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## NIGER DELTA MILITANCY: A BANE TO NIGERIAN ECONOMY

**WOJUADE, James Idowu**

Department of Social Studies

Emmanuel Alayande College of Education, Oyo

+2348023469676

[jameswoju@yahoo.com](mailto:jameswoju@yahoo.com)

### Abstract

*This study investigated the causes and effect of Niger Delta Militancy. The study employed descriptive survey research design to sample opinion of the youths on issues relating to Niger Delta militancy. The study was guided by two research questions. The sample for this study comprised one hundred and fifty (150) respondents selected through a purposive sampling technique. The instrument used for this study comprised of self-designed questionnaire containing six (6) items relating to the subject matter. Analysis of data was carried out using frequency counts, tables and percentages method of statistics. The result of the study revealed that economic and political marginalization, unemployment and poverty are among the major causes of Niger Delta militancy which have serious consequences on Nigerian economy. It is recommended that the government needs to go beyond policy making and rhetoric (Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, Niger Delta Development Commission & Amnesty Programme), and put in place basic infrastructure in the Niger Delta region, the government needs to immediately ensure that the Oil producing companies comply with international standards by stopping gas flaring and clearing all oil spillages, the derivation quota from the federation account should be raised to 25%, 13% should be disbursed through the state governments, while the remaining 12% will be utilized in direct development of the oil producing communities through provision of infrastructure according to need and human capital development.*

**Keywords:** Niger Delta, Militancy, Nigerian Economy.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The area which is described as the Niger Delta region of Nigeria lies between latitude 4° and 6° north of the Equator and 4° and 8° east of the Green-which. It comprises the states of Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Edo, Imo, Rivers, Bayelsa, Delta, Abia and Ondo until the recent inclusion of Lagos in 2016 making it coterminous with all of Nigeria's oil producing states (Eyinla and Ukpa, 2006).

The Niger Delta covers an area of well over 70,000 square kilometers, covering the greater part of the South-South region and some parts of the South-East region of Nigeria. It derives its names from the River Niger and is one of the world's largest wetlands and Africa's largest delta.

The Niger Delta is one of the largest deltas in the world, probably the third largest on earth. The region is regarded as one of the nine most difficult deltas of the world comparable to the Mekong, the Amazon and the Ganges. It is situated in the central part of southern Nigeria (Azaiki, 2007, World Bank Report, 1993: Ile & Akukwe, 2001).

The region covers areas about 70,000sq km and account for 7.5% of Nigeria landmass and has a population of 25 million, 40 ethnic groups, 250 differing dialects with 3010 communities. The region also accounts for 80% of Nigeria Gross Domestic Product and represents the economic jugular of the country. However, one issue that has continued to attract national and global attention in recent times is the spate of militancy in the Niger Delta. The frequent attacks on oil installations and facilities by militant groups in the region have become a source of concern to peace lovers, scholars, and policy makers alike (Fidelis and Kimiebi, 2011).

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

It is pertinent at this stage, to attempt a clarification of some concepts which are germane to the understanding and explication of our current subject.

### **The Concept of Militancy**

Various definitions had been given to the term militancy. The word "militancy" can be understood as the act of individuals, groups, or parties displaying or engaging in violence, usually for a cause, whether religious, political, ideological, economic, or social. Nowadays, the term militant is synonymously used in the term "terrorist" (Quamruzzaman, 2010).

Militancy is a state or condition of being combative or disposed to fight for a cause or belief (Chindah and Braide, 2000). It has also been defined as a violent response by an individual, group or sect in a region, community, state or nation due to claim of underdevelopment, political oppression, religious beliefs, and segregation. According to Ashimolowo and Odiachi (2012), the motive is that people want their rights and if they are not going to get it by negotiation, they simply will then have it by violence against the "powers that be".

Hornby (2009) defined militia as an organized group of people comparable to a military force. Quamruzzaman (2010) was of the view that the contemporary sense of the term militia as "paramilitary force motivated by religious or political ideology, especially one that engages in rebel or terrorist activities in opposition to a regular army" is associated with the US usage in the early 1990 as applied to a number of rightwing groups opposed to gun control and distrustful of the federal government.

