ABSTRACT
This paper tries to highlight the impact of resurgence of the Niger Delta militancy on the socio-economic development of the area, the paper tries to identifying the various roles government has played in the resolution of the crisis. The paper use questionnaire method in data collection and Chi-square instrument as validity instrument for testing of hypothesis. The hypothesis tested were non provision of economic and social amenities has not caused crisis in the Niger Delta and neglect for too long by the government and oil companies has not been responsible for the Niger Delta crisis. The research discovered that the crisis is as a result of long neglect of the region and insufficient attention of the government in the development of the region. The paper therefore, provided solutions to the crisis which are community participation in marketing, and exploring of their natural resources, provision of social amenities etc.

Introduction
The Niger Delta region of Nigeria is a wet land of about 70,000 square kilometres. It spreads over a number of ecological zones, sandy coastal ridge barriers blackish or saline mangroves of fresh water, permanent and seasonal swamp forests and lowland rain forests. The area is inhabited by about 1,600 settled communities with population of about seven million. The upland areas, particularly the urban centres are densely populated, while the swamps have scattered settlements. Presently, the oil and gas industry drives the economy of the Niger Delta and to some extent socio-economic development in the area.

The Niger Delta region is made up of nine states which is assumed to be oil producing states. These states are Delta, Rivers, Bayelsa, Akwa-Ibom, Cross River, Imo, Abia, Ondo and Edo state. Formally, there was nothing like Niger Delta, rather, it was known as riverrine states who seek to be recognised and given fair share of the resources gotten from their states. Oil was discovered in Nigeria in commercial quantity in 1956 at Oloibiri in Bayelsa State.

The Niger Delta region of Nigeria accounts for over 80% of her foreign exchange earnings which sustain the country. This enormous wealth would have brought prosperity but instead what we have is misery. The inhabitants are poor, underdeveloped, and malnourished and live in deplorable conditions. They are an epitome of abject penury, having lost their livelihood, with population water, soil degradation and deforestation. In the region, the result is lack of development have been disillusionment, frustration during the people about their increasing deprivation and deported mistrust, loss of livelihood, growing insecurity, cultism etc.

This crisis gave rise to militants who are agitating for the development of the oil producing communities. The crisis involves damage of oil pipelines, kidnapping, leasing to under production of oil in the region. There was an apprehension by oil companies in the Niger Delta over incessant protest of militants in the area.

The advent of democracy in 1999 paved the way for militancy in the Niger Delta in a manner never witnessed before in the annals of this country. Agitation has become a way of life in the region because of the despoliation off its land, rivers and environment by oil companies. These companies have continued to take from the region without giving anything in return. In the Niger Delta, oil flows like honey, but as blessed as it is with these natural resources, the area had not known development. Civilizations seem so near but yet far from it. It is in this region that oil workers live in opulence, while the owners of the land live in abject poverty.

In the past 50 years, oil companies have made a lot of money from oil exploitation in the Niger Delta. Rather than give something back to their host communities, they engage in capital flight. All
the money made is taken to their home countries, leaving our country and their area of operation poorer. This is what the people of Niger Delta have endured over the years. Because there is limit to human endurance, out of the region has arisen those who Rees that they and their people could not be drawers of water and however of wood, while some foreigners reap the fruit of the land.

With time, these people became agitators they started asking questions from the oil companies and the authorities. Rather than given them satisfactory answers, they were told tales of why Niger Delta could not be develop. They were told that they have terrains which are difficult to navigate for the purpose of development. But when it comes to oil exploration, it seems the so-called difficult terrains are easy to navigate in fighting their people’s cause, some Niger Deltans have paid with their lives.

Despite paying the supreme price for a better Niger Delta, people like Isaac Adaka-boro and Ken Saro-wiwa will return in their graves today because nothing has changed in their homeland, the land can no longer yield its fruits nor are the rivers still good for fishing so, it was a matter of time before hot-headed youths took over from where the Adaka Boro’s and Saro-Wiwa’s stopped.

