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# Bayelsa State

**Together Towards Good Governance,  
Peace and Sustainable Development**

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**HE Governor Timipre Sylva**

**Meeting with Diplomatic Missions, Abuja**

**April 16, 2009**



Government of Bayelsa State

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# Welcome to Bayelsa State

- 1.7 million people
- 11,109 km<sup>2</sup> located in equatorial rain forest
- Longest coastline in Nigeria at 185 km
- Third largest wetland in the world
- Largest crude oil reserves in the Niger Delta
- Produces over 40% of Nigeria's on-shore crude oil with significant quantities of natural gas





# Challenges to Development and Economic Growth

## ■ Militancy and Insecurity

- Militancy has become a business
- Militants have become negative role models to youth

## ■ Corrupt Practices

- Lack of modern systems supports corrupt practices
- Lack of a formal plan to identify “the way forward”



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# Challenges to Development and Economic Growth

## ■ Neglected Education Sector

- Many villages have no functional school
- Existing schools are in extreme states of disrepair
- Teachers require improved training/retraining

## ■ Lack of Infrastructure

- No airport, seaport or adequate roads

## ■ Poverty

- Many people struggle daily with poor living conditions





# Government Responses to Challenges

## – Militancy and Insecurity

- Development of the “Triple E” Strategy, i.e. Education, Empowerment, Enforcement
- Bayelsa Peace and Security Framework, i.e. DDR Plan
- Briefing meetings with FCO; US State Department; other Head of Mission in Nigeria
- Funded the recent report by Coventry Cathedral: “The Potential for Peace and Reconciliation in the Niger Delta”
- Ongoing collaboration with Holy Trinity Cathedral/Alpha



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# Government Responses to Challenges

## – Militancy and Insecurity

- Collaboration with George Soros and Viva Rio (Brazilian organization with youth transformation experience) to prepare ex-militants for work and a new life





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# Government Responses to Challenges

## – Corrupt Practices

- Bayelsa Expenditure and Income Transparency Initiative (BEITI)
  - Developed in collaboration with George Soros and Revenue Watch Institute
  - Introduced to improve transparency and good governance
- BEITI Working Group
  - Comprises representatives of Civil Society, Private Sector and Government
  - Works with Government to review accounting and financial practices including full disclosure of state expenditure and income



# Government Responses to Challenges

## – Corrupt Practices

- Due Process mechanism has been strengthened by BEITI
  - Responsible for 24% savings of 2008 Capital Budget representing approximately N18.315 billion
  - Instituting Civil Service Reform - Currently conducting audit of Government Human Resources; biometric data capture
- e-Governance
  - Streamlining Government expenditure and reducing waste while making Government operations more transparent and efficient





# Government Responses to Challenges

## – Corrupt Practices

- Ministry of Finance collaboration with the world Bank to reform Public Finance Management
- Increased monitoring of government expenditure



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# Government Responses to Challenges

## – Lack of development framework

- Launch of Bayelsa State Sustainable Development Strategy (BYSSDS)
  - BYSSDS is a compass for all development projects ensuring **consistency, transparency and sustainability**
  - Developed through research, consultation and workshops with numerous stakeholders including representatives of Government , private sector and community members
  - BYSSDS is a long-term planning tool that integrates three key strategies: Economic prosperity; Social Advancement; and Environmental Protection





# Government Responses to Challenges – Neglected Education Sector

- Increased financial commitment to Education Sector
- Numerous local and foreign scholarships available
- On-going makeover of school infrastructure
- Development of Model Primary and Secondary Schools
- Partnership with Canadian University on Teacher Retraining Initiative
- Partnership with University of California Berkeley to develop an educational master plan



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# Government Responses to Challenges

## – Neglected Education Sector

- Partnership with World Bank to monitor and streamline spending in the educational sector





# Government Responses to Challenges

## – Lack of Infrastructure

- Three major roads leading to the three senatorial districts of Bayelsa State
- On-going development of an airport near Yenagoa
- Advanced plan for the development of a Logistics Base
- Ultra Modern Cottage Hospital
- Ultra Modern Quaternary Hospital
- 56 Roads constructed within Yenagoa including a new Yenagoa Access road



# Government Responses to Challenges

## – Poverty

- State Micro-credit Administration Agency is working with Micro Finance Institutions to provide funding for SMEs
- Support for Agric cooperatives
- Large scale rice and fish projects
- Re-organization and expansion of Bayelsa Palm
- Support for private investment to diversify the economy
- Bayelsa rated B + and A+ by Fitch Rating





# Internal Agents of Change

- Ijaw Youth Council (IYC)
  - IYC and Leaders of the Kaiama Declaration have issued a three month notice to end militancy
  - The position of IYC serves to delegitimize the activities of militants
- Nigerian Federal Government
  - Creation of the Niger Delta Ministry
  - Technical Committee Report
  - Amnesty for militants



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# Internal Agents of Change

- Bayelsa State Government and the BYSSDS
  - Successful implementation should result in:
    - Conflict reduction and sustained peace;
    - Improved individual and community health;
    - Higher skills acquisition and increased levels of education relevant to current and near-term employment opportunities
    - Rural stability
    - Increased agriculture/aquaculture production and associated increase in household income





# External and International Agents of Change

- Chatham House – Royal Institute of International Affairs, UK
  - Founded in 1920, a world-leading source of independent analysis, informed debate and influential ideas on how to build a prosperous and secure world
  - Hosted February 2009 meeting in UK of Governors of Bayelsa, Rivers, and Delta States to discuss State Government Solutions to the Niger Delta Troubles
  - Next meeting to be held in Calabar (Date to be determined)



# External and International Agents of Change

- Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Washington, D.C.
  - April 2009 - SAIS hosted a 2-day conference entitled “The Politics of Development and Security in Africa’s Oil States”
  - The consensus of this conference is that the issue of the Niger Delta is an international problem and everyone is required to participate in finding a solution; this is not a Nigerian problem





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# Towards a Better Niger Delta

- Deploy resources required to disarm and retrain willing militants; those unwilling to change must be arrested and tried for crimes
- International Action Group needs to work together to implement a viable peace plan; the Bayelsa Peace and Security Framework, the Coventry Cathedral Report and the FG's Niger Delta Technical Committee Reports should be considered in developing the way forward for Bayelsa State



# Role of the International Community

- Provide support to strengthen Civil Society Organizations
- Recognize genuine movement towards transparency and good governance in Bayelsa and consider this state as a destination for investment
- Do not wait for complete peace; act now: Investment will bring jobs, prosperity and peace to the region
- Partnerships with Governments and the Private Sector are required to implement the BYSSDS





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# Role of the International Community-

## Next Steps

- Work with Mission Security Officers to review Travel Advisories
- Work with commercial attaches to improve investment inflows to Bayelsa State
- Identify areas of interest within the framework of the BYSSDS and establish partnerships
- Niger Delta Reconstruction Fund
- Bayelsa Working Group will be expanded to meet biennially



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# Thank you

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Government of Bayelsa State