



**GOVERNMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH-SOUTHERN  
NIGERIA: AN EVALUATION OF EDO STATE AND DELTA STATE  
(2019-2023)**

**BY**

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**CERTIFICATION**

We the undersigned, hereby certify that this research work was carried out by **Annabel OSAGIE** with Matriculation Number: **SSC2008507** of the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Award of Bachelor of Science Degree (B.Sc.) in Political Science.

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to God Almighty, the Alpha and Omega, also to my parents Mr. and Mrs. Osagie

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I express my heartfelt gratitude to God for His unwavering love and guidance in the successful completion of this project. My deepest appreciation goes to my parents, Mr. Samuel Osagie and Late Mrs. Juliet Osagie and my siblings for their unwavering financial, emotional, and spiritual support. May God bless them abundantly.

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<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
TITLE PAGE	i
CERTIFICATION	ii
DEDICATION	iii
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
ABSTRACT	vii
<b>CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION</b>	
Background to the Study	1
Statement of the Problem	4
Objectives of the Study	6
Research Questions	7
Significance of the Study	7
Scope Limitation of the Study	8
<b>CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE</b>	
Overview of Edo State	9
Overview of Delta State	10
Project Failure in Edo and Delta States	12
Challenges Associated with the Development of the Niger Delta Area	15
Allocation and Application of Funds by the Niger Delta Development Commission	21
Provision of Infrastructure in the Oil Producing Areas of Nigeria, 2010-2022	24
Theoretical framework	30

### **CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY**

Introduction	33
Research Design	33
Population of the Study	33
Sample Size and Sampling Techniques	34
Instrument for Data Collection	34
Reliability of the Instrument	34
Method of Data Collection	35
Method of Data Analysis	35

### **CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION OF RESULT AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

Introduction	36
Research Context	37

### **CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Summary	44
Conclusion	45
Recommendations	45
References	46
Appendix	48

## ABSTRACT

*This research study investigated government and development in South-Southern Nigeria: an evaluation of Edo State and Delta State (2019-2023). The study aimed to evaluate the impact of government policies on development outcomes in Edo and Delta States, assess the effectiveness of government initiatives in promoting economic growth, infrastructure development, and human capital development, and identify challenges to effective governance and development in both states. Anchored on structural functionalism theory as the theoretical framework of the study, qualitative research methods and interview to obtain information and employ thematic analysis to analyze data. The research unveils that government initiatives such as scholarships have improved the rate of youth participation in higher education, while vocational training has improved youth economic empowerment, the study established corruption as a major cause of project failure which in turn hinders good governance and most of the political leadership in the region is corrupt and this has serious implications for development. It was suggested that NDDC should increase the number of their development programmes and projects, particularly in such areas as physical infrastructural development, school and capacity building, economic empowerment employment, and environmental protection and stiffer penalty should be carried out against corrupt officials of the interventionist institutions, based on trial and conviction.*

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background to the Study

Governance is politics in action because it is a crucial determinant of the authoritative allocation of resources such as public goods in a country or region. Nigeria is the largest country in Africa both in population and economy with an estimated population of over 200 million people with enormous potential and undoubtedly, good access to skills, fertile land, mineral resources capital, and technology, and a favourable geographic location, with a GDP of \$199.72 billion and a GDP per capita of \$877.07 (National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria, 2024).

The primary concern of any government is to ensure the well-being of its citizens. To protect the welfare of its citizens, the government develops and implements policies to better their living conditions. Every government owes its inhabitants the task of improving their living conditions. To improve citizens' living conditions, governments must ensure that socio-economic, infrastructure and human development goals are met. And so, the Nigerian government must become devoted to achieving a high degree of development, as it is a critical component of any nation's push toward self-sufficiency. Any vibrant nation's growth and sustainability are dependent on development. As a result, to assure development, socio-political and

economic stability must be ensured at all levels of government, as this will encourage citizens' natural commitment to the governing process.

Generally, the South Southern region is often portrayed as an underdeveloped region in Nigeria, especially when highly scaled-up protests and struggles that have sometimes assumed bloody dimensions and reports and images shown in the media are considered. On the other hand, apart from the negative impacts of the oil explorations in the region, information from the National Abstract Statistics (ABs) from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) indicate that states in the region have more government-supplied development facilities than many other states in Nigeria, including states in the Southern parts of the country that are considered to be 'comparatively privileged' in many respects vis-à-vis the UNDP development indicators (Ezegwu and Udalla, 2021).

Nigeria's South Southern region is oil-producing. More than 90% of oil and gas revenues, 80% of Nigeria's GDP, and 95% of the national budget are generated in the region (Jack, and Okouwa, 2013). Aside from that, the region has good agricultural land, a large forest, excellent fisheries, and a large labour force. With so many resources, the region should be one of the world's most developed areas. Surprisingly, the region is one of the world's most underdeveloped areas. Despite its enormous resources and contributions to the Nigerian economy, the South Southern region is nevertheless marked by people living in abject poverty, with short life expectancy, a high infant mortality rate, widespread illiteracy, and

significant unemployment. Then one can imagine what efforts the Nigerian state, through its government, is making to change the narrative (Sampson and Okechukwu, 2022).

The South Southern region, comprising six states—Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, and Rivers—is rich in oil deposits extracted by the Nigerian government and multinational oil companies (Ajodo-Adebanjoko and Ojua, 2020). The crisis in this region has manifested in various forms, such as kidnappings, cultism, armed robberies, homicides, community conflicts, farmer-herder clashes, oil thefts, illegal mining, and occasional confrontations with authorities. These events have significantly impacted the socioeconomic development of the area, particularly in Delta and Edo States. According to Ejirefe (2021), the socioeconomic development indicators of Edo and Delta States have been severely affected by abductions and farmer-herder conflicts. These States, formerly known as Bendel State, have seen declining living standards due to ongoing conflicts, kidnappings, and related crimes. Socioeconomic indicators, including economic growth, healthcare access, education, life expectancy, and availability of necessities, have been negatively affected.

## **1.2 Statement of Research Problem**

In the post-independence state of Nigeria, corruption, embezzlement of public funds, ethnic and tribal politics, godfatherism, and mediocracy, among others have been identified as the major governance challenges. These factors have been the reasons for military intervention in politics in the continent, particularly in Nigeria in the 1960s, 70s, and 90s respectively, yet, the endemic behaviours are still very prominent or visible in Nigeria's system.

In Nigeria today, the government seems to be less concerned with rising cases of corruption, embezzlement of public funds, poor planning, inadequate cost estimation, incompetence on the part of project planners, and the seemingly never-ending ethnic and tribal political conflict regarding the presidency, and most sympathetic, the rising cases of insecurity occasioned by the activities of the Boko Haram Islamic sect, ISWAP, bandits, and Fulani herders attacks. In a nutshell, ineffective government regulations, poor marketing facilities, absolute poverty, deficient infrastructure sector development, and rampant corruption have been identified as major challenges to good governance in several African countries in recent times (AFRICA, 2019). These factors have undoubtedly generated a lot of tension in these African countries without immediate solutions at hand.