The rise in military, is the end result of the non-challenge of oil companies in the handling the volatile Niger Delta issue. The militants of the Niger Delta have good case. They are fighting a worthy cause just as their forebears did. They have the support of other Nigerians in their quest to get the oil companies to put something tangible in place of the region where they make billions of dollars every year. The militants lost the people’s support when some of them resorted to criminality. The researcher strongly believe that the genuine militants who have the cause of Niger Delta at heart will not support the criminal acts being carried out in the region by some so-called militants under the guise of agitation for the people’s rights. The resort to criminality and violence was the last straw that broke the Carmel’s back in the Niger Delta struggle from the kidnapping of foreign oil workers for ransom, the criminals in militant’s garb took to abducting children, women and oil men. At this stage, they lost their case because there is no relationship between fighting for one rights and kidnapping for ransom. Suddenly, the Niger Delta creeks became a huge den of criminals where hostages were kept until ransom was paid.

**Paper Problem**

It has been established that crisis in the Niger Delta area has been inimical to the development of the country and for any organisation, institution, state or country to achieve progress; the environment must be peaceful for maximum efficiency and effectiveness in development. This crisis has led loss of lives, properties and resources and long period of environmental degradation due to oil spillage, neglect, exploitation and marginalization.

The history of conflicts in the world has been in the most recent days, the history of internal conflict. Internal conflict here is the conflict of one group against the other within the same country.

Conflicts according to Otite (1999) arise from the pursuit of divergent interests, goals and aspirations by individuals and, or groups in defined social and physical environment. One of the common theoretical explanations about causes of conflict links it to the psychological root of tension, frustration, aggression (peer,1950; Bernard 1957; Brooke, 1952) that had its shortcomings as an explanatory guide (see Baosson, 1958). Indeed, this position, without going through the labour of explanation has been variously discredited and made unacceptable that we may not need to waists out time further with its explanation.

The most acceptable theoretical explanation of conflict in this region is the “Relative Deprivation Theory”

The central thesis of this theory is when Deprivation is intense on individuals on a large group it leads to violent conflict. Aggression is always a consequence of discontent of a kind. Discontent is felt anywhere in the class structure where people perceive there rewards as unfair compared to those with similar attributes. By implications, discontent and conflict would be greatest among the socially excluded.

Anger induced by frustration is a motivation force that disposes man to aggression. Relative Deprivation is a perceived discrepancy between man’s value expectation and their value capabilities.

Value expectation is the goods and conditions of life to which people believe they are rightfully entitled. Value capabilities are the good and condition they think they are capable of attaining and maintaining given the social means available to them.

**THE RESURGENCE OF THE NIGER DELTA MILITANCY ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA**

Renewed attacks by new militant groups in Nigeria’s oil-rich Niger Delta region since the beginning of 2006 have reduced Nigeria’s oil production to a 22-year low. The resurgence of militancy in the region has now become a major security concern. It contends that if President Muhammadu Buhari sticks to his
sledge hammer approach, the violence will escalate and the target and tactics of militants may change as well, with dire cascading economic and security consequences for the country.

Since crude oil was first discovered in Oloibiri in 1956, the Niger Delta region has played a pivotal role in the politics, economics, and security of Nigeria. The region’s estimated 37.2 billion barrels of proven oil reserves and 188 trillion standard cubic feet of natural gas are the largest hydrocarbon deposits in Africa. Oil exploration has become central to the state economy, accounting for some 80 percent of government revenue, 95 percent of foreign exchange earnings, and 40 percent of gross domestic product in addition to its oil wealth, the Niger region’s position on the Atlantic is a critical maritime corridor Nigeria to move to import needed goods.

Despite the vast wealth created by its petroleum, however, much of the Niger Delta region is characterized by widespread poverty. Youth unemployment, political underrepresentation and environmental degradation, these forces contributed to an outbreak of violence between 2006 and 2009. Spearheaded by the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), a presidential amnesty programme helped to end the insurgency and allowed oil production to bounce back, but the quest to sustain security in the Niger Delta has remained a major challenge to successive Nigerian government.

THE NEW WAVE OF MILITANCY AND PRESIDENT BUHARI’S REACTION

In January 2016, unknown criminal elements began attacking oil facilities in the Niger Delta region. In response, president Buhari vowed to deal decisively with the resurgence of oil theft, sabotage of pipelines, and general insecurity. His threat did not deter the emergence of a new militant separatist group, the NDA, which proclaimed its formation on 3rd February 2016. Since then, the group has carried out numerous high-profile attacks on oil facilities across the region.

