



HOME NEWS BUSINESS POLITICS SPORTS ARTS & ENTERTAINMENTS METRO AND CRIME SUNDAY MAGAZINE SATURDAY MAGAZINE EDITORIAL

BUSINESS

FEATURES

# OML 55: Oil asset security breach threatens 248,000 barrels



Published 12 hours ago on December 10, 2019

By Adeola Yusuf



## ●Four JTF soldiers killed in oil bloc pirate attack

The security of oil assets across the Niger Delta was, at the weekend, breached, threatening the over two million barrels per day production from acreages across the region.

This, checks by this newspaper showed, was buoyed by a fresh attack on Oil Mining Lease (OML) 55 where four soldiers were feared killed.

Belemaoil, operator of the bloc, produced 248,000 barrels from the asset in October 2019.

Nigeria had increased production in recent past due to the relative peace it enjoys at the oil rich Niger Delta region.

The new attack at the Buguma Creek is, however, posing threat to the oil production if not managed in time.

This came as details of how pirates allegedly killed the four soldiers of the Joint Task Force of the Nigerian Army on Belemaoil operated OML 55 emerged at the weekend.

CATEGORIES

SELECT CATEGORY

FACEBOOK

ABUJA MAN REVEALS (FREE) SEC THAT INCREASED MANHOOD AND POWER IN 7DAYS  
... CLICK HERE TO GET IT!



BUA ADVERTS

The soldiers were guarding the oil bloc located in Rivers State in the Eastern Niger Delta and a report by Africa Oil + Gas Report showed they were killed when pirates confronted a gunboat on a creek in the licenced area.

“The soldiers were killed on the Buguma Creek,” the African focused oil and gas magazine reported.

Noting that further details “are still sketchy and Belemaoil officials say they are still conducting their own investigations,” the report said: “The perspective that Africa Oil+Gas Report gets from the company is that the confrontation that led to the killings was not targeted at Belemaoil.”

The Nigerian independent oil firm acquired Chevron Nigeria’s 40 per cent of the JV asset in 2014, with the state hydrocarbon company, NNPC, holding 60 per cent.

It is currently ‘carpeting’ the acreage in three dimensional (3D) Seismic Survey.

The BGP/IDSL consortium is acquiring the data, which spans 1,300 square kilometres on the surface, covering the Robertkiri, Idama, Inda and Jokka fields in the acreage as well as some adjoining areas.

“At a time when there’s very little exploration in the country, the OML 55 survey is one of the largest seismic acquisitions in the swamplands of the Niger Delta.

“The surface area of the acreage is 808 square kilometres, and the programmed fold of coverage is 180. Belemaoil expects to acquire deeper than six to seven seismic seconds, so it can image possible reservoirs as deep as 14,000 feet True Vertical Depth subsea,” the report read.

It is in the nature of seismic acquisitions to survey more than the areal size of the asset, if the desire is to cover the entire acreage, to ensure that every inch of the territory is accounted for in the resulting, processed data set.

Belemaoil’s founder and chief executive, Jack Rich Tein, is reputed to be a community friendly ‘son of the Niger Delta’, but that hasn’t shielded OML 55 from the incipient violence in Rivers State.

Indeed, there has been a spike in kidnappings of oil workers in Rivers State in the last nine months, from the run up to the February-March 2019 elections through the several months in the aftermath.

No other state in Nigeria’s oil rich belt has been as overwhelmed with criminality, in recent times as Rivers.

The OML 55 survey was supposed to take 20-24 months from November 2018, meaning that it would have been completed by November 2020.

Belemaoil produced about 8,000 barrels of oil per day from OML 55 in October 2019 and it is hoping to utilise the seismic data to improve the field development and increase production by at least a factor of three.



**Share this:**