

Itsekiri RDC, EGCDF, Ilaje RDC and AMAICOMMA Conduct Town hall Meetings



L-R: Oti Edukugho, Esq. Mr. Mode Akoma, Mr. Itse Orugboh, Amb. Austin Oniyesan, Mr. Emmanuel Adun, Mr. Victor Neburagho, Frederick Kuke & Prince Moses Fregene at the Itsekiri RDC Town hall meeting

As part of efforts to improve community relations and communications in the CNL GMoU and OMoU communities; a series of town hall meetings were organized by the AMAICOMMA CCDC, Itsekiri RDC, Ilaje RDC and EGCDF to sensitize community members on the GMoU/OMoU process as well as create a platform for interaction between community members on RDCs/CCDCs' activities and achievements.

The series of town hall meetings started with a one-day session held in Ode Ugbo Community by the Amalgamation of Ilaje Ugbo Coastal Communities Association (AMAICOMMA CCDC) on September 19, 2019 at Oba Makin Osangangan hall, Ode-Ugbo, in Ilaje LGA. The Chairman of the CCDC, Barr. Pius Orisabinone in his speech, clarified that the Town hall meeting is one of the community engagement strategy of the OMoU, designed to brief community members on the CCDC activities

For the Itsekiri Regional Development Committee, it was a memorable event, as it was the first of such the RDC will be conducting, especially after few years of inactivity. The IRDC maiden town hall meeting held on October 25, 2019 in Omadino



Barr. Pius Orisabinone, Chairman AMAICOMMA CCDC, speaking at the town hall meeting



Busola Babalola speaking at the Ilaje RDC Town Hall meeting, while the ILRDC Chairman, Prince Adekunle Omomowo and the Secretary Prince Deji Ikuopenikan look on.

community. Amb. Austin Oniyesan, the IRDC Chairman, stated that the meeting was convened for all stakeholders to plan and share information on development for the 23 IRDC communities. Similarly, the Ilaje Rural Development and Advocacy Committee Initiative (Ilaje RDC), held her town hall meeting on October 28 2019 at the C & S Hall, Awoye Community.

On November 27, 2019 Egbema Gbaramatu Communities Development Foundation (EGCDF) held her town hall meeting at the conference hall of T/M Palace Airport Road, Effurun-Warri, Delta State. The meeting had

the presence of over 80 participants which included community members, traditional rulers' reps, EGCDF members, PPCD, LITE Africa and media.

The Chairman of EGCDF Comrade Jude Ukori explained to the community members some of the achievements and challenges of the Foundation. He however expressed his displeasure about some of the IITA agriculture training beneficiaries who rather than exploit the opportunities achieved through the training jettisoned it for other things

The town hall meetings were interactive and community members expressed joy at the activities of the RDCs/CCDC, especially with projects such as: Scholarship and payments of backlogs, free medical outreach programs etc. The participants also asked questions and made requests on issues such as: Provision of portable water in the communities, women



Amb. Comrade Jude Ukori, EGCDF Chairman addressing community members at the EGCDF town hall meeting held at Conference Hall, T/M Palace Hotel, Warri, Delta State.

empowerment, allowances for the aged and community leaders, sea surge, piling of the communities, skills acquisition and employment opportunities for youths, project selection, information sharing in the RDCs/CCDC etc. In response, the RDCs/CCDC executives replied to the issues raised, gave clarifications on some misconceptions and promised to attend to all the issues raised.

AMAICOMMA CCDC Organizes Women Economic Summit



Adeokan Omofele (AMAICOMMA GFP) facilitating a session at the AMAICOMMA Gender Economic Summit held at Ode-Ugbo, Ilaje, Ondo State

Over 100 women participated in a one-day economic summit organized by the Amalgamation of Ilaje Ugbo Coastal Communities Association (AMAICOMMA CCDC) on September 18, 2019 at the Oba Makin Osangangan hall, Ode-Ugbo, Ilaje LGA as part of its commitment to women empowerment and improved livelihoods for community members

The summit was a customized intervention program, aimed at improving the livelihood of the poor and disadvantaged women, and to equip the low-income population of Ilaje community with requisite capacity to access business opportunities information, business

linkages, financial literacy skills and banking services, whilst giving them access to micro loans for wider economic advantage. The event attracted speakers and facilitators from various sectors, including Government, NGOs, philanthropist, business associations, community women groups and financial institutions etc.

In his remarks, the Chairman of the CCDC, Barr. Pius Orisabinone announced that the program is the first of a series of women empowerment programs that the CCDC would embark on. He further encouraged the women to be very active in the CCDC activities, including bidding for available contracts. He concluded by stating that other GMoU stakeholders including CNL and the Ondo State Government are aware of, and are in full support of the program which he described as a sign of greater things to come for the women

Some of the communities' women that participated in the programme confirmed that the summit was enlightening and impactful, saying that, if adhered to, the knowledge gained from the speakers will enable them to increase their income and create job opportunities.