Several notable attacks are worth highlighting. On 10th February, NDA militants blew up then Bonny Soku Gas Plant, and an independent power plant at Gbaran. On 13th February, the NDA launch its operation Red-Economy with a 14-day ultimatum to the central government to respond to its demands. The following day, the NDA carried out a devastating attack on one of the most strategic pipelines in the Nation’s energy network, the Trans Forcados Pipeline (TFP), which transports oil, water, and associated gas from fields in the Western Delta to the 4,00,000 bpd Forcados oil terminal.

Ten days later, on 23rd February, the NDA reissued its warning that it will continue hitting oil facilities until the government addresses its grievances. On 4th March 2016, NDA militants struck again, blowing up the Chevron valve platform located in the Delta state of Warri. The next day, it carried out another attack on the Chevron well D25 in Abiteye along with gas lines feeding the Warri and Kaduna refineries.

While claiming responsibility for the attacks, the group’s spokesman, Madock Agbinibo boasted that ‘now, we are taking the fight out of the creeks of the Niger Delta, we are taking it to Abuja and Lagos. Although there is no credible intelligence suggesting that the NDA has the logistical and operational capacity to mount such attacks, militants have in the past extended their geographic reach as far as Lagos in south west Nigeria. The July 2009 attack on Atlas cove Jetty in Lagos by MEND is a precedent. While some have attributed the violence to president Buhari’s handling of the amnesty programme. Other has blamed Tompolo, the ex-militant leader currently being prosecuted in absentia on corruption charges. Tompolo, however, has disassociated himself from NDA’s action. Unlike former Niger Delta groups that operated under known leaders, as yet the NDA have no known associations, raising speculation about those behind the violence.

