

A PROPOSAL FOR

**TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING OF
YOUTHS SUSCEPTIBLE TO PIPELINE VANDALISM
AND RELATED CRIMES**

FOR

**NIGER DELTA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NDDC)
Q2CC+W5F NDDC BUILDING, EASTERN BYPASS,
PORT HARCOURT**

PREPARED BY

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SIGN:

PREYE ANTHONY

PROMOTERS OF THE PROJECT

The main project promoter is Mr. Preye Anthony of Rumuobiakani in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State.

He is a project engineer, environmental manager and agriculturist. He has experience in agriculture, project management and construction activities. It is hoped that the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and financial houses will help him to achieve the objectives of this project by providing him with the necessary funds.

Executive Summary

This proposal seeks to provide vocational skills training to youths susceptible to pipeline vandalism, oil theft, and other criminal activities in the community. The goal is to reduce criminal activities and provide opportunities for income generation and economic empowerment. The proposed skills training will focus on areas such as construction, engineering and Oil and Gas industrial skills.

The project team will conduct a needs assessment to identify the specific skills and training needs of the target group. Based on the assessment, individual training plans will be developed, and the training will be provided through a combination of classroom instruction and practical hands-on experience. In addition to technical skills, the training will also include entrepreneurship and life skills training to help the target group succeed in the workplace and in their personal lives.

A total of **100 youths** will be trained over a period of **7 months** with a collective budget of **244, 166, 250 million naira only**. The project team will work closely with relevant stakeholders, including community leaders, government agencies, and private sector partners to ensure the success of the project.

If implemented, this proposal has the potential to reduce criminal activities and provide a pathway for economic empowerment for the target group. Therefore, we invite support and partnership to make this project a reality.

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INTRODUCTION

The problem of pipeline vandalism, oil theft and other criminal activities among youths in our community is a growing concern that has significant negative social and economic impacts. These criminal activities do not only harm the environment and disrupt the flow of essential resources but also contribute to the overall insecurity and instability in the Niger Delta Region.

Statistically, the Nigerian government is considered to lose nearly 300,000 barrels of oil per day as a result of oil pipeline vandalism (Alberta et al, 2019). Umar and Othman (2017) describe vandalism as a thoughtful antagonistic behaviour of unsatisfied and corrupt individuals aimed directly to an environmental object, including gas, petroleum or chemical pipelines, with a destructive motive of damaging properties and causing harm. It is often carried out by youths, breaking oil pipelines with the aim to scoop petroleum product for personal and or group use. This deliberate damage or destruction of pipelines, results in the loss of lives and property, environmental degradation, and economic losses.

Empirical evidence shows that abject poverty and lack of employment; shallow laying of pipeline and insecurity; sense of marginalisation and neglect; corruption and bad governance are some infusing and influencing factors to vandalism across communities in the Niger Delta (Alberta et al, 2019). Thus, discussing the issues of vandalism and oil sabotage will not be complete without considering its root causes such as poverty and unemployment, given that most perpetrators of such acts are committed by unemployed youth. In consonance, experts observed that the poverty level of these Niger Delta communities are damaging and the fact that some of the community households find it difficult to afford one square meal per day is “worth ” doing anything for survivals

To address this problem, a technical and vocational skill development programme is proposed with the intention to provide training and opportunities for income generation and economic empowerment to youths. The proposed training will focus on providing training in areas such as civil construction, engineering, oil and gas industrial skills and mechatronics which are in high demand in today's job market.

The goal of this youth empowerment initiative is to reduce criminal activities and provide a pathway for economic empowerment for the target group. By providing relevant vocational skills training and opportunities for income generation, we believe we can help these youths channel their energy and creativity towards positive and productive activities. The proposed program will also contribute to the overall social and economic development of the community by reducing criminal activities and enhancing the employability of the target group.

