NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY IMPLICATION OF INTERNAL THREATS BY NIGER DELTA OIL PRODUCING COMMUNITIES TO OIL EXPLORATION (PHD STRATEGIC STUDIES DEGREE PROPOSAL) AT THE CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC AND DEVELOPMENTAL STUDIES (CSDS), AMBROSE ALLI UNIVERSITY, EKPOMA, EDO STATE

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INTRODUCTION

Background to the Study

The importance of oil in the global energy sector cannot be overemphasized. Oil is undeniably the major contributor to Nigeria's economic growth and development. The country's petroleum industry is presently the greatest source of revenue and foreign exchange earner and therefore the mainstay of the economy (Owolabi and Okwechime, 2007: 2).

Nigeria depends on the petroleum industry for economic, social and political development. At the international level, Nigeria has extensively utilized her oil wealth to accomplish her foreign policy objectives (Saliu and Luqman, 2007: 34). It is contended that the increasing pauperization of the people of the oil communities in particular, amidst increasing windfall of revenue accruable from oil, has pushed the people, especially the youths to violence. The researcher argues that the threats in the oil rich communities are economically induced (Anee, 2004: 5). The protection of this useful strategic sector from all forms of threats cannot be compromised. Any threat therefore that is capable of jeopardizing Nigeria's petroleum resources cannot, but attract stiffer and stronger resistance of the country's security agencies. Some of the threats are from the host communities who suffer pollution and environmental degradation (ICG, 2006a: 115).

Such threats from some of the oil communities are stage protests/demonstrations, barricade of oil flow stations by women folk, and prevention of oil workers from performing their duties on sites etc (ICG, 2006b: 113). Their complaints arise from the

non-responsiveness of the oil companies and government to their legitimate yearnings and aspirations. Hence they resort to some unwholesome activities such as (Nwajeh, 2003: 25);

a) Kidnapping of expatriates and Nigerian oil workers for ransom.
b) Wanton destruction of oil production equipment to force the relevant authority to pay money.
c) Indiscriminate and frequent destruction of crude pipes to cause pollution and attract compensation from oil companies.
d) Intra and inter communal fight for compensation monies paid by the multinational oil companies. This is apart from what the oil communities get from the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs (Onosode, 2003: 32).

It is very important to give urgent security attention to the petroleum industry from these threats as the nation's future is being jeopardized. Moreso, these actions are obvious dangers to the effective development of the Niger Delta region and Nigeria as a nation (Epeotor, 1995: 54).

Therefore lack of proper understanding between both parties, have resulted in disorder, confusion, disturbances, hostilities and absence of tangible development in that region and even in the entire country (Armed Vigilante Violence in South and Southeast Nigeria, 2009: 23). Over the years, national infrastructures have declined without effective solution by successive government. For example roads, electricity, pipe borne

water, education, health facilities etc are neglected, nonfunctional and in disrepair (Fafgade, 1981: 10).

The oil communities feel that the oil companies are under an obligation to develop these communities in which they exploit, explore and produce petroleum products (Azelama and Anegbode, 2003: 316). Though oil companies maintained that they are not directly responsible for the development in the oil communities, yet they had spent substantial monies for the benefit of the local communities, coupled with what they are already receiving as compensation arising from oil operations damage (Akande, 2007: 3). The presence of oil had exacerbated criminalities, discord, political agitations for emancipation, gross underdevelopment, political disputes, intra and inter communal frictions/threats in the Niger Delta and its environs, corruption, impoverished facilities and monumental underdevelopment in Nigeria.

Agitations from oil communities have resulted in little or no favourable responses from the oil companies or government. The oil communities, especially the youths, took up arms against the government and oil companies as their last resort to draw attention to their ugly plights (Adidio, 1991: 11). As evident today, the numerous feeble attempts made by the government and oil companies to reduce hostilities to a manageable, and insignificant frictional level and enhance speedy, and tangible development in the Niger Delta and Nigeria are yet to be seen. The crux of this proposal is to assess the resultant effects, which the internal threats posed to Nigeria's oil exploration by oil communities, and the implications for national development and security.

It is against this backdrop of the foregoing and their implications for security and developmental strides m Nigeria, that will constitute the background to this study,

Statement of the Problem

Despite the vast and enormous oil wealth of the oil communities, Nigeria still remains poor, neglected, with high unemployment, poor standard of living, illiteracy, poverty, high cost of living, poor sanitary conditions, pollution, lack of safe drinking water, regular flooding, unstable power supply/electricity, hunger, deprivation, squalor, impoverishment and unabated underdevelopment. (UNDP, 2002: 12). The oil exploration has effects on the host communities in these areas; Oil pollution of water in aquatic life, soil and plants, gas flaring on atmospheric gaseous content, on vegetation, as well as on livestock and humans (Anifowose, 1982: 6).