TIMELINE OF NDA’S ACTIVITIES OF 2016

The Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) is a militant group in Nigeria's Niger Delta. The group publicly announced their existence in March 2016. The NDA have attacked oil producing facilities in the delta, causing the shutdown of oil terminals and a fall in Nigeria's oil production to its lowest level in twenty years. The attacks caused Nigeria to fall behind Angola as Africa’s largest oil producer. The reduced oil output has hampered the Nigerian economy and destroyed its budget, since Nigeria depends on the oil industry for nearly all its government revenues. The NDA's declared aims are to create a sovereign state in the Niger Delta and have threatened to disrupt Nigeria's economy if their aims are not met. The NDA claims its members are "young, educated, well travelled...and educated in east Europe". The group have criticised the President of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari, for having never visited the delta and his detention of the Biafran independence activist Nnamdi Kanu.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 14</td>
<td>Several gas pipelines and oil installations located in Warri South West were blown up following orders issued by a Nigerian High Court in Lagos to arrest the ex-militant leader Government Ekpemupolo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 10</td>
<td>At approximately 1:30am NDA militants blew up the Bonny-Soku Gas Export Line.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 14</td>
<td>NDA militants destroyed Shell's underwater Forcados 48-inch Export Pipeline at the Forcados Export Terminal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 19</td>
<td>At approximately 3:30am NDA militants blew up Eni's Clough Creek-Tebidaba Pipeline in Bayelsa State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>NDA militants attacked and heavily damaged the Chevron Valve Platform located at Abiteye, Warri South. This platform is reportedly Chevron's most significant platform as it serves as a connecting point where all of Chevron's other Niger Delta platforms link-up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>The Escravos-Lagos Pipeline System, linking Warri to Lagos was blown up by NDA militants.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>The NDA's Strike Team 7 launched a coordinated attack on several Chevron oil installations located in Abiteye, resulting in the destruction of Chevron Well D25 and several other major pipelines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the area.</td>
<td>The crude oil pipeline linking Warri to Kaduna was blown up by the NDA's Strike Team 7 as well as a gas line that supplies both Lagos and Abuja with electricity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>Oil pipelines located near the villages of Alero, Dibi, Otunana, and Makaraba were blown up the NDA's Strike Team 7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>3 Nigerian soldiers were killed during a shootout with NDA militants in the village of Foropa, Southern Ijaw LGA, Bayelsa.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>The Chevron pipeline at Makaraba was blown up for a second time in 7 days following repairs done by Chevron.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 20</td>
<td>The Escravos-Lagos Pipeline System was once again blown up by NDA militants following the commencement of repairs being done on the pipeline following the May 5 attack.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>NDA militants blew up Chevron's main electricity feed pipeline, located at the Escravos Tank Farm at Ciera Creek.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 27</td>
<td>At approximately 2:15am NDA militants blew Eni and Shell's pipelines 1, 2, and 3 located at Nembe, Bayelsa State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 27</td>
<td>At approximately 11:45pm NDA militants blew up several gas and oil pipelines belong to the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation located near Warri.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>NDA militants were forced to retreat from the villages of Gulobokri and Eweleso, Brass following a series of clashes with Nigerian soldiers, resulting in the deaths of approximately 20 civilians, 2 police officers, and an unknown number of militants/Nigerian soldiers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>At approximately 3:44am Chevron's Oil Wells RMP23 and RMP24 located near the village of Dibi, Warri South-West, Chevron's highest producing wells in the Niger Delta, were blown up by NDA militants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>Five boats loaded with heavily armed militants attacked a houseboat near the village of Ijere, Warri South, where Nigerian soldiers were reportedly stationed. 2 Nigerian soldiers and 4 civilians were killed during the attack. The NDA claims they were not behind the attack and stated they will &quot;bring the culprits to book&quot;.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2</td>
<td>At approximately 2:00am NDA militants blew up the Ogboinbiri-Tebidaba and Cough Creek-Tebidaba pipelines, belonging to Eni, in Bayelsa State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 3</td>
<td>At approximately 3:00am NDA militants blew up Shell's Forcados 48-inch Export Pipeline for a third time following a series of repairs done by Royal Dutch Shell.</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 3</td>
<td>At approximately 3:30am NDA militants blew up Eni's Brass-Tebidaba oil pipeline in Bayelsa State.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2</td>
<td>At approximately 11:26pm an NDA &quot;Strike Team&quot; blew up two major crude oil trunk lines belonging to the Nigerian Petroleum Development Company, located near the</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 3</td>
<td>At approximately 1:15am NDA militants blew up Chevron Wells 7 and 8, located near the Abiteye flow station in Warri South West LGA.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 5</td>
<td>At approximately 10:00pm NDA militants blew up Chevron Well 10, located near the Otunana flow station.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 5</td>
<td>At approximately 11:15pm NDA militants blew up a manifold belonging to the Nigerian Petroleum Development Company, located near Banta, as well as two crude oil trunk lines belonging to the Nigerian National Petroleum Company.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 6</td>
<td>Between the hours of 10:50pm and 11:10pm an NDA &quot;strike team&quot; blew up Chevron manifolds RMP 22, 23 and 24 in Delta State. These manifolds are major convergence points for numerous crude oil pipelines operated by Chevron Corp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 8</td>
<td>Between the hours of 3:00am and 5:00am NDA militants blew up Nembe pipelines 1, 2, and 3, belonging to Shell and Eni, in Bayelsa State while simultaneously blowing up the Brass-Tebidaba trunk line in Rivers State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 11</td>
<td>At approximately 7:30pm NDA militants blew up ExxonMobile’s &quot;Qua Iboe 48&quot; crude oil pipeline.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 12</td>
<td>Late on the night of July 12, NDA militants blew up a natural gas pipeline belonging to the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation located in Ogiyo, Ogun State.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 13</td>
<td>Heavily armed NDA militants hosted a function in Delta State in which they came face-to-face with soldiers of the Nigerian Army. One militant announced &quot;I want to hand over our request to our Ogba Pata today. You'll go and give it to the governor,&quot; before telling a Nigerian officer the group's demands. After the short speech, the crowd was wild with jubilation as the militants began shooting their assault rifles in the air while singing and dancing to the song &quot;Fada Fada&quot; by Phyno ft. Olamide.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 18</td>
<td>At approximately 12:05am NDA militants blew up a crude oil trunk line belonging to Shell located near the Batan Flow Station in Warri South West LGA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 24</td>
<td>At approximately 11:30pm NDA militants blew up a natural gas pipeline belonging to the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation located in Nsit-Ibom LGA, Akwa Ibom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 31</td>
<td>At approximately 1:00am militants blew up the Trans Ramos crude oil pipeline, owned by Royal Dutch Shell, located near the village of Odimodi, Burutu LGA, Delta State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 30</td>
<td>The Nigerian Army announced the commencement of military operations against militants in the Niger Delta, nicknamed Operation Crocodile Smiles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 30- September 3</td>
<td>20 Nigerian soldiers were killed in action by heavily armed NDA militants during the first 4 days of “Operation Crocodile Smiles”. 16 were killed along the River Ethiope while the other 4 were killed in the creeks of Bayelsa State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>The Niger Delta Avengers released a photograph showing 4 freshly captured Nigerian Army soldiers being rowed in a boat manned by a single militant to an undetermined location somewhere in the Niger Delta creeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 23</td>
<td>At approximately 8:40pm NDA militants blew up the Bonny 48-inch crude oil pipeline, owned by Royal Dutch Shell, located at the Bonny Export Terminal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 25</td>
<td>At approximately 3:45am the NDA Strike Team 06 blew up the Escravos Export Pipeline, owned by Chevron, located offshore from the mainland. Prior to its destruction, the pipeline transported hundreds-of-thousands of barrels of crude oil each day from offshore oil fields to the Escravos GTL petroleum refineries, located on the mainland, to be refined into gasoline, kerosene, and diesel fuel. The NDA spokesman, Mudoch Agbinibo, warns that any attempt to make repairs to the pipeline will</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
immediately halt their peace negotiations with the Nigerian government.