To this end, analysts and critics have alleged conspiracy and have severely blamed the inability of affected governments to resolve these problems through viable policy options. Okoli and Onah (2002) cited in Ugwuanyi and Emma (2013) argued that every society is bound to experience certain problems in virtually all sectors including politics, commerce, education, agriculture, communication, housing, transportation, health, among others, unfortunately, most governments of the Third World with Nigeria in focus, allow these issues to degenerate to critical socio-economic problems rather than resolving them through efficient and effective policy options. The failures of the national governments of the states of Africa to objectively respond to these problems have resulted in failures in national economic growth in these countries, they argued.

Despite the outcry of the citizens of affected Nigerian citizens, these challenges seem to be irresolvable and culprits seem to enjoy immunity from the governments. In South Southern region of the country specifically, despite the presence of anti-corruption agencies; the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC), the government has yet to contain corruption in government and other sectors of the region's economy including the private sector and society at large. To this end, several analysts and observers of the region's polity have had to argue that the reason behind the inability of the government to address these problems is because of her involvement; thus undermining the efforts of anti-corruption officials while other analysts and

observers of the region's situation have, however, advanced lack of adequate research or study of the relationship between systemic corruption and development, poor governance and the drop in the region's socio-economic development over the years (Rahman, 2018).

The inability of these anti-corruption drives and other umbrellas through which social ills are fought in Nigeria have, however, bedevilled and undermined efficient and effective campaigns against these social ills; the consequence of which is the failure of project implementation, national growth, and/or infrastructure sector development in Nigeria.

This study, therefore, seeks to evaluate the impact of government policies on development outcomes in Edo and Delta State, assess the effectiveness of government initiatives in promoting economic growth in both States and identify the challenges to effective governance and development in both states.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The broad objective of the study is to investigate on government and development in South-Southern Nigeria with an evaluation of Edo State and Delta State (2019-2023). The specific objectives of the study are:

- i. Evaluate the impact of government policies on development outcomes in Edo and Delta States.

- ii. Assess the effectiveness of government initiatives in promoting economic growth, infrastructure development, and human capital development.
- iii. Identify challenges to effective governance and development in both states.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

The following research questions were raised in order to guide the study:

1. What is the relationship between government policies and development outcomes in Edo and Delta States (2019-2023)?
2. How have government initiatives impacted economic growth, infrastructure development, and human capital development in both states?
3. What challenges hinder effective governance and development in Edo and Delta States?

#### **1.5 Scope of the Study**

The scope of the study covers the impact of government and development in South-Southern Nigeria: An Evaluation of Edo State and Delta State (2019-2023), with central attention on impact of government policies on development outcomes in Edo and Delta States, as well as the effectiveness of government initiatives in promoting economic growth and challenges to effective governance and development in both states.

The geographical scope of this study is limited to Edo and Delta State.

### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

The study of government and development in South-Southern Nigeria with an evaluation of Edo State and Delta State, first the study will serve as an informed decision for policymakers and stakeholders on effective governance strategies for development, identify areas of strength and weakness in Edo and Delta States' development initiatives, provide recommendations for improving governance and development outcomes.

Second, the study will understand the impact of the crisis on the socioeconomic development and well-being of the people in the states and identify the key socio-economic factors that contribute to development in the state.

The study will benefit potential researchers by providing a reference point for them. Future researchers can use the results of this study to add to existing knowledge. The study helps to open new avenues for researchers in investigating government and development in the southern region of the country.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.0 Overview of Edo State**

Edo State is located in the Federal Republic of Nigeria's South-South geopolitical zone. The state had 3,233,366 residents as of the 2006 national population census, making it Nigeria's 24th most populated state (Koutonin,2016). The National Population Commission (NPC) projects that the state's population will be around 4,777,000 in 2022. According to Olubakola (2020), Edo State has the 22<sup>nd</sup> greatest landmass in Nigeria. Benin City, the capital and largest city, is the hub of the rubber industry in Nigeria and the fourth largest city overall. Established in 1991 from the ruins of Bendel State, Edo State is bordered by Ondo State to the west, Kogi State to the north, Anambra State to the east, and Delta State to the south (Obinyan, 2018).

The majority population of Edo State includes the Edo (or Bini), Esan, Ora, Akoko-Edo, Owan, and Afemai people, among others (Olubukola,

2020). Speaking Edo, the most widely spoken Edoid language in Benin City is common. Christianity is the most prevalent religion in Edo State, introduced by Portuguese missionaries in the fifteenth century. There are also adherents of traditional faiths and Islam (Koutonin, 2016). The cosmopolitan nature of the state informed the huge presence of residents from across the country. The capital (Benin City) has a history of being one of the foremost destinations of Europeans during the scramble, exploration and partition of the African continent in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is also on record that the Portuguese exchanged trade emissaries with the Bini Kingdom as far back as the 16th century. Key flashpoints during this period as it relates to the territory now referred to as Edo state have remained an enviable tourist attraction to date. Some interesting sites in the state are Ogba Zoological Garden, Tomb of Asoro, Emotan Statue, Benin Museum, and Igun Street (Office of the Governor of Edo State, 2017).

According to Olubakola (2020), Edo, an oil-producing state, has seen an increase in violent incidents and related fatalities over the past ten years, making it one of the most violent states in the Niger Delta per capita. Concerns in Edo include demonstrations, crimes such as human trafficking, kidnappings, and domestic abuse, as well as conflicts among gangs, cults, political parties, and local communities. While violence has been reported in other areas, most incidents occur in the Oredo Local Government Area, home to Benin City (Olubukola, 2020).

## **2.2 Overview of Delta State**

Delta State is the second-largest oil-producing state in Nigeria and is located in the South-South geopolitical zone. It was formed on August 27, 1991, from the previous Bendel State, and named after the Niger Delta. Delta State is bordered by Edo State to the north, Anambra and Rivers States to the east, Bayelsa State to the south, and the Bight of Benin to the west (Emmanuel, 2021). Initially, Delta State had 12 local government units, which were expanded to 19, and currently, there are 25 local government units. The state's economic hub is the twin city of Warri and Uvwie, while Asaba, the state capital, is situated northeast of the state along the Niger River (Arokoyo, 2020).

With an estimated population of around 5.6 million as of 2022, Delta is the twelfth most populated and 23rd largest state in terms of area out of the 36 states in Nigeria (NPC, 2022). The state is geographically split between the lowland woods of Nigeria and the mangroves of Central Africa in the coastal southwest, with a small area of the Niger Delta swamp forests in the extreme south. The River Niger and its distributary, the Forçados River, run along the eastern and southern borders of the Delta.

Another significant geographical feature is the River Escravos, which flows through Warri. The state's natural areas are home to endangered species such as the dwarf crocodile, Grey parrot, African fish eagle, mona monkey, and African manatee (Emmanuel, 2021).

Delta State has been severely affected by the crises in Nigeria's Niger Delta. The state's crime rate is comparable to that of Rivers State, the highest

in the region (Emmanuel, 2021). Crimes in Delta State include gang and cult conflicts, criminal abductions, oil theft, illicit oil refining, militancy, and domestic violence, mostly occurring in the southern region (Arokoyo, 2020).

