

TALLINN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

School of Business and Government

Department of Law

Nduka Sylvester Oseh

CONFLICT OF NIGERIA: NIGER DELTA INSURGENCY

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Supervisor: Peeter Mürsepp, PhD

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I declare that I have compiled the paper independently and all works, important standpoints and data by other authors have been properly referenced and the same paper has not been previously been presented for grading.

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Nduka Sylvester Oseh

(Signature, date)

Student code: A156109

Student e-mail address: slyoseh@gmail.com

Supervisor: Peeter Müürsepp

The paper conforms to requirements in force

.....

(Signature, date)

Co-supervisor:

The paper conforms to requirements in force

.....

(Signature, date)

Chairman of the Defense Committee:

Permitted to the defense

.....

(Name, signature, date)

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ABSTRACT

The insurgence of militancy in the Niger Delta has gone apparently out of control, that has contributed to the disintegrate economy of Nigeria, their several attacks on oil companies have reduced production of crude oil every day in Niger Delta region, that poses a big threat to Nigerian economic development. The identified primary reasons have been the contention over resource control, environmental degradation and constant deprivation of the oil-rich region from the benefits of the oil got from their region and demanded control over their oil resources by the Niger Delta people. For the purpose, this study through the means for empirical study pointed out some few reasons behind the insurgence of militancy in the Niger Delta region, and the feasibility of the militant aim in devastating the Nigerian economy if the continuous circumstance is not controlled. Both primary and secondary data were collected for the purpose of this thesis. 250 copies of questionnaires were distributed and administered, books, newspapers, internet sources and journal articles, were used in the collection of data that is of great use to this paper. The study paper proffers a possible solution on how to provide a lasting solution that will bring peace in the region.

Keywords: Niger Delta, region, militancy, insurgency, conflict, oil

INTRODUCTION

Niger Delta politically and economic involve nine states with various ethnic group, culture, and religion in Nigeria. These regions are the oil (crude) producing states in Nigeria. This is why is known as the Niger Delta. In 2011, these regions have a complete figure of 32 million occupants in that region. These areas turn out to be so famous and innovative due to its rich oil resources that the region generates into Nigerian economy. The Niger Delta region is the real wellsprings of income for the Nigeria economy. The Niger Delta oil resources have put Nigeria to attain the position of the biggest oil-producing nation in the entire Africa countries.

Over the years since the crude oil was discovered in Niger delta region, the people of that Niger Delta regions faced are serious pollution and environmental degrade that they have to complained to the Nigerian government and the oil companies that is situated in that region for the government and the oil companies to put everything in check. These oil regions are facing high unemployment, poverty, no social amenities, and infrastructures. Despite, the abundant oil resource from these regions they are the last of the least developed regions in the country because the government and the oil companies has neglected them so long in all areas of development anyone can think of, despite their oil wealth as a means of economic survival of Nigeria.

Nigerian sees the Niger Delta conflict as political and regional conflict. Furthermore, it is clear that the Niger Delta conflict is not just about a political and regional crisis. These regions have stood out as an important region to the Nigerian economy and development of the country, West African sub-region and to the global economy in general. Nevertheless, since Nigerian economic growth and development depends on the Niger Delta natural resources (crude oil) to sustain the country's economy, one cannot say that the economic survival of Nigeria depends on any other region expect Niger Delta region. Today and in the time past even in time to come, the economic survival of Nigeria will largely rely upon Niger Delta resources in all areas of development. Therefore, the Niger Delta region deserves the utmost attention from the government and the oil companies that is sited in that region in terms of development. (Abidde 2017).

Although the oil that was discovered was small commercial quantity by Shell company in 1956 in Oloibiri (presently in Bayelsa state), oil business did not start until two years after its discovery. At first, oil contribution was not regarded as a source of revenue to national economy that was dominated by cash crops. Therefore, it was not until the mid-1960s that the expansion of oil export (in the face of declining cash crop revenue) crude oil began to draw some political consideration (Obi 2010).

The Niger Delta region has been Nigeria's source of revenue and economic survival since the end of Nigeria Biafra civil war in 1970 when the discovery of oil took over from the agricultural sector as the backbone that sustains Nigerian economy. Moreover, Lieutenant Colonel Odumegwe Ojukwu who was the pioneer of the Biafrans (Igbos) that led the Biafra war. The war started a couple of years after the independent in 1960. The Biafrans has seen that the Nigerian military government oppressive would not allow the Biafrans to develop even benefited from the government or even survive as one united nation.

Therefore, the Igbos and non-Igbo representative that consist Biafran came together in seeking their own Republic of Biafra. In this way, the Biafrans demanded to breakout from Nigeria because of oppression from the Nigerian military government. After diplomatic impacts, Nigeria neglected the unity of the country. At this point, the war between the Biafrans and Nigeria began. The war claimed thousands of lives and properties to their sources of revenue (Agricultural crop), before the discovery of crude oil in some parts of the country.

In spite of the huge revenue Niger Delta is generating, the government and the oil companies undermine the development and wellbeing of the people in that region in every aspect of development. Most importantly, poverty and high rate of unemployment, the Niger Delta region is described by environmental issues. Poor governance and social issue that threatens the lives and wellbeing of the entire communities constitutes the Niger Delta region (Abidde 2017).

Sustainable development is the contemporary development model that the Niger Delta people strive economic equality, environment, and social issues, to guarantee equal opportunities and sustainable standard of living for the present generation without denying such opportunities to future generations to come (Ibaba 2012). The main driver of all the militancy in Nigeria Delta region includes greed and selfishness, hardship, poverty, deprivation and "social injustice". The simple meaning of social injustice according to expert, it is a situation that one contribution

equals its benefits, in other words, when a person is denying the benefit for his/her contributions, it is what they call social injustice. The Niger Delta region cried out to the Nigerian government for environmental pollution (damages) from oil extraction thereby cause unemployment, starvation, and poverty in the region. In this regard, the Niger Delta youth (militant) come together and decides to fight for what the government has denied them over the years. This led them to violate oil pipelines, kidnapping some foreign oil workers, because the government and the oil companies have refused to listen to the plight of their people (Niger Delta region).

The Niger delta contributes endlessly to the economic growth and development of Nigeria, Niger Delta region has gotten nothing in return rather than neglects, destruction, create high rate of unemployment whereby increase poverty level in the region. Without social justice, there will be no peace, development, security in the Niger Delta region and economic development will keep on elude them. As indicated by specialists, "social justice is an essential element for socio-economic development". Social justice creates a sound agreeable condition for development. Because of the social injustice in the Niger Delta region, the entire country is gradually becoming politically and economically unstable. The Niger Delta militant group where structure to fight for social justice and equity and economic development base on their contribution to the national economic growth and development.

The issue here is despite the fact that the Niger Delta region produces monstrous crude oil, yet the Niger Delta area rates the least of all the developed region in the entire country. The annihilation brought about by oil spillage and gas flaring has made it practically impossible for the people to earn a living from their God-given natural resources. In communities where oil extraction is carried out, the outcomes are various, deforestation, disintegration, corrosive rain and farmland are been devastated by oil exercises in the area, are the main signposts for this endowment of nature. Activities of the oil companies caused the contamination of the creeks and destroyed aquatic lives. Furthermore, when there are spillages, the damages are unquantifiable, for instance, the Mobil oil spill, on Ibeno shoreline, in January 2013; and a few other oil spillage occurrences on August third and 24th; November 9, December 16 and 19, all in 2012.