Source: Elena H. (16 May 2016).

THE IMPACT OF RENEWED MILITANCY IN THE NIGER DELTA

The renewed attacks by militant groups not only undermine Nigeria’s economic stability, but also risk exacerbating maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea (GOG). Owing to recent attacks on critical infrastructure, Nigeria’s oil production has plummeted from 2.2 million bpd to about 1.4 million bpd. Nigeria is already losing about #2.79 million (&14 billion) daily to the closure of the Exxon Mobil operated Qua Iboe terminal, following the evacuation of Exxon Mobil’s workers. This has compounded government revenue losses caused by the fall in global oil prices since mid-2014.

In addition to crippling oil exports, the new wave of militancy in the Delta has also choked the supply of gas to local power grid. Electricity generation has declined from about 4,800 megawatts in August 2015 to 1,000 megawatts in May 2016, seriously undermining overall productivity and service delivery in the economy. The renewed violence has also impacted maritime security in the GOG. Private attacks emanating from the Niger Delta remain a major threat to the oil industry in Nigeria and merchant shipping in the GOG. An estimated 70 percent of all piracy related incidents in the GOG are directly related to Nigerian criminal gangs, mostly originating from the Niger Delta. In the first quarter of 2016, at least 12 attacks were recorded in the GOG, including nine Nigeria, one in Cote d’ Ivory, and two within the territorial waters of the DR Congo. Should the circle of violence escalate, it is likely that the NOA and other similar groups could increase attacks and offshore facilities. Consequently, the interests of foreign investors will be further compromised as their facilities come under destructive attack, their staff threatened, and safe navigation in the GOG undermined by militant pirates.

Impact of Exploration on Environment and Socio-Economic Development

The numerous negative environmental impacts of crude oil mining and refining are well known. Pollution arising from oil spillage destroys marine life and crops, makes water unsuitable for fishing and renders many hectares of farm land unusable. Brine from oil fields contaminates water formation and stream, making them unfit as sources of drinking water. At the same time, flaring gas in vicinity of human dwellings and high pressure oil pipelines that form a mesh across farmlands are conducive to acid rains, deforestation and destruction of wild life. In addition, dumping of toxic, non-biodegradable by products of oil refining is dangerous to both flora and fauna, including man. In the specific case of Ogoni land, it has been recorded that 30 million barrels of crude oil were spilled in the area in 1970.

However, rather than take responsibility, state officials and oil companies are quick to blame oil spills on sabotage by local communities. Apart from oil spills, there have been other far-reaching environmental damages in the Niger Delta. For instance, Mitee reports that in the 1960s, Shell constructed a narrow road through the town of Dere to link its oil wells. This destroyed the drainage system of the town leading to severe flooding. In Gbaran, Shell also constructed a road to link its installations with a major road from Yenagoa to Imbia, consequently, water flow to a large section of timberland was cut leading to the atrophy and death of 1,000 acres of forest.

There is also the problem of gas flaring which we have already alluded to in November 1983 alone flared over 483 million cubic metres of gas from its well. In these gas flares temperatures reached as 1,400o. Although, there are exiting attempts by oil companies to and flares, the situation is still one of the worse cases in the world. For instance, in 1991, Nigeria exceeded the world average for gas flares by 72% in that year; Nigeria flared 80% of gas produced, compared this with the world average of 4% and PEC average of 18%.