In the modern times, various movements seek to apply militancy as a solution or use militancy to rationalize their solutions for issues. But these movements do not share common tactics. Usually, a militant uses violence as part of a claimed against oppression. Quamruzzaman (2010) stated that a militia movement has five dimension; ideology, motivation, mobilization, organization and ritual. This word is sometimes used to describe anyone with strongly held view (e.g. militant Christian, militant atheist). A militant person or group expresses a physically aggressive posture while in support of an ideology or a cause. A militant person is confrontational regardless of physical violence or pacifistic methods. These forms of militancy are unique to the quest for resource control in the Delta oil rich region of Nigeria.

### **The Emergence of Militancy in the Delta Oil Rich Region**

The history of militancy in Nigeria can be traced back to the year 1966 when Isaac Adaka Boro led a campaign for fair deal in the Niger Delta Region through a rebellion with his Delta Volunteer Service (DVS) against the federal government. Though the revolt was crushed by the government but it brought about consciousness in the minds of the Niger Delta people on their right to access their God's given wealth. Furthermore, the consciousness to bring to the international level, the suffering and deprivation of the people of Niger Delta was championed by Ken Saro-Wiwo in the 90s. He applied no violent means aimed at redressing the political and socio-economic wrongs imposed on the Niger Delta people through the platform of Movement for the Emancipation of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) founded in 1992 (Ejibunu, 2007).

The then Head of State, General Sanni Abacha not being comfortable with the movement accused the leader of the group, Ken Sarowiwa of inciting members of MOSOP to kill four Ogoni elders. He and eight other patriots were arraigned for trial in a military tribunal set up by Abacha led government. They were convicted and hanged in November, 1995. Far from the accusation leveled against Ken Sarowiwa by General Abacha, Ejibunu (2007) observed that his more likely crime was his effort to organize the Ogoni ethnic minority against destruction of their homeland by the operations of Shell and Chevron, the multinational oil companies and seek compensation for his people's lost farmland and fisheries.

After a decade of the hanging of Ken Sarowiwa, the potential consequences of the Niger Delta militancy and conflict have escalated in both human and economic terms. This gave rise to the emergence of various militant groups to undermine the activities of the oil companies using different methods, tactics and strategies thereby daring the Nigeria State. Prominent among such groups are the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), the Joint Revolutionary Council (JRC), the Niger Delta People Volunteer Force (NDPVF) and Movement for the Survival of the Ijaw Ethnic Nationality (MOSEIN), and recently on February 2016 the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) the little-known group at the time published its list of demands to President Muhammadu Buhari failing which the group would ground the Nigeria economy by attacking oil installations. In what the group termed, Operations Red Economy, it outlined its grievance with Buhari's government. It condemned Buhari's lack of federal character in appointment and the fact that his anticorruption war was targeted at former President Goodluck Jonathan and the government's opposition figures.

## **CAUSES OF MILITANCY AND INSECURITY IN THE NIGER DELTA**

There has been a high rate of militancy, and insecurity in the Niger Delta started from 2006. This can be attributable to several factors including the marginalization of the peoples of the Niger Delta, environmental degradation, bad governance and inconsistent policy framework, and the divide and rule policy of the oil companies.

### **Marginalization, abject poverty and massive unemployment**

The Niger Delta communities have remained grossly socio-economically underdeveloped and pauperized amidst the immense oil wealth owing to systematic disequilibrium in the production exchange relationship between the state, the Trans-national companies and the people. Enormous money had been derived from oil export but the area has been subjected to severe land degradation, socio-economic disorganization, increasing poverty, misery, military occupation and bloody violence (Pegg, 1999).

Oil extraction has impacted most disastrously on the socio-physical environment of the Niger Delta oil bearing communities massively threatening the fragile subsistent peasant economy and bio-diversity and hence their entire social livelihood and very survival. The oil producing communities have basically remained dependent and underdeveloped, persistently dis-empowered, socio-culturally marginalised and psychologically alienated, wealth derived from oil resource exploitation and exports benefit directly only the operators of the oil industry and the bureaucrats in government (Owabukeruye, 2000).

