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Resource Control and Youth Restiveness in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria

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Resources Control and Youth restiveness in the Niger Delta is a contentious issue in Nigeria. The exploitation and exploration of petroleum in the Niger Delta is posing great threat to the life of the people. Hence, the peoples reaction in the form of hostage taking, vandalization of oil pipelines which results in destruction of farmlands, pollution of water, fish, etc., as well as reduction of revenue from oil. Even with oil coming from Niger Delta, the area remained poorly developed in terms of infrastructural facilities. This paper highlights the above issues as well as Niger Delta agitation for 50 % derivation as it was in 1963 and 1966 in the era of cocoa. The paper, however, recommends that in order to curb Youth restiveness, there must be a mechanism through which the issue of resource control will be resolved amicably. This would be through a round table discussion between the Federal State, Local government, full representation of the oil companies and their surrogates abroad and the masses, especially the youths in Niger Delta, aggressive development of the areas to provide infrastructure, provision of technological education for the youths and subsequent employment.

Keywords: Resource control, Youth restiveness, Oil exploration.

Introduction

Resource control has become a contentious issue in Nigeria to the extent that it dominated discussions in the National Reform Conference held in 2005. The work-out of the southern south delegates from the conference on Tuesday June 14, 2005 is an indication that the unity of the country is being threatened by the issue. The people of the southern south are nursing the mind of a betrayed region within the confines of Nigeria; where they are supposed to be a part. They not only felt cheated but also felt dejected, as there is no remorse feelings by their fellow Nigerians from other parts of the country

(mfyai@yahoo.com). The parochial view of most Nigerians is that they have nothing to do with other regions problems no matter the pains and agony the people are passing through. Thus, there is need to have reorientation of our past feelings concerning our fellow citizens, knowing that the unity of the country cannot be compromised for anything else. However, it is also worthy to note that the image from the seventies has been that of a continent of conflict and violence. Thus, Africa stands out as a continent of uniquely violent and conflictual politics, a continent where force and conflict make the everyday life of the people (Chabal, 1994). The argument here is that Nigeria

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