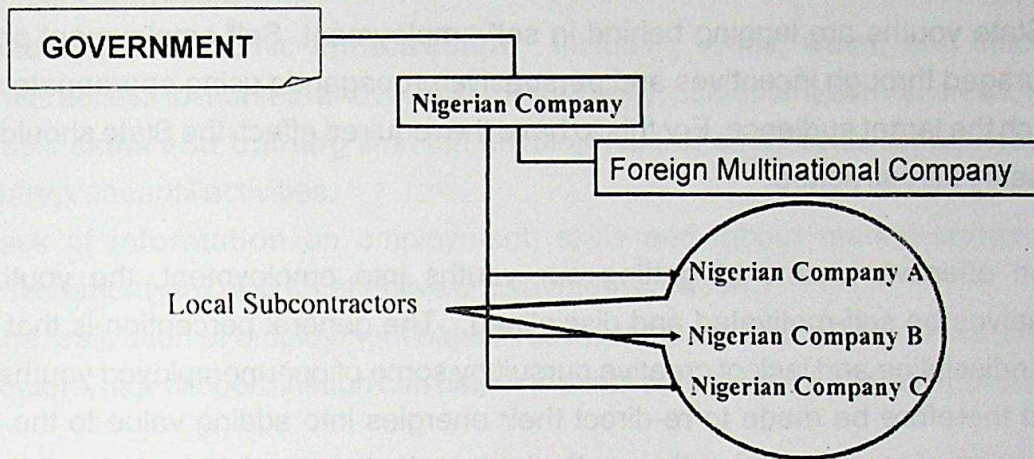
- Government awards turnkey construction contracts to foreign multinational company.
- Foreign Multinational Company subcontracts part of the job to foreign contractors for the supply of goods and services, such as Engineering services, Procurement of materials and equipment etc.
- Local employment limited to semi skilled and unskilled labor.
- Loss of entrepreneurship and youth employment

Fig 8 Current Contracting Policy 2 Turnkey Construction Projects



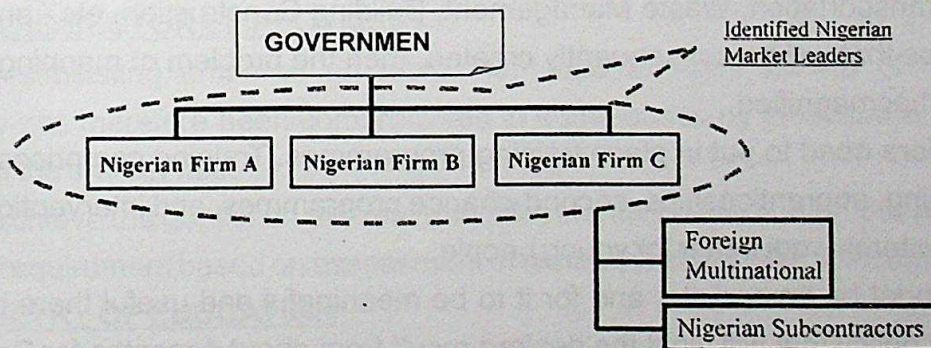
- Government awards turnkey construction contracts to foreign multinational company with local company as an agent.
- Foreign Multinational company subcontracts part of the job to foreign contractors for the supply of goods and services, such as Engineering services, Procurement of materials and equipment etc.
- Local employment limited to semi skilled and unskilled labor.
- Loss of entrepreneurship and youth employment

Fig. 9 Proposed Contracting Policy Option 1: Turnkey Construction Projects "Chinese Model"



- China's Economic Growth sparked by Ethnic Chinese Investment and Alliance/JV by foreign firms.
- Government awards contract to Nigerian company and insists on a Alliance/JV with foreign firms according to the Chinese model.
- Employment generated by Nigerian firm and Local subcontractors
- Local employment increased to skilled, semi skilled and unskilled labor
- Local entrepreneurial risk taking ability enhanced; sparking economic growth.

Fig. 10 Proposed Contracting Policy Option 2: Turnkey Construction Projects "Russian Model"



- Russian Government identified market leaders, pre-qualified them and ceded major projects to them to spark the economy.
- RVSG to identify market leaders, pre-qualify them and cede major project to them to spark the economy of the State.
- Market leaders to handle foreign multinational & subcontractors
- Employment generated by Nigerian firm and Local subcontractors
- Local employment increased to skilled, semi skilled and unskilled labor
- Local entrepreneurial risk taking ability enhanced; sparking economic growth.

4.1 YOUTH RE-ORIENTATION, EMPOWERMENT AND SKILLS ACQUISITION

4.2.1 Youth Re-Orientatation

The State youths are lagging behind in self-employment. Self-employment should be encouraged through incentives and persuasive propaganda using appropriate vehicles to reach the target audience. For this to have the required effect, the State should provide necessary infrastructure.

For an effective means of getting our youths into employment, the youths must themselves be self-motivated and disciplined. The general perception is that there is great indiscipline and lack of creative pursuit by some of our unemployed youths. Efforts should therefore be made to re-direct their energies into adding value to the system. This aspect of re-engineering the youths into productive engagements requires careful planning and execution. The State should be encouraged to support this line of thinking.

4.2.2 Training

It is significant to note that a very sizeable majority of our unemployed youths in the labour market are unskilled and semi-skilled. This is one of the three major reasons why we have the totally unacceptable situation where virtually all Welders, Electricians, Machinists, Mechanics, Carpenters, and even Drivers working in industries in Rivers State are non-indigenes. And if we also take into consideration, the Governments' planned infrastructural development programme in Agriculture, Electricity, Water, Gas, Roads, Transportation, Waste Management, Building Construction, etc., and the "Blue Collar" jobs that will be consequently created, then the problem of manning these jobs will be further magnified.

We therefore need to put in place training programmes. Training comprises vocational skills training, apprenticeships, second-chance programmes, and interventions to make training systems work better for young people.

Result cannot be immediate; and for it to be meaningful and useful there has to be a deliberate policy that will yield the desired result from about 4 months for Drivers to \pm 2 years for other skills. If properly planned and implemented, it will considerably reduce and eventually eliminate the unacceptable situation mentioned above. It is also the road to self-employment. These skills, in most cases, pay more than the generally preferred "white collar" jobs at junior and even intermediate levels of employment in industries. It is recommended that existing Technical and Vocational Institutions be reactivated.

4.2.3 Challenges and Constraints Facing Existing Employment Initiatives

- § Access to medium-term and long-term **credit** on favourable terms for investment remains a problem.
- § Inadequate economic **infrastructure** including roads, water, and electricity limits access to markets and reduces productivity, particularly in rural areas.
- § Basic **skills and training** limit the development of small-scale enterprises and entrepreneurial activities.
- § Lack of **information** on employment, skills and labour market compromise government planning for effective employment creation.
- § The realization of employment objectives involves **coordination** across different sectors; lack of coordination can hinder the realization of employment policies.

4.2.4 Rivers Business Initiative RBI.

An Agency (Bureau), **Rivers Business Initiative** is being recommended to:

- § Coordinate, solicit employment of Rivers indigenes into various commercial and industrial companies operating in the State.
- § Ensure that Rivers State quotas in positions at the Federal level are filled.
- § Identify credible business initiatives and enterprises that could be assisted through supervised assistance in terms of capital and training.
- § To assist existing businesses and business initiatives assessed to be very credible and sustainable.

4.3 PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYMENT

There is a subsisting embargo on recruitment into the civil service of the State. Productivity has therefore been compromised in some cases by inadequate staffing in key areas of the civil service.

In order to achieve the goal of an efficient and effective civil service, a proper audit of the manpower requirement based on assessment of tasks and schedules is recommended.

4.3.1 MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

a. **Employment of Non-Indigenes**

There is evidence that about 30% or more of the existing teachers in both the primary and secondary schools are non-indigenes. It is recommended that priority be given for the recruitment of qualified Rivers State indigenes.

b. **Recruitment of Teachers**

Current figures for teacher-pupil ratio in both primary and secondary schools in the State are abysmal. Average teacher-pupil ratio in primary schools is computed at 1:86 compared to the recommended ratio of 1:35.

The current teacher/student ratio of 1:100 is a threat to qualitative education in secondary schools.

Filling of existing vacancies in the school system is therefore recommended.

In this regard we acknowledge government recent directive for the recruitment of teachers.

4.3.2. MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The health manpower situation is critical to effective health service delivery. There is manpower shortage, if addressed would impact very positively on the system, particularly the provision of basic health care at the primary health care level.

4.3.3 MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Agriculture remains the main employer of labour. Over 40% of the work force is engaged in agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

Rivers State must encourage and invest in agriculture to create jobs and stem the rural to urban migration. Moribund State farms should be revamped to make them attractive for private participation and subsequent employment of the youths. The following Farms need some attention:

a. Pabod Food Company Farm at Elingbu

- Size of Farm: 20 hectares
- Scope of Farm:
 - Feed mill Unit
 - Livestock/products processing unit
 - Poultry unit: This unit consists of the following:
 - o Four [4] Deep LITTER PENS with a capacity of 32,000 Broilers
 - o Two [2] Brooder Houses - total capacity 20,000 Birds
 - o Two [2] Parent Stock Breeder Pens - capacity 8,000 Birds
 - o One [1] Layer pen - capacity 10,000 layers
 - Piggery unit
 - Vegetables Garden
 - Rabbitery
 - Staff Quarters:
 - o Three [3] Labour line - total 36 rooms
 - o Four [4] Junior Quarters - 16 double rooms
 - o Four [4] Intermediate Quarters 8 No Two bedroom flats
 - o Six [6 No] detachable 3 bedroom flats

b. Atali Farm

Size 32 hectares, it has facilities for:

- Hatchery
- Poultry unit
- Crop unit

c. Government Farm Rumuodomaya

Size - 4.9 hectares

Scope: Feed mill with a capacity of 10 tones/hr and 2 No silos capacity - 100,000 tones. It also has facilities for Poultry, Piggery and Crops.

Other facilities include;

- Two [2] Office blocks
- Thirty [30] units of Staff Quarters
- 2 No 500 each KVA Generator Sets

d. Other Farms

We have earlier identified other Government Farms rotting away. We have only taken pains to study the above three [3] Farms and to show that they can be put to use and assist in reducing unemployment.

1. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The level of youth unemployment in the State is dangerous and should be addressed to avoid chaos. The process of engaging the youths into productive activities remain an on-going process and the Council should take a strong stand on the matter.

For more jobs to be created and for work to become more decent, or, in short, for poverty to be alleviated, social stability and employment-intensive economic growth are essential conditions.

In this context, investments in human resources assume critical proportions as part of whatever investment strategies may be considered appropriate

Beyond what they learn during their basic education, large numbers of poor people may reap some benefit from additional knowledge, skills and attitudes that will help them to improve their incomes, even if it is on mini-farms or in micro-enterprises.

Annexure 1
Health Manpower situation in Rivers State, 2008

Cadre	No Required	Actual	Shortfall
Med. Officers	241	170	71
Pharmacists	42	22	20
Pharm. Technicians	61	65	
Health Records Technologists	132	58	74
Nurses	2049	1160	889
Hosp. Auxiliary	196	136	60
Ward Maids	335	146	189
Diagnostic/ Rehabilitation	333	192	141
Technical Services	310	79	231

Source: RSHMB

Annexure 2A State of Health Manpower

HOSPITAL MANPOWER: TYPES, NUMBERS & DISPOSITION

		<i>Medical & Dental Officers</i>				<i>Pharmacists/ Pharmacy Tech</i>					
		No of Beds	Med. Officer	Consultant	Dental Officer	Total	Additional No Reqd	No on Ground		No Required	
								No on Ground	No on Ground		
Abua/Odual	GH Abua	55	2			2	4	nil	1	1	1
	GH Aminigboko	20	1			1	1	nil	1	1	1
	GH Emelogo	60	1			1	1	nil	1	nil	2
Ahoada East	GH Ahoada	95	3			3	12	1	2	1	2
Ahoada West	Joinkrama	61	2			2	3	nil	1	2	2
	Edegberi		1			1	1	nil	1	1	2
Akuku-Toru	Abonema	60						nil	1	1	1
	Soku	25	1			1	1	nil	1	1	1
Andoni	Ngo	10	1			1	2	nil	1	2	nil
	Uyengala										
Asari-Toru	GH Buguma	55	2			2	2	nil	1	1	1
Bonny	GH Bonny	54	2			2	4	nil	2	3	1
Degema	GH Degema	68	1			1	5	nil	1	2	1
Eleme	GH Nchia	46	3			3	3	1	1	2	2
Emohua	GH Emohua	35	2			2	4	1	1	2	1
	Chest Hosp										
	GH Elele-Alimini	35	2			2	1	nil	1	1	2
	CH Ibaa	30	1			1	1	nil	1	2	nil
Etche	GH Okomoko	32	2			2	1	nil	1	1	1
	GH Okehi	50	2			2	4	2	nil	1	3
	CH Umuebule	20	1			1	1	nil	1	1	1
	CH Egbu	10	1			1	1	nil	nil	1	1

Annexure 2B
State of Health Manpower

		Medical & Dental Officers				Pharmacists			Pharm. Techn		
		No of Beds	Med. Officer	Consultant	Dental Officer	Total	Additional No Reqd	No on Ground	No Required	No on Ground	No Required
Gokana	GH Bodo	52	2			2	4	nil	1	2	nil
	GH Terabor	35	2			2	2	nil	1	1	1
Ikwerre	GH Isiokpo	56	4			4	11	nil	2	2	1
	GH Ubima	10	2			2	1	1	nil	1	2
Khana	GH Bori	85	4	1	1	6	10	1	2	1	3
	GH Taabaa	85	1			1	1	nil	1	1	2
	CH Kono		1			1					
Onelga	GH Omoku	41	3			3	3	nil	1	1	2
	GH Okwuzi	60	1			1	1	nil	1	1	1
	CH Erema Neuro Psychiatric	20	2			2	1	1	nil	nil	2
Obio/ Akpor	Hospital	50	2	1		3	7	1	1	3	1
Ogu/Bolo	GH Ogu	60	2		2		2	nil	1	2	1
Okrika	GH Okrika	90	4		4		11	1	1	2	2
Omuma	GH Eberi	20	2			2	1	1	nil	1	1
Opobo/ Nkoro	GH Opobo	22	2			2		nil	1	1	2
Port Harcourt	BMSH	450	46	48		94		4	6	11	9
	Dental			1	3	4	10	nil	1	2	1
	Civil Servants Clinic		2			2	1	1	nil	1	1
	Govt. House		2			2		1	nil	2	nil
	Niger Hosp.		2			2	8	1	1	2	2
RSHMB	HQ		1	3		4	1	4	1	1	1
TOTAL							241		42		61

**Annexure 3
HOSPITAL MANPOWER; TYPES,**

		No of Beds	Nurses		Nurse Assistant		Hosp. Auxiliary		Ward Maids		
			No on Ground	No Required	No on Ground	No Required	No on Ground	No Required	No. Ground	No Required	
Abua/Odual	GH Abua	55	19	38	4	nil	7	5	9	5	
	GH Aminigboko	20	10	15	nil	nil	8	nil	nil	10	
	GH Emelogo	60	12	48	1	nil	nil	5	nil	5	
Ahoda East	GH Ahoda	95	33	69	4	nil	11	10	14	10	
Ahoda West	Joinkrama	61	12	44	3	nil	2	5	nil	5	
	Edegberi	20	9	16							
Akuku-Toru	Abonema	60	23	32	nil	nil	3	5	1	10	
	Soku	25	7	22							
Andoni	Ngo	30	16	17	nil	nil	nil	5	1	10	
	Uyengala										
Asari-Toru	GH Buguma	55	13	39	2	nil	4	5	3	10	
Bonny	GH Bonny	54	27	44	2	nil	3	5	3	10	
Degema	GH Degema	68	18	43	2	nil	6	5	5	10	
Eleme	GH Nchia	60	39	21	3	nil	8	5	12	10	
Emohua	GH Emohua	48	27	24	6	nil	3	5	4	10	
	GH Elele-Alimini	71	18	46	2	nil	4	5	2	10	
	CH Ibaa	30	19	14	nil	nil	nil	5	1	10	
Etche	GH Okomoko	42	24	22	3	nil	11	5	4	10	
	GH Okchi	50	19	29	6	nil	6	5	9	10	
	CH Umuebule	21	15	6							
	CH Egbu	5	3	6	3	nil	nil	3	nil	5	
Gokana	GH Bodo	50	19	29	6	nil	1	5	8	5	
	GH Terabor	35	21	16	4	nil	3	5	4	10	
Ikwere	GH Isiokpo	56	30	22	1	nil	7	5	13	5	
	GH Ubima	30	12	21	2	nil	nil	5	2	10	
Khana	GH Bori	85	47	47	8	nil	15	10	16	10	
	GH Taabaa	80	11	59	1	nil	nil	5	3	5	
	CH Kono	10	1	12	2	nil	2	5	1	5	
ONELGA	GH Omoku	41	23	28		2	nil	5	5	2	10
	GH Okwuzi	60	5	56	nil	nil	nil	5	nil	5	
	CH Erema	25	15	20	nil	nil	1	5	6	10	
Obio/ Akpor	Neuro Psychiatric Hospital	50	63		1	nil	3	10	6	10	
Ogu/Bolo	GH Ogu	60	11	50	nil	nil	nil	5	nil	10	

Annexure 3 Hospital Manpower; Types,

Okrika	GH Okrika	90	37	61	5	nil	7	5	nil	10
Omuma	GH Eberi	30	10	29	2	nil	2	5	2	10
Opobo/ Nkoro	GH Opobo	22	19	16	1	nil	nil	5	1	10
Port Harcourt	BMSH	450	305	245	12	nil	6	20	13	20
	Dental		nil	1	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	5
	Civil Servants Clinic	2	15	nil	nil	nil	2	nil	nil	5
	Govt. House	4	11	nil	nil	nil	3	nil	nil	5
	Niger Hosp /Chest Ward Emohua.	33	17	15	4	nil	3	5	nil	10
RSHMB	HQ	nil	10	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	1	1
TOTAL				2049		nil		196		335

Annexure 4

		No of Beds	Total No Required	Required GL 02	Total No Required	Drivers/Plant Operator GL04	Craftmen GL 05
Abua/Odual	GH Abua	55	17	6	21	14	7
	GH Aminigboko	20	20	12	13	9	4
	GH Emelogo	60			6	2	4
Ahoada East	GH Ahoada	95	12	5	17	12	5
Ahoada West	Joinkrama	61	17	6	11	7	4
	Edagberi		2	2	8	4	4
Akuku-Toru	Abonema	60	17	6	21	7	7
	Soku	25	4	2	7	3	4
Andoni	Ngo	10	17	6	12	8	4
	Uyengala						
Asari-Toru	GH Buguma	55	17	6	20	14	6
Bonny	GH Bonny	54			21	14	7
Degema	GH Degema	68	17	6	21	14	7
Eleme	GH Nchia	46	21	6	20	13	7
Emohua	GH Emohua	35	17	6	19	13	6
	Chest Hosp						
	GH Elele-Alimini	35	1	1	21	14	7
	CH Ibaa	30	4	2	10	6	4

Etche	GH Okomoko	32	17	6	11	4	4
	GH Okehi	50	3	2	18	12	6
	CH Umuebule	20	3	2	12	8	4
	CH Egbu	10	4	2	11	7	4
Gokana	GH Bodo	52			21	14	7
	GH Terabor	35	17	6	21	14	7
Ikwere	GH Isiokpo	56	15	6	20	13	7
	GH Ubima	10	3	2	10	6	4
Khana	GH Bori	85	12	5	20	14	6
	GH Taabaa	85	3	2	12	8	4
	CH Kono		4	2	12	9	3
ONELGA	GH Omoku	41	16	6	16	13	3
	GH Okwuzi	60	3	2	20	13	7
	CH Erema	20	3	2	16	12	4
Obio/ Akpor	Neuro Psychiatric Hospital	50	30	4	21	14	7
Ogu/Bolo	GH Ogu	60	17	6	21	14	7
Okrika	GH Okrika	90	15	6	21	14	7
Omuma	GH Eberi	20	17	6	10	6	4
Opobo/ Nkoro	GH Opobo	22	16	6	10	6	4
Port Harcourt	BMSH	450	110	39	42	24	16
	Dental		11	2	8	4	4
	Civil Servants Clinic		2	2	1	1	NIL
	Govt. House		3	1			
	Niger Hosp.		12	5	8	4	4
RSHMB	HQ		4	1	32	14	11
TOTAL					642		