The antagonistic relationship between the oil producing companies and their host communities are fallouts of complaints from devastation of land and environment without adequate returns from oil companies (Berkowitz, 1962: 37). The dimension of threats to human security encompasses gross violations of human rights, terrorism, environmental degradation, gender-based violence, transnational organized crimes, infectious diseases and natural disasters (Feierabends, 1969: 17). The continued socio-economic, political and environmental dislocation in the oil communities is nothing but a threat to human security to the Niger Delta region and Nigeria (Davies, 1962: 6).

The production, infrastructural facilities, and equipment for the exploration and production of this fundamental source of power (both offshore and onshore) are now under huge and serious threats from the oil producing communities (Okonta and Douglas,

2001: 17). Over the years, governmental and oil companies efforts to ameliorate the problems of oil communities have been too minimal, to achieve the much desired expectations of the host communities (Omotola, 2006: 4). Hence these aggrieved oil communities carry out diverse acts of sabotage and subversive measures agamst the oil companies installations and equipment (Peel, 2005: 3). Their complaints range from neglect, environmental degradation, pollution to inability to carry out agricultural activities such as fishing/farming (Dimieari, 2003: 6).

Incidents and cases abound of gross human rights violations, suppression of protest/demonstrations, brutalization, threats, imprisonment of the oil community people, for attempting to raise grievances against the oil companies, thus leading to the fragile stability of the Niger Delta (Ihonvbere, 2000: 13). The struggle between the oil communities is now a major concern to die government (Kwabena, 2002: 8). Based upon the acknowledged shortcomings of existing approaches to "develop" the oil communities, a number of alternative framework have been sought, as to what is to be done (Iyayi, 2008: 4). These include the UNDP report on the oil communities. This report is comprehensive and using the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) framework, goes as far as indicating what could be done at the local government and even community levels (Iyayi, 2000: 18). Herein lies the justification of the study, this thesis intends to address.

Aim of the Study

The overall aim of the study is to critically appraise the internal threats from the host oil communities in the Niger Delta region, Nigeria as well as their implications for national development and security.

Specific Objectives of the Study

This study is undertaken with the following objectives in mind;

a) To examine the nature of the internal threats posed by host communities to the oil companies.
b) To critically examine the development and security implications of the threats from oil communities to oil companies and government.
c) To assess the efforts made by the government and oil companies to reduce the threats to a tolerable friction.
d) To examine possible solutions to these threats.

Research Questions

The under-listed questions will help the researcher to find answers to the problem under study.

a) What is the nature of the internal threats posed by host communities to the oil companies?
b) What are the developmental and security implications of the threats from oil communities, to oil companies and government?
c) What efforts have the government and oil companies made to manage the threats to a tolerable level?

d) What are the possible solutions to these threats?

RESEARCH METHODS

Site/Area/Location of Study

The population of a given research project entails all the elements in the survey. Therefore, it is an aggregation of elements or cases that bear similar characteristics to the subject under study. Due to the vastness of Nigeria, and the imperativeness of obtaining accurate information, a unit of analysis will be drawn from the whole country through a purposive/judgmental sampling method.

Sample of Population

Geo-political zones in Nigeria

- South — South [✓]
- South-West
- South – East
- North – Central
- North-East
- North – West

The above depicts the six geo-political zones (universe) in Nigeria, upon which this study will be conducted. It is practically impossible for the researcher to adopt the whole Nigeria with the intention of obtaining data for analysis. The following South-South Zone (Niger-Delta) which is made up of Rivers, Delta, Bayelsa, Edo, Cross Rivers and Akwa-Ibom States will be selected, through a purposive/judgmental sampling

method. Although the Niger Delta region of Nigeria is made up of nine states. These are Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Edo, Delta, Rivers, Ondo, Abia and Imo States. The purposive/judgmental sampling method shall be used because it is helpful in studying a sub set of a large population in which many members of the sub-set are easily identified, but the enumeration of all may be unrealistic and impossible. Furthermore, the purposive/judgmental sampling method becomes handy, as it allows the researcher to select his sample on the basis of his own knowledge of the population, its elements and the nature of his research objectives.

