

PPCD Organizes Onboarding Training for KEFFES RDF New Members



The Chairman of KRDF Mr. Matthew Sele-Epri facilitating a session during the training

A total of 29 members of KEFFES RDF were onboarded during the training programme held February 9-10, 2021 at Ebiis Hotel, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. The training programme had the following objectives: To increase participants' understanding of the contents of the GMOU, build their capacities for effective implementation of the GMOU, align them with the objectives and implementation processes of the GMOU, enhance their understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders in the GMOU process and acquaint them with the planned capacity building programmes for the RDC and other stakeholders of the GMOU.

Methodology for the onboarding included: Plenary sessions, presentations and panel discussions which focused on: History of CNL's Community Engagement process, review of the GMOU document-commitments of RDC, CNL and State Government, GMOU committees and their roles, understanding the CEMB and the

way it works, roles of the RDC in the GMOU, structure of the RDC and duties of the RDC Executive council, roles of different stakeholder groups, GMOU financing, finance and administration in the RDF, ethical issues in RDF management, the PPRC operations and role of members-organisation reps, conception and role of PPCD in the GMOU etc.

The onboarding training was also used to explain some misconceptions about the GMOU process. During his presentation and remarks, the RDC Chairman, Mr. Sele-Epri Matthew assured the new members that in order to be conversant with the content of the GMOU agreement and ensure transparency and accountability as expected under the process, each member will receive a copy of the signed GMOU agreement. Similarly, on March 17-18,



A group picture of participants at the KEFFES RDF On-boarding held at Ebiis Hotel, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

2021 PPCD organised onboarding training for the KRDF Committee members at Top Rank Hotel, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. It was a training that further exposed participants to their roles and responsibilities as Committees members.

AMAICOMMA CCDC Organizes Free Medical Programme for Community Members

In line with her commitment towards improved access to quality healthcare for residents of AMAICOMMA CCDC mandate communities, the CCDC conducted a comprehensive free medical outreach program targeted at the aged, pregnant women and children on December 16-18, 2020 in the AMAICOMMA communities.

The program was facilitated by Jokunbod & Associates, a consultant in line with the policy of rotating its benefits between the two mandate communities. This time around, the medical team was stationed at Awoye for Opoekaba, Jirinwo and Odojado Communities, with residents of the other communities converging at the various centres to access the medical

services. The team conducted series of tests such as: Blood Pressure, sugar level, vital signs and other basic diagnostic examinations. The programme also included health talks, free consultation and dispensing of preventive and curative drugs, deworming of children under 5 years etc.

In response, the community members thanked the leadership of AMAICOMMA CCDC for the commitment to bringing medical services down to the communities. They testified that, the programme has been of great relief to the communities over the years, especially the free consultations, distribution of drugs and the recent introduction of the basic diagnostic tests.



One of the doctors, consulting with a community member, after the screening

Transparency and Accountability: RDCs Conduct 2020 Annual General Meeting



The Dodo River CRDA Chairman, Mr. Francis Amamogiran giving account of stewardship at the 8th AGM held in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State

Towards ensuring effective communication between the RDC, communities and other stakeholders, the Dodo River Communities Rural Development Association (DRCRDA), Egbema and Gbaramatu Communities Development Foundation (EGCDF) and Ilaje Rural Development Advocacy Committee Initiative (Ilaje RDC) held their Annual General Meetings (AGM) to render accounts of their stewardship to members, stakeholders and the general public.

Dodo River RDA's AGM held on November 26, 2020, at her Secretariat, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, while EGCDF's was on December 15, 2020, at the Foundation's Secretariat Complex on Airport Road, Effurun-Warri, Delta State with over 200 participants in attendance. Similarly, the Ilaje RDC AGM held on December 19, 2020 at the Oba Makin Osangangan hall, Ode-Ugbo, in Ilaje LGA, Ondo State. at the Oba Makin Osangangan hall, Ode-Ugbo, in Ilaje LGA,

Ondo State.

Addressing the participants, the Chairmen of the RDCs, Mr. Francis Amamogiran (DRCRDA), Ambassador Comr. Jude Ebitimi Ukori (EGCDF) and Prince Roland Akintoye (Ilaje RDC) respectively, gave a brief overview of the financial expenditures of their RDCs over the period under review and highlighted some of the activities successfully implemented.



Cutting of EGCDF 10th AGM cake at the EGCDF Secretariat Complex, Effurun-Warri, Delta State



Cross section of community members at the Ilaje RDC AGM held at Oba Makin Osangangan hall, Ode-Ugbo, in Ilaje LGA, Ondo State.

They appreciated the various State governments, Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL), the leadership of Community Engagement Management Board (CEMB), PPCD and mentoring NGOs for their immense support in the development of their communities.

The CEMB Chairman of EGCDF and Ilaje RDCs, Prof. Obafemi Ajibola, Managing director, New Nigeria Foundation (NNF), represented by Busola Babalola, PPCD Senior Programme Manager (Communication and Advocacy) at the EGCDF's AGM, congratulated the RDC on its achievements. He mentioned that the success of the efforts of RDC executive was made possible by the immense support received from key stakeholders of the GMoU, particularly the management of Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL), the Delta State Government and the NGOs.