NIGER DELTA AND MILITANCY

Given the trend of events, and especially government insensitivity to the Niger Delta people, they naturally became incensed and started to push for attention. The first radical onslaught connected to this regard was witnessed in 1966 when Isaac Adaka Boro took up arms in rebellion against the Nigerian state demanding for an end to the activities f the multinational oil corporations in the region, an even more, declared the Ijaw territory. The Niger Delta people republic, expectedly, the state was quick to coercively suppress such civil insurrection.
The region remained calm and devoid of violence until about the 1990s, it is however necessary to note that within the period before 1990, the Niger Delta people on several occasions employed means to attract reparation (payment of compensation, safety environment practices and infrastructural development) to the region through peaceful protest and legal litigations against the oil MNCs and government.

Before proceeding further, it is imperative to recognise unsettled basic issues that may impinge on a deeper understanding of the origin, nature and dimensions of the conflicts in the Niger Delta. This is because not all conflicts in the oil producing communities are concerned with the agitation for the redress of the degradation of the environment, as some of such strife’s are tangential to the struggle. Also, while it might be true that most of the conflicts in Niger Delta are linked to oil or compounded by oil politics, it will be misleading to treat all crisis in the region as rooted in oil. For instance, conflicts emanating from oil bunkering are selfish oriented.

Events turned differently in the 1990s. The Umuechem massacre in 1990 induced resurgence of restiveness in the region, the Umuechem community unhappy at the impacts of the oil activities on the land had demonstrated against SPDC’s presence. Shell reacted by calling the police to quell the demonstration and disperse the demonstrators, afterwards, the Anti-riot mobile policemen brought in to arrest the disturbance concluded that one of their men had gone missing and had been probably killed by the villagers. The police reaction was to raid the village at dawn, opening gunfire and throwing grenades at the still sleeping village hundreds of people were killed, numerous wounded and survivors ran away from the village for safety. This event earned a national outcry and tension build-up in the Niger Delta was palpable.

Indeed, the year 1990 was a turning point for the Niger Deltans, it was also the same year that the Movement for the survival of Ogoni people (MOSOP) was founded by a number of educated Ogoni elites with the aim of redressing the plight of oil production on their land. On this platform, the struggle was elevated to the intellectual plane and globalized. In October 1990, the people issued a bill of Rights through their popular organisation, the MOSOP. Ibeau (2000:10) states that: the register among other things proper compensation for destruction of the Ogoni environment and fair share of the #30 billion dollars they claimed accrued to Nigeria from crude oil extracted from Ogoni land since 1958. The drafters of the bill also lamented the pervasive poverty of Ogoni the lack of health, education, and other social amenities, as well as the progressive disappearance of Ogoni language as other Nigerian languages are being forced on us.

By 1991, the Ogoni began a massive campaign against environmental pollution, material deprivation and social exclusion which they attributed to crude oil production by oil firms and discriminatory politics of the Nigerian state. The campaign was intensified in 1993 and MOSOP leaders (G.B Leton, Kobani, and Kensaro-wiwa) then were constant quests to the state’s security agencies. Despite state-sponsored intimidations and incarcerations of Ogoni revolutionaries, they were resolute in driving home their demands; references were made by Ogoni leaders to what obtains in other oil producing communities in other parts of the world. One popular example was the Shetland Islands in the United Kingdom. Since the dawn of the 21st century, a battle line between the state and Niger Delta indigenes which was drawn not on sand but in blood has remained conspicuous. Prior to this period, the people’s attacking strategy was merely to vandalize oil pipelines and scoop oil sell and earn a living. Thousands have lost their lives on events of explosion and oil spillages inherent in such scandals further pose environmental hazards and challenges. To this strategy, they have added kidnapping / hostage taking for ransom, oil production disruptions, and fierce gun battles with operational security outfit, oil bunkering and verbal demands, among others.

For these purpose, there become a great deal of proliferations of ethnic militia groups with the Army of unemployed Youths as reserve power key. Notably among these militia groups operating in the Niger Delta conclude; the Niger Delta people volunteer force (NDPVF), pan Niger Delta Revolutionary Militia (PNDRM), Niger Delta Vigilante (NDV), Egbesu Boys of Africa (EBA), Federal Niger Delta Ijaw Communities (FNDIC), Movement for the survival of Ogoni Land (MOSOP), Niger Delta Oil Producing Communities (NDOPC) and Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND).