Annexure 5

PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: STAFF CATEGORY AND DISTRIBUTION

	Nurses/ Midwives	Env. Health officer	CHEO	CHEW	Med. Record Offcr	Pharm. Techn	Med. Lab. Techn	Midwifery Assist	Health Educator	Dental Techn	Med. Rec Assist	Total
Ahoda East	13	22	5	71	10	3	13			6		143
Ahoda West	1		4	39	4	4	3			4		59
Andoni	8	21	6	79	12	4	17		2	8	3	160
Abua/Odual	9	22	5	64	4	5	15					124
Akuku-Toru	13	20	8	121	22	28						212
Asari-Toru	3		7	117		17	19					163
Degema	17	21	3	106								147
Bonny	8	16	12	45		3	6			2		92
Eleme	2	18	10	24								54
Etche	20		3	87		16	15			3		144
Emohua	6	58	3	154	8	8				5		242
Gokana	9	24	14	80		20	33	12		7	17	216
Ikwere	1	3	17	104	8	12	7			1		153
Khana	2	25	2	101		1	1			1		133
Ogu/Bolo	12	11	5	62			7					97
Okrika		64	16	127	20	33	52			18		330
Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni	8	35	17	124		15	20			5		224
Omuma	6	7	3	44	13	8	12					93
Opobo /Nkoro	6	10	8	110	17	12				4		167
Oyigbo		22	2	79	11	15	18			5		152
Obio/Akpor	15	18	48	14	29	15	7					146
Tai	7	16	7	56		3	3			2		94
Total	172	432	205	1808	158	222	248	12	2	71	20	

Annexure 6
RIVERS STATE POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS BOARD PORT HARCOURT
NUMBER OF SUBJECTS TEACHERS PER SCHOOL PER L.G.A

S/NO	L.G.A	ENGLISH LANG.	MATHEMATICS	COMPUTER STUDIES	PHYSICS	CHEMISTRY	BIOLOGY	AGRIC SC.	GEOGRAPHY	HISTORY	C.R.K	ECONOMICS	GOVERNMENT	COMMERCE	HOMF ECONS	FINE ARTS	FRENCH	ACCOUNTS	MUSIC	TYPE WRITING	HEALTH SCIENCE	LITERATURE	TECHNICAL DRAWINGS	NO OF SCHOOLS PER L.G.A
1	ABOLGA	8	8	-	2	8	9	6	6	6	3	5	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	ALGA EAST	8	5	-	3	8	11	9	8	12	8	14	5	7	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	ALGA WEST	10	8	-	6	5	17	7	5	4	3	2	4	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
4	AKULGA	3	3	-	2	1	3	2	1	2	2	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	-
5	ANOLGA	4	4	-	3	3	10	2	1	-	2	2	3	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
6	ASALGA	7	5	-	5	5	7	2	-	2	1	4	3	3	3	4	1	1	2	2	1	-	-	-
7	BONNY	5	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	2	3	4	2	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	DELGA	6	3	-	-	4	1	4	2	3	3	4	1	3	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	ELGA	25	10	-	2	7	19	19	11	10	8	9	13	5	2	1	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	-
10	ELELGA	13	6	-	4	14	11	7	8	9	8	7	8	7	3	2	3	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	EMOLGA	22	10	-	5	15	23	13	8	13	12	17	17	11	1	1	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	GOLGA	14	10	-	9	7	18	8	13	14	7	13	11	9	-	3	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	KELGA	15	15	-	9	20	18	21	12	12	15	13	21	13	2	2	-	2	1	-	-	2	-	-
14	KHALGA	18	30	-	13	14	28	20	21	26	17	20	23	15	2	1	-	9	-	1	-	1	-	-
15	OBALGA	118	53	-	29	45	76	50	38	40	38	48	47	29	31	5	5	26	-	-	5	10	-	-
16	OBOIGA	1	2	-	1	1	1	1	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	OKRIKA	4	4	-	3	6	8	2	7	1	6	5	5	2	1	-	2	1	3	-	1	-	-	-
18	OMULGA	2	3	-	-	2	-	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
19	ONELGA	20	9	-	6	10	12	21	8	13	15	12	13	14	4	-	-	11	-	1	-	-	-	-
20	ONOLGA	2	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
21	OYILGA	11	7	-	2	5	8	2	3	4	3	5	4	3	2	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
22	PIHALGA	92	40	-	20	40	69	39	16	34	42	46	42	36	27	5	18	5	-	1	7	8	1	-
23	TALGA	10	10	-	4	8	7	5	5	12	4	8	11	3	2	-	1	6	1	-	1	-	-	-
	TOTAL	418	247	-	128	279	358	241	175	225	202	243	241	171	87	27	34	91	9	7	19	24	2	-

Annexure 7

RIVERS STATE POST PRIMARY SCHOOL BOARD PORT HARCOURT
NUMBER OF SUBJECTS TEACHERS PER SCHOOL IN TECHNICAL COLLEGES

S/NO	NAME OF SCHOOL	ENGLISH LANG.	MATHEMATICS	PHYSICS	CHEMISTRY	BIOLOGY	BUS. STUDIES	METAL WORK	AGRIC MECH.	MOTOR VEH MECH	ELECTR. INST. WORK	WELDING/FABRICAT	(RTV) RADIO	FURNITURE	MARINE ENGR.	PAINTING & DECORATION	BLOCK LAYING/CONSTR	MECHANICAL	CATERING	CARPENTRY	PLUMBING	TECHNICAL/DRAWINGS	
1	GTC AHOADA	-	1	1	1	-	-	2	-	4	3	3	3	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-
2	GTC, PH	10	6	4	3	4	4	3	6	4	9	5	4	2	-	2	9	3	2	-	-	-	-
3	GTC, TOMBIA	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
4	GTC, ELE-OGU	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
5	GCSS, BORIKIRI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL	11	12	5	4	4	5	5	6	10	13	9	8	2	-	2	14	5	3	1	-	3	-

Annexure 8

**RIVERS STATE POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS BOARD
PORT HARCOURT.
ACADEMIC STAFF DISPOSITION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS
YEARS 2007**

NO	SUBJECTS	NO. OF TEACHERS IN SERVICE	ADDITIONAL NO. REQUIRED	ADDITIONAL NO RECOMMENDED (FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)
	ENGLISH LANGUAGE	418	579	300
	MATHEMATICS	247	646	482
	PHYSICS	128	482	258
	CHEMISTRY	229	454	250
	BIOLOGY	358	477	250
	AGRIC SCIENCE	241	500	250
	HOME ECONS	83	155	75
	GEOGRAPHY	177	388	100
	ECONOMICS	240	463	230
	GOVERNMENT	244	418	242
	COMMERCE	167	384	150
	ACCOUNTS	90	282	207
	HISTORY	228	267	184
	CRK	204	407	282
	FRENCH	34	106	40
	FINE ARTS	24	112	30
	HEALTH SCIENCE	24	57	30
	TYPE WRITING	6	37	20
	TECH. DRAWING	5	35	20
	LITERATURE	27	101	221
	COMPUTER STUDIES	-	250	243
	TOTAL	3174	6600	3867

Annexure 9**RIVERS STATE POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS BOARD
PORT HARCOURT****SUMMARY OF STAFF DISPOSITION AS AT JULY 20, 2007**

S/NO	CATEGORY OF STAFF	NO OF STAFF AVAILABLE IN THE SERVICE	ADDITIONAL NO. OF STAFF REQUIRED	ADDITIONAL NO. RECOMMENDED
1	TEACHERS	3296	7043	4148
2	NON TEACHING STAFF	1677	4634	2985
	TOTAL	4973	11677	7133

2.5. OIL & GAS SECTOR REFORMS & IMPLEMENTATION

1.0 THE NATIONAL OIL & GAS POLICY

- 1.1 Oil & Gas Sector Reforms Implementation Committee (OGIC) inaugurated 24th April, 2000 under Chairmanship of Dr. Lukman and later Dr. Edmund Daukoru.
- 1.2 Goal to replace the Petroleum Act (1969), NNPC Act (1970) and various amendments, other related Laws, policy statements and regulations dispersed in several documents difficult to locate.
- 1.3 After 4 years, committee produced the NATIONAL OIL & GAS POLICY (NOGP).
- 1.4 NOGP approved by Federal Executive Council 5th September, 2007.
- 1.5 Another Oil & Gas sector Reforms Implementation Committee (OGIC) inaugurated TWO DAYS later 7th September, 2007 with TOR that included:
 - i. Assume the full mandate for the implementation of the OGIC report, especially as enshrined in the **Road Map approved by government**.
 - ii. Advise on the take off of the **new bodies, institutions, organizations and agencies** that would constitute the **institutional framework for the restructured Oil industry**.
 - iii. **Identify and put in motion all required amendments and changes in all legislations governing the country's Oil & Gas industry** as a result of the implementation of the OGIC report.
 - iv. To **engage** as much as possible, all industry **stakeholders** in the course of the implementation programme, as well as resource persons, facilitators and consultants where necessary.
And which the Committee has interpreted to empower them to engage in:
 - i. Immediately institute a transition programme to last from 9 to 12 months within which the institutional structure of the new industry would be consolidated.
 - ii. During the transition period the Committee recommends as follows:
 - a) The petroleum arm of the Federal Ministry of Energy should be excised to be replaced by the National Petroleum Directorate that assumes all the ministerial functions of the defunct Ministry of Petroleum Resources.
- 1.6 Methodology for Implementation required to "...receive and consider submission ... from various institutions and STAKEHOLDERS..." Whose list did NOT include Oil & Gas Producing Communities/States.

- 1.7 Committee (OGIC) "Undertook series of retreats in Kaduna and Jos, along side other Stakeholders (NOT from Niger Delta), to work on the enabling legislation" produced as the PETROLEUM INDUSTRY BILL, a 175 page document which included strict international standards for environmental quality and a section on COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT that stated;
The Federal Government shall, in co-operation with the State and Local Governments and Communities, encourage and ensure the peace and development of the petroleum producing areas of the Federation through the implementation of specific projects aimed at ameliorating the negative impacts of petroleum activities.

2.0 INSTITUTIONAL POLICY INSTRUMENT

The focus of the policy as mentioned above is on **separating policy, regulatory, and commercial roles** of public sector entities within the Oil & Gas sector. The separated roles would be performed by appropriate agencies and institutions with clear and delineated responsibilities. The institutions are as follows:

- i. **A Minister of Petroleum Resources** who shall be responsible for broad policy initiation, formulation and development in the Oil & Gas Sector;
- ii. **A National Petroleum Directorate (NPD)** with responsibility for detailed policy initiation, formulation and development for optimum utilization, and shall also **serve as the secretariat of the Minister of Petroleum Resources**. The Ministry of Petroleum Resources as currently constituted should consequently be phased out;
- iii. **A National Oil Company (NOC)**, which shall strictly undertake commercial activities in the sector;
- iv. **A Nigerian Petroleum Inspectorate (NPI)**, which shall be the technical industry regulator to replace the Department of Petroleum resources;
- v. **A National Petroleum Research Centre (NPRC)**, which shall be responsible for research and Development, promoting capacity building and maximizing local value addition;
- vi. **A Petroleum Product Regulatory Authority (PPRA)**, which shall regulate the commercial aspects of the downstream industry; and
- vii. **A National Petroleum Assets Management Agency (NAPAMA)** that superintend over petroleum assets, especially those that finances the Federation account and at the same time act as an industry cost/commercial regulator.

3.0 CONCLUSION

3.1 Conceptually, as a whole, the NATIONAL OIL & GAS POLICY is useful document that can be used to redress the inadequacies of all the existing Laws that regulate the Nigerian Gas & Oil Industry except that as usual, advice and philosophy of the 1958 Willinks Commission are still being ignored. The proposed PETROLEUM INDUSTRY BILL is drafted without our input.

People inland SHOULD NOT because they CANNOT make effective Legislation for the Niger delta region without the due consultation and participation of the Niger Delta dwellers.

The rivers State Economic Advisory Council needs to thoroughly study the **NATIONAL OIL & GAS POLICY** and the resultant **PETROLEUM INDUSTRY BILL** and engaged the Rivers State to make appropriate input.

3.2 In the OGIC report (Executive Summary) the "Critical Path for the Implementation of National Oil & gas Policy" disobeys the concept of "Rule of Law" by wanting to do some of the things listed below and also in its table of Activities schedule without the approval of the National Assembly and enabling Legislation; through its recommendation for Transition Programme. Eg.

- I. "Immediately institute a transition programme to last from 9 to 12 months within which the institutional structure of the new industry would be consolidated".
- II. "the petroleum arm of the federal Ministry of Energy should be excised to be replaced by the National Petroleum directorate that assumes all the ministerial functions of the defunct Ministry of Petroleum Resources.

In particular, II is in gross conflict with Section 1.4 (Section 2.0(i) and (ii) of the National Oil & gas Policy (NOGP).

3.3 For Rivers state to optimize deriving benefits from the provisions of the NOGP Rivers State needs to take immediate actions including the following:

- 3.3.1** Insist on reconstituting the Oil & Gas Sector Reforms Implementation Committee to include representations from Rivers, Bayelsa and Delta States;
- 3.3.2** Be involved in the capitalization process; and
- 3.3.3** Deliberate policy to train excess manpower to take advantage of the provisions
For:
 - a)** Protection of interest of producing Communities.
 - b)** Maximizing local content and development of Nigerian capacity and preparedness for Nigerianization and domiciliation of Technology;
 - C)** Participation by local Communities in Marginal Oil fields;

- d) Participation of Nigerian University in R & D in Oil & Gas Industry;
 - i. Adequately by equipping RSUST and RIVPOLY, and
 - ii. Sending current relevant Lecturers abroad for 6 to 9 months induction/refresher courses;
- e) Jetties, Railways, and Coastal Bunkering for West Africa;
- f) Local Refining Capacity put at least 50% of national refined product need;
- g) Use of National gas grid to urban and industrial centres;
- h) Insist on changes in Rent and Royalty disbursement; and
- i) Begin rivers State participation ahead of the proposed training Scheme required for deep offshore operations for:
 - i. Basic Offshore safety emergency Training (BOSET)
 - ii. Aviation and Marine Disaster Management Training (AMDMT)
 - iii. Further offshore safety and Emergency training (FOSET)
 - iv. Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (HUET).

3.4 Rivers State should ensure the enforcement of the provisions on COMMUNITY ISSUES in Section 1.9.0 of the National Oil & Gas Policy that stated as follows:

COMMUNITY ISSUES

The effective operation and performance of the Oil & Gas Sector is dependent on the existence of mutually beneficial relationship between, the host communities, the oil operators, the NOC, and the government amongst others. The host communities, primarily in the Niger Delta, have been beset by many interrelated problems. The problems, (social, political, economic and environmental), have gained prominence because of the intrusive nature of extractive industries.

The problems shall be addressed by faithfully implementing the action points listed below:

- i. Reversal of actions that are proved counter productive;
- ii. Operating companies shall be encouraged to stop standby payments and bogus surveillance contracts to youths, and to move forward towards a system of contracts with real content and an enforceable conditionality for good behavior;
- iii. Government should review crop and other damage compensation rates, periodically;
- iv. Government should undertake a comprehensive review of the impact of community development programmes and practices by oil companies over the years in order to establish why such efforts have failed to address unrest in the communities.

- v.** Operators should be encouraged to review their community outreach programmes to root out divide and rule tactics, and selective empowerment of local groups in conflict with each other. This revised approach should be entrenched in such operator statements of business principles;
- vi.** Government through the NPI shall establish a standing dispute/crisis resolution group to coordinate with the environment ministries in the oil producing States, to handle misunderstandings between oil companies and communities before they escalate into violence. Communities should be encouraged to use this mechanism failing which firm law enforcement shall apply;
- vii.** Schemes shall be instituted that create opportunities for participation by communities in oil activities e.g., contractors to partner with broad based registered community co-operatives, as a condition for award of a project contract within the community. This shall effectively replace stand-by payments; and
- viii.** The long-term solution is to initiate a comprehensive infrastructural development, such as primary and secondary road networks to open up the region for:
 - 1. Economic and tourism activities; and
 - 2. Improved access by law enforcement and development agencies.

2.6 REPORT ON CURRENT FGN STRATEGY IN THE OIL AND GAS SECTOR

PREAMBLE:

Before the commencement of Council's scheduled meeting with the Governor on Saturday the 9th of August 2008, Council was directed by His Excellency to look into the current gas policy of the Federal Government with a view to articulating a position for Rivers State that will ensure that the state derives maximum economic benefit from the gas resource within its territory.

After the interactive session Council deliberated on the directive from the Governor and felt the need to obtain information on the matter as well as sensitizing other well-meaning indigenes of the State. It decided to inform the Rivers State Council of Traditional Rulers, invite Rivers State indigenes that are knowledgeable in Oil and Gas matters as well as travel to Abuja to meet important government officials on the matter.

PERSONS WITH WHOM COUNCIL INTERACTED:

- His Royal Majesty, Eze Chukwumelam Nnam Obi II, Chairman, Rivers State Council of Traditional Rulers;-
- Dr. Fabiya Amakiri. Group General Manager (LNG and Power) NNPC;
- Mr. Abiye Membere, General Manager, Engineering/ Technical, NAPIMS, NNPC;
- Ms Donu Kogbara, Member, Presidential Committee on Reform of Oil and Gas Industry;
- Ms Amal Pepple, Head of Service of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- Eng. Sadiq Mammoud, Retired Permanent Secretary, Petroleum and also Member NLNG Board;
- Hon. Odein Ajumogobia, SAN, Hon Minister of State for Energy (Petroleum);
- Eng. Billy Aga, Chief Technical Adviser on Gas to the Hon. Minister of State for Energy (Gas);
- Ambassador Spiff Taribo, Hon. Commissioner representing Rivers State at the Federal Character Commission; and
- Professor Oba Abdulraheem, Executive Chairman, Federal Character Commission

DOCUMENT COLLATED:

- Federal Character Commission Handbook; Federal
- Federal Character Monitor
- Oil and Gas Conference Charts NNPC Magazine
- The Nigeria Gas Infrastructure Blueprint

INFORMATION OBTAINED:

(A) In the Gas Sector:

1. Many of those we interacted were of the view that the State was starting this matter rather late and expressed dismay with the non-challant attitude of the state on issues relating to Oil and Gas of which she is the largest producer. 2. Reform of the Oil & Gas Industry by Federal Government Committee is now complete and the report which has already been approved by Federal Executive Council is now before National Assembly.
2. Composition of Federal Government Committee for the Reform of the Oil and Gas Industry contained only one Rivers and an Edo woman representing the South-South out of 22 members.
3. The major recommendations that were made by the Reform Committee restructuring of NNPC and its subsidiaries in to autonomous agencies with specific responsibilities and managed by a board (details in another document).
4. Master Gas Plan for the country exists which also indicates the existence of three Gas Central Processing Units:
 - (a) Obirikom (Rivers State)
 - (b) Excravos (Delta State)
 - (c) Gbaran (Bayelsa State)The one at Obirikom in the Rivers State is the largest.
The Gas policy of the Federal Government is still evolving and so stakeholders can still make their inputs.
5. Attribution (compensation based on the principle of derivation) is now being worked out for gas derivation, discussion still on-going with Federal Revenue Mobilization & Fiscal Commission.
6. Gas revenues have so far been shared equally by all States of the federation through the Federation Account.
7. Gas master plan is now in the public domain.
8. A Gas pricing policy which takes into consideration, strategic (for electricity generation) and non strategic (domestic and commercial) use of the gas.

