

Governance and Security in Petro-business: Reflections on the Dichotomy between Politico-economic and Environmental Sustainability in Nigeria.

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The Nigerian state today battles three major issues in its oil resources business otherwise referred to as *petrobusiness* by some scholars. The issues are on how to keep oil production high, achieve relative peace, and “maintain the environment”. Based on this, the present civilian administration, just like the previous ones, have embarked on many developmental policies and programmes geared towards safeguarding the nation’s petrobusiness. However, an assessment of these policies and development programmes since the return to democracy shows a clear-cut dichotomy of interests. For Nigerian state, it is mainly an issue of governance and the security of petro-business otherwise referred to as “politico-economic sustainability of oil production” than an effort towards environmental sustainability, judging from effects of oil resources on these oil bearing communities. Therefore, the safeguard of oil production industry and its activities which guarantee the continuation and increase in oil rents stand as the paramount objective for setting out the governance policies and agendas in the first place.

The paper reflects on some of these policies and programmes, and underscored their failures, or impending failures. This is with a view to project the gains of deploying environmental and politico-economic sustainability; and how Nigeria could strike a balance between its interests and environment; the oil bearing communities and their interest, and as well as manage the persistent oil resource conflicts. The relevance of governance, security and environmental sustainability as a “development foundation” in addressing oil resource conflict in Nigeria should therefore be seen as inter-connected for achieving sustainable peace and development.