Ejibunu (2007) posits that “the discovery of oil in the Niger Delta region in 1957 triggered a chain of events that has led to the political and economic marginalization of the inhabitants.” Despite over forty years of oil production in Nigeria and hundreds of billions of dollars of oil revenue (Oronto, et al., 2003), the inhabitants of the Niger delta region, especially the riverine (creeks), remain in abject poverty. Poverty level is about 80% while unemployment level is about 70%. They live without even the most basic amenities such as pipe-borne water and electricity (Ibaba, 2005). Mukagbo (2004) opines that “in the Niger Delta, scenes of abject poverty pervade the area, very similar to what you find in a refugee camp”.

The distribution of resources from the federation account has been another source of marginalization for the Niger delta. Prior to 1999, the allocation to the Niger delta from the federation account of revenues from oil, decreased progressively as Nigeria became more dependent on oil. In 1960, the allocation was 50%, then down to 45% in 1970, declining to 20% in 1982, down to 3% in 1992. It was raised to 13% following persistent agitations from the Niger Deltans (Ikelegbe, 2006).

Unemployment is very high among the people of the Niger delta. The youth from the Niger delta do not benefit from the presence of the transnational corporations especially the oil companies operating in their communities. Less than 5% of the people from the Niger delta work in the companies, while women from the region working with the oil companies are less than 1%. Those who benefit through employment by the oil companies are from the non oil producing parts of Nigeria (Ejibunu, 2007; Brisibie, 2001).

### **Environmental Degradation**

According to the World Bank, there are five great plagues of mankind: war, famine, pestilence, environmental pollution, and death. The Niger Delta is in the throes of becoming an environmental wastebasket. From the oil spills to the round-the-clock gas flares and effluents from industrial wastes, the fragile ecosystem of the Niger Delta is under constant

assault. However, it is still a mystery that no comprehensive study of oil exploration in Niger Delta and its effect on the environment exists (He & Akukwe, 2001). "The unbridled exploitation of crude oil and natural gas beneath the lands of the Niger Delta has caused indescribable and irredeemable ecological devastation of the Niger delta land" (Azaiki, 2003). Okaba (2005: 18 - 20) sums up the environmental impact of the oil industry in the Niger Delta of Nigeria as land deprivation, soil quality alteration, destruction of aquatic ecosystem and air pollution.

### **Destruction of Aquatic Ecosystem**

A major environmental tragedy in the Niger Delta is the waste of aquatic ecosystem. This aspect is quite significant to the people, being that it constitutes a grave threat to a hitherto economic hub of their lives- fishing. It is a common sight that in the process of oil exploration and production materials such as drill cuttings, drill mud and other fluids that are used to stimulate production are discharged into the environment and most end up in the streams and rivers (Nwaomah, 2009a). These chemicals are not easily degradable and the skimming of oil on the water surface hardly solve the problem since most of the oil might have sunk to the bottom of the water surface leaving grave consequences such as: (a) surface and ground water quality deterioration in terms of portability, aesthetic and recreation, (b) destruction and reduction of fish life and fisheries production of the waters, (c) destruction by acute and sublethal toxicity of aquatic flora and fauna of spills on water and benthic macro (Okaba, 2005: 19-20.).

### **Soil Quality Alteration**

Soil quality alteration is another environmental problem that the Niger Deltans contend with as a result of the oil industry. It is an environmental condition that is caused by a collection of oil exploration and exploitation activities such as construction of flow lines and trunk line networks, terminals, digging of location waste pits and barrow pits, oil spillage either from equipment failure, human error, corrosion of pipes due to age and sabotage (Nwaomah, 2009b). It is estimated that as at 2002 about 8581 oil spills, involving nearly 28 million barrels of oil have occurred in the Niger Delta (Okaba, 2005: 15).

Other factors responsible for the soil quality alteration are the unceasing gas flares; drill cuttings, drill mud and refinery waste. The harmful effects of these elements on the soil are unquestionable (Nwaomah, 2009a). Owabukeruyele (2000) argued that the compounds from the numerous petroleum wastes contain organic chemicals such as phenol cyanide, sulphide-suspended solids, chromium and biological oxygen that leave destructive effects on the land and water.