9. Stakeholders who are interested could build infrastructures (plants, to use the gas) prior to confirming availability of the gas before embarking on such projects.
10. The new gas master plan will involve communities getting equity, or carried interest as well as create employment and other benefits.
11. There is more gas in the Eastern sector of the country Bayelsa, Rivers and Akwa Ibom as compared to the western sector Delta, Edo, and the rest of the west.
12. Infrastructure for the exploitation of gas within the country is very poorly developed.
13. There is currently only one LNG plant that is functioning in the country The Bonny LNG plant. However two additional ones are being considered by the government The Brass and the Olokola LNG plants. The Brass LNG plant is at an advanced stage of implementation.
14. There is general concern about piping gas to the OK LNG from far away distances and whether that would not affect its viability.
15. Partly in response to these concerns the Federal Government has requested States clamoring for the OK LNG for financial contribution.
16. The Federal Government is seriously considering a request for a 10% equity participation by the Bayelsa State Government on the Brass LNG while there is no reciprocal consideration for the Bonny LNG for the Bonny Community that had requested for this.
17. The Investment options that are currently before Government for the Gas sector are: Three LNG Plants, the West African Gas Project, the Trans Saharan Gas Pipeline Project and domestic utilization for electricity, methanol, fertilizer production which many believe will add value to the country's gas. The Koreans who are in PP the trans Saharan pipeline have been given two offshore oil blocks as an incentive for oil exploration of .They are expected to build two power plants in Abuja and Kaduna. The Trans Saharan Gas project is to traverse in Kano upto Algeria with infrastructural plants built in Kaduna , Katsina for the benefit of the ailing Northern industries. The Eastern Gas Pipeline will run from Rivers State to Yola and further north to achieve the new domestic gas plan.

18. South-East Governors have led a delegation to the Minister to complain of not being carried along in the new gas master plan.

(B) IN THE NON GAS SECTOR:

1. Rivers State is grossly underrepresented at the federal civil service and its parastatals.
2. In some instances some Rivers State government officials make it possible for none Rivers indigenes to occupy important positions that are meant for indigenes of Rivers state at the federal level.
3. The lobbying propensity that has been exhibited by the Rivers State for its indigenes for top appointments at the federal level has been very poor unlike the case in other states.
4. Federal Government wishes to engage the services of 3,000 new employees. Rivers state indigenes are strongly encouraged to apply.
5. Minister has just signed production sharing agreement with the Bayelsa Oil Coy (owned 100% by Bayelsa Government) for exploration activities in their oil Block.
6. There is a lot of uncertainty regarding the oil block OPL 289 which is supposed to belong to the Rivers State Government. This transaction was handled by Mr. Ndubuisi Nwankwo on behalf of the state government.
7. Also, Rivers State Government bought Godsonic's interest (a company owned by Emeka Offor), in JDZ Block-4. Government subsequently released USD500, 000.00(N83M) for transfer of equity. However, this money was not paid and so far has not been accounted for. Fortunately, the Hon. Minister is currently on the Board of Joint Development Authority which oversees the zone and he assured us that he would assist in ensuring the transfer of the equity to Rivers State if the agreed payment is made to Godsonic.

OUR OBSERVATIONS:

1. The composition of the Federal Government Committee on the Oil and Gas Reform Committee was unfair as there was only one Rivers and one Edo persons out of 22 members on that committee.
2. Apparent lack of co-operation on important issues amongst the Governors of the core oil producing areas.
3. Lack of interaction between RSG and top Rivers indigenes in the oil and gas industry serving and retired.
4. Rivers State Government does not have expert advice on Oil and Gas to guide her in the quest to actively participate in the reformed oil and gas industry.

5. Rivers State Government has been tardy on its investment. There has been poor documentation and follow up.
6. Gas investments are long term investments.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Bayelsa, Rivers and Akwa-Ibom states should all work together to achieve better and faster results in the reformed oil and gas sector since they have the bulk of the nation's gas deposit in their territories.
2. These States should discourage further piping away of gas from their territories without the establishment of infrastructures and commercial ventures within their domains that would utilize the gas and subsequently add value to it.
3. State Government should promote through PPP, investment in gas related commercial and industrial venture (Fertilizer, methanol, LNG, etc. plants) in the State.
4. Additionally the State should insist on appropriate pricing of the gas.
5. Rivers State Government should as a matter of utmost urgency, engage the services of a Rivers indigene who is an expert with long standing experience in oil and gas matters as a Special Adviser.
6. The Rivers State Commissioner of Finance should confirm if revenue from gas is paid into the Federation Account and if so the State is receiving revenue from gas according the principle of derivation.
7. The oil (block OPL 289) for the State and interest in JDZ (bock 4) should be thoroughly investigated.
8. The State and Bonny community and the State should pursue for equity participation in Bonny and Brass LNGs, just as Eleme has equity in Indorama and Bayelsa has in Brass LNG.
9. The Rivers State Governor should continue to maintain close cordial working relationship with the other South-South Governors and the Vice President to promote the interest of the State in oil and gas sector.
10. All revenue accruing to the Federal Government from all natural resources including gas should be paid into the Federation Account and principle of derivation strictly applied.
11. Security in the Niger Delta must be tackled seriously so that it will no longer be used as an excuse to divert projects and programmes that would be beneficial to the people away from the region. This will enable indigenes of the areas to benefit maximally from these oil & Gas Industry reforms and national gas plan.

2.7 THE RIVERS STATE PETROLEUM STRATEGY

MISSION

To actively participate, directly and indirectly in Petroleum Exploration and Production activities in order to fully utilize the opportunities that inhere in Rivers State as major stakeholders and repository of the Petroleum Resources.

VISSION

An indigenous Petroleum Company that will participate actively in the industry for the maximum benefit of the Rivers People.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Ø Urgently need to participate in the Petroleum Upstream (E&P business including Marginal Fields, Acreage ownership and exploitation).
- Ø Participating in Downstream activities (Marketing, Distribution, etc).
- Ø **Activities in Gas Utilisation (off-takers....Suppliers....distributors) .**
- Ø **Contracting (e.g. Local content).**
- Ø Benefitting from the unbundling of NNPC.
- Ø **Seek equity stakes in NLNG Bonny and OKLNG as resource holders (already done by some states in OKLNG & Brass LNG).**
- Ø Check share holding in Eleme Petrochemicals and former NAFCON and seek to increase same.
- Ø Capacity building (training, development of indigenes.....PTDF!).

FEASIBILITY OF THE MISSION

- High proven petroleum resources.
- Local knowledge (technical, political, moral).
- Our political clout will "open doors" and take logistics.
- Ability for Equity participation.

CONSTRAINTS

- **Late entry into the industry.**
- **Security.**
- Limited Industry Knowledge-base.

VEHICLES

- An UMBRELLA COMPANY with subsidiaries to address various streams of operation OR
- Individual affiliated companies

It is recommended to go for INDIVIDUAL AFFILIATED COMPANIES which would be ultimately amalgamated by an umbrella company

- Establish an E&P company to be known as RIVERS PETROLEUM COMPANY LIMITED
- Establish a gas and power company to be known as RIVERS GAS & POWER LIMITED

- Encourage indigenous holding through private/public sector partnerships
It is recommended that each company seeks out a credible technical partner (NOT THE MAJORS), and enters into operational agreements in which the state's interests are fully protected.

RIVERS PETROLEUM COMPANY LIMITED

- Operational Strategy for take-off:
- Form a lean & mean company with seasoned professionals who can "play" the industry, using seasoned consultants.
- Structure to consist of the following Directorates: Technical; Business Development; Legal/ Corporate.
- In order to effectively take off with CREDIBILITY, company MUST take possession of all available assets (the existing RIVERS STATE blocks from? Last bid round; seek active participation in Marginal Fields located in the RIVERS STATE in the first instance).

RIVERS GAS & POWER LIMITED

- Articulate, announce and publicize in accordance with the Kyoto Protocols, a Government policy of conversion from liquid petroleum to Gas as source of power Generation and Cooking in Rivers State by 2020
- Immediately determine the Gas demand from above starting with the existing Customers in the Trans-Amadi Industrial Estate and proposed ENERGY CITY & NEW TOWNS.
- The company to consist of Commercial, Technical and Legal / Corporate Directorates.
- Start as off-takers of Gas for local supply and grow into G&P.
- Primary Transmission & Distribution to be avoided at the initial stage; opportunities in SME to be explored.

PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT

Policy Statement:

To balance critical community involvement and engagement with effective enforcement of law and order to secure sustainable Peace and Security in Rivers State as a pathway to:

Arresting Youth Restiveness characterized by Kidnapping; Robbery, and Assassination etc through effective management and security of the community;

Providing massive employment for the youths in all the communities of the State;

Resolving the general poor state of rural economic development; and

Providing authentic and sustainable Community Development structure.

“Conscious effort should be made by Government officials and indeed all indigenes of the State to effectively manage the poor perception of the security situation in the State as is done in other countries with similar challenges by:-

- ❖ De-emphasizing incidents of kidnapping, Cultism/Cult wars, Militancy, Assassinations etc which periodically occur in the State; and
- ❖ Focusing upon and according prominent reportage to programmes/projects/events which have a positive impact on the development of the State and its image”

Justification for Policy Shift:

- o Present policy appears to be ineffective;
- o Unanimity of view that military option alone would not suffice;
- o Need to create an escape corridor for borderline and repentant misguided militants; and
- o Need for active involvement of the community in their own security.

Strategy:

- o The strategic direction of the new policy should aim at creating an enduring structure that complements the existing policy thrust including that of bringing development to the grassroots whilst drawing and benefiting from the deep resources of local capacities.

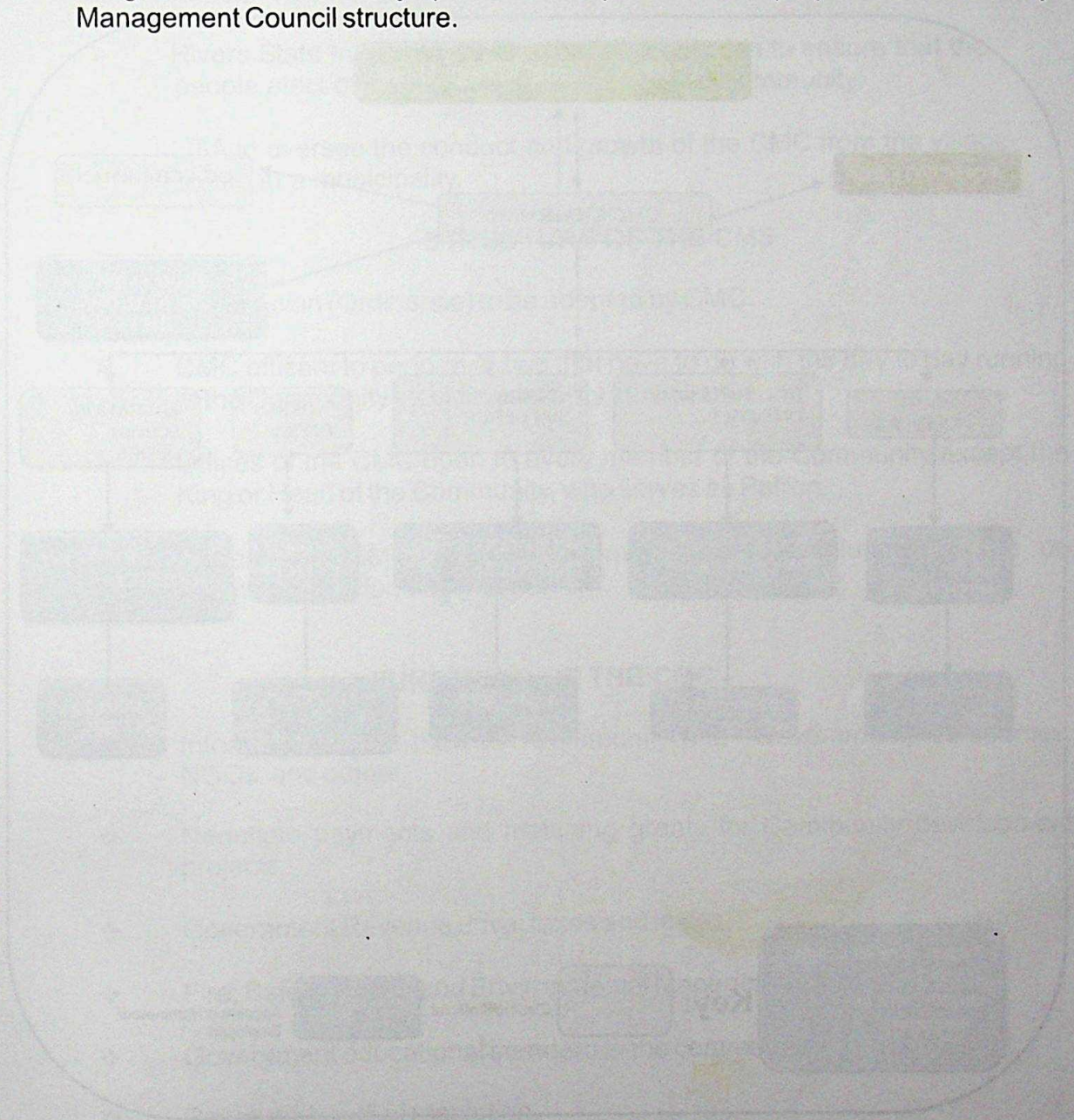
Structural Changes:

- o Creation of Community Management Councils and Coordinating Committees in each Community that is backed by law;
- o Community for this purposes may mean a village, a neighborhood or municipality; and

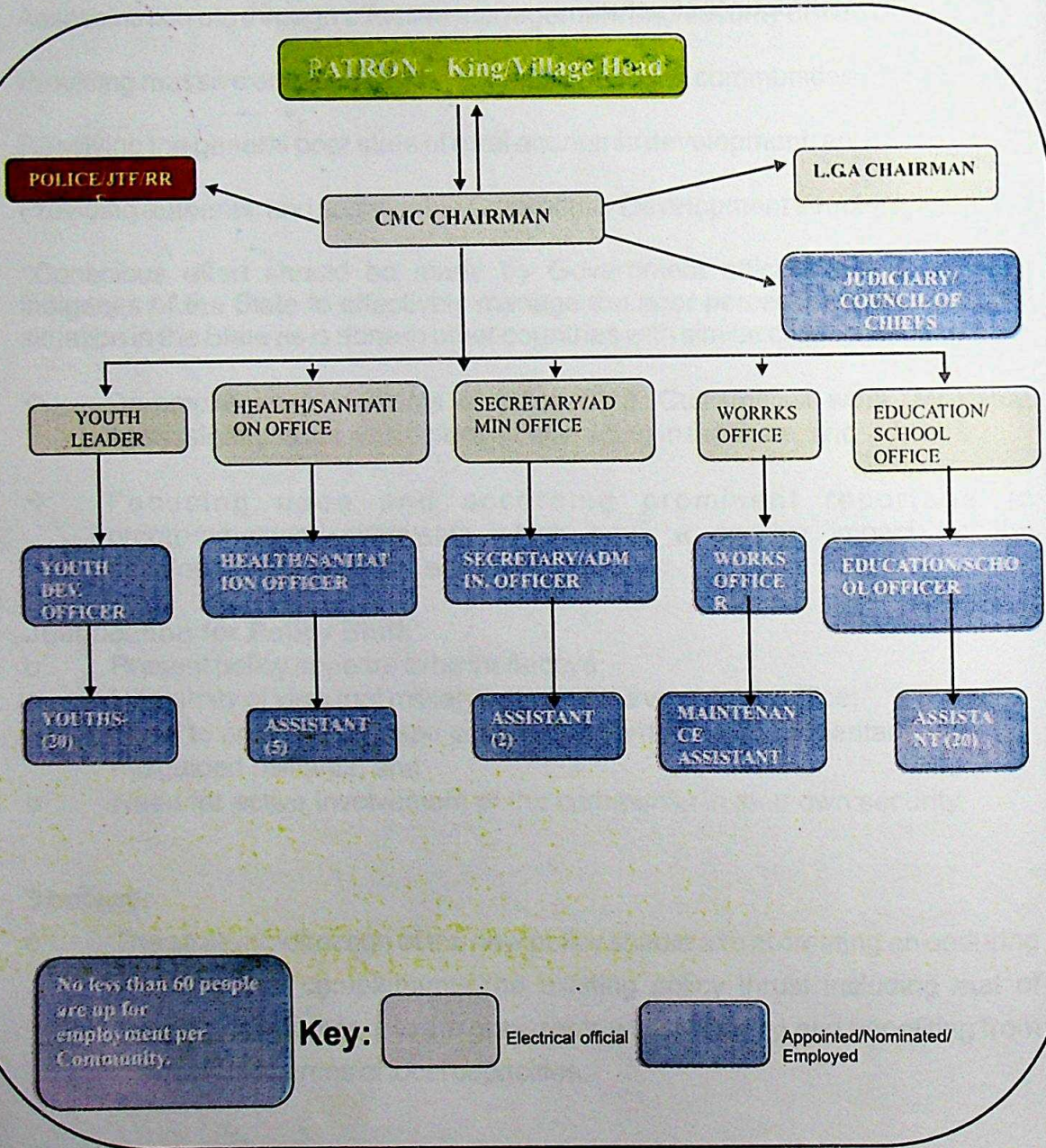
- o Coordinating Management Councils could be set up to tackle issues common to contiguous Management Council Areas.

- **Other Changes:**

- o Collate and maintain a credible unemployment statistics in the State;
- o Set up an integrated emergency call centre; and
- o Integrate the Community police concept into the proposed Community Management Council structure.



STRUCTURE OF THE CMC



STRUCTURE OF THE CMC

- LGA to recommend villages or communities who desire to be upgraded to CMC status.
- State to grant the community a Charter that defines the management structure and responsibilities.
- Rivers State Independent Electoral Commission to ensure that the people elect officers to run the affairs of the Community.
- LGA to oversee the conduct and growth of the CMC from the village status to a municipality.

STRUCTURE OF THE CMS

- Constitution (Ordinance) to be adopted by CMC.
- CMC officers to perform duties that have to do with the day to day running of the Community including security surveillance.
- Offices of the CMC open to every member of the Community except the King or Head of the Community, who serves as Patron.
- Patron and CMC Officers to have monthly emolument based on recommended funding mechanism.

FUNCTIONS OF THE CMC

- ❖ Information agent between Community and Government, Companies, NGOs and others.
- ❖ Negotiate payments and matching grants for Community development projects.
- ❖ Government Revenue drive, taxes and levies.
- ❖ Fire, Safety, Health and Environmental Management.
- ❖ Government educational standard in the community.
- ❖ Peace and conflict resolution.
- ❖ Employment through rural administration and projects.
- ❖ General assembly will be presided by the King or Head of the Family.

