

NEGLECT OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND OIL-GAS EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION IN NIGER DELTA REGION OF NIGERIA: A SOCIOLOGICAL INSIGHT

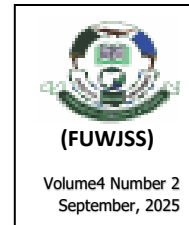
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Abstract

This paper examines corporate social responsibility (CSR) and oil and gas exploration and exploitation activities in Niger Delta. It explores the legal regimes of oil and gas in Nigeria using the lens of sociology of law. The tale started with the British Mineral Act of 1914, Petroleum Regulation Act of 1967, the Oil in Navigable Waters Act of 1968, the Terminal Dues Act of 1969 and the Associated Gas Re – injection Act of 1979, which gave oil companies voluntary and discretionary powers to initiate projects in the host communities as well as obey the regulations guiding operations in the industry. These laws have complicated the development of Nigeria’s Niger Delta region over the years. In addition, there are superior laws embedded in the 1999 Constitution, the Land Use Act of 1978, the Minerals and Mining Act of 1999 which support the legal transfer of land from its owner to the Federal Government. The obvious implication of these laws is that oil companies in the Niger Delta’s region have willfully neglected initiating CSR projects in their host communities, citing the payment of royalties and tax to the Federal Government. In this light, oil bearing communities also have lost the legal rights to demand for compensation from oil companies. This consequently has resulted in environmental degradation, poverty, kidnapping, and arm struggle in the Niger Delta region. Findings of the study confirmed that the petroleum industry act (PIA) was passed into law to achieve accelerated development in the oil producing region of Nigeria as the Act mandates oil companies to earmark three percent of their profit after earnings for their social corporate social responsibility (CSR). The study concludes that existing legal frameworks do not compel oil companies to deliver in specific quality and quantity of infrastructure in their host communities and this has led to a fuse between the state and oil companies where oil companies refuse to undertake CSR in their host communities.

Keywords: Corporate social responsibility, oil, Niger Delta, host communities, sociology of law

Introduction

The Niger Delta region of Nigeria situated in the Gulf of Guinea between longitude 50°E to 80° and altitude 40°N to 60°N . It is the largest mangrove forest in Africa and third largest in the world (Efe and Mogborukor, 2008). Niger Delta is classified under the tropical rain forest that is located in the North of the Delta, which is located between 4°N – 10°N of the equator, with a latitude that is less than 1000 meters. The region is a home to over 30 million people. The region host over 800 oil producing communities with about 900 oil wells, 35.9 billion barrels of oil and 185 trillion cubic feet of gas, the largest oil and gas reserves in Sub - sahara Africa. With all these, Niger Delta is plagued with abject poverty, environmental degradation, insecurity and high misery index. To address Niger Delta economic deprivation among others, in 1958, Sir Henry Willink Commission was set. The development of Niger Delta has been that of blame game between the Federal Government, states and the multi-nationals. These indices shows that Niger Delta is in the need of Corporate Social Responsibility CSR.

More so, International corporations are usually bound to meet certain priority to enable them carryout their duties either in payment of taxes, royalties, prescribed fees or some sorts of agreed bonuses (Igali, 2023). Furthermore, corporate social responsibility assert that businesses in addition to maximizing shareholders values, has an obligation to act in a manner that is beneficial to the society. CSR is bound by the idea of fairness and equity as it pertains to the surrounding social environment as acknowledgement of moral and ethical obligation. To ensure that corporations operate in responsible manners, the Nigerian government made legislations that gave legal backing. The jurisprudence of these laws and its effect on Niger Delta is herewith juxtaposed using the lens of legal sociology. Historically sociologically, the nine Niger Delta states were studied with the use of event-structured analysis.

However, oil exports from Nigeria began in small quantities in 1908 with a German Nigeria Bitumen Company and later in large commercial quantity in the 1950's. The present export of crude oil accounts for over 95 percent of the foreign exchange earnings, and 80 percent of the federal government total revenue (NBS,2022). The share of oil and gas in federal government revenue was N2, 172.35 billion in the first half of 2022, 1.26 million barrels in 2023, 1.33 million barrel 2024 and 1.51 million barrels by July 2025. Meanwhile, the average crude oil production third quarter was 1.2 million barrels per day (NBS, 2022). The vanguard (2021) reported stagnated oil revenue at N4 trillion in ten months ending October 2021. In its yearly Report and Statement of Account, the Central Bank of Nigeria (2020) stated that oil accounted for ₦1.7 trillion or 85 percent of the total gross revenue for the year 2020. Over 90 percent of these come from the

Niger Delta. Furthermore, National Bureau of Statistics added that, a total of 32.7 billion barrels of crude oil valued at ₦120 trillion have been exported since 1960. The figure shows the crucial role that the oil and gas industry play in the socio – economic development of Nigeria.

