

Nigerian Gas Company gets community support against pipeline destruction

THURSDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2008 00:08 JOHN UWE

Ijaw in Delta State have pledged their support to the Nigerian Gas Company (NGC) for her role in leading the campaign against pipeline vandalism in the Niger Delta region as the company community enlightenment workshop train continues to visit creeks and oil-bearing communities in the state. The Chairman, Ijaw National Congress (INC), Western Zone, Samson Mamamu pledges the support at an enlightenment workshop on pipeline vandalism and ensuring safety of industrial facilities. He declared that the Ijaws are in full support of NGC's stand to stop pipeline vandalism in the country.



The NGC train which has visited about eight oil bearing communities were at Odidi clan which comprises Salvation City, Ajuju and Odidi respectively, all in Warri South-West Local Government area. Mamamu, the however, regretted the under development of the Niger Delta region in spite of her all important contributions to the country's economic well being, noting that it was time for the federal government to reverse the trend for mutual trust and peaceful co-existence. He said that oil exploration and exploitation have caused a lot of damage to both aquatic and economic lives of the people of the region, adding that it was because of what the people were suffering that led to agitation and militancy in the region. He urge multi national oil companies to always ask for proof of land lordship through land leases/acquisitions signed previously with the people dealing with such persons as host communities to avoid being misled by those who were bent on deceiving the oil companies.

The Managing Director, NGC, Voka Mukoro, in his address at the ceremony, said NGC believes in the development of its host communities, adding that the decision to organize the workshop was to jointly work out an effective and sustainable relationship between their company and the good people of Odidi, Salvation City and Ajuju Communities in Delta State. Represented by Felix Ikede, Human Resources Manager, NGC, . Mukoro observed that from available records that the communities have been supportive and co-operative with NGC's operations in their domain and solicited for better cooperation.

"NGC therefore wishes to solicit for your continued support in ensuring the safety of our Pipeline Network, with safe and conducive environment for all our operations. We therefore urge you to take NGC business as your own".

He assured that NGC within its capability and limited financial resources reciprocate your kind gesture by ensuring that this interactive/enlightenment session was on a regular basis. He posited that to guarantee regular dialogue, NGC recently inaugurated quarterly Community Relations Committee meeting with host communities, with a view to creating an avenue for dialogue in order to maintain a stronger and better relationships with your kingdom.

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