### **Air Pollution**

Gas flaring is a primary source of air pollution in the Niger delta. The oil companies are wrecking the ecosystem of the Niger delta through uncontrollable gas flaring. Gases flaring takes place twenty four hours and some are believed to be burning for over thirty years, thereby resulting in the release of hydrogen sulphide. The oil companies are not only destroying the Niger delta, but they are also contributing to global warming (*Comet Newspapers*, 2001).

The pollutions released and the noises from the vibration are injurious to human health.... It is also argued that the chemical emissions from the flaring contribute to acid rain, trigger skin diseases (Okaba, 2005) and the quick corrosion of roofing sheets in the Niger Delta area, a common sight in this region. A secondary source of air pollution in the Niger

Delta is the incidents of fire resulting from leakages from the exposed and corroded oil pipes that are scattered all over the region (Nwaomah, 2009a).

The environmental degradation being carried out by the oil companies in the Niger delta as a result of their non compliance with internationally recognized environmental standards are damages that their consequences cannot be limited by time. Unfortunately, available evidence shows that the trend is worsening as the government lack the political will to ensure compliance to rules by the oil companies (Doran, 1995; Ojomu, 2002; Susa, 1999).

### **Divide and Rule Policy**

Over the years the oil producing companies operating in the Niger Delta have adopted a divide and rule method in which they identify for compensation, people in the host communities they believe have the capability to influence the indigenes to ensure that they have a peaceful environment to operate in, at minimal cost. A minute part of the money that should have been spent on corporate social responsibility (CSR) in the development of the host communities are paid to such individuals and groups. As such in some communities, traditional rulers and local community leaders have become corrupt as they have become recipients of various contract awards and cash payments at the detriment of the communities they represent (Kemedi, 2003).

Where there has been crisis of leadership in the host communities, the oil producing companies have tended to support whichever faction they believe had the capability of disrupting its operations "as opposed to which groups or factions were properly constituted and traditionally legitimate" (Ikelegbe, 2006). In furtherance of this policy, the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) ignored the traditional rulers and elders and accorded recognition, partnered and related with the youths, simply because the youths had more disruptive power on oil production. Therefore the youths emerged as community leaders. These youths became the power brokers, the liaison with the MNCs, and the object of MNCs patronage (Kemedi, 2003; He & Akukwe, 2001).

The realization by the youths that violent protests and disruptive actions elicited immediate actions and payments by the oil companies led to emergence of several youth groups or militias. These youth groups became more daring in their tactics, from minor threats of disruption of activities emerged full blown militancy activities, "some youths began to hijack ships and helicopters, kidnap MNCs staff, and vandalize facilities in order to obtain pay offs, ransoms and payments from the oil companies" (Ikelegbe, 2006).

### **The Various Forms of Militant Activities in the Niger Delta Region**

#### **1. Attack on Military**

Movement of the Niger Delta People (MONDP), Martyr Brigade (MB), Freedom Freelance Fights (FFF), Niger Delta Vigilante Force (NDVF), Niger Delta People Salvation Front etc., have engaged the joint military task force drafted by government to enthrone peace and security of lives and property. Most of the attacks with sophisticated weapons have led to loss of lives of many soldiers and law enforcement agents especially the recent activities of the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA).

#### **2. Attacks on Lives and Property**

They have created general insecurity, Jan 10, 2006 kidnap of four foreign workers of SPDC, Jan 11, 2006 four expatriates of SPDC abducted, May 10, MEND abducted nine

foreigners of WILBROS at SPDC, May 1 and 3, 2007 14 expatriates were taken hostage. 16 Pipelines vandalization by NDA have been recorded as at July, 2016.

### **3. Kidnapping**

As at 2008, about 200 expatriates have been kidnapped through militant activities.

### **4. Hostage taking**

The militants most times engage in hostage taking of their victims especially the expatriate oil workers.

### **5. Illegal Oil Bunkering Activities**

According to a report of the Brussels based international crises group, Nigeria lost about 30,000 to 70,000 barrels of oil per day to illegal bunkering.

### **6. Attack on Water Ways or Continental Waters**

Militancy activities of oil pipeline vandalisation has led to destruction of aquatic life through oil spillage and the pollution of streams and rivers that serve the local people for domestic activities.