In this proposal, a detailed plan for implementing the technical and vocational skill development programme is highlighted, including the needs assessment, training activities, implementation plan, and budget. We also highlight the potential impact of the proposed programme on the target group and the community. We invite support and partnership from relevant stakeholders to make this project a reality.

Project Rationale

The importance of technical and vocational training in national development need not be over emphasized; this is because it provides the necessary knowledge, skills and competencies for survival and sustainable national development. Tyowuah (2019) maintained that vocational and technical training is the gateway through which the Niger Delta youths can successfully acquire practical competencies for sustenance since provides youth empowerment, consumer education and formation of attitudes, manpower development, training and empowerment for necessary skills, introduction to professional studies, human capital development and career education.

Without a doubt, vocational and technical training plays a critical role in the Nigerian development. In fact, many governments of developing nations view it as a poverty reduction strategy. UNESCO (2004) identified two major objectives as the urgent need to train the workforce for self-employment and the necessity to raise the productivity of the informal sector.

Training youths disposed to pipeline vandalism holds the key to the technological development of the Niger Delta as well as its being nationally relevance and international

competitiveness. It is known that technology is the most effective means of empowering the youth to stimulate and sustain national development, enhance employment, improve the quality of life, hinder poverty, limit the incidence of social vices factored by joblessness and promote a culture of peace, freedom and democracy which are indices of unity and national development.

Objective of the Project

The goal of the proposed programme is to reduce unlawful activities and provide a pathway for economic empowerment for 100 youths predisposed to oil theft. By providing relevant vocational skills training and opportunities for income generation, these youths will channel their energy and creativity towards positive and productive activities. The proposed programme will also contribute to the overall social and economic development of the Niger Delta communities by reducing criminal activities and enhancing the employability of the target group.

The Implementing Organization

IKONIBO LTD is an indigenous company registered and incorporated in Nigeria under the laws and regulation of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. IKONIBO is committed to providing services in a decentralize field of engineering, construction and procurement. IKONIBO LTD has an assemblage of competent, dedicated and resourceful team of men and women that manage its affairs with technical & engineering competence in civil, Mechanical Electrical Engineering service and procurement and supply services.

IKONIBO LTD applies knowledge, skills and expertise in providing solutions and systems that optimize safety and integrity of client needs.

Since its inception in 1974, IKONIBO has successfully conducted and trained hundreds of professionals charting their carriers in the field of Oil and Gas industry, construction and engineering

Project Description

The proposed training seeks to equip Niger Delta youths in civil engineering, oil and gas and other technical skills. It will be conducted in partnership with the government, private sector, and civil society organizations.

The proposed programme is designed to provide the youths with the necessary skills to become successful entrepreneurs or employees in the relevant industries, including oil and gas as well as building construction. It shall be conducted by very knowledgeable and experienced trainers to ensure that the participants acquire the required skills to excel in their chosen fields such as:

1. Structural welding
2. Rigging and scaffolding
3. Crane and excavator operation
4. Forklift operation
5. High pressure pump operation and maintenance
6. Plumbing and pipe fitting
7. Diesel engine maintenance
8. Professional diving
9. Truck driving

Participants shall also be instructed in entrepreneurship skills development, including business management, marketing, and financial management. This would enable the participants to start and run successful businesses in their chosen fields. The training would be conducted in batches, with each batch comprising a maximum of 50 participants. The duration of the training shall be between 4 to 6 months depending on the chosen field of specialisation. Training shall be comprehensive, covering theoretical and practical aspects. The theoretical training would provide the basic principles and concepts whereas the practical aspect would involve hands-on training in the use of machines, devices and other equipment.

The training programme would be conducted in a conducive environment, with all the necessary equipment and facilities provided. The participants would also be provided with accommodation and feeding during the training period.