In his remarks in all the AGMs, the General

AMAICOMMA CCDC and Ilaje RDC Conduct 2020 Town Hall Meetings

As part of the efforts to maintain cordial community relations and effective communication in the AMAICOMMA CCDC communities, town hall meetings were conducted on December 17 & 18, 2020. The objectives of the meetings were to sensitize community members on the OMoU process as well as create a platform for interaction between community members on the CCDC's activities and achievements in 2020. The event held in 3 venues: Ode-Ugbo, Obe-nla and Ilu-abo in line with COVID-19 NCDC guidelines and protocols.

Engr. Adekunle Alli, who represented the AMAICOMMA CCDC Chairman, Barr Pius Orisabinone, thanked the community members for their support and cooperation with the present administration. He highlighted some of the outcomes of the recently concluded OMoU renegotiations and assured the community members that all planned projects yet to be implemented would be completed by the present administration.

Some of the issues discussed were: Project selection and execution, contract award process, women empowerment, provision of basic amenities, improved access to health care etc. The CCDC executives clarified misconceptions by the community and further guaranteed maximum attention to the developmental challenges identified by the community members. In attendance were Community heads (Baales),

Manager, CNL-PGPA, Mr. Esimaje Brikinn, represented by the Area Manager PGPA Field Operations, Mr. Sam Daibo at the EGCDF AGM, reaffirmed that "The achievements of the RDCs, over the years, reinforced CNL's belief that a process that is community-driven can stimulate quicker community development than processes and systems designed without effective participation of community members". He congratulated the RDCs on their giant strides.

Highlights of the occasions were: The presentation of the 2019 financial report by the RDCs' External Auditors, RDCs activities report from 2019 till date, remarks and goodwill messages from stakeholders. The events had in attendance dignitaries from Bayelsa, Delta and Ondo States Governments, External Auditors, community leaders, representatives of CNL, PPCD, mentoring NGOs (LITE-Africa, MSDF and SHERDA) and the media.



Cross section of participants at the Ilaje Town hall meeting held at Awoye community.

women leaders, youth leaders, religious leaders from the AMAICOMMA CCDC communities and the NGO representative from Morgan Smart Development Foundation.

For the Ilaje Rural Advocacy Committee initiative, the 2020 town hall meetings held at Awoye and Odofado Communities on October 1 and 2, 2020. The Chairman of the RDC, Prince Adekunle Omomowo highlighted some of the RDC's ongoing community development project and programs. He also announced the commencement of the construction of 2 solar energy cabins in Awoye and Moluthein communities as part of efforts to provide electricity to off grid GMoU communities in Ilaje LGA.

My Perspectives on the GMoU

GMoU has Encouraged Participatory Development in the Communities---Akintoye



Prince Roland Akintoye,
Chairman, Ilaje RDC

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

Answer: My name is Comrade. Roland Oyedele Akintoye, the current Chairman of the Ilaje Rural Development Advocacy Committee Initiative , before my appointment as Chairman, I also served as the Secretary to the Project & Program Review Committee (PPRC) for about 3 years.

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

Answer: The GMoU has practically brought the positive effects of oil exploration activities to the host communities in a very inclusive and participatory way. Projects are now conceptualized by the community representatives according to the Communities' needs; the actual execution and monitoring are also done by community representatives in the GMoU.

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

Answer: Most of the GMoU projects, for example the Town Halls in Awoye and Moluthein Communities, the Secondary School Laboratory in Moluthein and the wooden foot bridges need to be renovated regularly, because of the terrain of the Communities which makes the project susceptible to early wear and tear. However, the RDC would not be constructing wooden footbridges anymore, as we are currently sourcing more sustainable and long lasting options.

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

Answer: For us in Ilaje RDC, it would be massive construction of housing units; because of the sea incursion and marine erosion presently troubling our communities, about 85% of the houses in Mese and Gbagira communities and 60% of the houses in Awoye Community have been lost to the sea. We need to provide accommodation for our people that have been displaced. We also plan to extend the Energy Cabin project we have started in Awoye and Odofado, to the other GMoU Communities.

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

Answer: Honestly, we have not really done much in that regards, though we planned to do some human capacity development programs last year, the COVID-19 pandemic affected the actual execution. However, we have rolled over most of the plans to this year; we are starting with Women empowerment programmes as part of our 2021 International Women's Day (IWD) celebration. Selected women fish smokers will be awarded individual units of the improved Chorkor Fish Smoking Ovens and cash support to acquire fish.

We also intend to organize vocational trainings for the youths in various skills; this will also be complemented with educational support, mentoring and provision of start-up packs where necessary.

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

Answer: The Communications, Advocacy and Mobilization Committee is mostly responsible for this activity, however, in 2020, due to paucity of funds and the COVID-19 pandemic they were unable to function at maximum capacity. Hopefully, the results of previous engagement would soon start manifesting, and the RDC will get 3rd party support, especially for our women and youth programs.

Question: What are the major problems confronting your RDC?

Answer: Our major problem is insufficient funds from CNL, and it limits the projects executed in the communities.

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

Answer: We have already started taking steps to ensure this, the Ilaje RDC has been formally registered with the CAC, giving us legal existence, and this has also made us a viable partner for development partners beyond CNL. CNL still needs to increase funding for the GMoU to sustain the process.

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: Yes, we would want a more advanced Resource Mobilization and fund raising training and also Peace Building training for the committees members.

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