Yet the people from the region wallow in poverty and inhuman conditions (Tamuno, 2008). Majority of persons in Niger Delta, do not have portable water, hospitals and schools are few and far between. There is also poor sewage system, poor sanitation and dilapidated roads. NBS (2022) indicated that 51.33 percent of the population is not connected to national grid, while 40.89 percent had poor means of communication. Niger Delta environment had experienced damages due to uncontrolled exploration and exploitation of crude oil and natural gas which has led to several oil spillages, uncontrolled gas flaring and indiscriminate canalization of the wetlands of the Niger Delta. Oil pollution had destroyed farmlands, rivers, streams and creeks, resulting in human diseases, sickness and avoidable death in the region. Nigeria National Oil Spill Detection Response Agency (NOSDRA) (2021) noted that 28,003 barrels of oil usually spills into Niger Delta environment especially between 2020 and 2021, 40,000 barrels in 2022, 1.162 barrels in 2023 and 589 in 2024. The multinational oil companies in the Niger Delta have caused so much damage to the land in the Niger Delta. Oil pipelines cross communities, while gas is flared with little consequences on the companies. The oil companies remained negligent and willful, despite all the gains that accrue to them from oil exploration and refining in the region. Yet the oil and gas from the Niger Delta constitute Nigeria's economic life line (Okowa, 2008).

The alarming poverty in the Niger Delta has caused colossal damage to the region and the nation at large. Of the 133 multi-dimensional poor in Nigeria, the Niger Delta have a good chunk of that number. For instance, Bayelsa, a core Niger Delta State was rated as the second poorest in Nigeria while Rivers, was among states with highest unemployment in Nigeria (NBS, 2022). Culminating Nigeria as poverty capital in 2018 by World Poverty Clock. The debilitating communal clashes, cultism, kidnapping and clashes between youths and oil companies, operations of illegal artisan refineries (kpofire), gang and gun, cultism and general insecurity is what the region harvest from the millions of barrels of oil and gas exploration from its land in the last fifty years. Between January and June 2021, about 2,371 persons were adopted in Nigeria (Vanguard, 2021), while in seven months 3,823 persons were adopted (Punch, 2022), and 7,500 between 2023 and 2024.

In the area of environment, compensations are most times unpaid, or inadequately paid. In most cases, compensation ever paid end-up in the hands of politicians and traditional rulers, leaving the people and the

environment in a worse condition. The devastation of the Niger Delta environment, health and ecosystem by the oil companies is replete in development literature all over the world. *Ipsa – Facto*, the aim of this research is to provide a detailed legal sociology and account of the Nigerian legal framework and oil and gas, highlight the contradictions and gap that led to the current socio-economic condition in the oil bearing communities; secondly to link the legal framework into socio-economic development derivable from CSR contributions to communities in Niger Delta.

The Questions however are; What is Corporate Social Responsibility, What is the position of Corporate Social Responsibility of oil companies and the federal government to the localities in the Niger Delta?, Is there corporate social responsibility law in Nigeria?, What legal provision has Nigerian state put in place to compel oil companies and government agencies in the industry to fulfill their Corporate Social Responsibility to communities in the Niger Delta?, Is it possible to leverage on the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) to enhance the contribution of oil and gas companies to the development of communities?

Theoretical Framework

This paper adopted the theory of Corporate Social Responsibility. Howard R. Bowen is considered the father of CSR sequel to his 1953 book on “social responsibilities of the businessman”. He established the idea system that businesses have obligations to society before the Friedman doctrine of 1970 that emphasized the need to increase shareholders profits.

