



BEING A JOINT WELCOME ADDRESS TO BE DELIVERED BY THE REV DAVID UGOLOR ON BEHALF OF ANEEJ & LITE AFRICA AT DANNIC HOTELS, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, ON THE OCASSION OF THE PROJECT VALIDATION WORKSHOP MAY 15, 2018.

Distinguished and respected Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this occasion of the validation exercise of projects being undertaken by several Niger Delta Development Institutions. The Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ) and Leadership Initiative for Transformation and Empowerment (LITE-Africa) welcome the leadership and staff of NDDC, SACE, representative from the Office of the Vice President, PACAC, NEITI, Media as well as the CSOs coalition committee to this project validation workshop. The purpose of this validation exercise is to get NDDC feedback on the draft project Monitoring report of the coalition committee and to validate the status of projects monitored in the nine Niger Delta States implemented by Niger Delta Development Commission.

This project is an offshoot of the first phase of the USAID Strengthening Advocacy and Civic Engagement project where ANEEJ and LITE-Africa carried out an assessment of Niger Delta Institutions (NDIs) such as the NDDC, Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, EDSOGPADEC, OSOPADEC and DESOPADEC to get a deeper understanding of their mandates and activities. Both organizations also conducted a citizen report card survey on the institutions in some of the oil producing communities across the Niger Delta region.

NDDC adopted some of the recommendations from the CRC report and one of such is the publication of the institution's quarterly reports and involving stakeholders in their activities. This led to the creation of CSOs NDDC project monitoring committee by the then Acting Managing Director Mrs. Ibim Semenitari who inaugurated the committee in 2016.

This committee was tasked to monitored projects in the nine Niger-Delta states, the committee has just completed the first project monitoring that started this year and have sent in their report.

A total of 237 projects where assessed across the 9 Niger Delta States by the committee. Out of the 237 projects assessed, 110 have been completed and in use, 63are abandoned or uncompleted, 18 are completed but in bad shape and cannot be used, 9 projects are completed but not in use, 17 projects are in-progress, 11 projects are uncompleted and are already in use, 4 project sites do not exist but have visibility (signboards) and 1 project deviated from what was stated as the project.

NDDC implemented the highest number of projects with a total of 205 projects from what was assessed. DESOPADEC had 17 of its project assessed while EDSOGPADEC and MNDA had 3 projects each assessed respectively. ASOPADEC had 1 project and the state Government had 2

projects assessed. The result shows NDDC having the highest percentage of 88.7% for all projects assessed.

Validation was carried out in Abia and Edo early this year to allow community inputs and validation. We are here today for the NDDC to make their inputs and validate the report as we all know that they have the data base of the projects they are implementing in the region before it goes out to the general public.

This is to promote transparency and accountability and to create ownership of the monitoring report.

Once again, on behalf of ANEEJ & LITE-Africa, I want to thank you all for finding time to be here present at this validation workshop as we jointly promote development in the Niger Delta Region.

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