● **Mode of Effecting Policy Shift:**

- Against the backdrop that the government had consistently maintained the "no-dialogue-with-militants" stand, the new policy shift need be effected in a manner that does not show a climb down and loss of face otherwise it might be counter-productive or less effective;
- Deliberate efforts need be made therefore to create the public impression that government is being responsive to public opinion;
- A tone down of government rhetoric on the issue of 'fire-for-fire' with militants;
- Subtle but active encouragement of groups to publicly advocate and appeal to government to shift policy, in the direction of the proposed new policy as well as exposing the 'conspiracy theory' to public debate; and
- Sponsoring (but not publicly identified to be so doing) of a credible Peace workshop that would come up with the recommendations and modalities for:

● A change of direction by all stakeholders;

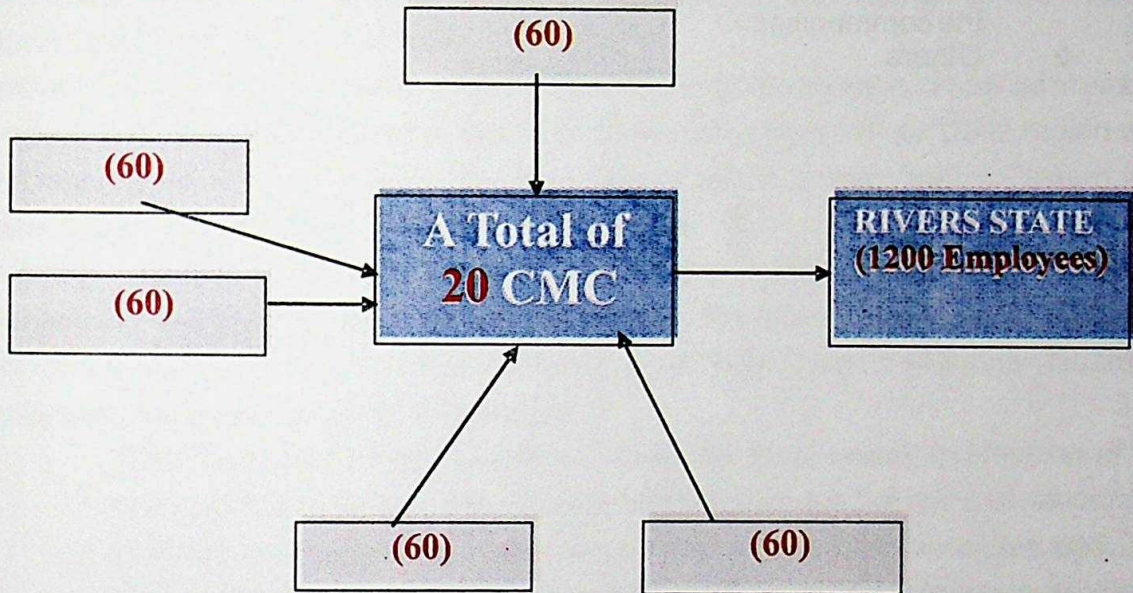
● Informal engagement; and

● Rehabilitation strategies for repentant militants.

● **Other Critical Action Points:**

- Send a delegation to study the Anambra model of Community involvement in State Security;
- Draft and introduce appropriate Legislation to amend the Rivers State Local Government Law and/or the Rivers State Sustainable Development Law to incorporate the structural component of new policy;
- Backing the structural and other changes with a credible rehabilitation process; and
- Encouraging critical but reliable third parties to informally engage with a view to luring some youths from the 'camps'. Needless to add that this could provide some resource for credible information and intelligence gathering.

EMPLOYMENT BENEFIT OF THE NEW POLICY



BUDGET

Elected Personnel (6) x N100,000 = N600,000

Appointed personnel (5) x N50,000 = N300,000

Assist & Youths (49) x N30,000 = N1,470,000

Total for Municipality per month = N2,357,000

Total for the State per month 20 x N2,370,000 = N47,400,000

Total for the state per annum 12 x N47,400,000 = N3,950,000.00

FUNDING OF THE CMC

- ❖ Annual levies generally accepted by the Community for individuals, organizations and businesses, and approved by the government of the State.
- ❖ Fund raising, launching and voluntary donations.
- ❖ Appeal to government, companies, NGOs and others.
- ❖ Subventions and matching Grants from government, companies, NGOs and others.
- ❖ Community investment proceeds.
- ❖ Government statutory allocation from the LGA, and disbursed directly to the communities.
- ❖ Others.

2.9 MEMORANDUM TO TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON THE NIGER DELTA

1 BACKGROUND

Under-development of the Niger Delta has been the cry of the population of the region, since the entrapment of the minorities of the region into the Nigerian federation. Indeed, our people ably represented by the Rivers Chiefs and Peoples Conference expressed their fears of discrimination and marginalization to the pre-independence constitutional conference in 1957. These fears were corroborated by the findings of the Willinks Minority Commission Report of 1958.

However, the safeguards recommended in the report for the creation of special areas for the speedy development of the backward and underdeveloped Niger Delta region was never intended to be implemented by the majority ethnic groups first in Eastern and Western Nigeria and latterly the Northern ruling clique.

Since the exploitation of petroleum resource in the region became the dominant occupation of the Nigerian state after independence, the region has sunken further into more underdevelopment. In an editorial regarding the Niger Delta, the Nigerian Guardian newspaper (Monday August 28, 2006) wrote:

“The Niger Delta crisis is without doubt the most potent expression of the failure of the Nigerian state of our inability to resolve the crisis of nationhood that has led the country down since independence four decades ago. The region's crisis has become the sore of the nation, a cancer that may erode the fragile bonds that hold this polyethnic nation together... The region is endowed with ample petroleum resources and is the goose that lays the golden egg for the country. Unfortunately, the people from the Niger Delta have benefitted the least from the oil wealth. Rapacious ruling elite has reduced the people of the Niger Delta.... to a life of penury...”

The core Niger Delta has remained about the single most underdeveloped delta region of the world when one takes into consideration the role and place of the region in the Nigerian and global economy. Data from the Central Bank of Nigeria and quoted in “The impact of Oil on Nigeria's Economic Policy Formulation” (Biodun Adedipe, 2004):¹

Sector	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2002
Agriculture	64.1%	47.6%	30.8%	39.0%	35.7%	28.35%
Manufacturing	4.8%	8.2%	8.1%	8.2%	3.4%	5.5%
Crude Petroleum	0.3%	7.1%	22.0%	12.8%	47.5%	40.6%
Others	30.8%	37.1%	39.1%	40.0%	13.4%	25.55%

Since independence however, successive governments have engaged in one deceptive move after another. For instance,

- the 1960 Niger Delta Development Board;
- the 1970 River Basin Development Authority;
- the 1993 Oil Mineral Producing Area Development Commission;
- the 1998 Popoola Committee;
- the 2002 General Alexander Ogomudia Committee Report on Oil Producing Area; and
- the recent Standing Committee on Good Governance and Corporate Responsibility headed by Dr. Edmond Daukoru, Minister of State for Petroleum.

All came to naught!

All these commission's reports were never faithfully implemented. This was so because government either had no intention of implementing those recommendations; and or refused to adequately budget for the implementation of the reports and the survival of those commissions and bodies.

At this juncture, we may make reference to the development of the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja, which has received and continues to receive monumental infrastructural investment from a Nigerian nation committed to appropriating resource from the Niger Delta, even when it is unwilling to make any meaningful investment in the Niger Delta, where the inhabitants suffer neglect and environmental degradation.

The Niger Delta the nation's breadbasket is "poor, backward and neglected." It has been so for generations. Successive Nigerian governments, the oil companies and the international community have all failed the Niger Delta. As a result of the prolonged neglect and insincerity on the part of successive administrations to aggressively tackle the peculiar problems of the Niger Delta region, a segment of the people has chosen to react; hence the militancy. To be frank, the present militancy in the area is a natural reaction to several decades of criminal neglect of the region.

2. IDENTIFIED PROBLEMS

Rivers state which is a core Niger Delta oil producing area is bedeviled by:

- crippling ecological problems;
- health problems caused by relentless gas flaring for 50years;
- illegal misappropriation of productive lands without adequate compensation;
- abject poverty and persistent unemployment;
- abuse of fundamental rights and intimidation of local communities by the government and oil companies such as incidents in Umuechem and Ogoni;
- forced and induced migration;

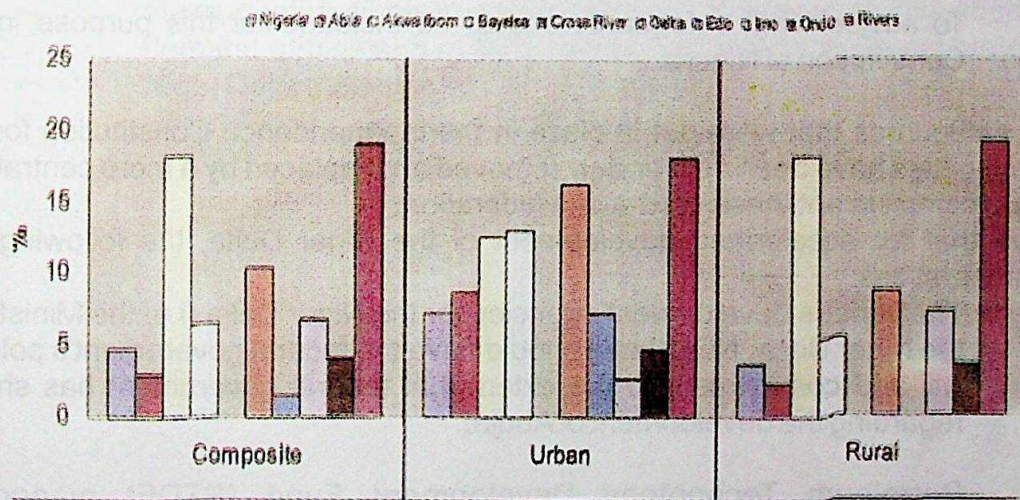
- the breakdown of family and social structures; and
- degradation of the land and waterways resulting in the disappearance of the communal way of living, including traditional occupations;

while the rest of the country benefits from the oil, the same oil and gas has been a curse to the local communities.

2.i Unemployment

Figures indicate that the unemployment rate in the core Niger Delta region was much higher than the national unemployment rate which stood at 5%. The unemployment rate for Rivers state was 19.1%, even though the state is home to most major oil and gas facilities in Nigeria.

Table 2: Unemployment in the Niger Delta



Source: Social welfare Sector Report, 2004

2.ii Federal Projects

Rivers State has been most unfairly treated in the provision of needed infrastructure for the economic and social up-liftment of the people of the State. Federal roads have been abandoned, while those that were serviced on behalf of the Federal government are yet to be reimbursed. A very recent and telling issue is that of the Port Harcourt International Airport, which was closed and allowed to remain closed until the Rivers state government offered a loan for its rehabilitation.

Roads and other infrastructural projects slated in earlier Development Plans are yet to be considered, while funds derived from our state and other states of the Niger Delta, have been used for infrastructural development elsewhere. The case of the Petroleum Trust Fund (PTF) and its project distribution is very fresh in our memory, where over 80% of

the funds disbursed by this agency were utilized in the northern part of Nigeria to the exclusion of the Niger Delta where petroleum is being derived.

The operations of the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) are no different, particularly in its human resource development agenda, where there is a patently biased

agenda for the development of manpower for the oil and gas industry specifically for persons from non-oil and gas producing areas. Is there any wonder, why there is high level of unemployment particularly graduate unemployment of the youths of the state and the rest of the Niger Delta?

3. ADDRESSING THE PROBLEMS

The concerns expressed above would be mitigated by the Niger Delta states exercising greater control over the resources and institutions established for their development. It must be emphasized that the problems of the Niger Delta, particularly Rivers State (Rivers Province) predated the exploitation of oil and gas in commercial quantities. There was concern that governments far-removed in the hinterland could not understand nor would seek to understand the peculiar problems of the peoples of the Niger Delta. Indeed the terms of reference for the Willinks Minority Commission include:

- 1) To ascertain the facts about fears of minorities in any part of Nigeria and to propose means of allaying those fears, whether well or ill-founded.
- 2) To advise what safeguards should be included for this purpose in the Constitution of Nigeria.

Whatever safeguards that were put in place in the Independence Constitution for the Rights of minorities have been deliberately removed and replaced by a more centralized federation, a complete antithesis of what is a federation.

We believe that for accelerated development of the Niger Delta, the following are minimum imperatives:

- I. The various development agencies for the Niger Delta (i.e. the Ministry of the Niger Delta, NDDC etc) should have the federal government's political will and commitment to the extent that federal government has shown regarding the development of Abuja.
- II. Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) manpower development interventions must ensure that persons from the oil and gas producing areas, including Rivers state indigenes benefit maximally over and above persons from outside the oil producing areas. ***It is iniquitous and unfeeling to put in place a policy of developing oil and gas manpower from outside the zone of the industry to the deliberate exclusion of our citizens.***
- III. We ask that the proposed apex oil and gas training institution in the Federation be sited in Rivers State which is the centre of Nigeria's oil and gas industry.
- IV. We seek for the establishment of Development Trust Fund by the Joint Venture Partners regarding oil and gas development projects in the oil producing communities in line with the "Alaska Permanent Trust Fund".
- V. We observe with dismay the elasticity that has characterized the implementation of the policy to stop the flaring of gas. This also brings into focus the grim reality that authorities far away from the Niger Delta pay no attention to the health and environmental hazards posed by this

unwholesome industry activity. We therefore demand an immediate cessation of the flaring of gas in our environment.

- VI. We seek equity participation in the oil and gas industry, and ask that ownership of marginal fields be vested in companies indigenous to Rivers and the rest of the Niger Delta people.
- VII. Given that the Niger Delta states contribute about 90% of the total revenue accruing to the federation, but represent about 16% of the states and about 10% of the local governments in Nigeria, which units form the basis for revenue sharing in the federation, we therefore demand the creation of at least two additional in Rivers state.
- VIII. To ensure a fair, just Federation in which the component units shall abide in union, there is a compelling need for a political restructuring of the Nigerian Federation, where federating units assume control of their resources and make contributions to the federation. However, in the short term, we demand a minimum of 50% revenue allocation to Rivers state and other Niger Delta states.

2.10 RIVERS STATE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTIONS	AREAS/CONTENTS	PAGES
1.	GOOD GOVERNANCE	136 - 141
2.	EDUCATION	142 - 153
3.	HEALTH	154 - 160
4.	OIL & GAS, ENERGY	161 - 166
5.	COMMERCE & INDUSTRY	167 - 172
6.	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, SANITATION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT	173 - 180
7.	WATER	181 - 186
8.	HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT	187 - 193
9.	TRANSPORT	194 - 198
10.	AGRICULTURE	199 - 202
11.	PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP	203 - 213

**SECTION 1
GOOD GOVERNANCE**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 BACKGROUND

2.0 POLICY

3.0 CHALLENGES AND CAUSATIVE FACTORS

3.1 Challenges to good governance

3.2 Causative Factors

4.0 IMPLEMENTATIONS STRATEGIES

4.1 Sustainability of Urban Development

4.2 Subsidiarity of Authority and Resources to the Appropriate Level

4.3 Equitable Access to Decision-Making

4.4 Efficiency: Delivery of Public Services

4.5 Transparency & Accountability

4.6 Prudent Budget Allocation and Implementation

4.7 Project Evaluation, Monitoring and Management

4.8 Civic Engagement & Citizenship

Security: Of Individuals and Living Environment

GOOD GOVERNANCE

"Public order, personal security, economic and social progress and prosperity are not the natural order of things, that they depend on ceaseless effort and attention from an honest and effective government"

(Lee Kwan Yew)

1.0 BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 The process of decision making and implementation in public institutions in Rivers State in the conduct of public affairs, management of public resources and regard for rule of law is key to achieving sustainable human development in the State.
- 1.2 The government must put in place reform processes, goals, and expected end results to restore public confidence in governance.

2.0 POLICY

- 2.1 To render a transparent and accountable stewardship anchored on integrity and the rule of law by creating a society devoid of unnecessary bureaucratic bottlenecks and corruption for the improvement of quality of life of the people in a secure, democratic and peaceful environment.

3.0 CHALLENGES AND CAUSATIVE FACTORS:

3.1 Challenges to Good Governance

- 3.1.0 Poor and ineffective public service structure.
- 3.1.1 Corrupt and indisciplined society.
- 3.1.2 Non-adherence to regulation and procedures in public service
- 3.1.3 Lack of accurate information and data.
- 3.1.4 Lack of personal security of citizens.
- 3.1.5 Political and local conflicts which led to militancy and other crimes.
- 3.1.6 Poor regulation and co-ordination of the private sector and the public sector.
- 3.1.7 Acute unemployment.

3.2 Causative Factors

- 3.2.1 Lack of motivation of public servants.
- 3.2.2 Flagrant misuse of public funds and political power.
- 3.2.3 Lack of vision, selfishness and poor leadership.
- 3.2.4 Poor participation of the organized private sector in the economy of the State.
- 3.2.5 Misuse of the police and security agencies.
- 3.2.6 Lack of empowerment for the people

3.2.7 Poor dissemination of information.

3.2.8 Poor social infrastructure.

3.2.9 Poor project monitoring and budget implementation.

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

4.1 Sustainability of Urban Development

4.1.1 Undertake consultations with stakeholders within communities to agree on a broad-based, mission statement and long-term strategic vision of the State, using tools such as city development strategies;

4.1.2 Integrate urban poverty reduction strategies into local development planning;

4.1.3 Increase green cover and preserve historical and cultural heritage;

4.1.4 Ensure financial viability by promoting economic activity through the participation of all citizens in the economic life of the State; and

4.1.5 Promote, transfer and encourage the development of appropriate technologies.

4.2 Subsidiarity of Authority and Resources to the Appropriate Level

4.2.1 In consultation with local authorities, develop clear institutional frameworks for assigning and delegating responsibilities and commensurate powers and resources from the State to the local level and/or from the local level to the urban level;

4.2.2 Adopt local legislation to support subsidiarity in practical terms by empowering the society to participate effectively in State affairs and promote the responsiveness of local authorities to their communities; and

4.2.3 Create transparent and predictable inter-governmental fiscal transfers and State government support for the development of administrative, technical and managerial capacities at the State level.

4.3 Equitable Access to Decision-Making

4.3.1 Ensure that women have equitable access to decision-making processes, resources and basic services; and

4.3.2 Establish equitable quotas for women representation in governance and encourage their promotion to higher management positions at all levels.

4 Efficiency: Delivery of Public Services

- 4.4.1 Encourage municipal departments to find innovative means of delivering public services;
- 4.4.2 Promote integrated, inter-sectoral planning and management; and
- 4.4.3 Improve the effectiveness quality and efficiency of service delivery with the best long term value for money.

5 Transparency & Accountability

- 4.5.1 Establish transparent tendering and procurement procedures;
- 4.5.2 Conduct internal independent audit;
- 4.5.3 Conduct annual external audit reports;
- 4.5.4 Remove administrative procedures that encourage corruption; and
- 1.5.5 Promote an ethics of service to the public among officials, while putting into place adequate remuneration for public servants.

6 Prudent Budget Allocation and Implementation

- 4.6.1 Seek avenues for improving fiscal status through an efficient budget mechanism;
- 4.6.2 Ensure prudent management of budget resources by prioritizing and rationalizing expenditure;
- 4.6.3 Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of revenue collection and administration; and
- 4.6.4 Minimize bureaucratic delays in the disbursement and control of budgetary income.

7 Effective Project Evaluation, Monitoring and Management

- 4.7.1 Introduce standard procedures that would ensure that all projects are properly evaluated, monitored and managed at every stage from conceptualization to implementation; and
- 4.7.2 Undertake capacity building and man power development of professionals in the public service.

4.8 Civic Engagement & Citizenship

4.8.1 Strictly enforce codes of conduct and make provision for prompt and verifiable disclosure of assets of public officials and elected representatives before and after service.

4.8.2 Develop enduring enforceable standards of accountability and service delivery.

4.9 Security of Individuals and Living Environment:

4.9.1 Create safety and security through consultative processes based on the rule of law, solidarity and prevention, and supporting appropriate indigenous institutions that promote security.

SECTION 2 - EDUCATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.0 POLICY

2.0 CHALLENGES

2.1 Poor Infrastructural Facilities

2.1.1 Poor learning environment

2.1.2 Poor working environment

2.1.3 Over-crowded classrooms

2.2 **PoorFunding**

2.2.1 Lack of teaching aids

2.2.2 Ill-equipped libraries, laboratories/workshop

2.2.3 Poor remuneration/lack of incentives

2.2.4 Decline in enrolment in science-based subjects/courses

2.2.5 Non-Compliance to information, communication technology

2.2.6 Guidance and Counseling

2.3 Indiscipline

2.4 Administrative inadequacies

2.4.1 Appointment of head of schools

2.4.2 Appointment of Chairmen/Members of Boards

2.5 Lack of effective supervision

2.6 Lack of staff development and re-training schemes

2.7 Total neglect of the more vulnerable group

2.8 `General lack of interest in academics

3.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

3.1 General recommendations

3.2 Specific recommendations

3.2.1 Universal Basic Education

3.2.2 Secondary education

3.3 Adult/non-formal/special education

3.4 Technical/Vocational education

3.5 Tertiary education

EDUCATION

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1** Rivers State is classified as one of the educationally disadvantaged States in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. This has obvious and serious implications for the State and her people, considering the role of education as the most effective instrument for the overall emancipation of a people. The Education Sector in the State is in total chaos, and therefore needs urgent attention by all stakeholders to restructure the system towards meeting the desired goals.