Shell oil spill caused a colossal loss of lives, destroyed lives, harmful to the ecosystem of the area, and devastated fishing gears. Satisfactory remuneration and environmental cleanup has not been done. All these brought the agitation by the militant that resulted in many crises in the region. There were no appropriate environmental evaluation of the region and the obnoxious

land use decree, 1978, which theoretically put the responsibility for landed property on government and deny the people of their inherited natural resources.

The economic life of Niger Delta people strongly depends on their immediate environment. The people that lives around water, that their environment is totally sounded by waters are largely anglers and traders, though those in the lands cultivate cash crops and food crops for example, cassava, yam, vegetables, and cash crops, for example, oil palm and rubber plants. Given the territorial specialization between the coastal.

These problems highlighted above show that Niger Delta region is an important region for the growth of Nigeria economic and development. The essence of this paper is to investigate some of the objectives this paper tends to achieve. This paper will in general investigate the public (youths) agitation in the Niger Delta region and its consequences on National security. Secondly, to find out the importance of Niger Delta states in the development of Nigeria, as regards the absence of insurgence in the region. Lastly, to ascertain the roles played by the Nigerian government on the insurgence of militancy in the Niger Delta region. This investigation will endeavor to focus on the primary purposes for the insurgence of militancy in the Niger Delta region and how best to beat these fomentations for good. In other to achieve these objectives, this study attempt to answer these research questions.

- 1) How important is Niger Delta to the growth and development of Nigeria?
- 2) What are the primary reasons for the Niger delta insurgence?
- 3) What measures has the Nigerian government taken concerning the insurgence of militancy in the Niger Delta region?
- 4) What are the consequences of militant agitation in the Niger Delta on national security?

The purpose of this paper is to gain an understanding and the reasons for the Niger Delta agitation and the factors that influenced it. This will need to conduct an inquiry into this phenomenon by using qualitative and quantitative research, the use of questionnaire to obtain primary data as methods of capturing data.

Thesis statement

The Niger Delta region remains an important key factor to Nigeria because of its enormous roles to the economic growth and development to country through its oil resources. Regardless, the insurgence of militancy in the region presents high challenges to the region and the national security of the country. This challenge as they appear in the Niger Delta zone comprises bombings of oil companies and oil facilities, killing of oil workers and oil bunkering. All these attacks in this region is carry out by a group of people known as Niger Delta militant, that tends cause more attack on the region, with the sole aim is to frustrate or cripple Nigerian economy.

Justification of the study

Niger Delta conflict is one of the most concerned in international relation. A good number of people have tried to find the root cause of the problem and its implication on the affected region causing hindrance and poses threat to the peace and security globally, Nigeria in particular. This study is not only seeking for the implications or the cause of conflicts that Nigeria is facing due to inability to trace its root cause, but it also tries to look at the internal challenges facing Nigeria citizens and the government against security and wellbeing of the people. However, this study could give feasible recommendations for resolution

1. METHODOLOGY

This chapter defines the research methods that the researcher uses to conduct the study. This chapter shows how important data and information to address the research questions and objectives was collected, presented and analyzed. For the purpose of this study, the study relied on both primary and secondary data in order to come up with accurate objective findings.

1.2. Primary data

Primary data is referring to a firsthand data collected by the research for the purpose gathering new data. Primary data is information that was collected for its primary purpose in which it is originally used. (Jewel 2001). For the purpose of this paper, the researcher collected data using interview and questionnaires. Two hundred and fifty (250) questionnaires were administered to the citizens in Niger Delta region while interview was conducted to few oil companies in the region. Primary data collection is considered more appropriate and accurate for this study since there are few related publications that the researcher could lay his hands on for the purpose of the topic under study.

1.3. Secondary data

As indicated by Smith (2008), secondary data is that information gathered from existing data by a researcher from other existing data. With the expected goal of this paper, secondary data was used in order to investigate what another researcher has done. It is an investigation of data that could be used to gather information for some other reason. It also provides a source of data that is accessible to another researcher to be used.

1.4. Population of study

The Niger Delta region occupies over 8.2% of the total land mass of Nigeria, these include; Bayelsa, Delta, Rivers State, Edo, and Ondo State. Oil workers, Staff and Students of Petroleum

Training Institute and a good number of eligible adults in the state irrespective of gender, state of origin, occupation and qualification.

2. THEORETICAL VIEW

Niger Delta is an outstanding region for its reputation as one of the biggest oil-producing regions in Nigeria and Africa at large. For the purpose of this study, David Easton's system model (Theory) was used in clarifying the connection of the militant crisis and development in the Niger Delta.

As explained by David Easton's system model (Theory), he expressed that for the different parts to be essential and interactive a part of the system ought not be disparaged; he focuses that interaction could be viewed as a way on how different part of the system carries on, when all parts (individuals) of the entire system assume their expected role. The political framework is a part of the whole system that ought to be prepared to interact from its environment and the environment is thus open to cooperate with the political framework by the activities of the political framework. This implies if any part of the system is affected negatively or threatens with consistent insecurity, political instability, unemployment, poverty, and crisis. In this scenario, where the Niger Delta region is the only source (crude oil) of revenue for the Nigerian government. The Niger Delta militancy remains a major threat to national security. The system model concentrates more on the relevance of parts to the entire system, However, Niger Delta region as a part of the system remains an indispensable part to the entire system (Nigeria), and this will give a clear understanding of the connection between the Niger Delta region and Nigeria as a whole.

2.1. Niger Delta Crisis Exposition

Two theoretical viewpoints are adopted in clarifying the Niger Delta situation and its impacts, in the region. Conflict theory and Ken Saro-Wiwa's Development of Racism (Odey 2013). To begin with, for Ken's "Development Racism Theory", sees the situation in the Nigeria Delta, much the same as rank seeking for states that work together with extractive industries (global Oil Organizations) to exploit its own people in a resource-based economy. A country like Nigeria, Sudan, Liberia, Namibia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo give enough proof in this regard (Odey 2013).

2.2. Causes of the Niger Delta Conflict

The conflict in the Niger Delta comes about because of two critical forces: internal force and external force. Without any further question, internal force has played and kept on playing an essential impact in the Niger Delta savagery. To be sure, most scholars have records of the Niger Delta crisis focus on the connection between the viciousness and these internal forces including federalism/constitutionalism, political precariousness, debasement, resource control, contamination, poverty, ethnicity and antiquated abhorrence, and political and social underestimation, this will be detail in a few words. Any case, this is not the main reasons for the Niger Delta crisis. In addition, the involvement of internal force to the viciousness is not important to the destructive imagined by the external forces especially the plan of external prejudice that is the synthetic forces that drives oil companies in the Niger Delta region. This paper will analyze these forces within group settings where their impact was fundamentally felt especially in the oil fields of the Niger Delta. This paper will likewise use this opportunity to present a portion of the imperative ideas that are critical to our understanding of the Niger Delta conflict.

2.3. Political instability and poor governance

Many Researchers have contended that political unsteadiness in Nigeria is some degree responsible for the underdevelopment of the Niger Delta region and by the proposal, the Niger Delta brutality (Ake 1996; Ukeje 2001). Starting with the Gowon administration (1966-1975) to the present, administrative instability, particularly the nonattendance of development in government approach has affected the economy and social development of the region. For instance, there have been just two-recorded non-military personnel to non-military staffs' move of intensity in Nigeria since its independent in 1960. Besides the Obasanjo-Yar'Adua change in 2007 and the Yar'Adua - Jonathan transition in 2011, each change in Nigeria was predicated by military set up by military government.