The orthodoxy of CSR as pronounced by Friedman is that business must operate within the law and be morally ethical. It is the conceptual clarification of moral ethics that tend to complicate Friedman’s theory of Corporate Social Responsibility. Moral ethics is seen as voluntary and subjective. Friedman considers the philanthropic gesture of business organizations as immoral Friedman’s theory narrows a company’s responsibility only to its shareholders. To Friedman, oil companies are driven by profit motives and repercussion on communities as a result of their operations is inconsequential. Friedman theoretical expression is right in a political-economy where land, labour and capital are fully compensated. In Nigeria, the Land Use Act, 2008 has transferred the land from their traditional owners. One wonders how Friedman would have arrived at such conclusion in Nigeria. The nature of ownership of oil and gas, respect for human right and the fuss of state and the oil companies present different theoretical and mishmash background in Nigeria.

Freeman (1984) on the other side broadens company’s social responsibility to encompass all affected parties. He sees business as an interconnected ecosystem of stakeholders and success requires managing

relationships and balancing diverse interests. While Friedman views profit as the primary goal, Freeman sees a company's purpose as creating a sustainable system where all stakeholders benefit. While the focal focus of Friedman is shareholders, those of Freeman, is stakeholders, and that they are important and must be managed cohesively.

Freeman in 1984 also propounded the stakeholders' theory of corporate social responsibility. The theory argues that businesses do not just exist to satisfy the stakeholder's interest of maximizing profit. That the success of a business is the function of other shareholders such as community and youth organizations. It is only when businesses contribute to the welfare of the community that the needed productive environment is created. The discourse on CSR was capsulated in the word of Okowa (2008). The study is of the view that CSR can serve as a vehicle to develop the oil bearing communities in the Niger Delta. The study concluded that CSR has failed to achieve its objectives in the Niger Delta because the right approach and appropriate quality has not been adopted. In any of these orthodoxies, the fundamental is the enabling laws of the land that guide oil and gas exploration in Nigeria.

Research Methodology

This historical sociology study examines the legal framework that guides the oil and gas industry in delivery of its CSR in oil bearing communities in Nigeria. The legal issues are related to the socio-economic development in the Niger Delta. The legal aspects encapsulate the Acts of the National Assembly that have held down development in the Niger Delta region and embolden the oil and gas companies to disregard the idea of CSR. The event-structured analysis is thus adapted to x-ray the Nigeria legal framework, relating to socio-economic development in the nine (9) states of Niger Delta. Journals of law, economics, CBN bulletin, published papers on society and environmental issues as well as international publications on the Niger Delta are copiously cited.

Socio-Economic Impact of Oil and Gas Exploration in the Niger Delta

Recent years have witnessed the increasing awareness of the extensive range of environmental and health challenges which have now formed serious local and international concern and agenda for the survival of mankind in Nigeria and the Niger Delta in particular. The areas of threat include, atmospheric pollution, global warming, ozone depletion, which threaten wild life and the health of the people of the region. The people of Niger Delta are besieged by situations of grave and existential environmental threat as a result of continuous and intensive exploitation of the oil and gas region. The traditional economic activities of the people which centered on, fishing, farming, palm oil production and canoe construction industry have

suffered setback. These activities in the region are either diminished or stopped as a result of oil and gas production. Since the discovery of oil in commercial quantity, the region has got no respite from oil prospecting and exploration activities of several multinational oil companies in both land and sea (Akpo, 2002).

Table 1: Oil and Gas Exploration and Revenue

Year	Production (bm)	Oil Revenue	Oil/Total Revenue (%)	Oil/GDP (%)	Oil Export (₦m)	Oil Export/ Total Export
1961	16.80	Nil	Nil	0.9	23.1	6.65
1965	150.3	Nil	Nil	3.43	136.2	25.37
1970	395.7	166.4	26.3	9.27	509.6	57.54
1975	660.1	4271.5	77.5	19.37	4563.1	92.64
1980	760.1	12353.2	81.1	28.48	13632.1	96.09
1985	507.5	10923.7	72.6	16.75	11223.7	95.76
1990	660.6	71887.1	73.3	37.46	106623.5	97.03
1995	712.3	324547.6	70.6	39.65	927565.3	97.57
2000	797.9	1591675.8	83.5	47.72	1920900.4	98.72
2005	919.3	4762400	85.8	38.87	7140578.9	98.53
2009	759.2	3191938	78.7	37.44	8543261.2	96.73

Source: Amb Godknows Igali, 17th January 2023

Crude Oil Exploration and Exploitation activities in Nigeria's Niger Delta Region