### **7. Organized Mafia Crime**

The activities of militancy have led to other organized mafia crime activities with the oil producing communities, which includes; stealing, kidnapping, unlawful possession of fire arms etc.

## **EFFECT OF MILITANCY IN NIGER DELTA REGION**

Nigeria economy has been seriously affected by the activities of the Niger Delta militants. According to the Minister of Works and Housing, Babatunde Fashola on This Day Newspaper of 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2016, power dropped from 5074mw in February, 2016 to 2000mw due to militant attack on forcado subsea pipeline power generator. This drastic drop in power supply has negatively affected power distribution throughout the states of the federation and had negative impact on the industries due to increased operational overhead cost from powering of the industrial plants with diesel.

Hostage takings by the militants and political instability are injurious to the economy, as it induces capital flight or slows foreign direct investment. Capital flight has multiplier effect on an economy. It impedes business investment, economic growth and productivity, spurs inflation and unemployment and negatively affects the living standards of the people. Political instability negatively affects a nation's national income. When investors, individuals in the society perceive the crises as a serious threat to their investment and savings, they will sell off their assets and buy assets in other politically secure and stable societies. Punch (Feb. 12, 2006) reported the refusal of most expatriates to be posted to riverside field but on shore. Much money was spent on provision of security. This has the implication of increasing overhead cost by the firms. Nigerians unemployment figure rose to 22.45million, as job loss hits 710,693 in the first year of Buhari's administration. Banking sector had the highest impact on job losses through retrenchment; Zenith 1,200, Sky 175, Diamond 400, Ecobank 1040, Fidelity 500, and shipping industry 3000 employees (Vanguard, 2016/03/22). Tribune of 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2016 reported that 1,000,000 Nigerians lost their jobs in 3 months. Eboh and Ejoh (2016) in Vanguard Newspaper of August, 2016 reported that oil output dropped to 295million barrels in 3 months with a short fall of 36.15million barrels or 10.91% from 331.24 recorded in the proceeding five months of August- December, 2015. January - May

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2016 output translates to an average daily crude output of 1.97million barrel per day (mbpd) according to data released by the NNPC and it is a reflection of production shut-ins following increased militancy siege on oil installations. /- United States Energy Information Administration (EIA) had put the average crude oil price for the first five months of 2016 at USD 37.882 per barrel, compared to an average of USD 44.97 per barrel in the last five months of 2015. This meant that Nigeria earned about USD 11.18 Billion in the first five month of 2016, an equivalent of N2.2Trillion using the official exchange rate of N197 to a dollar as at that period.

Month on month analysis of the country's crude oil output showed a steady decline. The monthly output of the period are January, 2016, 66.49 million, 2.22 million barrel per day and February 59.27 million, 1.98million barrels per day. In the months of March, April, and May 2016, monthly oil production are 59.43 million, 59.56 million and 52.34 million barrels respectively, representing a daily average of 1.91, 1.99 and 1.74 million barrels per day. The Minister of State for Petroleum Ibe Kachukwu noted that between January and February 2016 over 1,600 incidents of vandalization was recorded resulting in a loss of 109 million liters of /petroleum products and 560,000 barrels of crude oil to refineries. This shows that a total of 2.2 million barrels per day targeted in the budget fails by 29.1% as output was 1.59 mbpd with a shortfall of 0.7mbpd and thus requires 1.1 mbpd between the month of August 2016 and year end to meet the annual production target.

NNPC report indicated that Nigeria lost 643 million litres of crude oil or N51.28 billion as a result of 3,000 incidences of pipeline vandalization in 2015. NNPC reports that between 2010-2015, it recorded 18,000 incidences of pipeline vandalization while the figure for January to May, 2016, no fewer than 1,447 incidents leading to loss of 109 million of litres of petroleum products and 560,000 barrels of crude oil to refineries were recorded (Vanguard, August, 2016). In 2016 a total of 1600 incidents of pipeline vandalization was recorded in two (2) months as against 3000 in 12months of 2015. The record of 3000 pipeline vandalization shows a monthly ' average of 250 incidences as against average of 800 incidents recorded between January and February, 2016. This shows an increase of 220% pipeline vandalized in the year 2016 compared to 2015. The 2015 International Monetary Fund (IMF) report showed that Nigeria has dropped from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> position as the largest economy in Africa with a GDP of \$296 billion while South Africa with a GDP of \$ 301 billion rand's ranks first position in Africa.