2.0. POLICY

- 2.1 To ensure that every child in Rivers State is given a free and compulsory Universal Basic Education as a foundation to eradicate ignorance and to reduce poverty.
- 2.2 To develop the human resources capabilities of the people through effective formal and informal education, and to ensure that the State is able to compete effectively in a world driven by science and technology.
- 2.3 To appropriate at least 25% of the State annual budget for the education sector, bearing in mind the key role of education in the development of the individual and the larger community.
- 2.4 To ensure teacher-pupil/student ratio is 1:25 for primary school, 1:35 for secondary school 1: 35 for tertiary institutions.
- 2.5 To recognize the peculiar needs of the physically challenged (deaf, blind, dumb, etc.), and to ensure that infrastructural facilities cater for their needs.
- 2.6 To recognize the peculiar needs of the gifted child.

3.0 CHALLENGES

The challenges facing the education sector are categorized as follows:

3.1 Poor Infrastructural Facilities

The schools in the State at all levels have poor infrastructural facilities for effective teaching and learning. The consequences of poor infrastructural facilities are far-reaching, and some of the major negative effects are:

3.1.1 Poor learning environment

In many schools in the State pupils/students sit on bare and broken floor, under leaking and broken roofs, and sometimes under trees to learn.

3.1.2 Poor working environment

It is a fact that both academic and non-academic staff in our schools at all levels work under severe and deplorable conditions. Many schools have neither residential nor office accommodation for their members of staff.

3.1.3 Over-crowded classrooms

There are many schools in the State where pupils/students stand by the windows to receive lessons/lectures due to space problems. Many of our schools do not have enough classrooms to conduct examinations, leading to over-crowding during examinations with its attendant problems of examination malpractices.

3.2 Poor Funding

Our schools are not properly funded to meet the goals for which they are established. Most of the challenges facing the education sector in the State, including poor infrastructural facilities are directly linked to poor funding. The major consequences of poor funding include:

3.2.1 Lack of teaching aids

Lack of necessary materials to support meaningful teaching and learning.

3.2.2 Ill-equipped libraries, laboratories/workshops

Most schools do not even have these facilities, while others convert theirs to other uses.

3.2.3 Poor remuneration/lack of incentives

The working conditions for both academic and non-academic staff in our schools are pitiable. There is lack of incentives for staff, in the rural areas.

3.2.4 Decline in enrolment in science-based subjects/courses

There is a dangerous decline in enrolment in science-based subjects/courses in our schools, stemming largely from lack of the necessary tools to effectively teach the sciences.

3.2.5 Non-Compliance to Information, Communication Technology

Neither our schools nor their curricula are ICT compliant due mainly to the fact that the wherewithal to do so is lacking.

3.2.6 Guidance and Counseling

Emphasize importance of guidance and counseling in the school system.

3.3 Indiscipline

There is serious decline in discipline and moral standards in our schools involving not only the pupils/students, but also school administrators, teachers and even parents. The symptoms of indiscipline in our schools show up in the following forms:

- Truancy amongst staff and pupils/students

- Lack of commitment on the part of staff
- Examinations malpractice by the pupils/students
- Teacher-aided examinations malpractice
- Some private and public schools serve as veritable grounds to perpetuate examinations malpractice
- Extortion in our secondary/tertiary schools
- Misuse of funds by school administrators
- Cultism and its attendant problems
- Delay in promotion of staff
- Delay in payment of salaries

3.4 Administrative Inadequacies

The education sector in the State has been managed by inexperienced persons with its attendant consequences. Some of the major areas are:

3.4.1 Appointment of heads of schools

There are cases where appointment of school administrators is not based on merit. There are many schools in the State where teachers on lower salary grade level and with less experience are appointed principals over more senior and more experienced persons.

3.4.2 Appointment of Chairmen/Members of boards

The education sector is a profession that requires experienced and seasoned managers in the sector, but this is not often reflected in the appointment of members of the Education Boards.

3.4.3 Acute Shortage of Manpower

Most of our schools, particularly those in the rural areas and our tertiary institutions are grossly under-staffed. There are not enough teachers in the core subjects in our schools. English Language, Mathematics and science-based subjects are the worst hit. The education sector has suffered from prolonged embargo on employment by the State government.

3.5 Lack of Effective Supervision

There is general lack of supervision and co-ordination of the activities of the major actors in the education sector in the State. The inspectorate units of the Ministry of Education and the various boards are ill-equipped for an effective monitoring of the activities in the sector. The tertiary institutions in the State are

- 4.2.8 Government and school administrators should enforce all the existing laws and regulations concerning involvement in cultist activities and all forms of examinations malpractice. •
- 4.2.9 The State-owned tertiary institutions should run courses/programmes that address the peculiar needs of the State, particularly in producing middle-level manpower in the area of oil and gas and the marine sector.
- 4.2.10 Adequate number of competent and qualified teachers should be recruited at all levels.
- 4.2.11 Teachers in the rural areas should be given meaningful motivational incentives, including making the working environment comparable to what obtains in the urban areas.

4.3 Specific Recommendations

4.3.1 Universal Basic Education

- (i) Laws which prohibit child labour, and which encourage the enrolment of all children for the compulsory Universal Basic Education (UBE) should be enforced in the State, and culprits dealt with accordingly.
- (ii) Reconstitution and inauguration of Management Boards.
- (iii) An effective Education Authority composed of members from the LGA to assist in the management of primary schools in each community. The Board should also monitor the activities of privately-owned primary schools in their jurisdiction.

4.3.2 Secondary Education

- (i) Government must insist on routine supervision of secondary schools; the inspectorate division of the State Ministry of Education and zonal supervisors should be properly equipped to do their job. Zonal school supervisors must be compelled by the Ministry or the various Education Boards to submit monthly reports of activities in their zones.
- (ii) The Rivers State College of Education, in collaboration with relevant subject associations in the State, should be empowered to design short courses to mass-produce secondary school teachers, especially for English Language, Mathematics and some Science-based subjects.
- (iii) Each school should have guardian and counseling unit and where they exist they should be strengthened.

4.3.3 Adult/non-formal/Special Education

- (i) Government should establish adult education centres in all villages and towns in Rivers State.
- (ii) Government should establish special schools with teachers and modern gadgets for the education of the physically challenged persons in the State.
- (iii) Government should establish schools for children of migrant fishermen and women

4.3.4 Technical/Vocational Education

- (i) Technical and vocational schools should be equipped and upgraded to Produce technicians and artisans who possess the relevant skills needed by the industries and companies.
- (ii) The entry point for admission into the technical schools should be set at a minimum of Junior Secondary School level completion certificate.

4.3.4 Tertiary Education

- (i) Government should provide adequate funds for the provision of infrastructural facilities, modern scientific and technological equipment in all tertiary institutions.
- (ii) Government should establish a College of Health Sciences at the Rivers State University of Science & Technology (RSUT) to offer courses in medicine and related disciplines.
- (iii) Sufficient funds should be made available as research grants to all tertiary institutions in the State to embark on high-level research projects that address the peculiar needs of the State.
- (iv) Deliberate efforts should be made to ensure that all programmes in our tertiary institutions that lost accreditation by the relevant supervisory bodies are adequately provided for, so that they can attain full accreditation.
- (v) The Rivers State College of Education should be up-graded to a University status and no longer be affiliated to any institution. This is because it is already well equipped in terms of size, population and staffing. The Executive Bill on this which lapsed last year, should be presented to the Rivers State House of Assembly.
- (vi) Government should provide tertiary institutions with special funds for postgraduate scholarships and in-service training programmes (both locally and abroad).
- (vii) As a deliberate policy government should encourage students to study physical sciences and engineering courses by paying double/triple bursary allowances to such students with a minimum of second class lower degree Grade Point Average (GPA).

SECTION 3
HEALTH
TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 BACKGROUND

2.0 POLICY

3.0 CHALLENGES

3.1 Health status

3.2 Health service delivery and quality of care

3.3 Health expenditure

3.4 Health care personnel training institutions

3.5 Public-Private Partnership

3.6 Management and Management Systems

3.7 State of health infrastructure

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

4.1 Primary Health Care

4.2 Secondary/Tertiary Health Care

4.3 Health Human Resources

4.3.1 Management

4.3.2 Staff redeployment

4.3.3 Staff recruitment

4.4 Specialist graduate training

4.5 Staff re-training and re-orientation

4.6 Revamping of Health Care Personnel Training Institutions

4.7 Financing the health system for achieving universal coverage
Health Facilities in Rivers State

HEALTH

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Health systems include all the activities with a primary purpose of protecting, promoting, restoring or maintaining health. The fundamental objectives of health systems are to protect people against the threats of ill-health and injury and to improve the health of the population in a way that responds to people's expectations and provides financial protection against the costs of ill-health and other consequences.

2.0 POLICY

2.1 In consonance with National Health Policy, the State should provide a comprehensive health care system, based on primary health care that is promotive, protective, preventive, restorative and rehabilitative to every citizen of the State within the available resources so that individuals and communities are assured of productivity, social well-being and enjoyment of living.

2.2 To strengthen the State health system such that it will be able to provide effective, efficient quality, accessible and affordable health services at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels that will improve the health status of residents of Rivers State through the achievement of the health-related Rivers State Economic Empowerment and Development strategy (RIVSEEDS) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

3.0 CHALLENGES

3.1 Health Status

- 3.1.1 Nigeria's overall health system performance was ranked 184th among the 191 Member States by the World Health Organization in 2006
- 3.1.2 Most of Rivers State disease burden is due to preventable diseases
- 3.1.3 The maternal mortality rate of (about one mother's death in every one hundred deliveries) is one of the highest in the world.
- 3.1.4 Some other health status indicators: under-five mortality rate and adult mortality rate are higher than the average.

3.2 Health Service Delivery And Quality Of Care

- 3.2.1 Routine immunization coverage of about 40% is at an all time low.
- 3.2.2 A very high proportion of primary health care facilities serve only about 5-10% of their potential load.
- 3.2.3 Secondary health/care facilities (General Hospitals) are in prostrate conditions.
- 3.2.4 Inadequate medical personnel to man available equipment in secondary and tertiary health facilities.
- 3.2.5 The referral system between various tiers of the Health System in secondary and tertiary institutions is non-functional or ineffective.

3 Health Expenditure

- 3.3.1 Public expenditure on health in Rivers State is less than \$8 per capital compared to the \$34 recommended internationally.
- 3.3.2 Private expenditures are estimated to be over 74.5% of total health expenditure with most of it coming from out-of-pocket expenditures in spite of the endemic nature of poverty.
- 3.3.3 Budgetary allocation to health has been inadequate; yet decreasing from 5.8% to 4.4% of total State budget between 2005 and 2007.
- 3.3.4 There is no broad-based health financing strategy.

4 Health Care Personnel Training Institutions

- 3.4.1 The College of Health Technology, School of Nursing and School of Midwifery in the State are all currently in a dysfunctional state, and do not meet the objectives for which they were set up.

5 Public-Private Partnership

- 3.5.1 Partnerships between the public and private sector are non-existent or ineffective.
- 3.5.2 No collaboration between the public and private Health Care delivery service.

6 Management And Management Systems

- 3.6.1 The management of the limited health resources available is ineffective and inefficient.
- 3.6.2 There is a culture of corruption and self-interest.
- 3.6.3 Indiscipline.

7 State Of Health Infrastructure

- 3.7.1 Decaying physical infrastructure.
- 3.7.2 Ill-equipped hospitals which are unable to perform routine investigations and treatment normally expected of general hospitals.
- 3.7.3 Shortage of manpower in all hospitals.
- 3.7.4 Acute shortage of accommodation for staff, particularly in rural areas.

8 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

8.1 Primary Health Care

- 4.1.1 Rehabilitation/Renovation of health centres where economically feasible.
- 4.1.2 Building of new functional and well-staffed health centres.
- 4.1.3 Local Government to fund the Primary health care delivery services.

- 4.1.4 Constitute Local Health Facility Governing Boards to carry out oversight functions of local health facilities.
- 4.1.5 Regular re-training of staff should be introduced.
- 4.1.6 Adequate remuneration should be paid to all health workers.

4.2 Secondary/Tertiary Health Care

- 4.2.1 Renovation of clinical and non-clinical facilities, including staff residences where economically feasible.
- 4.2.2 Build new hospitals.
- 4.2.3 Recruitment of essential staff.
- 4.2.4 Re-equipping and updating equipment of the hospitals.

4.3 Health Human Resources

4.3.1 Management

- Re-orientation of the health workforce.
- An effective reward/sanction system should be introduced.
- Hospital Administrators/Managers should be trained to properly manage our hospitals.

4.3.2 Staff Redeployment

- There is a need for a carefully planned re-distribution of staff based on functional needs and competence. This requires greater and closer cooperation between the professional groups in posting of staff. For instance, a situation where a surgeon gynecologist is posted to a hospital without anesthetist cover or theatre trained nurses does not make for optimum output of his skill.

4.3.3 Staff Recruitment

- Lift embargo on employment for essential staff.
- Urgent recruitment of staff. Overview of the present system clearly indicates a shortfall of staff requirement in all disciplines in the secondary/tertiary health sector.
- There is need to have a scientifically-based analysis of additional staff in the different departments over the next 5 years.

4.4 Specialist Graduate Training

- 4.4.1 Encourage and sponsor formal professional postgraduate training.
- 4.4.2 Additional incentives can be given to those who choose to go for training in those areas of acute need such as anesthetics, radiology, etc.

4.5 Staff Re-Training and Re-Orientation

- 4.5.1 Encourage in-house training through organization of regular clinical meetings, Grand ward rounds, Journal clubs etc.

- 4.5.2 Sponsorship for attendance at seminars, workshops, conferences and update courses
- 4.5.3 Organize management training for all those in leadership position.

4.6 Revamping of Health Care Personnel Training Institutions

The College of Health Technology, School of Nursing and School of Midwifery should be injected with substantial funds to make them functional and meet accreditation requirements to enable them produce the manpower needs of the sector.

4.7 Financing The Health System For Achieving Universal Coverage

Universal coverage of health care means that everyone in the population has access to appropriate promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative health care when they need it, and at an affordable cost.

- a. Government should implement the National Health Insurance Scheme for public servants.
- b. Government should also introduce community-based health insurance schemes for rural populace.
- c. Government should encourage private sector participation in health insurance schemes.

**SECTION 4
OIL & GAS, ENERGY**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1.0 BACKGROUND**
- 2.0 POLICY**
- 3.0 CHALLENGES**
- 4.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES IN OIL & GAS**
 - 4.1 Creation of Oil & Gas Industrial Clusters
 - 4.2 Multinational Companies & Corporate social responsibilities
 - 4.3 Development of technical indigenous entrepreneurship for the Oil & Gas sector
- 5.0 POWER GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION**
 - 5.1 Challenges
 - 5.2 Implementation strategies

OIL & GAS, ENERGY

BACKGROUND

The Oil & Gas, and Energy Industries have great impact to the economy of the State. However, the State is yet to derive maximum benefit from them.

The Oil & Gas Industry in particular, has been operating in isolation of concrete and identifiable State policy instrument. The energy industry also has its drawback which compelled the State to embark on power generation and distribution. To integrate the industries into the State economic system a policy framework is necessary.

POLICY

- 2.1 To ensure that the State and its indigenes derive maximum benefit from the exploration and exploitation of the State's oil blocks.
- 2.2 To create conducive environment and to ensure that adequate strategies are in place to domesticate oil and gas related technologies in the State, and to use the technologies to serve as a springboard for massive economic advancement.
- 2.3 To ensure the provision of adequate and uninterrupted power supply throughout the State, to drive and sustain the socio-economic development of the State.
- 2.4 To use the huge investment that the State made in the Omoku, Trans-Amadi and Eleme Gas Turbines as a springboard for the evolution of power generation, transmission and distribution of international standard, for providing electricity to the State.

CHALLENGES

- 3.1 The State has been allocated an oil block and has paid signature bonus to the Department of Petroleum Resources. The policy and strategy for development of the field are yet to be concluded by the government.
- 3.2 More than 50 years of activities of oil and gas in the State, the people still rely primarily on foreign institutions to man the industry and employ people to energize the economy of the State. The over-dependency on foreign inputs has been the greatest disaster to the economy of the State.
- 3.2 The State is today facing a major problem of electricity and water supply, even when there is technology in the oil and gas industry that can guarantee uninterrupted flow of these vital utilities.

- 3.3 The State is faced with acute problem of building and rehabilitating infrastructure without considering the engineering and construction technology available within the State in the oil and gas industry to support the venture.
- 3.4 Techno-economic policies have been usually formulated without collaboration with indigenous technical entrepreneurs and Stakeholders.
- 3.5 Acute shortage of indigenous manpower in the oil and gas, especially in Research and Development.

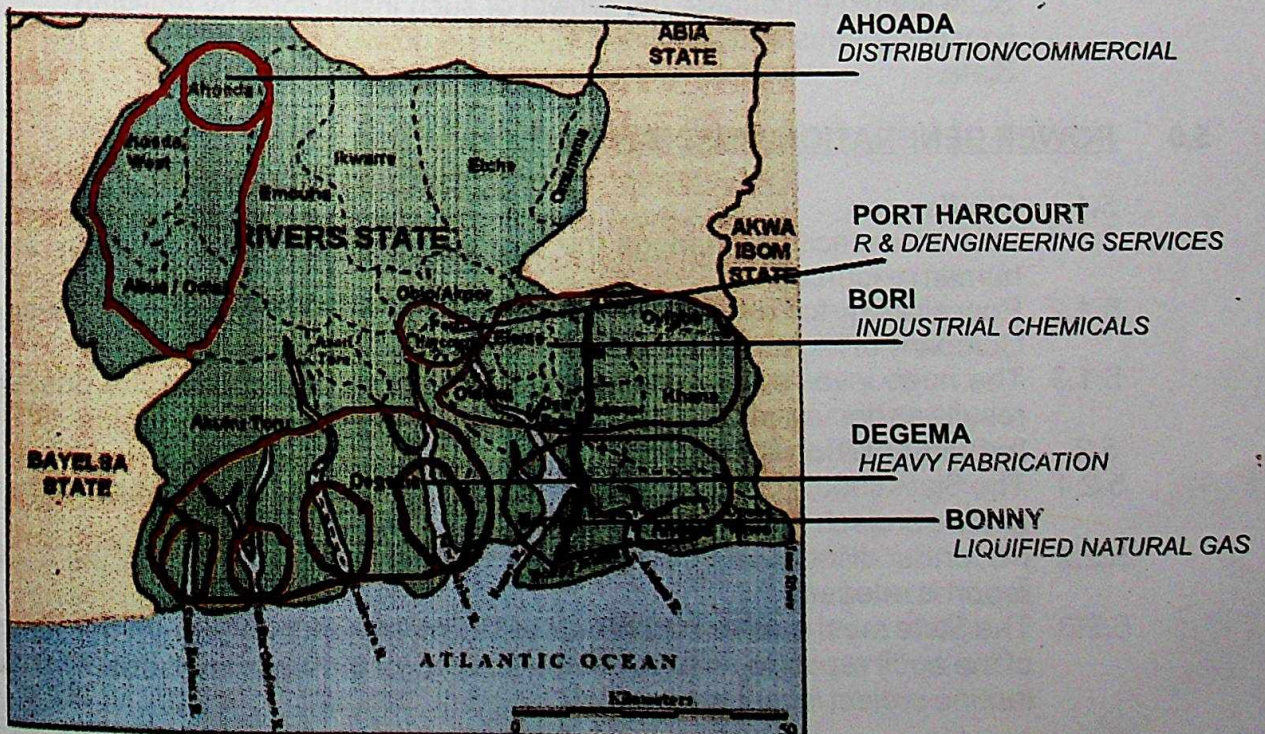
4.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES IN OIL AND GAS

4.1 Creation Of Oil And Gas Industrial Clusters

The State should establish industrial clusters to address long neglected technological needs of the State; this will in turn promote human capacity development of its indigenes. The development of the industrial clusters should be undertaken by the State in collaboration with the private sector.

