

SEPTEMBER 9, 2016

New Telegraph

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Avengers: 20 Soldiers Killed In N'Delta

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Posted on Sep 9 2016 - 1:42am by **Dominic Adewole** Views: 66

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- Says 'Operation Crocodile Smile' a corruption pipe-hole

The Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) yesterday condoled with the families of slain soldiers and President Muhammadu Buhari over the death of about 20 soldiers since the Operation Crocodile Smile of the military started in the Niger Delta.

The group, which described the ongoing military operation in the region as a corruption pipe hole designed by top military hierarchy to further milk Nigeria's treasury, said so far, four soldiers were killed in the creeks of Bayelsa and another 16 were murdered during the first four days of the military exercise declared in Delta State, along the River Ethiope. .

While the militant group attributed the death to negligence, administrative greed and corrupt practices within the rank and file of the military, which they said was "perfected by the ascendance of the APC political class and conflict merchants, the group urged the presidency to investigate the circumstances leading to their murder.

The group equally expressed worry at the unending military invasion of the creeks, especially towns and villages in Gbaramatu Kingdom, which was inflicting untold hardships and psychological trauma on the locals. The spokesperson of the group, Brig Gen Mudoch Agbinibo, in a signed statement, tagged, "The great white sharks of the Atlantic," yesterday, said the top hierarchy of the Nigerian military were only deceiving the Federal Government and collecting money to sustain insecurity in the Niger Delta.

“The High Command of the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) and the entire membership on behalf of the good people of the Niger Delta offer our condolences to the families and Mr. President, Muhammadu Buhari, Commander- In-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, over the murdered of soldiers in the ongoing military operation cum exercise codes named ‘Operation Crocodile Smiles’.

“We have earlier advised against timing, strategy and objectives of the show of military might and the deployment of military hardware to the Niger Delta suddenly when there is certainly cessation of hostilities for peace talks to commence.

“But the top hierarchy of the Nigerian military was only after his pecuniary monetary gains. “The advice is that all lives matter. Why are you in a hurry to train over 2,000 military personnel for just 4 to 14 day on amphibious military exercise to occupy the Niger Delta region when the Niger Elders and stakeholders are awaiting your response for peace talks?

“Have you forgotten the exploits of our great fathers during the infamous Nigerian Civil War in amphibious warfare without any military training? Is it because they were volunteers as such the success was credited to Late Lt. Col. Benjamin Adekunle and Lt. Col Olusegun Obasanjo instead of them?

Mr. President as a veteran of that fateful war, you know that after all

failures, the amphibious warfare and successes was under the command of Lt. Gen. Isaac Jasper Adaka Boro of blessed memories, the pride and face of the 3rd Marine Commandos (3MCDOS) constituted of able-bodied Ijaw warriors voluntarily. They were not given any formal military training prior to that great contribution to the unity of Nigeria, but they succeeded because there were amphibious by nature.”

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