Delta State's ethnic groups include the Urhobo people in the delta central senatorial district; the Igbo, which includes the Ika and Aniocha-Oshimili-Ukwuani sub-tribes, and parts of Isoko in the delta north senatorial district; and the Isokos, Ijaws, Itsekiris, and some Urhobos in the delta south senatorial district. Other smaller tribes like the Olukumi and Igalas are located in the delta north and have been fully absorbed into the Anioma Igbo group (Ebewore, 2020). During the pre-colonial era, the present-day Delta State was split into monarchial kingdoms such as the Kingdom of Warri and Agbor Kingdom.

The British included the region in the Niger Coast Protectorate in 1884, which later became part of the Southern Nigeria Protectorate. However, colonial authority was not firmly established until the 1910s due to the Ekumeku Movement's uprisings. Notably, from 1903 to 1930, the UK leased the enclave of Forcados to France, making Delta one of the few areas in modern-day Nigeria to have been under French rule (Arokoyo, 2020).

### **2.3 Project Failure in Edo and Delta States**

The states considered as case studies for this research are part of the Niger Delta region of Nigeria thus, fall under the administration of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) which is responsible for the development of the region. However, there are several instances of failed

projects cutting across various sectors in the states leaving communities to suffer the effects of underdevelopment.

In March 2023, an NGO, Connected Development (CODE), started a campaign to track and determine the status of abandoned projects in Delta State (Punch, 2023). The projects considered include the construction of a Multipurpose Hall at the School of Marine Technology, Umusam-Ogbe awarded by the NDDC, construction of a Modern Civic Centre and Museum awarded by the Delta State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission in Isumpe community among others. The Delta State Support Officer for CODE, Mr. Ugochukwu Alexander, observed that the government had "continued approving new projects daily but failed to complete the already approved projects" leaving residents to lament the abandoned projects.

In February 2021, the advocate for Accountability and Good Governance sued the NDDC over the alleged abandonment of projects, which include road contracts for Urhokpe Street in Kokori Inland and others in Ethiope East Council (The Guardian, 2021). According to Sahara Reporters (2017) multi-billion naira roads constructed by then Governor Ifeanyi Okowa's administration of Delta State were collapsing just 6 months after their commissioning. This report came on the heels of the status report shared by then Delta State Commissioner for Works James Augoye, who had earlier in the week boasted on a Radio program "that the roads were built to last by first class contractors". The commissioner also stated that the state awarded a contract last year for the construction of a new ₦17 billion

sewage drainage system connecting DLA, Jesus Saves, and Agric roads in Asaba to reduce severe flooding. However, despite the construction of this sewage system, the streets of Asaba are regularly flooded following heavy rains, further damaging the roads to date (Sahara Reporters, 2017).

In 2014, the NDDC awarded 10 road projects worth over ₦2 billion in various communities in Edo State, with a stipulated 12-month completion period. In 2019, a reporter for the International Centre for Investigative Reporting (ICIR) visited the project sites to determine their status and observed that "many of the projects were awarded to proxy companies or unregistered entities that could not execute them" thus they all failed or were abandoned and residents continued to experience flooding and the associated dangers of plying waterlogged roads (ICIR, 2020). While completing this research, the researcher experienced first-hand the extremely negative impact of failed/abandoned road projects in Delta and Edo states, as the Benin-Sapele road that normally required less than one (1) hour to move from Benin City to Warri by bus now took as much as 5 hours while commuting via bus from Benin City to Asaba through the Agbor-Benin expressway took 4 hours, instead of the usual 2 hours.

In 2018, after an audit of projects commissioned from 2011 to 2017, the Governor of Edo State, Godwin Obaseki, expressed his disappointment with the poor execution of projects by the Edo State Oil and Gas Producing Areas Development Commission (EDSOPADEC). A representative of the

audit firm, Mr Sylvester Osara, reported to the governor that 46 out of the 117 projects executed by the commission in the Ikpoba-Okha,

Orhionmwon and Ovia North-East local government areas of Edo state either failed or were vandalized while 44 other projects were abandoned in the affected areas (Punch, 2018). The governor promised to institute a new board to run the commission and “clean up” the system. With such a stern rebuttal from the governor, one would expect that his administration would fare better than his predecessors however, when speaking at the governorship debate put together by Channels Television and its partners on 20th September 2020, the governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) for the Edo State election, Osagie Ize-Iyamu stated that the Godwin Obaseki Administration had "nothing to show for monies purportedly allocated to various projects". He cited several failed projects in the agricultural sector including the 2 billion naira Sobe Maize project; the 5 billion naira Agenebode rice project; and then the 69 billion naira oil palm project. He stated that the astronomical sums were borrowed from “the Central Bank and the money has been shared with cronies, and no Edo person has benefitted from that money and I can tell you that has also gone down the drain”. He continued “So just from agriculture alone, I have named three areas where over 75 billion naira has been collected, not to talk about monies you are collecting from the World Bank and the rest of them” (Channels TV, 2020).

## **2.4 Challenges Associated with the Development of the Niger Delta Area**

The Niger Delta region is home to oil and gas exploration in Nigeria, and thus the mainstay of the economy. Suffice it that oil exploration began in the region in 1958, and since then, the nation has heavily depended on the revenue from crude oil sales. According to the World Bank, oil alone accounts for 40% of Nigeria's GDP, 70% of budget revenues, and 95% of foreign exchange earnings. Despite the economic benefit of the region, the adverse effect of oil exploration has resulted in environmental degradation, poverty escalation, spiralling conflicts, poor infrastructure, and widespread unemployment, amongst others. The governments, both at the federal and state levels, have not been able to provide adequate socioeconomic opportunities to the vast majority of the Niger Delta population. Figure 1 shows the demographic and socioeconomic status of the Niger Delta states in Nigeria. As shown in Figure 1, nine (9) states make up the Niger Delta with a total population of 42.65 million people. Rivers (7.3 million) and Bayelsa (2.28 million) States recorded the highest and lowest population, respectively; however, Bayelsa (89%) has the highest multidimensional poverty rate in the Niger Delta region compared to the national rate of 40.9%.