The suggested clusters are:

- 4.1.1 Manufacturing Industries in Ahoada.
- 4.1.2 Industrial Chemicals in Bori .
- 4.1.3 Heavy Fabrication to be located in Degema .
- 4.1.4 Liquefied Natural Gas in Bonny.
- 4.1.5 Research and Development/Engineering in Port Harcourt.



4.2. Multinational Companies & Corporate Social Responsibilities

- 4.2.1 Undertake Census of Industrial companies -
 - Areas of Expertise and Contribution to State Economy
 - Headquarters/Facilities locations
- 4.2.2 Develop Strategies for appropriate presence of companies in Rivers State.
- 4.2.3 Set up mechanism to liaise with companies and host communities in establishing and monitoring implementation of appropriate "Memoranda of Understanding" (MOU's) for community development.
- 4.2.4 Monitor and evaluate social responsibility programmes to ensure that such programmes are in the best interest of the communities within their area of operation.
- 4.2.5 To insist on the practice of consummated impact and benefit agreements between host communities and the Oil & Gas Companies.

4.3 Development Of Technical Indigenous Entrepreneurship For The Oil & Gas Sector

- 4.3.1 State to lobby and guarantee capacity support of indigenous contractors to lead oil gas mega projects in design, procurement, fabrication and construction for the development of entrepreneurship in the State.

4.3.2 Research Development and Engineering Services

Government should appropriately fund State-owned tertiary institutions to promote Research and Development in Engineering Services. The State should encourage the growth of such institutions by enlisting consulting firms as the foundation for the growth of technology in the State.

5.0 POWER GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION

5.1 Challenges

- 5.1.1 Lack of capacity to manage the investment in terms of technology and human resources.
- 5.1.2 Poor strategy for interface management between the State, Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) and the project contractors.
- 5.1.3 The huge investment in the power sector has not produced the desired results as documented in the appendix.

5.2 Implementation Strategies

- 5.2.1 The State should carry out a detailed technical audit of the status of the gas turbine project.
- 5.2.2 No further disbursement on the project should be expended until the audit report is released.
- 5.2.3 The State must muster the political will to implement the recommendations of the audit report to ensure that the benefits of the huge investment in gas turbine project is realized.

SECTION 5 COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 BACKGROUND

2.0 POLICY

3.0 CHALLENGES

3.1 The effects of these problems on the State today

3.2 Certain symptoms that are witnessed in the State today

3.3 Diagnosis of the problems of Rivers State (SPET Analyses)

3.3.1 Overview of Rivers State Government owned-companies

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Rivers State and indeed Port Harcourt was a major destination for the hospitality industry in the 1950s, 1960s and early 70s, in addition to being the hub of the Oil & Gas industry up to the early 2000s.
- 1.2 Government was involved profitably with the private section in the ownership and management of various businesses, and business activities was confined to designated areas of the State. The socio-economic climate then was more conducive for business, and commerce flourished, unlike what obtains today.

2.0 POLICY

- 2.1 To attract increased investment to improve human capital and boost economic activity.
- 2.2 To accelerate the pace of industrial development through the efficient distribution and deployment of the human, mineral, water and agricultural resources of the State.
- 2.3 To make Rivers State the hub of the petroleum and natural gas Industry in the Africa.
- 2.4 To deliberately create and grow entrepreneurs/business people of Rivers State Origin.

3.0 CHALLENGES

Recent census data shows that Rivers State has a population in excess of 5.0 million people with Port Harcourt as the major hub both in terms of socio-economic and political activities and number of inhabitants. Based on international benchmarks, overall living standard and well-being in Rivers State is deplorable. The current challenges facing Rivers State can be listed under the following sub-headings:

- i. Insecurity
- ii. Ineffective governance
- iii. Poor/dilapidated infrastructure
- iv. Endemic corruption
- v. Lack of local capital
- vi. Lack of skilled labour
- vii. Low or no capacity utilization.
- viii. Failure of State-owned enterprises

3.1 The effects of these challenges on the State today are

- i. Redirection of foreign investments to friendlier climes (States and Regions)
- ii. Severe unemployment (especially amongst youths)
- iii. Loss of much-needed budget revenue
- iv. Continued decline in quality of life and general well-being of Rivers inhabitants.

3.2 These conclusions are based on certain symptoms that are witnessed in the State today, most of which can be summarized under the following sub-headings:

- i. Crime wave and armed banditry
 - ii. High unemployment and socio-economic dislocation
 - iii. Low level of economic activity
 - iv. Dismal quality of life and wide income disparity

3.3 Diagnosis of the challenges

An overview of problems and situation in Rivers State has been developed using the checklist model drawn by Jeffrey Sachs, in his book, "The End of Poverty" called SPET Analysis. The analysis has been done taking into consideration social, political, economic and technology factors which impact on development. The checklist and premise for the impact are annexed as Appendix 1 and 2 respectively.

3.3.1 Overview Of Rivers State Government Owned-Companies

An investigation of Rivers State Government-owned/managed companies (Appendix 3) showing the status of business activity, ownership structure and profitability indicate that all the companies in this category have failed. Nearly half of oil revenues accruing to government between 1973 2003 was spent in sustaining these companies. In 2001 alone, about 11% of budget revenue (N48 billion) was spent on staff salaries of Rivers State-owned companies. The joint ownership of most of these companies by both the Rivers State Government and Bayelsa State also has contributed in no small measure to the failure of these companies.

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- 4.1 Aggressively enhance and pursue a policy of achieving peace and Security.
- 4.2 Assemble and maintain accurate, reliable and up-to-date data on the economic, and socio-political framework of Rivers State.
- 4.3 Eliminate or gradually start reducing red tapism in the conduct of business, while insisting on transparency and due process in public sector administration.

- 4.4 Create a pool of accessible investible asset-base to fund local entrepreneurs and businesses operating in the State.
- 4.5 Constantly and systematically develop and upgrade the infrastructure and road network around the State.
- 4.5 Consistently enhance and develop human capacity with a conscious effort on building skilled and technologically savvy manpower for the public and private sector.
- 4.6 Enhance and entrench implementation of public-private partnership operating model in job-creation, infrastructure development and economic advancement of the State.
- 4.7 It is recommended that owing to the failure of government-owned/managed companies, government should commercialise/privatise all government-owned enterprises. A well-articulated commercialization programme should amongst other objectives:
- i. Free up State financial resources for alternative social needs schools, healthcare facilities, social amenities, etc.
 - ii. Stimulate creation of significant job opportunities by the private sector.
 - iii. Encourage investments, energize production and galvanize general economic activities in the State.
 - iv. Enhance local capacity building both in the public and private sector.
 - v. Facilitate increased flow of non-oil direct investment.
 - vi. Facilitate knowledge transfer and skills-development within the local economy.
 - vii. Re-invigorate the private sector and pave the way for private sector-led growth, which is a vital prerequisite for sustainable economic progress and empowerment in society.

4.9 To ensure success, the privatization process shall involve the following:

- i. Preparation of existing industries for privatization through the compilation of technical and financial audits and dissemination of same to prospective investors.
- ii. Revamping of ailing and moribund industries where necessary to make them attractive to investors.
- iii. The privatization exercise shall be done through open and competitive process.

4.10 Government should take steps to wind up all the companies jointly owned with the Bayelsa State Government.

SECTION 6
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, SANITATION
AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1.0** Background:
- 2.0** Policies
- 3.0** Challenges
- 3.1** Environmental Sanitation And Waste Management
 - 3.2** Natural Environment Challenges
 - 3.3** Industry Induced Challenges
 - 3.4** Socio/Infrastructural Challenges
- 4.0** Implementation Strategies
- 5.0** Specific Recommendations

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, SANITATION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

1.0 BACKGROUND

There are numerous natural, man-made and politically induced problems that militate against physical environmental protection and sustainable development of Rivers State. The challenges are grave with a complex mixed of environmental, political and socio-economic causative factors which require urgent attention.

2.0 POLICY

- 2.1 To protect and improve the environment and safeguard the water, air, land, forest and wildlife of the State.
- 2.2 To provide capacity building and human resource development for environmental/waste management and the local acquisition of technology for the management of such facilities.
- 2.3 To promote and strengthen scientific and technological research in development and in environmental protection and conservation.
- 2.4 Establish development limits to conserve and protect all marshlands from uncontrolled development.

3.0 CHALLENGES

3.1 Environmental Sanitation and Waste Management Challenges

- 3.1.1 Absence of modern and holistic sanitation and waste management system and non-implementation and enforcement of existing laws which has resulted in streets littered with debris and dumps of domestic and industrial wastes, overflowing and blocked drains, poor sanitary conditions, etc.
- 3.1.2 Absence of Municipality management structure for urban centres such as Port Harcourt, Ahoada, Abonnema, Buguma, Bori, Isiokpo, Bonny, to mention just a few, causing widespread existence of illegal structures, street trading and hawking and non-compliance with land use zoning code for residential, commercial and industrial purposes.

- 3.1.3 Lack of functional **Central Pipe-Borne Water Scheme** augmented by individual sinking of bore holes whose water is easily contaminated by the various individual septic tanks and polluted water of the rivers and creeks.
- 3.1.4 Lack of municipal **Central Sewage Pipeline Scheme**.
- 3.1.5 Emission of dangerous gases which is flared daily and also emission from rickety vehicles and equipments.

3.2 **Natural Environmental Challenges**

3.2.1 Rivers State, like other States of the natural Niger Delta coastal zone of Nigeria, constitutes a geographical region beset with numerous natural physical environmental problems. The Niger Delta is mostly a flat swampy basin criss-crossed by a myriad of rivers and creeks. It is composed of four ecological zones, viz:

- (i) The coastline barrier islands, less than 10km wide and of maximum elevation of 2-4m above sea level.
- (ii) Mangrove Tidal Swamp less than 1m above sea level and mostly flooded by tides, twice daily.
- (iii) Lower flood plain of tropical fresh water swamp rain forest of maximum elevation of 5m, part of which is flooded up to 2 to 5 months annually.
- (iv) Lowland rainforest, 6 to 20m above mean sea level.

3.2.2 The Niger Delta topography, geology and soil properties and prolonged heavy rainfall subject the area to severe annual flooding and erosion. The land area available for human use is only about 30% of the region, and so the inhabitants are confined to heavily densely populated and yet underdeveloped settlements. Without any planned mitigation, the current worldwide forecast of accelerated sea level rise will submerge in the next 30 years about a 40km wide strip of the Rivers State and the natural Niger Delta.

3.3 **Industry-Induced Challenges**

3.3.1 Natural calamities are compounded by industry-induced environmental and ecological degradation and hazards resulting from exploration and exploitation of oil in the State. The coastal belt is especially vulnerable to frequent oil spills which have adverse effects on fish stock, wildlife, and the fragile mangrove ecosystems.

3.4 Social/Infrastructural Challenges

3.4.1 Social and infrastructural induced challenges are identified as degradations caused to the environment through the activities of the people themselves, as they attempt to utilize the environment. Indiscriminate building of houses, roads and other structures in the State without adherence to any developmental plan of regional and town planning regulations result in the haphazard development of structures all over the State, leading to the destruction of the delicate balance of the environment. In the process, natural drainage routes have been blocked, leading to flooding in towns and villages and the destruction of vegetation in both urban and rural areas.

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- 4.1 Appropriate regulation and monitoring of the Private Sector Contractors engaged for sanitation and waste management.
- 4.2 A Sewage and Drainage master plan must be drawn up and implemented.
- 4.3 Water and Air Pollution must be discouraged and penalties for infraction of laws in this regard must be enforced.
- 4.4 The on-going beautification of the State must be intensified and maintained.
- 4.5 Concerted efforts must be made to address three important aspects of waste management that need to be effective in line with target objectives. These are namely:
 - (i) Continuous and effective monitoring regime.
 - (ii) Environmental-friendly and efficient disposal of solid wastes.
 - (iii) Efficient, timely and cost effective method of waste collection.
- 4.6 Effective Sanitation and Introduction of Waste Management Schemes such as:
 - (i) Recycling of Organic Waste, Paper, Metals, Glass, Plastics.
 - (ii) Incineration.
 - (iii) Burying in Landfill sites.
- 4.7 Ensure adequate implementation and enforcement of the provision of its Laws on Environmental Protection and Environmental Sanitation.
- 4.8 Establishment of Municipal Management Authority to ensure effective provision and management of municipal services in all urban centres of the State.
- 4.9 Liaise with NDDC for monitoring NDDC responsibilities to Rivers State and recommending projects to NDDC for execution within NDDC mandate for Rivers State.
- 4.10 Investigate and access available funds from USAID, appropriate UN agencies, oil and gas companies and other donors.

- 4.11 Legislate for the development of standards applicable to our environment and introduce innovative sanctions for more effective deterrence.
- 4.12 Landfills, incinerators and recycling centres should be built by government or in partnership with private sector, but managed by the private sector.
- 4.13 Plastic, glass, and steel recycling are profit-oriented businesses. Government should collaborate with private sector and/or encourage private sector to develop such industries.
- 4.14 Household and industries should be made to pay for waste disposal services with government regulation of the tariff.

5.0 SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Tidal and Fresh Water Zone Flooding.

- 5.1.1 Initiate Schemes to Forecast and Warn of Hazard Periods.
- 5.1.2 Implement Remedial tool for monitoring by setting up at strategic locations on the coast, rivers and creeks:
 - (a) Tide gauges for sea level variations and sea level rise due to global warming and subsidence.
 - (b) Gauge and discharge measurement scheme.
 - (c) Salt water intrusion and interface boundary monitoring.

5.2 Erosion and Land Reclamation

- 5.2.1 Documentation of locations prone to erosion such as river bank communities, agricultural land zone and urban areas and places needing reclamation, including categorization of severity index for determination of remedial intervention priorities

- 5.3 Government must legislate against land allocation of sale of land within say 15-20 meters to any body of water. Quick efforts must be made to remove the sand in all bodies of water, especially the Ntanwogba Creek and the body of water running from Rainbow Town and across Rumuomasi. The water depth in such places needs to be increased by dredging and clearing away debris. In many areas where the waters run by residential areas, there will have to be some canalization work done with high enough fences to discourage dumping.

5.4 Pollution

- 5.4.1 Documentation of sources and causes from environmental Baseline Studies for future impact assessment and control of pollution.
- 5.4.2 Stipulation of impact mitigation scheme and projects.

- 5.4.3 Design and establishment of (a) **Urban Central Sewage Scheme**; and (b) **Scheme to eliminate pier latrines**; develop, design and construct efficient and environmental-friendly human waste disposal.
- 5.5 **Establish the Rivers State Ecological Fund Management Agency (SEFMA)** to manage the Ecological Fund from the Federation Account, and to make recommendations for allocation, monitoring and utilization of funds for flood, erosion, reclamation and pollution control/prevention, sanitation and waste management.
- 5.6 **The Flood and Erosion Directorate of Ministry of Environment should be transferred to the Agency (SEFMA)**, re-organized and strengthened to undertake comprehensive study and documentation of areas prone to flooding and erosion.

SECTION 7

WATER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 Background

2.0 Policy

1.0 Challenges

2.0 Implementation Strategies

3.0 Funding

WATER

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Rivers State is blessed with water from streams, rivers, ponds, ground water, ocean, and rain catchments but ironically, the State lacks potable water for the socio-economic development of the State. Water supply to the people of the State rests squarely with the Ministry of Water Resources. The responsibilities of the Ministry include but is not limited to policy formulation and regulation, infrastructural development, evaluation, monitoring and standardization of water quality and delivery practices. Due to frequent changes in leadership of the Ministry arising from past political instability in the State, the Ministry has been functioning without continuity in Policy objective for the State including the semi-urban and rural communities to guarantee sustainable development.
- 1.2 The Ministry has the State Water Board charged with the responsibility of operating and maintaining water delivers systems to urban and semi-urban centers in the State. With the headquarters of the Water Board located in Port Harcourt and district offices scattered all over the State, the Board has been bedeviled with difficulties of coordinating the activities of water delivery which includes water treatment, quality assurance, financing, commercial, operations, maintenance, legal services, materials, human resources, technology, and management for such a decentralized urban to semi-urban corporate responsibility.
- 1.3 Over the years, the rural communities in the State have been inundated with uncoordinated construction of boreholes, wells and storage tanks by Federal and State Government, Local Government, Niger Delta Development Commission, donor agencies and oil companies. Most of the facilities are non-functional, non-viable, unsatisfactory, and generally produce non-potable water. The projects were carried out without due consideration and linkages with any policy and strategy of the State for water supply to the people of the State.
- 1.4 The purpose of the Water Policy is to enable decision-makers including politicians, water board, directors, managers, regulatory bodies, engineering and construction firms, consultants, consumers and the general public to understand the need, process and guideline for obtaining potable water; to identify and correct mistakes that contributed to non-performance of previous water supply schemes; to understand the institutional frameworks and the obligations of water supply agents; and to know how to conserve and preserve water and infrastructure for future generations.

2.0 POLICY

- 2.1 To provide access to safe potable water to at least 50% of all residents of Rivers State through appropriate and affordable delivery system by 2015.

- 2.2 Establish a Water Quality Monitoring and Maintenance Programme for potable water.
- 2.3 Develop regulations for effluent disposal to prevent contamination of surface and underground water.
- 2.4 Develop and implement a strategy to engage private sector participation in all aspects of the water sector.
- 2.5 Review the existing legal regulatory regime for the provision and management of water resources to achieve desired water resource development, management and delivery.

3.0 CHALLENGES

- 3.1 Water delivery infrastructure, pipe networks, pumping station etc are in a state of decay.
- 3.2 Majority of residents of the State procure water from streams rivers, hand dug wells, rain water and from private bore holes.
- 3.3 Available water for households may be contaminated and predominantly unfit for consumption.
- 1.4 The State Water Board charged with provision of water and its management has failed.
- 1.5 The legal frame work for provision of water, and its regulation is obsolete and/or inadequate.
- 3.6 Poor or inadequate capital investment to provide the necessary infrastructure such as pipe networks, pumping stations, etc.
- 3.7 Lack of consultation/engagement with private sector.
- 3.8 Low level priority given to water sector issue by Government.
- 3.9 Ill defined water policy objective, social, environmental and commercial aims.
- 3.10 Poor management, structure and imprecise objective of water undertakings.
- 3.11 Refusal to introduce user fee.

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- 4.1 Decentralization of responsibilities for water.
- 4.2 An autonomous Water Agency should be created for the Port Harcourt Metropolis, the new Towns and for the Local Government Areas. These autonomous agencies should be conferred with adequate powers, human resources and finance to make them functional.

- 4.3 To meet the MDG targets of halving the proportion of the population lacking access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015, water should be given priority and adequate funds be allocated to the water sector.
- 4.4 Government and water Agencies should collaborate with private sector to encourage investment in the Water Sector.
- 4.5 Creation of appropriate legal and regulatory environment to encourage private investment in the water sector.
- 4.6 The State and Federal Government should ensure the provision of infrastructure for the provision and delivery of water in all communities in the State as is being done in other parts of the Country.
- 4.7 The Local Government Areas should give Financial Water Support to Agencies in their respective areas who are responsible for the maintenance and provision of water.
- 4.8 The State Government should adopt a pricing policy for the provision of water and the Water Agencies should determine the appropriate pricing for each zone with the approval of the Ministry of Water Resources.

5.0 FUNDING

- 5.1 The Federal and State Government should provide the primary source of funding for water supply.
- 5.2 Funds for provision of water should also be sourced from NDDC, International and donor agencies, development banks and local NGO's.
- 5.3 Donors and Multilateral Finance Institutions (MFIs) can also be sources of human resource development in the form of technical support.

SECTION 8

HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

HOUSING

- 1.0 Background
- 2.0 Policy
- 3.0 Challenges
- 4.0 Implementation Strategies

Urban Development

- 5.0 Background
- 6.0 Policy
- 7.0 Challenges
- 8.0 Implementation Strategies

HOUSING

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The current status of Rivers State, as the hub for oil and gas in the Gulf of Guinea, puts enormous pressure on not only the environment, but also on the facilities available to serve the mass exodus of people from far and near into the State in search of greener pastures. The mass movement of people into the State has created severe social problems, including acute shortage of decent living accommodation.