Nigeria was officially declared by bureau of statistics as a recessed economy on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2016. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) report on Vanguard 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2016 showed a constant contraction of Nigeria GDP basic prices in the 2 quarter of 2016 (Q2'16) by 2.06% after shrinking 0.3 in Q1'16. The decline is attributed to a weaker currency, low oil prices resulting in depressed public finance and the value of the naira. Compounding the impact of low oil price is the attack by the militancy on oil and gas facilities in the southern Niger delta since the start of 2016 which has cut crude production by about 700,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 1.56 million bpd against government 2016 budget assumption of 2.2 million bpd. The country's annual inflation rate rose to 17.1% in July from 16.5% in June which is more than 10 years high, while fund inflation rose to 15.8% from 15.3%.

Nigeria attracted just \$647.1 million of capital in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Nigeria economy was last in recession more than a year in 1991 but experienced prolonged recession from 1982-1984. The naira remained at record low of N423 per dollar in the black market due to dollar shortages though offered at rates as weak as 365.25.



## **IMPACT OF MILITANCY ON THE NIGERIAN ECONOMY**

The crisis in the Niger Delta region arising from the activities of the different militant groups operating in the region has brought about some negative implications, not only on oil production and other economic activities, but also on governance in general (Ejibunu, 2007). The activities of the militants have impacted the Nigerian economy in various ways.

### **Kidnapping and hostage taking**

Kidnapping and hostage taking has been a major tactic of the militant groups with foreign nationals working with oil companies as primary targets. In January 2006, Hostage taking of oil workers started in Bayelsa after the declaration of 'operation orido danger' by MEND with the kidnapping of four set of hostages.... Over two hundred expatriates had been kidnapped .... Although most have been released within weeks in exchange for ransoms, typically hundreds of thousands of dollars (Amaize, 2006).

Though casualty figures from kidnapping by militants operating in the Niger Delta have been low, reportedly put at about fifteen, however, the implication of the kidnappings which involved mainly foreign workers and development partners on Nigeria's economic development have been enormous. It succeeded in scaring away potential development partners and robbed the Nigerian state of the benefit of such development alliances and opportunities. The state of insecurity has led to a reduced volume of investments and capital flow to the region (Akpan, 2010; *Saturday Punch*, 2007).

### **Illegal Oil Bunkering**

The operations of militants in the Niger Delta and the insecurity it has made it impossible for security agencies to adequately cover locations of various oil facilities. This has created a veritable ground for illegal oil bunkering to thrive in the region. Illegal Oil Bunkering, a euphemism for oil theft, has assumed considerable dimensions in the Niger Delta. Estimates range from 30,000 to 200,000 bbl/day (Oudemans, 2006).

Several of the militant groups are also believed to be involved in illegal oil bunkering. It is believed that illegal oil bunkering has become a major source of funding for the operations of the militants in the Niger delta. Militant warlords who engage in illegal oil bunkering justify their actions by claiming that it is a means of providing income for the impoverished residents of the oil producing communities. It is reported that one day's worth of illegal oil bunkering in the Niger delta (at 100, 000 bbl at \$15bbl) will buy quality weapons for and sustain a group of 1, 500 youths for two months (ICG, 2006).

### **Downsizing of oil companies employees and disruption of business activities**

As a result of the activities of militants in the Niger delta region, "SPDC retrenched 3,500 workers in September 2007" (*Punch Newspapers*, 2007a: 14). Indorama Petrochemical Company shut down its operations thereby rendering over 3,000 youths jobless and aggravating the unemployment situation (*Sunday Trust Newspaper*, 2007). Restiveness has reduced growth in the business sector. As a consequence of militant activity Royal Dutch Shell has seen its production dropping from one million bpd to about 380,000 bpd at its Bonny terminal in the South of the Delta. Exxon has also experienced increased insurgent activity in its Nigerian operations... Nigeria is already suffering from production slow down due to militancy, currently the Niger Delta is only exporting 1.8 million bpd, compared with a targeted 2.2 million bpd (Harper, 2009).