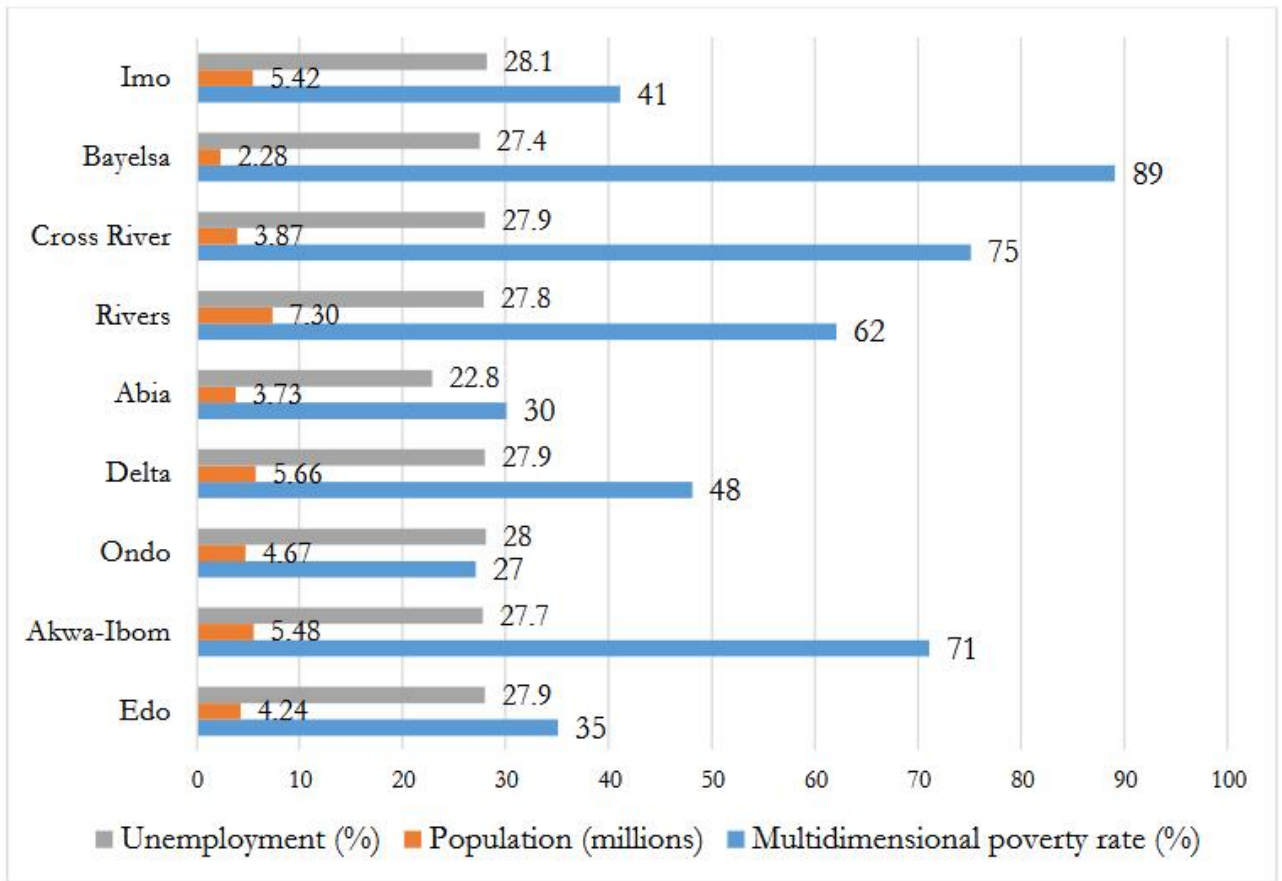


Figure 1: Demographic and Socioeconomic Condition of Niger Delta States in Nigeria

Source: National Bureau of Statistics, 2024 data

According to the report, high deprivations are also apparent in sanitation, healthcare, food insecurity, and housing amongst others. The high poverty rate in the region is exacerbated by environmental degradation resulting from oil exploration by multinational companies. Environmental degradation such as oil spillage has destroyed the traditional means of livelihood such as fishing, farming, and logging, amongst others. As a result

of this, the region records one of the highest unemployment rates in Nigeria. As shown in Figure 1, unemployment in the region is widespread with Abia State (30%) recording the highest rate. Poverty and unemployment rates in the Niger Delta region are estimated to worsen due to the recent fuel subsidy removal. In addition, the armed struggle, internecine conflict and insurgency in the Niger Delta have all been subsumed under the general term-“Niger Delta crisis”. The crisis has resulted in kidnapping, youth unrest and violence, oil bunkering, and other social vices. Arising from these problems, the need for legislative intervention to address these problems in the National Assembly cannot be overemphasized.

The challenges confronting the region are numerous. As mentioned above, they include environmental degradation, destruction of aquatic resources, destruction of farmland and other means of livelihoods, environmental pollution, poverty, unemployment, etc. However, some measures were put in place by successive governments in Nigeria to address the challenges facing the region. Among the measures taken to address the problems include the establishment of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), the Nigerian Content Development Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and the introduction of a Joint Task Force (JTF) to curb the activities of vandals and oil bunkers, etc.

The NDDC was established with the following objectives, among others:

1. To tackle ecological and environmental problems that arise from the exploration of oil minerals in the Niger Delta area and advise the Federal

Government and the member States on the prevention and control of oil spillages, gas flaring and environmental pollution.

2. To conceive, plan and implement, by set rules and regulations, projects and programmes for the sustainable development of the Niger Delta area in the field of transportation including roads, jetties and waterways, health, education, employment, industrialization, agriculture and fisheries, housing and urban development, water supply, electricity and telecommunications.

The commission was established to achieve the above objectives, among others, but it failed, as ecological and environmental problems arising from exploration activities in the region still persist. Thus, the problem of environmental degradation still lingers.

In the case of local content in the oil and gas sector, Section 6 of the NCDMB Act, 2016 provides that upon the commencement of the Acts on local content, all subsequent oil and gas arrangements, agreements, contracts or memoranda of understanding relating to any operation or transaction in the Nigerian oil and gas industry shall conform with the provisions of this Act. This NCDMB Act aims to allow the participation of indigenous contractors and workers in the oil and gas sector. The international oil companies are expected by Law to source for oil servicing companies locally in the areas where Nigerian companies have expertise and employ Nigerians with requisite skills as workers instead of expatriates. It is believed that if this is done, the problem of unemployment will be reduced in the region. However, the unemployment problem persists as some of the international

oil companies do not follow the provisions of the NCDMB Act, 2016 and the board that serves as a regulator has not been able to sanction them. This shows that the Board is like a toothless bulldog. In another vein, the community leaders and youth groups do not assist in the actualization of the mandate of the Board, as most of the leaders and the youth are only interested in selfish pecuniary gains, without considering the collective interest of the people of the region.

In the case of the amnesty given to the militants, the amnesty policy seemed to be a palliative measure that postponed the crisis temporarily, because most of the core issues such as socioeconomic marginalization, youth unemployment, resource control, environmental degradation, and relative poverty which led to the agitations in the first place were not addressed.

The introduction of the security Joint Task Force (JTF) to curb militancy is not without its problems. None of the law enforcement agents, especially the JTF, who perpetrated numerous human rights abuses including gang rape and extra-judicial killings, were held accountable (Nneli, 2020). Also, none of the operatives of multinational companies, who have been serially accused of fuelling human rights violations and destroying livelihoods through environmental degradation in the Niger Delta, were held accountable<sup>11</sup>. Such actions heighten impunity and make violence attractive. This could explain the renewed tensions in the Niger Delta, because relatives of victims of such crimes and human rights abuses, who were not factored

into the amnesty programme, could have decided to avenge their loved ones or to assume a violent disposition to be recognised by the state.