There were also sprang up of numerous criminal groups who had taken undue advantage of the security in the region engendered by the crisis perpetuate and perpetuate criminal activities ranging from robbery, kidnapping, killing to rapping. More so, the region had experienced numerous ethnic clashes. Report commentaries had revealed that some of the intra and inter ethnic and community clashes in the region were induced by oil MNCs to further weakened perceived oppositions. Some cases of the Youths taking up arms against their community leaders result from the MNC bribing those leaders and later betraying them.
Sometimes, the MNCs though a ground conspiracy may instigate a conflict between an opposing community and its neighbouring community while supplying arm and ammunitions to the later fight the former.

BUHARI AND CLEAN-UP OF OGORI LAND

President Muhammedu Buhari will launch the Ogoni clean-up on June 2, a statement has said. This is contained in a statement issued by Mr. Chijioke Amu Nnadi, Head of Corporate Affairs unit, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in Port-her-court on Monday. It stated that the minister of environment, Mrs, Amina Muhammad, confirmed the date when she visited Bodo in Gokana Local Government Area of the state to inspect an oil spill clean-up demonstration.

This statement quoted Mohammed as saying that the president had given assurances that the area would be cleaned-up in fulfilment of his electioneer promise to people of the Niger Delta. I can confirmed that president Buhari will visit Ogoni land on June 2nd to flag off clean-up of oil spills in the area as recommended in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNDEP) report.

Buhari would return to Ogoni land where he inaugurated a fish pond in 1984 where the once flourishing pond regrettably had been destroyed by oil pollution.

CONCLUSION

Based on the summary of findings, the following conclusion was drawn ordinarily; an average Nigerian (e.g. Niger Deltas) is always at peace with his/her neighbour regardless of the ethnic origin. However, research findings in this study shows that military and violence which has become national problem in Nigeria as a result of divide and rule operated in the geographical expression known as Niger Delta. The rich and highly placed members of the society feel the intensity of competing with one another, therefore, in order to achieve their socio-economic aims, they tend to employ ethnic sentiments by playing on the false consciousness of the masses by making them think that their existence depends on their ‘elites’ being able to fight for them. The elites however; be it in government or private in this country are still parts and parcel of the militant’s activities in the Niger Delta has cost Nigeria a great deal locally. And it can be discussed under the followings;

Firstly, the vandalization of various oil pipelines in the region has resulted to a great financial loss by the people and government. Government property has been vandalized and rooted by the miscreant and the cost of replacement will be enormous. Scooping of fuel in the various areas has resulted in loss of lives and billion naira worth of property from 2015 to 2017. In July 10, 2006 about 350 lives and property where lost in the Niger Delta. In the same year more than 125 people were burnt to ashes at Ebute in Lagos. Also in July 2003 and May 2003, over 350 and 259 persons were roasted alive in Umuahia, Abia state and Abule Egba in Lagos respectively as a result of vandalisation and scooping of fuel. Therefore, it could be observed that the destruction of oil installations has huge financial implications. Over 50 billion naira was lost in less than 8 years.

Secondly, the militant action in the Niger Delta area has made the region ungovernable and instable for the politician has resulted to the recruitment of the militants for thuggery purposes. Thereby using them to harass and intimidate their political personnel for ransom is now a thriving business in the area. The political elites and local chiefs have also taken advantage of the crisis in the area to reposition themselves as mouth pieces of the people in disguise to their real intension.

Recommendations

The fact that activities of militancy and violence to national development in Niger Delta are a threat to smooth running of governments, in the region and the nation at large. The researcher strongly believe that when government is conducted with the knowledge of different ethnic through peaceful co-existence rivalry or discrimination among the people would be minimal and violence adequately checked or controlled. The summary of findings specifically serves as a guide to the following recommendations:

As for other interventionist agencies like the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and the Niger Delta Ministry, the president should make up his mind either to fund them properly or scrap them completely. If he is unable for whatever reason to fund the agencies properly, he should scrap them rather than create the impression that there are so many interventionist agencies in the region and that the government has done so much for them even when they are no properly funded.

• Dialogue and democratic agreement remain the most workable and reasonable approach to resolving the Niger Delta problems as against use of force. The federal government should therefore discourage and de-emphasis the military option in conflict resolution in the region.
• The establishment of ministry of Niger Delta is well and meaningful development by the present administration. It therefore, call for patience, understanding and co-operation by every Nigerian particularly militants in the region to give peace a chance.
• It is equally recommended that to stop the destruction of oil companies equipments, the companies as a matter of necessity should continue to carry out social responsibility to the areas and the people.

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