Before the discovery of crude oil in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, the country was one of the leading producers of palm oil for over two centuries. This palm oil formed the basis of her political economy throughout the colonial era up to the period of independence. The discovery of crude oil in commercial quantities has however, changed this trend as the country has suddenly become one of the top ten oil producing economies of the world, with an average production capacity of 2-3 million barrels per day (Ikhein, 1990). Nigeria's oil industry has an interesting element in common with the country's once celebrated palm oil industry. The palm oil trade was a crucial factor in influencing Britain to maintain and later annex the territory (the Oil Rivers Protectorate) in the later part of the nineteenth century, at the peak of the scramble for Africa. This annexation was characteristic of Goldie's dubious diplomacy and brutalizing activities in the Niger Delta. This is the same region that today harbours most of Nigeria's oil exploration activities.

For Dube (2010), oil exploration started in Nigeria in 1908, when a German business interest formed the Nigeria Bitumen Company secured a

contract to undertake exploration for bitumen in the coastal areas between Lagos and Okitipupa (Ondo State). The company stopped its operations as a result of the nature of the international politics of that time as characterized by European Nation – State Struggle for control and domination of the African Continent. Furthermore, the outbreak of the First World War hindered its operations in Nigeria. However, it is to be noted that the British Crown refused to grant the German firm the oil mining license as a means of legalizing its operations.

In 1937, Shell D Arcy (the predecessor to the present day SPDC) reactivated oil exploration activities in Nigeria.

A CLO Report on the state of Human Rights in Nigeria (2002), noted:

According to existing estimates anything upto two and half million barrels of crude oil have polluted the Niger River since exploration first began. Expected, however the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation which basis its calculations on the report of the operative companies, gives a much lower figure of this, appropriately three – quarters is lost to the delicate ecosystem of Africa's largest wetland, containing as it does the high bio diversity characteristic of extensive swamp and forest areas with many unique species of plants and animals.

Crude Oil Legislative Regimes in Nigeria

- British Mineral Oil Act 1914
Shell D' Arcy operated under mineral oil ordinance No 17 of 1914 and its amendments of 1925 and 1950, which allowed only companies registered with Britain the right to prospect for oil in Nigeria. The Mineral Oil Act was a colonial legislation that granted the British crown in Nigeria, the sole ownership and control of all mineral oil resources in the colonial Nigeria. This law reserved oil exploration and exploitation to only British subject.
Akpo (2002) also added that the federal government of Nigeria and the oil majors are not unaware of the devastation in the Niger Delta. As far back as 1960's, the federal government has taken fundamental steps in legislations to compel oil companies to provide socio-economic infrastructure in their host communities to include.
Akpo (2002) compiled some of the laws that the federal government enacted to enhance the CSR and preserve the environment of oil bearing communities.
- Mineral Oil (safety) Regulations 1963. The law was to enhance safe discharge of obnoxious or inflammable gas, as well as provide penalties for contravention and non – compliance.
- The Petroleum Regulation Act 1967. This act prohibits discharge or escape of petroleum into waters within harbor areas and makes

provision for precautions in conveyance of petroleum and rules for the safe operation of pipelines.

- Oil in Navigable Waters Act 1968. The act prohibits discharge of oil or any mixture containing oil into the territorial or navigable inland waters.
- Oil Terminal Dues Act of 1969 prohibits oil discharge to areas of the continental shelf within which any oil terminal is situated.
- The Associated Gas Re-injection Act 1979 provides for the utilization of gas produced with oil and for the re-injection of such associated gas not utilized in an industrial project. This is to discourage gas flaring, in accordance with this law, penalty was imposed on oil firm flaring gas in the region.

The laws are aimed at securing the environment of the Niger Delta as well as strengthening corporate social responsibility of government and oil exploration companies to their host communities. Okowa (2008), however noted that the laws are obeyed more in breach than observance. Another leg of the argument is that before the enactment of the PIA, the regime of CSR was voluntary and discretionary. The civil right to agitate for compensation by communities was technically taking away from the people by special and specific acts of national assembly.