2.4. Ideology

Niger Delta militant charges the administration and oil companies for maltreatment, misappropriation and misuse of oil revenue that could be used for the development and benefits

for the Niger Delta people. They challenge the standard pay sharing equal and further the political structure and its parts for the piece of centrality. Along these lines, the agitation of the Niger Delta people and militancy are first.

Furthermore, two central issues contain the ideological introduction of the Niger Delta conflict confirmation and resource control (Osaghae et al 2007). Certainty joins the benefits of the Niger Delta people to live just in its very own particular way, be its own specific political fate, secure its own specific way and make itself or even democratize, as it should consider fit (Okwu-Okafor 1994). It relates, "in actuality, the general population that are oppressed, abused, neglected, overpowered or even maligned to support and include themselves into a substitute state" (Osaghae et al 2007).

One can conclude from these causes is that there are mismanagement and misappropriation of fund issue in Nigeria. In addition, many researchers have given us close hints of moral agreement government helped and abetted with savage organization identity maintained by the full quality and impact of western private venture and its supremacist establishment and practices. As far as possible starts as sustenance and unmistakable necessities have turned out to be imperceptible from the structure of Niger Delta worker. The manageability conflict addresses from different ways over Nigeria's administrative structure, its constitution, the nature of grouping legislative issues, resources control, human security, and peace, despite the fact that the crises continue escalating.

Generally, the Niger Delta has pulled in extraordinary thought and in this way has a rich history. The literature on the Niger Delta concurs that the oil companies (industry) that are situated in Niger Delta region has not brought any sort of development, employment even security in the region; rather, it has undermined their development and their wellbeing. For instance, it was trusted that the discovery of crude oil in such region ought to be used to support the indigene of that area and the whole country to sweep away unemployment, poverty, starvation, to provide social amenities and every other facility that will enhance rapid development. Rather, their Rights and source of livelihood have been detracting from them. In this way, causing environmental threat through oil extraction by the oil companies. Besides, State laws and policies as they relate mineral resources (oil resources), denied the indigenous people of Niger Delta of their right to their natural resources (Aaron 2006).

The second is the conflict theory, which sees activism, militancy, hugger and snatching as consequences of audacious capitalism and clear narrow-mindedness that appear in the enslavement and separation at both micro scale and macro scale level of society inciting surplus motivation for government's agencies and the multinational companies working in the region (Shell BP; Exxon Mobil, Chevron and others). This situation in Mark's view assumes pressure between incongruent forces, gives the source of progress that is achievable through the solidarity of direction and the different indications of the viciousness that created in the Niger Delta region (Nkokocha 2012).

The basic assumptions of the two theories mentioned above is that contention is unavoidable in resource-based economy in light of the fact that the government, example Nigeria and others, referenced above, for the most part, plotted with foreign industries to misuse their own people. The attempt by the general population to oppose such misuse more often than promotes conflict (Ering and Akpan 2012). More so, the returns from the oil resource do not use to serve the people, promote high rate of poverty, high level of unemployment and lack of essential social infrastructure related with resources-based economy of the Underdeveloped nations.

This is the condition in the Niger Delta region, where clear proof from existing literature demonstrating pay little attention to the monstrous resource the country has increased during the time which crude oil was discover. Nigeria attains the positions of 156 out of 187 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI) (UN, 2011). It is a way to demonstrate that neglecting the huge resource that is generated from the Niger Delta region, the communities and the people in the region, critical level of unemployment and the contaminated environment by the oil spillage.

2.5. The Concept of Conflict and Violence

Conflict occurs when there is contradiction or contention, either in political setup or in an organizational setup. Conflict is an inevitable component that will undoubtedly happen in the human race, either as individual or as groups, even in religion setup, there is always a conflict of thoughts, choice, and interest for position particularly in the political field. Conflict does not make the decision easy but rather it will make it very difficult thereby making it very complex and complicating either as an individual, group, organization even in a political setup as well.

On the other hand, a conflict occurs within a group of people and members of an organization. This has been identified as one of the sources of stress. As indicated by Goldpin, conflict can be view as "constructive or destructive". If conflicts are properly handled constructively, there will be a mutual understanding and peace, between the parties involved. In any case, when pacification and resolution fail there is every possibility that the conflict will result in crisis or war if not properly deal with (2013).

In the same view, any demonstration of savagery that is carry out as means of accomplishing once goals or objective can be view as a conflict. It can be in the form of political activities, the use of a dangerous weapon to cause harm to people. Additionally, a few government administrations have disregards and overlook the situation in the Niger Delta region. The government and the oil companies has neglected and failed in their social responsibilities by providing them social amenities, construction of schools, medical centers even unemployment is on the high rate of subjecting families to abject poverty.

Much could not be said why and how crisis emerge. It is complex and distinctive in every situation, and individuals waging war often have more than one reason behind it. One conceivable pathway to rebellion and civil war distinguished by the researchers is a way by which individuals possibly rebel over the loss of livelihood and the intensifying of their regular conditions. When the natural environment in which people rely on for survival is pollute, they will normally have a feeling of deprivation. In this scenario, it is not difficult to imagine that places, where the living condition is far too unfulfilled for the populace, would be more vulnerable to crisis.

In Africa, one can say it is facing a few difficulties in such a way that the majority of the Westerners have been saved. There is not just the tremendous poverty and the bloodsheds of various civil wars and the troublesome transitions to democracy, however, the resources of the land and the livelihood of people are vanishing at a disturbing rate. Desertification, deforestation is the cause of the problems of the current land degradation and is only fuel further by the increasing level populace. This entire scenario, this could be the only factor that triggered conflict in the Niger Delta region.

The structure and effectiveness of the institution of governance is likewise one characteristic that isolates Africa from the western world and could be a deterrent factor that decides the vulnerability and adaptability of the people facing with environmental issues. In any country where the environmental experts are not as ready or prepared to deal with the implications that the degradation procedure involves, the shortage of resources may intensify the political circumstance further. One probability is that the people began to lay blames on the authorities for their complaints, the institution in charge of redistribution. To govern properties, resources, and men in their relationship to them when there is no resource maybe is not that easy, yet what if the authority in charge does not respond to the challenges in a positive way? (Ekroll 2006).

One crisis that seems to have components of environmental degradation as a reason is the fight that happens in the oil-rich Niger Delta region in Nigeria. Since the 1990s, the Niger Delta region has declined into a risky region of violence and conflict, instigated by the militant, tribal warlords, misguided youths and ethnic groups fought each other over local governance and the control of resources (Ekroll 2006).

Nigeria is the most populated country in the whole of Africa continent. It was anticipated to double its populace in the next 20 to 30 years. The significant impact on the environment in the Niger Delta, however, is the oil exploration. Few of the various group lives under the condition that is best described as an environmental hazard (Watts 2004).

3. THE NIGER DELTA CASE: REASONS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

This chapter attempt to give a clear understanding on the root cause of Niger Delta militancy insurgency and seek for possible solutions that enhance lasting peace in Niger Delta region.

3.1. Important of Niger Delta to the growth and development of Nigeria

The Niger Delta region is an important locale in the entire Africa continent. The region is Nigeria's source of economic survival of national income in light of its position as the biggest oil and gas reserves in the country as a whole.

