MOVEMENT FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE OGONI PEOPLE (MOSOP)

6 Etonahia Close (By Kia Motors), off Olu Obasanjo Rd., Port Harcourt; Rivers State, 17 Kenule Street, Bori – Ogoni
P.O Box 10162, Port Harcourt, Tel/Fax: 234-84-233907, 230250; e-mail: mosop@phca.linkserve.com

Statement: MOSOP Provisional Council

Following an inconclusive election and the consequent decision of the Steering Committee, MOSOP's decision-making organ, the formation of a Caretaker Committee with broad mandate to run the affairs of MOSOP, ensure reconciliation and an orderly transition to a new leadership in the organization through a transparent election, was announced on January 4, 2012. The Caretaker Commitment met today January 16, 2012 and took the following decisions:

1. The Caretaker Committee applauds the courage and wisdom of the Steering Committee and Mr. Ledum Mitee, former MOSOP President, in taking the above decision and sustaining MOSOP's principle as a democratic organization.
2. The Caretaker Committee accepts the challenge and opportunity of serving the Ogoni people, the Niger Delta and our country Nigeria with humility and commits itself to rendering that service with utmost accountability and transparency.
3. Henceforth the Caretaker Committee will be known as MOSOP Provisional Council (MPC) to reflect its mandate and vision.
4. To further enhance the pool of ideas, deepen the process of reconciliation and strengthen the organization, MPC has decided to set up an international Advisory Committee comprising respected Ogoni men and women at home and in the Diaspora. Membership of this Committee will be announced in due course.
5. In pursuance of its core mandate above and in accordance with the Ogoni Bill of Rights, MPC will pursue the following policy trajectory:
   i) Promote the protection of the environment and natural resources of Ogoni; in this regard the implementation of the United Nations Environment Program's report on Ogoni will be an urgent priority.
   ii) Promote the protection of the human rights of the Ogoni people
   iii) Promote the sustainable and equitable exploitation of the natural resources of Ogoni for the benefit of Ogoni people
   iv) Promote the language and culture of Ogoni people
   v) Reinforce the policy of dialogue and constructive engagement with the government and corporate entities on the above issues and especially in respect of job creation and economic development to alleviate the dire poverty in Ogoni.
6. MPC acknowledges that Ogoni has not been fairly treated in the distribution of the dividend of the Niger Delta struggle which the Ogoni people pioneered and shall through dialogue ensure situation.
7. Although MPC affirms the primary claim of every Ogoni person to membership of MOSOP, in order to deepen the process of reconciliation and inclusion, every effort will be made to extend a hand of fellowship to every Ogoni person in every walk of life and calls for understanding and cooperation from Ogoni leaders in government, business and the professions.
8. As a caretaker administration, the Provisional Council will not overstay its welcome, it is of the view that one year is enough to accomplish its primary mandate and, therefore, irrevocably commits itself to handing over to an elected executive committee on January 4, 2013.

Ben Naanen (Professor)
Chairman

Meshach Karanwi, DSC
Secretary

MOSOP Provisional Council Membership

1.	Professor Ben Naanen	-	*(Chairman)*
2.	Dr. Meshach Karanwi	-	*(Secretary)*
3.	Mr. Young Kigbara	-	*(Assistant Secretary)*
4.	Bishop Solomon Gberegbara	-	*(Member)*
5.	HRH Suanu Timothy Baridam	-	*(Member)*
6.	Ms Charity Nwido	-	*(Member)*
7.	Rev. (Dr) M. Y. Oguru	-	*(Member)*
8.	Apostle Paul Kinee	-	*(Member)*
9.	Dr. Johnson Nnaah	-	*(Member)*
10.	Mr. Elvis L. Gibson Ikomah	-	*(Member)*

Oil Exploration In Ogoni: Correction

The attention of MOSOP Provisional Council (MPC) has been drawn to a story captioned "MOSOP May Permit Oil Exploration in Ogoniland" in one of the national dailies of January 18, 2012. This followed a statement released by MPC after its inaugural meeting on Monday January 16. Nowhere in that statement was any Deference made to oil exploration explicitly or implicitly. In fact there was no mention of oil exploration at that meeting.

The statement did mention the "protect of the environment and natural resources of Ogoni". The environmental and health disaster in Ogoni resulting from oil exploration as scientifically demonstrated in the United Nations ***Environment Programme's Environmental Assessment of Ogoniland,*** is already a well Known international issue. There are other vital natural resource issues such as the alleged land-grabbing by political and corporate interests. These are the kinds of resource and environmental challenges the Provisional Council intends to address as a matter of priority as stated in that statement.

The issue of oil exploration will be collectively dec.aea appropriate time when the conditions are right. At the moment, the people are much more concerned about deepening poverty and marginalization, exemplified by their exclusion in the distribution of the benefits of the Niger Delta struggle that they pioneered and for wh.ch they made a huge sacrifice in blood and sweat. The Provisional Council also intends to address this concern, amongst others.