More importantly, Niger Delta States are the trouble spots of oil communities agitations in Nigeria against oil explorations and thus their purposive/judgmental selection.

The sampling technique as earlier said is largely purposive. This is because of the sensitivity of the issue to be investigated, which warrant utmost caution. The research spanned through people of different ages, sex, marital status, religion and educational background. For the South - South, the study location are - Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Edo, Rivers, Cross Rivers and Delta States where oil communities activities are not only at its peak but home to plethora of oil communities struggle and agitations. The research will be conducted in Yenegoa, the capital of Bayelsa State, Oben in Edo State, Eket in Akwa-Ibom, Calabar in Cross Rivers, Port-Harcourt the capital of Rivers State and Ward, the major oil producing community in Delta State because these states/oil communities have huge oil deposits and are host to Nigeria refineries as well as oil companies.

Research Design (Materials/Instrumentation and Techniques)

The research questionnaire will be broken into two sections. The first section will be on Personal Information, while the other section will cover the various aspects of the study. This researcher in conjunction with some trained research assistants will administer the questionnaires and conduct the interviews.

NUMBER OF RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE TO BE DISTRIBUTED

Geo-Political Zone	Number of Research Questionnaires to be Distributed	Number of Structured Interview Questionnaires to be Distributed
South-South/Some Selected Niger Delta States		
Bayelsa (Yenegoa)	500	20
Akwa-Ibom (Eket)	500	20
Rivers (Port-Harcourt)	500	20
Cross Rivers (Calabar)	500	20
Delta (Warri)	500	20
Edo (Oben)	500	20
Total	**3,000**	**120**

From the table above, a total of 3,000 research questionnaires will be distributed to respondents. 500 each for each of the six (6) States under study to be completed and returned. While 120 structured interview questionnaires will be shared to the respondents in the six (6) oil communities to be studied.

Structured interviews shall be applied to seek for additional information and data

relating to the subject under study. Accordingly, key players will be interviewed across the three selected states. These includes community leaders, women, youths, administrators, politicians and security operatives, etc.

Questions will be contained in the administered questionnaire designed to elicit information on threats posed to Nigeria's oil exploration by oil communities, implication for National Development and Security. The target will be to obtain data relating to the nature and potency of the threats emanating from the oil producing communities. On the aspect of the security implication, data from security agencies and government officials m-charge of security will be of immense assistance to this regards. This means that the researcher will utilize two (2) sets of questionnaires; one (1) for die oil producing communities and the other for the security agencies.

The objective will only be realized if the adopted design is effective, sound and well founded. In order to test the validity and reliability of the designed questions, therefore, particular measures shall be adopted. First, the supervisor of the research project shall lucidly and carefully study all the questions, and make useful corrections/suggestions. Some of the researcher's lecturers/contemporaries in the Center for Strategic and Development Studies will be consulted on the relevance of the research questions to the research topic. Their contributions and input shall form part of the final draft of the administered questionnaire.

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Simple percentage analysis shall be utilized. This is to establish observable trends in the research population by collating the total number of respondents who are in the affirmative regarding any factor under examination and expressing a percentage of the total number of respondents. The data from structured interviews and the secondary sources will be analysed qualitatively. All the analysis will be used to draw conclusions and make appropriate recommendations. Simple arithmetic percentage formula will be

$$A \div B \times \frac{100}{1} = \text{Percentage}$$

Where A is identified frequency

B is identified total

1 is constant

EXPECTED FINDINGS

i. The threats have fractured relations between the oil communities and the oil companies and government. The threats has affected job and job creation in the Niger Delta as oil companies withdrew from areas of operation, shutting down production facilities while potential businessmen and women consider the zone to be risk prone and unhealthy for investment.

ii. The threats have adversely affected oil communities and the Nigerian state. The threats has occasioned huge revenue losses for the country (shut down of production activities, vandalisation and damage of oil facilities, bunkering, etc).

iii. The threats have greatly affected the safety of oil workers, members of their families and areas of work activities.

iv. The threats have provided opportunities for syndicated crimes to operate. The threats has been utilized to propel other crisis, especially at the political front, whereas the truth and reconciliation commission in River State has portrayed, politicians hide under the threats posed by the oil communities to settle personal squabbles.

v. The threats have largely affected the image of the people of the area (they are seen as crisis and conflict prone). In short, the country, oil companies, oil communities and the international community have all been affected by the threats. The threats have strained relationship within and between communities, social groups and the oil communities.

The predominant threats and security challenges in the area are products of unabating attacks on oil installations, sea piracy, arm proliferation, youth restiveness, bunkering, kidnapping, hostage taking, protests, demonstrations and blockades etc.