## **2.5 Allocation and Application of Funds by the Niger Delta Development Commission**

The revenue sources for the Commission were well defined in the enabling Act. According to the Niger Delta Development Commission, Part V, Section 14, Sub-sections 1 and 2 of the Niger Delta Development Commission Act 2000, which deals with financial provisions spelled out how the Commission shall be funded. Section 14 (2) provides that:

There shall be paid and credited to the fund established under subsection (1) of this section. (a) From the Federal Government the equivalent of 15% of the total monthly statutory allocation due to member states of the commission from the federation account, this being the contribution of the federal government to the commission. (b) 3% of the total annual budget of any oil-producing company operating onshore and offshore in the Niger Delta area including gas processing companies, (c) 50% of monies due to member states of the commission from the ecological fund (d) such monies as may from time to time, be granted or lent or deposited with the commission by the Federal or a state government, any other body or institution whether local or foreign, (e) all monies raised for the commission by way of gifts, loans, grant-in-aid, testamentary disposition or otherwise and (f) proceeds from all other assets that may from time to time, accrue to the commission.

Timi Alaibe, the then NDDC's Acting Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer once observed that between 2012 and December 2017, the Commission received N95.97 billion from the Federal Government. He further noted that "the federal government is not the only contributor to the NDDC... we have also generated funds from contractor's registration and banking transactions". Available records show that between May 2012 and December 2017, the nine states making up the Niger Delta region have collectively received over N2.16 trillion representing 70%, and local governments over N671 billion, representing N22%. NDDC received over N241.5 billion to make up the remaining 8% (Adio, et al, 2017). Altogether the Niger Delta Development Commission earned about \$1.98 billion between 2007 and 2017, in addition to the sum of N594 billion paid to the Commission in local currency during the same period from the following sources: Federal Government; subventions; oil companies contribution; donation and grants; recovery on mass transits; insurance claims; other income; disposal of assets; contractors' fee bank interest (Federal Republic of Nigeria 2019).

**Table 1: Annual Breakdown /Summary of the Total Revenue Received by the NDDC from 1st January 2009 to 31st December 2013 in billion Naira**

Source	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Federal Government	24,000,000,000	40,570,000,000	51,317,566,107	44,937,757,491	56,076,920,534
Oil Companies	40,531,352,200	43,942,473,000	3,942,473,000	89,927,822,349	111,576,195,210
Sundry (Other Incomes)	189,832,000	277,491,000	329,529,734	385,391,640	125,064,883
Total	64,721,184,200	84,789,964,000	141,574,918,190	135,096,525,920	167,778,180,627

Source: (NEITI, 2017). Report on Revenues, Deductions, and Analysis of Disbursement and Utilization of Funds of the Federal Beneficiary Agencies – Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), p.2.

As table 1 which presents an annual breakdown of the summary of the revenue distribution by sources indicates, the Commission earned N593.961 billion during 2009 and 2013. The Commission’s earnings grew from N64.721 billion in the fiscal year 2007 to N167.778 billion in the fiscal year 2011. This represents 159% growth within the years under review. The cumulative total revenue from all sources was recorded at N593.961 billion; the Federal Government has contributed N216.902 billion that is, 36.5% while the receipts from oil companies accounted for N375.751 billion which also represents 63.3%. However, the sundry incomes such as interest on deposits and others accounted for N1.307 billion with a relative share of 0.2%. Collaborating the foregoing report, the Executive Secretary of the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), Mr. Waziri Adio disclosed that a total of \$1.98 billion were remitted to the Niger Delta

Development Commission (NDDC) between 2007 and 2017, in addition to the sum of N594 billion paid to the Commission in local currency during the same period [41]. Further breakdown of the remittances showed that NDDC received N594 billion from 2007 to 2011, while \$559 million was paid to the Commission in 2012. It was also indicated that in 2013, the NDDC received \$563 million while in 2014, the sum of \$865 million was remitted to the Commission (Federal Republic of Nigeria 2019).

## **2.6 Provision of Infrastructure in the Oil Producing Areas of Nigeria, 2010-2022**

The NDDC sees to the implementation of its mandate by executing relevant projects in the entire oil-producing areas of Nigeria. The projects are conceptualized, designed, and executed based on extensive consultation with locals, input from interested parties, and critical analysis by experts. The NDDC's projects are in the following areas: education, health, transportation, road infrastructures, electrification projects, skill acquisition and youth development, agricultural development programs, security and logistics projects, environment, and waste management, among others. However, like the intervention agencies preceding it, one of the common features of the NDDC is a "top-bottom" development initiative, which is obvious in the Act. Section 14 of the Act provides that all stakeholders in the oil-producing areas and oil companies should help finance the NDDC. The Act mandates Federal Government to contribute to NDDC, 15% of the total monthly statutory allocations due to the Niger Delta

states from the federation account. The Act also mandates MOCs, including gas-processing companies, operating onshore and offshore in the oil-producing states to pay 3% of their total annual budget to the commission (Ekenam, 2001). These sources of funds give NDDC a potentially huge capital base. However, in the light of no effective and efficient regulatory mechanisms, this outlay of resources has not translated into improved and adequate infrastructure in the oil-producing areas. The resources have been grossly mismanaged. Hence, despite its immense fiscal potential, the NDDC has been known more for crisis and corruption than for initiating developmental projects. In more than 15 years of its existence, The Commission appears to have failed to make any meaningful impact on the lives of the people of oil-producing areas and has performed dismally in realizing the purpose for which it was founded and funded. For instance, the performance of the NDDC in the provision of infrastructure/projects in the last five years is below an average of 19% in terms of the number of projects completed. The number of projects awarded during the period under review was 1,475 of which 280 were completed while 1,195 projects were yet to be completed. The NDDC's poor performance cut across the five years under review. In the year 2010, of 242 projects awarded, 70 were completed while 172 projects were ongoing. In the year 2011, the projects awarded were 114 out of which 62 projects were completed whereas 52 were tagged ongoing. More so, in the year 2012, the projects awarded were 188 out of which 44 were completed while 144 were not completed. In the year 2013, projects awarded were 538 out of which 60 projects were certified completed while

478 projects were not completed. In the year 2014, projects awarded were 393 out of which 44 were recorded as completed whereas 349 projects were yet to be completed [8]. The foregoing information is in line with the report of the Nigerian Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (NEITI). According to the Report, twenty-two projects of the NDDC were duplicated in the project's schedule with a total contract sum of N1.18 billion, with mobilization payments of N370.70 million. It further highlighted that most of the projects were neither identifiable nor scheduled for monitoring and proper management. The report also observed that substantial work has not been carried out in a significant number of projects even though mobilization has been paid. For instance, projects with a total contract sum of N284.884 billion and mobilization or advance payment of N63.558 billion made were not certified for any work done through the established milestones (NEITI, 2017). Buttressing the foregoing is the information in Table 2 which shows the NDDC's project performance analysis since inception up to September 2016. Of the entire 8,558 projects awarded, 2,290, representing 26.8% were still ongoing; 3,530, representing 41.2% were completed; 293, representing 3.4% were stalled or abandoned; 2,366, representing 27.6% were awarded projects yet to mobilize to sites; 49, representing 0.6% were terminated projects, while 30, representing 0.4% were taken over by State Governments or other agencies.

