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Oil spill kills three in Bayelsa

By Isaac Ombe, Yenagoa

Three people have been reported dead in Ikebiri, Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of Bayelsa State as result of effects of massive oil spill.

The community is demanding N15b compensation for the destruction of lives and economic activities in the area.

The spill is said to have emanated lastweek from the old pipelines of the Nigeria Agip Oil Company (NAOC)-darkening water and threatening lives.

Those who died as a result of the effects, according to the traditional ruler of Ikebiri community, HRH Francis Timi Ododo, in a statement in Yenagoa, included Mrs. Ruth Oweifa, Mr. Toru Ebi and Chief Paebi Samuel. They "died as a result of complications arising from acute watery diarrhea, bacillary dysentery and typhoid with medical reports available"

Besides, these deaths caused by the diseases arising from the spillages in the environment, Ododo added that "many more are sick".

He disclosed that the community is sustained by farming, hunting and fishing in the vast fresh water swamp rivulets that is polluted; including palm trees and several other fishing nets and traps.

"The impacted area covers over 130,124,489 hectares of fresh water and forest swamp land", disclosed Ododo who lamented that "the area is completely wasted, the vast agricultural land have seized, great poverty, hunger and malnutrition" have visited the area.

"The entire ecosystem has been irreversibly damaged" by the massive oil spill lamented the traditional ruler who decried that "Ikebiri kingdom has been victims of incessant Agip oil spills from crude oil pipelines since 2007 till date."

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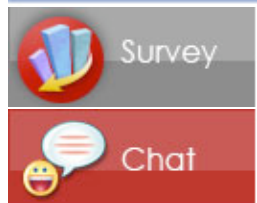
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