The following concepts are to be utilized in the data analysis:

FREQUENCY: Number of counts associated with a variable.

PERCENTAGE: Counts (frequency) divide by total number of questionnaire including missing system multiply by 100.

VALID PERCENTAGE: total number of the actual count i.e. frequency divide by total number of questionnaire excluding missing system multiply by 100.

CUMULATIVE PERCENTAGE: This is the added-up percentage.

VALID: Respondents that filled their questionnaire.

MISSING SYSTEM: Irregular questionnaires to be returned.

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

In this research work, both primary and secondary data shall be used.

Primary Data

The primary data include information obtained from respondents to questionnaire, in- depth interview, personal observation and focus group discussion. Questionnaires shall be administered directly, m some cases, to the respondents, while in some other cases, through trained research assistants. Also the structured interview will be utilized to source for extra information. Hence for this purpose, an interview schedule will be designed, to enable the researcher conduct interview with key personnel and other functionaries who are involved in these areas so as to corroborate findings from the literature.

Secondary Data

This means information and data gathered from existing documents, records and other indispensable literature on the subject matter. These include published textbooks, articles in journals, magazines, newspapers, panel administrative reports, periodicals, yearbooks etc. Materials from the internet and various websites shall also be sourced pertaining to oil, Niger Delta, security and developmental issues.

Such rich materials will be sourced from the national archives, libraries, oil companies, Federal Ministry for Niger Delta Affairs, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC), Ambrose Alii University Library, University of Benin Library, other Nigerian universities libraries, as well as other related institutions. The data obtained will be presented, collated, analysed

and the information presented in a form to give it originality. The analysis of the discourse shall therefore be narrative, historical, expository and descriptive.

EXPECTED CONTRIBUTIONS TO KNOWLEDGE

The expected contribution to knowledge of this study are;

i. It will efficiently address and effectively contribute to the ongoing discourse about the need for improved host communities relations, security and developmental drive/ initiative.
ii. It will serve as a veritable material to the existing subject, security, amnesty programme and developmental efforts of the various levels of government in Nigeria.
iii. It will be a great asset to interested scholars, students, policy makers, government officials, civil society groups, non-governmental organizations, researchers, oil companies institutions, and the general public.

OUTLINE OF THE STUDY

The research work will be organized into five broad chapters as follows;

CHAPTER ONE: This will centre on the Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

1.2 Statement of the Problem

1.3 Research Questions

1.4 Objectoves of the Study

1.5 Conceptual Clarification

1.6 Methodology

1.7 Population/Study Area

1.8 Sample of Population

1.9 Description of the Universe of Study

1.10 Method of Data Analysis

1.11 Significance of the Study

1.12 Scope and Limitations of the Study

1.13 Outline of the Study

1.14 References

CHAPTER TWO: This borders on the Literature Review and Theoritical Framework

2.1 The concept of the Assessment

2.2 The concept of Internal Threats

2.3 Oil explorations in Nigeria

2.4 Effects of internal threats on oil in Nigeria

2.5 Oil exploration, national development and security

2.6 Niger Delta of Nigeria

2.7 Theoretical famework

2.8 Exchange theory

2.9 Frustration aggression theory

2.10 References

CHAPTER THREE: This will examine the nature of the internal threats posed on host oil communities to the oil companies

3.1 Historical Development of Niger Delta Crises and its Management

3.2 Cases and Nature of the Internal Threats between Host Communities and Oil Companies

3.2 References

CHAPTER FOUR: This will assess the development and security implications of the threats from oil communities to the oil companies and the government

4.1 Implications of the Threats for Social Development

4.2 Implications of the Threats for Economic Development

4.3 Implications of the Threats for Political Development

4.4 Implications of the Threats for National Development

4.5 Implications of the Threats for Security

4.6 References

CHAPTER FIVE: This will critically appraise the efforts made by the government and oil companies to reduce the threats to a tolerable friction

5.1 Resolution Efforts made to Reduce the Threats by the Government

5.2 Resolution Efforts made to Reduce the Threats by the Oil Companies

5.3 References

CHAPTER SIX: This will be an examination of the Conclusion, Summary of Major Findings, Achievement and Contribution to Knowledge and Policy Recommendation

6.1 Conclusion

6.2 Summary of Major Findings

6.3 Recommendations

6.4 Achievement and Contribution to Knowledge

6.5 References

6.6 Bibliography

6.7 Appendix

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