Basically, there are many channels through which oil resources could contribute immensely to the economy of Nigeria. One, the enormous revenue from Niger Delta enables Nigeria government to spend and contribute massively without making plans to tax assessment or levy on the citizen. The huge revenue from oil, if truly utilized, could fill in as a "major push" for economic advancement. This channel is especially fundamental for developing countries where shortages of capital frequently to economic setback and thereby create room for serious unemployment in the country. Moreover, the colossal revenue from oil exports, aside from being used to import raw materials, intermediate and capital goods for production in the non-oil section could comparably help to boost the foreign reserve of the Nigerian economy. The foreign reserves can be used as collateral that will attract the attention of foreign investors (Dooley et al 2004). Likewise, such holding can be view as over self-protection strategy to clear vulnerability effects on domestic and foreign reserves and to help in the foreign exchange market.

Niger Delta region remains, as the principal actor to the Nigerian economy, with oil playing a dominant role in the economic growth and development. Statistics published by Canadian Focus of Science and education, about 56.7 billion barrels reserves and 3.13% of world production, Nigeria has the world's tenth biggest shown a total of 5.3% global reserves and is among the main 10 oil producers in the world, since oil was discovered. As far as output production and product distribution, Niger delta has become the sole player in production all over the country. Niger delta has increased tremendously, in production of oil and generates more revenue to the

Nigerian economy since the discovery of oil in Niger Delta. Extraction of unrefined petroleum (crude) expanded from 4.3 million barrels to 593.5 barrels. Oil production later declined in 1967 and 1968 because of the civil war. In any case, productions moved from 595.7 million barrels in 1970 to 690.1 and 845.5 million barrels in 1975 and 1979 respectively. The increased in oil price to boost production in the country (Enisan 2012).

Nigeria can be said to be oil dependent country because all of its export earnings is relying on oil. The Nigerian economy has been solely depending on oil export revenue. Over the years, Nigeria has experienced stagnated economic growth and development because of its failure to economic diversification. The basis of Nigeria's economic survival is largely depending on the shoulder of the Niger Delta. Obviously, the Niger delta region has proven to be the Nigerian economic life wire for survival. Indeed, Niger Delta is the economic giant of Nigeria.

3.2. Reasons for the Niger delta insurgency

The main drivers of the Niger Delta crisis can be trace to the skewed land distribution, environment debasement, and unequal political representation. Economic peace building targets in both small scale and large scale (micro and macro) that creates economic opportunities and guarantee that the basic needs of the people should be provided. Microeconomic scale, social orders ought to set up micro-credit institution to increment economic activities and investment at the local level, to advance inter-communal trade and an impartial appropriation of land and increase school enrolment and job training. On the macroeconomic scale, the post-conflict the government ought to be aided its efforts to secure economic development and infrastructure that is necessary as a transition to peace and development in Niger Delta.

The Niger Delta insurgency emerges due to the environmental threats and pollution from oil extraction by the Nigerian government that has contaminated the natural environment of the region. The environment contamination (pollution) has turned into a major danger and a big threat to the people in the Niger Delta region. This has presented ecological danger as well as economic threat thereby resulted in a high rate of unemployment in that region. Economic security, economic empowerment, human security, environmental security, employer, human security, food security, job opportunity, political security and stability are what the Niger Delta demands from the government. Security to ensure maximum protection from disease and to

improve their wellbeing. Niger delta region has been neglected for so long by the government despite its rich natural resources that generate huge revenue that serves as the only source of income to the Nigerian government for economic growth and development.

The factors that are responsible for the Niger Delta crisis are varied and many; prominent among the factors will be discussed in the following paragraph.

It was realized that the allocation of oil revenue is at the core of political struggles in Niger Delta. Few stakeholders contend that the citizen of every Nigerian state should be allocated (revenue) equally from the oil revenue. While others, interestingly, hold that the oil-producing region (Niger Delta) ought to get a more allocation to compensate them for the damages on their lands and environment that deprive the people of their source of livelihood. Regardless of whether and how these two principles for resource distribution can be reconciled and remain contested. However, given rising oil price and the substantial increments in revenue accruing to the Niger Delta, the manner in which the allocated allocation is being used is the cause of disagreement. The percentage of oil revenue that is given to oil-producing regions varied over time.

Deprivation, there is no way we can deny the fact that Nigeria has the umbilical cord of its economy constantly tied to the Niger Delta region natural resources, to be specific oil which has been generating huge revenue with which Nigeria government use to keep the economy of the country running for good number of years now.

However, there is nothing to show in the Niger Delta region regards to development, in spite of the enormous contribution of Niger Delta to the Nigeria economic improvement. Community and individual lands have been taken from that community and landowners by the government and oil companies. The and deprivation is the first of all factors that cause Niger Delta people to ascend against the government and the oil companies that was situated Niger Delta region. Oil was discovered in the community and individual landowners. An oil exploitation activity was carrying out on their lands by denying the landowners and the community the access to their land-property because oil is drain from the ground.

The oil-bearing enclaves, on the other hand, depend upon the land to grow the crops, fish, and hunt. The land is basic to the social system of the general population of the Niger Delta just as other parts of Nigeria. In this respect, the securing land by the oil companies for pipelines passage and gas flaring locales consistently causing clashes between the oil companies and host

communities. Most of the time, these disagreements are caused by the quantum of compensation paid to landowners similarly as remunerations paid to the wrong families (Aghalina 2001). More so, the persistent increase in oil spillage in the Niger Delta has rendered the region perilous for them to consume their God-given natural resources such as water, the forest that is supposed to be a great blessing to them.

The second factor is the weight of the devastated environment. As it might have been, the searching for, and generating of, oil and gas have influenced unfavorably on the natural environment of the oil-bearing enclave in Nigeria. A wide logical accord suggests that there is serious natural debasement and crisis in the oil-bearing enclave of the Niger Delta (Aghalino 2008). According to Aghalino, he pointed that Nigeria has a flawed identity of having the biggest gas-flaring rate in the world, while gas flaring which is a path for safely disposing of waste gases by utilizing combustion to promote serious natural and environmental issues for the oil-producing communities in Nigeria.

Another factor responsible for Niger Delta insurgency is lack of basic socio-economic infrastructure. Lack of basic infrastructure has become the cause of disagreement between the government and the Niger Delta people. The government fails to provide them the modern socio-economic amenities that will engender social and economic growth. In Niger Delta social amenities like health facilities, electricity, good roads, pipe borne water even schools are not in good shape in that region. The negligent from the government has made the region to experience a high level of poverty in all aspects of life, hunger unemployment and starvation has taken over the region.

Besides, the demand for resource control is another factor the set off the Niger Delta youths. The youth tumult in the region is apparently predicated on their conviction that they should get credible compensation from oil companies and the government since they are the only source of revenue that the entire country relies on for economic survival. The Kaima Affirmation adopted by more than 5,000 Ijaw youths best clarified the request of the Ijaw and the various Niger Delta people (Aghalino 2001).

One of the high reasons for the declaration was on the resource control and an adjustment of the Nigerian state. The affirmation attested that all land and natural resources, including minerals resources within the landscape of the Ijaw region, belongs to the Ijaw people (community) and is

their means for survival. The Ijaw people stop to perceive every single undemocratic law that robs its people of the privilege to proprietorship and control of their resources that was enacted without their participation and consent. Despite the tremendous revenue generated from oil and revenue accumulating to the nation, the economy of Niger Delta drastically declined. Niger Delta has just profited little sources as a derivative flow from the country pulse.