Table 2: NDDC's Project Performance Statistics from Inception up to September

2018

S/NO	ITEM	QTY	%
1	Number of awarded projects since inception as at September 2016.	8,558	100
2	Number of ongoing projects as at September 2016 since inception.	2,290	26.8
3	Number of completed projects as at September, 2016	3,530	41.2
4	Number of stalled/abandoned projects as at September 2016	293	3.4
5	Number of awarded projects yet to mobilize to sites as at September 2016	2,366	27.6
6	Number of projects terminated as at September 2016	49	0.6
7	Number of projects taken over by State Governments/other Agencies as at September 2016	30	0.4

Source: Africa Research Bulletin, p.16

It is quite evident that the NDDC has not fared well as regards the provision and development of infrastructure/projects in the oil-producing areas of Nigeria. This is so because the number of ongoing projects and the number of awarded projects yet to mobilize to sites since inception up to September 2016 put together, that is,  $26.8\% + 27.6\% = 54.4\%$  are more than the number of completed projects within the same period, that is 41.2%. This reinforces the earlier assertion that the NDDC has not fared well in realizing the purpose for which it was founded and funded. The assessment of contract sums in comparison to the level of work certified between 2011 and

2015, also betrays the weak performance of the Commission in the provision and development of infrastructure/projects in the oil-producing areas of Nigeria. Within the afore-stated period, the Commission awarded contracts to the value of N497.028 billion. However, the aggregate value of work certified was stated at N119.73 billion which indicated a 24% performance rate. The lower rate of projects' performance cuts across the various classifications of programs and projects. On the other hand, a high-performance rate of 86% and 50% were recorded concerning hospital and other medical equipment and security and logistics programs respectively.

The skill acquisition and youth development recorded a 35% completion rate. The annual completion rate of 52% was recorded in the year 2012 being the highest between 2011 and 2015, while the least outturn was recorded in the year 2015 at the rate of 16% completion (Africa Research Bulletin). In a further demonstration of the poor performance of the NDDC in the provision and development of infrastructure in the oil-producing areas, Table 3 presents the percentage share of the Commission's projects on a state basis.

Table 3: Percentage Share of the NDDC's Projects on State Basis, 2010–2018

State	Contract awarded (₦)	Work certified	Percentage%	Ranking
Abia	11,380,975	2,541,506	29%	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Akwa - Ibom	50,395,953	9,393,413	19%	6 <sup>th</sup>
Bayelsa	88,486,017	31,526,552	36%	1 <sup>st</sup>
Cross-River	8,179,882	1,555,000	19%	6 <sup>th</sup>
Delta	59,821,583	7,546,762	13%	7 <sup>th</sup>
Edo	19,796,823	3,943,123	20%	5 <sup>th</sup>
Imo	36,271,106	5,092,441	14%	6 <sup>th</sup>
Ondo	27,154,765	1,902,055	7%	8 <sup>th</sup>
Rivers	109,518,475	27,249,357	25%	4 <sup>th</sup>
Regional	86,023,200	28,980,399	34%	2 <sup>nd</sup>

**Source:** Africa Research Bulletin, p.19.

It is seen that Bayelsa State outturns with a 36% performance rate while the headquarters recorded 34% completion and the lowest performance rate was recorded in Ondo State with 7% outturns. In sum, the challenges of uncompleted projects, on account of corruption and mismanagement, manifesting in awards of contracts without due process seem to have cast a long shadow on the image of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC). Unfortunately, the Commission should not be given pass marks for the erection of sign boards including projects that were neither started nor half completed. Sadly, this seems to have been a recurring decimal as one board hands over to another over the years since the Commission was established by the Olusegun Obasanjo administration in December 2000. This hangover, which has remained a big drag on the

Commission's performance, runs counter to the main objective of setting up the agency as a veritable change agent.

## **2.7 Theoretical Framework- Structural Functionalism**

This study employed the Structural Functional Theory of Gabriel Almond for the analysis. The theory was articulated by Gabriel Almond and Coleman in their book titled "Introduction to the Politics of the Developing Areas (1960)" They postulated four characteristics of the political system and eight functions performed in all systems or at least in all viable systems. The functions represent concepts common to both Western and non-Western systems and for this reason, he claimed that they are useful concepts for comparing two types of systems; despite being derived from the Western system (Mbah, 2006). The theory assumes that;

- (1) All political systems including the simplest ones have political structures. They may be compared with one another according to the degree and form of structural specialization.
- (2) The same functions may be performed with different frequencies and by different kinds of structures. Comparisons may be made according to the frequency of performance of the functions, the kind of structure performing them, and the style of their performance.
- (3) All political structures, no matter how specialized whether in primitive or modern societies, its multifunctional political systems may be compared according to the degree of specificity of functions in the structure.

(4) All political systems are “mixed” systems in cultural in cultural sense. There are no” all modern cultures and structures, and no all-primitive. They differ in the relative dominance of the one against the other, and the pattern of the mixture of the two components.

Gabriel A Almond argues that from the functionalist point of view, a political system has two categories namely the input and the output functions. These functions are performed by different structures to ensure system sustenance and equilibrium. The input category includes five variables – Political socialization, political recruitment, interest articulation through organized groups, interest aggregation through political parties, and political communication. The output category includes the three organs or departments of the state- legislature (rule-making), executive (rule application) and judiciary (rule adjudication). Thus the function of the political system is to convert inputs into outputs (Almond and Coleman, 1960). The structural-functionalist theory treats society as a simply interrelated system, when each part of the system having a definite and distinct role play. Political party being a system of its own that exists inter-relatedly with another system, it can therefore be justifiable that the theory agrees with this topic. Be that as it may, the approach had the following fallbacks. It was divorced from the empirical realities of politics. It was also ethnocentric, with linkages to development especially. The authors of the theories were conservative and static. Concerned with evaluating how systems performed roles expected of a stable democracy. There was little

need to reform institutions and only one permissible direction for change. The theory has been criticized for being too generalistic and giving no focus to specific political systems. It was also criticized for being ethnocentric, with linkages to development especially. The authors of the theories were conservative and static, concerned with evaluating how systems performed the roles expected of a stable democracy. The theory was also considered a divorcee from the empirical realities of politics, hence Anikpo (1986) posits that "the major problem of structural functionalism is that it leads to generalizations, apparently ignoring substantial portions of the more unique characteristics of the separate unit.

The theory has been criticized partly because of its emphasis on system maintenance which is said to be status-quo-oriented and therefore conservative (Mbah, 2006). The theory talked about the structures and functions of a given system in a given society and its relation with the research topic which investigated a political party that has structure and functions they perform. The theory is in harmony with the input function of public relations and has nothing to do with the output function. So the federal government has succeeded in utilizing the input of political socialization and communication to mobilize programs in the Niger Delta region through various developmental agencies and address related issues to ensure that the region is developed reflects the input-output analysis of the structure and functions used by Almond in the Structural-Functional theory.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction.**

This chapter addresses various aspects including the research design, study population and sample, data sources, variable measurement, data analysis, method of data collection, etc.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

The research design adopted for this study is the qualitative research design. The qualitative research aimed at collecting, analyzing, and presenting data in the form of text or imagery to address research questions by delving into the perspectives of key informants (Okpa, 2022; Anam et al, 2022).