Ilaje RDC and AMAICOMMA Kick off Joint Construction of Mother and Child Hospital:



Oba Fredrick Obateru Akinrutan, Mr. Esimaje Brikkin, Mrs. Uloaku Aguwa and Mr. Sam Daibo at the Ground-breaking ceremony

The ground-breaking ceremony of the multi million naira Mother and Child Hospital at Ode Ugbo, Ilaje council area of Ondo State was performed on November 9, 2019 by all stakeholders including Community Members, Government, CNL, traditional rulers; with a promise of qualitative and affordable health services for residents of the rural riverine communities in Ilaje LGA.

The Mother and Child Hospital is a joint project of the Ilaje Rural Development Advocacy Committee Initiative Committee (IRDC) and Amalgamation of Ilaje Ugbo Coastal

Communities Association (AMAICOMMA), under the Chevron Nigeria Limited GMoU and OMoU process

The ceremony which coincided with the 9th Coronation anniversary of the “Olugbo” of Ugbo Land, was performed by the Olugbo Oba Fredrick Obateru Akinrutan, accompanied by other dignitaries including, Hon. Tayo Agboola, the Deputy Governor of Ondo state, CNL General Manager, Policy, Government, and Public Affairs Mr. Esimaje Brikkin, other CNL reps including Mr. Sam Daibo, Mr. Tony Emegere, executives of the Ilaje RDC and AMAICOMMA CCDC, traditional Chiefs and some community members.



Oba Akinrutan performing the groundbreaking ceremony

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The Donor Committee for Enterprise
Development (DCED)

The Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND) has been recently certified by the Donor Committee for Enterprise Development (DCED) as an international market development crusader. This is due to its adoption of the international standard procedure as recognized by the DCED in its socio-economic development programs to address various economic challenges in Nigeria's Niger Delta region.

DCED is a forum for learning about the most effective ways to create economic opportunities for the poor, in line with the Sustainable

experience in Private Sector Development (PSD). PIND's certification was announced in 2019 after the DCED audited its development programs. The review covered PIND's aquaculture, palm oil, and business linkages programs using DCED Standard ratings. At the end of the ratings, PIND scored 507 (85%) out of 600 Control Points that must be met and 219 (81%) out of the possible 270 recommended control points, qualifying to be recognized as a market development specialist.

PIND is now certified as a credible organization that engages in results measurement and quality work that meets the international donor standards (DCED standard); and one that delivers cost-effective results as PIND's market development programs are streamlined and evidence-based to DCED Standard.

My Perspectives on the GMoU

Sustainability of the GMoU Process Depends on All Stakeholders' Commitment--Igere



Amb. Fred Igere

Question: Can you introduce yourself and your role (s) in the GMoU process?

Answer: My Name is Amb. Frederick W. Igere, Secretary, Communication Committee of Egbema and Gbaramatu Communities Development Foundation (EGCDF).

Question: Can you assess the GMoU process and tell us how it has impacted your RDC and its communities?

Answer: The GMoU process has no doubt affected and impacted our communities in the areas of infrastructural and non-infrastructural projects, but the process still needs more efforts on empowerment for community members.

Question: How do you think that the community projects should be sustained?

Answer: The community projects can only be sustained if there is an agreed provision in the GMoU process on this with all stakeholders. Even though community owns the projects, there should be a provision for sustainability through an understanding with community.

Question: What new areas of development would you want your RDC and even the GMoU to focus on in the future?

Answer: Going forward, I will want the GMoU to focus on human capital development (empowerment) and creation of employment opportunities for our youths into the IOCs like CNL and others because the RDC leadership has used the scholarship opportunities to train their youths to acquire education and they need to be employed.

Question: How would you assess your RDC projects implementation strategy in the light of the new GMoU focus on human development and livelihood?

Answer: The RDC projects implementation strategy is a perfect one. However, on human development and livelihood, the GMoU should focus more on how members and other stakeholders will be empowered effectively. Policies on human rights should be agreed upon by all GMoU stakeholders.

Question: How is your RDC faring in soliciting and securing third party support and sponsorship?

Answer: The Foundation has been engaging several donors and development partners and we hope to get positive support soon.

Question: What are the major problems confronting your RDC?

Answer: The major problem confronting the Foundation is insufficient funding. If it is increased, it can go a long way in developing communities in two kingdoms (Egbema and Gbaramatu). Also the members who are volunteers would benefit from the process.

Question: What is the future of the GMoU and what should key stakeholders do to ensure sustainability of the process?

Answer: Well, the future of the GMoU will be good, if other stakeholders comply as CNL is doing, sustainability of the GMoU process depends on all stakeholders' commitment.

Question: PPCD and NGOs have conducted some activities in your RDC. What do you want included in their programmes and what other ways can PPCD and other NGOs support your RDC?

Answer: PPCD and other NGOs have been life coaches for the RDCs since the inception of the GMoU process, especially EGCDF. PPCD has organized several programmes and built capacities of the RDCs, I therefore advise PPCD to do more critical training that engage members and stakeholders on effective management of the process.

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