Lack of commitment toward the welfare of Niger Delta region. The Nigerian Government has failed in their responsibilities to ensure long lasting solutions to the problems that the people are facing that made the people of the region to result to arms and ammunitions to fight their right. The government has more interest in what the oil companies pays to them then the lives of the people in that region who suffered the brunt of oil exploration.

It is not a thing of surprise that the condition of life of Niger delta people has gone beyond poverty and to the kind of life no one would ever wish to experience. Their lives are characterized by limited access to health service, poor and inadequate housing, limited access to good water for consumption, no access to education both in urban and rural areas, bad roads, limited access to agricultural inputs and limited access to incomes generating activities that can sustain their lives.

Since 1999, the Niger Delta region has been experiencing an environmental threat to human security, a threat that emerges from the environment. The government authority and delegates have exacerbated the threat to human security to people for a long period of economic mismanagement; endemic defilement and absence of accountability and transparency are what the people suffered over the year since crude oil was discover in their region. The discovery of oil in Niger Delta is relying upon to bring development and give the people the expected economic development and wellbeing of the people. Oil as expected, as not brought any form of development to the people or better living condition or government attention to the plight of the people rather it has brought nothing then hardship, hunger, instability, economic mismanagement and corruption that led to the neglecting the Niger Delta region in terms of development.

Most writers are pointing accusing fingers on the Nigeria government as the cause of the crisis in Niger Delta region. The long neglect of the region is the root cause of the crisis against the government and the oil companies that situate in Niger Delta. According Oladimeji (2009) cited in Atlantic Express, vol. 9, 2009, “if we are to be honest and sincere to ourselves, you all we agree with me that the federal government of Nigeria has been not fair to the Niger Delta region

in area of development. The Niger Delta has been the backbone of Nigeria economy by generating revenue with which the government use to run this country for so many years since crude oil was discovered in that region. As we, all know that Niger Delta produces massive oil that generates huge revenue for this country. The funds from oil were used to develop many northern states including Abuja. Those good roads and all the infrastructures that was built in all the northern states were funded from oil revenue”. As one of the top government officials, Oladimeji admitted in his statement that the government has indeed neglected the Niger Delta for too long and this has resulted to violent from the people.

According to Suleiman (2008), in his own view, he stated that poor management from government negligent is the root cause for all the problems that the Niger Delta is facing today. All the government does is to give them false promise and lip services to issues that concerns Niger Delta without any implementation. This is an injustice on of Niger Delta region, which contributed so much to the development of Nigeria economy. Niger Delta lays the nation’s “golden egg”, but nothing to show for it except a wasted landscape and poverty on the people. Finally, the government has failed to ensure high standard of environmental regulations (security) concerning the oil activities in the region and this has posed serious threats of concerned to Niger Delta region.

3.3. Measures taken by the Nigerian government concerning the insurgence of Militancy in the Niger Delta region

The federal governments had at one point attempted to determine the Niger Delta challenge. This was in acknowledgment of the implication of delayed nonattendance of peace, security, and stability in the locale for the Nigerian economy. The Nigerian government has reacted to the militant crisis in the Niger Delta locale. The government has to find a way to address the crisis in the Niger Delta region by looking for a lasting solution to the issue in that region.

First, the government pronounced military action against the militant. The government response to the Niger Delta crisis was proclaiming military action against the people. This military affirmation against the action has failed. Despite all the military actions to arrest the situation in the Niger Delta region to a stop, yet resulted to a negative outcome, rather complicating the problem that resulting to more casualties. The arrest and imprisonment of the militant leader is

also part of government action to put an end to the crisis, in which the government believes that could bring peace.

Since 2009, the government has attempted to use military power over militant activity thinking that the use of military power against them will bend them to submission. The government has failed to understand that the option of diplomacy could be preferable to the use of force. The use of military force alone has not been known to achieve sustainable reconciliation and peace in the Niger Delta region. This also failed and created more anger against the government and those who supported them.

In addition, the government sets on to introduced development improvement programs.

The developmental projects government had mounted in the Niger Delta region incorporated the Niger Delta Basin Development Authority (NDBDA), the mineral Producing Areas Development Authority (OMPADEC) and the latest, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and the Ministry of Niger Delta Development (MNDA). It is obvious, the country has never been found in policies initiative. What aggravated the militant group, is that policies have never been pursued to it fullness or to a logical conclusion. The youth agitations and kidnapping of oil workers and demand for ransom in the region. This implies that the impact of the above-mentioned program has no significant impact on the problem (Nigerian Tribune 2008).

The two agencies, the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs were essentially introduced to start up the Niger Delta development. The two agencies have flopped in their essential task of development in the region of concern. The Niger Delta commission was set up before the amnesty program to help encourage the requests of the people by guaranteeing the sustainable development of the Niger Delta into a region that is an economically prosperous, socially stable, environmentally stable and political stability.

The major issue that confronted the agencies might be corruption. There is a thought the commission may have turned into a source for well-connected politicians to embezzled money that meant to fund the project goes into their private bank account. This implies that some politician that is in charge of the program has siphoned the public funds for development initiative in Niger Delta region.

Finally, the government initiated the amnesty program. The Niger Delta amnesty is the last attempt made by the government of all other policies and programs made to address the Niger Delta problem has failed. Amnesty program was introduced with the hope that it will yield a lasting solution to the problems that will mitigate peace, security, and development to the region. At the point when, when all past efforts exertion including the Niger Delta Development Commission, the ministry of Niger Delta Affair and all corporate social obligation and reasonable development initiatives to address the main drivers of the crisis have all failed.

All the past resolutions and development strategies neglected to convey the guarantee because of lack of political will and honesty, political interests, neglect to the Niger Delta area, ineptitude and debasement by the top government authorities (Ezeocha 2016).

As the Nigerian Government released its state fear through its fierce constraint, the social development that has turned out to be savage at this stage turned out to be progressively brutal in its approach of the militant group increased, making it hard to investigate and misuse oil in the region. In any case, the approach is by all accounts a triumph since its declaration and the appearing consistency of the militant conveyed relative peace to the long time ago agitated region.

Sadly, these initiatives have not and cannot work since they share individually and collectively some common shortcomings. The first and most crucial shortcoming is that they depend on a wrong comprehension of the quintessence of the crisis and subsequently challenge of development in the Niger Delta. A second shortcoming that they all have in common is that they embraced arrangements are, best-case scenario not earnest and at the very least, developed to keep up existing conditions. This clarifies the conscious disruption of the development programs by the very state authorities who favor them. Thirdly, they are generally command in nature. These are the ideas of those who are responsible for the conflict in the Niger Delta, instead of those people in the Niger Delta.

The amnesty policy was primarily introduced as a compromise procedure. As a way to deploy a conflict resolution strategy. It also perceived as a social change effort. This is because the amnesty was believed to be a structure and foundation on which a significant part of the social and economic development of the Niger Delta region will be secured. In that capacity, a democratic framework can safe guides planning, implementation and evaluation of social change effort like amnesty program. A democratic system is a force for freedom, poverty alleviation and

political freedom. If properly handled, pertinent majority rules system shafts may go about as impetuses for manageable positive social change. This is particularly valid for Niger Delta people, communities, and ethnic nationalities that have suffered minimization and deprivation, just as suffered brutality and has been denied of essential economic and environmental rights by each government Regime (Ezeocha 2012).