In Rivers State, over 80% of the companies have stopped operations, as expatriates have either gone to their home countries or relocated to safer environments (Ejibunu, 2007).

The MTN had 43 base stations shut down as militant activities made them inaccessible (Punch Newspapers, 2007b).

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions are raised and answered in this study:

1. What are the major causes of Niger Delta Militancy?
2. What effects does Niger Delta Militancy have on Nigerian economy?

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objectives of this study are:

1. To investigate the causes of Niger Delta Militancy
2. To assess the effects of militancy on Nigerian economy.

## METHODOLOGY

This study employed descriptive survey research design to collect information from the subjects. The sample for this study consisted of one hundred and fifty (150) respondents especially youth(s) between the ages of 20-30 years selected using purposive sampling technique.

The instrument used for this study was a self-designed questionnaire containing six (6) items relating to the subject matter. A four point likert scale of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) were used to determine the respondents' level of responses to the issues raised. The research instrument was validated by two Social Studies Experts in the Department of Social Studies, Emmanuel Alayande College of Education (EACOED), Oyo. The reliability of the instrument was obtained through split-half method of reliability which yielded a co-efficient of 0.72.

The study was guided by two research questions. Data collected were analyzed using frequency counts, tables and percentages method of statistics.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Research Question 1: What are the major causes of Niger Delta Militancy?

Table 1: Analysis of the Causes of Niger Delta Militancy

S/N	Items	Total	Positive Response percent (%)	Negative Response percent (%)
1.	Niger Delta militancy is attributed to political and economic marginalization of the area.	150	143 (95%)	07 (05%)
2.	High rate of unemployment in the Niger Delta area is responsible for the militancy	150	138 (92%)	12 08%
3.	The inhabitants of the Niger Delta region who live in abject poverty is linked with the militancy	150	22 (81%)	28 (19%)

From table 1, items 1-3 had 95%, 92%, 81% and 05%, 08%, 19% positive and negative responses respectively. This means that political and economic marginalization, unemployment and abject poverty are the major causes of Niger Delta militancy. The findings of this study corroborate the views of Mukagbo (2004) who believes that scenes of abject poverty pervade the Niger Delta areas.

### **Research Question 2: What effects does Niger Delta Militancy have on Nigerian Economy?**

Table 2: Analysis of the effects of Niger Delta Militancy on Nigerian Economy

S/N	Items	Total	Positive Response percent (%)	Negative Response percent (%)
1.	Niger Delta militancy impedes business investment, economic growth and productivity, spurs inflation and unemployment in Nigeria	150	120 (80%)	30 (20%)
2.	Militant attack on pipeline power generator have negative impact on operational overhead cost of industries	150	144 (96%)	06 (04%)
3.	Political instability caused by the militancy has a serious threat to investment, savings and national income	150	115 (77%)	35 (23%)

From table 2, items 1-3 had 80%, 96%, 77% and 20%, 04%, 23% positive and negative responses respectively. This indicates that Niger Delta militancy has effects on Nigerian economy. These effects include decline in business investment, economic growth and productivity. The findings of this study support the opinion of Ejibunu (2007) who believes that the activities of the militants have impacted Nigeria economy in various ways such as kidnapping and hostage taking, illegal oil bunkering, down-sizing of oil companies employees and disruption of business activities.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the results from this study, it can be concluded that political and economic marginalization, high rate of unemployment and abject poverty among the inhabitants of Niger Delta area are responsible for Niger Delta militancy. Similarly, Niger Delta militancy has negative effects on Nigerian economy such as low level of business investment, decline in economic growth and productivity and inflation.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the findings of this study, it can be recommended that:

- The government needs to go beyond policy making and rhetoric (Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, Niger Delta Development Commission & Amnesty Programme), and put in place basic infrastructure in the Niger Delta region.
- The government needs to immediately ensure that the oil producing companies comply with international standards by stopping gas flaring and clearing all oil spillages.
- The derivation quota from the federation account should be raised to 25%; 13% should be disbursed through the state governments, while the remaining 12% will be utilized in direct development of the oil producing communities through provision of infrastructure according to need and human capital development.

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