Expected Outcomes

The proposed scheme is expected to achieve the following outcomes:

1. The training would provide the youths with alternative sources of income, thereby reducing pipeline vandalism.
2. The training programme will contribute to the development of human capital in the Niger Delta region. The participants would acquire relevant skills and knowledge that would be useful in various industries, thereby increasing the overall human capital of the region.
3. With better economic opportunities, the beneficiaries would be able to improve their livelihoods, reduce poverty, and contribute to the development of their communities.
4. The training programme will bring together youths from different communities in the Niger Delta region, fostering social cohesion and reducing ethnic and communal tensions.
5. The training will equip the participants with the necessary skills to become successful entrepreneurs or employees in the relevant industries, thereby providing them with better economic opportunities and increase their chances of earning a decent income.
6. The reduction in pipeline vandalism would also have a positive impact on the environment. By reducing oil spill, the training programme would contribute to the conservation of the environment.

The proposed training programme is a step towards addressing the socio-economic challenges facing the Niger Delta region. The success of this youth empowerment initiative would have positive impacts on the environment, the economy, and the overall development of the Niger Delta region. The project would also enhance collaboration and partnership between the different stakeholders, leading to a more coordinated approach to addressing the challenges facing the region.

Target Group

Youth predisposed to artisanal refining of petroleum shall be the direct target group. It will mainly involve the youths who were engaged in production, distribution and marketing as well as those perceived to be interested in such activities. The vulnerability of the youth will be judged by the extent of his relevance in the society as well as the interest shown by him/her towards the Youth Empowerment Initiative Project. The organization will select 100 most vulnerable youth from which it expects at least 80 members to complete the project successfully.

Programme Implementation

The successful implementation of the proposed training program will require collaboration with relevant agencies and stakeholders, careful planning, and efficient execution. The following steps will be taken to ensure the effective implementation of the program:

- **Identification and Selection of Beneficiaries:** vulnerable youth members shall be identified and selected. This will be done in collaboration with community leaders, security agencies, and other relevant stakeholders.
- **Collaboration with Relevant Agencies and Stakeholders:** There shall be collaboration with relevant agencies and stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Petroleum Resources, National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency, National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency, and International Oil Companies operating in the region. This will ensure that the training is in line with industry standards, and the beneficiaries are well-equipped to work in the industry.
- **Venue and Equipment for the Training:** Suitable venues and equipment for the training shall be made readily available. The training will be conducted in a safe and conducive environment with adequate facilities such as classrooms, workshops, and training materials. The training equipment will be sourced from reputable suppliers to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the training.
- **Engagement of Trainers and Facilitators:** The instructors shall be selected based on their expertise, knowledge, and experience in the oil and gas industry. They will be

responsible for delivering the training content, facilitating practical sessions, and evaluating the progress of the beneficiaries.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** A system to assess the progress of the beneficiaries during and after the training shall be put in place. Data relating to attendance, performance, and job placement shall be collected to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme. This will also help to identify areas that need improvement and ensure continuous improvement of the programme.

Budget

The project will require funding to cover various costs, including training materials, equipment, trainers' fees and administrative expenses. The estimated budget for the program is as follows:

SN	Details	Price per unit	Amount (100 persons)	Total (6 Months)
1.	Training cost~ This amount covers for technical and vocational training in the field of interest, entrepreneurship, rehabilitation, feeding and accommodation for a period of 6 months.	1, 750, 000	~	175, 000, 000
2.	Stipends for trainees	60,000	6,000,0000	42, 000, 000
3.	Miscellaneous		5%	10, 550, 000
4.	VAT		7.5%	16, 616, 250
	Grand Total			244, 166, 250

Securing funding for the proposed training programme is critical to its success in rehabilitating and empowering youths predisposed to oil theft illegal refining of petroleum. With the estimated budget and possible funding sources outlined above, the programme has the potential to make a significant impact in the Niger Delta region by providing the beneficiaries with employable skills and contributing to the reduction of illegal oil refining and related crimes.

APPENDIX

TECHINICAL AND VOCATIONAL AKASSA COMMUNITY YOUTHS