As indicated by the amnesty pronouncement, the entire militant must stop all their actions of attacks, surrender their weapons to the government, renounce their brutality action, and present themselves for rehabilitation and reintegration to society before the amnesty could turn into a legitimately restricting contract. The offer and acknowledgment of the amnesty demonstrated that all group was prepared to set contrasts aside and willing to do all that they can to guarantee lasting peace and security reestablished to the Niger Delta. Disappointment by any of the group to accept or stick to the agreement can prompt militancy of viciousness in the region.

The amnesty, which needed much detail, just expressed that aggressors who set out their arms within 60 days would not be arraigned for the crime committed during the time of devastating Nigeria's oil industry. Since the government started the amnesty strategy, a good number of automatic rifles and explosive ammunitions have been turned in. Some groups of militants have given themselves over as well, however, the significant militant group like the Development of the liberation of Niger Delta region. The amnesty policy is seen with doubt guaranteed truce yet not demilitarization of the group. This means that the amnesty policy has not given any room for dialogue between the government and the militants' group and it does not address the root cause of the crisis.

4. PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

This paper tends to analyze the data from the questionnaires that were minister that enable this thesis to answer the questions that initiate this thesis. As initially stated, a total number of 250 questionnaires where ministered.

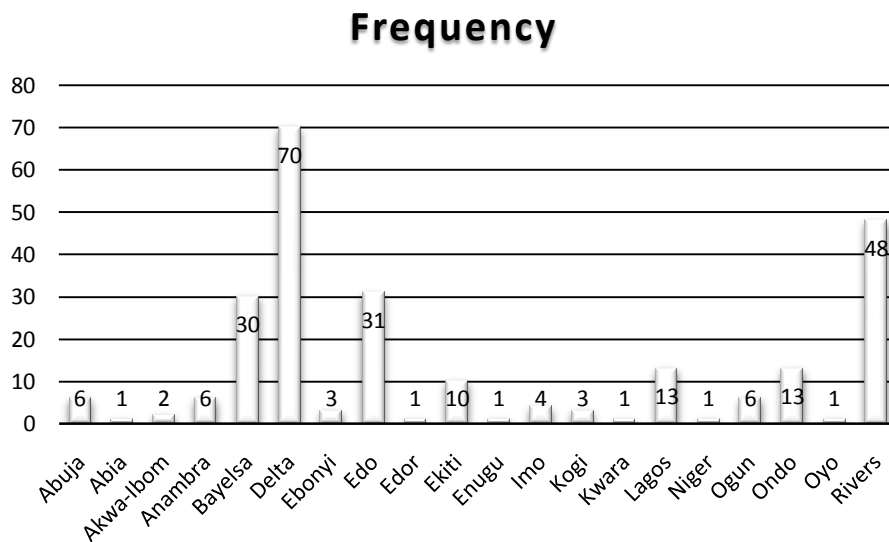


Figure 1. Shows the demographic of the respondent as categorized

Source: Nduka (2019, 01), author's calculations.

The total number of 250 questionnaires that was distributed were successfully collected and were used for this paper (thesis).

Table 1: Present the Reponses to the question how important Niger Delta region to the growth and development of Nigeria is.

	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative percent (%)
Strongly Agreed	140	56	56
Agreed	60	24	80
Undecided	30	12	92
Disagreed	13	5.2	97.2
Strongly Disagreed	7	2.8	100
Total	250	100	

Source: Nduka (2019, 01), author's calculations

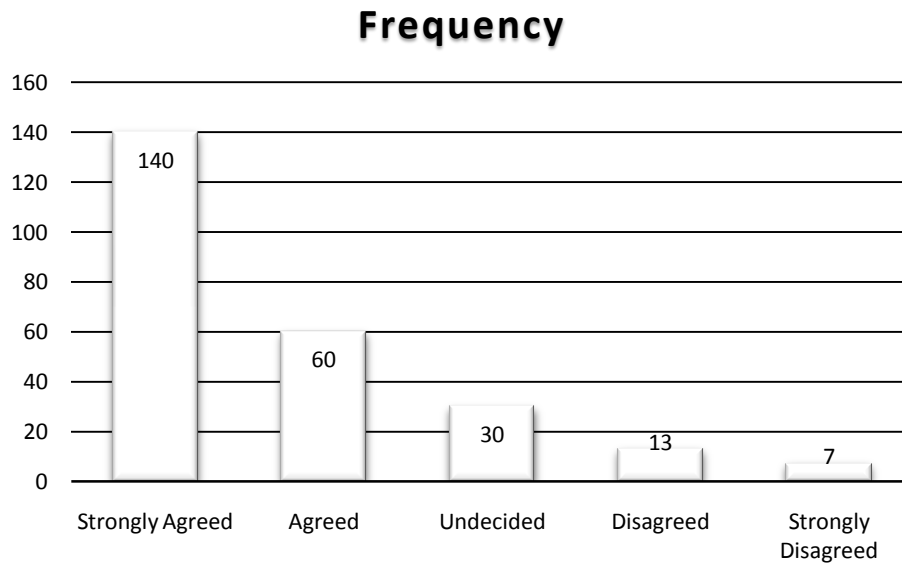


Figure 2: Niger Delta region is important to the growth and development of Nigeria
 Source: Nduka (2019, 01), author’s calculations

Table 1 connotes the respondent’s opinion on the importance of Niger Delta to the development of survival of the Nigerian economy. 56% strongly agreed, 24% agreed, 12% are undecided, 5.2% disagreed, and 2.8% strongly disagreed (Figure 2).

Obviously, the table denotes that Niger Delta region is the most important region than all other regions in Nigeria. The region is believed to have contributed a gigantic percentage of Nigeria’s revenue. The attack from the Niger Delta youths (militant group) poses serious threat and insecurity to the national security. For the focus of this study, the Niger Delta region remains the only region that cannot be set aside or ignore (indispensable) because the economy power of Nigeria lies on the shoulder of Niger Delta.

Table 2: The Nigerian government is responsible for the militancy in the Niger Delta

	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent (%)
Strongly agreed	64	25.6	25.6
Agreed	46	19.6	45.2
Undecided	57	22.8	68
Disagreed	60	24	92
Strongly disagreed	20	8	100
Total	250	100	

Source: Nduka (2019, 01), author’s calculations

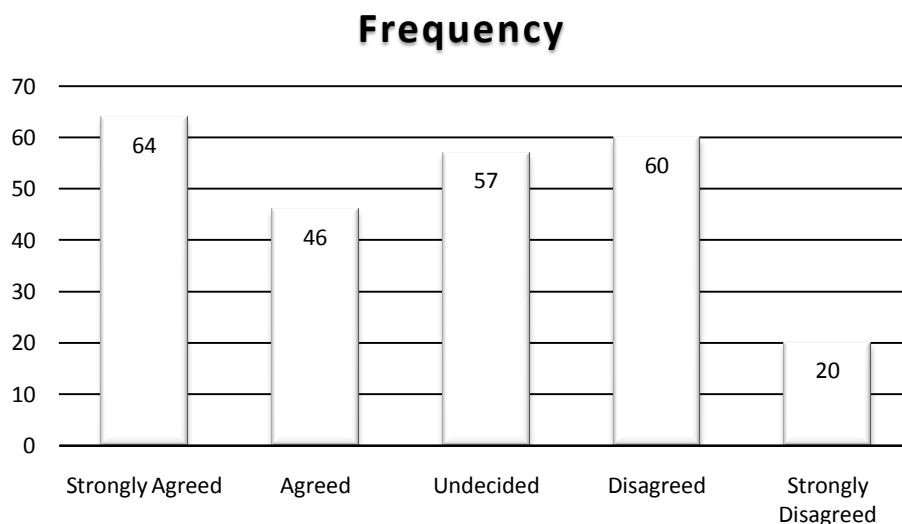


Figure 3: Nigerian government is responsible for the militancy in Niger Delta region.
Source: Nduka (2019, 01), author's calculations

Table 2 presents the response to the question of whether Nigerian government is responsible for the resurgence of militancy in the Niger Delta. 25.6% strongly agreed, 19.6% Agreed, 22.8% undecided, 24% disagreed, 8% strongly disagreed (Figure 3).

