



# **Ensuring Sustainable Development in Eleme thru collaboration with Government & Industries**

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**ELEME CIVIC CENTRE, OGALE ELEME ON 26/05/2017**

# Outline

- Objective
- Sustainable Development
- Brief History of Eleme
- Eleme Today
- Perceived Issues
- Government
- Industries in Eleme
- Ensuring Sustainable Development
- Gratitude

# OBJECTIVE

- To have a dialogue with ourselves that would enable us provide the basis for actionable points that would see us begin to harness and harvest our potentials so as to ensure sustainable development in Eleme.

# Sustainable Development (SD)

Simply means development that meets the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (The World Bank).

It is generally acknowledged that countries down to communities wish to embrace sustainable development but the key challenge has remained how to go about it.

# Pillars of Sustainable Development

- Economic growth – Increase in ability of an economy to produce goods and services
- Environmental stewardship – responsible use and protection of our natural environment...Our towns need to be planned. Buildings properly laid out. Our streams and farmlands should be preserved
- Social Inclusion – people should have jobs, secured and adequate income & connected with their families and community

# Sustainable Development Goals set by United Nations

- Ending hunger & poverty
- Improving health & education
- Making cities more sustainable
- Combating climate change
- Protecting oceans & forests

*1) DO WE HAVE ANY WAY OF MEASURING THESE IN ELEME?*

*2) IS ANYONE CHECKING?*

# BRIEF HISTORY OF ELEME

- Eleme was on the path of development from the County council era through the late 70s as more and persons accessed education. Also, our attention to health issues like vaccination and sanitation improved.
- Our traditional governance structures...Chief and Council of Chiefs played the executive and legislative roles while the Age Groups were the enforcers.
- About the late 80s when the local government administrative structure became unstable, Eleme consistently played a minority role as she was merged with other communities to form Local Government Authorities.

# Brief on Eleme cont'd

- Why were Nchia Council and Odido Council not able to emerge as two distinct Local Government Authorities? Is that not a pointer that Eleme did not have a voice to project her and ensure her development was sustainable?
- While chieftaincy squabbles have continued to blur every recognition of opportunities, rivalry amongst the political class has also helped to push Eleme farther away from development while the Elites are more concerned with their self preservation...
- Eleme is therefore left at the whims and caprice of all and sundry!



# Eleme Today

- Eleme today can aptly be described as an “Adult sitting in a pool of water and dying of thirst.”
- Opportunities abound but being out rightly mismanaged.
- Frustrated and misguided youths
- Status of the traditional leadership not very clear
- Disunity among the political class
- The industries and government are having a field day by thriving on the divide and rule game that never benefits any community.

# PERCEIVED ISSUES

- Is there a benchmark that sets developmental priorities of the communities?
- Is there a Think Tank for the communities? Eleme is blessed with intelligent and knowledgeable men & women...are the communities benefitting from them?
- Who goes to hold discussions with the Industries and Government on behalf of the communities? Are they individuals seeking there sustenance or people standing firm in their own rights now seeking to support the communities?
- Does Eleme have employable youths? With relevant competencies? Do they see a hope for tomorrow?

# Perceived Issues Cont'd

- Lack of transparency and evidence of sincerity of purpose
- Divide & Rule tactics masterminded by the industries and government with the active support of community leaders.
- Lack of open communication on the benefits of projects embarked on within the communities by the government.
- Mistrust and detest derived from the continued betrayal by community leaders serving as representatives of the community
- “Eleme lacks strong institutions to challenge strong individuals posing as leaders”
- “Leadership is the bane of Elemeland”
- “What we have across Eleme – traditionally & politically is power and not leadership”

# Government

- The role of every government is to provide the basic infrastructural amenities that enhance the livelihood of its citizens. The major source of funding being from taxes they collect from individuals and companies. The number and value of companies and economic activities in Eleme places her very high as a revenue earner for government!
- The amenities to be provided by government include
  - ◆ Security
  - ◆ Health care
  - ◆ Education
  - ◆ Roads
  - ◆ Housing

# The Industries in Eleme

- Port Harcourt Refinery
- Nigeria Ports Authority
- Oil & Gas Free Zone Authority
- Indorama (Eleme Petrochemicals Company)
- Intels
- Tenaris
- Pressure Control
- Prodeco
- CoperCameron
- Mobil Producing
- Total Nigeria
- SNEPCO
- And Others

# Ensuring Sustainable Development

- Eleme needs a roadmap for sustainable development
- We need the collaboration of the traditional stools, the political class as well as the elites to form a formidable front
- We need a Think Tank that constantly reviews our progress and comes forth with strategies for collaborations and engagements
- Each community should have a list of its critical needs, which would serve as master plan and guide all interventions from the industries & government
- We should have leaders that cut across all levels to ensure constant and constructive monitoring and enforcement of the master plan

# Ensuring SD cont'd

- When projects are brought to our communities, the monitoring team would ensure its done with speed and efficiency
- We require a formidable front to champion our collaboration with the industries and government
- We need to take ownership of this process towards sustainable development transparently and with sincerity of purpose
- We need to reawaken hope in our youths so they are assured of a better future and see themselves as part of the total picture

# GRATITUDE!

- MANY THANKS!!!!