In 1971, the federal government promulgated a decree, repealing section. **140(6) of the 1963 constitution**. This act states that the continental shelf of a state should cease to be regarded as part of the state for purposes of entitlement in mining royalties and rents from off shore operations. It further states that royalties and rents from off-shore mining operations belong to the federal government. This piece of legislation summarily disarmed communities in the coastal oil fields from demanding for infrastructure from oil companies as well as re-inforce the reluctant of oil companies in the embarking on SCR. However, the case of

- The Land Use Decree 1978 which was later smuggled into the constitution, as the Land Use Act: (as amended) was enacted. This Act abolished the pre existing land tenure systems and vested all lands in the state governor, who hold such land in trust for the people. By this act, the government has centralized and regulated all land dealings and transaction in the federation. Again, the oil companies owe their allegiance to the federal government, by paying their royalties and taxes, while the communities cannot constitutionally utilize the legal system to ask for their rights for CSR.

Sagay (2001) noted that the Land Use Act does not recognize the right to those communities before the surface where there are minerals and

other resources underneath the growth, these are not recognized. The land Use Act, thus impede on the power of the community to demand for SCR, as well as lawfully embolden the oil companies resistance to perform SCR in their host communities.

The power of the **Land Use Act is embedded in s. 47(1)**. It states that the (LUA) shall have effect notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any law or rule of law including the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

- **The Minerals and Mining Act no.34 of 1999** re-enforced the provisions of the Land Use Decree. In section 1 (1) (2) states that; The entire property in and control of all minerals in under or upon any kinds of Nigeria, its contiguous continental shelf and of oil Rivers, streams and water courses throughout Nigeria, any area covered by territorial water of constituency, the exclusive economic zone, is and shall be vested in the government of the federation for and on behalf of the people of Nigeria.
Section (2), Furthermore...stressed that all lands where minerals have been found in commercial quantity shall be acquired by the federal government in accordance with the provisions of the LUA.

But of all oil and gas law impeding CSR and the development of oil bearing communities is the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999.

Section 44 (3), of the constitution provides; 'Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, the entire property in and control of all minerals, mineral oils and natural gas, under or upon the territory and exclusive zone of Nigeria shall vest in the government of federation.

A major player in the oil industry in Nigeria is the federal government. Most legislations sited in this paper support the fact that the federal government is at the centre of the exploration and exploitation of crude oil in the Niger Delta and the unmitigated environmental and social impact on the people.

- The National Assembly in the year 2000, enacted the Niger Delta Development Commission Act (**NDDC Act, 2000**). The aim was to mitigate the sufferings of the oil bearing communities, in terms of environmental sustainability, social infrastructure and human capital development. NDDC was a holistic package of CSR by the federal government and the oil majors. After many years of existence of the commission, Clark (2015) noted that the federal government has demonstrated its incapacity to cater for the region through NDDC. The NDDC has been poorly funded and highly

politicized leaving many people in the region with the feeling that the federal government abinitio structured the commission to fail in its mandate. Activists in the Niger Delta have expressed the view that the NDDC as presently constituted cannot solve the environmental, social and human problems in the Niger Delta. Put differently, SCR packaged in a legally created development commission have failed to meet the critical needs of the oil producing communities.

The question is, can the law as it is Nigeria persuade or compel oil companies and the government to implement SCR in communities that produce oil and gas? Abimbola in (Akpo, 2002) noted with approval that even though most of these laws exist in the statute books, they do not adequately protect the environment, some of the laws are contractions of major environmental conventions, they are archaic, most times, the penalty sections make mockery of the law itself Most of the laws are actually the decrees of the military, turn Acts of National assembly. The challenges scholars have considered enormous enough to slow initiatives of oil companies in SCR aimed developing the oil bearing communities in Nigeria.

Petroleum Industry Act, 2021

After several attempts, the national assembly finally passed the Petroleum Industry Act 2021 (PIA 2021). The Act aims at;

- establishing efficient and effective governing institutions with distinct roles for the petroleum industry;
- create framework for the establishment of a commercially oriented and profit-driven national petroleum company;
- promote transparency, good governance and accountability in the administration of Nigeria's petroleum resources;
- create a business environment conducive to investment;
- deepen local content practice in Nigeria oil & gas industry.

Other anticipated objectives include, resolution of dispute between oil producing communities, avoid constant disruption of oil flows and reduce tension, kidnapping, illegal oil bunkery and cultism in oil bearing communities.

Chapter 3, section 240(2) of the Act mandates oil companies to contribute compulsorily to 5CR. By the passing of the PTA corporations are obliged to undertake CSR. This is different from Friedman's ethical definition of 5CR. In the new PTA regime, SCR is no longer voluntary or determined by company's discretion.

Section 257 (2) of the Act prohibits communities from damaging company infrastructure. Communities that are found wanting, deductions will be

carried on their CSR funding. This section has arrogated the protection of company's facilities to community that do not have the security capacity.