Table 3: The oil companies are responsible for Niger Delta militancy

	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent (%)
Strongly agreed	141	56.4	56.4
Agreed	50	20	76.4
Undecided	35	14	90.4
Disagreed	16	6.4	96.8
Strongly disagreed	8	3.2	100
Total	250	100	

Source: Nduka (2019, 01), author's calculations

Frequency

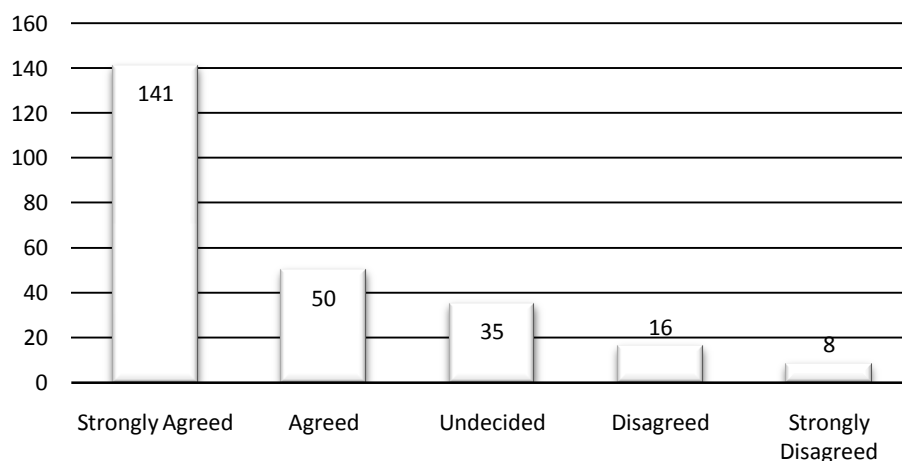


Figure 4: The oil companies are responsible for Niger Delta militancy

Source: Nduka (2019, 01), author's calculations.

Table 3 shows the respondent's responses to the above statement; the oil companies are responsible for Niger Delta militancy. 56.4% strongly agreed, 20% agreed, 14% undecided. 6.4% disagreed and 3.2% strongly disagreed (Figure 4).

Table 4: Dialogue with the militants will bring about long-lasting peace in the region

	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent (%)
Strongly agreed	120	48	48
Agreed	70	28	76
Undecided	20	8	84
Disagreed	30	12	96
Strongly disagreed	10	4	100
Total	250	100	

Source: Nduka (2019, 01), author's calculations.

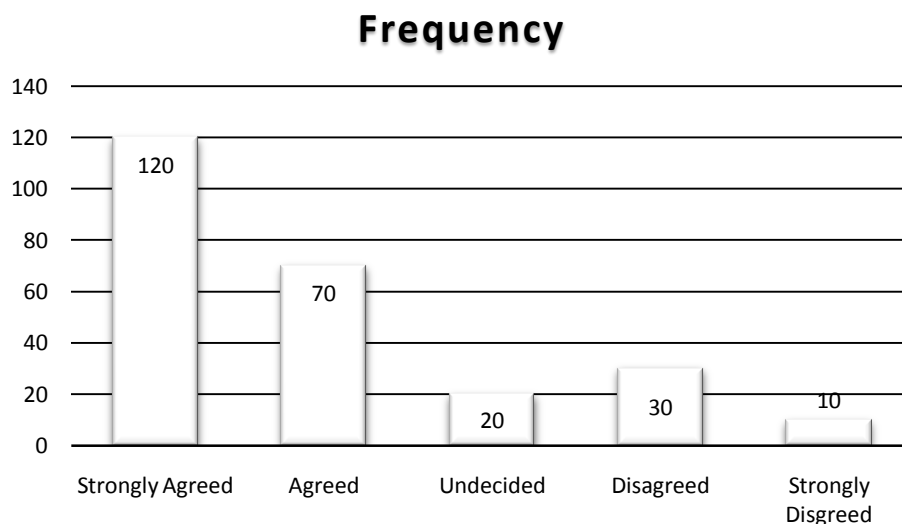


Figure 5: Dialogue with the militants could bring lasting solution to peace in Niger Delta region. Source: Nduka (2019, 01), author's calculations.

Table 4 shows the responses to the statement; dialogue with the militants could bring lasting solution to peace in Niger Delta region. 48% strongly agreed, 28% agreed, 8% undecided, 12% disagreed, and 10% strongly disagreed with this statement (Figure 5).

Table 5: National security will lead to sustainable development in Nigeria.

	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative percent (%)
Strongly agreed	130	52	52
Agreed	50	20	72
Undecided	30	12	84
Disagreed	17	6.8	90.8
Strongly disagreed	23	9.2	100
Total	250	100	

Source: Nduka (2019, 01), author's calculations.

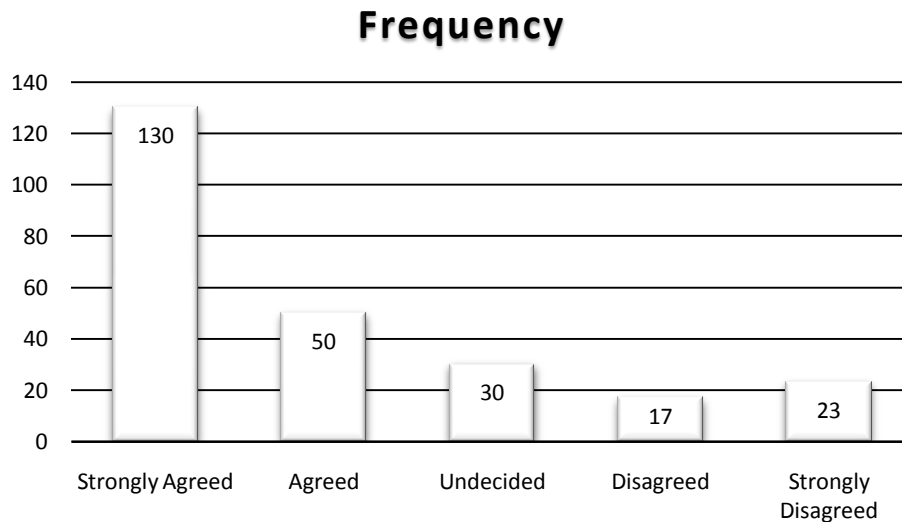


Figure 6: Can National security lead to sustainable development in Nigeria
 Source: Nduka (2019, 01), author's calculations.