2.0 POLICY

- 2.1 To ensure that all indigenes of the State and those living in the State have the opportunity to own or occupy decent and safe housing accommodation at affordable cost.
- 2.2 Develop and implement a strategy to engage private sector participation in the Housing Sector.

3.0 CHALLENGES

- 3.1 Acute shortage of decent and affordable living accommodation in the State has given rise to:
 - 3.1.1 The erection and occupation of shanties, deplorable and very indecent living accommodation, mostly in the urban centres in the State.
 - 3.1.2 The ever-growing waterfront slums in the State with its nuisance value, e.g. Bundu, Cemetery, Baptist High School, Marine Base, Abonnema Wharf, Okrika, Ogu, Bille and Iwofe Waterfronts.
 - 3.1.3 The problem of overcrowding in the available residential houses and its attendant problem on the inadequate infrastructure meant for the houses.
- 3.2 The severe economic conditions have caused most property owners to convert the small available spaces for residential accommodation into commercial usage, thereby compounding the already bad situation.
- 3.3 There has been no properly co-ordinated housing programme. Successive administrations in the State have, however, made efforts to address the housing situation in Rivers State. There are instances of low-cost housing units scattered all over the State. Some of them

have been completed and allocated (particularly those in the Port Harcourt City), while others are either completed and not allocated or abandoned (particularly those at the various LGAs).

- 3.4 Dilapidated structures scattered all over the State due to lack of routine maintenance.
- 3.5 High cost of building materials, including land, has impeded new development.
- 3.6 High cost of rents due to inadequate housing.
- 3.7 Delay in the issuance of Certificates of Occupancy (C of O).
- 3.8 Lack of political will to enforce existing laws and regulations on the construction of residential houses in the State.

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- 4.1 The Rivers State Government should adopt a deliberate policy to provide decent and affordable housing for the low income earners in the State as a social responsibility.
- 4.2 Government should encourage private investors to establish viable primary mortgage institutions with low interest rates, so that citizens who so desire can access loans to build and own houses.
- 4.2 Government should enforce existing laws regulating the construction of houses in the State.
- 4.3 Government should partner with private estate developers to embark on massive construction of decent and affordable houses for all categories of residents.
- 4.4 Government should work in partnership with professional institutions and universities to encourage the use of locally sourced materials for the construction of houses, through the standardization and promotion of local technologies.
- 4.5 Government should ensure that property owners regularly maintain and refurbish their houses.
- 4.6 Government should, without delay, take proper census of all residents of waterfront shanties in the State before relocating them, and then demolish and re-build these areas to have both aesthetic and commercial values.
- 4.7 Urgent steps should be taken to complete and allocate the low-cost houses to indigenes of the State, perhaps on owner-occupier basis.
- 4.8 Timely issuance of Certificate of Occupancy to property owners, as

this would make it easier for individuals and property developers to access funds from mortgage institutions.

5.0 URBAN DEVELOPMENT

5.1 BACKGROUND

Rivers State since creation has remained a one-city State, and Port Harcourt which was once a Garden City is no longer what it used to be. The situation is compounded by large population densities; hence the need to systematically grow new urban and semi-urban centres in the State.

6.0 POLICY

- 6.1 To bring back some order in the City of Port Harcourt and to transform the State from a mono-city to a multiple city State.
- 6.2 To improve on the provision of infrastructural facilities in all urban cities to truly make them centres of development.

7.0 CHALLENGES

- 7.1 The State is characterized by large proportion of slums with pitiable sanitary conditions.
- 7.2 Large influx of people (who have little or no orientation of urban style of living) to the Port Harcourt City from rural communities in search of opportunities, resulting in excessive and unmanageable population densities and overstretched facilities.
- 7.3 Grossly inadequate modern urban facilities, such as good housing, potable water, regular and uninterrupted electricity supply, good network of roads, reliable and efficient mass-transit system, etc.
- 7.4 Ineffective traffic management system and non-enforcement of existing traffic laws, making movement within peak hours in the Port Harcourt City very difficult.
- 7.5 Poor commercial and marketing services and absence of clearly designated areas for commercial activities, leading to street hawking and open display of goods, including edible items on lay-bys.
- 7.6 Lack of standard drainage system in the Port Harcourt City, and other designated urban and semi-urban cities in the State, leading to perennial flooding of most areas.
- 7.7 Intra-city roads lack pedestrian access, thereby exposing the citizens to high risks.

- 7.8 Inadequate neighborhood amenities, such as open spaces for motor parks, recreation parks, etc., resulting in incessant closure and conversion of intra-city roads as spaces for funeral ceremonies and other social activities.
- 7.9 Dilapidated buildings and adverse physical facilities, even at very strategic places all over the State.
- 7.10 Sub-human environments in both urban and semi-urban cities, particularly at the waterfronts.
- 7.11 Lack of an effective policy and political will for growing other modern urban and semi-urban cities in the State.
- 7.12 Insufficient bypasses, making inter-city and intra-city mobility very difficult, particularly during peak periods.
- 7.13 Indiscriminate sale of land and improper property development without compliance to standard guidelines.

8.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- 8.1 There must be a deliberate policy by the State Government to develop more urban and semi-urban centres throughout the State, particularly the various local government headquarters through the establishment of new projects as well as the creation of industrial clusters as an economic driving force to attract people to these new centres of development.
- 8.2 Provision of infrastructural facilities, such as good network of roads with quality shoulders and pedestrian access (where applicable), well-thought out housing schemes, clean and potable water, uninterrupted electricity supply, efficient mass-transit system, etc., in all urban and semi-urban cities.
- 8.3 Improvement in sanitary conditions and waste management system.
- 8.4 Effective and integrated traffic management system and enforcement of existing traffic laws.
- 8.5 Creation of designated areas for commercial and marketing activities, and total ban on street hawking.
- 8.6 Improvement in the drainage system through the construction of modern and standard drainage facilities, bearing in mind the volume of rainfall in the State all through the year.
- 8.7 Improvement in the provision of neighbourhood amenities, such as open spaces for motor parks, recreation parks, etc., and beautification of the cities.

- 8.8** Non-discriminatory demolition of obsolete physical or illegal structures, particularly those that do not only violate city plan proposal, but also block drainage routes.
- 8.9** Aggressive campaign to educate the masses on their civic responsibilities to the cities they live in and the minimum standard expectations in sanitary conditions and conduct for city dwellers.
- 8.10** Provision of bypasses to ease inter-city and intra-city mobility, so that any traveller who has no business in any particular city in the State can bypass it while heading for a neighboring town. The proposed Port Harcourt Ring Road is a welcome development in this regard.
- 8.11** Government should enforce existing laws on urban planning and property development.
- 8.12** Government should ensure that a prototype master-plan is developed for all urban and semi-urban centres in the State.

SECTION 9

TRANSPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1.0** Background
- 2.0** Policy
- 3.0** Challenges
- 4.0** Implementation Strategies

TRANSPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Transport issues are of growing concern in Rivers State because it has enormous environmental and social impact on the quality of life of the people.
- 1.2 Rivers State is the hub of the Oil and Gas industry and Port Harcourt being the capital City is becoming larger, and the concentration of urban population is becoming higher. This has resulted in spatially separated land uses and lower accessibility of goods and services, especially as road demand overruns supply, and the transportation network has become congested.
- 1.3 The challenge then is how Government will be able to address and combat the issues and challenges of urban and rural transportation system to keep pace with socio-economic development and increasing auto-ownership.

2.0 POLICY

- 2.1 To provide access to efficient , affordable and safe intra and intercity modes of transportation for the movement of people, goods and services in the State.
- 2.2 Encourage private sector participation in all modes of service delivery in the transport sector.
- 2.3 Provide transportation facilities which should inadequately cater for the needs of the physically challenged.

3.0 CHALLENGES

- 3.1 The Challenges facing the Transportation sector are:-
 - 3.1.1 Poor and ineffective management of the transportation system.
 - 3.1.2 Corruption
 - 3.1.3 Inadequate infrastructure
 - 3.1.4 Non-regulation of private sector operators of all modes of transport.
 - 3.1.5 Insufficient land and sea modes of transportation
 - 3.1.6 Lack of pedestrian walkways
 - 3.1.7 Use of motor cycles by majority of the people as commercial transportation
 - 3.1.8 Poor implementation of traffic laws and regulation

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- 4.1 Maintain a consistent classification/hierarchy of streets throughout our Cities that will be the basis for identifying vehicle commuter routes, transit routes, bike lanes, as well corridors for other modes of transportation.

- 4.2 Protect pedestrian safety and provide mobility, particularly in high pedestrian use areas such as schools, residential neighborhoods, parks, and other community gathering places.
- 4.3 Implement and maintain a Truck Route Plan and enforce all laws regulating the usage of such routes
- 4.4 Regulate the usage of private motorcycle/bicycle traffic
- 4.5 Support a convenient, cost-effective public mass transit system to serve the mobility needs of all segments of the population to and from major regional destinations.
- 4.6 Design transportation facilities to comply with accepted design and safety standards including adequate provisions for the needs of the physically challenged.
- 4.7 Develop feasible alternative modes of transportation such as inter-regional and intra city light rail, expanded ferry options and Bus Rapid Transit Corridors.
- 4.8 Provide effective traffic control measures to ensure smooth flow of traffic.
- 4.9 Design transportation facilities to accommodate current and future transit use.
- 4.10 Strive to maintain a quality service delivery level.
- 4.11 Set-up a structure to support and monitor the City's traffic capacity management plan in order to identify develop and implement travel demand management strategies and reduce demand on the planned transportation system.
- 4.12 Work with the organized private sector to develop plans for design, phasing, funding, and construction of increased access to the city.
- 4.13 Stipulate, publicise and enforce speed limit in designated zones in the State.
- 4.14 Incorporate emergency response goals into long-range transportation planning and current projects.
- 4.15 Work with public safety agencies to develop a network of emergency response routes by balancing emergency service needs with vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle safety consistent with the adopted street classification system
- 4.16 Identify locations where signal coordination could be employed to improve traffic flow and reduce vehicle emissions.
- 4.17 Development of incident detection and management techniques for all major transportation corridors.
- 4.18 Utilize emerging technology to provide road users with real-time information on congestion conditions and routing options.
- 4.19 Maintain the historic street grid in the Old Port Harcourt city and complete connectivity in new Greater Port HARCOURT development.
- 4.20 Identify major activity centers (inter-city mega parks) that can function as mode transfer points and develop and promote these mode transfer points, such as park-and-ride lots, to enhance the use of alternative modes of transportation and to assist the development of an intermodal transportation system.

SECTION 10 AGRICULTURE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1.0 Background**
- 2.0 Policy**
- 3.0 Challenges**
- 4.0 Implementation Strategies**
- 5.0 Establishment Of Local Government Agriculture Initiative**
- 6.0 Funding Agriculture**

AGRICULTURE

1.0 BACKGROUND

Agriculture is the means of livelihood of the majority of rural dwellers in Rivers State. Over 80% of the rural population of the state is engaged in agricultural production. But over the years, successive governments in the state had neglected the sector by not adequately investing in agriculture thereby leading to declining food production.

The State, even though it is blessed with vast arable farmland and is surrounded by rivers and creeks, has not been able to achieve food security, eradicate poverty or improve the economic well being of its people.

2.0 Policy

2.1 To re-kindle interest in agriculture with a view to :

2.1.1 Reduce poverty

2.1.2 Ensure food security & generate surplus for export

2.1.3 Encourage private sector investment in agriculture

2.2 To introduce basic agriculture as a compulsory subject in the Universal Basic Education curriculum and ensure that every school maintains a school farm.

2.3 To increase farmers income by increased agricultural products and the processing of agricultural products

3.0 CHALLENGES

3.1 Contributing factors to the dismal performance of the agricultural sector include;

3.1.1 Archaic and complex land policy and tenure system

3.1.2 Inadequate infrastructure such as roads, water, electricity for processing and transportation of produce to the urban areas/markets

3.1.3 Lack of access to funding by farmers

3.1.4 Low and unstable price of agricultural produce

3.1.5 Lack of information, technological know-how and knowledge transfer to farmers

3.1.6 Poor delivery of extension services to farmers and capacity building for extension workers and farmers is lacking

3.1.7 Reluctance by the Private Sector to undertake long term investment in agriculture

4.0 Implementation Strategies

4.1 Government should harness agricultural potentials of various communities in the following areas

4.1.1 Fisheries and Aqua culture

4.1.2 Cassava and root crop cultivation

4.1.3 Expand tree crop production for oil palm

4.1.4 Livestock (goat multiplication, piggery)

4.1.5 Others: - Snail, mushroom, bee farms

4.1.6 Integrated farms; Songhai farms

4.2 Provide farmers with seedlings, fingerlings, farm tools, fishing accessories, fertilizer and pesticides.

4.3 Provide incentives through land preparation, access to tractors and funds

4.3 To introduce modern farming methods mechanized farming and use of agricultural tools/equipment for expansive farming.

4.4 Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) and the Evaluation Supervision and monitoring units should be equipped and funded to effectively monitor and provide extension services to farmers

4.5 Develop agricultural manpower through award of scholarships to students pursuing programmes in agricultural sciences

4.6 Fund development of any invention of agricultural tools/equipment by indigenes of the State.

4.7 Provide funds to Faculty's in state tertiary institutions for research and development in agricultural sector

4.8 Enter into collaboration with research institutions such as IITA, RMRDC

5.0 Establishment of Local Government Agriculture Initiative

5.1 Each LGA should as a policy recognize and publicly the names and photographs of 20 well known Farmers/Fisher folks in their respective LGA's every month duly nominated by a transparent process

5.2 Each of the Farmers so nominated should be provided with financial assistance of not less than N50, 000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira).

5.3 This promotional strategy will give the desired focus on agriculture, recognize excellence and rekindle the interest of the people in agriculture.

6.0 Funding Agriculture

6.1 Farmers should have easy access to microcredit facilities. Establishment of cooperatives should be promoted to facilitate access to micro-credit funds.

6.2 Industrialists should similarly have easy access to funds for the establishment of agro-based and agro-allied industries.

**SECTION 11
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1.0** Background
- 2.0** Objectives And Principles Of Public-Private Partnership
- 3.0** Types Of Public-Private Partnership
- 4.0** Role Of Government In Public-Private Partnership
- 5.0** Strategies For Maximizing The Benefits Of Public-Private Partnerships For The State

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR ACCELERATED INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVED DELIVERY OF SERVICES

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Government is responsible for delivering services to its citizens. The democratic order that emerged in the last nine years was premised on a wide range of expectations of a prosperous secure and stable nation. Efforts have been made by the current and previous administrations to provide the pillars upon which these expectations could be actualized and to satisfy the yearnings and aspirations of Nigerian Citizens. Government is however faced with fiscal pressure and budgetary constraints as it is unable to solely fund infrastructural development and also contend with the its increasing operational and maintenance budgets and the several other demands on public sector finance/funds.

2. OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES OF PPP.

2.1 Rivers State Government like most other governments all over the world has in recent times partnered with the private sector in the delivery of services.

2.2 It is imperative that Government should adopt the policy of promoting public private partnerships with three broad objectives in mind:-

2.2.1 Improved Delivery of Public Services:- To deliver significantly improved public services by contributing to increases in the quality and quantity of investment.

2.2.2 Infrastructural Development:- To release the full potential of public sector assets, including State owned business and hence provide value for the tax payer and wider benefits for the economy.

2.2.3 To allow stakeholders to receive a fair share of the benefits of PPP i.e. customers, users and providers of the service, the tax payer and the employees at all levels.

2.3 Delivery of quality services that provide value for money through PPP encourages a long term approach to the creation and management of public sector assets. The partnership should be based in each partner concentrating on activities that best suit their respective skills. For the public sector the key skill is to procure services that are consistent with long term policy priorities which it should regulate appropriately while for the private sector the key is to deliver those services at the most efficient cost for the citizen. The private sector will thus bring the skills they have developed in meeting customer needs and developing value for money and work in partnership with the public sector to provide better services.

3. TYPES OF PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.

3.1 Public Private Partnerships cover a wide range of business structures and partnership arrangements. **It is important that government should give careful thought to the nature of output it intends to achieve before determining the nature of the PPP structure it will adopt for the various types of services to be delivered.** Some of these are namely:

(i) *Private Finance Initiative* (PFI) which is where the public sector is contracted to purchase quality services on a long term basis so as to take advantage of private sector management skills incentives by having private finance at risk. These include concessions and franchises where a private sector partner takes on the responsibility for providing a public service, including maintaining enhancing or constructing the necessary infrastructure; and selling government services into wider markets and other partnership arrangement where private sector expertise and finance are used to exploit the commercial potential of government assets.

(ii) *Joint ventures*

(iii) *Concessions*, this is where the government gives a private company a concession to operate something on the government's behalf. A concessionaire is usually exposed to real revenue risk as his only source of income are tariffs he charges to the user and there may or may not be opportunity for additional revenue from user charges.

(iv) *Outsourcing*

(v) *Sale of equity stakes* in state owned businesses to a strategic partner.

3.2 PPP's are essentially contractual relationships. It is this contract that is at the heart of the PPP relationship containing all the duties and obligations of the parties. The Government must define the type and level of service it wants from the private sector and the contract documents must contain appropriate termination clauses to protect government. The ultimate aim should however be to optimize risk transfer and not to maximize risk transfer. Some models of PPP's include:-

(i) **Design Build (DB):** The private sector designs and builds infrastructure to meet public sector performance specifications, often for a fixed price, so the risk of cost overruns is transferred to the private sector.

(ii) **Operation & Maintenance Contract (O & M):** A private operator, under contract, operates a publicly-owned asset for a specified term. Ownership of the asset remains with the public entity.

- (iii) **Design-Build-Finance-Operate (DBFO):** The private sector designs, finances and constructs a new facility under a long-term lease, and operates the facility during the term of the lease. The private partner transfers the new facility to the public sector at the end of the lease term.
- (iv) **Build-Own-Operate (BOO):** The private sector finances, builds, owns and operates a facility or service in perpetuity. The public constraints are stated in the original agreement and through on-going regulatory authority.
- (v) **Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT):** A private entity receives a franchise to finance, design, build and operate a facility (and to charge user fees) for a specified period, after which ownership is transferred back to the public sector.
- (vi) **Buy-Build-Operate (BBO):** Transfer of a public asset to a private or quasi-public entity usually under contract that the assets are to be upgraded and operated for a specified period of time. Public control is exercised through the contract at the time of transfer.
- (vii) **Operation License:** A private operator receives a license or rights to operate a public service, usually for a specified term. This is often used in IT projects.
- (viii) **Finance Only:** A private entity, usually a financial services company, funds a project directly or uses various mechanisms such as a long-term lease or bond issue.

4. ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN PPP'S

4.1 The prime objective of PPP is the **delivery of better public sector services with the best long term value for money. The key is for government to specify the output of the service required of the private sector and to effectively do this. Government must retain a great deal of control over the standards and type of service to be delivered.** Government must therefore at all times take the following factors into consideration

- (i) Deciding between competing objectives;
- (ii) Defining the chosen objectives, and then seeing that they are delivered to the standards required;
- (iii) Ensuring that wider public interests are safeguarded;
- (iv) Deciding, as the collective purchaser of public services, on the level of services that are required, and the public sector resources which are available to pay for them;
- (v) Putting in place independent regulatory bodies, setting and monitoring safety, quality and performance standards for those services; and

- (vi) Enforcing those standards and taking action if they are not delivered.
- (vii) Introducing price regulation where appropriate to safeguard public interest.
- (viii) Discouraging monopoly and promoting competitiveness.

5. STRATEGIES FOR MAXIMISING THE BENEFITS OF PPP FOR THE STATE.

5.1 The principal justification for PPP is the delivery of quality services that provide “**value for money**”. Focus on service delivery, rather than merely building infrastructure is key. There is no point building new infrastructure if no thought is given as to how the maintenance and operation of this infrastructure will be funded over the life of the asset.