Section 238 of PIA indicate sanction for corporation failure to contribute to CSR. License of erring corporation will be withdrawn.

Section 252 of the PIA also indicates that communities' development from CSR is to be reviewed by the commission from time to time; this may reduce community participation in decision making.

S. 240 (2) of the Act, states that the corporation would make annual contribution of 3% into the host communities trust fund.

Section 243 (a), section 251 (4), section 235 (6) of the Act arrogate a lot of powers to the commission, especially in financial management. Sections **249, 250 of the Act** however indicate the setting up of community adversary team with similar duty to the management committee. The Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission is to oversee the assessment needs, audit expenditures and approve the membership of the board of trustee (PTA, 2021).

Conclusion and Recommendations

The old regime of Corporate Social Responsibility of oil companies to their host communities requires voluntary, subjective, ethical morality in discharging their responsibility to the oil bearing communities. Thus, oil companies in the Niger Delta enters various forms of agreements, ranging from, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Memorandum of Action (MOA). Different oil companies have varying programmes and projects for their immediate communities, thus scholarships, health centers, primary and secondary schools, markets, roads, drainages are scattered all over Niger Delta communities, the unplanned project results in A number of abandoned projects in the oil bearing communities. The legal framework do not compel the oil companies to deliver in specific quality and quantity of infrastructure in their host communities. Specific legislative instruments such as the Land Use Act limited the rights of the communities to ask questions about projects sited in their communities. The fuse between the state and oil companies, corruption of stakeholders including the staff of the oil companies, the traditional institution, all come together to embolden the oil companies in refusing to undertake CSR in their host communities. The ensuing distrust between the oil companies and the host companies has resulted in major conflicts that have claimed lives, in the form of military attack on communities, kidnapping of oil workers and general militancy and arm struggle in the Niger Delta.

The cumulative effects of fifty years oil exploration in the Niger delta is aggravated poverty. Bayelsa state was rated the second poorest state in Nigeria while Rivers is one of the state with highest number unemployed

(NBS, 2022). Where lies the social corporate responsibility of oil companies; abandon projects litter the oil producing communities, no pipe-borne water in most of oil producing communities, electric poles found in nearly all communities but without light, poorly constructed roads, scholarships are awarded only to the children of the elites and traditional rulers These are notorious facts that needs no proof.

Through PIA, the federal government has taken the first step in bringing CSR in oil and gas to a legally enforceable regime. Oil companies by the compulsion of the law now know the percentage to contribute to the development of the environment. But that's not all; it takes political will to implement the letters of the law. The specifics of the PIA must be seen to be implemented for host communities to fill the impact of the PIA.

There should also be a formal general CSR regulating laws. As emphasized in this paper, there are Acts of National Assembly that fundamentally disabled oil communities from lawfully asking for their rights, the Land Use Act, the Minerals and Mining Act, 1999, Re-instatement of 5.140(6) of the 1963 constitution needed amendment. On the other hand, the National Assembly should pass a motion re-enforcing the implementation of the Mineral Oil (Safety Regulations), the Petroleum regulation Act, 1967, Oil in Navigable Water ct, 1968, Oil Terminal Dues Act, 1969 and the Associated Gas Re-injection Act, 1979.

Before the enactment of the PIA, there was unclear relationship between oil companies and the state. The NNPC was a producer as well as a regulator. This blurred relationship negatively affects CSR to host communities. Communities most times do not know who to complain to in the event of obvious oil pollution that the community needed assistance. In the bureaucracy of government CSR projects are delayed and sometimes abandoned. With the PTA, it is hoped that CSR will be executed in a manner of commercial deals and speed that the new NNPC is positioned.

But there is huge canker-worm with all stakeholders in the oil industry. That is corruption. Corruption must be reduced to its barest minimum among oil company officials, traditional rulers, and youth organizations of oil producing communities. A lot of CSR projects have been abandoned in the Niger Delta because of corruption.

Finally, insecurity in the Niger Delta region is high, cultism, armed gangs, kidnapping, community conflicts, have diminished the zeal of oil companies in situating CSR projects. In many instances, project workers are killed or kidnapped, equipment's are vandalized by militants. CSR projects must be protected in the oil bearing communities. Oil companies and government can only do more if the existing projects in the host communities are protected and put into sustainable use.

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