#### **3.3 Population of The Study**

The population of the study consists of management staff, middle staff, and staff of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) from Edo and Delta of Edo State. According to data report by Akpan F. U. N, Niger Delta

Development Commission has about three hundred and forty-eight management staff, middle staff and staff all together.

### **3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Techniques**

The sample size for the study made up of 5% participants which was drawn from management staff, middle staff, and staff of Niger Delta Development Commission Edo and Delta. The researcher adopted the simple random sampling technique. Simple random sampling is a technique used in research where every member of a population has an equal chance of being selected. This method involves randomly choosing participants without any bias, often using tools like random number generators or drawing lots. Using the simple random technique eighteen (18) members of management staff, middle staff, and staff at the Niger Delta Development Commission Edo and Delta State.

### **3.5 Instrument of Data Collection**

Data Collection for this research was derived from different sources and these include both primary and secondary data. They were collected through the following measures.

**Administration of Questionnaire:** to collect primary data and structured interview.

### **3.6 Reliability of the Instrument**

To enhance the reliability of the research instrument, the researcher took care to avoid ambiguously framed interviewed questions that could lead to varying interpretations. Likewise, questions were structured to prevent conveying different meanings, which could result in unreliable responses upon repeated use of the instrument. The researcher also maintained objectivity with no direct leading suggestions as to the answers desired.

### **3.7 Method of Data Collection**

Given the nature of the study, the researcher gathered data from both primary and secondary sources.

**Primary Sources:** The data was primarily gathered through interview surveys.

### **3.8 Method of Data Analysis**

The data collected were manually processed. The approach of data analysis used for this research is thematic analysis.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

#### **4.0 Introduction**

The Federal Government of Nigeria established the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in 2000, with the mandate to address the development needs of the people of the Niger Delta Region and ensure equitable development of the entire region. With the establishment of the NDDC, it was expected that the problem of underdevelopment in the Niger Delta region, particularly that of Edo and Delta State would have been effectively addressed.

Unfortunately, since the establishment of the NDDC in 2000 till date, little or no significant changes have been recorded both in infrastructure and in the living condition of people of the Niger Delta region and Edo and Delta State in particular. Despite the quantum of projects supposedly implemented

by the NDDC, the Niger Delta region still grapples with a massive infrastructural gap, including poor road networks, inadequate healthcare facilities, educational facilities and inadequate electricity supply.

A causal observation reveals that the NDDC projects in Edo and Delta State, such as shoreline protection, road construction, electricity supply, installation of solar-powered street lights, construction of bridges, human empowerment and so on, have either been abandoned or not completed. The above observation raises suspicion that certain problems such as lack of effective monitoring of projects, delay in release of funds for projects, corruption and so on, may have been responsible for the seeming inability of the NDDC to address the development needs in Edo and Delta State, through its projects and programmes.

In the preceding chapters, the researcher explores project failure in Edo and Delta State, challenges associated with development in the Niger Delta Area, and allocation and application of funds by the Niger Delta Development Commission. The governments, both at the federal and state levels, have not been able to provide adequate socioeconomic opportunities to the vast majority of the Niger Delta population, high deprivations are also apparent in sanitation, healthcare, food insecurity, and housing amongst other bedevilled as challenge battling the areas.

Finally, this chapter concluded by reflecting on the relationship between government policies and development outcomes in Edo and Delta States, how government, government initiatives impacted economic growth,

infrastructure development, and human capital development in both states and the challenges that hinder effective governance and development in Edo and Delta States.

### **Research Context:**

The NDDC is funded by both the Federal Government and the oil companies operating in the area. The companies contribute 3 per cent of their annual budget. The funds allocated to every state from the Federation account are based on the proportion of oil produced in the state. The governing board has government-nominated representatives from each of the nine states as Commissioners.

### **4.2 What is the relationship between government policies and development outcomes in Edo and Delta States (2019-2023)?**

The Niger Delta region is one of the richest areas in Nigeria with an enormous contribution to the national revenue. According to NDDC staff interviewed, *“the Niger Delta region alone contributes over 85% to the Nigeria Gross Domestic Product (GDP) both in oil and gas. It also contributes more than 95% of Nigeria's foreign exchange and 85% of the*

*country's annual income. Despite the enormous contribution of the Niger Delta to Nigeria's national revenue, the region yet experiences underdevelopment in both infrastructure and human development”* (Respondent). Also, the region's capacity to produce over 2.5 million barrels of crude oil daily puts Nigeria as number one in the hierarchy of oil-producing countries in Africa and 11th in the world (Respondent). Furthermore, the presence of crude oil in the region has attracted many oil multinational companies that engage in oil exploration. It is, therefore, expected that the presence of multinational oil companies in the region should impact the socio-economic well-being of host communities through their corporate social responsibility. Unfortunately, there is nothing to show for it.

Also, the Nigerian government's efforts to develop the Niger Delta region through the establishment of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to expedite action on sustainable development projects, particularly on human development, infrastructure and ecological development in the region has equally not yielded any much result (Respondent).

In the opinion of NDDC staff interviewed the development of the area is not proportionate with the level of its contribution to the nation's national revenue and does not reflect the massive financial commitments by federal and state government. Anonymous respondents highlighted that *“the region has a low rate of youth literacy and secondary education access compared with the South-West where there is not much oil deposit like the South-South.*

*While Niger Delta has 87.9 per cent of youth literacy and 70.3 per cent of secondary education access, the South-West has 94.7 per cent and 87.5 per cent respectively. Also, there is only 1 primary school to 3,700 people which serves 3 or more communities while the ratio of secondary education was put at 1 to 14, 679 people which is 1 school to 8 or more communities”.* In the same vein, responses from another interviewed staff revealed that the region has the highest rate of unemployment among youth in Nigeria. For example, while the region has 9.5 per cent, the North-East has 3.2 per cent, the North-West has 2.2 per cent, the North-Centre has 4.3 per cent, the South-East has 6.6 per cent and South-West has 4.5 per cent respectively. Another interviewed staff contended that the post-amnesty programme initiated by the Nigerian government was not fruitful because it was not directed towards individual and community sustainability but rather as a way of disarming the aggrieved youths. Likewise, a member staff asserted that it is not sufficient for the government to provide infrastructure for the people, however, when people are allowed to participate in decision-making on issues that affect their lives, it enables them to realize their potential, build self-confidence, live a life of dignity and self-actualization. He further suggested that the government should engage in project monitoring and also involve the host community in its developmental agenda.

**4.3 How have government initiatives impacted economic growth, infrastructure development, and human capital development in both states?**

Activities of NDDC in the Niger Delta are being analyzed to review her developmental impact in the region. It is a complex process to gain better insight or understanding of what may have transpired within a particular period.