5.2 Political Support and Commitment:

The single most important strategy for a successful PPP programme is that there must be high level political support and commitment with clear cut objectives of what is intended to be achieved. The initiative and drive for a PPP programme can not be implemented by the civil service or the private sector. It must be driven by the political leadership.

5.3 Legal and Regulatory Framework:

PPP is a complex policy to introduce as it often necessitates changes in primary legislation, introduction of new legislation, and a radically different approach to procurement. An appropriate legal framework for public private partnerships must be enacted confirming the ability of the public sector authorities to contract out their roles to the private sector. Rivers State must take immediate steps in this regard to ensure an enduring and hitch free PPP process.

5.4 Capacity Building Manpower Development:

If properly implemented PPP has the capacity of creating a new business sector experienced in building and operating PPP projects. PPP procurements involve more technical work than conventional procurements. The process requires inputs from technical financial, engineering and legal experts and the full range of experience is often not available within the public sector and indeed in the private sector particularly in Nigeria where the concept is gradually gaining ground. Having opted to seriously pursue PPP as a policy option, Rivers State Government needs to, as a first step, use the best possible advisors who have actual experience of PPP deals. Government must also commence the training

of its public sector officials in this area and Indigenous professionals practicing in the private sector must also be encouraged to undertake extensive capacity building to be in a position to in the medium term handle such projects.

5.5 Recognizing Contributions of Staff/Employees:

Government needs to recognize that their staffs are also partners in PPP's and that the future success of the partnership relies on their dedication and commitment. The transition to partnership will inevitably cause uncertainty, and may require restrictions and changes in working practices. While the Government cannot give indefinite guarantees over job security (either before or after the PPP is established), it will ensure staff get a fair deal. The key objectives for such schemes are to:

- (i) Recognize that all employees at all levels not just management are a key asset of the business;
- (ii) Provide employees and management with incentives to improve performance and productivity of the PPP on an on-going basis, by aligning the interests of employees with those of investors, giving them a medium/long term interest in the company; and
- (iii) Contribute to the Government's target of doubling the number of companies offering shares to all employees.

5.6 Transfer of Undertaking (Protection Of Employment) [TUPE] Regulations.

- (i) Contracting exercises with the private sector and voluntary organization will be conducted on the basis that staff will transfer and TUPE should apply, unless there are genuine exceptional reasons not to do so;
- (ii) There should be appropriate arrangements to protect occupational pensions, redundancy and severance terms of staff in all these types of transfers.

5.7 Risk Management and Transfer:

- (i) Effective management and transfer of risk is an essential factor which Government must consider to maximize the benefits of PPP in the State.
- (ii) The idea of Government working with the private sector to deliver public services under a PPP arrangement means that risks associated with the project would have to be shared. Risks typically retained by the public sector include Force Majeure risks, exchange rate risks, environmental risks for environmental damage existing prior to contract, change of law,

damage caused by material adverse government action, discriminatory changes in law, failure of permits, consents etc. and such other risks as may be negotiated and agreed upon by the parties.

- (iii) Risk typically allocated by the private sector include construction delay risks, environmental risks after project start up, certain Force Majeure Risks, financing risks, insurance risks etc.
- (iv) The private sector manages the risks allocated to it typically by taking out adequate insurances; requiring performance bonds/guarantees from sub-contractors or their parents; ensuring that adequate financing is available both in debt and equity; provision for costs overruns; engaging technically competent contractors; request for State support/guarantee, etc. (where available); and undertakings and assurances for timely issuance of approvals and permits.

5.8 Establishment of a PPP Agency:

The appointment of a Special Adviser on Public Private Partnerships (PPP's) in Rivers State is a step in the right direction. It is however imperative that government should go the extra mile of establishing a statutory Agency or Commission for PPP. The benefits of engaging PPP may not be fully reaped if Government continues to undertake PPP projects directly through its various ministries. It will be more rewarding if PPP projects in the State is centrally coordinated and monitored through the establishment of such a statutory agency or commission. The agency will on behalf of the Government create policy to resolve legal, technical, commercial, issues that arise, oversee PPP infrastructure development, engage the services of and enter into concession agreements with private sector entities to execute specific projects. It is important that a common approach as laid out by the Agency is followed to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort in developing processes or contracts.

5.9 Prioritization:

It is important to prioritize projects in the early stages of a PPP programme, and to focus, perhaps, on key sectors in the early stages with the Government being responsible for identifying those sectors that should be the first to be developed.

5.10 Time Factor:

APPP policy is a long-term solution and cannot be done instantaneously. And there does need to be a clear recognition of the time that this policy development will take on the public sector side. And expectation needs to be managed accordingly. It is not possible to start a PPP process and sign the deal six months later. A real PPP project is going to deliver long-term value for money; it does take time because

part of what is being done is investing the effort in understanding those long-term objectives and risks for both sides, public and private sector.

5.11 Affordability:

All PPP projects have to be affordable by the public sector. The test is whether the procuring public sector authority can afford the cost of the ongoing liability over the lifetime of the contract. If a project is adjudged not to be affordable then the scope of the project may have to be reduced.

3.0 FEEDBACK ON ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

PREAMBLE:

- 1.1 The year under review ended with a critique session between Council and His Excellency, the State Governor, in Government House on 15th December, 2008. For this purpose, Council had prepared a "Feedback on Economic Advisory Council Recommendations", and this report was the basis of discussion at the session.
- 1.2 Essentially, the Feedback report was an assessment of the performance of the Economic Advisory Council in its first year of existence (31st October, 2007 - 31st December 2008) as well as how much of the Council's recommendations had been accepted and implemented by the Governor. It thus contained the Recommendations of Council, Actions taken, Comments/Remarks and Further Recommendations.
- 1.3 The Review session ended on a positive note. The Governor was appreciative of Council's work while on its part, Council was of the view that Government was doing its best to implement most of its recommendations.

S/NO	RECOMMENDATION	ACTION TAKEN	COMMENTS/REMARKS	FURTHUR RECOMMENDATION
1.	ENFORCEMENT OF ALL RELEVANT REGULATIONS DEALING WITH LATENESS, ABSENTEEISM, AND INDISCIPLINE IN THE WORK PLACE.	AT A RECENT SEMINAR ON DUE PROCESS, PERMANENT SECRETARIES AND DIRECTORS WERE REQUESTED TO COMMENCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CIVIL SERVICE RULES ON LATENESS AND ABSENTEEISM.	SAVE FOR THE GOVERNOR WHO IS REPORTED TO HAVE VISITED VARIOUS GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHMENT AS EARLY AS 8.00AM, AND WHO RECENTLY LOCKED OUT SOME COMMISSIONERS AND PERMANENT SECRETARIES FROM A MEETING, PUBLIC INDISCIPLINE IS STILL RAMPANT.	IT IS OUR OBSERVATION THAT THIS IS A BIG PROBLEM. WE NOTE THAT THE GOVERNOR HIMSELF HAS TALKED OF CIVIL SERVICE REFORMS.
2.	TO ENSURE THAT GOVERNMENT PROPERTY IS USED STRICTLY FOR OFFICIAL DUTIES	NO EVIDENCE THAT ANY ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN	TRANSPORT OFFICERS IN THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHMENTS HAVE BEEN RENDERED REDUNDANT BYTHE COMMISSIONERS WHO ARE SEEN AS CLOSE TO THE SOURCE OF POWER. THESE COMMISSIONERS PLAY THE ROLE OF TRANSPORT OFFICERS.	IT IS OUR OBSERVATION THAT THIS IS A BIGGER PROBLEM IN THAT THE CORRECT POWER DYNAMICS BETWEEN THE COMMISSIONERS, PERMANENT SECRETARIES AND TRANSPORT OFFICERS DOES NOT YET EXIST. WE ALSO NOTE THAT THE GOVERNOR HIMSELF HAS TALKED OF CIVIL SERVICE REFORMS.
3.	RECONSTITUTION OF STATE/DEPARTMENTAL TENDERS BOARD TO FACILITATE DUE PROCESS.	DUE PROCESS BILL HAS BEEN PASSED INTO LAW, AND A BOARD CONSTITUTED.	DUE PROCESS BOARD IS YET TO COMMENCE WORK.	DUE PROCESS BOARD TO COMMENCE WORK IMMEDIATELY.
4.	GOVERNMENT TO DIRECT TRAFFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO COLLABORATE AND ENSURE FULL COMPLAINEE BY ALL ROAD USERS WITH ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATIONS.	GOVERNMENT HAS DIRECTED THE RELEVANT AGENCIES TO COLLABORATE	EVIDENCE OF COLLABORATION OF THE RELEVANT AGENCIES IS VISIBLE AT MAJOR TRAFFIC POINTS, THOUGH THERE IS YET TO BE FULL COMPLAINEE BY ROAD USERS WITH TRAFFIC REGULATIONS	GOVERNMENT TO TAKE THE ISSUE OF TRAFFIC CONTROL IN THE CITY OF PORT HARCOURT MORE SERIOUSLY. TRAINED TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS SHOULD ALSO BE ENGAGED.

5.	GOVERNMENT TO RECONSTITUTE MOBILE COURTS, APPOINT AND TRAIN ROAD TRAFFIC SUPERINTENDENTS	NO ACTION TAKEN YET.	ONLY ONE MAGISTRATE IS SITTING IN THE MOBILE COURT, THUS TRAFFIC REGULATIONS ARE NOT EFFECTIVELY ENFORCED	GOVERNMENT TO IMMEDIATELY INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MOBILE COURTS AND TO TRAIN MORE ROAD TRAFFIC SUPERINTENDENTS.
6.	TRAFFIC LIGHTS TO BE REPROGRAMMED IN CONSONANCE WITH THE VOLUME OF TRAFFIC.	TRAFFIC LIGHTS HAVE BEEN REPROGRAMMED IN SOME AREAS	THE REPROGRAMMING HAS MADE LITTLE IMPACT ON TRAFFIC FLOW.	TRAFFIC FLOW TO BE MONITORED AND TRAFFIC LIGHTS TO BE FURTHER REPROGRAMMED
7.	GOVERNMENT TO CONVENE A MEETING OF STAKEHOLDERS IN THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SECTOR TO CHECK INDISCIPLINE ON THE ROADS.	GOVERNMENT HAS CONVENED A TRANSPORT SECTOR SUMMIT, AND PRODUCED A TRANSPORT ACTION PLAN.	THOUGH THE TRANSPORT SECTOR ACTION PLAN IS BEING IMPLEMENTED, IN DISCIPLINE AND NON COMPLIANCE WITH ROAD SAFETY LAWS AND REGULATIONS REMAIN UNCHECKED.	RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO EMBARK ON CONTINUOUS PUBLIC ENLIGHTENMENT CAMPAIGNS TO EDUCATE ROAD USERS ON TRAFFIC REGULATIONS AND CARRY OUT STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF ROADS REGULATIONS
8.	GOVERNMENT TO REHABILITATE VERY BAD SPOTS ON OUR CITY ROADS.	BILL SETTING UP TASK FORCE ON ROAD MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION WAS PASSED INTO LAW, AND THE TASK FORCE SET UP	SOME CITY ROADS WERE REHABILITATED THOUGH MANY FAILED AGAIN. THERE IS YET CONSIDERABLE REPAIR WORK THAT STILL NEEDS TO BE DONE.	THE TASK FORCE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO INTENSIFY ACTION ON ROAD MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION AND IMPROVE ON THE QUALITY OF WORK DONE.
9.	GOVERNMENT TO URGENTLY TACKLE THE PROBLEM OF FLOODING PARTICULARLY AT THE VICINITY OF ST. JOHNS, ARTILLARY JUNCTION, G. R. A., ETC.	DESTILLING WORK HAS COMMENCED ON THE BLOCKED DRAINAGES.	THESE AREAS ARE STILL PRONE TO SERIOUS FLOODING LEADING TO TRAFFIC CONGESTIONS, WHILE SOME AREAS STILL LACK PROPER DRAINAGE.	GOVERNMENT SHOULD USE THE DRY SEASON TO URGENTLY ADDRESS THE ISSUES OF STORM WATER.

10.	GOVERNMENT TO DIRECT THAT GARBAGE DISPOSAL IN THE CITY TAKE PLACE BETWEEN 5.00PM AND 9.00PM AND COLLECTION BETWEEN 5.00AM AND 8.00AM DAILY, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF GABAGE SITE MONITORS.	RECOMMENDATION IMPLEMENTED.	MOST HOUSEHOLDS OBSERVE THE RECOMMENDED TIME, BUT THE COLLECTION CONTINUES BEYOND THE RECOMMENDED PERIOD. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT GARGABE SUPERVISORS HAVE BEEN ENGAGED	ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION AUTHORITY TO ENGAGE GARBAGE SITE SUPERVISORS AND ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH RECOMMENDED COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL PERIOD.
11.	GOVERNMENT TO HALT FELLING OF TREES IN THE CITY, PARTICULARLY ALONG FORCES AVENUE, OLD GRA.	PROMPT ACTION TAKEN. FELLING OF TREES HALTED.		TREES SHOULD BE PLANTED TO REPLACE FELLED ONES.
12.	GOVERNMENT TO DIRECT RELEVANT AGENCIES TO REMOVE TRADERS AND UNAUTHORISED USERS FROM ALL LAY-BYS AND BUS STOPS.	TRADERS HAVE BEEN REMOVED ACCORDINGLY	PEOPLE REMOVED FROM THE LAY-BYS NOW MOVE TO THE STREETS.	GOVERNMENT SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE TRADERS DO NOT RETURN TO WHEREVER THEY ARE DISLOGED, AND THE BAN ON STREET TRADING BE STRICTLY ENFORCED
13.	GOVERNMENT TO DISBAND ALL EXISTING TASK FORCES ON REVENUE COLLECTION WITH A VIEW TO CURBING MULTIPLE TAXATION AND SANCTIONING UNAUTHORISED TAX COLLECTORS (TOUTS).	THE ILLEGAL TAX COLLECTORS AND TOUTS ARE STILL AROUND.		GOVERNMENT TO TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM THROUGH PROPER AND CONSTANT COORDINATION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS.
14.	GOVERNMENT TO PUT IN PLACE A MACHINERY TO ENHANCE THE SPEEDY PROCESSING OF CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY AND CONSENT DOCUMENTS FOR ALL LAND TRANSACTIONS TO ENHANCE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES OF THE STATE.	WE ARE AWARE THAT A GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) IS BEING PREPARED BY GOVERNMENT FOR THE STATE.	THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY/ GOVERNORS CONSENT TO LAND TRANSACTIONS IS STILL CUMBERSOME AND FRAUGHT WITH DELAY, THEREBY MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR PEOPLE TO OBTAIN FACILITIES	GOVERNMENT TO SPEEDILY PUT IN PLACE APPROPRAITE MACHINERY TO FACILITATE LAND TRANSACTIONS AND FAST-TRACK THE GIS PROJECT.

			FROM FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.	
15.	GOVERNMENT TO TAKE URGENT STEPS TO ENSURE RE-OPENING OF PORT HARCOURT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.	PORT HARCOURT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HAS BEEN RE-OPENED.		CONSTRUCTION WORK TO CONTINUE TO MAKE THE AIRPORT TRULY AN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.
16.	GOVERNMENT TO CARRY OUT AN IMMEDIATE APPRAISAL OF THE STATE OF ELECTRICITY GENERATION AND SUPPLY BY THE STATE-OWNED GAS TURBINES WITH A VIEW TO ENLIGHTENING THE PUBLIC ON THE CURRENT STATUS.			ALL PAYMENTS TO GAS TURBINE CONTRACTORS TO STOP UNTIL GOVERNMENT ASCERTAINS THE EXTENT OF WORK AND PAYMENTS ALREADY MADE.
17.	GOVERNMENT TO TAKE AN INVENTORY OF ALL STATE OWNED INVESTMENTS AND ASSETS INCLUDING ACQUISITIONS.	AN INVENTORY IS CURRENTLY BEING UNDER TAKEN JOINTLY BY THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE GOVERNOR ON INVESTMENT, PABOD INVESTMENTS LIMITED, MINISTRY O FINANCE AND MINISTRY OF FINANCE INCORPORATED (MOFI).	WE OBSERVE THAT WHILE THE INVENTORY PROCESS IS GOING ON, GOVERNMENT IS ALREADY RELINQUISHING ITS STAKE IN SOME OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED COMPANIES.	WE COMMEND THE GOVERNMENT AND RECOMMEND/URGE THAT THE INVENTORY PROCESS BE COMPLETED SPEEDILY. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE INVENTORY PROCESS BE COMPLETED BEFORE GOVERNMENT BEGINS TO ENTER INTO ANY ARRANGEMENTS ON THESE COMPANIES.
18.	TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION ACTIVITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF RIVERS PEOPLE.	ONGOING. TWO INDIGENOUS COMPANIES ARE IN THE PROCESS OF INCORPORATION FOR THE PURPOSE.		

29.	GOVERNMENT TO STOP THE USE OF MOTOR CYCLES (OKADA) AS A MEANS OF COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT WITHIN PORT HARCOURT AND IT ENVIRONS.	GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT MOTOR-CYCLES AS A MEANS OF COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT WILL BE BANNED EFFECTIVE JANUARY, 2009.	GOVERNMENT TO SPECIFY AREAS COVERED BY THE BAN, AND TO GIVE LEGAL BACKING TO THE BAN. THE RECENT RESTRICTION OF MOTOR-CYCLES BEYOND 6 PM. IS BEING CIRCUMVENTED BY SECURITY PERSONNEL WHO FILL IN THE GAP AFTER 6 PM.	GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IS AVAILABLE.
30.	GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH STATE INVESTMENT AND INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION COUNCIL.	GOVERNMENT YET TO TAKE ACTION.		GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE URGENT ACTION.
31.	GOVERNMENT TO SET UP OF A JUDICIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE THE DISTURBANCES IN THE STATE.	THE STATE GOVERNMENT SET UP A TRUTH & RECONCILIATION COMMISSION HAVING EARLIER PLEDGED TO DO SO.		
32.	GOVERNMENT TO SET UP COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES WHICH WILL BE INTEGRATED INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGAL SYSTEM.	GOVERNMENT HAS REQUESTED THE EAC TO LIAISE WITH LG CHAIRMEN ON THIS. A MEETING HAS TENTATIVELY BEEN FIXED BETWEEN EAC & LG CHAIRMEN ON THE ISSUE.		

4.0 CLOSING REMARKS

As can be seen, the year was a busy one for Council, as a lot of information was generated on the state of affairs in the State, on which Council predicated its many pieces of advice to Government.

Government itself kept faith and undertook a number of activities which were intended to kick-start the economy of the State, which had all but collapsed, probably in response to the tumultuous socio-political difficulties which the State was going through at the time.

Massive construction work on roads, health and educational institutions, urban renewal, the institutionalization of functional public transportation and the re-opening of the Port Harcourt International Airport for local and international flights, are some of the easily identifiable ones.

But the issue of security continued to pose a threat to the economy of the State as the spate of kidnapping for ransome of even children and the elderly, continued despite strong appeals for their discontinuation. The effect of this was that it scared away companies, local and multinationals, which were ready to do business in the State. Probably the most devastating of these, was the attack at Emohua on 4th March, 2008, on the workers of Julius Berger Construction Company who were engaged in the dualization project of the East-West Road.

Government's approach on the matter of security has been one of "a carrot and a stick". A Committee, **Youths Rehabilitation Committee**, has been established for the rehabilitation of militant youths who lay down their arms and seek to be retrained and reintegrated into society. At the same time, stringent legislative actions are being planned for those who wish to continue with the obnoxious practice of kidnapping.

On its part, Council has drawn up a Road Map of Development Policies and Implementation Strategies (2.10 of this document). It is hoped that the execution of the policies contained therein will lead to economic prosperity, as Council will build an **Economic Blueprint** for the future socio-economic advancement of the people of Rivers State based on the Development Policies and Implementation Strategies as contained in the Road Map.

Council wishes to thank the Government and people of Rivers State for the cooperation it received during the year, in the course of carrying out its assignment.

Rivers State Economic Advisory Council

31 December, 2008