Ben Naanen
Chairman, MOSOP Provisional Council

Adeniyi's Swipe On Ijaw People

Mr Olusegun Adeniyi, Nigerians most oracular columnist was at his imperious best in unleashing broadsides at our revered elder statesman Papa Edwin Kiagbodo Clarke whom he remorselessly berated for being an Ijaw "triumphalism" in his article "Their Son, Our President" (Thisday, Thursday Jan 19, 2012). With a baffling dose of righteous indignation, Mr Adeniyi succumbed to the usual ethnic irredentism in dealing with a national issue and exposed himself as being totally unqualified to criticize those he accused of ethnic chauvinism. What is the reason for Adeniyi's petulance?

He made the ridiculous claim that in defending president Goodluck Jonathan when the genuine subsidy Removal protests degenerated to call for regime change chief Clarke "diminished" the presidency. Adeniyi's miff derived from the fact that Chief Clarke and other Niger Delta leaders warned that they would not tolerate the plot to murder their son Dr Jonathan or truncate his mandate. I hope Adeniyi will tell the world the difference between what he terms this "turn-by-turn" attitude of the Niger Deltaans, who he accused of "triumphalism" on account of Jonathan's presidency and the reaction of his own Yoruba people in times past. How can Adeniyi conveniently forget the accusation made by Northerners who backed out of the June 12 struggle because it become "tribalized" or "Yorubalized"? Again, did a riot not occur in Lagos and other parts of the South-West in 1999, at the rumour that then President- Elect Olusegun Obasanjo had been murdered because "Those Northerners" were once again out to "prevent a Yoruba from attaining Nigeria's Presidency"? The "our turn" mind-set is a feature of Nigeria's tribe-defined politicsan no one should expect the Ijaw or other Niger Deltans to hang their heads in a 9.9 magnitude sense of guilt before people of Adeniyi's ilk

In "their Son, Our President ", the author accused Niger Deltans of "inventing cabals" any time they feel a need to fight an orchestrated political mischief against one of their own. I urge our highly rated columnist to tell Nigerians if the Northern power cabal called "KADUNA MAFIA" was coined and freely used by Ijaw people to describe those who connived to deny Nigerians a chance to vote the best man chief Awolowo for the job of President.

It flippant of Adeniyi to claim that Gowon, Shagari, Mark and Yayale Ahmed ensured that Jonathan become acting president in 2010. Was anything less expected of them? They did their patriotic duty just like Ijaw icons such as Late Chief Harold Dappa-Biriye and late Chief Melford Okilo worked hard to "Go One with One Nigeria" under Gowon and give president Shagari the national platform he needed. The South-East and South-South have preserved Nigeria. At least Adeniyi grudging admitted that DR Jonathan himself did his patriotic best for the nation at a time he was treated like a man unworthy to catch a nap at the gates of Aso Rock. Let the word go forth that Nigeria's presidency is for all qualified Nigerians. Like Olusegun and Umaru, Obiajulu, Akpan and Osagie can aspire and attain to the highest office in the land.

Nigerians ought to let MrAdeniyi know that it was uncivil of him to threaten President Goodluck Jonathan with "consequences" for the deployment of soldiers to Lagos. If these "consequences" mean "making Nigeria ungovernable for President Jonathan" then Adeniyi needs to be told that he is inciting the public and that is a crime. In his usual cocky manner, Mr Adeniyi makes a big issue of the fact that the Yoruba voted for Jonathan and so Mr President should never have "rewarded" them with a deployment of soldiers to Lagos , an act he views as bad faith. This simplistic treatment of grave national issues by Adeniyi derives from a poor mind-set and an attempt to play to the gallery of his favoured sections of Nigeria. Come on! In 1999, and 2003 (for Obasanjo) and in 2007 (for yarA'dua) Niger Delta people delivered the highest electoral votes to both presidents. That did not stop them from sending troops to Odi (by Obasanjo) and Gbaramatu (By YarAdua) at latter time Adeniyi was spokesman to our servant-leader. At that time a member of the House of Representatives, Hon Mohammed IbaNa'Allah said the Gbaramatu adventure was "to eliminate 20 million Niger Deltans" so that other Nigerians can steal their resources in peace. Adeniyi now sounds as if both Obasanjo and YarA'dua had "genuine" reasons for deploying soldiers but Jonathan has none. In an uncouth manner Adeniyi dared to warn Nigeria's President in Yoruba and unprofessionally left all Nigerians in the dark as to the meaning of his words; only leaving "the Yoruba wife of Mr. Peteside" to interpret for Mr. President and "his Ijaw handlers".

Mr. Adeniyi has clearly over – rated his place in this country's affairs! He has no Right to berate, ridicule and traduce the generality of Ijaw people because he has an axe to grind with chief E.K Clarke, Mr. Atedo Peter–side and Ann – Kio Briggs. These accomplished Ijaw people have a right to their opinion, owe Mr. Adeniji no apologies and also love their people as much as he loves his own Yoruba people. Offer him a poignant Ijaw saying: "Ejetanji Inyanya mi boro ma," Meaning "do not climb tree beyond the leaves".

Finally Adeniyi asked if people were not "experience" to react and take political advantage of the subsidy removal. Sure they are expected to take advantage; up to asking for regime change through a revolution at GANI FAWEHINMI PARK. I am surprised that Adeniyi is surprised at government's reaction. This sulky subjectivism is unbecoming of a journalist of his standing.

Yes, "our son Jonathan is Nigeria's President". That is simply that.

VICTOR BURUBO
National Publicity Secretary
Ijaw National Congress, INC