In the opinion of the interview, NDDC Staff pointed out during the interview that to reduce youth restiveness scholarships were provided for the youths. According to the NDDC

staff, *“to improve the level of education of youths in this area, various categories of undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships are offered to students who can undergo their programs either in Nigeria or outside the country”*. Similarly, NDDC staff were unanimous that NDDC trains youths, and women empowerment through skill acquisition was provided by NDDC within Delta State and other oil-producing States in Nigeria. In giving out loans by the commission, in an interview with NDDC staff, he gave the reason why the loan is not accessible to all as follows: *Due to difficulty in repaying soft loans by most beneficiaries, it makes it difficult to effectively manage the scheme. Also, some of the beneficiaries of the loan do not use the money to establish business instead the money is used for a different purpose that is not meant for* (NDDC Staff). Another anonymous respondent interviewed indicated that nepotism by NDDC staff is responsible for the inaccessibility of the loan. The quote captures it: *It is wrong for NDDCs to be giving loans to only their relatives without the consideration of others. The NDDC staff give people the impression that the money given to them as*

*loans was government money. Their non-payment is because those whose loans were given have people working with NDDC.*

NDDC is also involved in vocational training for people, in the opinion of interviewed member staff *what NDDC majorly embarked upon is to provide vocational training and basic computer lessons for the youths. There are other specialized training and scholarships but it is meant for who knows who and the big boys.*

NDDC staff interview said that most of the youth participated in trainings that have short duration. Also, with little amount of money, the beneficiaries can easily establish their business. In addition, vocational and computer training are more available to the youth compared to intensive training programs which are for ex-militants and those who have people in positions. Yet another NDDC staff disclosed that: *the ex-militants were mostly trained abroad in various engineering courses so that with the number of years they will spend undergoing the training programs would make them have a change of thought and the environment will change their mode of thinking.*

#### **4.4 What challenges hinder effective governance and development in Edo and Delta States?**

The Niger Delta Region is characterized by poverty, corruption, environmental degradation, economic hoax, environmental problems and neglect coupled with instability and militarization due to youths' restiveness which has made the region highly volatile and problematic not only to the Nigerian Government but to the world these problems affect other

economies through the production and pricing of crude oil. The underdevelopment of the Niger Delta is a result of the corrupt political and governmental personnel and bureaucrats who have continued to misspend the huge revenue from oil coupled with the neglect of the region by the oil companies operating in the region who most times claimed that their obligations were much on paying their taxes and royalties to the Nigerian Government rather than developing the region. In the opinion of NDDC staff interviewed, corruption is one of the greatest problems of Nigerian society and it also finds its ugly and devastating effects in all sectors of the polity including the Niger Delta Development Commission. The Governors of the Delta region have contributed negatively to the development of the region. Despite the federally allocated revenue to all the 36 states of the federation, the states that make up the Niger Delta enjoy a special allocation of 13% as specified in the revenue sharing formulae based on derivation as fixed by section 162 (2) of the 1999 Constitution. This corruption hence emerged as one of the major problems challenging the activities of the Commission in the region under study and the data and amount corruptly engulfed by the Commission's staff were shielded as such records were not made to the public. *“One of the major problems of the Niger Delta area is corruption. Most of the political leadership in the region is corrupt and this has serious implications for development. The impact of the 13% special allocation to the Niger Delta area is not so felt by the people because of problems of corruption”.*

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Summary**

The research was on the Government and development in south-southern Nigeria: an evaluation of Edo State and Delta State (2019-2023) The objectives of the research were to evaluate the impact of government policies on development outcomes in Edo and Delta States, assess the effectiveness of government initiatives in promoting economic growth, infrastructure development, and human capital development and, identify the challenges effective governance and development in both states. The theoretical framework adopted for the study was structural functionalism.

Qualitative data were used for the study. Findings from the study reveal that there is no significant relationship between government policies and development outcomes in Edo and Delta State, as discovered study that despite the enormous contribution of the Niger Delta to Nigeria's national revenue, the region yet experiences underdevelopment in both infrastructure and human development., the revenue gain in the financial commitment of the region does not reflect in the lives of the majority populace. The findings also reveal that government initiatives through scholarship, vocational training and loans are available to impact economic growth, infrastructural development and human capital development. The study reveals that corruption plays a plaque in making governance and development effective in both States,

## **5.2 Conclusion**

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher concluded government initiatives such as scholarships have improved the rate of youth participation in higher education, while vocational training has improved youth economic empowerment. This study has established corruption as a major cause of project failure which in turn hinders good governance and most of the political leadership in the region is corrupt and this has serious implications for development.

## **5.3 Recommendations**

Based on the findings and conclusion drawn, the following recommendations were put forward:

- i. NDDC should increase the number of their development programmes and projects, particularly in such areas as physical infrastructural development, school and capacity building, economic empowerment employment, and environmental protection.
- ii. Impact assessment should be carried out on any given fund while monitoring and oversight should not be sacrificed.
- iii. The stiffer penalty should be carried out against corrupt officials of the interventionist institutions, based on trial and conviction.

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## **APPENDIX**

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY**

Dear Respondents,

I am a final year student of the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences,

University of Benin, Benin City carrying out a research on **Government and Development in South-Southern Nigeria: An Evaluation of Edo State and Delta State (2019-2023).**

The research is purely for academic purposes, any information received by you would be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Yours Sincerely,

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Annabel

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

Please, tick in the boxes provided for the option chosen. Do not write or tick in the boxes beyond the margin.

Please kindly tick  $\{\sqrt{\quad}\}$  in the appropriate box

### **SECTION A: GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Gender:** Male  (b) Female

**Age:** 26-35  36-45  46- 55  50 and above

### **SECTION B: INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

4. What is the relationship between government policies and development outcomes in Edo and Delta States (2019-2023)?
  - i. What government policies have been implemented by Niger Delta Development Commission to promote economic growth and development?
  - ii. Can you describe any specific development initiatives or projects that have been undertaken in these states during this period?
  - iii. What policies have been implemented to improve education and skills development by Niger Delta Development Commission?
  - iv. Can you provide examples of initiatives or programs that have been undertaken to promote digital skills, entrepreneurship, and innovation in these states?
5. How have government initiatives impacted economic growth, infrastructure development, and human capital development in both states?
  - i. What government initiatives have been implemented by Niger Delta Development Commission to improve infrastructure development?
  - ii. How have these initiatives impacted the business environment and investment climate in both states?
  - iii. What government initiatives have been implemented by Niger Delta Development Commission to improve infrastructure development?
  - iv. How have these initiatives impacted the availability and quality of infrastructure services in both states?
  - v. What government initiatives have been implemented by Niger Delta Development Commission to promote human capital development?
  - vi. How have these initiatives impacted education, healthcare, and skills development in both states?

6. What challenges hinder effective governance and development in Edo and Delta States?
  - i. What are the biggest governance challenges facing Niger Delta Development Commission?
  - ii. How do you think corruption affects governance and development in Niger Delta Development Commission states?
  - iii. What security challenges do you think hinder governance and development in Edo and Delta States?