Table 5 Shown the responses to the above question, can National security lead to sustainable development in Nigeria, 52% strongly agreed, 20% Agreed, 12% Undecided, 6.8% Disagreed and 9.2% strongly disagreed (Figure 6).

Appendix 1 presents the demographic of the respondents, which was categorized by their states of origin, 28% of the respondents were from Delta state, which is the highest, Oyo, Odor, Niger, Kwara, and Enugu all have 0.4% percent, which is the least on the table. Figure 1 above presents the distribution of the respondents on histogram; the essence of this is to have a pictorial view through a statistical chart.

Appendix 2 shows the volume of gas flared since 1992. The table shows that the production of natural gas has increase rapidly over the years. For example, in 1992 only 70 million cubic meters was produced, but it has in to 12,057 in 2004 and 26,350 in 2012. There is a drastic increase in production of gas in 2017. Production amounts to 30,358 in 2017. It is only little amount of gas that was produced was utilized, while significant portion of gas was flared. For instance, in 2004 production was about 99 percent of gas was produced, while nearly 70 percent was flared. Additionally, the different oil prospecting organizations throughout drilling for unrefined petroleum spilled into the coastal and offshore marine environment with a negative effect of making the water in the locale risky for human utilization.

CONCLUSION

In this paper, a lot of work has been done to investigate the reason of the Niger Delta militancy crisis, how important is Niger Delta region to Nigeria economic growth and development, the challenges to the national security, the steps taken by the government to put an end to this problem in Niger delta region. This paper has also proffered some solution and recommendation that will bring lasting peace in Niger Delta region even to the entire country.

For the purpose this paper, this paper has come to a conclusion that the Niger Delta militancy is driven by the economic and environmental issues, and would not rest until these challenges (crisis) are taken care of or they proceed with their arrangement of the traitor on oil resources and facilities, this has been the major threats the national security. The paper likewise lay emphasis on the negative impact military force as a means of resolving Niger Delta crisis, as exhibited by the Federal government's underlying the use of military power against the militant and the entire region that turned out to worsen the situation.

The government has been unable to maintain the truce memorandum set up by the past government through the amnesty program and benefits accrued to it is one reason for the rebellion of militancy in the Niger Delta region. Instability of government over security issue in the Niger Delta region can be said to be because of economic and environmental complains that poses threats not only to the locale but also to Nigeria in general as the significance of the Niger Delta region to Nigeria cannot be overlook.

Promote National security is a major factor that can bring sustainable development. The respondents emphatically concurred with the possibility that emphasis on national security will bring economic improvement and peace the Niger Delta region.

The Federal Government as a way to bring peace to Niger Delta initiated the amnesty program. Nevertheless, it seen as rights step in the right direction. The program fails to be of any help as a solution to the problem. In the cause of investigation of this paper, the respondents responded that diplomacy and negotiation is a way to possible resolution of the Niger Delta crisis.

This passage has given a clear answer to all the research questions that was formulated for the purpose for this paper. How important is Niger Delta to the growth and development of Niger? In (table 1), 56% strongly agreed that Niger Delta is an important region that has sustained the economic growth and development of Nigeria since the discovery of crude oil in region. In this regard, this thesis has a clear answer that Niger Delta region is an important region to Nigeria, as a whole. Therefore, the economic power of Nigeria lies in Niger Delta region.

Research question 2 has reviewed the reason behind Niger Delta insurgency and has brought this paper to a conclusion that Niger Delta region has been neglected for so long. Poor development, unemployment, poor social amenities, poverty and starvation, environmental threat (pollution), the quest for resource control by the Niger Delta people (Militant) and most importantly deprivation of the Niger Delta citizen from their lands and all other resources in that region. These factors aggravated the insurgency by the militant.

Question 3 has pointed to all the policies and programs that the federal government embarks on to bring peace in the Niger Delta region. For the purpose of this paper, is obvious that all the initiated program and policies by the government did not to find any lasting solution to the Niger Delta crisis. Rather making it worse because of lack of implementation of the policies set up by the government, inadequate funding, and no commitment from the government agency, corruption and bad political system and agenda.

Finally, the militant activities have become a big threat to national security and even to international communities as well. All foreign investors see the crisis in Niger Delta conflict as serious threat to their lives and investment. As we can see in table 5, that national security will bring sustainable development in Niger Delta region and to the entire country.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following suggestions will contribute towards settling the Niger Delta crisis. Firstly, it is necessary that the government be fair-minded and impartially handles the issues that instigated the crisis in the Niger Delta region.

The Amnesty program that was initiated by the government was a correct positive development; however, the government should endeavor to reevaluate it to maintain some level of trust. More so, if amnesty programs were initiated without any plan for infrastructure and employment program the government would have just engaged the militant in some government initiatives that will be of benefits to the entire region. Thus, there are urgent needs for economic empowerment of the Niger Delta people. The government should construct modern facilities, create employment for the youths and provides an infrastructure that would transform into superstructures, set up schools and build, establish a stable power supply. In addition, there should accountability.

Nigerian government should engage the militant group in dialogue because the militants are not just only young youths, but they are educated and well sophisticated whose all their activities are well calculated. More measures ought to be set up to guarantee normal cleanup of the Niger Delta locale, particularly by the oil majors and furthermore a quick reaction of the government concerning issues that influences environmental debasement in the Niger Delta region. A sense of belonging and responsibility sought to be inculcated by the government.

It will be a good thing that the international community should put serious pressure on the Nigerian government to engage in some kind of negotiation and dialog over resources control in a diplomatic way.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Demographic of the respondent as their states of origin.

	Frequency	Percent (%)	Cumulative Percent (%)
Abuja	6	2.4	2.4
Abia	1	0.4	2.9
Akwa-ibom	2	0.8	3.7
Anambra	6	2.4	6
Bayelsa	30	12	8
Delta	70	28	46
Ebonyi	3	1.2	47.2
Edo	31	12.4	59.7
Edor	1	0.4	60.1
Ekiti	10	4	64.1
Enugu	1	0.4	64.5
Imo	4	1.6	66.1
Kogi	3	1.2	67.3
Kwara	1	0.4	67.7
Lagos	13	5.2	73
Niger	1	0.4	73.3
Ogun	6	2.4	75.9
Ondo	13	5.2	81
Oyo	1	0.4	81.4
Rivers	48	19.2	100
Total	250	100	

Source: Nduka (2019, 01), author's calculations.

Appendix 2: Gas Produced and Flared, 1992-2017

Year	Gas Production	Gas glared Mm
1992	70	
1993	140	-
1994	177	--
1995	300	-
1996	540	-
1997	570	-
1998	1, 290	420
1999	2, 400	300
2000	2, 340	570
2001	2,234	100
2002	1, 280	280
2003	5, 192	750
2004	12, 957	-
2005	12, 072	10, 973
2006	16, 222	12, 670
2007	20, 972	22, 486
2008	2, 710	670
2009	1, 356	17, 272
2010	22, 976	18, 780
2011	22, 341	19, 200
2012	26,350	23, 400
2013	17, 202	16, 340
2014	12, 580	11, 209
2015	13, 400	11, 409
2016	17, 390	14, 908
2017	30, 358	13, 957

Source: Niger Delta Environmental Survey (NDES), Volume 1, Socio- Economic Characteristics, (Lagos: NDES)